HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT, PART II

on the
SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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Prepared by
Staff

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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*  

June 1962
STATUS OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART II

PROJECT: Second Bank of United States

CLASS AAA

MASTER PLAN √

PCP B-129-2 (por.)

$435,700

PROGRAMMED 1964 f.y.

SUMMARY:

No Arch'l Data Sec. as yet. Hence, no approved (Reg. or WASO) H.S.R.

$25,000 allotted 4/1/64 as per attached memo.

No approved P.C.P.

" " Wkg. Drawings

DISTRIBUTED

Park 7/12/62 (Arch. Sec.) EODC

EODC 8/1/62

Region 8/1/62 (Arch. Sec.)

WASO 10/1/62

REVIEWED

Park 7/12/62 (Arch. Sec.)

EODC 10/14/62 (Arch. Sec.)

Region 11/6/62/Approval deferred pending completion of Arch'l Data Sec.

WASO (9/15/63) Approval deferred pending meeting w/EODC.

APPROVED:

Region 11/25/64

WASO

EODC owns: 1 Arch'sn. Pkt I

2 (Reg) Pkt II

3 (Reg) Pkt III
## STATUS OF HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

### PART I

**Project:** Rehab/Pk, Art Museum

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### Architecture

**Called for**
- Des

**Rec'd**
- 12/11/59

### Furnishings & Fix.

**Called for**
- Des

**Rec'd**
- 12/11/59

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# STATUS OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

## PART I

**PROJECT:** Rehab/Library Co. Occupancy

**Second Bank of United States**

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### SECTIONS:

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**NOTE:** Arch'1 Sec. will be distributed for review "when completed"
Historic Structures Report  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>II</th>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Area</th>
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| Project: | Nature of, funds & f.y. programmed |

### Sections:

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### Review:

- distributed Park
- EODC
- WASO Region

- 8/25/62

## Approved:

- Park 8/1/62
- EODC
- WASO Region

(Note: Cross-line accomplished items, with dates when done, received, etc. Crossline whole sheet, when report is over.)
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast

From: Acting Assistant Director, Design and Construction


The interested divisions have reviewed the subject report recommended by Mr. Palmer October 20. Mr. Jensen approved the report November 20.

The approval was delayed by discussions on the advisability of erecting new walls, marble steps and terrace on the north side of the building. It was felt that the wide steps across the whole front adjacent to the Chestnut Street sidewalk had been sanctioned by more than a century of use and that they should be retained. But in this case the working drawings had been completed, the project advertised and the bids opened prior to approval. The report was approved in order that construction would not be delayed.

cc: Chief, EODC (2)
    Supt., Independence
Memorandum

To: Director
From: Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region


The subject report is recommended for approval.

Your early review will be appreciated, in order that the project may move forward.

George A. Palmer

Enclosure

CC:
Superintendent, Independence
Chief, EODC
Mr. Whitcraft

MHNelligan/gmf
General
Daily
Area
HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT, PART II (PORTION), ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION, SECOND 
BANK OF THE UNITED STATES, RESTORATION OF THE EXTERIOR STRUCTURE AND 
SURROUNDING AREAS, INDEPENDENCE NHP

REVIEW SHEET

1. Mr. Lukens

A fine complete report. 
Recommend approval 8/21, 1931

2. Mr. Golub

3. Dr. Neilligan

Recommended approval of entire report, including the
Arch. Data: See

- [Handwritten Signature]
Historic Structures Rpt., Pt.

Second Bank of U.S., Independence

Assistant Regional Director (CRU)

History & Archeology

This is a well-written and very interesting - as well as essentially documented - report. IT SHOULD BE PUBLISHED.

In the event recommendation of basement storage of archival collections, it shall be stipulated that atmospheric controls be extended here and that the area be safeguarded from steam and water damage.

YWC

Operations & Maintenance

We need more info on outside building type of wells, masonry, size, shape, color, plant materials, etc.

Yellow 28/9/61

[Signature]

Program Coord.

[Signature] Oct 10/26/61

Summary - Costs for atmospheric controls appear excessive.

- Shall be subject of outside review - walls, plantings, etc. as for His. Banc Neg. approved, 1957.

Recommend: The carrier continue, in the meantime, to follow a negative policy.
October 9, 1964

Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second Bank of the United States, INHP

You may want to consider this at plan review. However, if you find this is not necessary, the enclosed memorandum is ready for your signature.

The only major question other than over-all costs which you may want to consider, is the question of whether or not to remove the lower flight of steps on Chestnut Street and restore the original terrace-step arrangement - Recommendation #1, Architectural Section. The park also proposes this treatment.

My own recommendation - from the preservation policy viewpoint - is the retention of the present steps which date back to 1840 and may have been designed by Strickland (who did work in that period). It would also be cheaper.

Murray H. Nelligan

Enclosures
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Chief Architect, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second
United States, Independence

The Administrative Data and Historical Data Sections of the subject report have been reviewed by the interested personnel of this office and were recommended for approval by Chief Hall this date. We apologize for our long delay in taking action on this report.

We understand that further historical data has been obtained by the Park Historians since the preparation of this report. We would appreciate receiving a copy of this new material for the use of our staff in their continuing studies of the building interior.

The Architectural Data Sections, Part II (Portions) covering the Restoration of the Roof and Iron Work was recommended by Chief Hall on June 20, 1964 and the Exterior Structure and Surrounding Area on July 17, 1964 by Acting Chief Eugene R. DeSilets.

cc:
Assistant Director, Design and Construction
Superintendent, Independence
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Chief, EODC

Subject: Rehabilitation of the Second Bank of the U. S., Independence

We have completed the working drawings and specifications for the exterior rehabilitation of the Second Bank. It is our intention to issue invitations to bid for this work as soon as the Part II, Historic Structures Report is approved.

The Historic Structures Report, Part II, Architectural Data, was forwarded to your office on July 15 for review and approval. We would appreciate your advising us of the status of this report.

Robert G. Hall

cc:
Assistant Director, Design and Construction
Superintendent, Independence
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Acting Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II (Portion), Architectural Data Section, Second Bank of the United States, Restoration of Exterior Structure and Surrounding Areas, Independence NHP

In accordance with your memorandum of July 27, we have reviewed the Architectural Data Section of the Historic Structures Report, Part II (Portion) on the Second Bank of the United States and recommend it for approval.

Dennis C. Kurjack
Memorandum

To: Superintendant, Independence

From: Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II (Portion), Architectural Data Section, Second Bank of the United States, Restoration of Exterior Structure and Surrounding Areas, Independence NHP

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the subject report. Please let us have your comments on this report at your earliest convenience.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Enclosure

cc: Chief, EEDC
GMFraney
General
Daily
Area
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Chief Architect, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section; Part II (Portion), Second Bank of the United States, Restoration of Exterior Structure and Surrounding Areas, Independence

Enclosed for your review and distribution are three copies of the subject report which was recommended by Acting Chief Eugene R. DeSilets this date. A copy has been retained by this office.

We would appreciate a review of this report at your earliest convenience so that work may proceed with currently programmed funds.

Robert E. Smith

Enclosure

cc: Assistant Director, Design and Construction
Superintendent, Independence
Memorandum

To: Chief, EDC
From: Regional Director, Northeast Region
Subject: Restoration of the Second Bank of the United States, Independence

No doubt you are aware of the extensive removal of steps on the front of the Second Bank of the United States which is a conspicuous feature of the landscape on Chestnut Street at the present time. I was considerably disturbed on seeing this for the first time the other day in the company of Dr. Whitfield Bell of the American Philosophical Society, Assistant Superintendent Dennis Kuehne of Independence Park, and Dr. Malligan. I asked that this be looked into to find out what was going on.

I have since learned that this work is being carried out as part of an architectural investigation, not only prior to the submission of Part II of the Historic Structures Report, but also prior to the submission of Part I. The memorandum signed by Don Benson which was the basis for allotting the funds for this work made no reference to the kind of architectural examination that is now taking place. The only work mentioned was the necessity for carefully cleaning, raking, and pointing the mortar joints and examining the surface of the marble.

It is my understanding of the procedures for the Historic Structures program that it is the intention of the Director that Part I be approved before the hidden fabric of the building is examined by anyone so that we know that we are getting into before we start it. This sort of work is only proper as a step in Part II, if it is proper even then. I am disturbed that work of this kind has gone ahead in this manner without any explanation or justification for the need of
disturbing these steps. I would greatly appreciate it if you and your associates, particularly Bob Smith, will look into this so that we can review it together. I hope it is not the intention of the historical architects to make the Second Bank look like a new building.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Ronald F. Lee

BFLee/spj

General
Daily
Area
 commenting on the attached memo for EODC in view of what has happened during the past weeks as a result of Mr. Lee’s previous memo on related subjects and my discussions with Muns, Hall, R. Smith and Deakins and the receipt on June 4 and 5 of the Architectural Data Section, Part 1, HSR and revision of estimated construction cost on revised PCP for Second Bank, I feel that this memo should be considerably toned down before it is sent. However, EODC should be notified of our actions on the various documents and when all have been cleared, Independence notified to make onward for re-roofing of Second Bank.

A meeting, such as proposed should be desirable and very helpful. Since the Historic Structure Reporting work contained in the construction programs for fiscal years 64, 65 and 66, an on orderly manner and in conformance with the structure guidelines is what is needed.

Thoma E. Whitcraft
Memorandum

To: Chief, EODC

From: Regional Director, Northeast Region


I have with great reluctance approved the Historic Structures Report, Part II, a portion of the Architectural Data Section relating to the restoration of roof and iron work at the Second Bank of the United States. I have also reviewed for information purposes the working drawings and specifications for this work.

My great reluctance is due to the substantial departure in this case from the procedures established by the Director for restoration work on historic buildings and set forth in the Historic and Prehistoric Structures Handbook. Let me list the following points:

1. An Architectural Data Section, Part I, was called for in 1958, when the Library Company of Philadelphia was preparing to occupy the building; the rest of the report - Administrative and Historical Data Sections - were approved by the Region and WASO in order to reach a decision on the use and alteration of the building. Again, in 1960, after the Library Company had backed out of the situation, an Architectural Data Section was requested. The Administrative, Historical and Furnishings and Exhibits Data Sections for the Part II report were prepared on schedule, but have not yet been approved here or in Washington, pending receipt of the Part I Architectural Data Section.
2. In spite of the fact that a Part I Architectural Data Section was never submitted the fabric of the building is at this moment being taken apart. The steps on the Chestnut Street end are substantially dismantled and I do not know to what extent other portions of the building are being explored under a $25,000 force account project. The funds for this project were approved by the Region without any understanding on my part or justification that they were going to be used for this purpose. It is a well established procedure in the Service that the fabric of an historic building will not be disturbed in any serious way until a complete Part I Architectural Data Section has been approved.

3. The Administrative, Historical and Furnishings, and Exhibits Data Sections for Part II have been available since August 1, 1962. After reviewing these sections carefully a year ago the Region asked for modifications from the Park Superintendent especially in regard to the proposed second elevator, and the location of museum laboratory space. We also asked for revised estimates in a revised PCP. These modifications were submitted by the Superintendent in January 1964 after special conferences had been arranged with Mr. Ralph Lewis. The Region has been prepared for several months to approve the Part II report with the changes suggested by the Superintendent if we could get an Architectural Data Section and if the changes submitted by the Superintendent were agreeable to EODC. We have never had any comments from EODC.

4. On March 27 we sent EODC a revised PCP for the work on the Second Bank which I requested from the Park because of the exorbitant cost of the original proposal. We asked EODC for a comment on the revised PCP but as yet have received no reply of any kind. It is a responsibility of the Regional Director to make sure that any construction project set forth on a PCP has the proper scope in accord with the program of the Director. It is impossible to reach a sound decision on this without knowing the probable costs involved, and we must rely upon assistance from EODC in reviewing the estimated cost as provided by the Park.

5. In spite of the fact that none of these steps have been taken, we now receive a portion of the Architectural Data Section of the Part II Historic Structures Report for the Second Bank of the United States with the working drawings and the specifications for the roof and iron work. Assuming that this particular work is fairly simple and is satisfactory, I have approved this portion of the Part II Report even though the Director has never received nor approved Part I. I am sending it to WASO indicating my approval with a copy of this memorandum and recommending that if the Director has any questions on the procedure, EODC be asked to furnish the explanation.
We appreciate the earnest desire of EODC to proceed with the work and to obligate funds on this and all other projects and in general I believe significant and important progress is being made on this by EODC in which you and the Service can take genuine pride. We respect also the professional skill and competence of the historical-architectural staff of EODC. Nevertheless, it remains true that the Director has set forth procedures which have been carefully developed over a long period of years to guide the historical restoration work of the Service. It is a source of serious concern to me to have to note so many and so wide departures from what we all know to be the proper procedures in work of this type. If this were the only instance of this kind, it might be understandable but I regret to say that it seems that almost every historical restoration project presents a special circumstance of a similar kind.

I believe it might be helpful if you and Bob Smith and I sat down and talked over this entire procedure. I would want Tom Whitcraft, Murray Nelligan, and Martin Christenson to join the discussion. In the proposed conference I think it would be very desirable to go over the entire restoration program for historic buildings in the Northeast Region as shown in the 1964, 1965, and 1966 fiscal years construction programs so that agreement can be reached, if possible, on some orderly way to accomplish the Historic Structures Reporting work in accordance with the Director's guidelines.

If this cannot be worked out better under present procedures and organization, then I believe the Service should consider changing its procedures or its organization for this work, or both.

cc:
Director, w/c Report
Regional Director

Resource Studies Advisor

Second Bank of U. S., Independence

May 15, 1964

As you requested yesterday, I checked into the status of the work in progress on the Second Bank of the U. S.

Briefly, (1) there is as yet no approved Historic Structures Report. (The Admin. etc., sections are on hand, have been reviewed and revised; an Architectural Data Section, Part I, was to be prepared in 1958; another, presumably the Part II, was due this spring, but has not been received.

(2) There are no working drawings.

(3) The revised P.C.P. has yet to be reviewed by the EODC and approved by this office.

The work on the steps is being done by force account with $25,000 allotted April 1, 1964 at the request of the EODC for the architectural investigation needed ("accurate evaluation of necessary repairs") to prepare the Architectural Data Section.

Murray H. Nelligan

Enclosures
March 23, 1964

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Revised PCP B-129-3 and Administrative Data Section, Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second Bank of United States

We submit enclosed copies of revised PCP B-129-3 and revised Administrative Data Section, Historic Structures Report, Part II, as requested in your memorandum of December 17, 1963. We regret that inadvertently your memorandum was filed before action could be taken on it.

Both these documents are now in agreement with the suggested changes covered in Museum Branch Chief Ralph Lewis' memorandum of September 16, 1963 to you and our memorandum of November 12, 1963. You approved these changes in your memorandum of December 17.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures

Copy to: Chief, EODC
w/c enc.
Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence

From: Regional Director


Your memorandum of November 12, with reference to the subject report, has been carefully considered and meets with our approval.

Please revise the Administrative Data Section of this report accordingly, and return it at your earliest convenience so it may be incorporated in the report and the report distributed for review.

Also, please submit a revised PCP reflecting the revised administrative decisions on the adaptation of this structure to museum use.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

cc:
Chief, EODC
Office of Program Coordination

MHNelligan/gmf
General
Daily
Area
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast

From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second

We have read with a great deal of interest the comments and recommendations made by Chief, Branch of Museums, Ralph H. Lewis on the subject report.

Upon re-examining our original position, in the light of these comments, we find it quite possible to agree with Mr. Lewis' suggestion that by careful arrangement of storage facilities, culling and disposing of second rate objects, it will be possible to store all of the park study collections in the basement. In this event, also, the museum offices and conservation laboratory could be fitted into the south end of the second floor and only one elevator would be needed with a consequent reduction in costs. We are, therefore, prepared to accept this suggestion and modify our present proposal as contained in the Historic Structures Report, Part II, accordingly.

With regard to our proposals for restoration of certain first floor features, our purposes were twofold: 1) to replace missing elements integral to Strickland's celebrated architectural composition, among them relief plasterwork and frescoing and the historically important Stockholders' Room, and 2) by so doing to increase the wall space available for paintings. The proposals, far from detracting from the exhibition of portraits, would enhance their setting. Confined as they are to only a portion of one floor, the proposed changes represent a minimum but acceptable standard of restoration.

The case for either a single entrance to the gallery from Chestnut Street or one from either end of the building is not clear-cut. Without wanting to question the ultimate desirability of permitting entrance to the building from both ends, we feel it would be more realistic at this time to provide for only a single entrance.

Our justification for this is two-fold. First, by keeping the south
door closed, we can utilize all the available wall space for paintings, virtually up to the door frame, a matter of considerable importance if we are to hang and exhibit all of our important paintings and pastels. Secondly, we will need 1.5 fewer guards. Our staffing problem, we fear, will continue to remain critical and it would appear unrealistic not to take this into account at this time.

It is not planned to have groups on conducted tours enter the building until the termination of the formal tour at either of two points on Chestnut Street (presently at entrance to Carpenters' Court, later at Old City Hall). From these points, however, visitors will be encouraged, and they will find it more convenient, to enter the Gallery at Chestnut Street. Visitors not on organized tours walking through the Park will be directed by means of a sign at the gate on the South end to walk around to the other end of the building.

The question of visitor circulation should not be considered a factor here, it seems to us, for it is customary in most art galleries to have one main entrance-exit, with alternative exits reserved chiefly for emergency use.

Later, if it is determined that wall and floor space for the exhibition of our major iconographical collections is more than adequate, additional guard personnel available, and the desirability of two entrances demonstrated by experience, we could easily make the change.

We trust, then, that upon further reflection you will agree that our proposal is feasible and in the interim, at least, the best approach.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent
Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second Bank of U. S.

Enclosed for your consideration is a copy of a recent memorandum from Chief, Branch of Museums, Ralph H. Lewis, regarding the museum requirements for the subject building. In it, Mr. Lewis essentially suggests that if it is possible to reduce the museum collection by culling or storing miscellaneous second rate objects elsewhere, it may be possible to store all of the park collections in the basement. Again, if the museum offices and laboratory can be fitted into one end of the second floor, only one elevator would be needed with proportionate reduction in the costs of the project and increase in operating efficiency. The floor spaces at the other end would then be available for other uses.

We believe Mr. Lewis's proposal warrants careful consideration, and suggest you study the situation prior to our forthcoming meeting on the Independence construction program.

We note that the visitor circulation proposed—exclusively through the Chestnut Street doorway—in the report is inconsistent with the Master Plan for the Park, which provides for entrance from either end of the building. We do not concur with this proposal, and believe that any technical problems which might suggest a need for limiting entrance to the building can be worked out without having to limit the building's being accessible to visitors from both Library and Chestnut Street.

Enclosure
Memorandum

To: Regional Chief, History and Archeology

From: Regional Museum Curator

Subject: Second Bank, Historic Structures Report, Part II

Ralph Lewis, Dave Wallace and I went through the Second Bank yesterday with the Historic Structures Report, Part II, in hand. Mr. Lewis will submit his comments by the 18th. Mine are as follows:

1) I don't think Dave has thought the functioning of the building through. For example, he doesn't want the Library Street entrance used. I don't think you can make something like this stick for all time.

2) He wants the lab (for everything except archeology) on the second floor front, the archeology lab to be in the basement. Note:
   a) Storage in basement and second floor rear will result in awkward and unnecessary handling of specimens.
   b) What's the difference in the treatment for a piece of metal if it is found archeologically or not? Answer: none. Therefore, why separate the labs?

3) He hasn't figured out the square footage necessary for office space (using GSA standards, for example) in terms of his present staff or FY plus 10 staff.

4) He hasn't figured out the square footage necessary for storage of the art; the equipment necessary; the type of storage to be used; whether it will be most efficient for the space provided, etc.

5) He wants certain portions of the building restored to the historic appearance, and then proposes major violations of same because it is "necessary" or "useful."

6) Dave and Ralph agree there is more excuse to air-condition this building than any other (because of the paintings, prints and storage), but no methods having been investigated which might achieve the same protective level but still not need air conditioning of the total structure.

7) The Banking Room is not suited to the display of the oils. The technique of exhibit has not yet been figured out for this room.

Horace Willcox
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Chief, Branch of Museums

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second Bank, Independence

At the request of Regional Chief of History and Archeology Helligan, the Branch of Museums undertook to review the sections of the Historic Structures Report, Part II, for the Second Bank dealing with the functions of the building. We had no opportunity to study the other sections of the report and have not seen Part I. I went over the building and discussed the proposed uses of the various rooms on September 12 with Regional Curator Willcox and Park Museum Curator Dr. Wallace.

As we understand it, the report proposes to develop the Second Bank for three functions. One is to preserve the building and present it to the public for its historical significance including its architectural values. Its second function is as a gallery for displaying the Independence Hall collection of portraits. Thirdly, the Second Bank would serve as the center of museum services for the Park. While the historical and architectural importance of the Second Bank demand that it be preserved, we can understand why it need not be refurnished and exhibited as an historic house museum. Both the history of its use and its architecture can be interpreted satisfactorily by other means which will keep it in better proportion with the main story on Independence Square. The Park seems clearly obligated to display the Independence Hall portrait collection and should welcome the opportunity to do so. The Second Bank offers a dignified and relatively safe place to display this valuable collection. Dr. Wallace stated that the Park has found no other available building as suitable for the purpose. The great historical and monetary value of the portrait collection makes it very desirable to have the paintings under close curatorial surveillance. The plan to store all the Park study collections in the Second Bank and locate the museum staff in the same building would contribute to this end and at the same
time make reasonably efficient use of available space in the building. The curators can perform their professional functions best if all the collections are assembled in one building and if they are located close to them. The sturdy, fire-resistive construction of the Second Bank is adapted for that purpose.

If it is agreed that the Second Bank can and should be used for the three functions proposed, the problem is how to develop the building and fit them into it in the most efficient and economical manner. From discussions on the site we believe it would be worthwhile for the Park staff to review again the details of its proposals.

We suggest the following questions for consideration in such a review.

To what extent should the internal architecture of the building be restored? The report appears to call for a commercial restoration of much of the main floor. At the same time it calls for several changes. The final solution presumably should retain all existing original features in the building. As long as the original features are not altered structurally, however, the interior should be treated for the time being in the way that would contribute most to the protection and display of the paintings. In other words, we suggest that the first floor of the Second Bank be studied first to see how it can be best adapted to gallery use without diminishing the present architectural integrity of the fabric. This would include wall colors, hanging arrangements, lighting and visitor circulation on the one hand. It should also consider atmospheric control essential to protect the paintings from adverse humidity, temperature and atmospheric impurities; perhaps a fire detection system and adequate guarding. Such developments would represent the minimum cost of developing the main floor for the functions proposed. Any additional architectural restoration in the interior of the main floor that would not detract from the exhibition of the portraits would be desirable if it could be afforded.

Can the basement of the Second Bank hold the study collections of paintings and prints as well as artifacts? The Independence collections deserve high quality storage facilities. With proper atmospheric control the basement appears to offer safe and reasonably convenient quarters for the study collections. Can the Park review its study collection needs and determine just how the basement could be adapted to systematic storage of the collections with sufficient provision for their normal growth? Does the large series of copies of portraits need to be retained in the Park? If so, how quickly can they be stored with reasonable care?
The Independence collections are sufficiently valuable and varied to justify adequate laboratory facilities in the Park to examine and photograph the paintings and other specimens, and probably to do cleaning and preservative treatment. The basement probably does not contain sufficient space for storage of the collections and for the laboratories. If all, or nearly all, of the collections can be stored in the basement, both the curatorial offices and museum laboratories can be housed on the second floor either south or north of the banking room vaulted ceiling. If they are housed in the south half, perhaps the second floor rooms in the north half could be used for special exhibitions, or left unrestored until a need for such exhibitions beyond the facilities of the first floor had been demonstrated. If the collections are housed in the basement and the curators' offices are on the second floor, considerable traffic between the two areas will be necessary if the curators are to perform their functions adequately. An elevator would contribute to the safe handling of the specimens as well as to the convenience of the staff.

Since the developments proposed in the report involve an important building, an essential interpretive activity of the Park and the permanent housing of the professional museum functions of the Park staff, we believe the suggested restudy of detailed requirements would be justified to clear up the questions which involve expensive work on the Second Bank Building. The general proposals of the report seem sound.

Ralph H. Lewis

Ralph H. Lewis

In duplicate
Comments by Frank Barnes on Historic Structures Report
Second Bank of U. S., Independence

Generally agree with the recommendations in Administrative Data Section. I question whether (in the light of banking museum proposed for First Bank) we need more than one interpretive panel. (A "series" is proposed for the "restored" President's Room). I think the Presidents' room should just be refurnished—and that's all. And to provide interpretive continuity with this—as a symbol of the building's historical function—why not keep the adjacent "Loan Office" free of paintings, and either refurnish this also, or use this for an exhibit (or two) on the building story.

The Hall "lobbies" (B & C) on Wallace sketch map could also be lined with historical prints (even photos from this report) emphasizing the building's historical function. In the north "Vestibule" I would think we would need some "statement of significance" combined with identification of current building use.

Despite the comment in Section 2 of Chapter IV, there would have to be a furnishing plan for at least the Presidents' room if not the adjacent "Loan Office."

The Historian's evaluation (Chapter II, Section 3) is most important for emphasizing that there is much more to this story than just "banking". There are some fundamental manifestations of our evolving "American way" symbolized here and at the First Bank.
Summary - Costs for atmospheric controls appear excessive.

Should have section on outside environs - walls, plantings, etc. as per Historic Base Map approved, 1957.

Should have section on use for storage of art objects in case of emergency.

Recommend - Mr. Lee approve subject to these amendments to follow in near future.
Memorandum

TO: Murray

FROM: Vox

DATE: 9/6/62


While I can appreciate the merits of this building in terms of both its architectural history and its national banking history, I am concerned about the multiplicity of themes proposed here. In addition to these two, the avowed purpose is to establish a portrait gallery. And even within this major "theme" there are several breakdowns — Signers of Declaration, Signers of Constitution, Pennsylvania topics, French and foreign dignitaries.

To display portraits of those directly associated with the basic purpose of the park—political history—is just. And we are fortunate to have such a portrait collection to display. But to include the secondary themes of architectural and banking history (which, because of space limitations, can only be hastily sketched anyway) is not fair. It dilutes the emotional and interpretive value of the portraits as a means of illustrating the political history.

I recommend that space be found elsewhere to tell the banking and architectural subthemes.

Elevators: At the present time with museum acquisitions and developments moving at a fast pace, elevators may be necessary. However, this will surely slow down. Most of the oils will be permanently hung; most of the buildings will be furnished; only occasional difficulties will arise. I question whether any elevators, which would obviously mar the historical integrity of the building, are necessary.

Atmospheric controls: The cost ($450,000) seems enormous. Certainly such controls are necessary for all storage areas. They would also provide pleasant conditions for staff and visitors. As far as protecting the oils is concerned, there are other aspects. Both the north and south doors will be open much of the time; the paintings may be displayed behind glass (to forestall vandalism); the type of system (panels, electrostatic precipitator or some catalytic type system); and the efficiency of each particular type related to the existing steam heating unit, are all important.

Protection: The main storage area in the basement requires other protective features in addition to atmospheric controls: (1) protection from possible water, gas and steam damage; (2) entry by the east door should be ridged controlled.
March 23, 1964

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Revised FCP B-129-3 and Administrative Data Section, Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second Bank of United States

We submit enclosed copies of revised FCP B-129-3 and revised Administrative Data Section, Historic Structures Report, Part II, as requested in your memorandum of December 17, 1963. We regret that inadvertently your memorandum was filed before action could be taken on it.

Both these documents are now in agreement with the suggested changes covered in Museum Branch Chief Ralph Lewis' memorandum of September 16, 1963 to you and our memorandum of November 12, 1963. You approved these changes in your memorandum of December 17.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures

Copy to: Chief, NPS
w/e enc.

dck/r
Comments only on Chapter III (Museum Sections) only:

1) Not strongly for picture gallery. But, if must have one, then use pictures to thematically interpret park. This should be so stated, 1st para., p. 1.

2) References to use of 1st floor rooms for picture display (p. 3-4) should have thematic point clearly stated for each room.

3) Switch contents of Rooms "F" and "G". "G" is French and foreign participants in Revolution. More closely connected physically and thematically with Room "H". "F" is Bank story, including partial refurbishing. This a separate subject for a separate room. (p. 3-4)

4) Delete exhibit preparation from 1st floor, an exhibit floor. A pit activity either in basement or 2nd floor rear.

5) Keep accessioning with storage area. Delete activity from 3rd floor front (p. 4-5).

6) Add disorder storage area to basement functions (p. 5)

Comments on Superintendent's memo (10/14/62)

1) Atmospheric control. Agree would be nice for curators and staff. Park plans same type installation as Congress Hall. Should check this. Cost cut to $200,000 from $450,000. Still high. Suggest controls only in storage and exhibit rooms. If pictures to be behind glass, then won't need controls in exhibit rooms.

2) Elevator: Delete front elevators.
1) Traffic pattern. Using only Chestnut St. entrance unrealistic. Whole Park development out back have ignored. Also, would ease flow through building. Has Park discussed this with Tim Sullivan in terms of guided tours?

Further comments:

1) This chapter should be rewritten to include various suggestions.
Plan Review Sheet

As a result of preliminary review we asked the park (Nov. 6, 1962) for more details on 6 points; they answered (Dec. 14, 1962).

The points are:

Humidity Controls. No engineering study yet made. Ed. cost of installation reduced to $300, 470 from $450, 000. Recommend approval of report subject to study of atmospheric controls.

- Suggest controls of minimal nature similar to Federal Hall.

Elevators. Recommend both elevators. However, want assurance that bulky specimen requiring treatment in the lab can fit in front elevator. Otherwise, recommend lab should be in basement with its easy access and where bulk of collection will be stored.

Traffic pattern. Recommend both Check out and library St. entrances be available for visitor use. This will necessitate need for a vestibule at the latter.

Exterior treatment. OK? - Many - this not my field

Operating Costs. OK? - “” - “”

Exhibit Arrangements. Park agreed to prepare an Exhibit Plan, but rejected all other suggestions. Refer approval of topical subjects for exhibit room until Exhibit Plan submitted.
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast

From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second Bank of the U. S. - Administrative, Furnishings, and Historical Data Sections

With respect to the subject report, we are supplying you with the following answers to each of the seven questions raised in your memorandum of November 6:

1. **Humidity Controls.** Full atmospheric controls are considered especially essential for the Second Bank exhibition and storage areas because of the great value and irrereplaceable nature of the collections to be housed in the building and the particular sensitivity of paintings to humidity changes. At present the basement is too humid for safe storage in the summer, while the first and upper stories tend to be overly dry, especially during the heating season (relative humidity in winter drops as low as 15%). An additional problem is that of air circulation. The air in the Banking Room, for instance, gets very uncomfortably close in hot weather; opening windows offers some relief but brings in dirt and chemical-laden air. Full atmospheric controls offer the best hope of retarding deterioration of these valuable paintings most of which, because of adverse conditions hitherto prevailing, have had to be restored three times in the past 65 years.

In the absence of preliminary engineering investigation the cost estimate for the atmospheric control system proposed for the Second Bank Building was based on the cost of the atmospheric control system installed in Congress Hall. It was assumed that the cost per unit of volume would be the same for both buildings.

It was estimated that the conditioned volume of the Second Bank Building would be approximately 3 times that of Congress Hall.

The cost of the system installed in Congress Hall was $106,000.
In addition to the basic cost we considered the following factors:

a. This past summer we encountered intervals of low water supply at the atmospheric control equipment in Congress Hall. Investigation may reveal a similar condition at the Second Bank Building which would require funds to correct.

b. The existing electric service into the building may not have the capacity to provide power for the new installation.

c. Restoration of the interior of the Second Bank Building may require a more complicated system of air distribution than that installed in Congress Hall.

To allow for the indeterminate cost factors we estimated the cost of the atmospheric control system in the Second Bank Building as $300,470.

2. Elevators. A service elevator large enough to transport paintings as large as 9' x 6' and bulky furniture is essential to the efficient and safe handling of specimens already in the collection or to be acquired. This elevator should run from the basement to the second floor, at the rear of the building, connecting the delivery area with the main picture storage area.

The elevator recommended as desirable for the front of the building is not absolutely essential. Its installation is strongly recommended, however, primarily because there is no direct communication between the front and back at the second floor level and because many museum specimens will necessarily have to be brought up to the curatorial offices. The existing stairs to the second floor front, with three turns, are ill adapted for transporting objects up and down. The convenience of visitors is another factor, since many who come to see the curators are elderly.

3. Traffic Pattern. We recommend that visitors enter and leave the building by the Chestnut Street door. On entering the visitor can go either left or right, pass through the two front rooms to the Banking Room, on into the back room, and return via the Banking Room and the two other front rooms. No airtrap would be needed because of the existing lobby. The rear door should be reserved for emergency use only.

4. Exterior Treatment. It is proposed to restore the original condition around the exterior of the building including the Chestnut Street steps, exterior walls, and landscape. Part of the funds would come from the landscape construction project (PCP No. M4-1); this amounts to $184,300 and is proposed for allocation in F.Y. 1965.
5. **Operating Costs.** In answer to the second part of your fifth query first, we estimated that the Park would not have the developed Second Bank Building ready for operation until the Fiscal Year 1966. Additional operating funds will be requested accordingly.

The estimated annual operating costs of the developed Second Bank are as follows:

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Janitorial Services</td>
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<td>Steam</td>
<td>$6,000.00</td>
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<td>Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric Power</td>
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<td>Protection</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td><strong>Estimated total</strong></td>
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The existing annual Park operating costs for the Second Bank Building are as follows:

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<td>Protection</td>
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<td>Electricity</td>
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<td>Water</td>
<td>$440.00 p.a.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance and rehabilitation (estimated)</td>
<td>$8,000.00 p.a.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,000.00</strong></td>
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6. **Exhibit Arrangements.** An exhibit plan will be prepared, as suggested. With reference to exhibits on the Bank story itself, we feel that only one room, the President's office, should be used for this purpose. It is not proposed to fully refurnish this room, but to combine case exhibits on the building and the Bank's history with a few items, if available, from the original furnishings. The Bank story will be told in greater detail in the Branch Museum on the history of early Federal Banking and Finance, proposed for the First Bank.

7. **PCP Covering Project.** A revised PCP project is attached herewith.

M. O. Anderson  
Superintendent

Enclosure

Copy to: Chief, EODC
Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second Bank of the United States - Administrative, Furnishings, and Historical Data Sections

We have given preliminary review to the Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second Bank of the United States submitted with your memorandum of August 1. Since we understand that EDOC expects architectural investigation of this structure to get underway soon, with an Architectural Data Section based thereon expected to be completed by late spring, we will not take action on this Part II report at this time. Pending receipt of the architectural section, however, we would like to have from you further material on the following points:

1. **Humidity controls.** Considerable concern has been expressed at the very high cost indicated, and we would like further data on the basis for the estimate as well as more justification, especially in light of previous policy determinations regarding such policies for Park structures, and in Independence Square in particular.

2. **Elevators.** Are two elevators absolutely essential? Why?

3. What traffic pattern do you envision, what visitor flow through the building? Which of the two entrances will be the more important in your opinion, in the light of both guided Park tours and self-guide visitation? Do you consider the building entrances suitable for public use during inclement weather, or should we include perhaps an entrance "air-trap"?

4. What proposals do you have with respect to exterior of the building, especially the Chestnut Street steps, exterior walls, and any possible landscape treatment? Are these plans possible to carry out with the funds now programmed in 1964 Fiscal Year?
5. What estimates can you provide as to operating costs for the proposed building development? Have you provided for these added costs in your future budget estimates?

6. Exhibit arrangements. We would like to have your tentative proposals for the exhibit of the paintings, method of mounting, lighting, etc. You might well present this material in a separate Exhibit Plan for this structure. In regard to this matter, it has been suggested here that formal exhibits on the "bank" use of the building might be put in the "Loan Office" room adjacent to the President's office rather than in the latter, thus keeping the latter as a refurnished room alone. Also, that the Hall "lobbies" (B and C on your sketch plan) be utilized for the display of historical prints and the like (similar to those, or the same as those, in this Structures Report) commemorating the "bank" use of this structure. After all, the Bank story, as your historical evaluation section makes very clear, is very important as a part of the American historical heritage.

7. PCP covering project. Cost estimates in this report are quite out of line with PCP for this project submitted in April. You should revise the PCP if you still hold to the estimates in the report.

If you or your staff would like to discuss any of these subjects with us before you write them up, we will be glad to arrange a meeting.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director

cc:
Chief, EODC

FBarnes/RFL/MBC/bg

General ✓
Daily
Area
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Second Bank of the U.S. - Administrative, Furnishings, and Historical Data Sections

We submit herewith in duplicate the subject report with recommendation for its approval. The Architectural Data Section is not included in this report and has not yet been prepared. We would suggest that architectural investigation and preparation of this section be programmed at an early date.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosure No Attachment

Copy to: Chief, EODC w/c of report.

Attachments rec'd 8/6/62
Memorandum

To: Chief, EODC
From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Second Bank of U. S. - Structural investigation and preparation of Architectural Data Section, Part IX.

This will confirm verbal discussion with Messrs. Smith and Judd with respect to the need for an immediate safety inspection and necessary emergency repairs of the upper portions of the Second Bank of the United States building. The fact that a sizeable piece of masonry from the upper part of the building recently fell to the Chestnut Street steps, suggests the need for urgency. It is extremely fortunate that this happened at an hour when no one was in the vicinity; otherwise someone might have been seriously injured.

We recommend, also, the preparation of the Architectural Data Section for Part II of the Historic Structures Report on this building. A copy of the Historical Data Section, Part II, will be sent to you shortly.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Copy to: Regional Director, Northeast
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. O. Anderson</td>
<td>8/1/62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert L. Hall</td>
<td>10/7/64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief, EODC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>George A. Palmer</td>
<td>10/20/64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acting Regional Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>APPROVED</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. C. B. Jensen</td>
<td>11/20/64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Director, Design &amp; Construction</td>
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I ADMINISTRATIVE DATA
- Section 1. Name and Number of Building
- Section 2. Proposed Use of Structure and Justification
- Section 3. Provisions for Operating Building
- Section 4. Preliminary Estimate of Cost

## CHAPTER II HISTORICAL DATA
- Section 1. Structural History
- Section 2. Historical Associations
- Section 3. Evaluation of Historical Importance

## CHAPTER III ARCHITECTURAL DATA -- To be submitted

## CHAPTER IV FURNISHINGS AND EXHIBITION DATA
- Section 1. Existing Historic Furnishings
- Section 2. Proposed Furnishing and Exhibit Plans
- Section 3. Recommendation for Interpretive Development
- Section 4. Proposed Financing of Interpretive Development
CHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Prepared by Superintendent M. O. Anderson
NAME AND NUMBER
OF BUILDING

Second Bank of the United States (Old Customs House), 420 Chestnut Street, Building No. 13.
PROPOSED USE OF STRUCTURE
AND JUSTIFICATION

We concur with the recommended partial interior restoration
of the Second Bank, as outlined in Chapter II, Section 3, pages 4-5,
with the following modifications dictated by the special needs of the
portrait gallery:

(a) At the south end, a large service elevator will be needed
for transporting paintings and furniture to and from storage rooms in
basement. This could occupy the present staircase area; next to the
original Chief Clerk's Office. This space was originally a room of
unspecified use.

This modification would greatly facilitate the operations
of the gallery without affecting the architectural integrity of the
first floor.

(b) We concur in the recommended use of the original President's
Office for a series of exhibits on the history of the bank and recommend
that original bank furnishings be acquired for it, if possible.

(c) We recommend that, for the sake of better visitor circula-
tion, communicating doors be retained between the two front rooms on
either side of the north lobby.

Revised 3/20/64
PROPOSED USE OF STRUCTURE
AND JUSTIFICATION

We concur with the recommended partial interior restoration of the Second Bank, as outlined in Chapter II, Section 3, pages 4-5, with the following modifications dictated by the special needs of the portrait gallery:

(a) At the south end, a large service elevator will be needed for transporting paintings and furniture to and from storage rooms on second floor and in basement. This could occupy the present staircase area; next to the original Chief Clerk's Office. This space was originally a room of unspecified use.

(b) At the north end, an elevator running from basement to third floor is desirable for carrying museum objects to the offices and third floor storage area and for use by visitors to the curatorial offices. This could occupy the small room to the east of the corridor, corresponding to the stairwell on the west.

The above modifications would greatly facilitate the operations of the gallery without affecting the architectural integrity of the first floor.

(c) We concur in the recommended use of the original President's Office for a series of exhibits on the history of the bank and recommend that original bank furnishings be acquired for it, if possible.

(d) We recommend that, for the sake of better visitor circulation, communicating doors be retained between the two front rooms on either side of the north lobby.
Atmospheric Controls

Recognizing the great historical and artistic value of the paintings to be exhibited permanently in the Second Bank, we recommend as a necessary protective measure the installation of a complete atmospheric control system to provide constant relative humidity and filter out destructive air-borne solids and gases.
PROVISIONS FOR OPERATING BUILDING

To be operated as part of Independence National Historical Park.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

1. Statement of requirements, proposed work and construction data, justification, etc. (Use additional sheets as necessary.)

Restore and rehabilitate exterior and interior; close modern window openings; replace electric and piping systems; install fire detection and atmospheric control systems; replace roofing. Exterior masonry has deteriorated and requires repair, pointing, and waterproofing. Electric system is old, inadequate, and unsafe. Atmospheric control system is necessary to protect valuable historic paintings which are to be exhibited permanently in this building. Elevators are desirable for transporting museum objects between floors.


Remarks & Report References: This building qualifies as one of the historic buildings in the Park and was designated a historic site in 1939. See Report "Old Philadelphia Customs House" - History and Restoration, Branch of Development, June 6, 1947. See also Part I (1959) and Part II (1962) (revised 1964) Historic Structures Report, for justification in detail.

2. Land Status (If Govt.-owned, what agency), Water Rights, Research, Etc.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

3. PCP Data Prepared by (Name, Title & Date)

Le, Adrian Doe 7/2/64
Architect

4. Cross-reference PCP's to this Project:

M-4-2
R-2-2
PCP numbers of previously completed portions:

5. Construction by:

Day Labor  [X] Contract

Work supervised by:

[ ] Park  [ ] Reg.  [ ] Design Office

6. CLASS B ESTIMATE

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<th>Construction</th>
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<td>Plans, Surveys, &amp; Supervision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>45,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUB TOTAL</td>
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<td>Exhibits, Audio-Visual Installations, etc.</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>$ 970,000</td>
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7. DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES

No. To

1 Director
2 Regional Director
1 Superintendent
2 ECDC

8. Recommended by Park Office (Signature, title, date)

M. O. Anderson, Superintendent 8/10/64

9. Approved by Regional Office (Signature, title, date)

10. Reviewed by D&C Field Office (Signature, Title, Date)

11. Location within Area or Termini

Area "A"
420 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

12. Master Plan No.
NHP-IND 2006

13. Bldg. or Rt. # and Sec.
Bldg. No. 13

14. Region
Northeast

15. Park
Independence National Historical Park

16. Project
Restore Second Bank of the United States
Philadelphia
(County)
Pennsylvania
(State)

17. PCP Index No.
B-129-3

18. P. S. & S. by
BPR  [ ] NPS  [ ]
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<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<td>Pointing</td>
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<td>Cleaning marble (water jet)</td>
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<td>Waterproofing (Silicone)</td>
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<td>Marble repair</td>
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<td>Marble steps (rebuilding and pointing)</td>
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<td>Windows (new frames &amp; sash, Twin window glass, painting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metal roofing and insulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird-proofing (electric)</td>
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<td>Recon. Stockholders Room, marble stairs, etc.</td>
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See: Drawing No. NHS-PCH 1001-A
Drawing No. NHS-IND 9259 (HABS)

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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE
OF COST

Exhibit cases, lighting, etc. (first floor)  $ 64,000
Atmospheric control system  380,000
Elevator  48,200
Architectural work  477,800

$970,000

Revised 3/20/64
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CHAPTER II
HISTORICAL DATA

Prepared by Historian Robert J. Colborn
STRUCTURAL HISTORY

The Second Bank of the United States has been acknowledged from the first as one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in this country. As early as 1823, a visitor to the city of Philadelphia was speaking of "that magnificent building the U. S. Bank, for chaste beauty surpassing anything with which my eyes have been regaled."\(^1\) The general esteem in which the building was held is recorded in Levasseur's published diary of General Lafayette's return to America: "the new bank of the United States...is generally regarded as the finest specimen of architecture in the Union."\(^2\) The strong influence which the building exerted upon the architecture of its day is reflected in the proliferation of banking establishments constructed along Greek or, at least, classical lines.\(^3\) (For views of the building during its use as a bank, see Illustrations No. 1 through 7.)

William Strickland was only twenty-eight years old when his design won the architectural competition for the bank. He had never before drawn a Greek Revival building.\(^4\) His success with the bank, however, insured his position as one of the foremost architects in the United States.\(^5\)

Strickland not only supplied the design for the new bank; he also exercised direct supervision over its construction. Work was begun in 1819; the south portico, the last section of the building to be finished, was not completed until 1824. The final cost was nearly a half million dollars.\(^6\)

After the demise of the second federal bank in 1836, the edifice served as the home for the United States Bank of Pennsylvania, the successor
to the defunct Second Bank of the United States. With the collapse of the United States Bank in the depression of 1839-1839, the building was purchased by the federal government and served as the Philadelphia Customs House for almost one hundred years. During these years as a Customs House, the building was shared with various government agencies, including a United States sub-treasury. With the construction of new quarters for the customs offices in the early 1930s, the building was vacated. It was about to be disposed of by the government as surplus property when a group of interested citizens intervened to save it. As a result of their efforts, the old Customs House was designated a National Historic Site in June 1939.

Although the cornerstone of the Second Bank building was not laid until 1819, the preliminary activity had assumed considerable proportions months before. After the building committee had selected and purchased the site upon which the new Bank of the United States was to be constructed (see Appendix A), and the design competition had run its course, Strickland took over the project and began to prepare the ground. He personally supervised the overall work of carpenters, marble masons, and laborers, with John Struthers, mason, as general superintendent, Thomas Traquair as superintendent of masons, and Philip Justus as superintendent of carpenters. As his clerk of the works, he chose Thomas P. Roberts. Strickland paid one Samuel Haines twenty dollars to survey the lot on October 29, 1818, and soon thereafter undertook to clear the land. The buildings standing on the property were pulled down, with the exception of such "on the extremeties
of the Lot as could be made use of as workshops." The demolition work produced over three hundred thousand bricks which were cleaned and saved, as well as a "quantity of joists for scaffolding." Finally, the lot had been fenced in, and all was in readiness for operations to begin.9

The first order of business was the acquisition of wood for scaffolding. White pine boards, undoubtedly for this purpose, began to arrive at the site toward the end of 1818. These materials arrived by sea, as the entry of payment for "carting from ship" would indicate.10 The securing of scaffolding materials continued to be the object of concern into the next year. In April 1819 Strickland urged Lewis Coryell to supply him with the necessary "stuff" with the observation that he, Coryell, was at home when he ought to be "down in the cedar swamps."11 One month later, Strickland thanked him for the "cedar Scaffold poles" and asked for "a large quantity of Sweet Red Gum--all heart..."12

One year later, with the building now under roof, Strickland was still urging Coryell along in his jocular manner. He wrote:

I had not the pleasure of seeing you when you were in town last--We will want the remainder of the stuff for the Roof of the Bank building immediately--no time can be lost by our workmen--No excuse will be received by the Architect for the absence of the remainder of your Order--after the 25th instant--If it cannot be brought down by water--it must be by land. No time like the present[,] no man like a punctual man,--No patriots but democrats [.] No Governor but [W] Findley--& no more at present untill I have the pleasure of seeing you with the Lumber--13

Although the record of the building's construction is not complete, an almost day by day account exists from June 9, 1820, to December 21, 1821. This vitally important material, discovered in the McAllister Papers at
Philadelphia's Library Company by Dennis C. Kurjack in 1953 after years of fruitless efforts by scholars and architects to find them, has never before been used. These records were kept by Thomas P. Roberts, clerk of the works during the bank's construction. They supply detailed information with regard to both the kind and quantity of materials which went into the building and indicate who supplied the materials and by whom the work was done. The vouchers may be found in Appendix C. By the end of construction in 1824, 41,500 cubic feet of marble, as well as 3,000,000 bricks and 3,000 perches of stone, had gone into the building's foundations, walls, and porticos. The roof alone supported 17-1/2 tons of copper surfacing.

It is not surprising, then, to discover that many of the vouchers found in the McAllister Collection involve payments made for either bricks or marble, so widely used in the construction of the building. Numerous entries also mention "red stone," which apparently was not native to the region, as an expenditure for "freight of red stone from New York" would indicate (Check No. 304). The brick seems to have been provided exclusively by Michael and Samuel Fox (Checks No. 230, 235, and 248). Payments "on acct of laying bricks & stone" are made only to Daniel Groves and Joseph S. Walter (Checks No. 259, 329, and 348).

By July 14, 1820, John Stull had made a start at digging out the foundation for the terrace. He had completed this work by August 11, 1820, and a barrel of rum was delivered for the laborers, perhaps in connection with a raising feast (Checks No. 252 and 269).
The firm of Hitner and Dager was apparently the exclusive source of marble for the north portico. Thomas Traquair and Company supplied most of the marble coping for the terrace walls and, on one occasion, is recorded to have sold the bank "marble for chimneys $200.00" (Check No. 237). At various times Richard North and Daniel Hosser each provided one block of "white marble," as the vouchers are careful to specify (Checks No. 437 and 449). On July 28, 1820, Joseph Smith was paid in full for "8 marble mantles --$360.00" (Check No. 265).

John Struthers supervised the quarrying of the marble, as an order to pay "J. Struthers expenses to Hitner's quarry" testifies (Check No. 381). The men engaged in cutting the marble blocks at the quarry apparently lived at the site, for several payments are made to a "M. Patterson" for "board of men at Quarries" (Check No. 366). Frequent payments are also made for tools and materials which were used by the quarrymen in this work. Among the items listed are saw blades, sawing sand, pumice stone, red chalk, sponges, scribors, and mats (Checks No. 288 and 438).

The voucher listing payment to the "Philadelphia Prison in full for sawing marble...63.46" makes it clear that prison labor was used in preparing marble for use at the bank site, as does the entry "John Brannan hauling marble to and from prison" (Check No. 446).

After the marble reached the scene of the building operations on Chestnut Street, the finer work of the marble masons began. Payments to a variety of individuals are made for "fluting and rubbing a column--..."
Numerous entries mention payments to "riggers," the men who wrestled the heavy blocks of marble into position and who made use of "Rope, hooks, thimbles, etc...." in the process (Checks No. 394, 396, 398, 438, 455). The implements of the marble masons were sometimes in need of repair or replacement as several payments to Samuel Porter for "making, mending & sharpening marble masons tools, repairing picks, dressing wedges, &c...." would demonstrate (Checks No. 434, 381, and 405).

Philip Justus himself was paid for carpenters work which he executed for the bank building. It would appear that he was under contract to provide certain items of interior furnishing, as a payment "for mahogany desks & doors as per contract" makes clear (Check No. 345). An entry paying Justus $351.10 "for carpenters work, shingling watch house, privies, passages, making Centers, hoisting machine & mahogany work & materials inside banking room" indicates the variety of the services he rendered during the bank's construction (Check No. 451).

Among the vouchers mentioning Justus is one of more than usual interest in which it is ordered "to pay...Philip Justus, glue, hemp lines & patterns 16.00" (Check No. 282). The reference to glue and patterns here is suggestive of an early nineteenth century technique used in the application of designs to the walls and ceilings of private and public dwellings. A number of design elements of unmistakably Greek character were discovered on the walls and ceilings of the main banking room in 1952. There is the
strongest possibility that this payment to Justus in 1820 was for materials used in applying them (see Illustrations No. 14 and 15 and Appendix B). Justus was not alone, however, in supplying materials used in furnishing the bank's interior. Roberts paid "Samuel & Joseph Williams in full for mahogany & cherry, for doors, desks, & counters 827.55" (Check No. 384). The firm of Martin and Parkam received $139.18 "for 737 ft mahogany for desks & furniture of banking room" (Check No. 328). Mahogany, it would seem, was liberally used in providing the building's appointments.

The plastering of the interior walls was done by the great plasterer William Thackara, who but a few years before had worked on the capitol at Washington (Checks No. 281, 302, and 353). His bid of $5,900 gained him the contract. John Markland apparently supplied much of the plaster, having on one occasion been paid for 369-1/2 bushels (Check No. 349). "W. & D. Lowber...for 250 bu. of plastering hair" (Check No. 278) relates to this. These payments to Thackara undoubtedly were for the highly ornamented plaster work of the vestibule and stockholders' room, described in Strickland's Port Folio of 1821:

... The vestibule ceiling is a prolonged panned dome divided into three compartments, by bands enriched with the Guilloches springing from a projecting impost containing a sunken frette....

... The stockholder's room is a parallelogram of 28 feet by 50 feet, being lighted from the south front, having a groin arched ceiling, with projecting platbands, enriched with the Guilloches springing near the base of the groin angle, across the semicircular intrados of the arch. Each end of the room is ornamented with niches 8 feet wide, the heads of which form an architrave concentric with the semicircular pannels in the tympanum of the shortest diameter...
The *Port Folio* description can be accepted as accurate, for it appeared eight months after Roberts paid Thackara.

Thomas Traquair and Company, already cited as suppliers of the marble coping for the terrace, also provided "soap stone jambs, plinths for counters, Gate setts, etc" (Check No. 340). Payments for "castings, window setts and railing" and for "1757 lbs [?] of Iron sash weights" (Check No. 305) round out the survey of materials used in the building's interior detail. A John Kenworthy did the necessary "painting and glazing" (Check No. 358).

The roof of the building was covered with copper sheathing, 1485 sheets of it imported by John and Samuel Moss. Other firms provided lesser quantities of sheathing (Checks No. 246, 264, and 456). The "50 pounds of copper nails" provided by John McCauley were probably used to secure the sheets of copper in place (Check No. 333). The roof was breached to admit placement of skylights, as payments to several companies indicate (Checks No. 255 and 421). Benjamin Franklin would have been glad to see the "2 gilt platinum lightning rods" which were provided for the new bank building (Check No. 245). John Pearce did the plumber's work and supplied the materials which included "pig lead, sheet lead, gutter tin, copper pipe, lead pipe to cistern and hydrant, stone basin, &c." (Check No. 359).

Large payments were made to James Skerrett and Son for "iron work," undoubtedly alluding to the iron fences and gateways provided for the terrace and its flanking passageways (Checks No. 256, 375, and 435). Samuel
Richards was also paid for "extra iron railing," but how or where this was used is not specified (Check No. 390).

By the close of 1821 the building stood substantially complete.

During the bank's years under the charter of the United States government, no physical changes are known to have been made in the building. But in the years between the demise of the Second Bank of the United States and the period immediately prior to World War II, drastic alterations occurred which did much to alter, if not destroy, the original character of the building. These periods of change and the modifications they produced were discussed in detail by James R. Sullivan in the Historic Structures Report, Part I, on the Second Bank of the United States (February 1959).

After the old Second Bank was placed under the National Park Service in 1939, a rehabilitation and partial restoration effort was undertaken by the WPA in 1940-1941.

The reports entitled "Architectural Report for the Rehabilitation of the Custom House (1939)" and "Old Philadelphia Custom House History & Restoration (June 6, 1947)" take up the planning and execution of restoration between 1938 and 1941.

With the passage of twenty years, the limited objectives of this undertaking have assumed grander scope than they were endowed with at the outset. This was not a restoration in the commonly accepted meaning of that term today. It was, as presently understood, a rehabilitation and partial restoration. Restoration was not attempted south of the main banking room,
and even elsewhere, in keeping with Service precepts, a number of features post-dating Strickland's period were retained as not "really inappropriate or impractical" despite their late nineteenth century quality. With a view to putting the interior to use as offices, and working under a restrictive budget, the restorers made no effort at completeness and attempted to approximate rather than be highly accurate:

Whether or not the architectural features which are anachronistic with the date of erection of the building should be replaced by features of authentic restoration is a moot question. The less classic details which at some time supplanted the original ones are representative enough to justify their retention solely as records. Until the use to which the building will be put is of such a nature as to necessitate a restoration, very few changes would have to be made to prepare the building for occupancy.\(^\text{16}\)

Complicating the progress toward accuracy were certain misconceptions as to the origins of the plan. Under the influence of Fiske Kimball, the restorers did little to research Strickland's papers. It is not clear from the reports how far-reaching the architectural investigation was, but there appears to have been no search of the fabric approaching today's standards of thoroughness.

At a cost of $98,881 in WPA funds, supplemented by $25,887 contributed by the leasing Carl Schurz Foundation, the restorers made a limited number of changes in 1940-1941. They removed the large double staircase introduced in 1873 and rebuilt the vestibule and front lobby walls and ceiling, but withheld decorative plastering; repaired and reconditioned marble flooring in this same area; removed the marble flooring strip which crossed the banking room and used it to floor the rear lobby; repaired or
replaced wood and marble bases in the front rooms; and patched and repaired
defective ceilings. They removed a flight of stairs located near the area
once occupied by the west committee room. They reconditioned original hard-
ware and added new hardware of "original design" where needed. They removed
all such traces of Customs occupancy on the first and second floors as
shelves, counters, and temporary partitions (see Illustration No. 22). In
dealing with door openings, the strict letter of Strickland's building was
ignored. Doors for which there was no warrant appeared in the front lobby.
In the banking room, a number of deviations from the original plan were
allowed to persist (compare Illustration No. 17 with Illustration No. 22).
No attempt was made to restore the twelve original fireplaces on the first
floor (see Illustration No. 16). This was the extent of the "restoration."

Today the first floor front appears much as it did upon the com-
pletion of the building in 1824, but much of the original fabric in this
area has been replaced (compare Illustration No. 22 with Illustration No.
17). With the possible exception of the northernmost arcs formed by the
curved front walls of the vestibule, the structural elements in both the
vestibule and the front lobby date from the 1940-1941 restoration. While
most of the original architectural features in this area were removed about
1875 to make way for a cast iron double stairway, the doorways leading
into the transfer office and the loan office from the vestibule apparently
survived and are in place today. It is probably also that the communicat-
ing walls between the president's room and the loan office on the right and
the cashier’s office and transfer office on the left remain largely in-
tact (see Illustration No. 22).

The walls of the banking room have at no time been radically
altered, although the location of doorways in these walls has been changed
and modified numerous times. The restoration of 1940-1941 corrected changes
which had been made in both the location and the width of certain doors in
the northeast and southwest corners of the room (see Illustration No. 22).

Repairs conducted upon the floor of the main banking room in 1868
had replaced much of the badly worn wooden flooring with marble tile. This
tile around the periphery of the room was left in place during the 1940-
1941 work, but the marble tiling running across the floor between the front
and back lobbies was replaced by wood (see Illustration No. 22).

The ceiling of the banking room has been little disturbed since
the first days of the building’s existence, but its decorations are largely
hidden by many layers of paint.

The section of the first floor located south of the main banking
room and embracing the area once occupied by the stockholders’ room and
neighboring committee rooms has undergone vast changes and today bears no
resemblance to the original Strickland design (compare Illustration No. 22
with Illustration No. 17). The perfect symmetry of this area has disappeared
and with it has gone most of its original structural components. The interior
walls of the committee rooms, which originally flanked the stockholders’
room, no longer exist. With them went the stockholders’ room itself with
its curved niches and beautiful groined ceiling. The eastern wall was
removed sometime before 1872, probably during the extensive alterations of 1864-1865 when the entire area south of the banking room was modified to house a sub-treasury office (see Illustration No. 19). While the committee room on the west apparently survived for a time the violent changes of 1864-1865, further modifications later in the nineteenth century are thought to have brought about its removal. 19

The plans prepared by John McArthur in 1872 (see Illustration No. 19) show that the marble stairway which once had been located adjacent to the east committee room had disappeared, probably a victim of the renovation of 1864-1865. In its place had been constructed a large double stairway. The McArthur drawing also indicates that the original stairway to the west had not survived without some modification (compare Illustration No. 19 with Illustration No. 17).

At some undisclosed time after 1872, this entire area underwent extensive changes again. By the time of the 1940-1941 restoration efforts, the large double stairway to the east had entirely disappeared, the stairway to the west had retained its location but had again been modified in design, the present stairway to the second floor had assumed its present location, and the surrounding rooms had taken on the appearance they largely retain to this day (see Illustration No. 22).

Few changes occurred in this area during the work sponsored by the National Park Service in 1940-1941. The stairway on the west side of the room was completely removed, and a small partition which divided the
old assistant cashier's room was taken out. Beyond this, little was done, and the area remains in the denatured state which has been its lot for some time. It is difficult to claim with any confidence the walls in this area which are original. It is probable that the walls and ceiling of the rear lobby, as well as sections of the wall which once separated the stockholders' and committee rooms from their smaller adjacent rooms, are largely original (see Illustration No. 22).

Unfortunately, no Strickland plan for the second floor is known to exist. Strickland, describing the new bank for the readers of the *Port Folio* in 1821, wrote that the two flights of marble stairs in the rear section of the building led to the clock chamber and "other apartments" of the second story. A private stairway from the banking room led to the directors', engravers', and copper-plate printers' rooms on the second floor front. Beyond what is suggested here, nothing more is known of the original appearance of the second floor.

It can be safely assumed, however, that when the front vestibule and lobby were altered so radically to make way for a cast iron stairway, the second floor front unavoidably experienced considerable change. Similarly, the introduction of a large double stairway in the area once occupied by the east committee room also produced modifications on the second floor rear. The McArthur plan, the only extant representation of the second floor rear (see Illustration No. 20), indicates the appearance of that area in 1872.
While no restoration of the second floor per se was undertaken in 1940-1941, the rehabilitation of the first floor necessitated some revision of the second story. Alterations on the second floor, however, were limited almost exclusively to the front, and little was done to the second story rear (see Illustration No. 23).

No original plans exist for the basement or the attic, but the changes to these areas which occurred during the 1940-1941 rehabilitation of the Second Bank are detailed in Illustrations No. 21 and 24.

Changes effecting the external appearance of the building have been limited primarily to the introduction of windows where originally there were none. As early renderings of the north facade clearly show (see Illustrations No. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8), there was a single centrally located entrance flanked by two recessed sham doorways. Three recessed stone panels, which were representational of windows in form, looked out over the Chestnut Street entrance from the second story level. The south facade was presumably the exact counterpart of the north facade, with one important difference: while no light entered the front of the building except through the central entrance way, the rear wall of the bank was provided with two windows which flanked the Library Street entrance, allowing light to enter the stockholders' room from the south (see Illustration No. 17).

Later occupants of the building, however, apparently desired more light from both the north and south. Although the exact date is not known, functional windows replaced the recessed shams in the second floor front,
and windows substituted for the mock doors on the ground floor some time between 1850 and 1861 (see Illustrations No. 8, 11, and 11a). On the south end of the building, additional windows had appeared on the first and second floors by 1872 (see Illustrations No. 10, 19, and 20). Later, still another window was opened in the rear wall to provide better illumination for the rooms on the second floor (see Illustration No. 23).

The invoices for the extensive alterations of 1864-1865 refer to the enlargements of certain unspecified windows located in the east and west walls of the building. It is probable that what appear today as additional windows over the three second story windows in the rear section of the edifice are these "enlargements" mentioned in the invoices (see Illustrations No. 12 and 13). It is apparent from these illustrations that still another window was added to each side, just north of the circular window in the center section.20

This has been only a general discussion of the major changes which have taken place, at various times, in the old Second Bank building. While it has been indicated in broad terms what original fabric remains, only a thoroughgoing architectural investigation, such as has been requested by the Park but not yet undertaken, can determine with precision the elements which date from the building's construction and those which are more recent.
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

In 1811 the twenty-year charter of the First Bank of the United States ran out and was not renewed. Consequent to the dissolution of the first federal bank, private banks proliferated, extended too much credit, and then, with the difficult years during the War of 1812, suspended specie payments en masse. While the continuation of the First Bank would probably not have prevented suspension, the very fact that suspension had occurred gave those who favored a federal bank a powerful weapon with which to thrash their opponents. Furthermore, the generally chaotic condition into which the nation's finances had fallen during the war years made it difficult to defend the Bank's discontinuance. Many of its old foes were silenced, and many converted. The way was paved for a new federal bank to come into being.

As early as January 1814 a group of citizens had asked that a new national bank be incorporated by Congress. In the months which followed, several plans were proposed by both the Congress and President Madison, but disagreement over the government's role within the Bank caused these plans to be mutually unacceptable. With the conclusion of the war, however, these labors were laid aside.

But, though the war had been brought to a successful conclusion, the nation's finances remained disorganized. In December 1815, President Madison asked Congress once again to do something about the currency. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander J. Dallas of Philadelphia, in his annual
message, suggested that a national bank would be the best and perhaps the only adequate way to free the country from its embarrassments. He recommended that a national bank be established in Philadelphia.

Under the urging of Henry Clay, then Speaker of the House, John C. Calhoun assumed the congressional leadership in the fight for a new national bank. He introduced a new bill in January 1816, and with amendments this bill passed through Congress to the President's desk, where it was signed into law on April 10, 1816.

The capital of the new bank was to be $35,000,000. The government was to own one-fifth, or $7,000,000, of the bank's stock. Philadelphia was to be the site city of the new national bank as it had been for the old, with the power to establish branches wherever its directors saw fit. The charter was to run for twenty years, during which time the bank was to be the principal depository of the United States Treasury. Furthermore, it was to make periodic reports to the Treasury and was to be subject to Treasury inspection. There were to be twenty-five directors, with five of these appointed by the President of the United States.

By mid-1816, the five commissioners designated by President Madison to superintend subscription to the new federal bank's stock had met at Stephen Girard's bank in Philadelphia. But although subscription opened in twenty cities scattered throughout the country, the bank's stock sold very slowly. When the allotted time had expired, subscriptions were a full $3,000,000 short of the $28,000,000 to be taken by the public. The lists
once again opened in Philadelphia at Mr. Girard's bank, whereupon Stephen Girard himself immediately subscribed the entire $3,000,000, much to the public's awe and amazement.

During its first year of operations, all seemed to be well. General suspension had been ended, the Treasury made use of its services, the state banks were--for the time being--reconciled to its existence, and many old foes were now its friends. But while the institution was still in its formative period, a group of speculators and politicians gained control of it. Stephen Girard had been aware of what was occurring, but had not been able to stop it. He wrote in October 1816 that "intrigue and corruption had formed a ticket of twenty directors" whom he believed had been selected by elements intent upon securing the presidency for William Jones, a Philadelphia merchant who had recently gone through bankruptcy. Despite Girard, the largest single stockholder, the directors succeeded in placing Jones in the president's chair.  

President Jones and the like-minded men around him soon revealed the direction in which they intended to take the bank. From the very outset, they allowed the bank's subscribers the widest latitude in meeting the stipulated requirement that one-fourth of all payments on stock be in specie. If the spirit of the charter had been followed, the bank should have received about $7,000,000 in coin from its subscribers. The bank opened its doors, however, with only $2,000,000 in specie from this source. This sum was hurriedly supplemented by loans raised with much difficulty in Europe.
The bank, from the first, pursued a policy of accommodation which yielded to borrowers generally. As a consequence, it greatly increased its liabilities and exposed itself to withdrawal. The restraining influence which it should have exerted upon the private banks, it exerted not at all, and by its actions abetted the speculative trend.

Stephen Girard resigned as a government director at the end of 1817. While a director of the bank, he had not been able to make his influence felt. The fact that he was the largest single stockowner was of no consequence, for no stockholder was allowed more than thirty votes. The intrepid gentleman who had gained control of the bank, however, circumvented this limitation by the simple ruse of spreading a given ownership over many names, and thus had voting power far beyond the prescribed limit. Once outside the bank, however, Girard led a revolt against this situation. He aroused other stockholders, calling upon them to effect a change in the bank's direction. The Charleston stockholders responded to the call by nominating Langdon Cheves for president of the bank and agitated for a change in the bank's management.

The impetus for change was strengthened by a panic and recession in 1818 which shook the country—and the bank—severely. The bank was by now suspected of being dangerously over-extended, and a congressional investigation was ordered. The committee, headed by John C. Spencer of New York, after weeks of investigation, reported that violations of the bank's charter had occurred, but recommended that nothing drastic be done. This
was enough, however, to force the resignation of William Jones, who stepped down convinced that he was "the voluntary offering...at the shrine of prejudice."22

The actual condition of the bank after this crisis was not initially known, but the stockholders decided that the bank should be saved. The Congress concurred, for proposals to repeal the charter were turned down by great majorities. The bank, however, was never able to regain fully public confidence.

All these difficulties only served as an introduction to far more shocking disclosures which were now to be made in Baltimore.

The Baltimore branch had, from the outset, conducted its business on a grand scale. Its operations were so vast that it threw inter-regional payments constantly and irregularly out of balance. It extended loans in all directions. But beyond all this was the pure fraud and chicanery on the part of its own officers. Both James A. Buchanan, its president, and James W. McCulloch, its cashier, had used vast sums of the bank's money in their personal speculations which, in short order, grew into frauds involving about $3,000,000. In the end, the net loss was in excess of $1,500,000.

When Langdom Cheves took office as president of the bank, the cloud of this scandal hung heavy over the institution. He found, in addition, the bank's total resources had been so badly depleted through inept management that the bank was at the point of stopping payments. He threw himself with vigor into the staggering task of rescuing the bank. He not
only conducted a full retreat from the open-handed credit policy of his predecessor, but also made severe reductions in the bank's own operating expenses. He inaugurated investigations, dismissals, and prosecutions which drove other defrauders from the institution, and brought in new officers until the conservative element was dominant. His stringent policies made him many enemies, but he must be credited with saving the bank from a humiliating end.

Mr. Cheves, supported by such responsible men as Stephen Girard, Nicholas Biddle, and Alexander Brown, had saved the bank. But, by 1822, dissatisfaction with Cheves' policies began to be heard. "Even many of the stockholders, whose investments he had preserved, were disgruntled because he was niggardly with dividends." Cheves, apparently by this time no longer relishing his duties (see Appendix D), announced to the stockholders that he would resign by the end of the year. In early January of 1823, Nicholas Biddle was elected president of the bank.

It was under the brilliant direction of Nicholas Biddle that the Bank of the United States reached the height of its prestige and power. But it must be pointed out that Nicholas Biddle was a man of wealth and accomplishments long before he entered the President's Room at the bank on Chestnut Street. He had been born to a wealthy family and, as a young man, had married a woman possessed of her own personal fortune. At only seventeen he had been graduated from Princeton at the head of his class. Shortly afterward, he became a contributor to Joseph Dennie's *Port Folio*, published
in Philadelphia and America's most ambitious literary periodical. He was later to become its editor. Before he was twenty, he had spent several years in Europe as secretary to the American minister to France. In 1806, at twenty years of age, he had visited Greece and became the first American to be "imbued with a sense of classic glories." His enthusiasm for the culture of ancient Greece is nowhere better reflected than in his impressive country estate, "Andalusia."

In London, Biddle served for a time as secretary to the American minister to Great Britain, James Monroe. After returning to Philadelphia in 1807 he undertook the monumental task of editing the records of the Lewis and Clark expedition. His work remained the standard account of the expedition for over one hundred years. In 1810 he was elected to the lower house of the Pennsylvania legislature, and several years later became a member of the state Senate.

As a stockholder in the bank, Biddle had been concerned about the difficulties into which it had fallen, and he had assisted the Spencer committee during the investigation of the bank in late 1818. President Monroe selected him to be one of the five government directors of the federal bank in 1819.

Four years later, at only thirty-seven years of age, he became the bank's chief officer. After he had become its president, the management of the bank became his dominant concern almost to the end of his life. But even in this busy and often troubled period, he found time to serve as chairman of the trustees of Girard College.
Under the direction of Nicholas Biddle, the central banking functions of the Bank of the United States were clearly recognized and were exercised fully and competently. The bank served "as the balance wheel of the banking system." It regulated the supply of money and restrained the expansion of credit on the part of private banks; it governed the exchanges and provided the entire country with a uniform currency; it facilitated the internal exchange of produce and labor in every part of the nation; "it safeguarded the investment market; it protected the money market from the disturbing force of Treasury operations and of payments on balance, interregional and international; it facilitated Treasury operations vis-a-vis the rest of the economy." (For a thorough statement of several of these operations, see Appendix E for Biddle's own lucid explanation.) These functions were carried out deliberately and emphatically and were performed as well in the United States as they were anywhere in the world.

And yet, for all Biddle's diligent and brilliant efforts, and no matter what the salutary effects of the bank may have been, there were powerful forces at work which ultimately brought the bank down.

In the years from independence to the election of Andrew Jackson, the United States had undergone radical and sweeping economic changes. A whole new economic order was being ushered in, with ideas of enterprise and business ethics all its own. The capitalist of eighteenth century America found himself being elbowed out by a new element which may have
lacked in gentility but lacked nothing in aggression. The passing of
economic power from Chestnut Street to Wall Street characterized the trans­
formation which had come upon the economic life of the nation. Philadelphia,
long the country's metropolis, represented the sober and conservative
eighteenth century way of conducting business. New York, however, had
grown vastly in both economic and political importance as the nineteenth
century unfolded. By 1820 she had surpassed Philadelphia in population.
Only five years later, the opening of the costly Erie Canal had tapped the
burgeoning western trade for her, and with that trade came economic as­
cendence over Philadelphia. As the nation industrialized, New York became
the center of the aggressive, acquisitive spirit of *laisser faire*.

But with the federal bank situated in Philadelphia, that city
retained her financial pre-eminence. The revenues of the port of New York
were greater than those of all other American ports combined, but they
passed into the vaults of the Wall Street branch of the Second Bank. New
York was flushed with the desire for uninhibited economic growth, but the
bank in Chestnut Street was constantly exerting a regulating influence.
The fire was in New York, but the damper was in Philadelphia, and to Wall
Street this was intolerable. The fight against the Second Bank of the
United States was essentially a rebellion within the business world itself,
between the old merchant class and the new entrepreneurs. Certainly there
was the traditional element of agrarian antagonism against the "money
power" represented by institutional banking interests, but the real leader­
ship in the struggle came from the men who were a part of a new enterprise
system.
It seems that Nicholas Biddle, accomplished as a central banker but no politician, never grasped the nature of the struggle until too late. In May 1833, he wrote at last: "'It is a mere contest between Chestnut Street and Wall Street--between a Faro Bank and a National Bank'." The men who worked hardest and most effectively to bring down the Bank were not agrarians at all, but rather representatives of the newly arising entrepreneurial class: Duff Green, Samuel Ingham, Isaac Hill, Martin Van Buren, Amos Kendall, Francis Preston Blair, Churchill C. Cambreleng, Roger B. Taney, and David Henshaw. The two most vocal defenders of the Bank, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster, supported it on principle, but in the final analysis may have been more anti-Jackson than pro-Bank. Biddle's two best aides were Horace Binney and John Sergeant, Philadelphia lawyers of the most competent sort. "They were the best of Mr. Biddle's aides in the inadequate sense that they were highly intelligent, judicious, and reputable gentlemen; which, of course, made them no match whatever for President Jackson's array of experts." John C. Calhoun, the man most responsible for the chartering of the Bank in 1816 and who probably understood the functions of the Bank better than anyone else in Washington, was too deeply embroiled in fighting the tariff questions in the crucial years of 1832 and 1833 to be of much assistance.

During Andrew Jackson's first administration, an effort was made to bring the Bank under the aegis of the Democratic Party, but Biddle refused to allow party considerations to influence him in the selection of
directors. The enemies of the Bank next suggested that a wholly new national bank be created to replace the existing federal one. In the meantime, committees in both houses of Congress reported that the constitutionality of the Bank had been well established and that the currency was in sound condition. Jackson, for his part, publicly made no clear-cut statement indicating that he would oppose rechartering the Bank. He had in several of his annual messages, however, disparaged the Bank, and in his private correspondence he was calling it a "hydra of corruption." The attacks of the Jacksonian press and the statements uttered by some intimates of the President--especially Attorney General Taney--increased in vehemence, and Biddle's confidence in the future of the Bank was severely shaken.

As the presidential election of 1832 drew near, the opponents of General Jackson closed ranks and a new party, the National Republicans, emerged. Henry Clay was nominated for President, and John Sergeant, counsel for the federal bank and one of Biddle's closest advisers, was chosen to be his running mate. The new party's leaders persuaded Biddle to apply immediately for recharter, hoping to embarrass Jackson by forcing him to choose openly between approval or veto. In January 1832, the Bank's application for recharter was laid before Congress. The new charter bill passed Congress early in July 1832. Jackson promptly vetoed it on July 10, and the continuance of the federal bank became a major issue as the National Republicans had planned.

As a political tool, however, the Bank question served them ill--if the election results of 1832 may be used as a yardstick. President
Jackson scored a smashing victory over Henry Clay at the polls, attesting at once to his own great popularity and to the general esteem in which his veto of the Bank was held throughout the land. Badly mauled in its descent into the political arena, the Bank—or, more correctly, the Bank's management—never recovered its poise and judgment. The Bank thereafter suffered considerable embarrassment. From this time forward, the Biddle who had so skillfully carried out the functions of a central banker gave way to the Biddle of erratic judgment, the Bank's condition being now good, now bad.

Shortly after Jackson's re-election, the administration recommended to Congress that the government's stock in the Bank be sold. In addition, the President asked Congress to make inquiry as to whether the government's deposits should be removed from the federal bank. Both measures were rejected. The state banks, overjoyed by the federal bank's defeat but fearing the repercussions that might be caused by so precipitous an action, did not encourage the plan.

Within the President's own cabinet, there was also opposition. When Secretary of the Treasury Louis McLane refused to order the deposits removed, Jackson replaced him with William J. Duane, one of Philadelphia's leading lawyers and son of William Duane, whose _Aurora_ had been a violent foe of the First Bank. In September 1833, Jackson announced that he had decided to reduce the government's deposits. Duane, no friend of the Bank but fearing what would occur if the deposits were given over to irresponsible local banks, proved as intractable as McLane. He was promptly dismissed...
and replaced by Roger B. Taney, an ardent enemy of the Bank. Taney did not hesitate. He announced that on the first of October 1833, deposits to the credit of the government would no longer be made in the Bank of the United States, but in seven state banks which he specified.

There immediately followed upon Taney's action a vast extension of credit on the part of the "pet banks." This, much to the dismay of the Jacksonians, had the effect of putting the private banks in debt to the federal bank, for as borrowing went forward apace, more and more notes and checks outstanding against the lending banks came into the possession of the federal bank. Paralleling this development was the Bank's curtailment of its discounting operations as it prepared to bring its affairs to a close. The result was a period of credit stringency and a general business panic.

In the ensuing crisis, several of the over-extended "pet banks" almost went under. In the Senate, where Jackson's enemies were in the majority, the President was formally censured during the spring session of 1834 for having acted in such a manner as to produce extensive monetary distress.

The business community, meanwhile, began to direct protests at the Bank itself. The Bank had come through the difficult period following the shift of public deposits in good order and by mid-1834 was once again in a relatively strong position. It was the opinion of many conservative businessmen that there was no longer any reason to keep the money market in a constricted state.
It seems, however, that Biddle was unwilling to allow the Bank to be "'coaxed into any relaxation of its present measures',"²⁹ not only as a defensive policy for the Bank, but also in the hope of forcing the reversal of the President's decision to eliminate the Bank and remove its deposits. After repeated urgings, the Bank was persuaded to expand its activities for the sake of the business community.

But the federal character of the Bank had been brought to an end, for with the removal of federal deposits, the Bank ceased to have any effective regulatory power over the currency of the entire nation. Unable to act as a central banking institution, with all the regulatory functions which that term implies, the Bank became concerned simply in making money by the expansion of credit.

Nicholas Biddle's vain hope that the Bank might be rechartered faded away as 1835 passed into 1836, with no reprieve forthcoming for the Bank. In February 1836 the federal bank ceased to exist. A state charter had been obtained earlier, however, which incorporated all the non-governmental stockholders under the name of the United States Bank. To this new bank were transferred all the assets and liabilities of the old. At the last meeting of the stockholders, the expiring bank voted to give Mr. Biddle a magnificent service of plate as a token of gratitude. Presented to Biddle several years later, the service is variously reported to have cost between $15,000 and $35,000.

Now operating as the United States Bank of Pennsylvania, the bank embarked upon an extravagant loan policy. Between March 1835 and March 1836,
loans increased from $4,800,000 to $20,500,000. Extensive investment also occurred. Shares in bridges, canals, railroads, and turnpikes were purchased; bonds issued by states to finance internal improvements were bought up; interests in numerous other banks were acquired.

With its capital heavily invested in ventures that would take years to mature, the bank did not have sufficient resources to defend itself when a general business contraction began in Europe and quickly spread to America in the summer of 1838. As the depression deepened, the bank's specie reserves were drained away faster than they could be replaced. After a series of desperate maneuvers at home and abroad, the United States Bank suspended payments in October 1839. A futile effort was made to resume payments in specie early in 1841, but on February 4 of that year the bank's doors closed for good.

The blame soon began to settle upon Nicholas Biddle who had retired in March 1839, announcing that the bank was in a fine state of prosperity. Six months later it was unable to pay its debts. Nicholas Biddle lost his entire personal fortune in meeting the bank's claim of $320,000, even to the point of having the magnificent plate presented to him only one year before melted down for the bullion it would bring. His wife's fortune remained intact, however, and he spent his final years in retirement at the family home, "Andalusia."

In January 1842 Biddle and four other officers of the bank were arrested on charges of criminal conspiracy to cheat and defraud the bank.
The charge of conspiracy was disallowed by the court because nothing had been hidden from the directors; all was done with their knowledge. Neither was there evidence of misapplication of funds anywhere in the bank's dealings. The case was dismissed, and Biddle and his associates exonerated. New suits were brought against him, but after his death on February 27, 1844, the cases were dropped.

However unsuccessful Biddle may have been as president of the United States Bank of Pennsylvania, his stature as a brilliant central banker cannot be diminished. As the chief officer of the Bank of the United States, he was able to achieve a sound currency which was universally acceptable in every corner of the country. Above all, he understood the usefulness of monetary measures as a means of relieving economic disorder and distress. His realization that the regulation of bank credit was an operation of critical enough importance to the nation to be assumed as a function of government was not to be formally recognized by the government for almost one hundred years. Today, the Federal Reserve Banks attest the soundness of his conceptions.

The question of the Second Bank of the United States is a subject for perennial debate among historians. No consensus has ever been reached. The Jacksonians argue that the end of the bank spelled a victory for the common man and for democracy over a powerful monolithic institution controlled by aristocratic financial interests. Those who take a different
view of the bank and Biddle call it a triumph, not for the hapless agrarians, but for the members of a new entrepreneurial class who, riding on the crest of vast economic changes, would allow nothing to impede them in their pursuit of material gain. The truth probably lies somewhere between the two. The great historic forces which molded modern America were not to be denied; it can be said of both Jackson and Biddle that they were "pretty much tossed about by the economic upheaval of their time....We are still in the economy they created."
EVALUATION OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

The Chestnut Street building of the Second Bank of the United States was the center of financial activity in this country from 1824 to 1834. In the first floor President's Room and Stockholders' Room was made policy affecting the young nation's vital economic interests. In its cellar vaults were deposited the cash reserves upon which the finances of the nation depended. On its books were recorded balances that told the situation of the nation's industries, businesses, and most important and influential figures in all walks of life.

The Bank, symbolized by its formidable building, was the subject of the storied "Bank War," the great economic-political struggle which occupied the attention of the American people throughout much of Andrew Jackson's two administrations. The struggle over rechartering manifested great changes which were taking place in the basic concepts and principles of business enterprise. The wedding of corporate enterprise with finance capitalism, from which has sprung the twentieth century state and society, was not to be effected until direction of fiscal affairs passed from Chestnut Street to Wall Street.

The structure itself is of the highest architectural merit; it established designer William Strickland as one of the foremost architects in the nation's history and stimulated a veritable wave of neo-classical building on this side of the Atlantic.

These themes, distant in point of time from those of the rest of the Park and at best but remotely connected with the story of Independence,
are indispensable to an understanding of the development of modern America and merit the most careful consideration when it comes to determining the treatment to be accorded the Second Bank building.

The Bank of the United States building was far finer when Strickland, his corps of superintendents, marble masons, ornamental plasterers, and painters finished their work in 1821 than it is today. In part this is the inevitable consequence of simple weathering or the deterioration of materials exposed to elements they were never intended to encounter. In part it is the change in form which followed change in function. Whether in use as a Customs House, sub-treasury, or home of a foundation, the results have been much the same in terms of appearance— it has never been more than a shadow of the esteemed building of the 1820's.

The work of 1940-1941 was more an exercise in preservation than a restoration. As much of the effort went into fitting the building for occupancy as went into restoration, and for the very good reason that this was essential to conserving it. The 1947 report confessed that "the proposed restoration of the President's Room and the Stockholders' Room on Sansom St. were not accomplished because of inadequate funds." This fund shortage apparently extended as well to historical research and architectural investigation, for the report also admits "the restoration drawings were based on measured data of existing structure, from Dr. Kimball's article in the December, 1925, issue of the Architectural Record [since, in part, discredited] and from drawings by Le Brun and Runge, architects for contemplated changes in 1857." Little money was spend on the 1940-1941 restoration
and nothing since has been spent to extend this modest beginning. As things stand, as much will be spent landscaping around the building as has been applied to the incomplete restoration.

Of recent years much has become known or validated that was not known or was disregarded twenty years ago. To date this data has figured little, if at all, in planning for the building. This newly acquired knowledge would enable perfecting of the work of 1940-1941, for conducting a highly accurate and thorough restoration of those areas of the building where this would be effectual and meaningful. In the light of recent discoveries, the discontinuance of 1941 may be considered a fortunate stroke.

Now it is proposed that the building's function be changed from offices to portrait gallery, and administrative decisions have been made to that end. Such a use is wholly consistent with its monumental character, grace, and dignity. No very well-defined purpose would be served in undertaking to restore and refurnish the Second Bank building as a historic house museum. It would not be necessary to install counters and the trappings of banking activity on the first floor, never mind engraving room of the second floor, to recall what took place in banking room and offices. Yet, restoration of the architectural features of the first floor is believed essential to an appreciation of those activities and events of importance with which its rooms are associated. Some interpretable episodes have re-emerged from the mists of the past, among them the picking of Nicholas Biddle's pocket in the Bank lobby. Others remain to be winnowed out of
the host of papers that will be examined as the human history side of the Bank is researched from rich, known sources. The restored architectural features would not only help to re-create the setting of Biddle's bank by ridding it of 1873 iron-work and plaster motifs in favor of Strickland's highly embellished platbands, groined ceilings, lacunar, and richly figured ceilings, but would do much to enhance it for use as a gallery.

Such a restoration would entail principally: rebuilding of the first floor rear to restore the Stockholders' Room, complete to platbands, groined ceiling, niches, guilloches, and "sunken frett"; the adjoining committee rooms and marble staircases; the platbanded archway between Vestibule and front Lobby; and the guilloches of the Vestibule. This would be far from extensive, considered against the building as a whole.

Very little has been adduced from documentary evidence about the twelve marble fireplaces (four remain) which once graced the first floor rooms. They were important architectural features and unique owing to their being located under cast-iron window sills with no apparent flues (these flanked the window openings). It is recommended that they be made the subject of special study with a view to their restoration.

Memoranda for the Chief of Planning, dated May 24, 1939, and June 21, 1939, established the objective "...that the banking room and the office originally occupied by Nicholas Biddle be restored," and increased the estimated cost of restoration to $5,000.00 "...to include the cost of furnishing the office formerly used by Nicholas Biddle." This is the room in which Biddle sat with his door open for better circulation of heat,
visible to passers-by, and where, of course, he decided bank policy. It is recommended that the earlier intention to refurnish the room now be acted upon. Since preparation of the Part I report advising against this appeared, Biddle's desk and certain other furnishings, which would contribute to the effect of such a refurnishing, have been located. This is a large room and it would perhaps suffice not only for this purpose, but also for the exhibits on the history of the Second Bank recommended in the Part I report.

During the process of restoration, door openings throughout the first floor should be sorted out and given the function and appearance shown in Illustration No. 17.

The public is not to be admitted to the second floor gallery work areas. The needs of interpretation as seen at this time do not demand it, and it is felt consequently that restoration is neither necessary or desirable. However, as the roof of the building is a visible element, and is at present encumbered by obtrusive and unattractive skylights, it should be given as nearly as possible its 1824 appearance, the marble Strickland skylight excluded.

Before any changes or modifications are attempted, the long-deferred architectural investigation should be completed. Such an undertaking was recommended in the Part I report and requested by Park authorities in 1958, but has never been acted upon. At the time the Part I report appeared, it was regarded as imperative to safeguard surviving original fabric. This need remains, whatever else may eventuate.


5. Ibid., p. 21.


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[July 9, 1818]
Sale by Humis [?] & Lippincott and for Ye Bank of the United States July 9, 1818

Bank of the United States
1818 Dr to Samuel Hains
October 29<sup>th</sup> To Surveying and levelling to ascertain the lines & heights of their lot on Chesnutt & Library Streets & a Draft of the same $20.00

[signed] William Strickland Archt
Mr Lippincott will please pay the above out of the fund received for the old materials on the lot.

W. Jones

[on reverse side]
November 21, 1818 Received payment in full
Samuel Hains
November 10, 1818

Bank of the United States To Howell & Steele Deposit
To takin down Cleaning and piling 335,698 Bricks at one Dollar fifty Cents per thousand 503.55
To 162-1/2 Days work taking down and Removing floors [and?] Roof from Kichen and Wash House and Removing Rubish, and Removing all the Scantling to Cellar piling up old floor Boards, and Removing Door & Window frames Shutters & Shash to Coach House at one Dollar twenty five Cents per Day— 203.12-1/2
To 21-1/2 Days Horse & Cart Carting Bricks Scantling and floor boards at two Dollars per Day— 43.00
By Cash rec'd on amt— 575.00

Ex’d Decbr 31st 1818
Philip Eustus

Recd July 3 1819 of Humis & Lippincott the Am’t of this Bill in full as Credited 575 [signed] Joseph Howell this day— 174.67 John Steele.

$749.67

[December 31, 1818]

Bank of the United States...for work & sundries at Bank Scite 1818 Decbr 31st
To Philip Justus Deposit
To 35 lbs Cut Nails ad @ 9 Cts. $3.15. & 9 lbs wrot a@ @ 17 Cts 1.61 4.76
" 2 large pair hooks & hinges Rivets to do. 6.50
" 1 Stack lock, 1.50 2 sadlocks 1.25 a new Key & Staple 3.12
" 4 large half Staples. 2 bolts, 2 hasps & 4 Staples 3.25
Carpenters work putting up fences, gates &c including my attention, while pulling down the buildings &c., &c. 72.75

$90.38

Rec’d payment of Joushua & W Lippincott
Jany. 28th 1819. Philip Justus.

[February 8, 1819]

The Committee appointed to take Measures to have the Buildings removed from the Lot purchased as a Site for a Banking House--
Report,

That they have accomplished that object and after paying all the expenses of the workmen employed, there remained in their hands $1380 12/100 being the balance of the proceeds of Sales of such materials as were considered useless in the contemplated Building, which sum they have paid to the Cashier of the Bank of the United States—

That they have reserved such of the buildings on the extremities of the Lot as could be made use of as workshops and also 335,700 Bricks cleaned and piled up, likewise a quantity of joists for scaffolding—

That the Lot is fenced in, and ready to commence operations upon, when it may be considered proper.

John Connelly
February 6th 1819
Joshua Lippincott

10. Ibid., 90:

United States Bank

1818
10 mo. 19 For 2090 feet White Pine Boards @ $15, 31.35
22 " 670 " do do " 10.5
1 " 126 " Clean Sap do -- 2-1/2 3.15
1 mo. 7 " 99 " White Pine do -- 2-1/4 2.23
8 " 1 carting from ship

Exd January 11th 1819
Rec Pay. of Humis & Lippincott
Philip Bustus Jany 30. 1819.
duplicate copy [signed] Thos Smith

11. Coryell Correspondence (April 11, 1819), I, 55, Historical Society of Pennsylvania:

Lewis Coryell Esq:

Sir

I received your communication yesterday—Am sorry to find you in New Hope when you ought to be down in the cedar swamps—

I have reported your agreement with me to the Building Committee at 3$ pr pole delivered, taking them large & small, which in my opinion is a fair price judging from other Contracts from that quarter—

The Bill of dimensions is all right—therefore you may cut according to it—Dispatch is the order of the day—the Sap is rising—& Money scarce. stop the one, & make the other—-I long
to hear of your return from a journey to the Poles—-
N.B. I wish you to preserve them with the bark on for reasons that you must be sufficiently acquainted with.

P.S. My orders for other stuff is not made out yet, as I am very much engaged at present with the Bank—In hopes of soon hearing of you from Dennis's C[.] I remain...

William Strickland

Phil. May 7th 1819

Lewis Coryell Esq?

SIR

I have received your letters on the subject of the cedar Scaffold poles, and am happy to learn that you have succeeded in procuring them for the Bank— I am so much engaged with the building at present that I have not been able to send you a bill for other stuff—

Can you furnish a large quantity of Sweet Red Gum—all heart of the following sizes—viz. 150 pieces—13.4 at one end and 11 in at the other—three inches in thickness—24 feet long—

150 pieces 10 [or 11?] 1/2 at one end and 8 1/2 at the other—three inches in thickness—24 feet long—

32 pieces of wall plate—20 feet long 3 in by 12 in—

This stuff must be of the best quality—Write to me or come down to town if you can conveniently—As I want to see you on this and other subjects—

P.S. Send on the Poles in 3 or 4 weeks—

Yours in haste—

W. Strickland

I want your lowest price for this stuff—

12. Ibid. (May 7, 1819), I, 56;

13. Ibid. (May 8, 1820), I, 61.

14. Port Folio, XII (July-December 1821), 204-207.


Nicholas Biddle Esq.

Sir,

The copper for the roof of the Bank of the U. States building was imported by John & Sam'l Moss in October 1819, it consisted of 18 Boxes containing 1485 sheets charged at $6,089.55 cts, and the duties on this sum amounted to $876.70—

It was to have been invoiced and imported as sheathing copper, but, owing to the neglect and mismanagement of
the importers it was entered or known at the Custom House to be for the roof of the New Bank--the same kind of copper is used by the government for sheathing their heavy ships of war.--

Yours very respectfully

William Strickland, Archit.

16. "Old Philadelphia Custom House History and Restoration (June 6, 1947)."


20. Vouchers, United States Government to William Gray, November 1864; Rue to Gray, January 6, 1865, and February 9, 1865, Records of the Public Buildings Administration, Mss, National Archives, Washington, D. C.


24. Ibid., p. 288.

25. Ibid., p. 323.

26. Ibid.

27. Ibid., p. 356.

28. Ibid., p. 367.

29. Ibid., p. 433.

30. Ibid., p. 442.
APPENDIXES
APPENDIX A
Resolved that a Committee be appointed and Authorised, to Purchase a Site for a Banking House for the Bank of the United States, between Third and Seventh Street; and Market and Walnut Street; including the South side of Walnut Street [in different hand] and that they understand it as the sense of this Board, that they are to give a preference to Chesnut Street unless Extortion is attempted.

[1st April, 1818]

Resolved that a Committee be appointed to negociate with the owners of ground adjacent to that between the let-lately purchased by this Institution and -fifth-Street for the purchase of so much thereof as may be sufficient to accomodate the Bank, and make report to this Board for its approbation, and if this such Committee Cannot agree with the Owners of such Lots upon reasonable terms, they are then authorized to negociate with the owners of Lots in other parts of the City, subject always to the approbation of the Board.

[Mem. Copy of preceding pencil entry [refers to faded entry in pencil following the above]: "Whereupon Mssrs Evans, Ralston, Lippincott were appointed a Comte for the purpose stated in the foregoing Resolution"

A. M. Etting

[17 April 1818]

Articles of agreement made this Seventeenth day of April 1818 between Joseph P Norris Esq. of the one part, and the President and Directors of the Bank of the United States of the other part Witnesseth, that the said Joseph P Norris hath sold the house and lot now occupied by his family on the South Side of Chesnut Street between fourth and fifth Streets in the City of Philad and extending to Library Street, containing one hundred and six feet front in Chesnut Street, and one hundred and thirteen feet on the Said Library Street for the Sum of one hundred and two thousand dollars, to be paid on the execution of a Sufficient title and delivery of the property--The Said delivery to be within two months from the present date...

Jos P Norris

W. G. Govett
Articles of Agreement made the 17th day of April 1818 Between Michael Keppele of the City of Philad. Esq. and Elizabeth Caldwell of the same place----of the one part and the President and Directors of the Bank of the United States of the other part Witnesseth that the said Michael Keppele and Elizabeth Caldwell--have sold their House and Lot on the South side of Chesnut Street, between fourth and fifth Street in the said City and extending to Library Street, and bounded on the West by ground of Joseph P. Norris and on the East by ground of Edward Thompson for twenty five thousand dollars--the said Michael Keppele & Elizabeth Caldwell do covenant to make a clear title under them in fee simple for the premises to the said President Directors & Company of the Bank of the United States within ten days from the date hereof, at which time possession is to be given to the purchasers, whereupon the whole of the purchase money is to be paid--W. Keppele may remain in the house until the first of June next as tenant to the Bank and free from Rent--

Witness E. Caldwell
Rich R Momford [sp?]
Michl Keppele.

Articles of Agreement concluded upon the 17th day of April 1818, Between Edward Thompson, Esq. of Philad of the one part and the President and Directors of the Bank of the United States of the other part Witnesseth that said Edward Thompson hath granted bargained and sold his House and Lot on the south side of Chesnut Street between fourth and fifth in Philad having front on Chesnut Street of twenty two feet and in depth two hundred & twenty five feet to Library Street and also an adjoining Lot fronting on Library Street Six feet and extending that depth about ninety feet for the sum of thirty thousand dollars to be paid on the execution of the Title, which is to be in fee simple and clear of all encumbrances--The title to be compleated in ten days or less, and the possession to be given at the same time--

Witness my hand & Seal the date aforesaid

Witness Edw Thompson
Rich R. Momford [sp?]
Jno R Thomson 22 ft x 225 ft, $30,000
6 ft x 90 ft [in different hand] on Library St.
17 April 1818

The Committee appointed to contract provisionally for a Scite for the Bank of the United States—Report

That they are not able to procure Lots adjoining that lately purchased, upon terms as favorable as that purchase was made—They have therefore turned their attention to lots on the opposite side of Chestnut Street, which may be purchased upon the terms herein after stated—Your Committee will first state the prices at which the Lots on the North side of the Street may be purchased, and then the prices at which those on the south side may be had; from which a comparison may be drawn—

Those on the North side are as follows Viz.

For Mr. Robers's, being 25 feet front and having the privilege of a Court into fifth Street $22,000
For the late Mr Irwin's, being 30 feet front 23,000
For Mr Biddles--30 feet front 25,000
For Mr Rhea's--~40 feet front--reserving the privilege of a 3 feet Alley, from Chesnut St--40 feet back 40,000

To the above add the Lot lately purchased and there will be 180 feet on Chestnut Street by 178 feet in depth & the cost will be 146,000

These lots would together have a front on Chestnut Street of 125 feet and in depth 178 feet and the eest would be $100,000

Those of Messrs Norris, Keppele & Thompson on the south side of Chestnut Street may be had as follows viz

Mr Norris's Lot having 106 feet front on Chestnut Street and extending 225 feet to Library street & having an additional front on this Street may be had for $100,000
Mr Keppele's Lot having 23-1/2 feet on Chestnut Street; but with six feet less on Library Street may be had at 25,000
Mr Thomson's Lot having 22 feet front on Chestnut Street and 23 feet on Library Street, may be had at $32,000

These Lots would together have a front upon Chestnut Street $151.6 [sic] extending that width 135 feet, and then the width would be increased six feet to Library Street—And the cost would be $157,000

The several Lots on the North side of Chestnut Street including that lately purchased contain 30,600 square feet.
Those on the south side contain 34,087 square feet.
Those on the North side, including the Lot lately purchased will cost p square foot $4.77 equal in Am to $146,000
Those on the South side will cost $4.60 p foot—equal to $157,000
Mr Norris's & Mr Keppele's Lot contains—29,137 square feet
the cost of which would be $125,000 and would be equal to $4.28
per square foot.

These two Lots are equal in square feet to a Lot 163 feet
8 inches by 176 feet—

Your Committee trust that the Board will be enabled by the
foregoing to determine which of the above mentioned lots, or whether
either ought to be purchased for a Scite for the Bank of the United
States.—

Mr. Roberts informed your Committee that by the last Will of
his Father one of the above mentioned Lots was to be sold after the
death of his Mother and the proceeds should to be divided between
such Children & grand Children as should be then living—The old
lady is still living, but Mr Roberts seems to have no doubt; but he
may sell at this time, being responsible to the Legatees of his
father for the value of the Lot at the decease of his Mother—To
secure the Bank, the money shall remain with it, but bearing Inter-
est until the decease of his Mother—The will also guaranty the
Title if necessary.

If the Bank should take not take Mr Roberts's Lot, there will
then remain on the North side of the Street but 27,590 square feet,
at $4.49 per square foot will cost $124,000

Mr Norris's & Mr Keppele's contains—29,137 square feet—$4.28
per square foot will cost $125,000—

There are in Norris's & Keppele's Lots, 1547 square feet more
than in those on the North side of the Street excluding Mr Robert's
and the price per square foot is twenty one cents less

All which is respectfully submitted

[Edward?] Evans Jr.
Robt Ralston
[Joshua?] Lippincott

April 17, 1818.

The Committee appointed to purchase a Scite for the Bank of the
United States Report

That they have purchased Messrs Norris Keppele
and Thompson's Lot on the South side of Chestnut between fourth and
fifth Streets upon the terms and Conditions mentioned in the Arti-
cles of agreement entered into with them respectively by your Com-
mittee—The Articles accompany this Report—

[?] Evans Jr.
[Joshua] Lippincott
APPENDIX B
NOTES ON WALL AND CEILING MOTIFS
OF BANKING ROOM

by Student Architect S. J. Lipari

These drawings represent traces of decoration found on the vaulted ceiling of the Banking room. The decoration exists mostly in a raised outline.

The drawings were made by applying thin tracing paper to the decorated areas and rubbing over it with graphite on cotton. Line drawings were then traced from the rubbings on a light table.

There are at this time ...... coats of paint on the ceiling and the decorations were found to be on the ...... coat from the plaster. Careful paint scraping revealed some of the decoration to exist in a dull green paint, but most of it showed no color difference from the surrounding areas. Paint removal caused the outline of this uncolored part to disappear even when done with great care.

All of the decoration is faint & no motif could be recorded from any single rubbing.

Though these drawings represent the best effort of the delineator, some minor parts of them are only his estimation of the design. The plaster on the end walls is either new or in such poor condition that one motif could not be recorded at all, although there are indications that something similar in character to the others was there.
ACCOUNTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

[In the McAllister MSS, Library Company of Philadelphia, Folders 13, 46, 54, 67, Boxes 54-56.]

Check No. 228  June 9, 1820

Phila

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
To Thomas P. Roberts
Marble masons wages -- 72.67-1/2
Carpenters do 90.56-1/2
Labourers do 139.00
Fred Miley 5 loads gravel 5.25
307.49

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 229  June 9, 1820

Phila

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland, on account as Architect of building, $500.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 230  June 9, 1820

Phila

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Michael & Sam'l Fox on acct of Bricks delivered $600.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 231  June 9, 1820

Phila

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Philip Justus on acct as Supt. of Carpenters $150.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 232  June 9, 1820

Phila

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Farus on acct of Sand delivered $100.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 233      | June 9, 1820 | Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  
Salary as Clerk of works $90--  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works |
| 234      | June 16, 1820 | Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts to pay  
Marble masons wages $122.47  
Carpenters do  $90.28  
Laborers do  $133.50  
1/2 cord wood (Hickory)  $3.40  
J. Mituer (extra liquor for carpenters during raising)  $21.00  
on acct of raising dinner $100,  
J Shumer purchasing stone  $120.00  
Total: $490.65  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works |
| 235      | June 16, 1820 | Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Michael & Sam'l Fox on acct of Bricks delivered $500.00  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works |
| 236      | June 16, 1820 | Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico $500.00  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works |
| 237      | June 16, 1820 | Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thos. Traquair & Co. on acct of marble for chimneys $200.00  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works |
Check No. 238

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Stull on acct of digging foundation for Terrace &c wall
$60.00

William Strickland Archt
Tho S. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 239 -- Missing

Check No. 240

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts
To pay: Marble masons wages $716.71
Carpenters do 154.88
Labourers do 93.66
Nicholas Struck porterage of marble & lumber 132.87
Tho Traquair & Co. sawing sand & saw blades 14.52
in full of raising dinner 286.03

William Strickland Archt
Tho S. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 241

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Lukens in full for 1445 bushels of Lime $411.05

William Strickland Archt
Tho S. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 242

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts to pay: Marble masons wages $323.45
Carpenters do 160.60-1/2
Labourers do 73.12

William Strickland Archt
Tho S. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 243

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co. in full of all their contracts for marble as per settlement $1500.00

William Strickland Archt
Tho S. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 244  
June 30, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Adam Herkness in full for 73 feet of marble at $1.00/100 per foot
$116.80

William Strickland Archt  
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 245  
July 7, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts to pay:
Marble masons wages 131.04
Carpenters do 77.06-1/2
Labourers do 58.87-1/2
R.M. Patterson 2 gilt platinum lightning rods 16.00
D. & W.R. Corry 4 barrels of rum 79.32
I. Shumir on acct of perchng stone 20.00

$382.30

William Strickland Archt  
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 246  
July 7, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Nathan Trotter & Co. in full for 46 sheets of copper for roof
$262.89

William Strickland Archt  
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 247  
July 7, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co. on acct as superintendents $200.00

William Strickland Archt  
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 248  
July 14, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Michael & Samuel Fox on acct of bricks delivered $1200.00

William Strickland Archt  
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 249 -- Missing

Check No. 250

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts on acct as Clerk of the Works $60.00

William Strickland Archt
Tho\textsuperscript{8} P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 251

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts to pay:
Marble masons wages 150.22
Carpenters do 90.56
Labourers do 84.93
N. Struck porterage 33.52
Wm. Somerville 3 rollers 42.52
Thos. Traquair & Co. expenses of a T & 5 men to Hittner 31.55
$400.08

William Strickland Archt
Tho\textsuperscript{8} P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 252

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Stull on acct of digging foundation for Terrace etc. $100.00

William Strickland Archt
Tho\textsuperscript{8} P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 253

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Jonah Thompson & Co in full for cut nails & spikes delivered since Jan\textsuperscript{Y} 6 $124.75

William Strickland Archt
Tho\textsuperscript{8} P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 254

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland on acct as architect of B.U.S. building $250.00

William Strickland Archt
Tho\textsuperscript{8} P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 255

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts
To pay: marble masons wages 148.29-1/2
    carpenters do 75.93-1/2
    Labourers do 61.81
    C. Hathaway & Co. one 12
      in sky light 10.00
    Chimney sweep 7.50
    Wm Shumer perching stone on
      acct 27.50

William Strickland Archt
Tho3 P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 256

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
James Skerrett & Son on acct of iron work $1500.00

William Strickland Archt
Tho3 P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 257 -- Missing

Check No. 258 -- Missing

Check No. 259

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Daniel Groves & Joseph S. Walter $1000.00
    on acct of laying bricks & stone

William Strickland Archt
Tho3 P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 260

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Philip Justus on acct as superintendent of carpenters $150.00

William Strickland Archt
Tho3 P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 261

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble delivered for portico $1000.00

William Strickland Archt
Tho3 P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 262
July 28, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts on acct of his salary as clerk of the works
$50.00
William Strickland Archt
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 263 -- Missing

Check No. 264
July 28, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Pearce on acct of coppering roof
$400.00
William Strickland Archt
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 265
July 28, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Joseph Smith in full for 8 marble mantles
$360.00
William Strickland Archt
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 266
August 4, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts to pay:
- marble masons wages $144.02
- carpenters do 73.96
- Labourers do 89.56
$307.54
William Strickland Archt
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 267
August 4, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co in full for 613 feet 3 in Terrace Wall @ $1
$613.25
William Strickland Archt
Tho® P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 268
August 11, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts
$385.25
To pay:
- marble masons wages 151.48-1/2
- carpenters do 82.68-1/2
Check No. 268 [continued]

Labourers do 85.87
Tho. Bonsall 52 bu. lime 13.00
J. P. Hornor 6 shovels & spades 6.00
Fiers & Myerle 4 coils rope 26.83
Wm Whelan empty hbd's &c 6.25
Grants & Stone 1 bbl of rum 13.16

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 269  August 11, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Stull in full for digging foundation of Terrace wall, &c $39.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 270 -- Missing

Check No. 271  August 11, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
George G. Leiper on acct of range work and building stone $1000.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 272  August 11, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Michael & Samuel Fox on acct of bricks delivered $600.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 273  August 11, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland on acct as architect $250.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 274 -- Missing
Chapter II
Appendix C
Page 9

Check No. 275
August 18, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Robert Will in full for setting range work for Terrace Wall $50.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 276 -- Missing

Check No. 277
August 18, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co. on acct of marble coping for Terrace Wall $200.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 278
August 25, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
W. & D. Lowber in full for 250 bu. of plastering hair $50.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 279 -- Missing

Check No. 280
August 25, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Philip Justus on acct as superintendent of Carpenters $250.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 281
August 25, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Thackara on acct of plastering $300.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 282
August 25, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts to pay: marble masons wages 134.02-1/2
Carpenters do 76.51-1/2
$307.25-1/2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>282</td>
<td>September 1, 1820</td>
<td><strong>Laborers do</strong> 80.62-1/2 Philip Justus, glue, hemp lines &amp; patterns 16.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>283 [sic]</td>
<td>September 1, 1820</td>
<td><strong>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</strong> Thomas Traquair &amp; Co. on acct of marble coping for Terrace walls $600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>283 [sic]</td>
<td>September 1, 1820</td>
<td><strong>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</strong> Thomas P. Roberts on acct as architect $250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>284</td>
<td>September 1, 1820</td>
<td><strong>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</strong> William Paries on acct of sand delivered $100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>286</td>
<td>September 1, 1820</td>
<td><strong>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</strong> Thomas P. Roberts on acct of his salary as Clerk of the works $100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check No.</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>287</td>
<td>September 1, 1820</td>
<td>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael &amp; Samuel Fox in full for bricks delivered July 14th</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>$478.25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>228</td>
<td>September 1, 1820</td>
<td>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</td>
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<td>Thomas P. Roberts</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To pay: Marble masons wages 144.08</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carpenters do 84.95</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laborers do 73.25</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John White 1 hhd of rum &amp; porterage 41.38</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nicholas Struck porterage of marble 98.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John Struthers, sawing, sand, expenses to quarry, etc. 31.02</td>
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<td>William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>289-301</td>
<td>-- Missing</td>
<td>Checks No. 289-301</td>
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<tr>
<td>302</td>
<td>October 6, 1820</td>
<td>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>William Thackara on acct of plastering $800.00</td>
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<td>303</td>
<td>-- Missing</td>
<td>Check No. 303</td>
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<tr>
<td>304</td>
<td>October 6, 1820</td>
<td>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Thomas P. Roberts</td>
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<td>To pay: Marble masons wages 134.90</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carpenters do 90.85</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Laborers do 92.10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Red stone cutters do 35.44</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wm Thomas 20 bushels of coal 8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>J. Robinson freight of red stone from New York, pr R. Burns 65.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New York dispatch line freight of Red Stone 46.62</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Nicholas Struck porterage of Red Stone &amp;c 27.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter II
Appendix C
Page 12

Check No. 305

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Charles B. Parke in full for 1757 lbs [?] of Iron sash weights $80.06

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 306

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Philip Justus on acct of Doors & desks $100.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 307

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thos Traquair & Co on account as superintendents $50.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 308

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $423.44
To pay: Marble masons wages 120.49-1/2
Carpenters do 95.13
Laborers do 85.62
Flag stone cutters 44.86-1/2
Geo. Wright a new 30.00
I. Eglee 90 feet mahogany 14.65
T. & W.H. Hart 2 bbls rum 28.65
Wm Thomas 20 bu. of coal 8.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 309 -- Missing

Check No. 310

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co. on acct of marble coping for Terrace Walls $200.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 311
October 13, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co. on acct as superintendents of marble masons $50.00
William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Checks No. 312-320 -- Missing

Check No. 321
November 3, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Lukens in full for 475 bu. Lime @ 25¢ $118.75
William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 322
November 3, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Faries on acct of sand delivered $100.00
William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 323
November 10, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $425.04-1/2
To pay: Marble masons wages 118.78-1/2
Carpenters do 92.53-1/2
Laborers do 92.06-1/2
Red stone cutters do 55.28-1/2
Nicholas Struck porterage of flagging, marble, poles, etc. 66.37-1/2
William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 324
November 10, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Samuel Richards in full for castings, window setts and railing $1869.08
William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 325  November 10, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Philip Justus on acct of desks 100--
on acct of doors 100-- $200.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 326  November 10, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co on acct of coping of terrace walls $300.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 327  November 17, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $362.07
To pay:  marble masons wages 115.12-1/2
Carpenters do 125.16
Laborers do 103.37-1/2
Red stone cutters do 18.41

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 328  November 17, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Martin & Parkam $139.18
in full for 737 ft mahogany for desks & furniture of banking room

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 329  November 17, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Daniel Groves & Joseph S. Walter on acct of laying bricks & stone $1000.00

William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Chapter II
Appendix C
Page 15

Check No. 330  November 17, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Alexander Hampton in full for 133 ft 9 in of marble coping
for wall between Bank and Mr. Kuhn's house $133.75

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 331  November 17, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co. Balance in full for marble coping for
terrace walls $475.56

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 332  November 17, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico $1000--

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 333  November 24, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $411.83
To pay:  marble masons wages 127.78
         Carpenters do 134.88
         Laborers do 96.05
         Red stone cutters do 30.00
         Wm Whelan, oil, candles, brushes, etc. 5.62
         John McCauley 50 pounds copper nails @ 35¢ 17.50

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 334  November 24, 1820
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co on acct as superintendents $50--

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 335 -- Missing
Check No. 336 [sic]  
November 24, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland on acct as architect $100--

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 336 [sic]  
December 1, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico $500--

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 337  
December 1, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts on acct as Clerk of the Works $150--

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 338  
December 1, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $538.78

To pay: marble masons wages 138.18
Carpenters do 132.76
Laborers do 94.12
Red stone cutters do 4.43
Wm Thomas 220 bu. coal 88.00
J. Symes 10-3/4 cords upland Hickory & cordage 81.29

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 339  
December 8, 1820

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $407.45

To pay: marble masons wages 126.39
Carpenters do 132.75
Laborers do 85.01
Nicholas Struck porterage of marble, plaster, etc. 36.25
John Hunt 400 bu. white sand 26.25

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 340  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas Traquair & Co in full for soap stone jambs, plinths  
for counters, Gate setts, etc.  
$155.75  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 341 — Missing

Check No. 342  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
William Strickland on acct as architect  
$150--  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 343  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  
To pay:  
marble masons wages  
134.25-1/2  
Carpenters do  
134.72  
Laborers do  
106.43-1/2  
Isaac Warren 61 bu. white sand  
12.20  
John Struthers expenses to and  
at quarry sawing sand, pumice  
stone, Red chalk, spunge,  
scribors, mats, etc.  
37.00  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 344  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico  
$500--  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 345  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Philip Justus Balance in full for mahogany desks  
& doors as per contract  
$477.27  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 346

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts  $372.80
To pay:
   marble masons wages  $110.06-1/2
   Carpenters do  $126.24-1/2
   Laborers do  $92.99
   Wm. Garrett & flush bolts  $12.00
   John Stull digging and walling privy &c  $29.50

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 347  -- Missing

Check No. 348

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Daniel Groves & Joseph S. Walter  Balance in full for laying bricks & stone  $1487.75

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 349

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Markland in full for 369-1/2 bushels of plaster  $278.12

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 350

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Robert Bradin & Co. on acct of fluting columns  $50--

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 351

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co. on acct as superintendents  $100--

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 352

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Wm Strickland on acct as architect $100--

William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 353

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Thackara Balance in full for plastering including $1700--
the gable ends of H Kuhn's & Dr. Hensen's houses, extra stucco &c.

William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 354

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $406.70
To pay: marble masons wages 115.78
Carpenters do 24.75
Laborers do 53.12-1/2
Wm Whelan oil, candles, brushes, etc. 15.29
Moore & Caldwell, fire bricks 21.60
Faries & McFee, carting 51.62-1/2
Martin & Parkham, mahogany 9.00
N. Struck & Co. in full for rum 94.91

William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 355 -- Missing

Check No. 356

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Tho's Traquair & Co. on acct as superintendents $50--

William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 357

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Faries Balance in full for sand delivered since
April 1820 $348.37

William Strickland Archt Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 358
January 5, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Kenworthey on acct of painting & glazing $300--
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 359
January 5, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Pearce in full for sheet copper, pig lead, sheet lead, gutter tin, copper pipe, lead pipe to cistern and hydrant, stone basin, &c. $354.65
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 360
January 5, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Alexander Crawford's Estate in full for 1662 bushels lime @ 25¢ $415.50
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 361
January 5, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts on acct of his salary as Clerk of the works $100--
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 362
January 5, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland on acct as architect $150--
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 363
January 5, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $175.99
To pay: marble masons wages 115.68
Carpenters do 13.50
Laborers do 46.81
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Chapter II
Appendix C
Page 21

Check No. 364
January 12, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Peter Whiteman & F. Miley in full for 175 loads of gravel $183.75
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 365
January 12, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Jonah Thompson & Co. in full for nails $44.11
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 366
January 12, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $227.90
To pay: marble masons wages 103.03
Carpenters do 13.50
Laborers do 36.75
R. Bredin & Co Fluting column 25.00
M. Patterson board of men at Quarries 17.62
P. Gray 2 valves 3.00
Tho Bonsall 100 bu. of lime 25.00
Charles Bird & Co 8 casks 4.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 367
January 12, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Gorgas Son & Keyser in full for lumber $112.01
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 368
January 12, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble delivered for portico $1000.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Chapter II
Appendix C
Page 22

Check No. 369

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Tiers & Myerle in full for Rope canvass &c $115.09

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 370

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $126.56
To pay: marble masons wages 80.81
Carpenters do 13.50
Laborers do 35.25

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 371

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
James Thompson & Co Balance in full for fluting a column $45.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 372

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Tho. Traquair & Co on acct as superintendents $300.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 373

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland on acct as architect $100.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 374

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $150.44
To pay: marble masons wages 82.22
Laborers do 52.62
Phila. prison sawing 15.60
97-1/2 ft marble

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 375
January 26, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
James Skerrett & Son on acct of iron work $1000.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 376
January 26, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Philip Justus Balance of his acct as superintendent 91.80
&c calculated to January 1, 1821
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 377
February 2, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
James Skerret & Son Balance in full of his acct to $1785.11
the 1st of Jan. 1821
William Strickland, Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 378
February 2, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Edward Bowlby in full for bill of iron mongery 835.47
William Strickland, Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 379
February 2, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co. in full of balance of acct 450.00
as superintendents
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 380
February 2, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Traquair & Co in full for balance of marble acct 136.95
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 381  
February 2, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts 191.86
To pay: marble masons wages 79.42
Laborers do 50.25
J. Struthers expenses to Hitner's quarry 11.68
Sam'l Porter making & dressing stone cutters tools 50.51

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 382  
February 2, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland on acct as architect $150.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 383  
February 9, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Michael & Samuel Fox in full for bricks delivered to this date $708.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 384  
February 9, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Samuel & Joseph Williams in full for mahogany & cherry, for doors, desks, & Counters 827.55

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 385  
February 9, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts on acct of his salary as clerk of the works 75.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 386  
February 9, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  101.75  
To pay: marble masons wages  67.50  
Laborers  do  34.25  
William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 387  
February 9, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico  1000.00  
William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 388  
February 16, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  102.50  
To pay: marble masons wages  65.25  
Laborers  do  37.25  
William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 389  -- Missing

Check No. 390  
March 2, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  $168.90  
To pay: Marble masons wages  67.50  
J. Campbell & Co. on acct of fluting column  50.00  
Laborers wages  30.00  
Samuel Richards extra iron railing  21.40  
William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 391  
March 9, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  185.18  
To pay: Marble masons wages  93.12  
A. Mallock & Co. on acct of fluting column  60.00  
Laborers wages  32.06  
William Strickland Archt  Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>392</td>
<td>March 16, 1821</td>
<td>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>William Strickland on acct as architect 100.00</td>
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<td>William Strickland Archt</td>
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<td>Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works</td>
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<td>393</td>
<td>March 16, 1821</td>
<td>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Thomas P. Roberts 172.94</td>
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<td>To pay: marble masons wages 79.38</td>
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<td>Laborers &amp; marble sawyers 43.56</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Lawrence Hoover one pair of sheers 70 ft ea 50.00</td>
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<td>William Strickland Archt</td>
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<td>Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works</td>
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<td>394</td>
<td>March 23, 1821</td>
<td>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</td>
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<td>Thomas P. Roberts 134.58-1/2</td>
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<td>Laborers &amp; Riggers 34.38</td>
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<td>John Struthers expenses at Hitner's quarry, &amp;c 18.14</td>
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<td>M. Patterson, boarding 4 stone cutters at quarry 11.12-1/2</td>
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<td>William Strickland Archt</td>
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<td>Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works</td>
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<td>395</td>
<td>March 23, 1821</td>
<td>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Hitner &amp; Dager on acct of marble for portico 500.00</td>
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<td>William Strickland Archt</td>
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<td>Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works</td>
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<td>396</td>
<td>March 30, 1821</td>
<td>Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Thomas P. Roberts 241.75</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>marble masons wages 100.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jas Campbell &amp; Co balance in full for fluting and rubbing a column 100.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Laborers &amp; Riggers &amp; marble sawyers wages 41.75</td>
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<td>William Strickland Archt</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Check No. 397
March 30, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico 1000.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 398
April 6, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts 213.56
To pay: marble masons wages 78.43
Laborers & Riggers do 43.13
J. Thompson & Co. on acct fluting column 40.00
John Hunt 24 loads of sawing sand 30.00
Nicholas Struck porterage & marble &c 20.25
Watson & Bunting 500 plastering lath 1.75

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 399
April 6, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Struthers on acct as superintendent of marble masons 100.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 400
April 6, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland on acct as architect 100.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 401
April 6, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts on acct as Clerk of the Works $75.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Checks No. 402 and 403 -- Missing
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Philadelphia Prison in full for sawing marble & saws to 31 March 63.46

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 405
April 20, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Samuel Porter in full to 31 March for making, steeling, and repairing tools 102.84

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 406
April 20, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico 800.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 407
April 20, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland on acct as architect 100.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 408
April 27, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts 174.68
To pay: Marble masons wages 80.31
J. Brock & Co on acct fluting column 50.00
Laborers wages 38.25
Lawrence Hoover spruce sparrs 6.12

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 409

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Thomas P. Roberts $231.06
To pay: marble masons wages $81.75
Laborers & Riggers do 49.31
J. Campbell & Co. balance in full for fluting & rubbing a column 100.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 410

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

William Strickland Balance in full of his salary as architect to May 1, 1821 $658.33

William Strickland, Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 411

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Thomas P. Roberts $308.94
To pay: Marble masons wages $130.87
Laborers & riggers wages 56.81
John Struthers expenses to and at Quarry self & 3 men 12.50
saw blades, sieve &c 8.76 21.26
Thomas Brock & Co. balance in full for fluting & rubbing column 100.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 412

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Thomas P. Roberts Balance in full of his salary as Clerk of Works to May 1, 1821 $152.08

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 413

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico $1500.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 414 -- Missing

Check No. 415

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $305.05
To pay: Marble masons wages 154.84-1/2
Laborers & riggers do 97.64-1/2
James Thompson balance in full for fluting & rubbing column 35.00
Nicholas Struck porterage of marble in full 39.56-1/2
Backings and Wolf hauling 3 large blocks to prison 18.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

May 18, 1821

Check No. 416

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $189.00
To pay: Marble masons wages 140.87
Laborers & riggers wages 48.13

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

May 25, 1821

Check No. 417

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $206.35
To pay: Marble masons wages 150.85
Laborers & riggers do 55.50

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

June 1, 1821

Check No. 418

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland one month's salary as architect $250--

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

June 1, 1821

Check No. 419

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts one month's salary as clerk of the works $62.50

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

June 1, 1821
Check No. 420
June 1, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Struthers 29 days wages as superintendent $72.50

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 421
June 1, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Chewer & Fales in full for 3 sky lights including moulds, freight, &c $150.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 422
June 8, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $273.31
To pay: Marble masons wages 164.81
Laborers & riggers" 60.56
Marble sawyers do 32.00
Henry Sailor 9 ft 8 in. of marble 15.94

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 423
June 8, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Gullen in full for 3 blocks of marble $168.55

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 424
June 8, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico $1000.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 425

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Thomas P. Roberts $257.62

To pay:
Marble masons wages 173.12
Laborers & riggers do 59.69
John Hunt 200 bu. sawing sand 10.00
Samuel Haines for regulating curb stone 4.50
J. S. Lewis & J. Bacon for cask of roman cement 10.31

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 426

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Thomas P. Roberts $158.92

To pay:
Marble masons wages 108.05
Laborers & riggers do 50.87

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 427

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Thomas P. Roberts $339.24

To pay:
Marble masons wages 115.43
J. Brock & Co on acct of fluting & rubbing columns 120.00
Laborers wages 68.31
Jno Brannan porterage of marble &c 35.50

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 428

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Chapter II
Appendix C
Page 33

Check No. 429
July 6, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts
To pay: Marble masons wages $92.63
Laborers & riggers do 43.93
John Stull in full for digging
foundation for pavement, gravel
for ditto, and hauling dirt 72.20

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 430
July 6, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland one month's salary as architect due 1st inst. $250.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 431
July 6, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Struthers 29 days wages as superintendent

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 432
July 6, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts one month's salary as clerk of works,
due 1st inst. $62.50

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 433
July 13, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $232.93
To pay: Marble masons wages 140.25
Laborers, riggers & marble sawyers do 64.75
William Whelan whiskey for men since May 13 27.93

William Strickland Archt
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 434
July 13, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Samuel Porter
$168.61
in full for making, mending & sharpening marble masons tools, repairing jacks, dressing wedges, &c (to June 30)

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 435
July 13, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
James Skerrett & Son on acct of iron work
$400.00

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 436
July 20, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts
To pay: Marble masons wages
140.25
Laborers & riggers do
54.93
195.18

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 437
July 27, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts
$367.95
To pay: Marble masons wages
180.57
Laborers & riggers do
48.19-1/2
Wm Roper & Co., balance in full for fluting & rubbing column
90.00
J. S. Lewis & J. Bacon 2 casks of Roman cement
20.50
Richard North one piece of white marble
28.68-1/2

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 438
Aug. 3, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts
$300.43
To pay: Marble masons wages
172.76
Laborers & riggers do
51.31
Fiers & Myerle, Rope, hooks, thimbles, etc.
35.11
John Struthers, expenses at quarry, saw blades, &c
41.25

William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 439

Aug. 3, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
William Strickland in full, one month's salary as arch. $250.00

William Strickland Archt

Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 440

Aug. 3, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
John Struthers in full, one month's wages as superintendent due 1st inst. $72.50

William Strickland Archt

Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 441

Aug. 3, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts in full, one month's salary due 1st inst. 62.50

William Strickland Archt

Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 442

Aug. 10, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts $211.57

To pay: Marble masons wages 159.31-1/2
Laborers & riggers 52.25-1/2

William Strickland Archt

Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 443

Aug. 10, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas Bonsall in full for 222 bu. lime @ 25¢ $55.50

William Strickland Archt

Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 444

Aug. 17, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico $500.00

William Strickland Archt

Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 445  
Aug. 17, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  
To pay: Marble masons wages 161.82  
Laborers & riggers do 49.75  

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works  

Check No. 446  
Aug. 24, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  
To pay: Marble masons wages 161.82  
Laborers & riggers do 48.81  
Wm Whelan for whiskey and spirits since July 2 21.07  
John Brannan hauling marble to and from prison 44.00  
Mathias Morton & Co. 220 bu. sawing sand 13.45  

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works  

Check No. 447  
Aug. 24, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
George G. Leiper for 150 ft curb stone @75¢ 112.50  

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works  

Check No. 448  
Aug. 31, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Michael & Samuel Fox on acct of bricks delivered for pavement, &c. $500.00  

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works  

Check No. 449  
Aug. 31, 1821  
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  
To pay: Marble masons wages 130.53  
Laborers & riggers do 51.75  
Daniel Hosser 1 block of white marble 20.87  

William Strickland Archt  
Thos P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 450  
Sept. 7, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  
To pay: Marble masons wages  
Laborers & riggers  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 451  
Sept. 7, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Philip Justus in full for carpenters work, shingling  
watch house, privies, passages, making Centers,  
hoisting machine & mahogany work & materials inside  
banking room &c  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Checks No. 452, 453 -- Missing

Check No. 454  
Sept. 7, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts in full, one month's salary  
as clerk  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 455  
Sept. 14, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States  
Thomas P. Roberts  
To pay: Marble masons wages  
Laborers & riggers  
Smith, Martin, Hufly, Thompson  
Brown, Byrne, Brock, Campbell,  
ball. in full for finishing two  
columns  
William Strickland Archt  
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Check No. 456 
Sept. 14, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Cope & Son in full for copper per Tuscarora, for
the roof of the portico of the Bank of US. 603.82
William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 457 
Sept. 14, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager on acct of marble for portico 500.00
William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Checks No. 458-461 -- Missing

Check No. 462 
Oct. 5, 1821
Office of the Building of the United States
John Struthers one months wages as supt due 1st inst. 72.50
William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 463 
Oct. 5, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts one month's salary as clerk due 1st inst. 62.50
William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Checks No. 464-489 -- Missing

Check No. 490 
Dec. 14, 1821
Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Hitner & Dager bal. in full for marble deliv. 1045.25
William Strickland Archt
Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
Chapter II
Appendix C
Page 39

Check No. 491  
Dec. 21, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Thomas P. Roberts
To pay: marble masons wages 19.37
Laborers 15.25
John Stullin full for sand &c & hauling 4.40
Adam Herkness bal. of acct. in exchange of marble 31.18
Wm Whelan in full for whiskey 25.20
Phila. Prison in full sawing & a block of marble & sand 69.11
John Pearce in full for plumbers work and materials 44.20
John Brannan in full for porterage of marble 30.62
Edw. Bowlby in full for iron mongery 46.75

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 492  
Dec. 21, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
James Skerrett & Son in full from July 12, 1821 to this date 92.67

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works

Check No. 493  
Dec. 21, 1821

Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States
Samuel Porter in full for making & mending tools 64.17

William Strickland Archt  Thos. P. Roberts Clerk of the Works
APPENDIX D
CHEVES LETTER EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS
TENURE AS PRESIDENT OF THE SECOND BANK OF UNITED STATES

Philadelphia, Novemb' 1821

My Dear Sir,

I am obliged to you for your friendly letter of the 9th instant. I declare to you with perfect sincerity that I am perfectly indifferent as to any agitation that may exist in relation to a change in the Board, as it regards myself —— My only wish is the prosperity of the Institution as regards the management and as regards myself that I may speedily extricate myself from it with honor and with as little loss of the reputation I brought into it as possible...

———By the sacrifice of all some of the feelings which I most delighted to cherish, of everything like leisure or personal comfort & by the waste of 3 or 4 years of the prime of my life —— Under these circumstances I cannot regard but with disgust the spectacle not infrequently exhibited of men deeply interested in the Institution instead of sustaining me, listening to the local jealousies which surround me here...

...I have in almost all the difficult struggles stood literally alone —— I did indeed, when I took possession of the Office I hold expect different results —— Tho' I did not know the secret and deep rottenness which pervaded the Institution, it was in so desperate a state as to the support of its credit —— there was at once such a destitution of plans as well as means to sustain its payments for a single month, that I did believe if I succeeded in sustaining these and reestablishing its credits that I would command the thanks and gratitude of every honest stockholder —— I cannot then but be disgusted and mortified when all has been accomplished, with but small and with no unnecessary sacrifice of any kind, to be subject to the stupid criticisms and dictation of those who when they held the power neither understood the evil nor could conceive a remedy....
APPENDIX E
BIDDLE’S EXPLANATION OF THE BANK’S OPERATION

It is the purpose of the following memorandum to exhibit the gradual development of the powers & uses of the Bank since the first of Jan of 1823 when N.B. assumed the presiding of it. ...

My purpose was to try whether these difficulties [existing in 1823] were insuperable and whether I could not, with the power already belonging to the Bank, create a system of currencies [?] and exchanges for the U.S. better than any that has existed in any other country. My theory was simply this:

The universal receivability of the notes for duties operates as a demand for them to the amount of the whole revenue. And as they are necessarily received for the Government only—a partner in the Bank—interested in its prosperity and not likely to abuse any power it might derive from it, the receipt of the notes will come in its gentlest form. Be this as it may, the circulation may be maintained as long as the business of the Bank is conducted on real banking principles, that is, while the Bank has its means always active & particularly while it can follow & sustain its circulation by bills of exchange. The operation is simply this:

At any branch of the Bank—New Orleans for instance—the notes are issued. They are issued to several kinds of persons. First to persons who give their notes promising to pay at the end of a given number of days either those notes or their equivalents. If at the end of the period the identical notes are repaid, the transaction closes and the notes are restored to the Bank. Second to persons who give their bills of Exchange payable in the northern Atlantic cities. These notes are then paid to the planters & others—go up the river—and after performing the function of circulation thro the Western States are [brushed] by the tide of business to the Atlantic cities. But long before they arrive there, the bills of exchange on the north for which they were issued have matured there—been paid—and await the arrival of the notes, which are then paid out of the proceeds.

Third They are given to persons who in return give their bills of Exchange payable in Europe—which bills are then sent to the Parent Bank & sold in the Northern Atlantic cities—thus furnishing the funds out of which the notes when they come northward are paid.

Fourth They are given to persons who at the end of the days stipulated for the loan if they do not pay in the identical notes they received from the Branch pay in specie or in the notes of other Banks which notes which it is the duty of the Bank to render equivalent to specie by making the State Banks keep their business so much within their means as to be equally always ready to redeem their notes.

So long as the Branch makes its loans payable at short periods, so long as it purchases bills or provides funds to meet the issues of its notes at the points where they are received for revenue—so long as it makes the notes of other Banks equal to specie at the places of their emission—so long may they issue freely its own notes. By this operation the Bank accomplishes all the purposes of its creation. It furnishes a universal & equal circulating medium it performs the domestic exchanges for the interior trade—the foreign exchange for the external trade—and it prevents the excessive issue of the State Banks.
Front elevation of the Second Bank of the United States, engraved by Kneass, Young & Co., Philadelphia, 1819. Note the central door flanked by two sham doors, with three sham windows on the second floor. The central opening through the terrace wall on the Chestnut Street side was never executed, nor was there ever a fence extending across the entire front as shown here. Iron gates were provided for the passageway openings on the Chestnut Street side, but of different design. INHP Negative 1697.
Elevation of the Second Bank of the United States published in The Port Folio (Philadelphia, Vol. XII, July-December, 1821). Once assumed to be a rear elevation, it now seems certain that this is another early view of the front facade. The first floor plan of the Second Bank—which appeared in this same volume of The Port Folio—shows that two windows flanked the south entrance. Strickland states in the article which accompanied these plates that "The stockholders room is...lighted from the south front." Since no windows appear in the elevation shown here, it may be assumed that this is the front facade. The ironwork delineated here is of the design used along the rear terrace and for both front and rear passageway gates, but was never used across the front terrace. INHP Negative 4521.
This view records deviation of Chestnut Street terrace from the original plan (Illus. No. 1). Note steps leading up to terrace from flanking passageway. West terrace was largely destroyed late in 19th century when passageway was widened. Note number and location of original windows and entrance to basement in West wall. INHP Neg. 2270.

Bank of the United States,
Chestnut Street Philadelphia.

Chapter II
Illustration No. 3
An engraving of the Second Bank by C. Burton in 1831. The iron gatework at the Chestnut Street entrance to the west passageway is depicted as following in design the ironwork which exists at present on the Library Street terrace. The lamp fixture atop the gate should also be noted, as well as the lighting device at the extreme left of the engraving. Trees along the west terrace wall are clearly in evidence. The steps leading up to the front terrace are located just inside the gateway. Marble cheek walls on each side of the steps leading up to the Chestnut Street portico existed until about 1840. INHP Negative 5381-A.
The Second Bank of the United States in 1839, by J. Tingle after W. H. Bartlet. Note the steps leading up from the east passageway to the portico steps. The design of the iron gate and the lamp beside the steps are also of special interest. The cheek walls along each side of the portico steps had not yet been removed. INHP Negative 1565-B.
This excellent rendering of the Second Bank is attributed to William Strickland, and probably dates from about 1840. The Chestnut Street terrace had, by the time of this drawing, given way to steps leading up from the sidewalk level. The marble cheek walls of the portico steps have also disappeared. The front facade, with its sham doors and windows, has been left unchanged, as have the windows and openings at terrace level on the west side of the building. The design of the gates leading into the passageways is unmistakably the same as that delineated in a front elevation view of the building dated 1821 (see Illustration No. 2). INHP Negative 1677.
This earliest photograph of the Second Bank Building, by the Talbotype process, was taken in 1850. No noticeable changes had taken place in the Chestnut Street facade of the building up to this time. The sham doorway to the left of the entrance is clearly visible, as are the three sham windows on the second floor. INHP Negative 2751
Detail taken from a Talbotype photograph showing the roof of the bank building as it appeared in 1850. Note the absence of present skylight structures. INHP Negative 2099.
Second Bank building during Custom House period, photograph dating between 1863-1881. The rear terrace and the west passageway appear intact, but the Library Street facade has been somewhat altered. The central doorway and the two sham doors appear undisturbed. The windows on either side of the south entrance are original, but the others visible here are later additions. INHP Negative 2277.
View from Chestnut Street of Second Bank building during Custom House period, photograph dating between 1863-1881. East terrace appears much as it does today. Note apparently original ironwork at opening to east passageway and along rear terrace wall. By the time of this photograph, sham doorways flanking the front entrance had been replaced by windows. INHP Negative 1678.
View of the Second Bank building, from "The Baxter Panoramic Business Directory," dated 1879. Functional windows have been substituted for the sham doorways and windows which originally characterized the Chestnut Street facade. Part of the west terrace has been carved away in order to accommodate the traffic created by the presence of the Post Office and the U. S. Court, then located just west of the bank building. More of the terrace was lost in 1881 when the passageway was again widened. INHP Negative 4539.
Photograph of Second Bank building, Library Street side, 1950. The small windows above three southernmost windows of the second floor (shown in foreground), as well as small window north of recessed stone panel, were most probably installed during the work of 1864-65. West terrace has largely disappeared, much of it removed in 1881 when the passageway was widened. INHP Negative 1520.
Photograph of Second Bank building, Chestnut Street side, 1950. East wall and passageway are shown as they appear today. The small windows above the three southernmost windows of the second floor were probably added during the extensive changes made in 1864-65. Window just north of the recessed stone panel also dates from this time. The basement entrance has retained its original location. INHP Negative 1519.
Chapter II
Illustration No. 14

Motif around lunette.

Section of ceiling coffer decoration.

Decorative motif on vault ribs.

Decorative motifs uncovered on main banking room ceiling in 1952, and believed to be original. NHP Negative 2092.
Decorative motifs, main banking room. Some of the decoration was found to exist in a dull green paint. INHP Negative 2092.
Blocked-up fireplace in the main banking room showing cast iron window sill above the burning chamber. The placement of fireplaces under windows and within the thickness of the walls is common throughout the building. The marble fireplace mantle shown here is original. INHP Negative 7699-b.
First floor plan of the Second Bank of the United States, from The Port Folio (Philadelphia, Vol. XII, July-December, 1821). Note the disposition of rooms and the uses to which they were put; the location of doors, windows, stairways, and fireplaces; and the treatment of the terrace. It is apparent from this plan that Strickland's first intention was to have a central entrance through the front terrace wall leading up to the steps of the Chestnut Street portico. Some unknown factor caused Strickland to alter this plan, and no central gateway was ever provided. In completing the south portico and terrace, however, the architect followed the plan shown here. The terrace, as it was first constructed, surrounded the entire building. Entrance to the basement was gained through openings in both the east and the west terrace walls. INHP Photostat Files.
Plan proposed by architects LeBrun and Bunge in 1857 when the conversion of the Second Bank building into a Post Office was under consideration. The black walls were to be retained, the light walls removed. The plan reveals that the building still corresponded in most particulars with the earlier Strickland design. The modifications proposed in this plan were not accepted. INHP Photostat Files.
Plans prepared in 1872 by John McArthur proposing further changes to an already extensively modified first floor rear. The drawing on the left shows the area south of the main banking room as it appeared in 1872, while that on the right details McArthur's proposals. The first floor rear was in use as a sub-treasury office at the time these plans were drawn. The former committee room at the west end of the building (labelled "Ass. Treasurer and Book-keeper's R.") had not yet been removed. Diagonal dotted lines denote original groined-vault ceiling. Fireplace opening under window sill and flanking flues can be seen in the west wall of the room. Area marked "Passage Way," formerly the rear lobby, has retained its earlier appearance. Large double stairway has taken the place of the east committee room. Other structural changes can be noted by comparison of this plan with Illustration No. 17. INHP Photostat Files.
McArthur plan of 1872 showing the second floor rear as it appeared while in use as a sub-treasury. The disposition of the northernmost tier of rooms as shown here remains much the same today. The area marked "Vaults" has retained many features of vault construction. Note also the three windows looking out over the south portico. INHP Photostat Files.
Basement floor plan prepared for 1940-41 rehabilitation of the building. In order to distinguish between the new work, the existing work, and the elements to be removed, consult key at the lower right. The "Schedule of Work" on the right details the work accomplished during the rehabilitation. INHP Architectural File.
First floor plan prepared for the rehabilitation effort of 1940-41. For a detailed account of the work accomplished, refer to the "Schedule of Work" on the right. Consult the key at the lower right to interpret the drawing. The rehabilitation of the building was in the direction of a restoration, but severely limited in scope. It will be noted that the work done in 1940-41 was restricted almost exclusively to the front vestibule and lobby, and to the main banking room. Although the character of the area south of the banking room had been completely destroyed during the years since the building's construction, a restrictive budget prevented any attempts at restoration.

DNHP Architectural File.
Plan of second floor prepared for 1940-41 rehabilitation efforts. The "Schedule of Work" on the right specifies the nature of the work accomplished. The key appearing at the lower right in Illustration No. 22 may be used to interpret the plan shown here. Note: that work was limited almost exclusively to the front, necessitated by the removal of a cast iron double stairway from the vestibule and lobby area on the floor below. The exact time the three sham windows on second floor front were removed to allow installation of functional windows is not known, but was certainly much before the 1940-41 period. With minor exceptions, the rear section of the second floor appears today as it does in this drawing. Note, however, that sometime between the McArthur plan of 1872 (see Illustration No. 20) and the 1940-41 plan, a fourth window was added to the second floor, south portico side. The westernmost sham window was removed to accommodate this new opening. NPS Architectural File
Plan showing the attic as it appeared at the time of the 1940-41 rehabilitation.
DNHP Architectural File.
HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
PART II (PORTION)
ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION
ON
SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES
RESTORATION OF THE EXTERIOR STRUCTURE AND
SURROUNDING AREAS
Independence National Historical Park

Prepared by
Joseph Petrak
Architect
July 1964
for

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
Division of Architecture
# Table of Contents

**I. Foreword** ........................................ i

**II. Brief Physical History** .......................... 1
   Chronology of Alterations and Repairs to Exterior

**III. Existing Conditions Surrounding the Main Structure**
   A. North Terrace and Portico Steps ............... 6
   B. East Terrace and Passage ....................... 9
   C. South Terrace and Portico Steps .............. 10
   D. West Terrace and Passage ....................... 12

**IV. Existing Conditions of Exterior of Main Structure**
   A. North Facade ..................................... 14
   B. East Facade ..................................... 14
   C. South Facade ..................................... 16
   D. West Facade ..................................... 17
   E. Surface Conditions of the Marble ............ 17

**V. Recommendations**
   A. Restoration Surrounding Main Structure ... 18
      1. North Terrace and Portico Steps
      2. East Terrace and Passage
      3. South Terrace and Portico Steps
      4. West Terrace and Passage
   B. Restoration of Exterior of Main Structure 21
      1. North Facade
      2. East Facade
      3. South Facade
      4. West Facade
5. Marble Repair and Preservation
6. Cleaning and Pointing

VI. APPENDIX

Items 1 to 11

VII. ILLUSTRATIONS

Photographs, 1 to 50
Drawings, 51 to 60
I. FOREWORD

The restoration of the Second Bank of the United States is to be accomplished in stages. In order to provide and record the various stages with adequate architectural research and investigation, the Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section, Part II, will be divided into portions. The first portion covered the restoration of the roof, including the marble chimneys. The portion covered by this report is the restoration of the exterior and the area immediately surrounding the building. The third portion will cover the restoration of the interior.

It is rather difficult to give a comprehensive description of the rather intricate system of arches for the support of the steps and terrace to the north portico. Therefore, the actual recording of these areas is left largely to the evidence drawings which are a part of this report.

Much of the reference material used in this report was gathered by Historian Pearl Millman of Independence National Historical Park staff, from records of the Second Bank in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledgment is given to Architect Norman M. Souder for his assistance in preparing this report.


Joseph Petrak
Architect
July 1964
II. BRIEF PHYSICAL HISTORY

Since the design by William Strickland won the architectural competition, the Second Bank of the United States has been known as one of the finest Greek revival structures in the United States. Construction of the Bank was begun in 1819 and completed in 1824, at a cost of nearly a half million dollars.

The exterior of this structure was constructed of large blocks of marble, backed-up with brick. The marble was obtained from a quarry in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. A ledger owned by Samuel Henderson & Son, Quarrier, and now in the possession of the Independence National Historical Park, shows a day-by-day entry of the quantity of marble delivered.

The marble on the north and south facade is an off-white, streaked or clouded with blue-grey and differs from the east and west facade. The east and west facade is a light grey-blue, streaked or clouded with blue-white and grey-blue.

A comprehensive report of the accounts and records of the building, costs and materials is a part of the Historical Data Section, Part II portion of the Historic Structures Report.

When the Second Federal Bank closed in 1836, the building was continued as a banking institution by the United States Bank of Pennsylvania. After the depression of 1838-1839 the bank closed, the building was purchased by the Federal Government in 1844 for
use as the Custom House, and continued as such until ca. 1930 when the new Custom House was erected at Second and Chestnut Streets.

During the nearly one hundred years it was occupied as a Custom House, the structure was also shared as a United States Sub-Treasury Office. Varying functions and requirements of these diverse businesses caused structural changes that have affected the interior more than the exterior. Records exist for many of the physical alterations of the exterior but there are also those which have remained unrecorded and whose dates are approximated.

**CHRONOLOGY OF ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS TO EXTERIOR**

**1840** - The removal of the marble retaining wall and the erection of the existing flight of stairs along Chestnut Street took place some time around 1840. The exact date is not as yet known. A rendering (see Illustration No. 7) of the bank, done in circa 1840, shows the existing steps. A painting of the Bank in 1839 by W. H. Bartlet (see Illustration No. 6) shows the original retaining wall in place. The rendering may indicate a proposed alteration which was accomplished soon after.

**1850** - The two front windows on the first floor of the north portico were substituted for the marble slabs of the sham doors which were part of the original design (see Illustration No. 9 and Appendix - Item 2).

The brick foundations for the 2721 feet of marble steps on the
north portico were reset; also at this time 5831 feet of terrace, flags, etc. were reset and repointed. (see Appendix - Item 3).

1860 - A plan was suggested by Q. B. Baker, Collector, to S. M. Clark, Acting Engineer of the Treasury Department, for the removal of part of the west terrace, leaving a portion intact along Chestnut Street to maintain symmetry on the north facade. It is not known at what date the actual change took place. The proposal suggested leaving eight to ten feet of "platform" in place, instead the full width of the terrace was removed. (see Appendix - Item 4).

1864 - During the month of November 1864, a bill of $329.59 was issued by William Gray for work on the Custom House which included "enlarging windows on east side" and "enlarging windows on west side." This apparently refers to the three south windows on the second floor on both the east and west sides which were extended into the architrave by means of an additional sash inserted above the normal window head level (see Appendix - Item 5).

The small window added at the second floor level of the central projection on the east side appears in illustration No. 10, the west side is similar. Illustration Nos. 2 and 3 show the central projection on the west side, as originally built, before the additional sash were set in the architrave section. It is assumed that the additional window on the east and west side were set in the central projections prior to 1864.
1865 - A bill to John Rice of the Treasury Department by William Gray lists the addition of three upper windows. These may be the existing windows in either the north or south porticos. The same bill includes items for cutting ashlar at the south end of the building "for the windows."

The first floor windows at the east and west ends of the portico were obvious additions, and it would have been necessary to cut the ashlar for these rather than remove marble panels as would have been the case for the installation of the other windows. (See Appendix - Item 6).

1868 - In 1868 Charles S. Clorel wrote to A. B. Mullett, Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, and enclosed a sketch for changes to the east passage and also in the brick paving, by providing flag wagon tracks to a new Belgian block turnaround in front of the basement entrance. The plan included altering the right angled terrace walls to the existing splayed walls at the basement entrance for the wagon turnaround. (See Appendix - Item 7).

In June 1868, J. M. Cabe, Collector, wrote to A. B. Mullett, Supervising Architect, requesting authority be given Chas. S. Close, Superintendent, to remove brick partitions from across the arches under the north portico and place an iron door at the entrance. Previously this same improvement was made under the south portico which was used for storage. (See Appendix - Item 8).
1871 - In 1871 L. F. Houston wrote to A. B. Mullett, Supervising Architect, calling his attention to some repairs required to the flagging and steps on the "north end and south end of the Custom House." (See Appendix - Item 9).

1873 - In 1873 John McArthur, Architect, designed a series of interior and exterior alterations for the building. The proposed changes to the exterior provided window-like recesses to effect symmetry for the incorporation into the building design of the small windows added earlier to the center bays of the east and west sides. The exterior work of this proposal was not accomplished.

1877 - In 1877 John McArthur, Jr., Superintendent of U.S. Building in Philadelphia, requested repairs to "steps and terraces in front of the Custom House." (See Appendix - Item 10).

1881 - In April 1881 John McArthur, Jr., Superintendent, presented a proposal to James Hill, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, for widening the west passage between the Custom House and the Post Office to provide additional space for passage of mail wagons. The proposal provided for the removal of an additional fifty feet of terrace near the Chestnut Street end of the passage. Approximately 150 feet of terrace had been removed (ca. 1860) to permit vehicular service to the building erected across the passage on Library Street. (See Appendix - Item 11).
III. EXISTING CONDITIONS SURROUNDING THE MAIN STRUCTURE

A. North Terrace and Portico Steps

Architectural investigation of the existing steps and terrace leading to the north portico (Chestnut Street facade) uncovered an unusual system of brick arches at various levels, from the building to the sidewalk.

Strickland evolved a unique system of inverted arches to support the eight massive columns of the portico. Illustration Nos. 19 and 55 show the inverted brick arch placed between each column in the 4'-6" thick brick and stone foundation wall. The load of the columns and pediment above was thus uniformly distributed along the wall so successfully, that no crack has appeared to indicate stress or settling.

Brick vaulting, constructed with exceptional craftsmanship, extends the length of the portico and supports the marble flooring (see Illustration No. 56, Section "A-A").

Investigation of the stair leading from the terrace to the portico led to the uncovering of the system designed to carry the weight of the marble steps. At each of the column locations the steps are supported by a 24" thick solid brick wall. At the juncture of the portico wall and the stair support, the brick stair walls are pierced with 1'-9" half-arch openings (see Illustration No. 23).
Long brick arches are spaced at intermediate points between the step supports at the columns. These are 24" thick and spring in an elliptical form from the stone step foundation to the portico foundation (see Illustration No. 20). One foot square brick piers were placed (possibly during the 1850 repairs) under these arches near the portico wall, but provide no support.

Brick walls under the east and west ends of the steps substantiate the existence of marble cheek walls similar to those extant on the steps of the south portico. Early prints of the Chestnut Street facade (see Illustration Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6) show the cheek walls in place.

In order to illustrate graphically the system of arches, brick supports for the stair treads and stair cheeks, drawings have been included as a part of this report (see Illustration Nos. 55 and 56; and photographic Illustration Nos. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23).

Extensive alterations were made at a date as yet undetermined (after 1839) eliminated the cheek walls of the portico steps, the terrace retaining wall along Chestnut Street and the flights of steps leading from the east and west passages to the terrace. It is assumed that at this time the walls, iron fence and gates at the west passage were also removed, the iron fence and gates at the east passage remained until 1910 (see Illustration No. 10). The cause for the change to the original terrace and
entrance construction was the erection of a flight of marble steps leading directly from the Chestnut Street sidewalk to the terrace and extending across the front to include the width of the side terraces.

The terrace between the sidewalk and the portico steps, which is now concrete, was originally paved with marble. In order to support the paving, Strickland provided a series of brick arches spanning approximately 11'-5" and springing from stone foundation walls topped with brick. It is presumed from the irregular ends of the brick arches that they formerly extended from the terrace steps to the Chestnut Street retaining wall (see Illustration No. 17).

When the Chestnut Street wall was removed and the later flight of steps to the terrace erected, a new series of lower brick arches was erected to support the steps. The stone foundation of the original retaining wall was left in place as a base for the steps (see Illustration No. 16 and Illustration No. 56, Section "A-A").

It is assumed that the reason for the erection of the rather involved system of arches was to provide a rigid support for the heavy marble steps and the marble terrace paving. The arches eliminated the possibility of settling which would have occurred with the more conventional method of using fill within the terrace walls.
B. East Terrace and Passage

The stone retaining wall of mica schist laid in ashlar and separating the east terrace from the lower drive, or passage-way, is original except for wide splays in the wall (see Illustration No. 27) providing a wider access to the exterior door to the basement. Excavation uncovered the stone foundations of the original walls (see Illustration Nos. 28, 29 and 30), which formed a ramped approach to the door with the original approach walls placed at right angles to the terrace wall as indicated on Illustration No. 1.

At the time of the exploratory dig to uncover the wall foundation at the basement entrance, it was found that the wall was built over a cistern-like, brick domed, underground structure. Just west of this are the remains of a brick floor or sidewalk laid in a herringbone pattern (see Illustration Nos. 29 and 30). These features predate the building of the Bank. They are recorded on Drawing Illustration No. 51 showing location and Illustration No. 56 showing detail. It is possible that they are the remains of the eighteenth century Norris Mansion complex which stood on the site of the Second Bank.

At the north end of the east terrace wall were found the three brick foundations (see Illustration No. 34) of one of the two original stairs to the north terrace. These stairs were
removed when the new approach stair was erected across the Chestnut Street front. Each of the walls are 1'-0-1/2" thick and are spaced approximately 3'-1" apart.

Originally the entrance from Chestnut Street through the east passage was through a pair of iron gates in the iron fence set on stone curbing. The base of the curb wall was found under the east passage which is at present paved with concrete. Illustration No. 12 indicates that the iron gates and fence were in existence until 1910.

The paving of the east passage was originally "brick laid herringbone edgeways" as noted in a letter concerning changes to the paving in 1868. (See Appendix - Item 7).

C. South Terrace and Portico Steps

Except for changes at the east and west passageways, the wall, terrace and steps to the south terrace and portico appear to be original. The wall is of local mica schist, laid in ashlar pattern and capped with marble coping. The cast iron fence is still in place. A number of repairs and replacements have been made to the fence. The castings that were replaced were not reproduced in keeping with the original design. The gates leading from Library Street to the south portico are also original but are in need of repair and resetting (see Illustration No. 40). Only one gate remains of a pair of gates to the east passage from Library Street. This gate is original except that it was widened.
at the right side when the opening to the passage was widened by approximately 20" at a date unknown (see Illustration Nos. 41 and 42). The wall and gates originally across the west passage have been removed, possibly when the passage was widened in 1881. Investigation of the area shows the foundation of the wall in place in this area except where it was removed for the installation of a steam line (see Illustration No. 48).

The portico steps and cheeks are as originally built. The construction of the brick supports of the steps is identical to the construction on the north portico steps as described in Section III, A. Illustration Nos. 36 and 37 show the construction of the original brick supports for the marble steps.

The brick arches found under the north terrace are not in evidence under the south terrace. It appears that the substitution of grass in place of marble on the south portico may have been the original treatment. The use of fill under the terrace instead of the brick arches would tend to indicate the use of grass or planting.

Investigation of the step supports on the south portico reveals some deterioration as it did on the north portico steps. A resetting of the old marble steps on strengthened supports is indicated. Illustration No. 51 shows the plot plan of the surrounding conditions of the main structure, indicating the variations in the terraces and steps of the north and south porticos.
D. West Terrace and Passage

Originally the west terrace was 13 feet wide, the full length of the block between Chestnut and Library Streets. At some time prior to 1881, the terrace wall south of the center of the building was removed and placed against the west building wall. In 1881 an additional 50 feet near Chestnut Street was removed to allow increased space for mail wagons to serve the United States Court House and Post Office which stood next to the Second Bank (see Appendix - Item 11). The only remaining portion of the original west terrace extends 13 feet 6 inches south of Chestnut Street (see Illustration Nos. 44 and 45).

Architectural investigation revealed most of the original stone foundation of the retaining wall intact under the concrete surface of the west passage (see Illustration Nos. 48 and 49).

The excavation of the passage revealed stone foundation walls at right angles to the terrace wall as an access to the basement on the west, similar to the original basement entrance directly opposite on the east wall of the Bank (see Illustration No. 49). The design, including the narrow sidelights of the opening is similar to that on the east except that the entrance was closed up, probably at the time the terrace retaining wall was moved against the building wall.

The actual traces of the stone foundations for the gate posts and fences, at both the Chestnut Street and Library Street
ends of the passage have disappeared except for some stone foundation fragments indicating that those sections did exist. Early engravings and renderings of the Second Bank included in this report, verify the existence of these features in the early period.

The brick foundation for the approach stairs to the north terrace were found extending into the west passage. The west flight of steps balances the flight on the east side of the terrace. This foundation locates the original stairs to the terrace which predates the present flight across the front from the sidewalk to the terrace (see Illustration No. 46 which shows original foundation).
IV. EXISTING CONDITIONS OF EXTERIOR OF MAIN STRUCTURE

A. North Facade

The building as designed by Strickland followed the classic precepts in that the only opening in the portico was the central entrance door. As the use of the building varied and desire for light within increased, the three recessed panels, or sham windows on the second floor and the two balancing recessed panels, or sham doors on the first floor were removed. Windows were inserted into the paneled areas leaving the marble trim intact. The sham doors and windows are to be restored to their original condition by the removal of the windows and replacement of marble panels. The pair of paneled entrance doors which are in place are the original doors.

B. East Facade

The east facade was originally a well balanced design. The central portion housing the main banking room project 4" beyond the main building surface. The central feature of the projection is the composition of a large double window with 12 over 12 over 8 lights in each, together with a fan light above, separated from the double window by an inset marble panel. Directly below the window at the basement level a double door with sidelights completes the vertical effect of the central mass. On either side of the large double window is a 12 over 8 light window balanced at the second floor level with a recessed panel, or blind window. At
a later date an 8 over 8 light window was added to the right of the grouping at the second floor level (see Illustration No. 26).

On the right side of the central portion are six 12 over 8 light windows. Three are located on the first floor and three on the second, with four windows being grouped about the north chimney and the other two near the Chestnut Street portico. Directly below these are located three basement windows.

South of the central feature the grouping described for the north portion is reversed. On the second floor of this area, the windows have been raised by the addition of transom lights above a stone band course and extending into the architrave (see Illustration No. 26).

A central chimney is located on the east wall directly over the fan light window. Equidistant to north and south of the central chimney are the two chimneys mentioned above. The existing access doors to the vaulted areas under the north and south porticos are constructed of sheet iron and hung on cast-iron angle frames. The access door at the north portico was installed in 1868, the access door at the south portico was installed sometime before (see Appendix - Item 8). The approach to these doors is by two marble steps set in an areaway (see Drawing Illustration No. 54 showing the door at the north portico). The lower portion of both doors is missing due to corrosion.
The replacements will probably be heavy board and batten doors on wood frames since the original material is not known at this time.

C. South Facade

The south portico is a duplicate of the north portico except for the retention of the original cheek walls at the steps.

There are three window openings on the left side of the central doors instead of one, and two window openings on the right side instead of one (see Illustration No. 35). The paneled wood doors are original and in good condition. The pair of doors were originally flanked by two windows and the two windows were flanked by two sham doors. Illustration No. 1, Strickland's first floor plan shows this composition. Illustration No. 11 shows this same composition except that two additional windows were introduced later, one window on the extreme left of the facade and the other on the extreme right, the installation of these two windows may have been around 1865.

Illustration No. 11 also shows three windows on the second floor flanked by two sham windows, only the right sham window remains which is original, and is directly over the sham door on the first floor (see Illustration No. 35). Whether the three second floor windows are original has not been determined as yet, further research will be required.
D. West Facade

The description of the east facade also applies to the west facade. The insertion of later windows in the marble wall occurs here in the reverse. The extended windows on the second floor are on the right of the central portion. The smaller inserted window at the second floor of the central bay is on the left of the focal fenestration arrangement. The three chimneys are also spaced similarly to those on the east side of the Bank (see Illustration Nos. 44 and 53).

Recessed panels in the walls under the north and south porticos balance the access doors which occur on the east side. The marble panel is pierced by the insertion of a small iron grille under the north portico and a larger screened opening under the south portico (see Illustration Nos. 45 and 47). The present treatment of these panels appears to have been a late alteration. The original treatment of the openings is not known at the present time, further research will be required.

E. Surface Conditions of the Marble

The marble surfaces are spalling and disintegrating on many areas of the walls. The columns on the north and south porticos have spalled severely, particularly the upper portion of the shaft of the north-west column on the north portico where a large spalled section is in a dangerous condition. Extensive repairing or partial replacement will be required.
V. RECOMMENDATIONS

(Note: Illustration Nos. 57, 58 and 59 are drawings of the proposed restoration and are referred to in this section).

A. Restoration Surrounding Main Structure

1. North Terrace and Portico Steps

The recommendations for the restoration of the north portico are as follows:

(a) Removal of lower flight of steps between Chestnut Street and terrace and restoration of the marble retaining wall over the original stone foundation.

(b) The removal of existing concrete terrace paving and the relaying of marble paving over a new reinforced slab to protect the old brick arches below. See Illustration Nos. 16 and 17 showing present condition.

(c) The restoration of marble stair cheeks and portico steps similar to the marble cheeks extant on the south portico. Illustration Nos. 17 and 18 show the original foundations.

(d) The resetting of existing marble portico steps on reinforced carriages and maintaining the existing brick supports of the historic period. Illustration Nos. 19 and 20 show the original brick supports.

(e) Reconstruction of fence foundations and the restoration of cast iron fences, gates and lanterns at the east
and west passages. See Illustration Nos. 3, 4, 6 and 12 showing this iron work at an early date. The fences will end at the existing brick garden walls east and west of the passages. The original passage boundaries are not in the same location as the present brick garden walls.

2. **East Terrace and Passage**

(a) Restore marble steps from east passage to north terrace over the original brick foundations (see Illustration No. 34).

(b) Restore terrace walls at east basement entrance over the original stone foundations, shown on Illustration No. 28. Remove existing splayed terrace walls, shown on Illustration No. 27. Reuse terrace wall stone and replace marble wall copings where required.

(c) Provide new reinforced concrete slab over the brick domed, cistern-like, underground brick structure to preserve the old features under the east passage (see Illustration Nos. 29 and 30).

(d) The east side terrace is to be resodded south of the marble paving of the north terrace which terminates at the north wall of the building.

(e) Provide new wood doors and frames for access openings under the north and south porticos.
3. South Terrace and Portico Steps
(a) Renew marble coping on existing terrace wall.
(b) Repair cast iron existing fence as required.
Extend new fence sections, to match original, to garden wall on the east and to the wall of the American Philosophical Library building on the west. This will include the extension of the stone wall in the passage areas as well as providing a gate to the west passage.
(c) Remove late extension on original gate now hinged in place on left side of opening at the east passage and provide new gate on right side, matching the original. This will involve the resetting of the easternmost gate post to its original width of eight feet.
(d) Provide a new cast iron gate at the west passage to match the gate at the east passage.
(e) Provide new marble sill at the gate of the steps to the south portico to replace the existing concrete sill.
(f) Restore the two lamp standards and lamps as a part of the cast iron fence (see Illustration No. 60).

4. West Terrace and Passage
(a) Restore the marble stair from the west passage to the north terrace over the original brick foundations similar to the stair in the east passage, see Illustration No. 46 showing original foundation.
21.

(b) Remove existing stone wall and marble coping from its location against the west wall of the building to its former location on the original stone foundations approximately 13'-0" to the west. Provide additional matching stone as required to restore the west terrace wall.

(c) Provide retaining walls to the restored west basement entrance as indicated by original foundations, shown on Illustration No. 49).

B. Restoration of Exterior of Main Structure

1. North Facade

   (a) The removal of two window sash and frames flanking the main entrance door and three window sash and frames on the second floor should be replaced with marble panels, creating sham doors on the first floor and sham windows on the second floor as they were originally in 1824 and as indicated on Illustration Nos. 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8. These new marble panels to match the original panels on the south facade. See proposed restoration drawing, Illustration No. 58.

   (b) The original main entrance paneled wood doors to be refinished.

2. East Facade

   (a) The removal of the late period portions of the three southernmost windows at the second floor. The replacement of the marble to match the surrounding architrave.
(b) The removal of the late period window in the central area as indicated on the Proposed Restoration Drawing, Illustration No. 59. The marble replacement to match the surrounding marble work.

(c) The restoration of the sidelights at the basement entrance door and replacement of the iron bars.

3. South Facade

(a) The removal of the west window sash and frame at the second floor and restore to a marble sham window to match the original east sham window of the same facade. Whether the remaining three windows are originals has not been determined as yet, further research will be required.

(b) The removal of the westernmost and easternmost windows at the first floor together with the exterior marble trim. The areas to be walled up with marble matching the surrounding wall areas.

(c) The removal of window sash and frame and the restoration of the marble sham door next to the westernmost opening at the first floor level, the marble panel for the sham door to match the original panel in the east sham door of the same facade. See Proposed Restoration Drawing, Illustration No. 58.

4. West Facade

(a) Remove small north window in the second floor of center group. Replace with marble to match surrounding wall area.
23.

(b) Remove the late period window frames and sash in the upper sections of the three southernmost windows at the second floor level. Replace with marble to match surrounding architrave.

(c) Restore the basement entrance and sidelights to their original condition. See proposed restoration of the west facade on Illustration No. 59.

5. **Marble Repair and Preservation**

The description of the existing conditions of the marble surfaces have been described in Section IV, E of this report. A thorough study will have to be made to find a method to prevent any further deterioration and spalling of the marble. A large spalled piece of marble on the upper portion of the shaft on the north-west column at the north portico is in a critical condition. Temporary measures will be taken to secure this spalled section of this column with a clamping device, until its decided whether to replace a portion of this column or repair the condition.

6. **Cleaning and Pointing**

At the present time cleaning and pointing of the marble is in progress and is being done by the day-labor force. The surfaces are being cleaned with fluoride solutions and clear water, and the results are satisfying.
APPENDIX

ITEM 1

EODC Photostat Neg.
Courtesy Tennessee State Library and Archives
The Building Committee of the Bank of the United States

"Gentlemen,"

I have the honor to submit the following account of the expenses of the New Bank Building, from its commencement, April 21st, 1819 to the 29th of December 1820 inclusive.

### Building

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<td>Marble, including materials and craftsmanship</td>
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<td>Carpenters wages</td>
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### Miscellaneous expenses, including stoves, tables, and chairs for Bank and Office houses

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### Portico

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### Total amount

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Respectfully submitted, 

William Strickland, Clerk

Philadelphia, December 30th, 1820
APPENDIX

ITEM 2

Records of Secretary of Treasury, (NA) Letters from Phila. Customs Collector to Secretary of the Treasury, 1850, p. 161

Second Bank of U. S. Custom House Repairs

Apr. 30, 1850

Sir

The undersigned occupants of the front room on the west side of the Custom House Building would respectfully suggest to you the expediency of removing the marble slab filling the recess in front of the Building & on the north side of the room, for the purpose of affording additional light and ventilation. You are aware that the only means of procuring light is from a single window on the west side of the room & since the brick wall on the adjoining premises has been erected, a large portion of light has thus been precluded & during very cloudy weather artificial light is indispensible to the proper transaction of business.

The advantage of such an alteration is obvious to all who have occasion to visit the room, & to none more so than the merchants, whose complaints are frequently, as well as justly made. Indeed, so earnest have they been on this subject, that a proposition has been made on their part to incur some portion of the expense, if necessary, attending such an improvement, should it meet your approbation.

Its importance is also rendered necessary in view of the fact that all the financial operation of the Custom House Department are here performed & the indispensible necessity of sufficient light in the reception of coin, discriminating the true from the false, cannot perhaps be overated.

We respectfully submit the subject for your consideration.

We beg to hand herewith a plain drawing of the front view, designating the marble slabs (marked Nos 1 & 2) which it is proposed to remove. ... Yours very truly,

A. Martin
Wm. Harbeson
J. S. Cummings

Wm. D. Lewis, Esq., Coll.

PM Q 4/29/64
Dec. 17, 1850

Sir

Enclosed please receive two communications addressed to me by Abraham Martin, my cashier, & others, one dated April 30, 1850, & the other dated the 6th inst as also a letter of the 9th inst from Thos. U. Walter, Architect, and two drawings, relating to a proposed removal of two marble panels in front of this edifice, and the substitution of windows in their stead.

That this alteration would materially contribute to the comfort of the apartments fronting on Chestnut Street & their eligibility as places of business cannot be doubted. Indeed so far as regards the room of the Cashier I bear willing testimonies to the truth of his statement that great inconvenience is daily experienced from the want of adequate light there.

When this matter was first brought to my notice I was unwilling to urge it lest any change in the exterior of the building might mar its Classic beauty. But that apprehension having been overcome by the opinion of an eminent architect, under whose direction has been reared the most magnificent Grecian structure of modern times (the Girard College) I do not hesitate to request authority to cause the windows to be introduced agreeably to Mr. Walter's suggestion.

Very respectfully

Your obedient Servant

Charles W. Rockwell Esq.
Commissioner of Customs
Wash., D. C.

Very respectfully

Your obedient Servant

Wm. D. Lewis, Coll.

PM Q 4/29/64
Dear Sir,

My opinion having been requested as to the propriety of introducing windows in the first story of the northern front of the Custom house, in place of the present panels, I would respectfully say, that such an alteration could in no way impair the Architectural effect of the building.

The panels are imitations of openings, & even though it were conceded to be objectionable, in Greek Architecture to introduce openings behind columns, a decided * opening would be no worse than an imitation.

Independent of these considerations I think that the front would be improved by the introduction of the windows in question, as they would impart a more lively & business-like look to the building.

I hereby send you a sketch of one of the windows as I propose to alter them; the glass would be about 14 X 23, & should consist of polished crystal plate, the cost of which would be about $1.75 per light. The sill & panel below should be marble, & the sash double hung. -- The whole alteration would not cost more than $75 for each window.

Very respectfully
Tho. Walter Archt.

Wm. D. Lewis, Esq., Coll.
APPENDIX
ITEM 3

Records of Secretary of Treasury (National Archives)
Letters from Phila. Customs Collector to Secretary of the Treasury, 1850, p. 81

April 10, 1850

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 30th inst. requesting to be furnished with an estimate in detail of the amount required for the repairs &c of the Custom House here, I hand you the following statement viz:

Painting inside & out per Estimate of Euston & Weir $1000
Repairing foundation of steps of the Northern Portico, & resetting 2721 ft. of Steps; resetting & rejoining 5831 ft. of terrace, flags &c &c cleaning the Columns, caps, bases & architraves inside of the building, marble work of doors &c &c per Estimate of Wm. Struthers 2100
Paving the cellar with bricks on edge per Estimate of Thos. Willets 1000
Repairing the Roof per Est. P. R. Cummings 100
Renewal of furniture including appropriate cases for Papers &c we suppose would cost abt 1000
Literary of Commercial law & legal decision say 200

$6000

If the cellar should be paved with heavy Flag Stones, which would be much more durable than bricks, & greatly preferable to them, in other accounts, it would cost, according to the estimate of Gates Baird & Hoxie (the flags to be of the best quality & laid in cement) $3383 or about $2400 more than if paved with bricks, so that in that case the whole appropriation needed would be $8400 say eight thousand four hundred dollars.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
Wm. D. Lewis, Coll.

PM Q 4/29/64
Records of the Public Buildings Administration (NA).  Incoming Correspondence Relating to the Old Custom House in Phila., 1864

Second Bank of U. S. Nov. 16, 1860

Custom House exterior description adjoining property


Sir:-

The dimensions of the two lots adjoining the Custom House, as taken from the deeds are:

There is a restriction against occupying, except with steps, areas, doors, windows, or scrapers, 5 ft. 2-1/2 inches on the Chestnut street and; and the exact depth of the present building is 217 ft. 6 inches.

The Custom House platform, reached by seven steps, on the Chestnut street front, has the same number on the Library street front, each of about a half inch less rise. The difference in grade of the two sidewalks is therefore very small. I have applied at the City Surveyor's office; but it is not on record there, and the exact difference therefore can only be ascertained by a level.

The entire removal of the Platform on the west side of the Custom House would, it seems to me, much impair the symmetry of the building as seen from Chestnut street. Now, as the proposed extension of ten feet upon the Custom House lot would still leave twenty-two feet of space between the two buildings, would this not afford room for some eight or ten feet of the present thirteen front Platform to remain?

Very respectfully,

Q. B. Baker
Collector

S. M. Clark, Esq.
Actg. Engineer
Treasury Department

PM Q 4/29/64
APPENDIX

ITEM 5

EODC Photostat Neg.
Courtesy General Services Administration, The
National Archives, Washington, D. C.
On account of the appropriation for the alterations of the CUSTOM HOUSE at Philadelphia.

<table>
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Total: $329.59
# APPENDIX

## ITEM 6

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Continued

Jan 28 To 2 Sills 5 feet 6 x 8 x 5 =
" Sawing pilaster 120 feet @ 35¢ per foot
" 30 " 5 Days of a Stonecutter taking down Stairs and removing stone
" 1 Day of Labourer At Ditto
" 31 " 5 " Stonecutter " "
" 1 " " Labourer " "
For Use of Rigging

11.00
42.00
18.25
2.50
18.25
2.50
20.00

William Gray
Stone Cutting $788.61
February 21st 1865

PM Q 4/29/64
APPENDIX

ITEM 7

EODC Photostat Neg.
Courtesy General Services Administration, The National Archives, Washington, D. C.
U.S. App Stree
Phil May 20th 1868

Sir, I have had interviews with several persons who are in the paving line and the best offer to save the Eastern Avenue alongside the Custom House is $3,750.00 per yard for Dubical Granite Blocks similar to those in the Avenue on the west side pay 436 yards. I would suggest a more economical and suitable way to leave the present paving stone ease way leaving knights of the turning places as it is just the granite blocks where the unload is done put flags from way for the wheels to track both of turning places and fill in between the tramway and outside of the tram way within the best of the brick that are now there please rough plot 1st and 2nd leaf. A represent 1 spreader link, one of which is broken off. B represent the tram way for wheels to track on. C is the flag paving the pavement to be repaired with present brick laid having one ease way, C.
represents the portion that is not in bad condition. D. represents the portion where the running and loading & unloading is done, which I propose shall be done with the granite or Belgian pavement. E shows the opening to be enlarged to admit yards. F. F. shows the raised platform, the corners of which are to be removed as shown.

Very Respectfully,

J. B. Mullett Eng.
Supervising Architect-

[Signature]

[Diagram]
APPENDIX

ITEM 8

Incoming Correspondence Relating to the Old Custom House in Phila., 1868, Records of the Public Buildings Administration (NA)  

Second Bank of U. S. Custom House Alterations exterior  
June 2, 1868

Sir,

I would respectfully request that authority be given Mr. Chas. S. Close Supt. to remove the brick partitions from across the arches from under the front steps of the Custom House Building and to place an iron door at the entrance. Mr. Close says the expense will not exceed Twenty-five (25) dollars. The same improvement was made under the steps in the rear of the building and the space is already engaged for storage.

I am, Very respectfully

J M Cabe  
Collector

A. B. Mullett Esq.  
Supervising Architect  
Washington, D.C.

PM Q 5/22/64
APPENDIX

ITEM 9

Incoming Correspondence Relating to the Old Custom House in Phila., 1871, Records of the Public Buildings Administration (NA)

Second Bank of U.S. Custom House Repairs -steps
Apr. 17, 1871

Apr 17th 1871

Sir

I have the honor to call your attention to the fact that some repairs as necessary to the flagging and steps on the north end, also some repairs to the South end of the Custom House, and very respectfully request authority for making the same.

I am &c
Your obdt. Servt.
L. F. Houston
Spec. Dy Collector

A. B. Mullett Esq.
Sup'g architect

PM Q 5/22/64
APPENDIX
ITEM 10

Incoming Correspondence Relating to the Old Custom House in Phila., 1877, Records of the Public Buildings Administration (NA)

Second Bank of U. S. Custom House Repairs -steps
June 21, 1877

June 21st 1877

Sir:

In pursuance of my duty as Superintendent in Charge of Repairs to U.S. Buildings in this City I would call attention to the dilapidated condition of the steps and terraces in front of the Custom House on Chestnut St.

To place the same in proper repair will require redressing many of the steps and resetting both them, and the flag pavement of the Terraces, which I estimate to cost as follows:

Redress & \illeg/ bed steps $ 400.00
Resetting \" \" 295.00
\" Flags on Terraces 120.00
Cement, Bricks & \illeg/ Brickwork &c 150.00
Total $ 965.00

Very Respectfully
John McArthur J
Superintendent

PM Q 5/22/64
APPENDIX

ITEM 11

EODC Photostat Neg.
Courtesy General Services Administration, The National Archives, Washington, D. C.
Office of Superintendent of Construction,
April 25, 1861

James G. Hill Esq.
Superintending Architect
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 13th inst. I have estimated the cost of widening the alley-way between the Custom House and the U.S. Court and Post Office Building, in this City, and find that the proposed alterations may be executed, as shown on the annexed diagram, for a sum not exceeding $645.

The said alterations to consist of removing, re-dressing, and re-setting the marble coping; taking down the stone wall, which is 3 feet in height and re-building it on the new line of terraced; re-
removing the earth to the depth of 8 inches below the surface of the pavement, concreting the space, and finishing the same with an asphaltum roadway 4 inches thick.

I am of the opinion, that these alterations will not injure the architectural appearance of the Custom House, while at the same time they will facilitate the prosecution of the Public business connected with the Post Office, which is now greatly impeded by the want of space for the Mail Wagons. I therefore respectfully recommend that I be authorized to have the same executed at a cost not exceeding the sum above stated.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Superintendent of Repairs
Office of Superintendent of Construction,

CUSTOM HOUSE

CHESTNUT STREET

to be removed

POST OFFICE
ILLUSTRATION NO. 1


INHP Photostat Files
PLAN OF THE BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.
ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

View of the north and west facade.

Delineated by George Strickland, Architect.

Published by W. M. Birch, 1827

INHP Neg. No. 2270
Bank of the United States.
Chambers Street Philadelphia.
Published by W. H. Birch, M.D. 4.
ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

Engraving by C. Burton, 1831.

The iron fence and gates to the west passage is similar in design to the iron work which exists at the present on the Library Street Terrace. The lamp standard over the iron fence is similar in design as the original standard that can be seen on left of the east passage gates on Illustration No. 13 showing the iron work along Library Street.

See enlargement of the lamp shown in this engraving on Illustration No. 4.

INHP Neg. No. 5381-B
ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

Enlargement of lamp on west passage fence as shown on Illustration No. 3.

INHF Neg. No. 5381 - Detail
ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

North Facade

Delineated by Francis W. Strickland, Architect, 1833

Courtesy Tennessee State Library and Archives

EODC Photostat Neg.
ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

Painting of the north facade by W. H. Bartlet, 1839.

INHP Neg. No. 6839.
ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

This rendering of the north facade is attributed to William Strickland and probably dates from about 1840.

The marble retaining wall and part of the Chestnut Street terrace had, by the time of this drawing, given way to the steps leading up from the sidewalk level. The marble cheeks of the portico steps have also been removed.

The sham doors and windows were left unchanged.

INHP Neg. No. 1677
ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

This 1850 talbotype is the earliest photograph found of the Second Bank building.

There is no noticeable change on this north facade. The sham doors that flank the main entrance are still visible, as are the three sham windows on the second floor.

INHP Neg. No. 2751
VIEWS IN NORTH AMERICA

Taken from nature by the patent Talbotype process, July 1851, by
W. & P. Langenhein, 816 Chestnut St. Phil., & 247 Broadway N. Y.

Series 1 Plates

CUSTOM HOUSE

formerly the U. S. Bank, Phil.
ILLUSTRATION NO. 9

Sketches showing proposed double-hung windows in place of the marble panels (sham doors) that flank the main entrance door on the north facade. The panels are marked 1 and 2.

These sketches were referred to in correspondence to the Secretary of the Treasury in April 1850, and December 1850. See Appendix, Item 2.

INHP Neg. No. 8561E8562
ILLUSTRATION NO. 10

View from Chestnut Street showing the north facade and part of the east, dating between 1863 - 1881.

Note that the sham doors that flanked the main entrance door were replaced by windows.

The iron work at the east passage appears to be the original and of the same design used on the south terrace.

The east terrace appears to be about the same as it is today.

INHP Neg. No. 1678
ILLUSTRATION NO. 11

View from Library Street showing the south facade and terrace, dating between 1863 - 1881.

The south and west terrace and the west passageway appear intact, but the south facade was somewhat altered. The central doorway and the two sham doors appear undisturbed. The windows flanking the central doorway are original, but the window on the extreme left and the one on the extreme right are later additions.

INHP Neg. No. 2277
ILLUSTRATION NO. 12

North facade in 1910.

The iron fence and gates at the east passage appear to be original. The date of removal of the iron work is not known.

INHP Neg. No. 1682
ILLUSTRATION NO. 13

View (1947) from Library Street showing the south and part of the east facade.

Most of the terrace iron work is original.

The east passage was widened by approximately 20" at a date unknown; the original iron gates were also widened by an addition of a 10"-wide section at the ends of each gate. See Illustration No. 42 for a close-up view of the one remaining gate. This is the only photograph that shows the location of what appears to be an original iron lamp standard on the iron fence. Its location can be seen left of the two circle castings of the east passage gates. The iron standard no longer exists. However it has been recorded by a measured drawing by William Allen Dunn, and published in the book Colonial Iron Work in Old Philadelphia, dated 1930. Illustration No. 60 shows the lamp standard in detail, based on the measured drawing from this book.

INHP Neg. No. 8546
ILLUSTRATION NO. 14

North facade showing present conditions. The sham doors that originally flanked the main entrance on the first floor were replaced with double-hung windows. The three sham windows on the second floor were also replaced with windows. The portico stair cheeks and the terrace retaining wall along Chestnut Street were removed. A flight of steps were added from the Chestnut Street sidewalk to the terrace. Illustration Nos. 3 and 6 show original composition of this facade and terrace.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, April 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4751
ILLUSTRATION NO. 15

View showing present condition of the north facade and portion of the west, from Chestnut Street.

Over a period of years many alterations were made to the structure's exterior and surrounding areas.

Illustration Nos. 58 and 59 show the proposed restoration.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boudher, April 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4752
ILLUSTRATION NO. 16

North terrace and portico.

View of the north stair to the terrace and stair to the portico after removal of marble treads and concrete terrace paving, exposing the original stone foundation work and brick arches for the support of the terrace that was once originally paved with marble slabs.

The marble treads from terrace to portico are supported by brick foundations. See Illustration Nos. 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 for close-up views of these supports.

The foreground shows part of the original terrace retaining wall. The splayed wall returning up against the portico wall is not its original location.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4753
ILLUSTRATION NO. 17

North terrace and portico.

A close-up view of the uncovered foundation work of the north terrace and stair supports (same area as in Illustration No. 16). See measured drawings of this area on Illustration Nos. 55 and 56.

The large brick arches were originally used to support a marble terrace, apparently with an earth fill between the brick arches and the marble slabs.

The smaller brick arches were installed after the original terrace retaining wall was removed and a flight of marble steps were installed along Chestnut Street. These smaller brick arches and the original stone foundation was used to support the marble treads, built up with brick, with the rake of the stairs.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4754
ILLUSTRATION NO. 18

North stair.

Close-up view showing the original location of the original foundation for the north-west stair cheek that existed before 1840. The arrow points of Nos. 1 and 2 indicate the approximate width of the marble cheek.

Foreground shows the original brick arch supports for the terrace.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4755
ILLUSTRATION NO. 19

North stair.

Original stair supports of brick, from terrace to portico. Note the foundation wall under the columns with inverted brick arch between the columns. The foundation and the inverted brick arch is 4'-6" in thickness. This is typical between all the columns on north and south porticos. Illustration No. 55 shows this in detail.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4756
ILLUSTRATION NO. 20

North Stair

Original stair supports of brick, from terrace to portico.

The elliptical brick arch support is typical between all portico columns. Solid supports of brick at center of each column.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4757
ILLUSTRATION NO. 21

North Stair to Portico

Same view as Illustration No. 20, with a full size template of the stair treads.

At the present time the marble treads are out of line and level and all require resetting. The template was used to re-check and verify the original rake of the stairs, also to check the distance between bottom of the treads in relation to the top of the elliptical arch. Reinforcement to the arches will be required before treads are reset.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4758
ILLUSTRATION NO. 22

North stair.

Close-up view looking east, showing original brick stair supports, from terrace to portico.

Note brick pier under the arch. The pier apparently was added some time later, believing it would strengthen the arch. However the pier has settled and time has proven that the arch was built substantially to take the stair load without the pier.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4759
ILLUSTRATION NO. 23

North stair.

Close-up view looking east, showing an original solid brick stair support from terrace to portico. Note the sagging brick under the marble treads. This condition was found to be somewhat typical at all of the supports. Also note the brick pier. This type of pier apparently was used when the butt end of the tread fell short of the typical supports, or possibly when replacement of treads were made.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4760
ILLUSTRATION NO. 24

North stair.

View of underside of a marble tread from the flight of stairs from Chestnut Street to terrace. The tread is incised with the inscription -

July 1877 Riots

See Illustration No. 25 showing close-up view of lettering.

The meaning of the inscription has not been determined as yet.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4762
ILLUSTRATION NO. 25

North Stair

Close-up view of the marble showing the incised lettering (also noted on Illustration No. 24). The objects on top of the tread are two pieces of roofing slate that were used as shims to level-up stair treads. This was found to be typical under most treads.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4761
ILLUSTRATION NO. 26

East facade of the Second Bank showing present conditions.

This view was photographed from the new Customs House at Second and Chestnut Streets. Tower of Historic Independence Hall can be seen in the background. The entire roof covering and skylights are non-historic. The restoration of the roof is described in the Architectural Data Section of the Part II (Portion), Historic Structures Report, dated May 1964.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, April 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4699
The splayed terrace walls are not in their original location. Illustration No. 28 shows the original stone foundation for the terrace walls at right angles to the building. The opposite stone foundation is similar, and shown on Illustration Nos. 29 and 30.

Photo by: National Park Service, EOCD
Boucher, June 1964

EOCD Neg. No. 4763
ILLUSTRATION NO. 28

East Entry to Basement

Ramp down to entry at left is not original. Stone foundation shows the original location for the terrace wall at right angles to the building.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4764
This cistern-like, brick domed, underground structure was uncovered during an exploratory dig to locate the east terrace foundation left of the east entry to the basement. These features pre-date the bank building, and possibly are the remains of the Norris Mansion that occupied the site in the eighteenth century. See Illustration No. 56, showing this brick structure in detail.

The wide stone foundation in the background, running horizontally over the brick dome, shows the original location of the east terrace wall. The narrow stone foundation may have been used for a garden wall before the bank building.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4766
ILLUSTRATION NO. 30

East Passage

View of the same underground structure and foundations as shown on Illustration No. 29, photographed in the opposite direction.

Points of Arrow Nos. 1 and 2 show width of the original stone foundation that was used for the east terrace retaining wall.

The points of Arrow Nos. 3 and 4 show width of stone foundation that may have been a garden wall. Foreground shows remains of brick paving laid in herringbone pattern. These features pre-date the bank building.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4765
ILLUSTRATION NO. 31

East passage.

The points of Arrow Nos. 1 and 2 show part of what is believed to be the original stone foundation for the curbing of the iron fence and gates along Chestnut Street, at the east passage. Point of Arrow No. 3 shows end of a stone foundation, presumably predating the bank building.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4767
ILLUSTRATION NO. 32

East terrace.

Access door to space below the north portico. Brick arch in front of areaway shows the same system of brick arch work found along Chestnut Street terrace that was originally used to support a marble paved terrace. The present terrace is concrete paved.

Illustration No. 54 is a drawing showing this area.

Photoby: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4768
ILLUSTRATION NO. 33

North Terrace

Portion of brick arch in front of the north portico steps, showing the same system of arch work as found at the north-west end of the terrace (see Illustration No. 17).

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4769
ILLUSTRATION NO. 34

East Passage

Original stone retaining terrace wall on left of photograph. The three brick foundations at right angles to the terrace wall are the original foundations that supported the marble stairs, used to ascend the north terrace.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4770
ILLUSTRATION NO. 35

Present condition of the south facade and terrace, viewed from Library Street.

Most of the iron work is original. The gates to the east passage have been altered (see Illustration Nos. 41 and 42). The iron gates and fence at the west passage (at a date unknown) have been removed.

Over a period of years many alterations were made to the structure's exterior and surrounding areas. Illustration Nos. 58 and 59 show the proposed restoration.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, January, 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4771
ILLUSTRATION NO. 36

South stair to portico.

The removal of marble treads exposed the original brick stair supports.

Stair cheek at far end is original.

Exploration below the earth terrace did not reveal any brick arches or other masonry to indicate that the terrace may have been marble-paved as is the case on the north terrace.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4772
ILLUSTRATION NO. 37

South Stair to Portico

View showing the two types of stair supports. The north portico stair supports are identical in construction.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4773
ILLUSTRATION NO. 38

South stair to portico.

Same view as Illustration No. 37 with a full size template of the stair treads.

At the present time the marble treads are out of line and level. All require resetting. The template was used to recheck and verify the original rake of the stairs, and to check the distance between bottom of treads in relation to the top of the elliptical arch. Reinforcement to the arches will be required before treads are reset.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4774
ILLUSTRATION NO. 39

South Terrace

During an exploratory dig for original evidence of foundation work, an iron anchor rod attached to a large stone was uncovered. It is believed this was installed at a later date to anchor the corner of the retaining wall when the west terrace was removed in the passage and the terrace terminated at the stair cheek with a new wall.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4775
ILLUSTRATION NO. 40

South terrace and portico.

Original entrance gate from Library Street to the south portico.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4776
ILLUSTRATION NO. 41

East passage from Library Street.

One remaining gate of a pair of gates that opens to the east passage. The iron gate is original except for a 10"-wide piece that was added on when the gate opening was widened at an unknown date. See Illustration No. 42 for a close-up view showing portion added to the gate.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Dougher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4777
ILLUSTRATION NO. 42

East passage from Library Street.

Close-up view of original iron gate. Points of Arrow Nos. 1 and 2 show the 10"-wide piece that was added when the gate opening was widened.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4778
ILLUSTRATION NO. 43

Exploratory dig at the south-east end of Library Street wall.

Evidence of some foundation stones in this excavation indicates that the stone wall extended approximately 6 feet east of the present marble pier. Illustration No. 13 indicates that the stone wall and ironwork existed at this location until 1947.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964
EODC Neg. No. 4779
ILLUSTRATION NO. 44

West facade of the Second Bank showing present conditions.

This view was photographed from the tower of Historic Independence Hall. To the south, in the foreground, is Library Hall.

The entire roof covering and skylights are non-historic. The restoration of the roof is described in the Architectural Data Section of the Part II (Portion), Historic Structures Report, dated May 1964.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, April 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4698
ILLUSTRATION NO. 45

West facade and passage viewed from Chestnut Street showing present conditions. The stone wall below the basement windows was placed against the building wall some time prior to 1881, thus omitting the original terrace from the north portico to Library Street. See Illustration No. 49 showing exploratory dig, revealing portion of the original terrace foundation.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4745
ILLUSTRATION NO. 46

West Passage at Chestnut Street

The original stone terrace wall is on right of photograph. The two brick foundations at right angles to the terrace wall are the original foundations that supported the marble stairs, used to ascend the north terrace. The third foundation was uncovered in a laying down position, shown partly in the excavation.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4746
ILLUSTRATION NO. 47

West Facade and passage viewed from Library Street, showing present condition. Illustration No. 45 explains stone wall condition against building wall.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC
Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4747
ILLUSTRATION NO. 48

West Passage from Library Street

Points of Arrow Nos. 1 and 2 show the original stone foundation for the south terrace wall. Points of Arrow Nos. 3 and 4 show the original stone foundation returning along the passage for the west terrace.

The iron railing, stone retaining wall and marble pier was installed when the passage was widened.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4748
ILLUSTRATION NO. 49

West Passage

An exploratory dig shows part of the original stone foundation of the retaining wall for the west passage.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4799
ILLUSTRATION NO. 50

West Passage

Arrow points to the remains of some stone foundation that existed along Library Street at the west passage, between the Bank building and Library Hall. The foundation was for the iron fence and gate to the west passage, similar in design to the east passage.

Photo by: National Park Service, EODC Boucher, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 4750
MATCH LINE

lamp standard
for north & south iron railing
(see elevations for location)

ILLUSTRATION U360

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

BASIC DATA

CAST IRON RAIL

SPICE PLATE 3/4" x 7/8" x A'
WROUGHT IRON

drawn by william allen dunne | made by phillip wallace

M.E. MEASURED DRAWING by william allen dunne | MADE BY phillip wallace

LOCATION

WITHIN INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.
CHAPTER IV

FURNISHINGS AND EXHIBITION DATA

Prepared by Museum Curator David H. Wallace
EXISTING HISTORIC FURNISHINGS

Of the original furnishings of the Second Bank of the United States, only the great wall clock over the south door of the Banking Room is still in the building. No other furnishings are in the Park collection.
PROPOSED FURNISHING AND EXHIBIT PLANS

Since it is not proposed to refurnish any part of the building as it was furnished during the occupancy of the Second Bank, no furnishing plan is required.

The exhibit plan for the first floor has not been scheduled.
RECOMMENDATION FOR
INTERPRETIVE DEVELOPMENT

It is recommended that the first floor of the Second Bank building be used principally as a gallery for the exhibition of paintings, sculptures, and prints from the Independence National Historical Park Collection of Historic Art, with one room reserved for refurnishing as Nicholas Biddle's office and a permanent exhibit on the history of the Second Bank of the United States, and that the basement and upper floors be used for curatorial offices, a conservation laboratory, and a central storage and study area for the Park collections.

Justification

Internationally recognized as one of the great collections of eighteenth century American art, the Independence National Historical Park Collection of Historic Art consists of about 400 oil paintings, miniatures, pastels, and sculptures and over 250 prints. It is particularly rich in portraits by Charles Willson Peale, one of the most important American artists of the Revolutionary and early Federal periods and founder of the Philadelphia Museum which was located in Independence Square from 1794 to 1828. Over 100 portraits in the collection originally hung in Peale's Museum, were bought by the City of Philadelphia in 1854, and hung in Independence Hall from then until 1957, when they were placed in storage for lack of a safe place to exhibit them. Of these 100, over 90 were painted by Charles Willson Peale, the largest group of works from his hand in any collection. Since the 1870's the collection has also included 46 pastel portraits of
prominent Americans, drawn during the 1790’s by James Sharples and members of his family. This is the largest group of Sharples’ pastels in one collection in the United States. Other artists of note represented in the Park Collection are Benjamin West, Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Sully, Henry Inman, James and Rembrandt Peale, Samuel F. B. Morse, and C. B. J. F. de St. Memin. Although it is difficult to place a monetary value on paintings which have not been on the market for over a century, it is believed that the collection as a whole is worth at least $1,500,000.

Historically this collection is important for several reasons. It contains over one-third of the paintings which were in C. W. Peale’s Philadelphia Museum (1784-1849), the first important American museum of arts and sciences and from 1802 to 1828 the chief tenant of Independence Hall. It contains approximately 150 life portraits of persons prominent in national affairs during the Revolution and the first 50 years of the Federal Republic. Finally, the collection as a whole has been an integral part of the Independence Hall complex ever since the City of Philadelphia began developing the shrine in the 1820’s and 1830’s. As a substantial reminder of America’s first important museum, as a national portrait gallery of distinguished early Americans, and as a part of the history of Independence Hall itself, this collection has very real importance in terms of interpreting the Park story.

As Independence National Historical Park develops, it will become, even more than it is now, the symbol of American devotion to liberty. It is important, therefore, that this gallery of historical paintings and prints,
which portray the features of many leaders in America's fight for liberty under law, should be carefully preserved and displayed in a setting worthy of their significance. For this purpose the Second Bank building is in many respects ideally suited. It is an imposing and attractive structure well located near the physical center of the Park. It is of solid and relatively fireproof construction. It is adaptable to the physical requirements of a painting gallery, such as air conditioning, humidity control, and lighting, without undue expense or detriment to the historic character of the building. It affords sufficient space for hanging and storing of the entire collection, as well as for the necessary curatorial offices and conservation laboratory.

**Recommended Use of Space**

As a basis for planning, the following uses are recommended for the various rooms of the building. Reference is made by letter to the attached floor plans.

**First Floor:**

Vestibule and corridor areas (A, B, and C) should be used as passageways with no exhibits, except perhaps for a few bronze or marble busts in the vestibule and prints in the corridors.

The room to the west of the vestibule (G) is to be refurnished as the office of the President of the Bank, Nicholas Biddle, and can be used as well for exhibits on the history of the Second Bank of the United States and on William Strickland, architect of this building, the Philadelphia Exchange, and the present tower of Independence Hall.
Rooms L and M, in the southeast corner, should be reserved for staff use in connection with preparing exhibits.

The Banking Room (H) and rooms D, E, F, I, J, and K would provide suitable space for hanging at one time approximately 150 of the paintings and pastels and about 30 prints. These might be distributed as follows: Room F, portraits of French and other foreign participants in the American Revolution; rooms D and E, paintings of Pennsylvania subjects, including West's "Penn's Treaty"; rooms I and J, prints and miniatures; and room K, paintings from the Peale and Sharples collections. The Banking Room (H), as the focal point of the gallery, should be used for exhibiting the most important groups of portraits in the collection, such as the Pine, Rush, Sharples, and James Peale portraits of Washington, the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the Signers of the Constitution. Larger special exhibitions could also be staged in the Banking Room through the use of movable partitions.

Second Floor:

The rooms at the north end (A through E) can accommodate the curatorial offices (C and D), the conservation laboratory (E and F). The women's rest room (B) would be for public use.

At the south end of the building, room G would serve as the storage area for paintings and prints. The adjoining small rooms would be useful for work and study areas.

Third Floor:

The only usable third floor space is at the north end over the second floor hallway (A). With proper humidity controls, this would make
an excellent room for processing and temporary storage of new accessions.

**Basement:**

The basement should house the central museum storage and study area (except for paintings and prints), the archeological laboratory and study area, and facilities for conservation of museum objects (except paintings and prints). The available space is adequate for these purposes.
PLAN OF THE BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.
PROPOSED FINANCING OF
INTERPRETIVE DEVELOPMENT

It is estimated that the cost of fitting up the first and second
floors of the Bank building for the exhibition and storage of paintings and
other art objects would be about $50,000, over and above the costs of gen-
eral building rehabilitation. Of this amount $40,000 is provided for in
the current P. C. P. for the building.