HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT - PART II (PORTION)
ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION ON
INDEPENDENCE HALL

SUPREME COURT ROOM CEILING, ENTABLATURE & WALL
PANELING FOR THE NORTH, SOUTH AND EAST WALLS

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Washington Planning and Service Center
Division of History Studies

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Prepared by
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Architect
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for

ON MICROFILM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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APPROVAL SHEET

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ARCHITECTURAL EVIDENCE DRAWINGS: NHP-IND 3425, 21 Sheets
INTRODUCTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Scope of Report: It was our original intention to study the entire courtroom and present a proposal for complete restoration including the various built-in courtroom fixtures. The research for this project was begun some years ago. The goal has not been realized partly because of intervening projects and staffing fluctuations, but primarily because certain phases were found to be so complex that it was finally deemed more expedient to divide the research into smaller units to prevent a hiatus in the restoration program.

Therefore this report does not include the west wall or any woodwork below the chair rail level or any courtroom fixtures, because they are inextricably related. Such a division of research in a single room is risky at best because the understanding of any one feature is often dependent upon the total accumulation of physical evidence. We have endeavored to cope with this fragmentation, but mistakes are the inevitable result. The design of the entablature is a case in point, as will be seen in the accompanying drawings.

Fortunately, there is a considerable amount of surviving original woodwork. The photographs in this report are not intended to provide complete coverage of the woodwork. To do so would be cumbersome and repetitious. Instead, they have been selected to focus on features that have been altered or are entirely missing; and to visually supplement the more detailed and comprehensive architectural evidence drawings.
It should be noted that the Historic Structures photo files have been transferred to the Washington Service Center, but most of the illustrations still bear the earlier EODC numbers. Those pictures with INHP numbers are filed at the park.

Acknowledgements: As early as 1959, Architect Penelope Hartshorne (then attached to the INHP maintenance division) prepared an "Architectural Analysis of the Supreme Court Room." That report not only summarized the then current documentary and physical knowledge of the room, but outlined those areas that would require additional research. The present report is only an extension of the excellent groundwork already laid by Miss Hartshorne, whose past and present contributions are reflected in every facet of the architectural research program.

Much credit is also due former staff architect John D. Milner who assisted in the preparation of evidence drawings and the study of missing features.

The documentary references in this report are largely drawn from the ever-growing INHP history files. These files have made it possible to pinpoint certain alterations that would otherwise remain unknown or only vaguely understood. We also extend our appreciation to the INHP Superintendent and staff for typing and mimeographing the text of this report.

Recommendations: We recommend a first-phase restoration of the courtroom, that is, reconstruction of the entablature, repairs to
the paneling, new window sash and beaded window-frame cover boards, and extension of the cut-off window architraves and paneled window jambs. Based on more recent analysis, a restoration drawing of the original entablature is shown on NHP-IND 3425, sheet 25, this report. However, a modification of this entablature to accommodate the previously installed atmospheric control ductwork is shown and explained on sheet 26, also included in this report.

The first phase restoration could also include rough wiring for electrical and mechanical control devices. Locations for "period" lighting devices are included in a separate report to be issued in the near future.

We further recommend that restoration of the ceiling be deferred until research is completed on the west wall paneling and entablature, the latter being different from the entablature on the other three walls.

Although the original paint color is known (see Appendix "D"), the colors of the historic period may be different because of internal alterations involving the courtroom fixtures which are yet to be determined. Therefore we recommend that final painting of the woodwork also be deferred until that phase of the research is completed.
THE BASIC STRUCTURE

Fortunately the first floor layout has never been altered in size, room arrangement or basic structure. Because this layout is symmetrical about the Central Hall, the Supreme Court Room is dimensionally and structurally similar to the Assembly Room. The courtroom measures about 39'-7" from east to west and about 40'-9" from north to south. For discussion purposes, it may be considered as a room about 40 feet square with a ceiling height of about 20 feet. Like the Assembly Room, this generous room was originally designed as a structurally unencumbered space, that is, without any interior supports.

The courtroom differed from the Assembly Room in that, 1) it had window openings on the end wall, 2) it was built without any fireplaces on the end wall, and 3) access from the hallway was by three arched openings instead of a single opening with doors. In addition to these basic differences in plan and arrangement, the courtroom was fully paneled on all four walls in the Doric Order, whereas the Assembly Room was fully paneled on one wall in the Ionic Order; and the courtroom ceiling was flat instead of coved.

The basic structure consists of brick masonry walls and a ceiling of framed girders, beams and joists. Except for minor alterations and repairs, the brick walls are practically intact and in generally good condition. The exterior walls (north, south and west) are
22" to 23" thick. The brick partition wall between the hallway and courtroom is 17" to 18" thick. It has three arched openings each about 7'-0" wide, and the piers between the arches are about 3'-0" wide. Because this wall intersects the exterior walls at "false" window openings, its only tie to the outside walls is above and below the "false" windows. This awkward connection is accomplished with half arches. With three full archways and two half-arches, the brick partition is really an arcaded curtain wall, although it provides the same structural support for the ceiling framing as do the exterior walls. Both half-arches have been partially "chased" for modern utilities such as sprinkler pipes and heating ducts.

The north and south walls originally had four window openings including the "false" windows which straddled the hallway and courtroom. These so-called "false" windows were the result of an exterior window spacing that did not relate to the interior room layout. The window openings measure about 6 feet by 10 feet, but the brick jambs are splayed so that the inner openings are about 7 feet wide. The south wall "false" window was filled with brick during construction of the tower in the 1750's. Otherwise the window openings survive unaltered, with wooden lintels and brick relieving arches over each window. These arches consist of a single row of headers with brick in-filling between the arches and wooden lintels.
The west wall originally had an exterior doorway and two window openings. The doorway probably served as a private entrance for the judges and provided direct access to the "bench," thus requiring a high set of exterior steps. The west doorway was undoubtedly altered and filled with brick in the early nineteenth century, perhaps during construction of the "fireproof" wings designed by Robert Mills. In 1897-98 the doorway was reopened and substantially rebuilt, thus obliterating the evidence of its original location. The two west wall window openings are smaller (about 5 by 9 feet) than those on the north and south walls. The reduction in size was necessitated by the judges' bench. These two windows were also sealed off in the nineteenth century but were reopened in 1897-98 without any damage to the original masonry. Two flues were "chased" in the west wall in the mid-nineteenth century to accommodate central heating apparatus installed in the cellar. The flues have since been filled in, one in 1898 and the other in 1962.

All the courtroom window frames are original and have survived intact except that the original pulleys (for the lower sash) have been removed and double sets of pulleys installed so that both sash are operable. The window frames were prefabricated of eastern red-cedar (Juniperus virginiana) and are in excellent condition despite two centuries in a vulnerable location. The window frame heads and sills were made extra long to project into the masonry. Since the masonry around the window openings is original and undisturbed,
it is evident that the frames were prefabricated, set in place, and encased in the brick walls during the original construction, thus becoming an integral part of the basic structure.

The Supreme Court Room ceiling structure is original and nearly complete with its unusual "hand-in-hand" arrangement of oak girders, beams and joists, all framed with mortise and tenon joints (see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 22). The only missing part is the center east-west member (a 3x12 laid flat) which was dovetailed into the two north-south girders. The ceiling structure also retains the header framing which resisted the thrust of the masonry "trimmer" arches that supported the two fireplace hearths on the west wall of the second floor. These arches were probably removed in the nineteenth century, but vestiges remain and will be discussed more fully in a report on the west wall.

The "hand-in-hand" arrangement of wooden girders was employed in both the Assembly Room and Supreme Court Room. The size of these two rooms, unencumbered with interior supports, posed a structural problem beyond the limits of conventional framing. Although the builders, Edmund Wooley and Ebenezer Tomlinson, were master carpenters, it is doubtful that their construction experience had encompassed work of this magnitude. Nor is it likely that timbers were available for a forty foot clear span.3

Possibly for the latter reason, the builders devised a system with
four timber girders arranged so that no single girder spans more
than two thirds the width of the room with each girder interlocked
at third points with other girders at right angles, thus forming
the "hand-in-hand" design, mentioned earlier (see sketch plan of.
framing system). The girders measure about 11 by 11 inches, and
are supplemented with a secondary system of wooden beams (also about 11
by 11 inches). The resulting "bays" were filled with joists (about
2 by 11 inches), all of which run in a north-south direction. All
the various members are framed with mortise and tenons, although the
main girder joints were reinforced with iron splice plates let into
each side of a girder and secured with iron pins and wedges. Subtle
variations in the mortise and tenon details are probably a reflection
of the individual techniques used by the various workmen (see sketch
of typical framing connections).

It should be noted that the entire ceiling framing system was pre-
fabricated on the ground, with the joints pre-matched with carved-in
letters or numbers to facilitate the assembly when the masonry had
reached the proper level. However, the "hand-in hand" framing was
laid out in such a way that several of the girders would occur over
windows or passageways. The builders anticipated this and installed
timber grillage beams to distribute the load across those particular
openings.

The origins of this framing are not known, but contemporary builders'
BASIC STRUCTURE - FIRST FLOOR WALLS & CEILING FRAMING
INDEPENDENCE HALL
"A floor by S. [Sebastiano] Serlio." Originally published in 1537 and included in Battie, Langley, Ancient Maximy, London, 1735. This framing plan is similar in concept to the house in the pond arrangement of columns used for the ceiling framing of the Assembly room and Supreme Court room. It is believed here as a possible prototype because we have no evidence of such a system having been used in the colonies prior to the Pennsylvania State House. Sketch is from Langley, plate cccLxxii.

It is conceivable that the State House ceiling structure may have been the precedent for framing a ceiling in Benjamin Franklin's town house, erected 1734-6. A sketch among the Franklin papers (in Philosophical Soc.) shows the framing that might have been used in the house which was about 19's. It is penciled on the margin of a letter addressed to Franklin in 1782. The letter may have provided a convenient source for a later day explanation of his house built some 20 years earlier. This tenuous link is included here because we know of no other possible use or reference to this type of framing in the 18th century.

The original trussed partitions over the Assembly room and Supreme Court room have not survived and the evidence is not sufficient to establish their details. However, trussed partitions were not uncommon in the 18th century and were frequently illustrated in building treatises. The two shown here were typical of the period. The first from Battie Langley (1754) plate cccLxxiii is rather conventional. The 2nd from the Carpenter's Co.'s Rule Book (1786) is perhaps more like that used in the State House, in that a doorway was part of the truss.
TYPICAL GIRDEN TO GIRDEN CONNECTIONS

Two - 3/4 x 3 3/4 x 2'-10 1/2" from top of beam. Let into sides at all girden to girden connections. Use 3 1/2" common nails. Insert wood plugs, fill all holes.

TYPICAL JOIST TO GIRDER CONNECTIONS

Note: All joists have double tenons except at girder to girder connections (see above).

JOIST TO HEADER CONNECTIONS AT SECOND FLOOR FIREPLACE HEARTH

Details of typical supreme court room ceiling framing construction mortise and tenon details
Scale 1/2" = 1'-0"

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treatises suggest that similar systems had been in use since the sixteenth century, if not earlier, although we know of no earlier example in colonial building construction.

Considering the 40-foot span, even continuous girders would have been subject to excessive deflection, but the "hand-in-hand" system is more critical in deflection because it is dependent upon mortise and tenon joints to create the effect of continuous girders. It appears that the original builders were cognizant of this problem and attempted its solution by suspending the ceiling framing from wall trusses which were concealed in the longitudinal partition walls of the second floor.

Physical evidence consisting of beveled "seats" at the ends of the center ceiling beams suggests the use of queen-post wall trusses, probably similar to those shown in eighteenth century builders' treatises, and supplemented at third points with wrought-iron tension bars to support the ceiling framing. Fragments of these iron bars have survived (See Illustration No. 9).

While the evidence establishes the existence of the wall trusses over the Assembly Room and Supreme Court Room, the details remain vague and we do not know the extent to which the trusses also helped support the attic floor framing. The earliest known mention of the wall truss was by architect John Haviland in 1829. Haviland was
requested to prepare a plan and estimate to create one large room above the courtroom. He found it "indispensably necessary to take away the present trussed partition immediately over [the courtroom] which is suspended from the roof and supports the floor..." The truss was removed (in 1830) and replaced with four cast-iron columns in the Supreme Court Room. These columns (which survived until the 1897-98 "restoration") were placed under the intersections of the four main ceiling girders (see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 22). New wall trusses were installed in 1897-98 and the iron columns were removed at that time. Over the years the ceiling framing had developed an alarming deflection, about 8", which was merely stabilized rather than corrected in 1897-98. During the 1962 structural rehabilitation, the 1898 wall trusses were removed, the ceilings lifted to their approximate original levels, and were strengthened by the addition of steel beams. In addition, steel plate girders now occupy the function and position of the original second floor wall trusses.
PLASTER CEILING

Background: Documentary and physical evidence leaves no doubt that the first floor finish woodwork was in place and prime-painted prior to plastering. This sequence was clearly demonstrated in the Assembly Room (see Historic Structures Report, Part II, on The Assembly Room, prepared in July, 1964). Even the Central Hall ceiling was not plastered until the room received its final embellishment in the 1750's.

Since the Supreme Court Room walls were entirely paneled, plasterwork was limited to the ceiling. It appears that the woodwork in the Assembly Room and Supreme Court Room had been in place for possibly a year or more before either room was plastered.

As early as 1738, Andrew Hamilton had attempted to procure skilled plasterers from London but it appears that he was not successful. It is quite likely that he envisioned ornamental plasterwork, probably for the Assembly Room where plaster comprised the bulk of the wall and ceiling surfaces. Since the entire first floor plastering was delayed, it is possible that Hamilton also planned ornamental plastering for the Supreme Court Room ceiling.

In August of 1741, the House appointed a committee "to enquire into the Reasons of the present Delay in finishing the State-house..." The committee reported that they had:
discoursed with the Manager of the said Building [presumably Hamilton]... who informed them, that he had met with several Disappointments by Workmen; that the Carpenters Work however was now finished; that the Sashes were made, and the Class ready to put in;...that as to the Plaistering, notwithstanding the Pains he had taken for that Purpose, he had not been able to procure a Workman capable of doing it, as, in his Opinion, it ought to be done, tho' he had now Hopes of getting such a One by next Spring; but if the House would be content with such Work as is commonly done here, he would have it speedily performed; and likewise would have the lower Rooms immediately glazed, if the House should think fit to direct it...

Following this report the committee recommended that the Assembly Room be plastered by the next meeting of the Assembly, except for the ceiling and "upper work to be finished as soon as a Workman can be got." No mention was made of the Supreme Court Room. The House was understandably more concerned with completion of its own chamber since it had been meeting in temporary quarters during much of the draw-out construction period. Unfortunately Hamilton died several weeks after the above mentioned committee made its recommendations, and it is not known whether the plastering was accomplished prior to or subsequent to Hamilton's death. The ensuing audit and settlement of his accounts, coupled with other demands upon the attention and resources of the province—all appear to have effectively delayed prosecution of this ambitious project.
Supreme Court Room
Ceiling

In 1742, Hamilton's successors were charged with completing the building "with all convenient Expedition," but among the unfinished business there was no specific reference to the status of plastering. Some phases of work in the courtroom obviously lingered on for at least another year. In May of 1743, the superintendents were ordered to "proceed to finish the Room at the West End, as soon as conveniently may be." The House then adjourned until June, at which time the matter was again taken up as follows:

A Plan for the Finishing the Court-room of the State-house, and the Piazza's between the Chief Building and the Offices, was laid before the House, and approved of; and the Superintendents of the Building were directed to go on to finish the same accordingly, with all convenient Expedition.

Thus in June of 1743 the courtroom remained unfinished, but to what extent? Perhaps the ceiling had already been plastered, and the "Plan" was necessary to complete the installation of courtroom fixtures, i.e., the judges' bench, the jury box (or boxes), a gallery, the bar, etc. Unfortunately the documents do not clarify the scope of any work required to finish the courtroom, and we can only assume that the plastering was carried out sometime in the early 1740's. The degree of plaster ornamentation (if any) is equally vague - whether it reflected Hamilton's desire for plastering "as it ought to be done," or was merely performed "as is commonly done here."

Fortunately, nearly all of the girders, beams and joists of the
Supreme Court Room

Ceiling

original ceiling have survived despite numerous architectural and structural changes on the second floor. This survival is significant because the ceiling framing contains evidence of the original and all subsequent plaster ceilings, together with evidence as to the projection of the original cornice. In fact there is evidence to show that the Supreme Court Room has had three distinct plaster ceilings which are described below.

Plaster Fireproofing: First, it should be mentioned that the original finished plaster ceiling was preceded by a plastering between the girders and joists. For that prior plastering, lathing was nailed directly to the bottom surface of the original second floor flooring boards. In other words, the bottom surface of the flooring was plastered between the ceiling girders and joists (see sketch of under-floor plastering). Traces of the plaster have survived along the top edges of the ceiling framing members (see Illustration Nos. 11-12). Plastering between the ceiling joists was not unique to the Supreme Court Room, for the Assembly Room and Central Hall were similarly plastered in advance of the normal plastering under the ceiling joists. Nor was this practice unique to the State House for it has been observed in other eighteenth century Philadelphia buildings. Apparently, it was an attempt at fireproofing, and as such was used by Benjamín Franklin in the construction of his 1736-7 "tenant houses" on Market Street.
SECOND FLOOR
plaster now missing but stains remain on just sides and on under sides of original flooring INHP Acc. 2016.
the function of the plastering under the floor boards was apparently an attempt at fireproofing.

Surviving c.1740 scabs

Surviving c.1740 lath furring strips, or c.1816 new strips preserving stains of original plaster under them.

A second ceiling installed c.1816 utilized original scabs and mostly new lath furring strips.

SUPREME COURT ROOM

COMPOSITE DRAWING SHOWING UNDER-FLOOR PLASTERING AND METHODS OF FURRING OR LEVELING ORIGINAL C.1740 PLASTER CEILING

1898 - 1962 Ceiling furred down to cover maximum gap of original joists.

LHN - PH July 1966
Since the State House plastering under the floors predates Franklin's own use by a half-century, we are inclined to believe that it was fireproofing practice of long standing rather than another of Franklin's many inventions. If it was intended as fireproofing, it seems strange that it did not encompass the area above the cornice. In other words, it appears that the lathing and plastering were done after the woodwork was installed, thus making the area above the cornice inaccessible to the lathers. Once the cornice ignited, a fire could communicate directly to the second floor, thus defeating t' purpose of the fireproofing. Photographs taken in 1896 show remnants of this fireproofing over the Assembly Room and Supreme Court Room. In fact, most of it probably survived until the original flooring was removed throughout the second floor in the 1920's. The only remaining vestiges of this interesting practice are 1) the plaster marks along the top edges of the original joists, and 2) the lath and plaster marks on the bottom surface of original floor boards that were salvaged in the 1920's and relaid (out of context) in the southwest room of the second floor.

Evidence of Original Ceiling: The extent or limits of the original finish plaster ceiling is established by lath and plaster marks discernible on the bottom surfaces of the original ceiling joists and beams (see Illustration Nos. 10-13). The lath and plaster marks can be related to the original hand-wrought lath nails, a few of which have also survived. Because of irregularities in the level of
the original ceiling framing, the original plasterers occasionally added lath furring strips to the joists to compensate for variations in joist depths, warping, etc. Where substantial discrepancies existed, the plasterers nailed furring scabs to the sides of some ceiling joists, particularly along the south side of the room where the ceiling was generally furred down several inches. The scabs are secured to the sides of the joists with large rose-headed wrought nails. Where such furring devices were used, the lath and plaster marks occur on the lower surface of the scabs or furring lath, rather than bottom surface of the joists (see sketch showing methods of furring or leveling ceiling).

In most instances, the above described physical evidence is precise within very close tolerances, and establishes the juncture of the plaster ceiling with the cornice crown molding. Even though the original cornice was removed in the 1890's, the cornice projection can be calculated from the plaster evidence (see NHP-IND 3425, sheets 23-24, this report).

Unfortunately there is no direct evidence to indicate whether the original ceiling was ornamented in any way. In the nineteenth century there was a circular ceiling medallion at the center of the room, but it undoubtedly dated from the replastering of ca. 1816. Except for photographs, we wouldn't know of this medallion, for there is no physical evidence to suggest its existence. Therefore
it is possible that a similar feature also existed in the eighteenth century. Lacking any evidence such an assumption would have to be based on the theory that the later medallion perpetuated the concept, or that the expanse of plastered ceiling (contrasted with the highly articulated walls) warranted an ornamental medallion.

Nor is there any evidence for a chandelier or lighting fixture that might have hung from the center of the ceiling. In the Assembly Room, a wrought-iron U-strap hanger, which undoubtedly supported a chandelier, was attached to the ceiling framing. The equivalent portion of framing over the Courtroom was removed sometime after 1896, so that the evidence of a similar hanger, if any, is no longer available for examination. Therefore, lacking any physical or documentary evidence for an ornamental ceiling, medallion or chandelier, we do not recommend their inclusion in the proposed restoration.

Evidence of the Second Ceiling - 1816: In the early nineteenth century, the original lath and plaster were removed and the ceiling was relathed and replastered. A combination of physical and documentary evidence indicates that this work was accomplished during the spring and summer of 1816, and that it was a general replastering of the first floor hallway, courtroom and Assembly Room.

It appears that the well-known plasterer William Thackara, Jr. was responsible for this work, for on 20 September 1816, an unidentified
plasterer charged $31.20 to measure "the plastering, etc. done to State House by Wm. Thackara Jr." The extent of Thackara's work is suggested by the fact that the charges to measure (or determine the value of) plasterwork in a new house ranged from $2.00 to $12.00. For a substantial building like the circular-domed Sansom Street Baptist Church, the measuring costs were $23.86. The same unidentified plasterer furnished the pre-cast decorative elements for an ornamental plaster ceiling in the "Vestibule," or Central Hall, which Thackara probably installed.\footnote{15}{While this documentation definitely establishes the fact that the Central Hall ceiling was replastered in 1816, it does not prove that the Assembly Room and Supreme Court Room were also replastered. The size of the measurer's bill certainly suggests that such was the case, but it is the physical evidence that corroborates this assumption.}

When the original lath was ripped off, a few of the hand-wrought lath nails remained in the bottom surface of the ceiling joists. These left-over nails were simply hammered into the joists to prevent their obstructing the new work. The entire ceiling was then re-lathed utilizing some of the original furring scabs and lath furring strips. In most instances, however, new hand-riven furring lath were installed to eliminate unevenness and irregularities in the old ceiling framing. All new lath was secured with the same type of early machine-cut lath nail that was used in the 1816 Central
Hall ceiling which survives, largely in situ. These lath nails represent a transitional phase in the technological development of nail manufacturing. Generally speaking, machinery for cutting small nails, e.g. lath nails, was improved earlier than that for large nails. Based upon a collection of dateable specimens, nails of this type were made from ca. 1810-1820. Earlier cut lath nails were cut with hand-operated shears, and the heads were upset by hand in nail-heading tools. This type of nail was used in the 1793 addition to Congress Hall. The lath nails from the Supreme Court Room are among the early attempts at a completely machine-cut nail. They are quite irregular in length (1-1/8"-1 1/2"), with crude heads that are generally imperfect or eccentric to the shank. Most of the nails have their shear marks on opposite sides of the shank, typical of early nails, but a few have their shear marks on common sides, an indication that slightly improved nails were already available in this transitional period. To facilitate future research and identification, the characteristics of these nails are included in this report (see Appendix "B"). It should be pointed out that the 1816 ceiling was merely a replacement and was not related to any changes to the cornice or upper woodwork. The 1816 plaster abutted the original cornice at the original level, and survived in that relationship until 1898.  

During the nineteenth century, other changes occurred that affected the courtroom ceiling. In March of 1829, the "committee on the
State House were requested to enquire into the expediency of altering the 2nd floor of the State House for the accommodation of Councils..."17 Apparently the architect, John Haviland, was invited to examine the west end of the second floor with a view to converting it to one large room. Haviland submitted a brief report together with an estimate and drawings. He stated that

it is indispensably necessary to take away the present trussed partition immediately over the Mayors Court which is suspended from the roof and supports the floor, to enable me to do this I have introduced two cast iron columns...resting on a solid foundation of masonry...18

In other words, Haviland proposed removal of the original second floor wall truss which furnished support for the courtroom ceiling, and replacing that truss with two iron columns in the courtroom and masonry piers in the cellar. On 24 December 1829, the Councils resolved to have "the upper rooms of the State House altered agreeably to a plan of Mr. J. Haviland..."19 By February of 1830, the work was reported to be "considerably advanced."20 It appears that sometime after Haviland's proposal but before execution of the work, he decided to use four instead of two columns. He probably discovered that the arrangement of ceiling girders was better suited to the use of four columns. At any rate, later photographs show four columns and the physical evidence suggests that Haviland did not even attempt the use of two columns.

At each column location, the 1816 plaster and lath was carefully
chiseled away to provide direct contact between the wooden ceiling girders and iron columns. The chisel marks clearly define the existence and location of the columns. It is also evident that "drift pins" were used in lieu of bolts to keep the columns in position (See Illustration No. 14). These columns remained in place until the late 1890's. 21

Evidence of the Third Ceiling - 1898: Photographs taken in 1896 show that the courtroom ceiling framing had developed an alarming amount of deflection (see INHP Negative Nos. CN-18460 and CN-18460-C). Although the motivation and reasoning are not known to us, the 1897-98 restorationists apparently decided to merely stabilize the ceiling rather than attempt to raise it back to its original level. Apparently they also felt that the sagging ceiling would be unsightly and that the plane of the ceiling should be lowered to be level with the bottom of the sag (approximately 8 inches). Whatever the reasoning, it resulted in the complete removal of the 1816 plaster and lath, together with all projecting members of the original entablature including the cornice, frieze, architrave, and pilaster capitals. This extremely regrettable act appears to have been done so that the ceiling could be lowered. The sagging ceiling beams were reinforced with steel channels and a new wall truss was constructed on the second floor which made it possible to remove the cast-iron columns installed by Haviland in 1830.
Supreme Court Room
Ceiling

To lower the plane of the ceiling, furring scabs were nailed to the sides of the original joists and beams. Plaster "grounds" were installed around the perimeter of the ceiling. A completely new entablature was built, different in design and compressed in scale, to be compatible with the lowered ceiling. A circular ornamental ceiling medallion was constructed of wood and installed at the center of the ceiling. The room, of course, was newly lathed and plastered, using circular sawn lath.

The above described changes survived until the 1961-62 structural rehabilitation when the lath and plaster were removed. Other aspects of the 1897-98 "restoration" have been subsequently removed as a part of the architectural investigation. Identification of the 1897-98 work is relatively simple because it utilized modern machinery and wire nails. During the recent structural rehabilitation, the original ceiling framing was raised so that the ceiling can be restored to its approximate original level.
SUPREME COURT ROOM ENTABLATURE
WITH TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS REPORT

JOIST
PLASTER

CROWN

CORONA

OVOLO

PENTIL

CYMA REVERSA

TRIGLYPH & METOPE CAPITAL

TRIGLYPH & METOPE

TAENIA

GUTTAE

ARCHITRAVE: UPPER FASCIA

ARCHITRAVE: LOWER FASCIA

FILLIST

CYMA REVERSA

ABACUS

OVOLO

ANNULETS

FRIEZE

ASTROGAL

LISTEL

CAVETTO

PILASTER SHAFT

FACE OF PANELING

WEYL 6/66
ENTABLATURE ON NORTH, SOUTH AND EAST WALLS

The original courtroom entablature seems to have survived intact until the extensive "restoration" of 1897-98. This assumption is based upon the fact that a number of pieces from the entablature were reused as furring scabs when the ceiling was lowered in 1898. Though taken out of context and sawn-up for reuse, the originality of these pieces is proven by a convincing array of evidence: 1) the paint layering of these salvaged pieces matches that of known original woodwork which has survived in situ, 2) when the 1898 carpenters reused these pieces as concealed scabs, they merely bent-over the earlier nails so that some of the pieces still retain their original hand-wrought T-headed finish nails, 3) other pieces though cut-up or broken, can be identified by their size, configuration or construction, and 4) the precise original locations of some pieces have been established by matching them with the nails and/or nail holes in the original paneling. That the original entablature on these three walls remained unaltered until 1898 is further evidenced by the fact that there is only one set of hand-wrought nails (or holes) where parts of the entablature were secured to the paneling. Many of those nails survive in position because they did not interfere with the more deeply projecting entablature of 1898.
Design of Original Entablature: While there are no known early views of the courtroom, there are several photographs dating from the Centennial era (ca. 1873-76). Having established that the original entablature survived until 1897-98, these photographs are the only means of determining the design of missing parts of the entablature.

The photographs leave no doubt about the general Doric design of the entablature, but they also reveal an important deviation from the conventional Doric Order. Actually the Doric architrave and frieze were surmounted by a denticulated Ionic cornice. This combination of elements is similar to a Roman entablature illustrated by Batty Langley (see drawing, next page). The proportions and details, however, do not seem to have been directly derived from any known architectural or builders' treatises published before the 1740's.22

Without the old photographs mentioned above, the configuration and proportions of the cornice would be mostly conjectural, but when this graphic evidence is combined with the physical evidence, the entire entablature can be reconstructed with confidence (see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 25, this report).

In addition to the old photographs and salvaged woodwork, some of the evidence for reconstructing the entablature is contained in the original paneling system which survives on the north, south
This is the only known entablature that combines the general Doric architrave and frieze with a denticulated Ionic cornice, similar to that originally used in the court room. However, the proportions are quite different from those actually used.

It is included in a collection of 18 "Geometrical Elevations of the Doric Entablature, Capital & Base" according to the "Parts of Various Ancient and "Modern" Sources," from Plate XXII, "Batty Langley: Practical Geometry Applied to the Useful Arts of Building, Surveying, Gardening, and Ornament," London, 1726.

Source: University of Pennsylvania Fine Arts Library, A744/L 257.
and east walls. The stiles and rails of this system provided the
basic nailing surface for several parts of the entablature. The
evidence for each of the various entablature components is
described below. The terminology is explained on the accompanying
sketch.

Architrave (general comments): From the old photographs and
physical evidence, the original architrave was divided into two
separate parts—a lower fascia and upper fascia. The transition
was accomplished with a bead which was part of the upper archi-
trave. The entire architrave was obviously "planted" on the
paneling, as the paneling has never been painted in that area
occupied by the architrave.

Architrave-Lower Fascia: No pieces have survived. The bottom
dge is established by the fact that the painted surface of the
paneling stops at the lower fascia. It is also evident that
the lower fascia merely abutted the upper fascia. At this butt
joint, paint ran into the crack thus leaving a thin paint trace
on the surface of the paneling system. The paint trace
establishes the vertical dimension of the lower fascia (3-1/2"
). The thickness of the lower fascia (1/4"") is based on the
projection of surviving hand-wrought L-headed finish nails
which originally secured it to the face of the paneling. A
number of these nails remained in the paneling when the
architrave was ripped off in 1898.
Architrave-Upper Fascia: No pieces have survived. The lower edge is based on the paint trace, as described above. The thickness of the upper fascia (1/2") is similarly based on the projection of surviving wrought finish nails. The upper fascia extended up to the metopes and triglyphs and thus spanned an open space between rails. The construction necessitated this extension of the upper fascia to provide a nailing surface for the guttae and taenia (see sketch of entablature). The upper fascia was beaded along the bottom edge. The width of the bead is not known, but it has been based on a number of original beads in the courtroom, all of which are approximately one-half inch wide.

Guttae: No pieces have survived. The guttae configuration and internal proportions are based on surviving original Central Hall woodwork, and their vertical dimension has been calculated from an enlargement of Illustration No. 1.

Taenia (or Triglyph Base): No pieces have survived. Since the top of the taenia abuts the known triglyphs and metopes, the position of the taenia is fixed. In the old photographs, the taenia vertical dimension appears to equal that of the known metope capital (1-9/16"). As shown in the early builders' handbooks, the relative heights of the taenia and metope capitals are slightly variable, though they are sometimes equal to each other as shown on Plate VIII of Gibbs, Rules for Drawing the Several Parts of Architecture. On the basis of the
old photographs, we have assumed that the taenia is the same height as the metope capital, rather than arbitrarily selecting one of other possible relationships. The taenia projection (7/8") is based on calculations (see Appendix "A") by comparing it with the known thickness of the metope capital. The taenia was necessarily planted on the upper fascia of the architrave, because of the void between rails of the paneling system.

Metope: Except in the east corners, all the original metopes have survived on the north, south and east walls. The metopes are simply painted areas on the face of the paneling system. Since they have a complete paint layering from the 1740's to the 1890's, their original position and size are clearly established. Fortunately the 1898 metopes were furred away from the paneling, so that evidence of the original metopes was not obliterated or confused.

Triglyph: A quantity of triglyphs can be seen in an old photograph (Illustration No. 4) after their removal in 1897. Like most other parts of the original entablature, they were apparently destroyed as a result of the "restoration." However, two fragments of the original triglyphs have survived (because they were reused as concealed scabs), so that the height, projection and configurations are known (see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 17, this report). These fragments show that the "V"-shaped flutes were cut the full length of the
triglyph, with a wooden piece used to fill the upper end of the flute. This method is similar to that used for terminating the half-round fluting of the original Doric pilasters.

Metope and Triglyph Capitals: When metope capitals "break" around the triglyphs, they technically become triglyph capitals, but they are otherwise identical in height and projection. A nearly complete fragment of an original metope capital survived the 1898 "restoration" and therefore establishes the projection (5/16") of the metope and triglyph capitals. The exact location and vertical dimension (1-9/16") of these capitals are also known because of paint and dirt outlines above the original metopes and surviving triglyph fragments. The metope capitals were nailed to the surface of the paneling system immediately above each metope. The triglyph capitals were nailed directly to the face and sides of each triglyph. Hand-wrought finish nails have survived from the original application of each type of capital.

Cornice: The original "Ionic Dentel-Cornice", visible in photographs dating from the 1870's, was made up of six distinct elements as follows: 1) a cyma reversa or bed molding located immediately above the triglyph capitals, 2) dentils, 3) an ovolo molding, 4) the soffit, 5) the corona or fascia board, and 6) the crown molding which abuts the plaster ceiling. The general configuration and relative position of each part is readily discernible on several of the old photographs.
While the proportions of various parts must be computed from the photographs, there are several "knowns" which simplify the task and ensure reasonable accuracy in calculating the "unknowns."

The overall projection of the cornice is known from lath and plaster evidence on the bottom surface of the ceiling joists and/or scabs (see NHP-IND 3425, sheets 23-24, this report). The average projection from the face of the paneling is 16-1/2" on the north and south walls. The east wall cornice projection is one inch greater (17-1/2") because the fluted pilasters project an extra inch to compensate for the added thickness of the flanking archway pilasters.

The details of the corona (or fascia board) are also known because five pieces of the corona were reused as scabs in 1898 (see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 17, this report). These fragments provide the vertical dimension, thickness, and configuration of the corona. These fragments also show that, 1) the crown molding was face nailed to the corona, 2) that the corona was face nailed to the soffit, 3) that in some instances the soffit was rabbetted into the corona, which in turn gives the thickness of the soffit, and 4) that the corona was supported from the joists by wooden hangers.

Using the known cornice projection, corona height and other known measurements, certain unknown dimensions have been derived by
reverse perspective from an enlarged portion of a ca. 1876 photograph of the east wall (see Appendix "A" and Illustration No. 1). The most useful area of this photograph involves that part of the entablature between the center arch and north arch. From this photograph, we have calculated: 1) the horizontal projection of the corona, 2) the vertical height of the crown molding, 3) the dentil height, 4) height of the guttae, and 5) the taenia projection.

The photograph supplies the number of dentils between the pilasters, which is a known dimension. Assuming the usual dentil width to dentil space relationship (i.e., 2:1), the dentil widths can be calculated. The number of dentils above the pilaster is also visible on the photograph.

Thus it is possible to compute the more conspicuous elements of the cornice with reasonable accuracy. However, the dimensions of the ovolo and cyma reversa can only be approximated. This is because the moldings are relatively small and cannot be accurately compared with the larger and more distinct elements of the cornice. The combined vertical height of the ovolo and cyma reversa is the distance from the known metope capital to the ceiling, minus the known corona height...
and the calculated crown and dentil. Therefore the ovolo and cyma reversa have been developed within this remaining space.

Considering the classical framework, the sizes of these moldings can only vary within rather narrow limits.

For further explanation of the cornice evidence, and calculations for the unknown elements, see Appendix "A" and NHP-IND 3425, sheet 25, this report.
PILASTERS-CAPITALS-BASES

All of the original pilaster shafts have survived on the north, south and east walls. Their originality is based on hand-wrought nails used in the construction, as well as the matching sets of nail holes where they were secured to the original paneling system. For details of the pilasters, see NHP-IND 3425, sheets 5 and 6.

All of the original pilaster capitals (on the north, south and east walls) were removed and apparently destroyed during the 1898 "restoration." The capitals are readily discernible in several of the old photographs. Furthermore there are paint outlines where the capitals abutted the stiles of the paneling system. The paint traces reveal minor variations that are common to the assembly of hand-planed moldings, so that the internal configurations and proportions of the various parts have been determined by averaging the variations of the paint outlines. For evidence of the pilaster capitals, see NHP-IND 3425, sheets 8 and 9, and Illustration Nos. 19 and 34).

The pilasters on the north and east walls retain their original bases which can be used as prototypes for correctly restoring the missing bases on the south wall. The latter bases were removed and replaced in 1898. None of the original plinths
have survived, but there is good physical evidence of the
plinths on the east wall. This evidence consists of paint
outlines and scribe lines where the plinths abutted the archway
pilasters. These outlines establish the vertical height and
overall width of the plinths. Since the plinth is coterminous
with the chair rail, it is possible to determine the chair rail
level around the north, south and east walls (see "Chair Rail
Levels," this report). For evidence of the pilaster bases and
plinths, see Appendix "C" and NHP-IND 3425, sheets 5 and 6.
WALL PANELING

The original paneling system survives nearly intact above the chair rail level on the north, south and east walls. The term "paneling system" is used here in the broadest sense, that is, a series of stiles and rails which were prefabricated and assembled into large units which span the window and passageway openings. The separate units are interconnected behind each pilaster with short rails thus forming a complete interrelated system.

Like most paneling systems, the stiles and rails serve a dual purpose: 1) they provide a surface and structural support for attaching other features such as pilasters, window trim and portions of the entablature, but, 2) between these features the stiles and rails are either exposed as finish woodwork in themselves, or exposed in juxtaposition with the raised or flush panels.

The original builders used wrought-iron anchors for securing the paneling system to the brick walls. This method was used throughout the building. In addition to anchorage, it enabled the builders to compensate for the normal irregularities in the masonry walls by making the anchors long enough to "furr" or space the woodwork away from the walls.

The surviving original paneling system includes the following original architectural features which are listed together with
their architectural evidence drawings appended to this report:

- **typical panel unit**: see sheet no. 12
- "knee'd" window architraves: see sheet no. 11
- paneled window jambs: see sheet no. 11
- paneled window soffits: see sheet no. 11
- archway pilaster: see sheet no. 15
- archway impost: see sheet no. 15
- archway architraves: see sheet no. 16
- archway keystones: see sheet no. 16
- over-window panels: see sheet no. 13
- curved panel units: see sheet no. 14

The surviving paneling and related features are in generally good condition despite the abuses of time, alterations, vandalism, and restorationists. It is evident, for example, that the original builders were responsible for some of these abuses. After the initial installation, some of the paneling had to be forceably shifted and re-anchored askew apparently to effect a proper fit between adjacent panel units (see Illustration Nos. 39-40, 50-51). Even more interesting is an alteration that occurred during the initial construction and affected the panels above the windows on the north and south walls. There is positive evidence to show that all those areas between the windows and entablature were originally constructed with flush paneling, that is, flush boards mortised and tenoned into the main stiles in the same manner as the original flush spelndrel boards which still survive on the east wall (see Illustration Nos. 27-29).

The evidence further indicates that the flush boards were cut out before they were raised into place and secured to the walls. We
do not know whether the switch from flush to raised panels was the result of a craftsman's error or whether it represents a mid-construction design modification. Whatever the reason, removal of the over-window flush panels involved cutting off the boards along the inner edge of the stiles. The mortises, tenons and wooden pegs survived the change (see sketch, next page; and Illustration No. 49; and Drawing NHP-IND 3425, sheet 13).

The wall units were then raised into position and anchored to the walls before the raised panels were installed. This is suggested by the fact that one of the stiles is anchored to the wall within the space occupied by the raised panel. That wrought iron anchor, which is similar to other known original anchors, could not have been embedded in the masonry and nailed to the stile (with a wrought-nail) after the raised panels were installed (see Illustration No. 49).

Normally, when raised panels were anticipated, the panels were made to "float" in a continuous groove around the edges of the stiles and rails. Furthermore, the quarter-round molding (that surrounds the raised panel) was always an integral part of the stiles and rails. Since these particular raised panels were an afterthought, their method of attachment was necessarily makeshift. Small backup strips (ca. 3/8" x 1/2") were nailed to the back edges of the stiles and rails to provide a seat for the raised panels.
Supreme Court Room Paneling

Composite sketch showing line panels over windows in original plaster and the change to raised panels before completion of rooms.

**Sequence:**
1. Paneling refaced with flush panels.
2. Dadoes: flush panels cut out.
3. Wall panels treated with glue and anchored to brick wall.
4. Backing strip included to provide "seat" for raised panels.
5. Raised panels were aligned and secured with applied quarter-round moldings.
6. Paneling painted (red iron oxide primer plus finish coat.)
One such strip has survived with its wrought nails. The panels were then held in place with applied quarter-round moldings nailed near the front edges of the stiles and rails.

It is further evident that the raised panels were installed before the room was completed, because the red iron-oxide prime coat is present on the revealed edges of the stiles and rails where the quarter-round molding was slightly recessed from the plane of the woodwork. For a graphic explanation of this sequence of events see Drawing NHP-IND 3425, sheet 13.

Before the end of the eighteenth century, the east wall arched openings were sealed off and double doors were installed in the center archway. This work was included among other courtroom repairs carried out in 1789 under the direction of master carpenter, Joseph Rakestraw. The north and south archways were apparently filled with vertical boards, tongue and grooved, and toenailed to the intrados. These boards were installed to be nearly flush with the Central Hall woodwork. This left the archways in practically full reveal on the courtroom side. The center archway appears to have been filled with two sets of vertical boards placed near the outer edges of the intrados, thus creating a void for the doorway which was trimmed out with paneled jambs, paneled soffit, "Knee'd" double architraves, and a pair of paneled doors (see Illustration No. 1).
In the early nineteenth century, the north and south archways were further modified by a second set of vertical boards installed nearly flush with the courtroom side of the archways. This produced voids that were used for closets, with doors and shelving accessible from the courtroom (see Illustration Nos. 2 and 4). Although no documentation seems to have survived, this modification of the east wall probably occurred about 1815-16 during a period of extensive renovations carried out by the Philadelphia County Commissioners. The closet boards were certainly in place before the fire of 1824, as explained below.

Although Independence Hall has been fortunately spared the ravages of a major fire such as the ones that caused extensive damage to Congress Hall and Old City Hall (in 1821 and 1823 respectively), several minor fires have been recorded, one involving the Supreme Court Room woodwork. On 24 March 1824, a potentially disastrous fire was quickly contained and caused only slight damage to the woodwork above the south archway on the east wall. This incident was reported in a local newspaper as follows:

Last night about 11 o'clock a cry of fire was heard. It was soon discovered that the Mayor's Court Room, in the west end of the State House was ablaze. The alarm spread rapidly, as rapidly were our fire engines and hose companies in motion, and in a very short time the fire was extinguished. There does not appear any reasonable doubt as to the fire having been communicated by an incendiary. A pane of glass was broken in the centre window of the room on the south side, which was opened and some villain or villains entered the room,
piled up some chairs against the wainscoting at the east end of the room and set them on fire. We are told the alarm was given as early as it was in consequence of some lover of good liquor, having been turned out of one tavern and going in search of another, who had his vision arrested by the blaze in the court room. He immediately gave tongue, and the fire was quenched. The damage is inconsiderable. But for its early discovery the venerable pile of buildings in which the sages of the Revolution declared Independence might have been laid in ruins, with all the valuable property it contains. We hope two things will follow this fire—a proclamation of the Mayor offering $500 reward for the incendiary, and the establishment in the State House yard of a watchman.\textsuperscript{23}

This fire charred the original woodwork near the top of the south archway, including the keystone, architrave and intrados (see Illustration No. 29 for evidence of the fire). However, the charred surface of the intrados abruptly stops several inches from the face of the archway, thus verifying the existence of the above mentioned closet infilling boards which were probably installed about 1816.\textsuperscript{29}

The 1789 "partition" and doorway appears to have survived with the ca. 1816 archway closets until the "restoration" of 1897-98. The removal of these features can be seen in several photographs taken during that work (see Illustration Nos. 4 and 5). Several of the closet infilling boards (from the north archway) were reused in 1898 as ceiling furring scabs. These were salvaged during the 1962 structural rehabilitation and subsequently recorded and accessioned to the INHP museum collection (see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 21, this report).
Another, though much later modification of the original woodwork involves the curved panel units in the northeast and southeast corners of the courtroom. Each of these units is divided into six raised panels which are vertically aligned in a 3 over 3 arrangement. The upper and lower panels are separated by a bolection type chair rail, which is also original. During the 1897-98 "restoration" the upper center panels (in each of the east corners) were removed and the openings altered so that those panels could be hinged, presumably to provide access to the space behind the curved paneling. This involved cutting off the quarter-round moldings and panel grooves from the adjacent stiles and rails, and installing frames and "stops" for the hinged panels. For details of the original curved panel units and the above described modification see Drawing NHP-IND 3425, sheet 14, this report. We recommend retention of the hinged panels because they are relatively inconspicuous and make it possible to inspect mechanical ductwork and to maintain the inside shutters of the "false" window.

There are several inscriptions on the back surface of the curved panels. With the passage of time they have become almost illegible, but because some are obviously the joiner's numbers to facilitate the fitting of paneling, we assume that the inscriptions were made by the original workmen. One such inscription is a signature, "James Worrel," a name that appears on Edmund Woolley's roster (in 1752) during construction of the Tower, Committee Room and completion
of the Central Hall woodwork. However these curved panels are backed-up by additional boards in such a way that the rear surface of the panels was not accessible after the courtroom was finished in the 1740's. Therefore James Worrel (or Worrell) must have been a carpenter who not only worked for Woolley in the 1750's, but who also worked on the earlier courtroom paneling. Unfortunately there are no known rosters of workmen for the earliest period so that the extent of his labors remains vague.
As mentioned earlier, all the courtroom window frames are original and therefore establish the overall sash dimensions. There is evidence on the frames to show that the upper sash was originally fixed and that the lower sash was operable with lines, pulleys and weights (see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 12, this report).

None of the original courtroom sash have survived so that the configuration of the details is not known. We recommend that the sash be patterned after those on the second floor which are demonstrably eighteenth century if not original. These remarkable survivals were used as prototypes for the Assembly Room restoration (see NHP-IND 2459, 3 sheets; and NHP-IND 3401-B, sheet 25, which are not included in this report).

None of the original window frame cover boards have survived, but since the paneled window jambs and soffits are original, the widths of the side and top cover boards are established, i.e., the distance between the original jambs (or soffits) and the original sash openings. The width of the bottom cover boards is determined by the distance from the chair rail level to the sash openings. The cover board "beads" can be patterned after the surviving originals on the second floor, as was done in the Assembly Room.
Originally, the courtroom had two "false" windows, one in each of the northeast and southeast corners. Similarly, there were two "false" windows in the Assembly Room. They are termed "false" in that they were placed to suit the facade rather than the interior floor plan. Since these windows were aligned with the partition walls between the hall and the adjacent rooms, they obviously could not serve any useful function, so they were equipped with interior shutters and simply ignored in the architectural development of the interior wall surfaces.

In the courtroom these windows were concealed by the curved wall panel units in each of the east corners. The rear, or southeast window was filled with brick when the Tower was appended to the building in the 1750's. The front, or northeast window opening survives and retains its original frame, inside shutters and hardware (see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 20, this report).
CHAIR RAIL LEVELS

The configuration and details of the chair rail are not included in this report because the chair rail, pilaster pedestals, dado, and baseboards were a separate system rather than an integral part of the wall paneling system. Since the development of those details is closely related to the courtroom fixtures, they will be taken up in a forthcoming report.

Although no pieces of the original chair rail have survived, there are paint traces which reveal its position at two of the piers on the east wall. Since this evidence shows that the top surface of the chair rail abuts the bottom of the pilaster plinths, the original chair rail levels around the north, south and east walls can be calculated from the surviving original pilasters, pilaster bases and evidence of the pilaster plinths, as follows:

a. The original pilasters have survived. The bottom of the shafts have been recorded with respect to the first floor datum line.

b. Several original pilaster bases have survived. These bases abutt the bottom finished edge of the pilaster shafts, and measure 7-3/4" in height.

c. No original plinths survive, but scribe marks and paint traces (on the east wall woodwork) show that the plinths were 3-1/4" high. The combined height of base and plinth is 11 inches.

d. Therefore the chair rail is 11 inches below the bottom finished edge of the pilaster shafts.
These calculations have been worked out and referenced to datum, and reveal that the chair rail was not level but sloped as much as 1-3/16" on a particular wall. This is not disturbing considering that even greater fluctuations exist in the surviving original hallway chair rail. It can be demonstrated that such variations are not the result of settlement, but were one of the normal, allowable and unnoticed aspects of eighteenth century construction.

During the 1897-98 "restoration" the chair rail levels were raised. The lower extremities of the original woodwork were cut-off during that work, including the main stiles, window architraves, paneled window jambs, and bottom rails of the curved panel units. The chair rail levels are included here (see Appendix "C") to facilitate repairs to the above mentioned woodwork.
Notes

1. While this report is generally limited to study of the north, south and east walls, this section (on the basic structure) deals with the entire room.

2. Identification by the Forest Products Laboratory, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Madison, Wisconsin, 21 September 1965.

3. It may have been structural difficulties that prompted the builders to seek a contractural adjustment, claiming that "... the work expected from them was heavy, and to be carried on in an extraordinary Manner." Pennsylvania Archives, Eighth Series, III, 2154-55.

4. A framing system similar in concept (but different in detail), published by Sebastiano Serlio, Tutte L'Opera d'Architettura (Venice, 1534), was republished by Betty Langley, Ancient Masonry... (London, 1736), vol. 2, plate CCLXXIII, and described as "A Floor by S. Serlio."

5. See Pennsylvania Archives, Eighth Series, III, 2682, and IV, 2716.

6. Ibid., italics supplied.

7. Ibid. The term "upper work" probably refers to the generous cove that extended around the Assembly Room.


9. In August of 1744, the room was used as a meeting place for a Council with the Delawares. Minutes of Provincial Council, IV, 743. Presumably the room was finished by that time.

10. A quantity of original flooring from various parts of the second floor was salvaged for reuse in the southwest room during the 1920s. Those boards were removed and put into storage in 1961 in preparation for the recent structural rehabilitation. Many of those boards have traces of the lath and plaster on their bottom surfaces. See INHP Accession No. 2016. See also INHP Negative No. CN-13460-A and B, showing some of the plastering in situ, after removal of several floor boards in 1896.
11. In a letter to his sister, Jane Mecon, Franklin explained the fireproofing features built into those buildings as follows: "In my new Buildings I have taken a few Precautions not generally Us'd: to wit none of the wooden work of any Room communicates with the wooden work of any other Room; and all the Floors, and even the Steps of the Stairs, are plastered close to the Boards, besides the plastering on the Laths under the Joists." Italics supplied. Despite Franklin's comment, there is ample evidence that plastering under floors was common and had been in use for at least a half-century. For the above letter dated 20 September 1787, see Carl Van Doren, ed., Franklin's Autobiographical Writings (New York: 1945), 633-4. This letter and other references to Franklin's interest in fireproofing are cited in Historic Structures Report, Part I, for 318 Market Street, Independence National Historical Park, Chapter II, prepared by Historian Martin I. Yoelson, March 1961.

12. See INHP Files for negative numbers CN-18460 and CN-18460 A through C.

13. A recently acquired stereoscopic view (see INHP Museum catalog no. 6908) shows the ceiling medallion more distinctly than any previously available photograph. This view leaves no doubt that the medallion was Greek Revival in design and detail, and therefore could not have been a survivor of the original ceiling which was removed ca. 1816.

14. INHP negative numbers CN-18460 and CN-18460-C show that the center "chord" was still intact in 1896, but a chandelier hanger, if any, is not visible in these photographs because that area is obscured by plaster lath. See NHP-IND 3502 for evidence of a chandelier over the Assembly Room.

15. Philadelphia Day Book, 1812-1818 [ms. account book of an unknown plasterer], Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The entry pertaining to the Central Hall reads as follows:

April 15, 1816 "Vestibule of State House"
   To one grand Rosett & Colochis $2.50
   " 90 oval beads 0.80
   " 132 spherical do 1-1/2 cts 1.90
   " 4 Rosetts (3 inches) 15 cts 0.60

This plasterer may have furnished other pre-cast decorative elements which are mentioned in his day book, but they are not specifically identified. As examination of the Central Hall ceiling reveals that nearly all of the 1816 plaster-work has survived in situ.
Notes

16. This sequence is quite different from the Assembly Room ceiling which was successively lowered (and replastered) in 1816, 1831, and again in 1898. This was desirable because of the sagging ceiling, and possible because substantial alterations took place in those years.


18. Undated draft of letter, John Haviland MSS, vol. 2, Rare Book Room, University of Pennsylvania. Haviland's drawings have not been located.


21. Old photographs also show that ceiling ventilators had been installed sometime in the nineteenth century at the northeast and southeast corners. See Illustration No. 1.

22. In an attempt to determine possible design prototypes for now missing features, we have endeavored to examine all known architectural treatises available to the original craftsmen. Perhaps the closest prototype was the Doric entablature from the "Bath of Diocletian at Rome," which was included in a collection of Roman and Renaissance Orders, published by Batty Langley, *Practical Geometry Applied to the Useful Arts of Building, Surveying, Gardening and Mensuration*, London, 1726, plate XXII.

23. While the metopes have survived on the flat wall surfaces, only one metope survives on the curved panel unit in the northeast corner and none in the southeast corner (see Illustration Nos. 25 and 35).


25. In 1898, most of these strips were removed and replaced with vertical cleats located at third points along the length of the panels.

26. In 1898, the quarter-round moldings were removed and renailed with modern wire nails, but several bent-over wrought finish nails have survived.
27. The portion of Rakestraw's bill pertaining to this work reads as follows: "To Making a Partition between the Entry and Court Room and Repairing the Mouldings at Imposts & Base of Pilasters and a Pair of Large Foulding Doors... 3-2-6." See Independence Square, State House Maintenance Voucher, 1789, June 12, Folder N, Division of Public Records, Harrisburg.

28. This unidentified clipping is probably from a 1924 Philadelphia newspaper since it was printed under the heading "One Hundred Years Ago." It was reprinted from the Democratic Gazette of 25 March 1824.

29. See also INHP Negative No. 3327, not in this report.

30. We can only surmise that these back-up boards (see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 14) were intended to prevent unwanted light (from the "false" windows) from coming through the cracks and joints of the curved paneling. It seems more then coincidental that the back-up boards do not extend the full height of the paneling. Instead, they cover only that portion opposite the "false" windows. Perhaps these windows were not fitted with interior shutters until the completion of the Central Hall woodwork in the 1750's.

There are several later inscriptions on the exposed surfaces of the paneling including the date "1787" on the east jamb, west window, south wall; and "RM 1789" on the east jamb, east window, north wall; and the name "Siegel" with inscribed tally marks on the west jamb, center window, north wall.

31. The sash in this "false" window dates from the nineteenth century. Though the muntin configurations are incorrect, they are concealed and we recommend that they be preserved as was done in the Assembly Room restoration.
Appendix "A"

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUPREME COURT ROOM CORNICE

The dimensions for the reconstruction of the Supreme Court Room entablature have been developed by using a photograph enlargement of a portion of the east wall (INHP Neg. No. 1650). The portion of the photograph studied shows the entablature above the pilaster between the center arch and north arch, which is viewed practically in true elevation. The perspective can be partially corrected by the use of "reverse perspective." The enlarged portion of this photograph is reproduced here to facilitate explanation of the calculations.

HORIZONTAL DIMENSIONS

Known: 1. Projection of cornice molding from face of paneling - 16-1/2" (established by lath & plaster evidence on bottom of joists on north wall). See drawing No. INHP-IND 3425, sheets 23 & 24.

2. Width of surviving original pilaster - 20-1/2".

3. Pilaster projects 5" from the face of the stiles and rails on the east wall (4" on N & S walls). Therefore, at the east wall all features of the pilaster entablature theoretically projected 5" from corresponding features of the main cornice.

Using reverse perspective it is possible to bring the top of the main crown molding into approximately the same plane as the pilaster corona, and thus see their proportional relationship. We assume that the crown molding projects approximately 4 to 5
inches from the corona and we know that the crown molding, breaking around the pilaster, projects 5" out from the main crown. By connecting the top edge of the pilaster crown "return" with the vanishing point of the photograph, we establish the vanishing line of this edge.

By extending the line of the top of the main crown across the pilaster crown we are establishing the reasonably accurate location of the top of the crown in vertical relation ("X") to the corona since they are in nearly the same plane. The intersection of this line with the vanishing line of the pilaster crown return establishes the corrected location of the crown molding in horizontal relation to the corona. We then scale the distance ("Y") between this point of intersection and the line representing the face of the pilaster. The pilaster cornice will have the same horizontal relationship to the face of the pilaster as the main cornice does to the face of the frieze.

"Y" = 130.6 units

Since we know the actual dimension of the projection we can equate the two.

130.6 units = 16.5 inches

Therefore one unit = .12624 inches

Since the crown and the corona are now in nearly the same plane, scaling the distance ("Z") between the face of the corona and the face of the pilaster and multiplying it by the unit figure of .12624, gives the "true" projection of the corona.
The components of the crown molding can be developed through a visual judgement of their relative proportions, since the distances are too small to be accurately measured in this photograph.

**HEIGHT OF CROWN MOLDING**


By scaling the vertical dimension of the corona and equating this to the known corona height of 2-3/4 inches, a unit figure can be established.

$$\frac{97.5 \text{ units} \times 0.12624 \text{ inches}}{\text{unit}} = 12.3084 \text{ inches or 12-5/16 inches.}$$

21.8 units = 2.75 inches

therefore one unit = 0.12614 inches

By scaling the total height of the corona and crown molding (perspective corrected), and multiplying this by the unit value, the height of the crown molding can be computed.

$$\frac{59.5 \text{ units} \times 0.12614 \text{ inches}}{\text{unit}} = 7.0553 \text{ or 7-1/2 inches}$$

therefore the crown molding = 7.5" - 2.75" (height of corona) = 4.75" or 4-3/4 inches.

**DENTIL AND SPACE WIDTHS BETWEEN PILASTERS**

Known: 1. In the photograph INHP 1650 above the center archway the number of dentils and spaces are known: Dentils = 36, Spaces = 35.
2. Assume the usual relationship, i.e., one dentil space equals 1/2 the width of a dentil.

3. From the photographs, at the inside corners where the entablature breaks around a pilaster, the dentils appear to intersect at their corners.

4. Distance between pilaster shafts = 99-5/8 inches.

The total number of dentils between pilaster shafts can be counted by projecting the south edge of the pilaster shaft vertically, and by using reverse perspective the projecting dentils can be vanished to the plane of the pilaster return. Added to the run of 36 dentils and 35 spaces, would be 2 dentils and 2 spaces projecting above the return of each pilaster. The difference between the width of the spaces above the pilasters with the width of spaces over the archway is considered negligible over such a distance. Thus we have a total of 40 dentils and 39 spaces or, a total of 40 x 2 spaces + 39 spaces = 119 spaces. The known distance between pilasters = 99-5/8" = 119 spaces, then 1 space = $\frac{99.625}{119} = .837$" or 7/8 inch, and 1 dentil = 2 spaces = 1.674" or 1-11/16 inches.

**DENTIL SPACE WIDTHS ABOVE PILASTERS**

Known: 1. Pilaster shaft widths = 20-1/2 inches

2. Dentil width = 1-11/16" or 1.674 inches

From the photograph INHP 1650 the number of dentils and spaces above half of the pilaster between the center and north arches can be
counted. Project the south return of the pilaster shaft vertically and vanish the dentils to the plane of the pilaster. The number of dentils from the center line of the pilaster to the plane of the south return of the pilaster equal 4.5, and between these there are 4 spaces. Thus half the width of the pilaster shaft can be equated to the number of dentils and spaces.

\[ 10.25'' = 4.5 \text{ dentils} + 4 \text{ spaces} \]
\[ 10.25'' = 4.5 (1.674'') + 4 \text{ spaces} \]
\[ 10.25'' = 7.533'' + 4 \text{ spaces} \]
\[ 4 \text{ spaces} = 2.717'' \]
\[ 1 \text{ space} = .679'' = 11/16 \text{ inches} \]

**Dentil Height**

Known: 1. The height of the corona = 2-3/4 inches

On the photograph INRIP 1650 we can scale the number of units of the dentil heights above the pilaster between the center and north archways, and the number of units of the corona at the normal cornice above the center archway. Because these two surfaces are on the same plane we can equate them.

\[ \frac{19 \text{ units of the dentil height}}{23.5 \text{ units of the corona height}} = \frac{\text{dentil height}}{2.75'' \text{ corona height}} \]

\[ \text{dentil height} = \frac{19 \times 2.75''}{23.5} \]

\[ \text{dentil height} = 2.223'' \text{ or, } 2-1/4 \text{ inches.} \]
TAENIA HORIZONTAL PROJECTION

Known: 1. The thickness of the metope capital = 5/16″. On the photograph (IMMP 1650) where the entablature breaks around the pilaster, we can scale off the number of units of the metope capital projection and find the number of same units for the projection of the taenia plus the architrave upper fascia from the metope surface.

We can then set up an equation:

\[
\frac{3 \text{ units capital metope projection}}{.3125″ \text{ actual capital metope projection}} = \frac{13 \text{ units taenia & fascia projection}}{\text{taenia & fascia projection}}
\]

\[
\text{taenia plus fascia projection} = 1.35″ \text{ or } 1.375″ = 1-3/8 \text{ inch}
\]

If the architrave upper fascia is 1/2″ thick then the taenia horizontal projection = 7/8″.

TAENIA VERTICAL DIMENSIONS

The old photographs are not sufficiently clear to distinguish any difference between the taenia vertical dimension and the known metope capital vertical dimension. It has therefore been assumed that they are the same as is the case in plate VIII of Gibbs, Rules for Drawing Several Parts of Architecture.
MACHINE CUT NAILS USED IN NINETEENTH CENTURY ALTERATIONS (all nails shown full size.)

1851 Cut Spring Nail used for Haviland's metope capitals in Assembly room.

1881 Long Lath Nail used for Haviland ceilings in the emal room and for paneling in floor ceilings of the central Hall and Assembly room ceilings. Heads crudely made, some are very eccentric to shank. Nails vary as to length - (1 1/8" - 1 1/2")

1881 Cut Nail used to secure doors (behind woodwork) to blocks in mass room walls of Assembly room. Perfected machine-made head.

SECTION A
Cut from common side. Shear Mark

SECTION B
Cut from opposite side. Shear Mark
Chair rail levels Supreme Court Room

Elevations are below Reference Line.

To convert to Elevations Below
First Floor Datum, Subtract 5½°

27 April 1966 LHN
INDEPENDENCE HALL
SUPREME COURT ROOM
EAST WALL
NORTH ARCH
SOUTH PILASTER
NORTH BASE RETURN
RUBBING OF BASE PROFILE
CUT OUT OF ARCHWAY
PILASTER BOARD.
R. HARTSHORNE 5/9/66
APPENDIX "C"

INDEPENDENCE HALL
SUPREME COURT ROOM
EAST WALL
NORTH ARCH
NORTH PILASTER
SOUTH BASE RETURN

RUBBING OF BASE PROFILE
CUT OUT OF ARCHWAY
PILASTER BOARD.

P. HARTSHORNE 5/13/66

19 1/4" TC
REFERENCE LINE

EDGE OF PILASTER BOARD

LINE OF MISSING PLINTH FORMED BY TRACES OF PAINT

3 9/16"

PAINT TRACE OF ORIGINAL CHAIR RAIL
TO:       Lee H. Nelson, Architect
FROM:    P. Hartshorne, Architect

DATE: July 1966

SUBJECT: First intended finish paint color on the Supreme Courtroom woodwork

The Supreme Courtroom woodwork was installed prior to that of the Central Hallway. The east wall archway intrados were fully paneled and wrapped around the piers into the Central Hall space. When the Central Hallway paneling was installed, c.1753, it was mounted on this earlier woodwork, and thus covered and preserved for our examination the paint colors first used on the Supreme Courtroom woodwork.

INHP catalogue No. 6226 is a baseboard from this location, having on its surface undisturbed areas of this early finish.

A comparison of this layering with that found on all the original Supreme Courtroom entablature metope areas (see INHP catalogue No. 6578), shows us that the metopes have on them the complete paint sequence for this room from this early period until 1898 when the metopes were hidden to view and preserved for us.

We present here the layering of both the pre-1753 painted baseboard, and the 1740-1898 metope panel. The one conclusion we can state at this time is that the first intended finish color was a warm tan (Munsell Color Co. notation 7.5 YR 6/6).

Forthcoming comparative studies with the dateable painted east wall closet sheathing (see drawing NHPIND 3425, sheet 21), and with patched paintwork on the northwest and southwest corner pilasters back of their base locations will, we hope, establish how long this first finish color was used, and with what colors the room was subsequently painted, and when.

Pre-1753 paint colors on baseboard at pier between Supreme Courtroom and Central Hall - INHP Cat. No. 6226.

Layering: wood, red iron-oxide primer 7.5 R 3/6; buff second coat, very thin 10 YR 7/4; warm tan finish coat 7.5 YR 6/6; and, at the washboard level, black. (see memo to Lee H. Nelson from P. Hartshorne Dec. 10, 1965, Appendix A, Historic Structures Report, Part II (portion).... on Independence Hall "Paving in the Central Hall Tower Stairhall..., Feb. 1966, Lee H. Nelson.)
c. 1740's-1898 colors on the Supreme Courtroom original entablature metopes - INHP Cat. No. 6578.

Layering: wood; red iron-oxide prime coat 7.5 R 4/10; buff second coat 10 YR 6/4 - 10 YR 7/4; warm tan finish coat 7.5 YR 6/6 - 8 YR 6/6 (above this all layers fractured off easily due to the surface being long exposed and dirty and the resulting poor bond of paints); three layers of greenish buff 2.5 Y 7/4 with a warmer surface coating; four layers of cream buff 2/5 Y 7/3 - 8/2; greenish white 5 Y 8.5/2; dirt; greenish white 5 Y 8.5/2; dirt.

P. Hartshorne
Architect
Supreme Court Room, east wall, circa 1896. Until the 1897-98 "restoration," practically all the original courtroom woodwork had survived [above the chair rail level] on the north, south and east walls. This photo shows the original entablature before it was removed during that so-called restoration. That portion of the pilaster entablature above certain heights and projections of the cornice [see Appendix "A", this report] affords the most distinct and least distorted view for calculating height and projections of the cornice.

In 1889, the east wall arched openings were sealed off and double doors were inserted in the center archway. About 1816, the side archways were further modified with the addition of vertical boards on the courtroom side of the intradoses, and the ornamental ceiling medallion was probably a part of the 1816 replastering. It is not known whether it replaced an earlier medallion.

The four iron columns were necessitated by the 1829-30 removal of the second floor trussed partition which originally helped support the ceiling framing. These columns [above the curved corner panels] were probably installed in the mid-19th century. The floor and all the woodwork below the chair rail level will be discussed in a forthcoming report.

Photograph by W.H. Rain, 1896. Source: INHP Negative no. 1650.
ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

Supreme Court Room, east wall, circa 1870, looking into the northeast corner. The 1783 entrance doors [at right], though not original, reflect the continuing classical tradition, with raised panels, and "knee'd" architraves, whereas, circa 1815, closet doorway is an early example of the Greek revival style with symmetrical architraves, recessed panels, and "connecting blocks" at the upper corners of the door trim. The tiered gallery, though not documented, was probably added about the same time.

All other woodwork seen here survived until the 1867-1868 "restoration." At that time, the sagging ceiling framing was strengthened but not leveled. In an effort to conceal the defect, the restorationists removed the original entablature and replaced it with a compressed Doric entablature with mutules, and then installed a furred-down plaster ceiling about 8 inches below the original ceiling level.

The original curved corner panels were also modified in 1867-68 by cutting out the top center panels and hinging them to provide access to the space in the corners.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

Supreme Court Room, east wall, 1873, looking into southeast corner. This photograph shows the room as it was fitted up as a "National Museum" in the summer of 1873. Note the infilling of the south archway, which was similar in arrangement and detail to the north archway. The conversion of these archways to closets was made about 1816, but certainly before the 1824 fire which charred the arched architrave, keystone and revealed portion of the masonry. [See Illustration Nos. 29 and 58].

Also note that a portion of the pilaster entablature [above and right of arch] has become dislodged from its original position and proves that 1) the upper and lower fascia are separate pieces, and 2) that the faenia and guttae are attached to the upper fascia. This condition is typical in the courtroom and in part a reflection of the original construction of the paneling system [see NHP IND 3425, sheet 25, this report].

Source: Etting Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, INHP Negative no. 178-B.
ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

Supreme Court Room, east wall, 1897. This view looking into the north archway, shows the partial removal of original and accumulated features during 1897-98 "restoration." The original entablature and pilaster capitals have already been taken down. Note the tile of original triglyphs on the floor. The ultimate disposition of these original pieces is not known. Fortunately the carpenters reused some of the parts as sills for the furnish'd draw' ceiling, including several fragments of triglyphs [see ILLUSTRATION NO. 36 and NHP-IND 3425, sheet 17 for reused fragments of original woodwork.]

The circa 1816 closet boards and door had been removed at the time of this photo, revealing what are probably the partition boards installed by Joseph Reakeshaw, in 1789 [see NHP-IND, sheet 21 for further explanation.]

Note that the right hand pilaster pedestal seemed to have survived nearly intact except for the chair rail, but it was removed in 1896 and replaced with new materials. At some earlier time in the 19th century, the chair rail was entirely removed and the dado level raised, thus cutting off the lower extremities of window jambs, architraves, and the bottom rail of the curved corner paneling [visible at extreme left].

The railing [at right] is a part of the circa 1816 gallery that extended across the archway into the corner [see ILLUSTRATION NO. 2].

Photograph by W.H. (Ram), December 1897, INHP negative no. 1638.
ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

Central Hall, west wall, 1897, looking into the center and south archways of the Supreme Court Room, after removal of the 1789 partition boards and circa 1818 closet boards which had sealed off the archways for more than a century. The carved pediment and tabernacle frame [on floor at left] are 19th century in origin and were applied to the hallway surface of the filled-in arches.

This view shows the removal of the original courtroom entablature, the furred-down plaster ceiling and the wooden hangers for a new and different entablature. Whereas the original entablature had a Doric frieze and an Ionic denticulated cornice, the 1897-98 version was entirely Doric with mutules, similar to that of the hallway [visible] at upper left of photo.

Photograph by W.H. Raw, 20 December 1897
INHP Negative No. 1657.
ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

Supreme Court (Room, east wall, 1962. This view shows the courtroom as "restored" in 1897-98, except that the paint was removed and some woodwork repaired by Park maintenance forces in 1955-56. The 1898 features include all woodwork below the chair rail, the pilaster capitals, the entablature, and the plaster ceiling, with wooden medallion. The remaining wall paneling, pilasters, archways, and most of the window trim are original. The dado, flooring, floor 360/62, and courtroom fixtures will be taken up in a forthcoming report.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

Supreme Court Room, south wall, 1962. The original woodwork on the window walls consists of the stile and rail system, pilasters, curved corner paneling, window architraves, paneled window jambbs and soffit. The window frame cover boards, sash, dado, capitals and entablature date from 1897-1898, as does the entire west wall woodwork and judge's rostrum.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

Supreme Court (Room, portions of the north and west walls, showing the remaining original woodwork, after removal of features dating from the 1897-1898 "restoration." Several original pilasters are seen on the floor awaiting repairs. Except for the floor framing, the basic structure has survived practically in fact including the mashery walls, window frames, and ceiling framing. The latter was strengthened and re-leveled during the structural rehabilitation of 1962-63, thus enabling a correct restoration of the entablature and plaster ceiling.

This view also shows a preliminary cornice mock-up being installed for full-size comparisons with physical evidence and old photographs. On the scaffolding, from left to right are John C. Miller, former staff architect; Lee Wise, INHP laborer; John Pecorello, INHP carpenter foreman; and Walter West, INHP carpenter.

Lighter colored joists date from 1962 structural rehabilitation.

1816 lath nails see Appendix "B"

Arrow points to last plaster mark of original (and 1816) plaster ceiling, and establishes maximum projection of original cornice, which survived in situ until the 1897-98 "restoration."

Nail holes of last lath, partially covered by cornice.

"X" indicates nail holes from 1898 forring scales. The 1898 ceiling (removed 1962) was forred down and did not leave any lath or plaster traces on bottom surface of ceiling framing.

Original and 1816 plaster marks nearly coincide in this instance. See Illus. No. II for distinct evidence of each plastering.

This area "clean," i.e., no plaster evidence because plaster stopped at the cornice.

Photo: James L. Dillow & Co., Inc. 22 Oct 64 EODC Neg No. 157,1899

North Wall
Plaster traces of original plaster between joists. Lath was nailed directly to bottom surface of original floor boards. Apparently this was an attempt at fireproofing, and is found in other 18th c. Phila. buildings.

Dark joists are original. Light joists date from 1962 structural rehabilitation.

Arrow points to original plaster mark closest to wall, and establishes maximum projection of original cornice.

Note: Ceiling was re-plastered in 1816.

1816 furring strips
1816 lath nails
1816 plaster marks

Note: Since the original cornice survived in situ until 1898, the 1816 ceiling evidence is as valid as the original ceiling evidence in determining the cornice projection.

Photo: James L. DeLong & Co. Inc. 22 Oct 64 EDCO Neg. No. 157.1701
Plaster traces between joists - see Illus. No. 11

Original furring scab nailed to side of original joist with rose head wrought nails. Such scabs were used only along south wall to level the finish ceiling because these joists were installed slightly higher than those along the north wall.

Original and 1816 plaster marks. When the ceiling was replastered in 1816, several of the original scabs were retained.

Arrow points to last original plaster mark closest to wall, and establishes maximum projection of original cornice.

Dark joists are original. Light joists date from 1862.

Photo: James L. Dilley & Co. Inc. 22 Oct 64

EDOC Neg. No. 157.1698
Based on surviving nails, orig. lath ran lengthwise to girder. 1816 lath ran crosswise to girder.

Arrow No. 2 points to surviving hand-wrought T-head finish nail probably used to secure original crown molding to bottom of girder. Long axis of head was parallel to grain of molding.

Arrow No. 1 points to last plaster mark and establishes projection of crown molding of cornice.

This evidence is most precise - see NHP-IND 3425 Sheet 23 for explanation.

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co. Inc. 22 Oct 64 EODC Neg No 157.1705
Supreme Court Room - Bottom Surface of Orig. Ceiling Girders

(Location: at northeast juncture of girders)

Remnant of 1816 furring strip

Original East-West Girder

Hole for drift-pin for restraining iron column

Original treenails

Arrow No. 1: points to chisel marks where ceiling was cut away to permit installation of cast-iron column, ca. 1830. This was one of four such columns placed in the courtroom when the second floor trussed partitions were removed.

Arrow No. 2: points to original treenail used to lock the mortise and tenon joint joining the two girders.

Original North-South Girder

1897-98 Channels (each side)

Bark on log

Photo: James L. Dillow & Co. Inc. 22 Oct 64 EODC Neg. No. 157.1708
(ceiling joists)

orig. rails
(NORTH WALL)

orig. iron anchor

orig. stiles

location of missing triglyphs

painted areas: orig. metopes

bottom orig. entablature

bottom 1898 entablature

Raised Panel over Window →

Photo: James L. Dillow & Co. Inc 22 Oct 64 EDOC Neg No. 157.1679

See Illus. No. 20 for detail at capital

See Illus. No. 21 for detail at capital
Supreme Court Room - North Wall - Pilaster Capital at Northwest Corner

19

Original stile

Graph paper scale with 1" squares and 10 divisions per inch.

Bottom of orig. entablature

Paint outlines of original pilaster capital

Bottom of 1898 entablature

Paint outlines of 1898 capital

Note: see Drawing No. NHP-IND 3425, sheet 8 for explanation of paint outlines

Paint removed by INHP maintenance forces 1955-56

Painted areas: orig. metopes

Orig. line joint
(see Illus. No. 23)

Paint line where original paint oozed into joint between upper and lower architrave, and establishes heights of those two features.

Original Pilaster: note that flutes were run full length of pilaster and filled in with separate pieces.

This area originally covered by architrave, guttae and taenia.

Evidence of flush panels see Illus. 49

Supreme Court. Run, nort'w. Pilaster between center & East Windows

(NORTH WALL)

Paint line where original paint oozed into joint between upper and lower architrave.

Original Pilaster: note that flutes were run through to the end, and are filled in with separate pieces (one piece missing here).


This area originally covered by architraves, guttae and taenia.

Orig. Iron anchor

Paint removed 1955-56.
Painted area:
orig. metope

The triangle of paint within the area of
the orig. entablature architrave occurred because
a piece of the architrave board split off.

bot. orig. entablature
bot. 1898 entablature

Beginning of Curved Corner Paneling. Metopes
were separate curved boards (see Illus. No. 35).
This metope is missing.

(NORTH WALL)
Vertical paint line shows that
plane of pilaster was same
as lower architrave at
pilaster capital "returns."

Orig. Pilaster
"modern" replacement
of flute end.

Evidence of flush panel
see Illus. 49

Orig. iron anchor

Original curved rail

Original raised panel (curved)

Arrow Nos. 1 & 2 point to faint dirt lines indicating vertical and horizontal limits of metope capital.

This glue joint separated

Wrought-nails held triglyph

Arrow points to original glue joint. Frieze is composed of 3 glued-up boards.

Painted areas: original metopes which have a complete paint layering from the 1740's to 1898. This area concealed by foried-out entablature from 1898 to 1964.

Photo: James L. Dillow & Co Inc
22 Oct 64
EDCO Neg. No. 157.1669

This void originally covered by upper architrave, guttae and taenia.

Wrought-nails held metope capital

Orig. stile

Pegs secure rails to stile at mortise and tenon joints

Vertical paint line at bottom of photo indicates pilaster capital "return"

Horizontal paint line at bottom of photo indicates joint between upper & lower architrave.
Original window architraves have survived on north and south walls.

Window sill raised to this level in nineteenth century (ca. 1816?).

1898 "Dutchman".

1898 molder for sill.

Arrow No. 1: faint line of 19th c. sill level (ca. 1816?).

Arrow No. 2: 1898 sill level.

Arrow No. 3: bottom of orig. rail which apparently rested on orig. sill.

Photo: James L. Dillow & Co. Inc. 20 Aug 64 EDDC Neg. No. 157.1363.

All window frame cover boards in courtroom date from 1898.
1898 "Dutchman"

ALL Plinths missing in courtroom.

Filled holes apparently relate to court fixtures (not included in this report)

Brick "clean" in this area (protected by pedestal)

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co. Inc. 4 May 66 Neg. No. 157.2079

Plaster stains on brick

Plaster stains on brick (probably 19th c.)
Supreme Court Room. Curved Paneling @ NE Corner

26

Top of stile cut for gas pipe

Original iron anchors (NORTH WALL)

Curved rails

Broken rail

Metopes missing

Original stiles and rails are rabbetted to receive curved metope boards.

(EAST WALL)

Painted area: orig. metope, see Illus. 35

Original filler piece

bot. 1898 entablature

bot. orig. entablature

Raised panels are original, but middle panel was cut out in 1898 and hinged to provide access to space behind paneling, see Drawing NHP-IND 3425, sheet 14.

Original Pilasters

Photo: James L Dillon & Co., Inc. 20 Aug 64 EDOC Neg No '157.1353
Ornamental architrave, keystones, and flush spandrel panels mortised and tenoned to stiles.

1958 "pulpmill" botton 1898 entablature.

Filler piece has dropped. Filler piece is missing.

Note that this piece was added by original craftsmen.

Plasticareas; Originalmitopess

1927 Steel Girtage Beam.
Arrow points to fragment of original triglyph reused by 1898 carpenters as a ceiling joist nailing scab. Triglyph is shown in orig. position as determined by matching nail holes; also see NHP IND 5425, sheet 17.

1962 Grillage Beam

Painted areas: original metopes

Orig. filler piece dropped out of place

Orig. filler piece missing

All orig. capitals removed 1898

Orig. architrave keystone, and flush spandrel panels

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co. Inc. 22 Oct 64 EDOC Neg. No. 1871639
Note: Typical flush spandrel panels are composed of horizontal boards, with square edge glue joints, mortised and tenoned to stiles.

1962 steel grillage beam

Orig. Frieze Board glued-up of 3 pieces - mortised & tenoned to stiles

Painted areas: original metopes

Note carving on keystone and architrave from 1824 fire

Flush Spandrel Panels (see note above)

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co., Inc. 22 Oct 64 EOC Neg. No. 57,1689
Supreme Court Room. Curved Panelling at Southeast Corner

Note: Frieze was constructed of small curved boards. Stiles and rails were rabbeted to receive frieze boards. Metopes were painted on frieze boards, but none have survived in this corner. See Illus. No. 35 for survivor in northeast corner.

Original Stiles

Original Rail

Original Rail

Orig. Rail

Orig. Rail

Orig. Stiles cut off

Abandoned Gas Pipe at corner.

EAST WALL

Orig. Pilasters

SOUTH WALL

Center panel hinged 1898 (removed here for investigation)

Orig. Raised Panels

Photo: James L. Dillow 22 Oct 64 EDC Neg No. 157.1691
Supreme Court Room: East wall: ruins below. North Arch & curved corner paneling.

Sole surviving frieze board (with painted metope) in curved paneling. See Illus. No. 35.

This area originally covered by architrave, guttae and taenia.

Original fuller piece dropped out of position.

Paint line where original paint cozed into joint between upper and lower architrave.

Orig. Iron Anchor

EAST WALL

Original Raised Panel (curved)

Original Pilaster


Original Flush Spandrel Panel, edge glued, mortised and tenoned to stiles.

"Dutchman"
Original filler piece is missing

Paint lines where original paint oozed into joint between upper & lower architraves

All original pilaster capitals removed during 1897-98 "restoration"

Orig. Spandrel boards, edge glued, mortised and tenoned to stiles

"dutchman" added by INHP maintenance forces

Supreme Court House - East Wall - Pilaster betw. Center Arch & South Arch

See Illus. No. 36 for detail of triglyph

Painted area: orig. metope

EAST WALL

Original Stiles

Original Pilaster Capitals
Removed during 1897-98 "restoration." This capital outline indistinct; see NHP IND 3425, sheet 9, for record of other capital profiles.

Orig. Pilaster

Bot. of orig. entablature

Bot. of 1958 entablature

Orig. Filler Piece is missing


Orig. Spandrel Boards
Note: This is the only surviving frieze board in corner

Rail broken

Original stiles and rails rabbeted to receive curved frieze boards

Original stiles

Metope painted on frieze board (original)

Original Rails (curved)

Wrought finish nails held metope capital

Arrow 1: top of metope capital
Arrow 2: left end of metope capital

Note that dowels were drilled out and paneling shifted and then nailed into position by original builders

Arrow No. 3 points to scribe line on stile significance not determined

Trace of Taenia

Photo: James L Dillon & Co., Inc. 22 Oct 64 EDC Neg No. 157 1670
Arrow No. 1: trace of top edge of metope capital which aligns with triglyph

Holes of nails that held metope capital, usually 3 nails per capital

Wrought finish nails

Painted area: Orig. Metope

For drawing of original triglyph fragments, see NHP-IND 3425, Sheet no. 17

Holes of nails that held triglyph

Glue joints: Frieze made up of 3 boards, edge glued

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co., Inc. 22 Oct 64 EOC Neg No. 157.1672
Arrow No. 1 points to faint trace of top edge of metope capital. See NHF-IND 3425, sheet 17 for a surviving metope capital.

Arrow points to faint trace of right hand edge of metope capital.

Tally marks scratched into frieze board, significance not known.

Painted area: Original metope with complete paint layering from 1740's to 1898.

Short connecting stiles with "blind" tenons between frieze board and rail below.

Arrow No. 3: Glue joint. Frieze boards edge glued.

Narrow filler pieces, apparently added because frieze board was not made wide enough for metopes?

Arrow points to paint outline of Keystone "return", showing that Keystone has dropped from its orig. position. Bottom edge of original entablature.

Bottom edge of 1848 entablature

1958 "dutchman"

Original Keystone

Note: all three original keystones have survived on the east wall. See NHP-IND 3425 sheet 16.

Note charred surfaces of Keystone and architrave caused by a fire on 24 March 1824.

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co. Inc. 24 Oct 64  EOC Neg. No. 157-1673
Arrows 2 & 3 point to evidence that pegs were drilled out, and the paneling shifted into a different position, and nailed into the new position. Thus adjustment apparently made by the original builders.

This peg not disturbed.

3/4 steel drillage beam

Original stile

Original Sapele Boards

EAST WALL

Original nailing block

Wrought nails

Photo: James L. Dillam, Jr., Esq., 27 Law 69, Edc Neg. No. 1577-1586

Beginning of curved paneling in northeast corner

Wrought nails
Supreme Court Room - east wall. Retain of running of system over north arch.

EAST WALL

Original Stile

Typical original wrought iron anchor used in Assembly Room and Supreme Court Room. Anchors are about 5 to 6 inches long, embedded in mortar joints, and used to secure stiles and rails to masonry. Woodwork is usually furred away from wall to compensate for irregularities in brickwork. Anchors have a hole in flange for nail. Note impression of anchor on side of stile; indicates that stile was moved or has slipped.

Original Nailing Block embedded in masonry (not used)

Hand-wrought rosehead nail

Photo: James L. Dillow & Co., Inc. 24 Oct 64

EOD Neg. No. 157.1671
Supreme Court Room. East Wall. Bottom of Curved Paneling in Northeast Corner

Original Raised Panels (curved)

Original stile cut off to receive new rail

Pilaster shown removed for investigation. Outline of pilaster

Orig. Stiles

Evidence of orig. stile mortise

Wrought Nails

Bottom Rail dates from 1898 "restoration"

Back-up (or curtain) boards behind paneling are original. Purpose not known, perhaps to block-out light from "false" window.

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co. Inc. 4 May 66 Neg. No. 157.2080

Beaded Archway Pilaster adjacent to main Pilaster "planted" on stile

Profile of orig. chair rail

Function of board not known
Supreme Court Room: South Wall: Railing over Last Window

(ceiling joists)

Original Girder

(South Wall)

Original Rails (or Frieze Board)

Original Iron Anchor

Orig. Stiles

Painted areas: original metopes

Location of missing triglyphs

For detail of evidence of pre-erection flush panel, see Illus. No. 49

Photo: James L. Dilke & Co. Inc.
220 Oct 64 EODC Neg. No. 167.1693
Supreme Court Room, South Wall: Paneling over west window

Ceiling Joists

Paneling is pulled loose from orig iron anchor

(SOUTH WALL)

Orig. Frieze Board

Painted areas: Original Metopes?

Location of missing triglyphs

This void originally covered by architrave, guttae, and taenia.

\[ \text{bot. orig. entablature} \] \[ \text{bot. 1898 entablature} \]

Original Raised Panel

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co. Inc. 22 Oct 64  FORD Neg. No. 157,1668

See Illus. No. 47 for details at capital

See Illus. No. 48 for details at capital

See Illus. No. 50 for details this area
Supreme Court Room: South Wall: Pilaster betw. East Window & Curved Corner Paneling

- Broken Original Rail
- No orig. frieze boards survive in this corner.

Stiles and rails of corner panel unit rabbeted to receive frieze boards.

Beginning of Original Curved Panel Unit in Southeast Corner.

For paint traces of original pilaster capital, see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 9.

Original Pilaster, for details of pilasters see NHP-IND 3425, sheets 5 and 6.

For evidence of pre-erection flush panel, see Illus No. 49

Supreme Court Room. South Wall. Pilaster betw. East Window & Center Window

Painted areas: Original Metopes

(SOUTH WALL)

Paint line where original paint cozed into joint between upper and lower fascia of architrave, see NHP-IND 3425, sheet 25

For paint traces of original pilaster capital, see NHP-IND 3425 sheet 9.

This area orig. occupied by upper architrave, guttae & taenia.

This area orig. occupied by lower architrave.

Original Stile
Sawn off (date and reason not known)

Bot. orig entablature

Bot. 1888 entablature

For paint traces of original pilaster capital, see NHP-IND 3425 sheet 9.


Orig. Stile
Supreme Court Room - South Wall - Pilaster betw. Center Window & West Window

Painted areas: Orig. Metopes (SOUTH WALL)

Paint line where original paint eased into joint between upper and lower fascia of architrave.

Combined height of orig. upper fascia, guttae & taenia.

Height of orig. lower fascia of architrave.

Original Pilaster. Note that flutes run through to end, and are "finished" with separate blocks. (block missing)

For paint traces of orig. pilaster capital, see NHP-IND 3425 sheet 1.

Supreme Court Room • South Wall • Corner Pilaster at Southwest Corner

- Painted area on frieze board is org. metope
- Pegs for tenon of frieze bds.
- Original stile
- For paint traces of original pilaster capital, see NHP IND 34125 sheet 9.

West Wall Stile cut off

Original Corner Pilasters. Note that flutes are not run through to end, but are carved out of the solid. This is unique to the NW and SW corner pilasters.

(SOUTH WALL)

(WEST WALL)
Sequence of Panel Changes
During Original Construction:

1. Panel units prefabricated with flush panel boards, mortised and tenoned to stiles, similar to east wall spandrels.
2. Flush panels cut out, leaving evidence of mortises, tenons, pegs.
3. Panel units raised into place and secured with iron anchors.
4. Back-up strips added (to provide a "seat" for raised panels) by nailing into edges of stiles with wrought-finish nails.
5. Raised panels installed.
6. Applied quarter-round molding nails to edge of stiles and rails with wrought-finish nails.
7. Entire panel system prime-painted and finish painted.

It is not known whether this change was the result of an error by craftsmen, or a mid-construction change of design. Sequence applies to panels over all windows.

One back-up strip survives; most quarter round moldings have survived.

Orig. Window Architrave cut too short by original craftsmen, and pieces cut to form "Knee."

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co., Inc. 240164 Neg. No. 157.2045
Supreme Court Room - South Wall - Detail at Southwest Corner

50

Orig. iron anchor, flange down, with wrought nail

Painted area:
Original Metope

Orig. Stile

Pegs securing glued-up frieze board to stile

Note:
Both iron anchors have left impressions in wood, showing that stile and rail were tight against anchors originally. It appears that panel unit was forcefully moved immediately after erection to provide better "fit" to adjacent panel unit on west wall.

Original iron anchor, flange left, nail is missing

bot. orig. entablature

Pilaster Capital outline

Original Rail to corner stile

(SOUTH WALL)

Photo: James L. Dillow & Co. Inc. 22 Oct 64 EDOC Neg. No. 157, 1660
Supreme Court Room - north wall. Detail between East Window Corner wide.

10' x 60' ceiling beam

1962 Shim
1962 Grout

(SOUTH WALL)

Top of orig. stile

Orig. Iron Anchor with rose-head wrought nail

Arrow No. 2 points to split-off stile, with several peg holes, apparently in an effort to adjust panel unit during initial installation.

Nail driven into rail, apparently to help compensate for lost strength at split joint (at right).

Original Nailing Block (not used)

Orig. Iron Anchor is tight against stile, suggesting that movement occurred in the east panel unit (at left).

Photo: James L. Dillon & Co. Inc. 27 Jan 65 BXX Neg. No. 157.1757
F.S. ELEVATION AND SECTION
OF IMPOST AT NORTH SIDE OF
CENTER ARCH - SUPREME COURT RM.

SECTION LOOKING SOUTH
- ORIGINAL ARCHWAY PLASMA PLANTED
ON STYLE

ORIGINAL WOOD RAIL BLOCK
SET IN BRICK WALL

ORIGINAL WOOD RAIL BLOCK
SET IN BRICK WALL

ARCHWAY PLASTER
EDGE OF BRICK WALL

ARCHWAY PLASTER
EDGE OF BRICK WALL

ELEVATION LOOKING EAST
F.S. DETAILS OF KEYSTONE - CENTER ARCHWAY
SUPREME COURT ROOM.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PA
DRAFT DATA EXISTING CONDITIONS, INDEPENDENCE HALL, JAN. 1966
FS RELECTED PLANS OF SELECTED CEILING BEAMS SHOWING EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH ORIGINAL CORNICE PROJECTION

Legend:
- Whitewash (original and or old)
- Latex, gloss
- Scribed, lathe
- Cease, wood and or metal

Sections indicate probable position of crown molding, with respect to evidence of plaster ceiling.
STATUS OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PA  II

PROJECT:  Rehab.

INDEPENDENCE NHP
PARK
Independence Hall, Supreme Court Room Ceiling, Entablature and Wall Panelling for the North, South and East Walls

STRUCTURE/BUILDING #

CLASS

MASTER PLAN

FCP

PROGRAMMED

SECTIONS:

Admin.
Called for
Due
Rec'd

His.
Called for
Due
Rec'd

Architecture
Called for
Due
Rec'd 8/25/66

Called for
Due
Rec'd

Called for
Due
Rec'd

DISTRIBUTED
Park 8-25-66
EODC
Region 10-13-66
WASO

REVIEWED
Park
EODC
Region 10-19-66
WASO

APPROVED:
Region 10-24-66
WASO 11-23-66 A&R DC-71C
SUPREME COURT ROOM CEILING, ENTAILATURE & WALL PANELING FOR THE NORTH, SOUTH AND EAST WALLS, (INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK)

Operations

Very impressive report on this limited portion of the remaining needed restoration work. Recommend approval, dated 10/17

Programs

Two hundred and sixty-three thousand four hundred and twenty-four dollars, and 00/100, but even without this is a formidable project. I recommend approval.

Oliver

10/17

Last Dr. Nelligan
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Assistant Director, DC-WSC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II (Portion), Supreme Court Room, Independence Hall

The interested Divisions of this Office have reviewed the Historic Structures Report, Part II (Portion), Architectural Data Section, for the restoration of Ceiling, Entablature and Wall Panelling for the North, South and East Walls of the Supreme Court Room, Independence Hall, and concur with the recommendations presented by Architect Lee Nelson. I have approved the report this date.

We fully realize the difficulties encountered by the research architects in gathering evidence and precedent for the West Wall and Court Room fixtures and wish to give them adequate time to prepare a solution with a minimum of conjecture; however, completion of the recommendations contained in this report will be delayed pending approval of a report for the balance of the room. We understand that preparation of that report is well advanced.

J. E. N. Jensen

cc: Supt., Independence
OCT 24 1966

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region

To: Director
From: Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region

Subject: Historic Site Survey Report, Zone II (Parkland); Architectural Data Section; Excavation Data; Records Survey; Buildings and Cellar Inspections for the North, South, and Main Camps

I recommend that this report be approved.

I agree with Superintendent Anderson's recommendation that further study be given the question of whether or not there are a chimney.

Thomas E. Whithurst

Thomas E. Whithurst

Park: Independence National Historical Park

General

Daily
Area

MKwlligrm/rev. 10/21/66
Independence National Historical Park  
311 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pa., 19106  

August 30, 1966

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Superintendent, Independence NH

Subject: Independence Hall, Supreme Court Ceiling, Entablature  
and Wall Panelling for the North, South and East Walls  
Historic Structures Report—Part II (Part 1)  
Architectural Data Section

In accordance with Assistant Director, Resource Studies, Steiner's memorandum of August 18, subject above, we submit the following comments:

Architects Nelson and Hartsbome have done another impressive job of research and prepared a particularly searching analysis of the data thus gained. Their work continues to display the same detailed study and recognition of the architectural evidence uncovered as revealed in the earlier completed reports on the Assembly Room, Central Hallway and Tower Stairhall in Independence Hall.

On page 113, Introduction and Recommendations, is the presentation of a drawing of the original entablature and a modification of the entablature to accommodate the previously installed atmospheric control ductwork. While the modification required, as explained on Drawing Sheet No. 26 of the report, is regretted, it is considered appropriate in relation to all factors and conditions involved.

In the section of the report treating with the ceiling in the Supreme Court Room (page 14) there is the recommendation that a chandelier—will be installed as part of the proposed restoration. The basis for this proposal rests on the lack of physical or documentary evidence for such a fixture. While many factors have been assessed in evaluating this recommendation, we believe other factors need to be considered before we are committed to such treatment as is suggested. The missing piece of the original center joint may have included the data, and while there is no documentation to show that this feature
existed, there is equally no evidence to indicate that one did not exist. We recommend that further investigation of this subject be carried out since such a fixture was recently revealed to have been in the Assembly Room in the contemporary period and that additional research be made in the field of comparative architecture.

M. A. Anderson

cc: NERO

MIT/ta
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Assistant Director, Resource Studies

Subject: Independence Hall, Supreme Court Room Ceiling, Entablature and Wall Panelling for the North, South and East Walls Historic Structures Report Part II (Portion) Architectural Data Section, August 1966

Transmitted herewith is a copy of the above named report for your files.

Will you please review and submit your recommendation for approval or disapproval to the Director.

Enclosure

cc: Supt., Independence Hall w/c of report.