Part II
Historic Structures Report
on
Bishop White House
in
Independence National Historical Park

Prepared by
Staff
Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

March, 1959
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief of Design and Construction

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Bishop White House, Independence

The Historic Structures Report, Part II, Bishop White House, Independence National Historical Park, has been reviewed by the interested Divisions in the Washington Office and is recommended for approval. We wish to commend this excellent submission.

We concur in the belief expressed in Mr. Tobin's memorandum of April 7 that demonstrating the making of candles, bread-making, laying of fires, etc., as an interpretive feature is of doubtful value and should be omitted from the recommended proposed use of the structure.

Thos. C. Vint, Chief of Design and Construction

Copy to: Chief, EODC (2)
Supt., Independence
Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II - Bishop White House

We are pleased to concur with your recommendations for the restoration, refurnishing, and interpretive use of the Bishop White House.

We have but one reservation concerning the latter, its use as a "demonstration facility." We assume that a high quality restoration and refurnishing would include the items you mention as appealing to "all the senses" - candles, wood fires, etc., which undoubtedly would assist importantly to giving visitors a more complete effect of an 18th century home. However, we believe that demonstrating the making of candles, bread-making, laying of fires, etc. would involve staffing and operating problems possibly not warranted by the interpretive benefits sought, besides adding perhaps unduly to the already complex park story.

[Signature]
Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, KODC

MHNelligan/cp
General
Daily
Area
Regional Chief of Operations
Historic Structures Report - Part II

Independence - BISHOP WHITE HOUSE

INTERPRETATION

The opening "structural history" section is more archival than historical, but feel sure we can go ahead with the architecture and carry out all the needs - - with added Degree - Do not force exhibits in first half (see 2/3/59).

OPERATIONS

Agree with schematic restoration seems time we are getting new many museums in the country.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR

OK to me. This is a restoration, just not an exhibit immediately.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Half a million dollars is a lot of money for any residence, historic or modern. I think setting up a "demonstration facility" is impractical, unnecessary as quite beyond telling the basic public story. This is what I sometimes refer to as complexity rather than simplifying the park story.
Region Five  
421 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pa.  
March 24, 1959  

Memorandum  

To: Director  

From: Acting Regional Director  

Subject: Historic Structures Report - Part II, Bishop White House, Independence NHP  

In accordance with FO-11-56, attached for your consideration is the Bishop White House Historic Structures Report, Part II, prepared by the staff of Independence National Historical Park. By copy of this memorandum, we are forwarding a copy of the report to EODC for review and comment.  

The report should be reviewed and comments submitted by April 3.  

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer  
George A. Palmer  
Acting Regional Director  

In duplicate  

Attachments 2  

Copy to: Chief, EODC, w/copy report  
Supt., Independence  

General Daily  
Area  
Regional Chief of Operations
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region V

From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Part II, Historic Structures Report for Bishop White House

Enclosed in quadruplicate for your review and distribution is Part II, Historic Structures Report for the Bishop White House.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent
SIGNATURE SHEET

RECOMMENDED

__________________________________________ Date __________
Director

__________________________________________ Date __________
Regional Director

__________________________________________ Date __________
Chief, Eastern Office, Div. of Design & Construction

APPROVED

__________________________________________ Date __________
Superintendent
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CHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

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

Bishop White House, 309 Walnut Street, Building No. 9.
PROPOSED USE OF STRUCTURE
AND JUSTIFICATION

It is proposed to restore the house architecturally
and to refurnish it as a historic house museum. Such a restora­
tion would serve the dual purpose of recalling the services to
the nation of a distinguished patriot and of illustrating the
way of life of an outstanding citizen of the era, in Federal
Philadelphia.

Sufficient information is available to carry out an
almost complete restoration of the house to its appearance during
the 1790's. We recommend that such restoration be carried out
in accordance with the plans based on this information attached
to this report.

We recommend that the structural remains in the base­
ment, uncovered by archeological investigation, be treated
architecturally. The cold cellar, fireplaces, oven, and drainage
features should be restored and incorporated in the restored back
building. These features would be difficult to interpret as
ruins but would be of great interest as functional parts of the
reconstructed house.

We recommend that the house and grounds be restored
and refurnished as completely as the extensive historical, archi­
tectural, and archeological data will permit.
Information in furnishings during Bishop White's lifetime ranges from practically complete, in case of the Bishop's study, to almost nothing, in case of the first floor parlor. Many of the furnishings are extant, and every effort should be made to secure by gift, loan, or purchase, as many of the original furnishings as possible. Where original furnishings cannot be obtained, reproductions or pieces suitable to a house of the Bishop's period and type should be acquired, either by gift or purchase, in order that the restoration may be as complete and convincing as possible.

It is recommended that modern intrusions (electric outlets, water spigots, thermostat, protective devices, air conditioning, heating and humidifying machinery, etc.) should be kept at a minimum and concealed.

It is also recommended that maintenance of the house, furnishings, and ground should be so arranged as to provide an opportunity to demonstrate 18th-century housekeeping techniques. Additional demonstrations might include bread-baking, flower arranging, candle-making, and some phases of gardening.

In other words, an effort should be made to reach the visitor not through sight alone, but through all his senses to have the smells of cooking, of candles, of woodfires, etc.
pervade the house. On occasion recitals of 18th-century music might be given on 18th-century instruments. In short, the effort should be to aim for total recall of the past of this old house.
PROVISION FOR OPERATING HOUSE

House is proposed to be operated by the Park Staff.

Some adjustments in the MISSION 66 staffing schedule will probably be necessary, however, to operate the house as a demonstration facility.
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COST
FOR REHABILITATING THE STRUCTURE
AND GROUNDS

$494,000.00
CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL DATA

Prepared by Museum Curator David H. Wallace
The Bishop White House, No. 309 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, was built in 1786-1787 by Dr. William White, first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania. A substantial amount of documentary material exists which describes the house and the structural changes made in it over the years, beginning with brief insurance descriptions of 1787 and 1795, and including a thorough survey by the Philadelphia Contributionship in 1858. For convenience, this material is presented below in chronological sequence. Pictorial material depicting the Bishop White House at various periods from 1836 to the present has been placed in an appendix, also in chronological sequence.

(1) Extract from Minutes, Mutual Assurance Company, August 8, 1787 (typed transcript, INHP microfilm reel 36a):

Agreed to make Insurance on the following buildings--
On Reverend Doctor William White's House, Piazza, Stair Case, Kitchen & Necessary Situate on the North Side of Walnut Street between Third & Fourth Streets--
On the House . . . . . . . . £500
Piazza, Stairs, Kitchen & Necessary . . . . . . . . 250
at s30 % -- £11:5:0
N.B. If any damage shall be done to the windows in case of Fire, it shall be estimated at the same rate as if the Glass had been of the size of 8 by 10 inches.

(2) Extract from Trustees' Accounts, Mutual Assurance Company, November 14, 1795 (typed transcript, p. 7, INHP microfilm reel 36a):

for a Deposite of the Revd. Docr. Willm. White for planting two Trees in the front of his dwelling House the 14th Nov. 1795, Policy No. 191 . . . . . . £1:5:0
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(3) Extract from Policy No. 191, Mutual Assurance Company, renewal dated November 20, 1795 (original at Mutual Assurance Company, photostat in INHP files):

His dwelling House situate on the north side of Walnut Street, between Third & Fourth Streets, the said House being twenty-six feet front, and forty-four feet deep, and three stories high, with window Glass of the dimensions of twelve & half inches, by twenty-two & half inches, but if any damages shall be done to the windows in case of fire, it shall be estimated at the same rate as if the Glass had been of the size of eight by ten inches — Two Trees in front of the House.

(4) Extract from Policy No. 192, Mutual Assurance Company, renewal dated November 20, 1795 (original at Mutual Assurance Company; photostat in INHP files):

the Backbuilding of his Dwelling House, situate on the north side of Walnut Street, between Third & Fourth Streets, consisting of a Piazza, ten feet by fifteen feet and three stories high, a Kitchen with winding Stairs, twenty-five feet nine inches, by sixteen feet, & two Stories High, a Necessary ten feet, by nine feet, & two Stories high.

(5) Extracts from Policy No. 1460 (a re-insurance in lieu of Policies No. 191 and 192), Mutual Assurance Company, dated February 9, 1803 (original at Mutual Assurance Company, photostat in INHP files):

This Policy witnesseth that the Revd. Dr. William White...is hereby insured...upon his dwelling House situate on the North side of Walnut Street between Third & Fourth Streets, the said House being twenty six feet front & forty four feet deep & three stories high, with Window Glass of the dimensions of 12-1/2 Inches by 22-1/2 Inches but if any damage should be done to the Windows in Case of Fire, it shall be estimated at the same rate as if the Glass had been of the size of 8 by 10 Inches. Backbuildings of the aforesaid House Consisting of a Piazza ten feet by fifteen feet & three Stories high, a Kitchen with winding Stairs 25 feet 9 Inches by 16 feet & two Stories high— A Necessary 10 feet by 9 feet & two Stories high.
On November 22, 1836, the executors of Bishop White transferred this policy to the purchaser of the property, Charles Chauncey. The property was thereupon inspected by the Mutual Assurance Company, whose Secretary, Lawrence Lewis, noted on the original policy: "Alterations allowed as per view Deer. 12, 1836." The alterations were not specified. Policy No. 1460 was cancelled on February 26, 1858.

Policy No. 10,024, Philadelphia Contributionship, survey dated March 6, 1858 (original at Philadelphia Contributionship, photostat in INHP files):

I have Surveyed a Brick House & Back Buildings for Elizabeth C. Chauncy & Hannah Chauncy Trustees & owners, situate on the North side of Walnut Street No. 309 West of & near Third street. The House being 26 feet front 44 feet deep, Piazza 9 feet 4 inches by 16 feet, both 3 stories high. 14 & 9 inch walls.

The Lower story (Main Building) in two rooms & passage, the floor of yellow pine, moulded wash boards & surbase and double architraves to the doors & windows, one white marble mantel, recess closets & stucco cornice around the ceiling, a box Entry or vestibule to one of the front doors (the one in the Room) with sash doors, 12 lights 10 X 17, & 3 transom lights over. There is also a vestibule in the passage with panel door, side lights & fan sash over, also transom lights over front door, one arch in the passage, one twin window front segment head 16 lights 14 X 22 inside shutters, two 12 light windows back, the Glass 11 X 20 outside shutters.

The second story (Main Building) in two rooms & short passage, the floor of yellow pine, wash boards, surbase & architraves the same as lower story, two wooden mantels & 4 breast closets, plain stucco cornice around the ceiling, three 12 light windows front & two back, the Glass 12 X 20 outside shutters.

The third story in two rooms & short passage, the floor of yellow pine, moulded wash boards & surbase, single
mouldings to the windows & plain architraves to the doors, two wooden mantels & four breast closets, three 6 light windows front & two back, the Glass 12 X 22, outside shutters.

The Garret in 3 rooms & passage, the floor of yellow pine, plain wash boards & plain mouldings, one closet in the passage, two circular head Dormers front & two plain. Do back, a close winding stairs to the loft which is floored with rough boards & plastered, Trap Door in the Roof & step ladder, two 9 light sash 8 X 10. Open newel stairs in the piazza finished with Ramp'd painted Rail & half Rail & turned balusters from the lower to the 3d story, & straight stairs from thence in the main Building to the Garret. One 18 light window, two 15 light & two 12 light Do in the piazza, the Glass 8 X 10, outside shutters to 1st & 2d story windows, one Closet under the stairs.

Back Building, Lower story in one room, yellow pine floor, moulded wash boards & single mouldings & one large closet, two 16 light windows, the Glass 10 X 16 & one 18 light 8 X 10, outside shutters, a stationary wash stand & cold water. A shed back 7 feet 8 inches by 10 feet.

The second story Back Building in two rooms, the floor of yellow pine, plain wash boards & surbase & single mouldings, one wooden mantel & one closet, three 15 light windows, the Glass 8 X 10, outside shutters, one 8 light 8 X 10 Venetian shutters, & one 3 light 8 X 10.

The Loft above is plastered & has a rough floor & one 4 light window in the end & a Trap Door in the Roof. There is a plain straight & winding stairs from the Cellar to the Loft. Wooden modillion cornice front, plain wooden cornice back. Tin Gutters & pipes. The first and second stories papered all through except 2d story entry, two rooms in the 3d story also papered.

March 6th 1858 D R Knight

Liberty of Offices for Brokers & Rail Road Companies
Policy No. 10,024  Drs 4,000  3 per Cent Drs 120

Agreed to be correct for the assured
Jas. Bayard
(7) Policy No. 12,128, Philadelphia Contributionship, survey dated March 16, 1876 (original at Philadelphia Contributionship, photo-stat in INHP files):

I have Surveyed a brick Building belonging to Edward S. Whelen, situate on the North side of Walnut Street No. 309, West of and near Third Street, the Building being Twenty Five feet Six inches front, by Forty Four feet Four inches deep, with a Piazza Nine feet Four inches wide by Sixteen feet deep, both Three Stories high, and a Back Building Sixteen feet Four inches wide by Twenty Five feet Four inches deep, with an Extension of it, Eight feet Nine inches wide by Ten feet deep, both Two stories high, Walls 9 and 13 inches in thickness.


Stairs. Open string and newel stairs, with ramped rail and turned balusters (both painted); paneled spandrils; quarter landings, with steps between them. Two doors in piazza. One each 12 and 15 light single hung 8 x 10 in windows, with outside shutters, on stairs to 2nd Story. Closet under stairs.


Third Story, divided into 3 rooms and 2 passages, two of the partitions being of grooved boards. Yellow pine floor. Plain base and surbase. Eight doors. Five 6 light 12-1/4 x 22-1/2 in windows with outside shutters; two 12 light single hung windows on the stair (8 x 10 in glass); 4-1/2 in double Architraves. Four closets. Two framed wooden Mantels. Close string stairs with painted rail & balusters to Attic story.
Attic, divided into 2 rooms and a short passage. Yellow pine floor. Plain base. Four doors. Two 6 light 12 x 21 inch solid frame dormer windows, semi-circular heads, with 6 lights with curved side in the semi-circle; two 12 light 8 x 10 in solid frame dormer windows in the rear. One flat skylight in the roof containing sixteen 10 x 14 in lights, the ends being lapped. One closet. Close stairs to Loft.

Loft, in one room. Yellow pine floor. That part of the roof between the chimney shafts rises vertically as high as the ridge, at right angles to the slopes and has a 9 light 8 x 10 in sash hung with hinges over each of them. The walls and ceiling plastered; room about 16 feet wide.


Second Story, in two rooms including the Extension. White pine floor. Plain base. Four doors. Three 15 light 8 x 10 in single hung windows, with outside shutters, one each 8 light and 3 light windows, hung with hinges, 6-1/4 in Architraves. Surbase on walls. One large closet, shelves half height (next ceiling) with 6 drawers in the base below; internal closet with dwarf door. One framed wooden Mantel, with basket Grate. Close winding stairs to Loft. Loft inaccessible.

Cellar under main, piazza and back buildings, Natural floor. Four close batten doors. Two each 9, 12 and 15 light 8 x 10 in windows hung with hinges; one window with wired frame outside; iron bars outside to all. Close string stairs with painted rail and square balusters to 1st story.

Roofs. A double pitch roof to the Main Building with a heavy wooden Modillion cornice in the front and rear, and plain wooden cornice and single pitch roofs to the piazza and Back and Extension Buildings, all covered with Tin; tin gutters and conductors. All doors and shutters are paneled and all windows double hung unless otherwise described. Gas in the 1st and 2nd stories and the rooms and passages of them papered.

3 Mo[nth] 16 1876 I. Louis Moore Surveyor

[First floor plan, see below, Illustration No. 7]

Liberty Offices
Policy No. 12,128 $4,000 at 5 p. c. $200
agreed to be correct
Edwd S. Whelen
(8) Policy No. 12, 128, Philadelphia Contributionship, re-survey
dated April 19, 1880 (original at Philadelphia Contributionship,
photostat in INHP files):

I have resurveyed the foregoing described premises
and find the following Alterations and Additions Viz. The
Back building and part of the Piazza described in the Sur­
vey [1876 Survey, No. 7, above] have been removed and a
lateral Extension of the Piazza 16 feet wide by 18 feet
9 inches deep, one story high, and a Back building 18 feet
4 inches wide by 53 feet 6 inches deep, two stories high,
have been built instead of them.

Lateral Extension, in one room. Yellow pine floor, Base,
moulded and subbed. One pair of 2 light 23 x 36 in
folding doors, with 2 light transom and outside shutters.
Opening in ceiling under skylight. Back Building, First
Story, divided into 3 rooms and a short passage (water
closets room included). Yellow pine floor. Base, moulded
and subbed. Two 2 light 29 x 23 in, one 2 light 22 x 23
in, and two close doors; one 2 light transom. One each
12 x 44 in and 23 by 44 in, and five 20 x 44 in windows,
all in 4 lights, with outside shutters. 6 in pilaster
Architraves, with angle blocks. Two raised Grates. Stucco
cornice. Water closet room. An enclosure of grooved
boards divided by a wooden partition into two parts, each
containing a valve container water closet, with hinged
seat and lid, two dwarf doors (Enclosure 5 feet 3 inches
wide by 3 feet 8 inches deep and 7 feet high) Enclosed wash
basin, with countersunk top and 10 in skirting, both of
marble, and plated cock for cold water. One white-ware
Urinal, slate slabs against walls, partitions and in floor,
viz, Back 36 inches, sides 23 inches wide, all 5 feet high;
slab floor, 23 x 36 inches. Silver-plated cock above
Urinal. The entire finish of hard-wood.

Stairs. Former stairs removed and a close string stairs of
hard-wood with balustrade and newel of same (to 2nd story)
substituted; newel 6 x 6 inches; turned balusters 1-7/8
inches diameter.

Second Story, divided into 3 rooms (including water closets)
and short passage. Yellow pine floor. Base, moulded and
subbed. One each 2 light 24 x 21 in and 22 x 21 in doors,
and one close door. Five 4 light 20 by 40 in, and one each
23 x 40 in and 12 x 40 in windows 6 in Architraves. Two
open fire places, with Architraves of black marble 5 in wide.
Stucco cornice. Hardwood finish. Water closet room. Enclosure of grooved boards, 5 feet 8 inches wide, by 3 feet 8 inches deep, & 7 feet high, divided by a wooden partition into 2 parts, each containing a valve container. Water Closet, with hinged seat and lid. Enclosed wash basin, with countersunk top, and 10 in skirt, both of marble, and silver-plated cock. A white-ware Urinal with plated cock, in a slate enclosure 54 inches wide by 23 inches deep, with a slate floor, 23 x 54 inches, open at top and on one side.

Cellar under new part, without divisions, mortar floor.

One each 8 light 10-1/2 x 12 in 10-1/2 x 9 in windows, and three 4 light 12-1/2 x 15 in windows, all hung with hinges; iron bars and wired frames outside. "One New Hot Air Furnace." Step ladder to yard with folding cellar door above.

Alterations in the Main Building.

First Story, Former front removed, and an Ashler of brown stone, with pilasters of the same around the openings, and a brown stone entablature above them, substituted. Story divided into room and passage. Folding front and passage doors. A vestibule about 5 feet 8 inches wide, 3 feet deep, and 9 feet high, built inside of front door, one pair of 2 light 15 x 54 in folding vestibule doors, a 29 x 54 inch light in side of vestibule. One 4 light 48 x " twin window. One pair of 2 light 20 x 45 in doors in rear, with a 2 light 18 x 18 in transom. 6 in Architraves. A fire proof Closet Nine feet wide by six feet Four inches deep and Eight feet high, with single and folding iron doors, the Exterior walls of glazed bricks, in north west angle of room. One white marble pilaster mantel, with raised grate. An entablature on stucco pilasters, placed transversely at ceiling in center of room.

Roofs. The roofs of the Main and Piazza Buildings have been covered with Tin. Single pitch roofs, covered with Tin to the Addition. An Eight light 22 x 110 in double pitch skylight of hammered glass, on roof of lateral extension; twelve 18 x 18 in and ten 17-1/2 x 18 in vertical lights in vertical part between roof and the covering of skylight including 8 lights hung with pivots [?]. Size of horizontal opening about 11 feet by 13 feet; the triangular sides tinned [?] above the vertical lights.

4 Mnth] 19 1880 I. Louise Moore, Surveyor

Note. The sashes of the front windows have changed to 4 lights of 37 x 32 in glass in the second and to 4 lights of 37 x 21 in glass in the 3rd stories. Two enclosed
wash basins, with curved fronts, and countersunk tops, with 9 in skirtings, both of marble, and one plated cock, in 2nd story. Walls and ceiling papered.

4 Mo 19 1880 I. L Moore, Surveyor

agreed to be correct

Edwd S. Whelen

(9) Permits for alterations to No. 309 Walnut Street, transcribed by Architect William M. Campbell from Permit Books in the Bureau of Licenses and Inspections, Room 219, City Hall Annex, Philadelphia

(a) April 18, 1910 307-309 Walnut Street Permit No. 2240
Use - Light manufacturing
General repairs - take out partitions and erect new partition enclose elevator shaft, etc.
Fireproof partitions [•] outside metal escapes front and rear
Est. cost - $8500.00
Owner - Huston Estate [the Houston Estate actually owned 305-307 Walnut; 309 Walnut was owned by Edward S. Whelen]
Architect - Wm. C. A. Mitchell 319 Walnut Street
Contractor - Wm. Morrow 320 Harmony Street

(b) April 16, 1914 309 Walnut Permit No. 2483
Use - Offices (no housing)
Cut two passage door[s] through wall, 3 ft. wide and 7 ft. high.
Existing structural conditions not to be impaired.
Est. cost - $100.00
Owner - Hare & Chase - 309 and 311 Walnut Street [apparently lessee, since 309 was still owned by Whelen or his estate]
Contractor - Bushnell Bros. 2246 N. 5th Street

(c) August 1, 1916 309 Walnut Street Permit No. 5389
Use - Offices
Remove 1st story partitions and substitute I-beams and posts.
See plans - Beams and columns supporting walls to be fireproofed - no additions.
Est. cost - $2500.00
Owner - Land Title & Trust Co. [acting for Whelen Estate?] Archi.
Architect - Heacock & Hokanson 1218 Chestnut Street
Contractor - H. E. Davis 240 N. 16th Street
(d) September 5, 1918 309 Walnut Permit No. 3710
Use - Office work
Enlarge office on second floor by removal of stud partitions.
Put three window frames in side yard. Remodel present skylight, first floor, etc.
Est. cost - $1300.00
Owner - Wm. Walker, agent Land Title Co. [acting for Whelen Estate?]
Contractor - F. B. Davis.

(e) May 18, 1920 309-311 Walnut Permit No. 4158
Use - Offices
Erect partitions for new toilet rooms on second floor No. 311 and alterations[,] partition of 2" x 4" studs plastered on metal lath both sides.
Building less than 5000 sq. ft. -- Does not interfere with exit to fire escape.
Est. cost - $1,000
Owner - Lehigh Valley R. R. [actually a tenant]
Contractor - F. J. Hoover & Sons, Inc. 1023 Cherry Street

(f) July 3, 1940 309 Walnut, rear Permit No. 3289
Build a new 13" brick wall on old foundation wall to be 8' high above pavement level on rear street. Work to be done in accordance with condemnation Notice No. 2799. Old wall being taken down.
Est. cost - $117.00
Owner - Wm. C. O' Neill & Sons 309 Walnut Street
Contractor - F. B. Davis & Son, Inc. 240 N. 16th Street

(g) May 9, 1946 309 Walnut Permit No. 2075
At present vacant
Use - Dw[elle]ling & offices and assembly of printed forms for tax purposes
New front - stone base - brick - plate glass - no additions
Yard space remaining - over 144 sq. ft.
Est. cost - $2550.00
Owner - Benj. Steinberg 1900 Chestnut Street
Architect - Colish & Etter
Contractor - S. H. Levin Co. 1717 Sansom Street
June 13, 1946
309 Walnut Street

Present - vacant
New office and dwelling
New front previously applied for May 19 1946
Additional work - new stair and partitions - no addition
Open yard remaining over 144 sq. ft.
Est. cost - $200.00 ($2250 on previous permit)
Owner - Benj. Steinberg 309 Walnut Street
Architect - Colish & Etter 17th & Sansom Street
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

1. Early History of 309 Walnut Street (1683-1836)

The land on which the Bishop White House, 309 Walnut Street, stands was originally part of a grant from William Penn to John Tibby in 1683. Tibby's lot had a 49 1/2 foot frontage on Walnut Street and extended 212 feet north to the bank of Dock Creek. After John Tibby's death the property passed to his son, Thomas Tibby, carpenter, who erected a "tenement" on it, the precise location of which is not known. On his death the property, still with the same boundaries, passed to his widow, who sold it a month later, February 17, 1714/5, to Edward Robinson, skinner, in whose hands it remained until 1732.

In 1732 Robinson sold the lot for £140 to Andrew Hamilton (1676-1741), Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly and, just at this time, the moving spirit behind the building of the new State House three blocks away on Chestnut Street. Hamilton apparently bought the lot as a speculative investment. His own home was "Clarke Hall," at the southwest corner of Third and Chestnut, just across Dock Creek from his Walnut Street property.

On Andrew Hamilton's death in 1741 the Walnut Street property passed to his son Andrew, Jr., who died in 1747. He in turn left it to his son William Hamilton (1745-1813), best known as the proprietor of a great estate, "The Woodlands," west of the Schuylkill. It was William Hamilton who in 1781 sold to the Reverend William White,
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Rector of the United Churches of Christ Church and St. Peter's, the lot on which White erected his house, now No. 309 Walnut Street.

Soon after their marriage in 1773 White and his wife had made their home in a house on Front Street just below Pine. There they had lived until sometime in 1780 or 1781, when they moved into a house on Walnut Street (present No. 303), which they rented from Mrs. Mary Hamilton. It was in this house, no longer standing, that White was living when he was chosen Bishop of Pennsylvania in 1786.

Soon after he took Mrs. Hamilton's house on Walnut Street, White decided to build for himself. Accordingly, in the late fall of 1781 he bought two contiguous lots a little further along on the same side of Walnut beginning seventy-nine feet west of Third Street. The easterly lot, fronting twenty-two feet on Walnut, he bought from Robert Morton on November 30th. This piece of ground (present No. 307) already had on it a walled-up cellar, but White made no further improvements on the property and finally sold it in 1798 to his friend and neighbor Richard Peters. The westerly lot, purchased on December 1, 1781, from William Hamilton of "The Woodlands," was the one on which White's house was erected. The lot had a twenty-five foot frontage and ran back 120 feet to "a 12 foot wide alley or courtway left open by the said William Hamilton on the rear of his Walnut Street lots and extending into Third Street." White's deed granted him the use of this alley, now known as Harmony Street. Two years
later he bought a small parcel of land on the north side of it on which he erected a two-story brick stable about 1792.

Very little information has been found regarding the actual construction of the Bishop White House. Work had not yet begun in 1786 when the tax assessors listed the Reverend Mr. White's "vacant lot" at £500. It was under way the following year when his "Unfinished House & Lot" were assessed at £600, and must have been substantially completed by August 1787 when the Bishop took out insurance on it. The family probably took possession late in 1787 or early in 1788. They remained there until 1836, almost fifty years.

The completed house was assessed at £1900 in 1788 and £1500 in 1789. The stable, first mentioned in 1792, added £200 to the Bishop's assessment, while two horses, a "light waggon", and one cow added another £113. The actual city tax on these properties amounted in 1793 to £8/6/6 and in 1796, when it was first computed in dollars, to $42.84. From these figures, well above the average for the period, it is evident that the Bishop's house was a fairly pretentious one. It remained his home for almost fifty years.

2. Later History of 309 Walnut Street (1836-1951)

Owners. Bishop White died on July 12, 1836. Mrs. White having died many years before, the house was sold on November 22, 1836, for the benefit of the estate. It was bought for $25,000 by Charles Chauncey (1777-1849), a prominent lawyer and friend of the late Bishop.
Chauncey himself lived next door at 87 (present 307) Walnut and had his law office at 85 Walnut. On his death in 1849 Chauncey's three houses on Walnut passed to his unmarried daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth. Hannah died in 1851 and Elizabeth in 1870. In 1878 the executors of Elizabeth Chauncey sold No. 309 Walnut (the Bishop White House) to Edward S. Whelen, broker, who had been renting part of it since 1857. Whelen's executors sold the building in 1920 to William C. O'Neill & Sons for $37,500. In 1946 it was bought for $13,500 by Benjamin and Rose K. Steinberg from whom it was acquired by the United States Government for inclusion in Independence National Historical Park.

**Tenants.** For the first twenty years after the Bishop's death the house apparently remained in use as a private residence. In 1837-39 it was the residence of Matthew C. Ralston, merchant, and from 1851 to 1857 it was the home of Nathaniel Chauncey (1789-1865), a younger brother of Charles Chauncey and uncle of the owners, Hannah and Elizabeth Chauncey. Nathaniel Chauncey was a non-practising attorney who was chiefly noted for his exhaustive research on the antecedents of the American Chaunceys.

By the middle of the nineteenth century Walnut Street between 3d and 4th Streets had been engulfed by the westward movement of business and had lost its pleasant residential character. The old houses remained, but they had gradually been taken over by insurance companies, insurance and stock brokers, and even railroad companies.
No. 309 (the new system of numbering was adopted in 1856) withstood the tide for a time, but by 1857 two brokerage firms were established in the house, E. S. Whelen & Company and Schott & Green. The Whelen firm (later known as Townsend Whelen & Company) was to remain there until 1911, over fifty years, and in 1876 became owner of the building. None of the other tenants stayed so long, at least nineteen having come and gone by 1877. This number included five brokers or brokerage firms, (1857-1868), the Huntington and Broad Top Mountain Railroad and Coal Company (1858-1859), the Shamokin Valley and Pottsville Railroad (1859-1863), the Diamond Coal Company (1865-1870), six other coal mining and shipping firms or agencies (1866-1872), a white lead manufacturer's office (1867), a commission agency (1868), a liquor dealer (1869-1870), the Vessel Owners and Captains' Association (1869), and the business office of the Excelsior Press Brick Manufacturing Company, reorganized in 1874 as the Excelsior brick and Stone Company (1869-1876). Since 1876 the chief occupants of the building have been Townsend Whelen and Company (to 1911) and William C. O'Neill & Sons (1920-1946), stock and insurance brokers, respectively.
EVALUATION OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

Although it was the home of Bishop White for almost forty years, no events of public significance can be directly associated with the Bishop White House, No. 309 Walnut Street. It is historically important, therefore, only in so far as the Bishop himself was important.

Bishop White's claim to be remembered by the people of the United States rests principally on two separate but related achievements: his long service as Chaplain of Congress and his leadership in the establishment of an American Episcopal Church independent of the Church of England. Historically, the latter is the more significant.

The name of William White first came into prominence in 1777. Just thirty years of age, White was then only an assistant minister of Philadelphia's Christ Church and St. Peter's, but he endeared himself to the Patriots by refusing to remain in Philadelphia after the British occupation. This action stood out the more prominently because White's two colleagues, including the former Chaplain of the Continental Congress, Jacob Duche, elected to stay in Philadelphia and soon after deserted the American cause entirely. White's sturdy patriotism was officially recognized when Congress, meeting in York during the dark days before Saratoga, elected the young clergyman one of its two chaplains. He was to serve in this capacity for the next six years, until Congress's removal to New York in 1783. During this same
period, as Rector of Christ Church and St. Peter's, White also served
as pastor to many of the Members of the Continental Congress.

When Congress returned to Philadelphia in December 1790, one
of its first actions was to elect two chaplains. Again White, now
Bishop of Pennsylvania, was selected for this post of high dignity,
for which his eminence as a religious leader and his past services
as Chaplain made him a natural choice. He was re-elected annually
until 1800 when the Federal Government moved to Washington.

Although White kept clear of involvement in politics, his
position as Chaplain of Congress and rector of a church attended by
many legislators and government officials brought him into close con­
tact with many leading men of the day. It is only natural to assume,
therefore, that some of them enjoyed the Bishop's hospitality in his
house on Walnut Street. George Washington, for one, did so on
November 19, 1798.

Far more significant than his chaplaincy, however, was White's
contribution to American religious life. His role in the establishment
of an independent Episcopal Church in America and in giving it a consti­
tution reflecting the political ideas of the Revolution, closely par­
alleled in the religious sphere that of the "Founding Fathers" in the
political.

One of the legacies of the political separation from Great
Britain was the disruption of the Anglican Church in America. Before
the Revolution, the Church had been subject to the Bishop of London;
the war left it with no central authority to give it direction. More important, there were no American bishops to ordain candidates for holy orders and, by British law, no bishops or priests could be consecrated in England without taking the oath of allegiance to the King as head of the Church. American Episcopalians were thus faced with a challenge affecting the very life of their church: how to establish an American episcopate which would carry on the apostolic succession and yet be free of subservience to a foreign power.

One way to meet the challenge was to bypass the English Church entirely. This was the expedient adopted by Samuel Seabury, Bishop-elect of Connecticut, who in 1784 was consecrated by the bishops of the independent Episcopal Church of Scotland. The validity of this procedure was, however, challenged by most American churchman, who felt that the apostolic succession resided only in the Church of England.

At a General Convention in Philadelphia in October 1785, over which the Rev. William White presided, lay and clerical representatives of the church from seven states drew up an address to the archbishops and bishops of England proposing a plan for the consecration of American bishops. The presentation of this address was entrusted to the American Minister in London, John Adams, to whom White wrote, in explanation, as follows:

...it is the wish of all the well-informed members of our church, to be independent and self-governed, principally from a conviction of the unhappy influences which a foreign spiritual jurisdiction has always maintained
in civil matters wherever it has been acknowledged. This we have severally felt in the late war; and, if persevered in, it must at last be fatal either to our church or to the commonwealth, in those States, at least, where the members of our communion are a majority of the people. There is nothing wanting to the establishment of our constitution, but the obtaining the episcopal succession in the first instance from the English bishops, which, we trust, will fix our church on such a footing as must be desired by all who wish well to the present civil system of confederate America. Should any political objection arise from the British ministry, on the point of delicacy, as to meddling with the concerns of this country, I cannot doubt of your Excellency's endeavors to remove it.

White's appeal to Adams for his good offices was seconded by the President of Congress, Richard Henry Lee, and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, John Jay, both acting in their official capacities. In a letter to Adams on October 24, 1785, Lee requested the Minister's attention to the affair which, he wrote, was "of very great importance to...a considerable portion of the citizens of these States." There was some fear, he explained, that the British ministry might hesitate to act lest their action be considered an "officious meddling" with American domestic affairs.

Should this be the case [Lee went on] the church of England members in congress have the greatest reliance on your liberal regard for the religious rights of all men, that you will remove mistaken scruples from the mind of administration, by representing how perfectly consonant it is with our revolution principles professed throughout all the States, that every denomination of Christians has a right to pursue its own religious modes,
interfering not with others; that, instead of giving offence, it must give content, by evi­
dencing a friendly disposition to accommodate the people here who are members of the church in question.

Secretary Jay, himself an active lay leader in the Episcopal Church, gave a political twist to the question in his letter to Adams of November 1, 1785:

The convention are not inclined to ack­
nowledge or have anything to do with Mr. Seabury. His own high church principles and the high church
principles of those who ordained him, do not quad­
rate either with the political principles of our Episcopalians in general, or with those on which our revolution and constitutions are founded. They wish, therefore, to have a bishop to whom no objections of that kind can be made, and this is the object of their present measures. It will be much in your power to aid them in the attainment of it; and, for my part, I think your friendly interposition will neither disserve your country nor yourself.

To me, personally, bishops are of little im­
portance; but, as our civil affairs are now cir­
cumstanced, I have no objections to gratifying those who wish to have them. I confess I do not like the principles of the non-jurors [the Seabury party]; and, I think, the less patronage such opinions meet with among us, the better.

Negotiations between the English and American churches, seconded by the good offices of Minister John Adams, resulted in passage of an Act of Parliament authorizing the consecration of foreign bishops not subject to the Church of England. The final act which freed the American Episcopal Church took place on February 4, 1787, when William White and Samuel Provoost were consecrated at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, White as Bishop of Pennsylvania.
and Provost as Bishop of New York. The significance of the event was appreciated by no one more than by John Adams, who, despite his own Congregational principles, later wrote: "There was no part of my life in which I look back with more satisfaction than the part I took, bold, daring and hazardous, as it was to me and mine, in the introduction of the Episcopacy in America."

Its independence established, the American Episcopal Church set about the task of welding together its separate parts into one unified organization. Again Bishop White played a leading part. It was he who introduced into the constitution of the Church the democratic principle that the laity as well as clergy should participate in the government of the Church. And it was he who was largely responsible for mediating the differences between Bishops Seabury and Provost which, until 1789, threatened the unity of the American Church.

To sum up, from 1777 until his death in 1836 Bishop William White was one of the most widely known and respected religious leaders in the United States. Through his long connection with the national government as a chaplain of the Continental and the Federal Congress and his rectorship of Christ Church, he had a personal acquaintance with many of the Founding Fathers. Through his work in establishing the American Episcopal Church he helped to further the emancipation of America from British domination and to unify divergent elements within the former colonies. His services benefitted the nation as well as his own denomination, as was recognized by John Adams and other.
contemporaries, and they merit recognition today. The Bishop White House, his home during the greater part of his long career, is the appropriate place for a memorial to Bishop White.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Bishop White House be fully restored and furnished as a historic house museum. Such a restoration would serve the dual purpose of recalling the services to the nation of a distinguished patriot and of illustrating the way of life of a prominent citizen in Federal Philadelphia.

Architectural Restoration:

Sufficient information is available to carry out an almost complete restoration of the exterior of the house to its appearance during the 1790's (see Architects' Report).

Our knowledge of the interior is less complete, but documentary and architectural evidence gives us a reasonably clear picture of room plans and such details as mouldings, doors, windows, and fireplaces. It should be possible, therefore, to carry out a satisfactory structural restoration of the interior (see Architects' Report).

Archaeological Features:

If the restoration is to be truly representative the writer feels that the structural remains uncovered by archaeological investigation in the basement of the present building should be treated in
the same way. The cold cellar, fireplace, oven and drainage features should be restored and incorporated in the restored back buildings.

The early well, originally outside the building, should be preserved and capped with a pump of 18th century design. The later cistern should be filled and covered. The one feature which, it seems to me, might profitably be treated as an archaeological exhibit is the brick sewer running underground from the privy to old Dock Creek. Exposure under glass of a small section of this sewer at some distance from the house, along with a sampling of some of the household artifacts recovered from it, would make an interesting and unusual exhibit.

Refurnishing:

Information on furnishing during Bishop White's lifetime is limited principally to two rooms. One, fortunately, is the Bishop's study, the center of his intellectual life, and the other is his dining room, where he entertained his often distinguished guests, including Washington.

The Bishop's study is pictured in detail in an oil painting by John Sartain, probably painted about the time of White's death in 1836 (see Chapter II, Illustration No. 1). This painting gives invaluable precise information on the furnishings of the room and their arrangement. Restoration of the room would be comparatively easy. Sartain's painting also gives some information on the Bishop's bedroom.
For the dining room there is no record comparable to Sartain's painting. Archaeological investigation has, however, revealed quite a bit about the Bishop's tableware, especially in regard to glass and china. Of the furniture and silver he used there seems to be no documentary record, though a few pieces are still owned by his descendants.

Practically nothing is known about the furnishings of other rooms of the house. The state of knowledge about the rooms in the upper stories should not unduly handicap the effort to restore them to an acceptable appearance. The first floor rooms require more detailed consideration. It is important that the front room, the first to be viewed by the visitor, be handled in a way consistent with the intent and purposes of the restoration generally. In the absence of precise information about its use during the period, its furnishing as a representative parlor of the 1790's is recommended as the alternative most likely to fit the setting and to satisfy the visiting public. Of scarcely less importance is the handling of the kitchen. Here, use in-place of those kitchen artifacts recovered during archaeological excavations which are restorable could be supplemented by furnishings representative of the period to give the desired effect.

It is felt that the need to identify Bishop White to the visiting public will develop as the house is completed. In anticipation
of this, it is recommended that an integrated exhibit of pictorial and documentary material relating to his life and times be provided in the front hallway of the house.

The following is a list of extant furnishings believed to have been in use in the house during the Bishop's lifetime. It has been compiled with the help of Mr. George Robins of Philadelphia, a direct descendant of Bishop White, and Mr. William M. Campbell, Architect, Independence National Historical Park.

**At Christ Church**

- Desk pictured in Sartain's painting, two chairs,
- Oil painting of "The Last Supper" sent to Bishop White from France by Gouverneur Morris c. 1792, a number of books from White's library, his manuscript sermons,
- Various personal articles such as his spectacles, cane, cape, gloves, penknife, and quill pens, and three pendants with miniatures of the Bishop after Sully's portrait.

**At the Church Historical Society (Philadelphia Divinity School):**

- Many of the Bishop's books and part of the bookease-cupboards pictured in Sartain's painting of the study.

**Owned by Descendants of Bishop White:**

- George P. Robins, 20 N. American St., Philadelphia - one chair, a blue and white pierced Canton fruit dish and plate, and a silver gravy ladle.
Mrs. Elmer E. Bailey, No. 6, The Strand, New Castle Del. --- a cut glass decanter.

Mrs. Arthur Starin, School Lane House, Schoolhouse Lane and Wissahickon Ave., Germantown --- bureau from Bishop White's bedroom, engraving "Evening" by Boydell after Lorraine.

Mr. Arthur de Berdt Robins, 761 Vose Ave., Orange, N. J. --- one chair.

Mrs. Vincent Vermooten, 4404 Fairfax Ave., Dallas 5, Texas --- 4 Hepplewhite Shield-back dining room chairs, one silver spoon, fire tools, and a miniature of Bishop White after Sully's portrait.

Mr. William White, Jr., 560 Glenview Road, Bryn Mawr, Pa. --- six silver teaspoons. His father, the late Mr. William White, Sr., owned Inman's portrait of Bishop White.

If the Bishop White House is established as a memorial to the Bishop, it is possible that the owners of furnishings originally in the house might be willing to give or loan some of the items listed above to help recreate the Bishop's study, dining room, and bedroom.

Where original furnishing cannot be obtained, pieces suitable to a house of the Bishop's period and type should be acquired, either by gift or purchase, in order that the restoration may be as complete and convincing as possible.
ILLUSTRATIONS
Chapter II
Illustration No. 1

Back Room, Second Floor, 309 Walnut Street
Oil Painting by John Sartain, ca. 1836
Owned by Mrs. Arthur Sartain, School Lane House
School Lane Lane and Wissahickon Ave., Germantown

This painting probably was done about the time of the Bishop's death. From it Sartain engraved a print which appeared in a biography of Bishop White published many years later. The view is from the north wall looking south into the front bedroom. A replica of this painting is in Christ Church, Philadelphia.
No. 309 Walnut Street
Plan of first floor, March 1858

This plan is taken from D. R. Knight's survey of 309 Walnut for insurance Policy No. 10,024, Philadelphia Contributionship (see above, Section 1, pages 3-4).
Nos. 305-309 Walnut Street
Photograph by Julius F. Sachse, May 1859
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Boies Penrose Pictorial Philadelphia Collection, Box 23

This is the earliest known view showing the exterior of the Bishop White House, third building from the right. Unfortunately, it was taken a year or so after the first floor front was altered. Petry Brothers' Restaurant occupied the former Peters-Chauncey House, No. 307, in 1859. The name was changed to Petry's Restaurant the following year.
307-311 Walnut Street
Ink drawing by B. H. Evans, ca. 1859-1869
Original at Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Cat. No. ARP.03/No. 60

Although the Bishop White House occupies the center of this drawing, the artist labeled it "Petry's Restaurant/ North Side of Walnut St. above 3rd St./1852". The date, apparently added later in pencil, must be incorrect, since the Bishop's house (old No. 89) was renumbered 309 only in 1856. Petry's Restaurant occupied No. 307 between 1859 and 1869, and the drawing presumably dates from the same period. Since No. 309 acquired a shop-front in 1858, the front on this drawing must be a reconstruction as the artist remembered it. The artist, Benjamin Ridgway Evans, was a minor Philadelphia architect and draftsman who between the 1830's and 1890's made many Philadelphia views, of which the Historical Society of Pennsylvania owns about 250.
Nos. 305-317 Walnut Street  
Watercolor by David J. Kennedy, probably after 1860  
Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
Kennedy Collection  
The original bears the following inscription in the artist’s hand:

"Residence of Judge Peters, Walnut Street above 3rd, north side.  
Adjoining it on the west, a red brick with blue curtains, is the  
Residence of Bishop White. The Judge’s residence was one of the  
finest of its time, built in 1793. Chas. Chauncey succeeded  
the Judge & was succeeded by Elihu Chauncey."

There seems to be no way of dating this picture precisely. It must  
have been done after 1849 when Charles Chauncey died, and it probably was  
done considerably later. So far as is known Elihu Chauncey never lived  
in 307, which was the home of Sarah Chester from 1849 to 1859 and Petry’s  
Restaurant from 1859 to 1869. Kennedy probably did it from memory, per-  
haps aided by Sachse’s 1859 photograph (see Appendix B, No. 2). His ren-  
dering of architectural details is not very reliable (cf. the roof line  
of No. 311 in his watercolor and in the attached photographs). Kennedy  
was an amateur artist who painted hundreds of Philadelphia scenes between  
the 1830’s and 1890’s, many of which are now at the Historical Society  
of Pennsylvania.
This photograph must have been taken during the late 1870's. The Germantown Fire Insurance Company, whose sign is prominently displayed on the front of No. 305, was at that address from 1874 to 1881. The Bishop White House, No. 309, appears still to retain the 1853 front, which was replaced about the end of 1879 or early in 1880.
This plan, drawn by I. L. Moore, surveyor for the Philadelphia Contributionship, was originally done to illustrate Moore’s 1876 survey of the house. When he re-surveyed the property in 1880, however, Moore indicated the alterations on the same drawing. This drawing, therefore, incorporates both the 1876 and 1880 floor plans (see above, section 1, pages 5-9).
No. 307-311 Walnut Street
Photograph, ca. 1907-1911
Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Edward Brown & Son, dealers in "pyrometers," Charles E. Heath, insurance agent, and J. W. Donahue, resident manager of the Maryland Casualty Company, whose names appear on the front of No. 311, had offices in that building for varying periods but all three were there at the same time only from 1907 to 1911. No. 309 at this time was still occupied in part by Townsend, Whelan & Co., stock and exchange brokers.
Nos. 301-311 Walnut Street
Photograph by Charles E. Peterson, 1947
INHP Collection

The Bishop White House, No. 309, shows the 1946 alterations to the street front.
CHAPTER III

Architectural Data

Prepared by:

Charles S. Grossman
William M. Campbell
Penelope Hartshorne
Frank M. Boeashore
Park Architects
Our knowledge of the Bishop's house as it existed at the time he occupied it, is drawn from documentary evidence in the files of the History Division of the Park, existing physical evidence above ground, archeological evidence, and comparative research of existing similar buildings of the period, together with a careful evaluation of all evidence based on a knowledge of the crafts and methods of construction of the period.

In addition to the above, use has been made of the laboratories of private industry to evaluate materials used in the original construction of the building.

The sequence of the research program is generally as follows:

1. A study of all known documentary evidence.
2. Investigating and recording all existing physical evidence of the original building.
3. Archeological investigation.
4. Comparative research of similar buildings of the period.
5. Evaluation of all evidence.
6. Preparation of restoration drawings.
The results of the research program are recorded in the following forms:

1. Documentary evidence in the files of the History Division, both written and pictorial.

2. A journal which was maintained during period of research.

3. A collection of photographs recording the physical evidence found.

4. A set of 12 drawings, attached to this section of the report, recording the existing physical evidence.

5. The report of the Archeologist.

6. A list of details found in the Bishop White House and used in the restoration drawings attached to this section of the report.

7. A list of details derived from existing houses of the same period attached to this section of the report.

8. A set of 45 drawings for the restoration of the Bishop White House.


Although a complete set of drawings for the restoration is not normally included in a Historic Building Report, we feel that because of the extensive and detailed research required on the Bishop White House the most practical way of interpreting the results is to present them graphically in the form of restoration drawings.

The results of the research, as here presented, were made possible by the close cooperation and collaboration of all
interested parties including historians, archeologists, architects, private individuals and firms, the descendants of Bishop White (see list included in this report), and the owners of the 18th Century houses from which details were used.
### Exterior

- South facade brickwork, 1st fl.
- North facade brickwork, 1st fl.
- Piazza & Hack Building, brickwork
- Back Bldg., cornice
- South facade, 1st fl. windows
- South facade, 2nd fl. windows
- North facade, 1st fl. windows
- Piazza & Hack Bldg. windows
- Piazza & Back Bldg. cellar windows
- Shutters of North and South facade

### Interior

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<tr>
<td>Doors 105, 107, 109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hearth &amp; Mantle Spaces 16 &amp; 17</td>
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<td>Back Bldg., 1st fl. paneling detail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back Bldg., 1st fl. Baseboard</td>
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<td>Back Bldg., 1st fl. Chair rail</td>
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<td>Back Bldg., 1st fl. Door trim</td>
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<td>Main Bldg., doors 209, 211</td>
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<td>Back Bldg., 2d fl. Baseboard</td>
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<td>Back Bldg., Loft railing</td>
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<td>Back Bldg. Loft baseboard</td>
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### Source Detail

- 2d & 3d fl. brickwork
- North wall of main Bldg.
- Piazza cornice
- 2nd fl. north facade windows
- 2d fl. north facade windows
- 2d fl. north facade windows
- Window #312 in Piazza
- Windows #6 & 8 in cellar north facade
- Taken from one shutter of each 2d & 3d fl. north elevation

### Door 3

- Main Bldg. 3d to 4th floor
- Door 213
- Mantle & Hearth Space 29
- Door panel #401
- Spaces 35, 40, 41
- Spaces 35, 40, 41, 42
- Spaces 35, 40, 41
- Doors 201, 203
- Spaces 35, 40, 41
- Spaces 35, 40, 41
- Space 48
### Details Derived from Sources Other Than the Bishop White House

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<td>Stenton</td>
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<td>National Gallery Coll. Early prints</td>
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<td>520 S. Front St.</td>
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<td>113 Pemberton St.</td>
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<td>6. South cellar door</td>
<td>239 Pine St.</td>
<td>4177-C</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shippen-Wistar House</td>
<td>4451</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. South cellar door interior</td>
<td>520 S. Front St.</td>
<td>4449</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. South cellar window exterior</td>
<td>239 Pine St.</td>
<td>4177-A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>236 Spruce St.</td>
<td>4680</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interior</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Cellar windows</td>
<td>336 Spruce St.</td>
<td>4810</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cedar Grove</td>
<td>&quot;Cedar Grove&quot;</td>
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<td>10. Oven door</td>
<td>Cedar Grove</td>
<td>Old Phila. Survey</td>
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<td>Free Library of Phila.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Mantle cellar</td>
<td>Cedar Grove</td>
<td>Wallace, Colonial</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>kitchen</td>
<td></td>
<td>Houses, p. 135</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Vestibule doorway</td>
<td>413 Locust St.</td>
<td>3685</td>
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<td>239 Pine St.</td>
<td>4612</td>
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<td>13. Subwayスペース 14①②</td>
<td>239 Siberski St.</td>
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<td>&amp; 15</td>
<td>336 Spruce St.</td>
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<td>Missing Detail</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Photo. Negative No.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interior (continued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Cupboard, Space 18</td>
<td>239 Pine St.</td>
<td>3408 &amp; 3410</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Space 18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Piazza exterior door</td>
<td>520 S. Front St.</td>
<td>3633</td>
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<td></td>
<td>336 Spruce St.</td>
<td>4683</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Door from Piazza to Back Bldg.</td>
<td>336 Spruce St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Breast closet doors</td>
<td>520 S. Front St.</td>
<td>3655</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Space 17</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>21. Mantle, 2d fl. Back Bldg., Space 32</td>
<td>336 Spruce St.</td>
<td>3413</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Mantles, Spaces 35 &amp; 40</td>
<td>336 Spruce St.</td>
<td>3413</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Steps in hall, Spaces 41 &amp; 42</td>
<td>336 Spruce St.</td>
<td>4805</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24. Back Bldg. Loft, Space 43</td>
<td>247 Pine St.</td>
<td>3422 - 3423</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Casement windows in necessary</td>
<td>241 Pine St.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
LOCATION OF KNOWN EXISTING BELONGINGS OF BISHOP WHITE

d. indicates descendant of Bishop White

 Owned by Mrs. Arthur Starin: d.

 School Lane House, Cor. School House Lane & Wissahickon Ave., Phila. 44, Pa.
 Original painting by John Sartain of the second floor interior of the Bishop White House, 18" x 24".

Chippendale bureau. (Shows in the Sartain painting.)

Engraving which hung in the Bishop White House

Evening - exudit 1769 John Boydell - WILL. Byrne Sculpst

Claude le Lorrain pinxt - R. Earlom delint.

From the original picture painted by Claude le Lorrain
in the Collection of Paul Methuen, Esq.

Published by J. Boydell Engraver, in Cheapside No. 90
May 15, 1769 Vol. II No. 37, 3'2" x 4'0".

 Owned by George P. Robins: d.

20 N. American Street, Philadelphia 6, Pa.

Chippendale Chair. (Shows in Sartain painting.)

Windsor chair. (Shows in the Sartain painting).

 Owned by Mrs. Elmer Bailey: d.

No. 6 The Strand, Newcastle, Delaware

A glass decanter.

 Owned by Arthur de Burt: d.

761 Vose Avenue, Orange, New Jersey

Chippendale chair. (Shows in the Sartain painting.)

 Owned by Mrs. Vincent Vermooten: d.

4404 Fantax Avenue, Dallas 5, Texas

Four shield-back Hepplewhite dining room chairs.

Fire tools.

Silver spoon

a Miniature.

 Owned by Christ Church, Philadelphia:

Desk. (Shows in the Sartain painting.)

 Owned by the Divinity School, 4205 Spruce St., Philadelphia:

Large Bookcases. (Show in the Sartain painting.)
Articles of the Carpenters Company of Philadelphia,
Philadelphia: Printed by Hall and Sellers, 1786 (the year
before the Bishop White House was built). Plates illustrate
mouldings, dormer window decorative wings; and between pages
8 and 9 are various window sill and jamb sections showing a
reveal frame for double hung sash exactly as in the Bishop
White House.

Biddle, Owen, The Young Carpenters' Assistant, Philadelphia
1805, plate 30 p. 37 "of Stairs, how to lay them out---
plate 28 shows typical roof construction as in Bishop
White House.

Cousins, Frank, and Riley, Phil. M., The Colonial Architecture
of Philadelphia - Boston 1920 pp. 248 Topically written
and illustrated with 183 plates; many of details.

Hexamer, Ernest, and Locher, William, Atlas of the City of
Philadelphia 1864 (Entered 1861) Shows careful outlines
of the buildings, and by colors, which parts are of
masonry and which frame; the kind of roofing material used,
and whether the building was used for residential or partly
for business purposes. Shows the necessary at 309 Walnut
Street, The Bishop White House, as masonry, but that at
306-307, Judge Peters' house, as frame.

Mercer, Dr. Henry C. - The Dating of Old Houses
A paper read in 1923 before the Bucks County Historical
Society. Treats of the dating of hardware, mouldings, lath,
etc., as a means of determining the age of the building.

Old Philadelphia Survey - Drawings prepared by the Philadelphia
Chapter A.I.A. 1931-32, 14 volumes of original measured
drawings of 18th century buildings.

Prime, Alfred Coxe, The Arts and Crafts in Philadelphia,
Maryland, and South Carolina, 1786-1800, Series Two,
Lists dated advertisements for practically every trade
and craft.

Wallace, Philip B., Colonial Ironwork in Old Philadelphia,
New York, 6, 30, 148 pages of photographs of which 18 are
foot scrapers.

Wallace, Philip B. and Miller, W. Luther, Colonial Houses,
Philadelphia - Pre-Revolutionary Period, New York 1931,
248 pages of photographs and measured drawings. (While it
says pre-revolutionary, "Solitude" built in 1785 is included.)
Bibliography (continued)

Willing, Charles and Sims, Joseph P. Old Philadelphia Colonial Details. New York 1914, 55 plates, mostly at 3/4" = 1'0", and Full Size, one of which is a fireplace in Bishop White's house at 400 South Front Street.

Existing Physical Evidence Drawings

Bishop White House
The BISHOP WHITE HOUSE 305 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

SITE PLAN showing the NEIGHBORING HOUSES in approximately 1787.
Restoration Drawings

Bishop White House
Note: Pipe must parallel to ensure four pieces in gutter.

Metal flanges with water tank joint pipe.

Low profile of gutter.

Stair connector.

Sample note.

Approximate location.

Header plate.

R.F. detail of walk gutter.

Face of balcony.
These profiles indicate the type to be used. As the original moldings are hand-made, no two are alike. Therefore, the profiles for any matching work must be taken from the original piece to be matched.
Existing Brick

SECTION A-A

Existing Brick

SECTION B-B

SECTION C-C

Northwest corner.

Southeast corner.

Northeast corner.

Southwest corner.

CLOSETS = 2" and 3" FLOOR NORTH ROOMS

CLOSETS = 2" and 3" FLOOR SOUTH ROOMS

PEG BOARD

TURNED PEG

SHELF

Existing Brick

Marble Plinth

Marble

ELEVATION

SECTION D-D

MANTLE, SECOND FLOOR, SOUTH ROOM
EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FABRIC

See Chapter III, Section 2, Part I, of this Report.
ADDITIONAL WORK NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH

Architectural research is completed except conclusive evidence relating to the "necessary" and the items noted in the attached list of further work to be done.

Mention of the word "necessary" is made in the Mutual Assurance Surveys of 1787, 1795, and 1803; and in 1876 a survey of the Philadelphia Contributionship not only describes the "Privy in 2 parts in the Extension each part containing a seat and risers with two drops," but in Part I of this Report, Chapter II, Illustration No. 7 is the sketch accompanying this survey showing the 1876 sketch of the house with the privy drawn in its place.

The sewer is substantiated by the mention of "a passage for the waste water into the common sewer" in an advertisement for a house on South Third Street near Dock Creek in Claypoole's Advertiser, Jan. 16, 1797, p. 3, col. 2

That this sewer was used for the dual purpose of disposal for the privy and the kitchen is probable, as not only is the "necessary" located above the sewer opening, but the Archeologist found an immense amount of broken houseware items which were probably thrown into the sewer by the help.

Just how the "necessary" connected into the sewer we cannot exactly say. However, the following extract from
Samuel Jones' Demolition Book No. 2, 1784, (Carpenters Company Manuscripts) is the best documentary lead we have so far found:

**Barding of Necessary House** 125 @ 20/p sqr 1/6/-

Floor seat & Riser 34-10 @ 3d 8/-

1 Door hung - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 2/6

Shingling on d° 9 In cours 35-5 @ 3d 9/-

Trunk 10 @ 8d 6/8

10 Steps 48 @ 3d. 12/-

It is the word "trunk" which could directly apply to the Bishop White House necessary. The 4th meaning for this word in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary is given as, "A long, large box, pipe, etc., serving as a conduit or conveyor."

This conceivably could be the meaning in 1784, and could be what the Bishop White House had. But until more information is available on the functioning of 18th century necessaries, no detail drawings can be made of this portion of the reconstruction.

An investigation of the building will be made in the near future to determine its existing structural stability, and recommendations will be made of methods and materials needed to stabilize it without intruding on the historic appearance of the building.
The following list of further work to be done in connection with the restoration is related, in part, to research (*), but the additional items are inserted for informational purposes only.

**Door Schedule - interior**

- Hardware Schedule (see scars of, and original hardware in the Bishop White House.)
- Exterior Paint Schedule (samples to be found in INHP Architectural Collection)
- Interior Paint Schedule (samples to be found in house itself)
- South Dormer Window Decorative Wings (see Photo Neg. No. IND. MHP 5143 Chapter II, illus. #3, Part I of this Report)

"Necessary" Cornice and Gutter

- Windows of Loft of Main House
- Shutters for Windows 110, 112, 114, 116, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 312, 314 (see Sheet 18 and elevations)
- Venetian Shutter for Window No. 222
- "Necessary" First Floor interior and Connection with Cellar and Sewer
- Full Size Details of Leaded Glass Transom of Vestibule Door
- Cupboard of First Floor of Piazza. (See Item 15 of List of Details derived from Sources other than the Bishop White.)
- Plot Plan, Yard Details, and Landscaping

Heating System and Air Conditioning System

Electric Wiring System

Structural stabilization of the building
RECOMMENDATIONS

An examination of the drawings attached to this report will show that, basing our efforts on research and existing evidence, we will be able to restore the kitchen wing. This wing, with its cold cellar and cooling well, its oven, the original well and later cistern, is the most interesting and fascinating part of the house. Restored, it will tell an important part of the cultural story of the Park. It will appeal to men as well as women, and will make a definite contribution to the story of the Park by interpreting the domestic life of important people of the time, like Bishop White.

It is recommended:

That the entire house including the kitchen wing be restored in accordance with the drawings which are part of this report;

That all mechanical equipment, toilets, etc., be installed in the Yok Building;

That the building be heated with radiant ceiling heat or a similar heating system which will preserve the historic integrity of the building;

That humidity controls be provided by the installation of humidifying and dehumidifying equipment;

That the electrical system be kept to a minimum and that M. I. wiring be used;
That a fire detection system be installed which will be connected with and record on the fire detection console in the West Wing of Independence Hall;

That in the selection of materials and methods to be used in stabilizing the building, preference be given to those which will insure the longest life to the building with the least maintenance, consistent with preserving the historic appearance of the building.
CHAPTER IV
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

Prepared by Archeologist B. B. Powell
STUDY OF STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

Archeological excavations began at the Bishop White House in December 1955, at the request of the architectural staff when portions of a vaulted brick subcellar beneath the modern basement floor were exposed during architectural investigations.

Archeological work in the basement during December and in August, 1956, resulted in the exposure of several structural features. Occasional work at the site in April, June, and July, 1957, located one more feature in the basement and clarified soil zones and grade levels outside of the house.

The 1955-1956 excavations, under the direction of Archeologist Paul J. F. Schumacher, uncovered the subcellar, a water well, a privy-sewer complex extending from the basement area northward at least forty-five feet, and various foundation walls of Bishop White's house. An amazingly fine collection of artifacts was recovered from the sewer.

The 1957 basement excavation exposed a large cement lined brick cistern (8.3 feet in inside diameter and 6.3 feet deep) just northeast of the previously discovered water well. The cistern pre-dates the construction of the present rear building, erected in 1880, and artifacts recovered from the pit are of nineteenth century origin. The cistern was probably constructed after the water well a few feet away ceased to function, and very likely post-dates the Bishop's period (see Illustration No. 1).
A test trench excavated in the courtyard east of the present rear building exposed a soil section which clearly showed several successive soil zones. The original top soil varied from 7 inches to 3 1/2 feet below the brick courtyard. The old surface showed a decided slope from south to north, and ranged from approximately present street level at the rear of the property to a level four feet higher some 50 feet to the south.

One trash and garbage filled pit, with what appeared to be a prepared hard clay floor, yielded many artifacts of the period around the end of the eighteenth century. Moreover, the old dark top soil zone was very productive of artifact material (see Illustration No. 2).

I recommend that the basement and sub-basement of the Bishop White House be reconstructed as a part of the total reconstruction of the building. I feel that the exhibit of any or all of the basement remains as an archeological exhibit is not justified at this site.

The Bishop White House is not primarily an archeological site. Archeology was only one of the research techniques utilized in the study of the house and its history. The major contribution of the archaeological investigations (not counting the artifacts, which will be considered separately) was the location of the well, the cold cellar, and the sewer. These features, in my opinion, would be difficult to interpret as ruins but would be of great interest as functional parts.
of the reconstructed house. In fact, I have the feeling that the exhibits of the basement ruins, and the resultant loss of the rear portion of the house, would present a serious intrusion on the historic scene and would damage, rather than contribute to, the interpretation of the site.

If it is desirable to illustrate the contribution of archaeology to the structural study of the building, I think it could be done most easily and most intelligibly through museum exhibits.
STUDY OF ARTIFACTS

A valuable and extensive collection of artifacts of all types was recovered from the excavations in and around the home of Bishop White. The most valuable single group, perhaps, was found in the vaulted brick sewer running north from the privy. This collection, certainly Bishop White's personal property, consists of ceramic, glass, metal, and bone articles of all descriptions.

Oriental, European, and American pottery and porcelain is represented in abundance. It ranges in value from fine Chinese porcelain to inexpensive American-made kitchen wares. The collection of glass includes common bottle types of the period as well as fine stem wares and other drinking vessels. Hardware, table utensils, and buttons are among the metal items salvaged; and bone implements include knife or fork handles, combs, and even toothbrushes.

Artifacts from other areas at the site complement the above collection and, while not as extensive, are equally as valuable in illustrating the household equipment of the period.

The material unearthed at the Bishop White House would prove invaluable in a refurnishing program and, in fact, constitutes a strong reason in itself for recommendation that the house be rehabilitated and refurnished as a historic house museum.

It is rare to recover such a large and fine collection which can be definitely attributed to an historic personage. The relics, from toothbrush and razor to porcelain pitcher and earthen flower pot,
can impart an authenticity to the restoration which just cannot be obtained in any other way. Whether used themselves (although few pieces are complete), carefully copied, or replaced by the purchase of exact duplicates, the Bishop's belongings will enable the visitor to identify himself with the era of 150 years ago and to see that distant past as peoples by persons much like himself. The Bishop's social position and his obvious good taste combined to leave us a picture, in this case an exceptionally complete one, of the articles of daily living among the leaders of the period from the age of the Confederation to the age of Jackson.

The artifacts from the site will be especially valuable in refurnishing the kitchen and dining room, although some will provide valuable information in other parts of the house as well.
The only other archeological report relating to the project is titled *Archeological Field Notes, Archeological Project, Bishop White House Basement - 309 Walnut Street, Independence National Historical Park* by Paul J. F. Schumacher, Archeologist, October 12, 1956.
FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDED

No further archeological excavation is required at the Bishop White House site.

An intensive and detailed study of the artifact collection is necessary, however, and should be completed well in advance of any refurnishing plan. The size of this collection, its amazing variety, the excellent provenience data available, and the historic interest of its former owner combine to make this one of the more important archeological collections of historic material presently available.

Its study will not only promote an understanding of this site and past life in this Park, but will also be valuable in other areas for comparative study.
CHAPTER V

FURNISHINGS AND EXHIBITION DATA

Prepared by Museum Curator James M. Mulcahy
EXTENT OF HISTORIC FURNISHINGS IN THE HOUSE

There are no historic furnishings now in the Bishop White House.

For a listing of extant furnishings in private hands believed to have been in use in the house during Bishop White's lifetime, see pages 8 and 9, Section 3, of Chapter II of this report.
Information on furnishings during Bishop White's lifetime is limited principally to two rooms. One, fortunately, is the Bishop's study and the other is his dining room, where he entertained many distinguished guests, including George Washington. Fragmentary information is also available on the Bishop's bedroom and kitchen.

The Bishop's study is pictured in detail in an oil painting by John Sartain, probably painted about the time of White's death in 1836 (See Chapter II, Illustration No. 1). This painting gives an unusually precise picture of the furnishings of the room and their arrangement. Sartain's painting also shows part of the Bishop's bedroom.

The dining room and kitchen furnishings are less fully documented. Archaeological investigation has, however, given us a fairly complete picture of the sort of glass and china used by the White household, and a few pieces of furniture and silver are still owned by descendants.

Before a furnishings plan can be prepared, further research will be necessary to establish, if possible, more complete inventories of furnishings in the house during Bishop White's lifetime and of furnishings still extant.

Every effort should be made to secure by gift, loan or purchase as many as possible of the original furnishings. In the event
that some of these original pieces will not be made available for use by the National Park Service, careful study should be given to the manner of treating rooms where important original pieces may be missing. Recommendations for a variety of such treatments should be made in the refurnishing plan.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the purpose of exhibiting the Bishop White House be to demonstrate the way an upper middle class family lived in Philadelphia during the historic period commemorated by Independence National Historical Park.

To achieve this purpose it is recommended that the house and grounds be restored and refurnished as completely as the extensive historical, architectural, archeological data will permit. Modern intrusions (electric outlets, water spigots, thermostats, protective devices, air conditioning, heating and humidifying machinery, etc.) should be kept to a minimum and concealed. Where possible such intrusions should be located in nearby non-historic buildings.

Maintenance of the house, furnishings and grounds should be so arranged as to provide an opportunity to demonstrate 18th-century housekeeping techniques. Additional demonstrations might include bread-baking, flower arrangements, candlemaking and some phases of gardening.

An effort should be made to reach the visitor not through sight alone, but through all his senses, to have the smells of cooking,
of candles, of woodfires, etc. pervade the house. On occasion recitals of 18th century music might be given on 18th century instruments. A newspaper of the proper day, but of 18th century origin, might be displayed. In short, the effort should be to aim for total recall of the past of this old house, in order that the visitor may be helped as much as possible to experience, however vicariously, the 18th century life which formed a background for the great events the Park was established to commemorate.

No additional information relating to the furniture has been acquired since the preparation of Part I of this report. It is planned to consider the refurnishing of Bishop White House in the same category as exhibits to a Visitor Center and pay for it as part of the restoration of the building.

The archeological remains in the present basement of the Bishop White House do not lend themselves to an exhibit in place since (a) only a small portion of these remains were in the original basement, (b) most of this archeological material is not of the period of the Bishop's occupancy of the house. It is, therefore, recommended that the archeological remains in the present basement be preserved but not exhibited as such.

These recommendations generally agree with the Interpretive Section of the Development Outline, in part with the Interpretive Prospectus and with the Regional Director's memorandum of February 24,
1958 (D6215): Transmitting the Interpretive Prospectus to the Washington office. It is recognized, however, that some adjustments of the Mission 66, Staffing Schedule will be necessary, and it is recommended that the preparation of refurnishing plans maintainence plans and interpretive literature be scheduled.
PROPOSED FINANCING
OF REFURNISHINGS

No funds have yet been programmed for refurnishing the Bishop
White House or for setting up a branch museum.