

**ORIGIN AND  
GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.  
NOVEMBER, 1902**

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**WILLIAM TINDALL**

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## PREFACE.

This pamphlet is a statement in chronological sequence of a number of the principal events in the establishment of the permanent seat of Government of the United States, and a brief account of the several forms of local government by which the local municipal affairs of the National Capital have been administered, with a few references to other facts of special interest in connection with these subjects.

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OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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NAME.

The name of the Seat of Government of the United States is  
"The District of Columbia."

AUTHORITY FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

The District of Columbia was established under the authority and direction of Acts of Congress approved July 16, 1790, and March 3, 1791, which were passed to give effect to a clause in the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States, giving Congress the power

"To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such district (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular States and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased, by the consent of the legislature of the State in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings."

LOCATION.

It is located on the eastern bank of the Potomac River, about 106 miles from the junction of that river with Chesapeake Bay.

AREA AND DIMENSIONS.

It originally embraced an area of about ten miles square, but, since the recession of the part derived from Virginia, contains only 69.245 square miles. The portion east of the Potomac River was ceded to Congress by the State of Maryland. The portion west of that river was ceded by the State of Virginia.