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While the Capitol was being made habitable, after the firing by the British, Congress was housed in a building put up by popular subscription at corner of First and A Streets, N. E., fronting the Capitol grounds. This building is still standing and was during the Civil War used as a prison, being called the old Capitol prison.

A bronze marker on the old Capitol building reads: "Congress convened here during 1815-1819 while the Capitol was being rebuilt. And here also the inauguration of President Monroe took place in 1817. Later the building became known as the 'Brick Capitol,' and was the home of many congressmen, including John C. Calhoun, who died within its walls March 31, 1850. During the Civil War the building was used as a prison and called the old 'Capitol prison.'"