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A REPORT ON THE GROUNDS SURROUNDING THE SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

WITH EMPHASIS ON CONDITIONS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1819 TO 1836

By James G. Kiryakakis
Landscape Architect

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CAST IRON FENCE.- Along Chestnut Street

A cast iron fence, similar to the fence existing on the Library Street approach, existed on either side of the terrace along Chestnut Street.

East Side of Terrace on Chestnut Street

On the east side of the building terrace along Chestnut Street, the cast iron fence was divided into three sections occupying 19 feet of space. One section, taking up 4 feet 9 inches, was attached to the Browne and Robb building (later the Western Bank); the center section using 8 feet consisted of two gates; and the third section, using 6 feet 3 inches, was attached to the terrace wall. There were 4-3/4 units of large, circular-pattern cast iron fence in the three sections: 1 unit in the section attached to the Browne and Robb building, 2 units in the two gates making up the center section, and 1-3/4 units in the section attached to the terrace wall.

A row of small rings, similar to those on the existing gates on Library Street, was added to the large, circular-pattern units of the fence on the east side. Chestnut Street sloped from west to east, as it still does, and the rings served to compensate for the grade change, bringing the top of the cast iron fence level with the top of the terrace wall. The fence was secured to a stone curb which extended about 4 inches above ground level. (Figures 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 20 show the construction details of the cast iron fence and its placement.)

West Side of Terrace on Chestnut Street

The cast iron fence on this side was almost identical to the fence on the east side. It was divided in the same way, into three sections of corresponding widths which extended 19 feet from the terrace wall and contained 4-3/4 units of the large, circular-pattern cast iron fence. A section of 1 unit 4 feet 9 inches long was attached to Norris Row (later to the United States Post Office). Two gates constructed of 2 units made up the center section running 8 feet. The third section containing 1-3/4 units would have extended 6 feet 3 inches, as the total distance from the terrace wall to the property line (or the width of the passageway on the west side of the building terrace, per deed description) was 19 feet. (See footnote 5.) Almost all of the drawings on this subject show 5 units of cast iron circular-pattern fence on the west side of the building terrace, but the width of the passageway spanned by this fence permitted only 4-3/4 units to be used.

The small rings attached to the large, circular-pattern units used in the construction of the fence on the east side of the building terrace were omitted in the construction of the fence along the west side. As has been previously noted, Chestnut Street slopes from west to east on this site, and the rings were not required to keep the fence level with the top of the terrace wall. There was, however, a stone curbing to which the fence was secured.

The height from present grade to the top of the terrace wall on the west side of the building terrace is 39 inches, while on the east side it is 54 inches.

(See figures 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 17 which show the fence on the west side of the building terrace.)

CAST IRON FENCE - CONTINUED

Along Library Street

A cast iron fence extended all along the top of the terrace wall and over the passageways on top of wing walls, being disrupted only by gateways to each passageway and a gateway in the center of the terrace wall leading into the Library Street entrance to the building. The gateways, similar to the present gateway off Library Street, were 8 feet wide and fashioned of two gates. Each gate was constructed of 1 unit of the large, circular-pattern cast iron fence, to which was attached a row of small rings, followed by a row of bars and a second row of the small rings. Close examination of the gates opening into the east passageway revealed that they had been widened; probably to make the gateway wide enough to accommodate present day vehicles.

The original curbstone is still in use although it has been moved and centered on the gates. It is believed that the section of terrace wall and wing wall running from the center gates to the east gates was 59 feet 3 inches long, that it has not been altered, and that it contains the original 18 units used in this portion of the cast iron fence along Library Street. (See figure 1.) The section of the terrace wall and wing wall running from the center gates to the west gates has been altered. It is thought that this section also was 59 feet 3 inches long and contained the same number of units of the cast iron fence.

Since the three gateways, each 8 feet wide, occupied a total of 24 feet of space and the two terrace walls mentioned above occupied 118 feet 6 inches, the remaining 15 feet 1/2 inch was divided between the west wing wall west of the west gates and the east wing wall east of the east gates in this manner: 7 feet 1-1/2 inches on the west, as this was the amount of space

remaining from the property line to the west gates, and 7 feet 11 inches on the east side of the east gates to the east property line. The east wing wall east of the east gates had two complete units of the fence with the two-part arcs on the ends. The west wing wall west of the west gates also had two complete units of the fence but only one-part arc. (See figures 1, 6, 13, 18, and 19 and footnote 2.)

TERRACE WALL

The terrace wall ran completely around the building except where it was disrupted for the Library Street center entrance and the center openings on the east and west sides of the building used as service entrances to the basement. Its construction was similar to that of the terrace wall existing on the east side of the building along the east passageway.

Terrace Wall along Chestnut Street

Along Chestnut Street the terrace wall ran across the entire front of the building to points 19 feet from each side boundary line. There were no steps then extending along the front of the building leading from Chestnut Street to the top of the terrace wall. The original steps were located just inside the cast iron fence on either side of the building and led to the top of the terrace walls. On the west there were 6 of these steps, the sixth step becoming the terrace wall. (Footnote 2.) On the east there were 7 steps, the seventh necessary because of the grade. (Figures 4 through 9 show the terrace wall across the front of the building, as well as other details, prior to 1838.) (Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7 show the steps on the sides of the building terrace.)

Terrace Wall along the East Passageway

The terrace wall along the east passageway is located on the original site, but the opening in the wall leading to the cellar was enlarged (angled) sometime around 1868 to permit easier loading and unloading of goods. (See figure 23.) The wall extends 13 feet 6 inches from the building proper. This distance corresponds with the measured distance from the building of the wall foundations uncovered on the west side recently during excavations to install a steam line. The opening at the basement entrance was 8 feet 7 inches wide. This measurement also was recorded during the recent excavation. (See Field Notebook, Second Bank of the U. S., 1954.) (Figures 2, 5, 6, 7, and 15 through 19 show the terrace wall along the east passageway.)

Terrace Wall along the West Passageway

Recent excavations for the installation of a steam line uncovered the foundations of the west terrace wall. It was noted that the terrace wall extended 13 feet 6 inches from the building proper and that the opening leading to the cellar doors at the center of the building was 8 feet 7 inches wide. These measurements are recorded in a field notebook titled "Second Bank of the U. S., 1954." (Footnote 4 evidences the removal of the terrace wall around 1881.) (Figures 2, 4, 7, 12, 13, 15, 17, and 18 show the terrace wall along the west passageway.) (Figure 18, as well as figures 2 and 7, shows the opening leading to the basement entrance in the center of the building.)

TERRACE WALL - CONTINUED

Terrace Wall along Library Street

Except for the portion of the wall cut off on the west side of the building along Library Street, the terrace wall on this street is the same as the original. (See figures 2 and 18.)

CHEEK WALLS

Cheek Walls on Chestnut Street

On the steps leading up from the terrace to the portico there were cheek walls similar to those existing now on the Library Street approach. Close examination discloses that changes have been made to the Chestnut Street steps. The side stones have been cut and stepped; and the treads on either end of the stairs are of the approximate length, or width, of the cheek wall, and much shorter than the average length of the other treads in the stairs. (Figures 1 through 10 show these cheek walls on the front of the building.)

Cheek Walls on Library Street

The cheek walls on Library Street are original.

FENDER POSTS

There are at present two fender posts on the Library Street approach to the east passageway. It has been noted that fender posts were located on this side of the building as early as 1868, and possibly as early as 1824. (See footnote 3.) It is thought that vehicular traffic approached the building passageways only from Library Street and that therefore fender posts existed also on the west passageway entrance. Drawings and photographs of the Chestnut Street entrances do not show any fender posts, so it is believed that none existed.

CARRIAGE BLOCKS

Carriage Blocks on Chestnut Street

A carriage block of hexangular shape was located west of the center of the building on the pavement along Chestnut Street. (See figures 3, 4, 11, 12, and 17.) One rectangular carriage block can be seen in figures 11 and 17 to the west of the hexangular block.

Carriage Blocks on Library Street

We have no direct evidence of the presence of carriage blocks on Library Street in the vicinity of this building; however, a photograph, (figure 18) showing buggies parked on this side suggests that carriage blocks did exist on Library Street.

LAMPS

Lamps on Chestnut Street

A street lamp once stood along the curb on Chestnut Street east of the center of the building, about 60 feet from the east property line. (See figures 3, 5, 17, and 19.)

Lamps in the East Passageway

Another lamp was located inside the east passageway south of the steps leading up to the terrace. (See figures 4, 5, and 12.)

Lamps in the West Passageway

A third lamp was located on the section of the cast iron fence attached to Norris Row. The design of this lamp may be found in "Colonial Iron Work in Philadelphia" (footnote 1). The lamp was attached to the top of the cast iron fence between an arrowhead. (See figures 4, 9, 12, and 17 and footnote 1.)

Lamps on Library Street

Between 1863 and 1881 there was a lamp on Library Street similar in

design to the one which stood on Chestnut Street from 1827 to 1839. The lamp was located 10 to 12 feet west of the center of the building along the curb on Library Street. (See figures 5, 7, 18, and 19.)

In his published report titled, "Colonial Ironwork in Philadelphia," William A. Dunn stated that there were lamps attached to the top of the fence along Library Street, and he illustrated them in a measured drawing included in the volume. We found it possible to contact Mr. Dunn during our research on the subject. As a result, Mr. Dunn, by letter dated March 24, 1955, addressed to Independence National Historical Park, reaffirmed his statements regarding the existence of such lamps on the fence at the time he recorded the fence for his published report between 1929 and 1930. He did not record the number of lamps existing nor their exact location.

A drawing of a view of Chestnut Street by Strickland (figure 3) shows two lamps attached to the top of the fence on that side of the building. While it is known the fence was never constructed as such on Chestnut Street, the drawing does suggest the possible location of the lamps on the fence along Library Street. Inspection of the existing section of fence along Library Street indicated that a lamp might have been attached to the fence at the point where the terrace walls end and the wing walls begin. Two bolts can be seen at this point (bolts larger than those used to connect the fence sections) spaced the proper distance apart for attaching a wrought iron lamp to the fence. (See footnote 1.) However, as the terminal points of the side terrace walls are not shown in any of our views of the Library Street facade of the building, we are without any photographic record to support our inclination toward this conclusion.

PASSAGEWAYS

East Passageway

The passageway on the east side of the building is 19 feet wide at Chestnut Street and 22 feet 10 inches wide at Library Street. The difference in width at these two points is due to the jogs made by the property line along the east side. The passageways were paved, according to a report by Strickland (see footnote 2). In a letter dated May 28, 1868 by Charles Close (footnote 3) "consideration is being made for the repaving of the passageway and it is suggested that the North section of the passageway remain in the old paving bricks which were laid in a heringbone pattern edgeways."

Among the original vouchers still preserved at the Ridgway Library there is one for August 31, 1821 which reads: "Michael and Samuel Fox on acct. of bricks delivered for pavement, &c. $500.00." There is also record of a check issued on July 6, 1821 to "John Stull in full for digging foundation for pavement, gravel for ditto, and hauling dirt 72.20." These documents, together with the letter referred to in footnote 3, seem to authenticate Strickland's statement that the passageways were paved.

Trees lining the passageway were out about 3 feet from the base of the terrace walls. (See figures 5, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, and 19.)

West Passageway

The passageway on the west side of the building is 19 feet wide at Chestnut Street (see footnote 5) and 21 feet 10 inches wide at Library Street. The difference in width on this side is due to the fact that the building was placed parallel to Chestnut Street and the west property line is not at right angles to Chestnut Street. As mentioned above, according to a report by Strickland, this passageway was also paved.

PASSAGEWAYS - CONTINUED

Trees also lined this passageway. They were out about 3 feet from the terrace wall, the reason being that this was the approximate center of the open area between the bank building and the buildings neighboring the property. (See figures 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 12 through 18.)

PAVING

Paving - Walks along Chestnut and Library Streets

The sidewalks in front of the building and in back of the building along the terrace walls were paved with large blocks of flagstones jointed together. (See figures 4, 8, 11, 13, 15, and 17 through 20.) To substantiate this statement there is a record of checks (in research files, "Second Bank of U.S." INHPP) made payable as follows: to "Samuel Haines for regulating curb stone 4.50" dated June 15, 1821; to "George G. Leiper for 150 ft curb stone @ 75¢ 112.50" dated August 24, 1821; to "Flag Stone Cutters 44.86½" dated October 13, 1820; and to "Nicholas Struck porterage of flagging, marble, poles, etc, 66.37" dated November 10, 1820. The 150 feet of curb stone is the frontage of the property along Chestnut Street.

Paving - Passageways

The passageways were paved with brick laid edgewise in a herringbone pattern. (See footnotes 2 and 3 and statements made regarding paving under "PASSAGEWAYS" in this report.

Paving - Terraces

The terraces were paved with large flagstones jointed together (footnote 2). A record of checks issued at the time of construction (in research files, "Second Bank of U.S." INHPP) supports this assertion. Two such checks are mentioned in the itemization above under "Paving - Walks along

PAVING - CONTINUED

Chestnut and Library Streets."

TREES

Trees on Chestnut and Library Streets

Originally, there were no trees along either Chestnut Street or Library Street in the vicinity of the Second Bank of the United States. (See figures 1 through 20.)

Trees in East and West Passageways

There was a single row of trees on each side of the building 2 or 3 feet out from the terrace wall. The number of trees in each passageway is not known but is believed to be six. By studying the drawings and photographs available we determined that the trees started at a point opposite the center of the porticos on Chestnut Street. As there were buildings on both sides of the bank building along Chestnut Street at least until 1910, the space for planting trees was limited to the 19-foot area in each passageway and the 13-1/2-foot area of the terraces. (See figures 4, 5, and 8 through 19 for trees.)

BRICK WALLS

Brick Wall - West Side of the Property

A brick wall with a marble coping was built in 1820 on the west side of the property line on the property of Mr. H. Kuhn on Norris Row. This wall was 133 feet 9 inches long (footnote 6). From the Horace Wells Sellers collection (figure 14) we observe that a brick wall enclosed part of the back yards of the Norris Row building. By measuring from the Library Street Freestanding Wall with the cast iron fence 133 feet 9 inches, we come to a point approximately 26 feet from the rear of the Norris Row build-

ing. This is also the same approximate point of intersection as shown in figure 14. It is believed that the wall immediately to the rear of Norris Row was in existence at the time the Second Bank was being built and that the Bank obtained permission to build the wall on Mr. Kuhn's property for the purpose of enclosing the passageway completely.

As to the height of the wall, it was noted in the deed description to the property west of the Second Bank that a restrictive clause mentioned 8 feet. "Restriction: And subject also the express restrictions and positive prohibition that no building or obstruction whatever shall at any time or times hereafter be built upon the hereby granted lot of ground in the rear or south of the building now erected thereon exceeding in height the present partition wall being 8' from the surface of the ground on the East line of the said lot."

Brick Wall - East Side of the Property

Although there is no evidence that a brick wall existed on the east side of the bank building, it is believed that one did in fact exist at the time the Second Bank was being built or was erected at the same time. It seems logical that both passageways would have been enclosed since the front and back of the building had been enclosed by a fence, and also as the Second Bank had paid for a wall on the west side of their property.

Examination of the existing wall on the east side of the property has disclosed that the wall is not on the property of the Second Bank. The situation here is similar to that on the west side where the brick wall was built on the property of Mr. Kuhn and not on the property of the Second Bank.

OBSERVATIONS

I have written this report after making a careful study of all the material available to me on the grounds surrounding the Second Bank of the United States. I did not always find evidence to support my conclusions, but where I have drawn conclusions I have taken care to distinguish them from the facts.

Discrepancies were observed in the report by William Strickland in "The Port Folio" (footnote). The dimensions he gave for the terrace and other features were in error. His report was published during the time the Second Bank was being built, and it is logical to assume that changes did occur in the course of construction which would account for his errors in dimensions reported.

Between 1836 and 1838 major changes took place on the grounds around the Second Bank. It was during this period that the building ceased to be the Second Bank of the United States and became the United States Bank of Pennsylvania. In her book titled, "William Strickland," and in the supplement to it, Agnes Gilchrist states that William Strickland was called in to do the remodeling of this building between 1836 and 1838. Although her reference to the source for this statement is inconclusive, it may be reasoned that Strickland was the logical person to supervise the remodeling of the building since he had supervised its construction, and he had, during this period of change, designed and built for the Philadelphia Bank, a new building on the east side of the United States Bank, and he had also supervised the remodeling of the Second Bank in 1844 for use as the Custom House.

* * *

Figures - Second Bank of the United States 1819-1836

1. Elevation of the Bank of the United States, Designed by William Strickland Arch. "Port Folio" 1821 Plate 150

2. Plan of the Bank of the United States, designed by William Strickland Arch. "Port Folio" 1821 Plate 149

3. United States Bank, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Strickland del. Tucker Sc. (most probably an early sketch of the building since fence was never built in this manner on Chestnut Street)

4. United States Bank at Philadelphia, 1831, Burton (copy at the American Philosophical Society Library)

5. Second Bank of the United States, J. Tingle after W. H. Bartlett, "Historical Philadelphia" (Vol 43, pt. 1, 1953) American Philosophical Society, 1839

6. Bank of the United States, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, George Strickland del. engraved by C.C. Childs 1828.

7. Bank of the United States, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, George Strickland del. Thos Birch publisher 1827

8. The Custom House, Alexander Jackson Davis, "American German Review" April 1940

9. United States Bank, Philadelphia 1840 from Map 205A P.L. Phillips 1552B

10. The Gold and Silver Artificers of Phila. 22 Feb. 1832 by M.E.D. Brown.

11. Chestnut Street Looking East after 1836 Print Collection Free Library

12. United States Bank, Philadelphia Lithograph by J. C. Wild 1838

13. Drawing of the Second Bank of the United States attributed to Wm. Strickland dates post 1838. Historical Soc. of Phil.

14. Panorama of Philadelphia from the State House Steeple, Looking East 1838. (Horace W. Sellers Col.)

15. Custom House, South side Chestnut St. between 4th and 5th Sts. 1851 B.R. Evans del.

16. Custom House, Talbotype Photo by Wm & F Langenheim July 1850

17. Custom House, Old Photo dates between 1850 and 1863

18. Custom House, Old photo, probably by Rinewell Landscape Photographer, dates between 1863 and 1881.

Figures- Second Bank of the United States 1819-1836 Continued

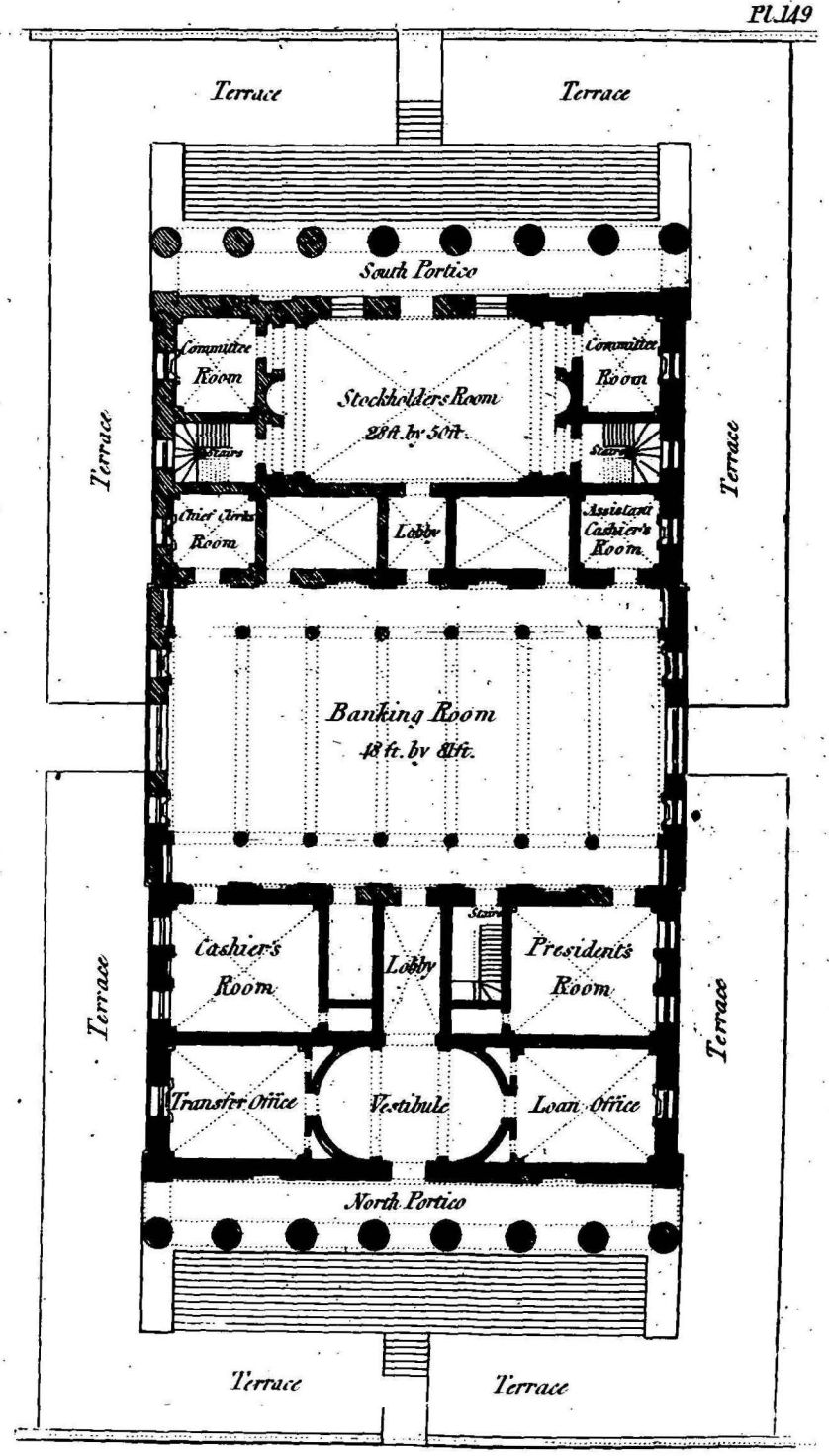
19. Custom House, Photo taken between 1863 and 1888.

20. Custom House, Photo dates around 1910. Lutz Collection

FIGURE 1. Elevation of the Bank of the United States, designed by William Strickland Arch. "Port Folio" 1821 Plate 150

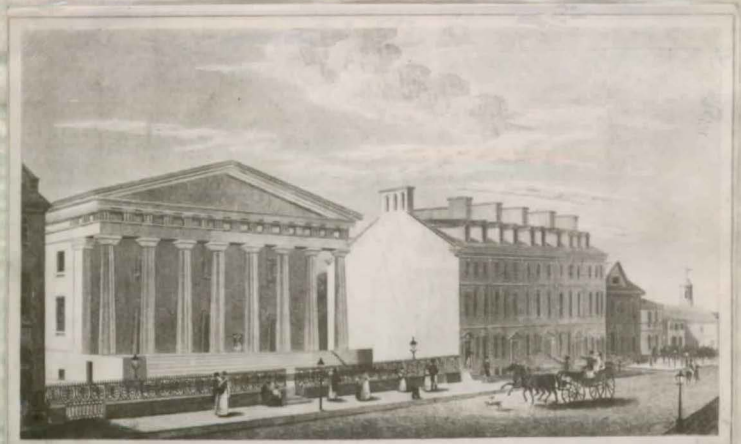


FIGURE 2. Plan of the Bank of the United States designed by William Strickland Arch. "Port Folio" 1821 Plate 149



PLAN OF THE BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

FIGURE 3. United States Bank, Chestnut Street, Phila. Stricklnand Del. Tucker Sc. (most probably an early sketch of the building since fence was never built in this manner on chestnut Street.)



UNITED STATES BANK

Chestnut Street Philadelphia

FIGURE 4. United States Bank at Philadelphia, 1831, Burton (copy at American Phil. Soc. Library)



FIGURE 5. Second Bank of the United States, J. Tingle after W. H. Bartlett, "Historical Philadelphia" (Vol 43, pt. 1, 1953) American Phil. Soc. 1839

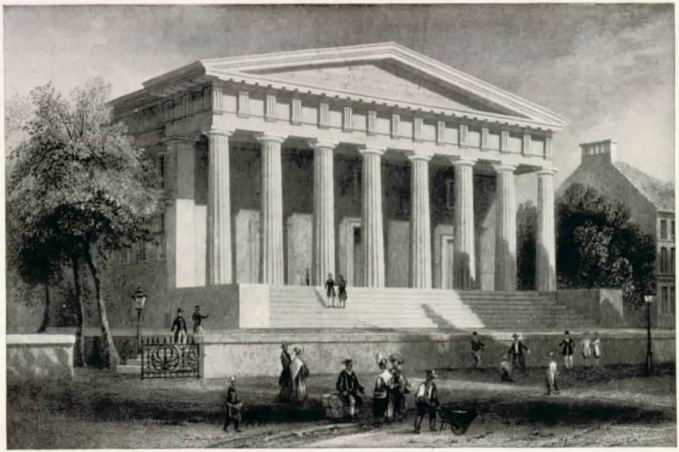
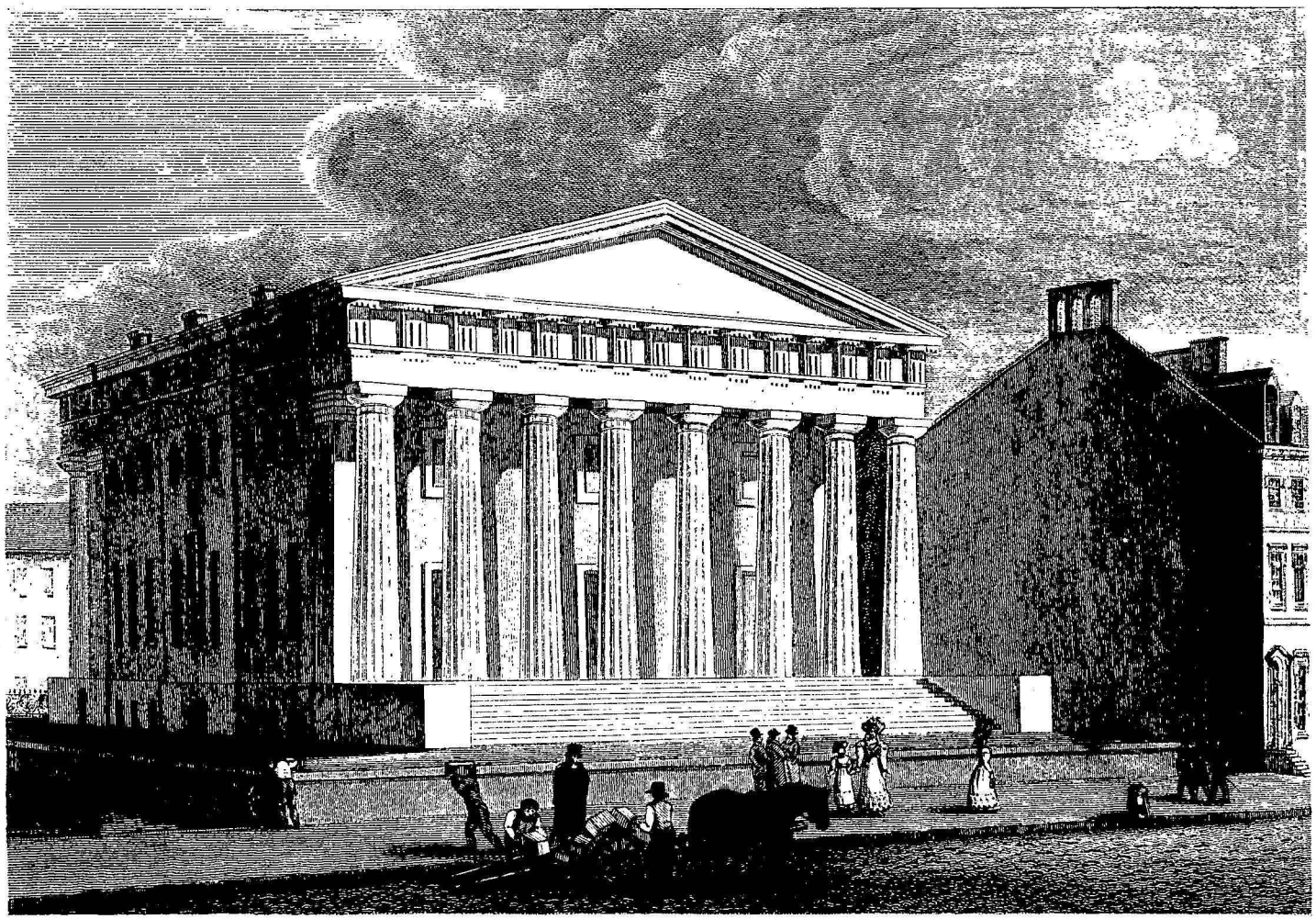


FIGURE 6. Bank of the United States, Chestnut Street Phila.. George Stricklnand del. engraved by C.C. Childs 1828



Drawn by Geo. Strickland.

Engraved by C.G. Childs.

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

FIGURE 7. Bank of the United States, Chestnut Street, Phila.
George Strickland del. Thos. Birch publisher 1827



George Strickland Arch.t Del.t

Bank of the United States,

Chestnut Street Philadelphia.

Published by Wm Birch 1827

FIGURE 8 The Custom House, Alexander Jackson Davis, "American German Review", April 1940

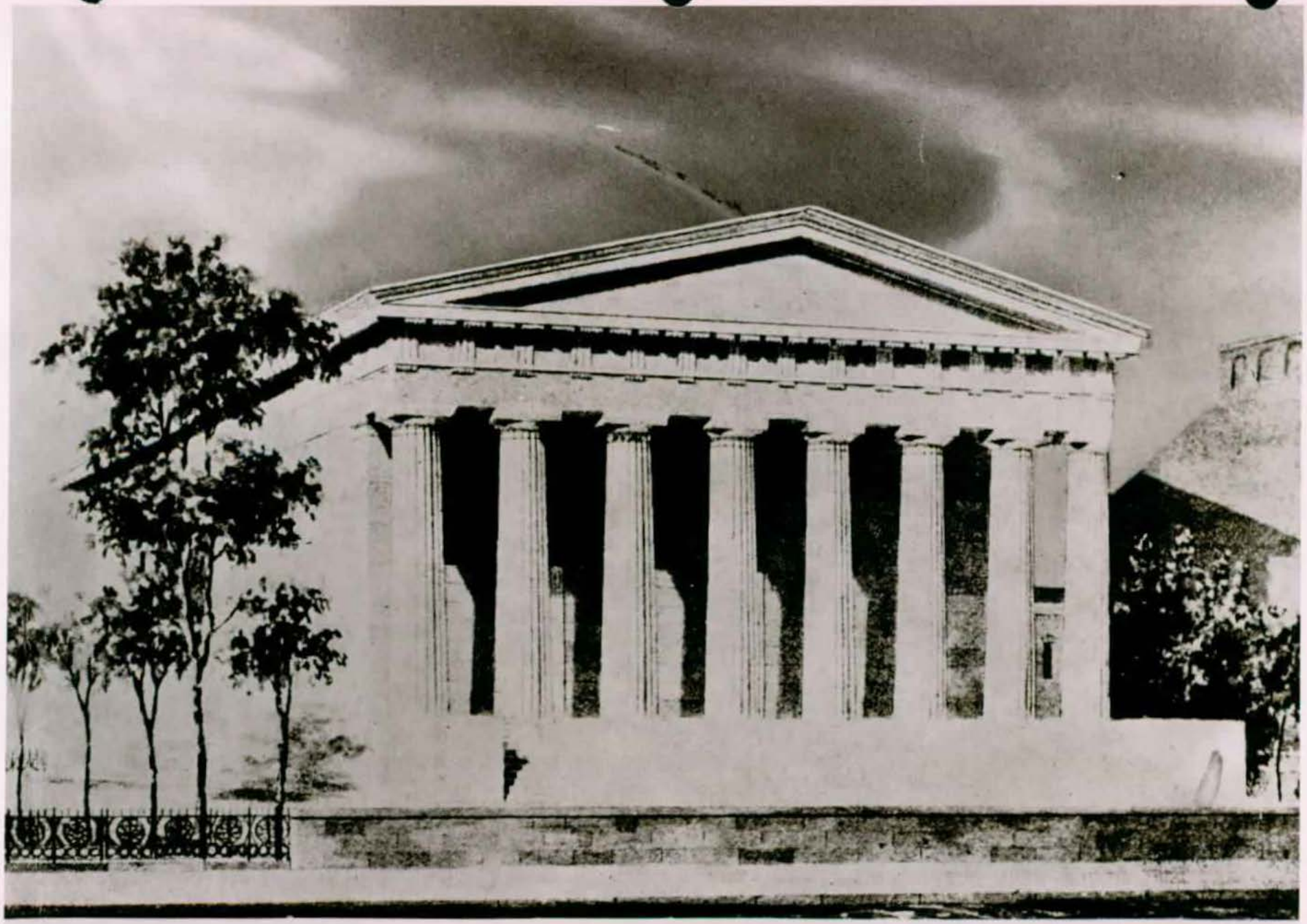


FIGURE 9. United States Bank, Philadelphia 1840
from Map 205A P.L. Phillips 1552B

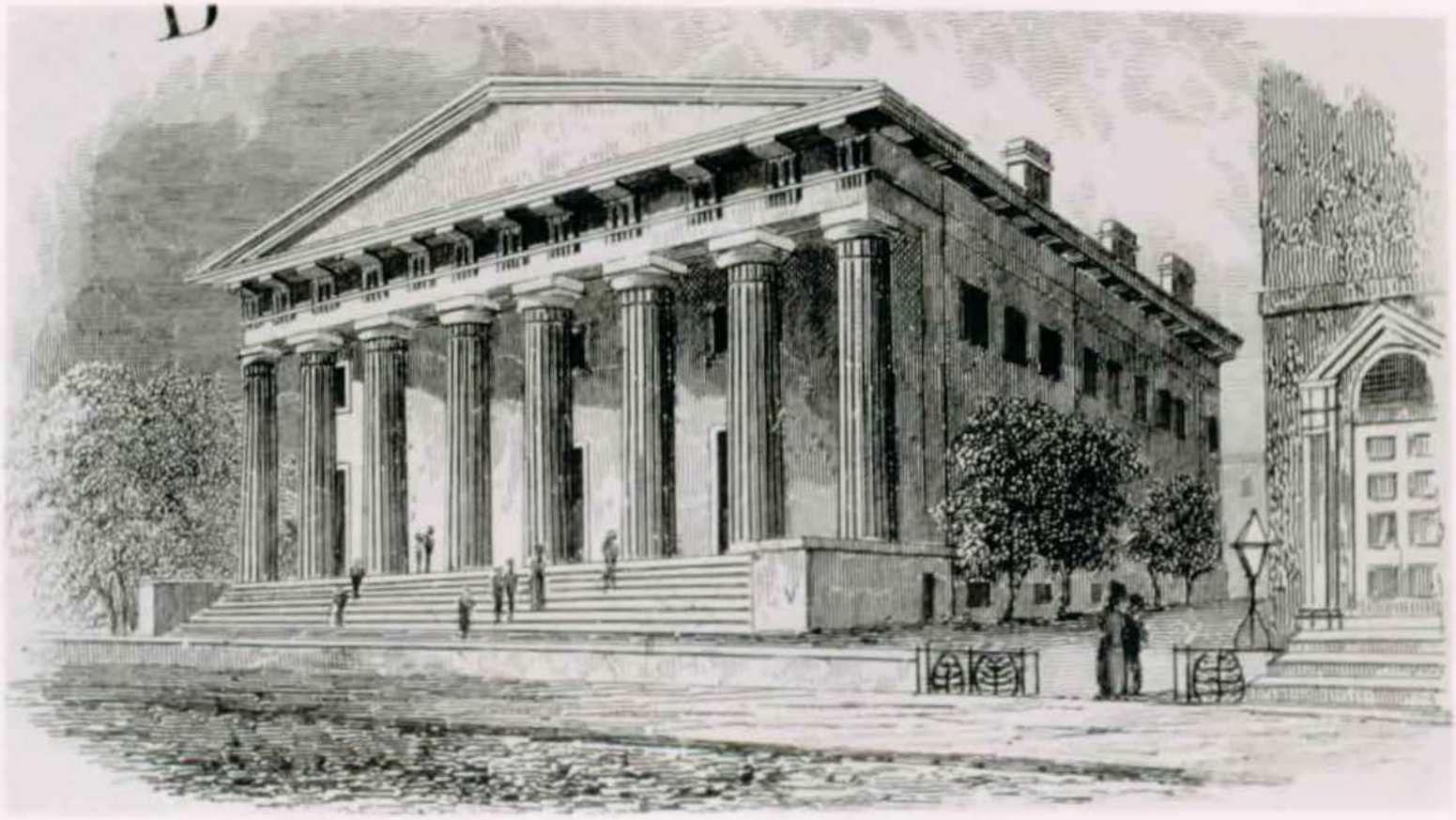
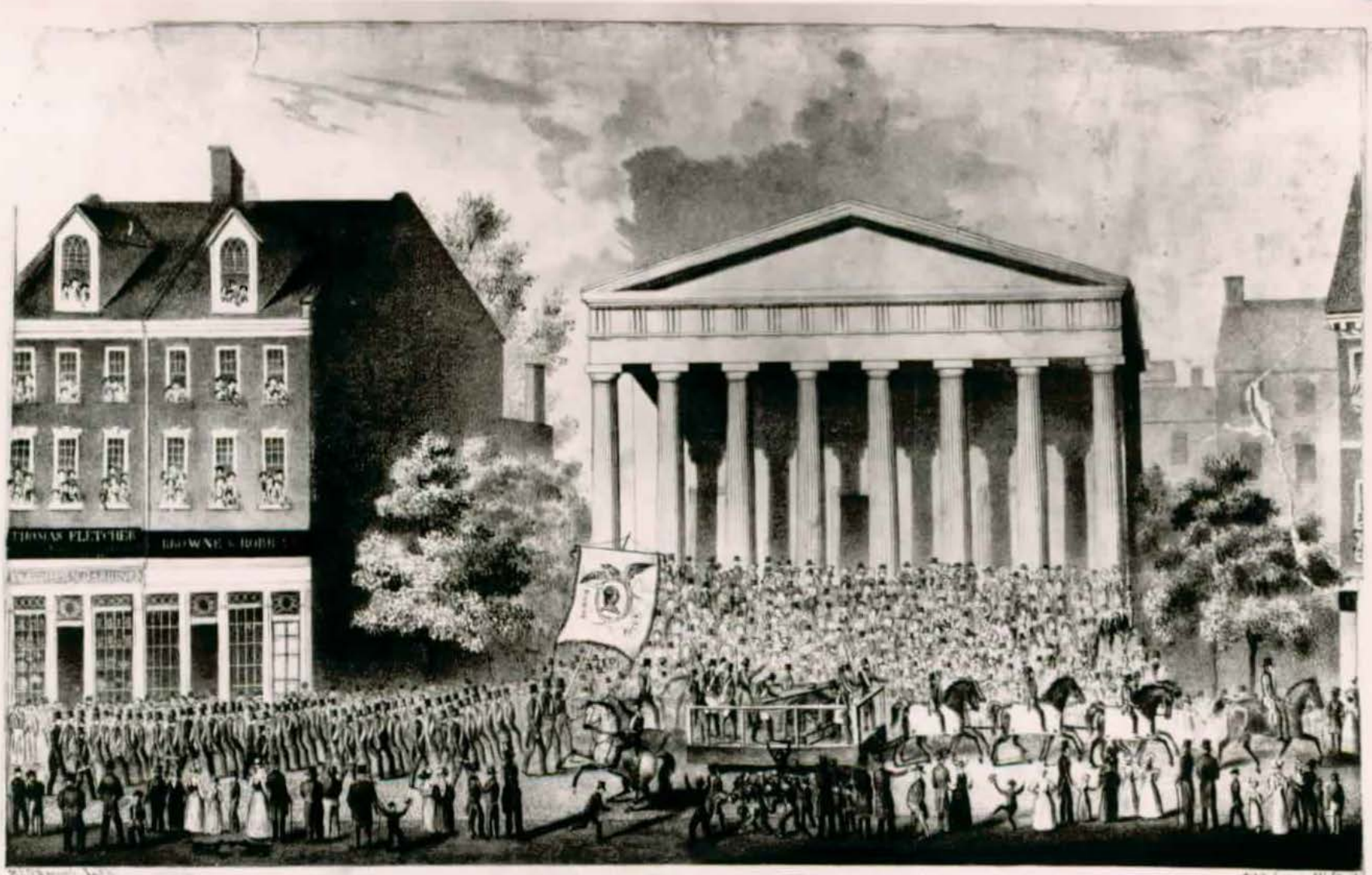


FIGURE 10. The Gold and Silver Artificers of Phila.
22 Feb. 1832 by M.E. D. Brown



THE GOLD & SILVER

ARTIFICERS OF PHILA.

FIGURE 11. Chestnut Street Looking East, after 1836
Print Collection Free Library



FIGURE 12. United States Bank, Philadelphia
Bithograph by J. C. Wild 1838



From Nature and on Stone by J.C. Wild

Printed by John Cole

UNITED STATES BANK.

Chestnut Street

PHILADELPHIA

FIGURE 13. Drawing of the Second Bank of the United States attributed to Wm. Strickland , dates post 1838 Phila Hist. Soc.


1677

FIGURE 14. Panarama of Philadelphia from the State House Steeple, Looking East 1838. (Horace W. Sellers Collection)



PANORAMA OF PHILADELPHIA FROM THE STATE HOUSE STEEPLE, LOOKING EAST, 1838

FIGURE 15. Custom House, South side Chestnut St. between 4th and 5th sts. 1851 B. R. Evans del.



CUSTOM HOUSE

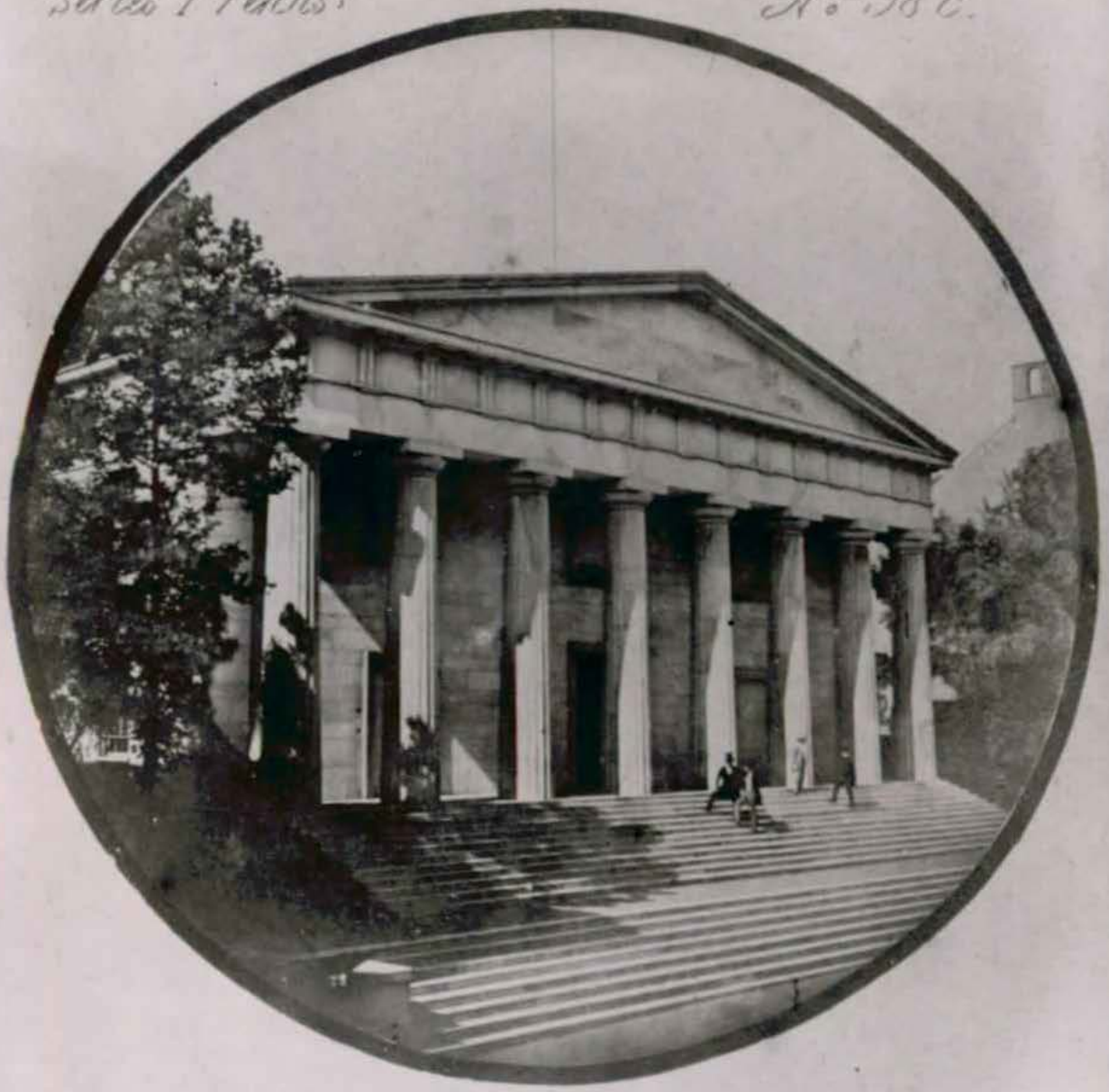
SOUTH SIDE CHESTNUT BETWEEN 4^th^ & 5^th^ STS

FIGURE 16. Custom House, Talbptype Photo by Wm & F. Langenheim
Uuly 1850

VIEWS IN NORTH AMERICA.

Taken from nature by the patent Talbotype process, July 1850, by W. & F. Langenheim, 216 Chestnut St. Phil.a & 247 Broadway N.Y.

Series 1 Penns.a *No. 58 C.*



CUSTOM HOUSE.

formerly the U.S. Bank Phil.a

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FIGURE 17. Custom House, Old Photo dates between 1850 and 1863



FIGURE 18. Custom House, old photo. probably by Rinewell Landscape Photographer, dates between 1863 and 1881

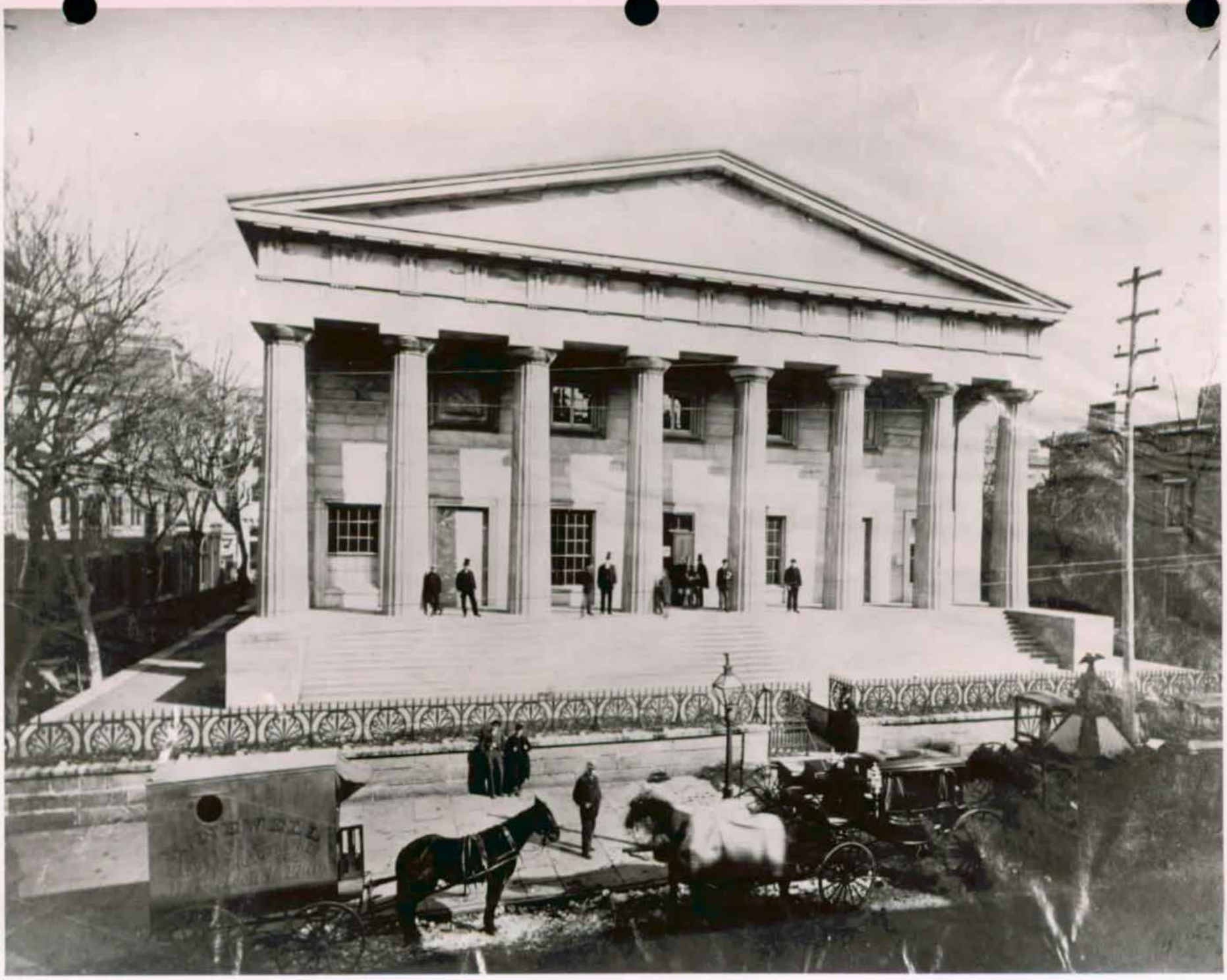


FIGURE 19. Custom House, photo taken between 1863 and 1888



FIGURE 20. Custom House, Photo dates areound 1910
Lutz collection



West half - Philadelphia Bank after remodelling - Old photograph - Gift of Mr. Lutz to American Philosophical Society - Lutz Collection - Rec. 5/19/53

FOOTNOTES - Second Bank of the United States 1819-1836

1. "Colonial Ironwork in Philadelphia" page 39, 1930 Architectural Publishing Co., New York.

2. "The Port Folio" Vol XII July-Dec, Philadelphia 1821 pp 204-207 Art XIX New Bank of the United States in Philadelphia.

"We are indebted to the publisher of that valuable manual, "The Builders Assistant", for the annexed representations of the interior and exterior of the splendid edifice which is described in the following article. The description is from the pen of the ingenious architect Mr. William Strickland, by whom the plan was designed."

"In the design and proportions of this edifice, we recognize the leading features of that celebrated work of antiquity, the Parthenon at Athens. In selecting this example as a model for a building such as a bank, requiring a peculiar internal arrangement and distribution of space and light, it becomes a difficult task for an architect to preserve all the characteristics of a Grecian temple, whose original and appropriation was solely for the worship of the Gods, and for the depositories of public treasure. The peripteros or flanking columns of a Grecian building produced a decidedly beautiful feature in architrave. But they cannot be applied with their proper effect to places of business, without a sacrifice of those principles which have a constant application to internal uses and economy.

The design before us is of the Grecian Doric, characterised as HYPAETHEROS, having eight fluted columns 4 feet 6 inches in diameter, embracing the whole front, taken from the Parthenon, or temple of Minerva, Hecatompedon at Athens, being divested of t the columns of the peripteros and pronaus, of the sculptured metopes of the freize, and the basso-relievo figures in the Humpanum of the pediment.

The columns rise from a basement 6 feet in elvation supporting a plain entablature, extending along the sides of a parallelogram 86 by 160 feet including the body of the building and porticos that project10 feet 6 inches from each of the fronts. The vertical angle of the pediment is 152 degrees forming an uninterrupted line from end to end of the ridge or apex of the roof.

The ascent to the porticos from the street is by a flight of six steps, to a terrace or platform, extending 16 feet on each flank, and in front of the edifice.

It is on this terrace that the building is reared, and from which it derives a great portion of its effect. The gateways on the right and left, open into paved avenues, which extend from Chestnut to Library Streets, along each of the flanks serving to insulate the building from surrounding objects, it being inclosed

2. Cont.

along these avenues by a return of the iron railing exhibited in the front elevation.

This edifice is situated in a north and south direction fronting on Chestnut and Library Streets.

Its length including the portico, is 161 feet, and breadth in front 87 feet. The floor of the principal or ground story is elevated 9 feet, surrounded on all sides by a terrace 14 feet wide, and rising 3 feet wide, and paved with large flag stones jointed together. The main entrance is from Chestnut Street, by a flight of marble steps extending along the whole front of the portico".

3. Letter dated May 28, 1868 written by Chas. S. Close, Supt App Stnes.

U.S. APP STNES
Phila. May 28th 1868

Sir

I have had interviews with several persons who are in the paving line and the best offer to have the Easterb Avenue alongside the Custom House paved is $2.75/100 dollars per yard for Cubical Granite blocks, similar to those in the avenue on the West side say 436 yards- I would suggest a more economical and suitable plan would be to leave the present herring bone edgeways paving south of the turning places as it is, put the granite blocks where the unloading is done, put Flag Tram way for the wheels to track south of the turning place and fill in and outside the tram way with the best of the brick that are now there. Please see rough plot on 2nd leaf, A represents 2 fender posts, one of which is broken off, - B represents the tram way for wheels to track on, Three of the Cs represent the portion to be repaired with brick laid Herring bone edgeways, Cr represents the portion that is not in bad condition, D represents the portion where the turning and loading and unloading is done, which I propose shall be done with the Granite- or Belgian pavement, E shows the opening to be enlarged to admit goods, FF show the raised platform the corners of which are to be removed as shown.

Very respectfully
signed Chas. S. Close
Supt. App. Stnes.

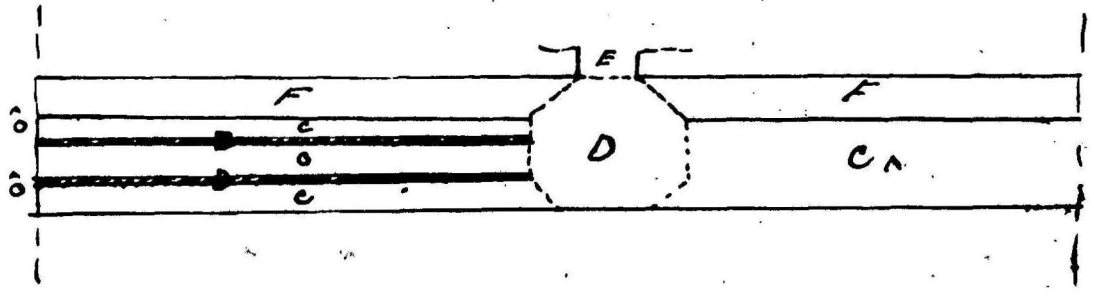
A.B.Mullet Esq.
Supervisory Architect
Treas. Dept.

(3)

represents the portion that is not in bad condition, D. represents the portion where the turning and loading & unloading is done, which I propose shall be done with the Granite or Belgian pavement, E shows the opening to be enlarged to admit wards. F. F shows the raised platform the corners of which are to be removed as shown.

Very Respectfully
Chas. L. Close
Supt Apl Stones

A B Mullett Esq
Supervising Architect
Treas Dept



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Washington, D. C.

RECORDS OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION.
General Files: Incoming Correspondence Relating to the Old Custom House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Three Centimeters

FOOTNOTES - Second Bank of the United States 1819 -1836

4. Letter from John McArthur Jr., Supt. of Repairs April 25, 1881

"Office of Superintendent of Construction
Philadelphia, Pa.
April 25, 1881

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

Sir:-

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 13th inst. I have estimated the cost of widening the Alley-way between the Custom House and the U.S. Court and Post Office Building, in this City, and find that the proposed alterations may be executed, as shown on the annexed diagram, for a sum not exceeding $695.

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

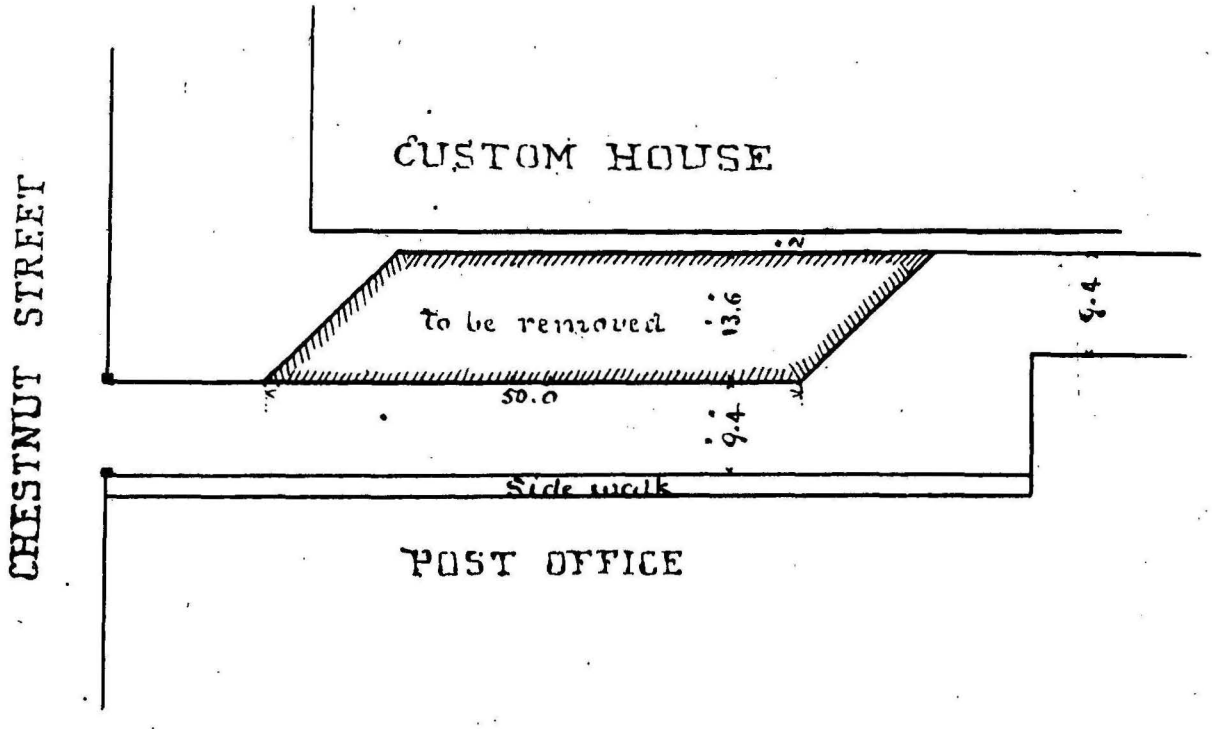
I am of the opinion, that these alterations will not injure the architectural appearance of the Custom House, while at the same time they will facilitate the prosecution of the Public business connected with the Post Office, which is now greatly impeded by the want of space for the mail wagons. I therefore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

Respectfully

(signed) John McArthur Jr.
Superintendent of Repairs

Office of Superintendent of Construction,

, 18



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Washington, D. C.

RECORDS OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION.
General Files: Incoming Correspondence Relating to the Old Custom House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Three Centimeters

5. "Appraisal - Project "A" - Parcel # 20, Drexel Building.

Land Discription

Parcel "D"

ALL THOSE CERTAIN buildings formerly known as the Philadelphia Post Office, but now designated as the Old Court House and Post Office and lot or piece of ground SITUATE IN the 5th Ward of the City of Philadelphia described according to a resent survey thereof made by W.C. Crammer, Surveyor and Regulator of the 3rd Survey District of the said City hereto attached and made part hereof as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point on the South side of the new line of Chestnut Street and the West side of said passageway 19' in width above mentioned thence extending Southward along the West line of the said passageway 220'6 3/4" to a point in the North line of Library Street, thence Westward alon the North line of the said Library Street 53'2" to a point in the line of land of the said Anthony J. Drexel, said point being at the distance of 88'9" Eastward from the East side of said 5th Street thence Northward along said last mentioned land 73' to a point, thence Westward still along said last mentioned land on a line parallel with the said Library Street 5' to a point, thence Northward still along said last mentioned land and land of the Independence National Bank 147' 6 7/8" to a point in the new line of the said Chestnut Street, said point being at the distance of 83'6" Eastward from the East side of the said 5th Street and thence Eastward along the said line of the said Chestnut Street 57'10½" to the West side of the said passageway the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

Easement

TOGETHER with the use and enjoyment of the said passageway in common with the said U.S.A.."

6. Check for the Second Bank:

" Bank of U.S. Check No 330 in Folder 13 Box 55 (Yi 27361 F) McAllister MSS, Ridgeway Library

Bank of U.S. 2nd Erection of Amt. paid for work

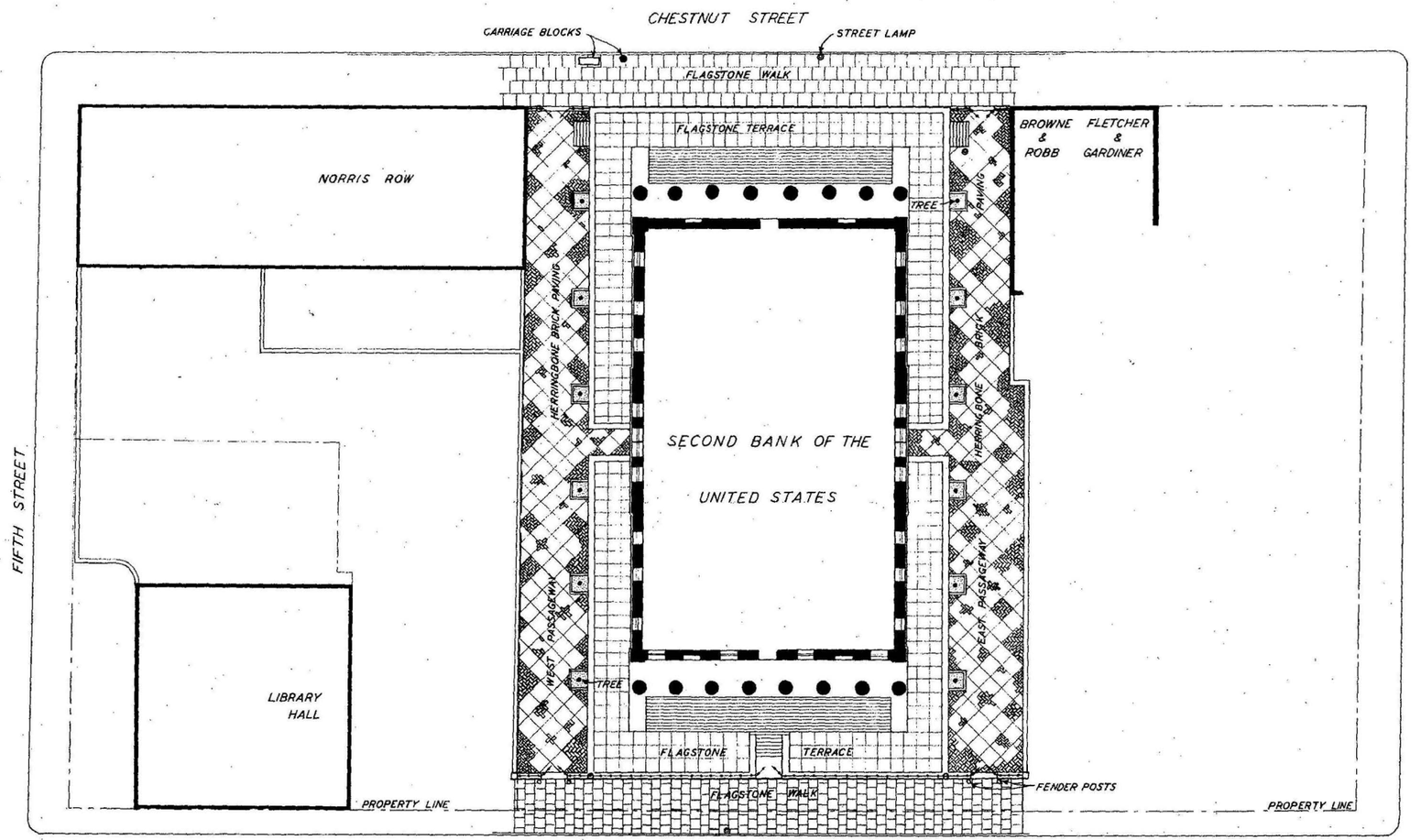
Nov. 17 1820

(Reverse side of Check) Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Alexander Pampton in full for 133 ft. 9 in. of marble coping for wall between Bank and Mr. Kuhn's house $ 133.75

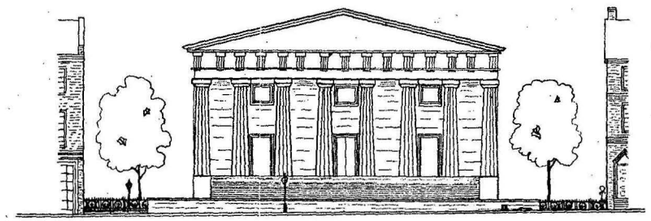
Wm. Strickland Archt.

(Signed) Thos. P Roberts
Clerk of the works

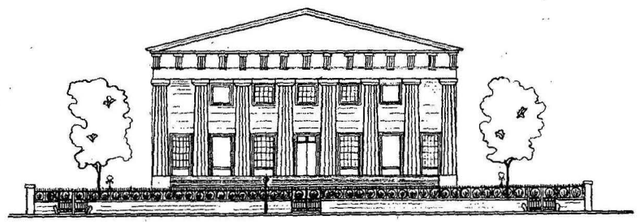


LEGEND

- CAST IRON FENCE
- LAMP ON FENCE
- LAMP, FREESTANDING
- FENDER POSTS
- TREE WELL & TREE
- BRICK WALL



CHESTNUT STREET ELEVATION



LIBRARY STREET ELEVATION

BASIC DATA: "REPORT ON GROUNDS SURROUNDING SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES," BY J. KIRYAKAKIS - JUNE 55.

1" = 20' SCALE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MAINTENANCE & REHABILITATION DIV.
PREPARED BY FIELD OFFICE

HISTORICAL BASE MAP - 2ND BANK, U.S. (1819-1836) PART OF THE MASTER PLAN
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

REGION I
PCP No.
SHEET 1 OF 1
DRAWING No. NHP-IND 2293
MAY DATE 55

DRAWN BY J. KIRYAKAKIS
CHECKED BY CHIEF PARK HISTORIAN

Figures

~~Footnotes~~ - Second Bank of the United States 1819-1836

1. Elevation of the Bank of the United States, designed by William Strickland Arch. "Port Folio" 1821 Plate 150 (fence never put on Chestnut street side)

2. Plan fo the Bank of the United States, designed by William Strickland Arch.. Port Folio" 1821 Plate 149 (direct approach on Chestnut street never built

3. United States Bank, Chestnut Street-Philadelphia, Strickland Del. Tucker Sc. (Most probably prior to the completion of the building, since fence was never built in this mannor on Chestnut street side.)

4. United States Bank at Philadelphia, 1831, Burton- copy at American Philosophical Society Library.

5. Second Bank of the United States, J. Tingle after W.H. Bartlett,"Historic Philadelphia"(Vol 43, Pt.1, 1953) American Philosophical Society 1839. (Stone wall on left removed)

6. Bank of the United States, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, George Strickland del. engraved by CC Childs 1828.

7 Bank of the United States, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, George Strickland del. Thos. Birch publisher 1827/

8 The Custom House, Alexander JacksomDavis, "American German Review,"April 1940.

9. United States Bank, Philadelphia - 1840 from Map 205A P.L.Phillips 15523

10. The Gold and Silver Artificers of Phila. 22 Feb. 1832 **By M.E.D. Brown**

11. Chestnut Street Looking East, after 1836 - Print Collection Free Library.

12. United States Bank, Philadelphia, Lithograph by J.C. Wild 1838

13. Drawing of the Second Bank of the United States attributed to Wm. Strickland dates post 1838

14. Panorama of Philadelphia from the State House Steeple, Looking East 1838. From the Horace W. Sellers Collection.

15. Custom House, South side Chestnut Between 4th and 5th St. 1851 B.R. Evans Del.

16. Custom House, Talbotype photo by Wm & F. Langenheim 1850, July.

17. Custom House, Old photo , dates between 1850 and 1863.

18. Custom House, Old photo, probably by Rinewell Landscape Photographer, dates between 1863 and 1881.

19. Custom House, Photo take between 1863 and 1888.

20. Custom House, photo date around 1910. Lutz Collection

Footnotes on the Second Bank of the United States Continued

1. "Colonial Ironwork in Philadelphia" page 39, 1930 by the Architectural Publishing Co., New York.

2. "The Port Folio" Vol XII July-Dec, Philadelphia 1821 pp 204-207 Art. XIX New Bank of the United States in Philadelphia.

"We are indebted to the publisher of that valuable manual, "The Builders Assistant," for the annexed representations of the interior and exterior of the splendid edifice which is described in the following article. The description is from the pen of the ingenious architect Mr. William Strickland, by whom the plan was designed.)"

"In the design and proportions of this edifice, we recognize the leading features of that celebrated work of antiquity, the Parthenon at Athens. In selecting this example as a model for a building such as a bank, requiring a peculiar internal arrangement and distribution of space and light, it becomes a difficult task for an architect to preserve all the characteristicies of a Grecian temple, whose original and appropriation was solely for the worship of the Gods, and for the depostiories of public treasure. The peripteros or flanking columns of a Grecian building produces a decidedly beautiful feature in architrave. But they cannot be applied with their proper effect to places of business, without a sacrifice of those principles which have a constant application to internal uses and economy.

The design before us is of the Grecian Doric, characterised as HYPAETHRIOS, having eight fluted columns 4 feet 6 inches in diameter, embracing the whole front, taken from the Parthenon, or temple of Minerva, Hecatompedon at Athens, being divested of the columns of the peripteros and pronaus, of the sculptured metopes of the freize, and the basso-relievo figures in the Humpanum of the pediment.

The columns rise from a basement 6 feet in elevation supporting a planin entablature, extending along the sides of a parallelogram 86 by 160 feet including the body of the building and porticos that project 10 feet 6 inches from each of the fronts. The vertical angle of the pediment is 152 degrees forming an uninterrupted line from end to end of the ridge or apex of the roof.

The ascent to the proticos from the street is by a flight of six steps, to a terrace or platform, extending 16 feet on each flank, and in front of the edifice.

It is on this terrace that the building is reared, and from which it derived a great portion of its effect. The gateways on the right and left, open into paved avenues, which extend from Chestnut to Library streets, along each of the flanks serving to insulate the building from surrounding objects, it being inclosed along thesesavenues by a return of the iron railing exhibited in the front elevation.

This edifice is situated in a north and south direction fronting on Chestnut and Library Streets.

#2. Continued

Its length including the prtico, is 161 feet, and breadth in front 87 feet. The floor of the principal or ground story is elevated 9 feet, surrounded on all sides by a terrace 14 feet wide, rising 3 feet wide, and paved with large flag stones jointed together. The main entrance is from Chestnut Street, by a flight of marble steps extending along the whole front of the portico."

#3. Letter Dated May 28, 1868 written by Chas. S. Close, Supt. App Stnes.

U.S. APP STNES
Phila. May 28th 1868

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I have had interviews with several persons who are in the paving line and the best offer to have the Eastern Avenue alongside the Custom House paved is $2.75/100 dollars per yard for Cubical Granite blocks, similar to those in the avenue on the West side say 436 yards- I would suggest a more economical and suitable plan would be to leave the present herring bone edgeways paving south of the turning places as it is, put the granite blocks where the unloading is done, put Flag Tram way for the wheels to track south of truning place and fill in and outside of the tram way with the best of the brick that are now there. please see rough plot on 2nd leaf, A represents 2 fender posts, one of which is broken off, - B represents the tram way for wheels to track on, Three of the Cs represent the portion to be repaired with brick laid Herring bone edgeways, Cr represents the portion that is not in bad condition, D represents the orption where the turnig and loading and unloading is done, which I propose shall be done with the Granite- or Blelgian pavement, E shows the opening to be enlarged to admit goods, FF show the raised platform the corners of which are to be removed as shown.

Very respectfully
signed Chas. S. Close
Supt. App. Stnes.

A.B. Mullett Esq.
Supervis ory Architect
Treas Dept.

Footnotes on the Second Bank of the United States Continued.

#4. Letter from John McArthur Jr., Supt. of Repairs April 25. 1881

Office of Superintendent of Construction
Philadelphia, Pa.
April 25, 1881

James G. Hill Esq.
Supervising Architect
Treasury Department
Washington D.C.

Sir:-

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 13th inst, I have estimated the cost of widening the Alley-way between the Custom House and the U.S. Court and Post Office Building, in this City, and find that the proposed alterations may be executed, as shown on the annexed diagram, for a sum not exceeding $695.

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

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

Respectfully
signed John McArthur Jr.
Superintendent of Repairs

#5. "Appraisal - Project "A" - Parcel #20 , Drexel Building."

Land Discription

Parcel "D"

ALL THOSE CERTAIN buildings formerly known as the Philadelphia Post Office, but now designated as the Old Cout House and Post Office and lot or piece of ground SITUATE in the 5th Ward of the City of Philadelphia described according to a recent survey thereof made by W.C.Crammer, Surveyor and Regulator of the 3rd Survey District of the said City hereto attached and made part hereof as follows, to wit: BEGINNING at a point on the South side of the new line of Chestnut Street and the West side of said passageway 19' in width above mentioned thence extending Southward along the West Line of the said passageway 220'6 3/4" to a point in the North line of Library Street, thence Westward along the North line of the said Library Street 53'2" to a point in the line of land of the said Anthony J. Drexel, said point being at the distance of 88'9" Eastward from the East side of said 5th Street thence Northward along said last mentioned land 73& to a point, thence Westward still along said last mentioned land on a line parallel with the said Library Street 5' to a point, thence Northward still along said last mentioned land and land of the Independence National Bank 147' 6 7/8" to a point in the new line of the said Chestnut Street, said point being at the distance of 83'6" Eastward from the East side of the said 5th Street and thence Eastward along the said line of the said Chestnut STreet 57'10½" to the West side of the said passageway the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

Easement

TOGETHER with the use and enjoyment of the said passageway in common with the said U.S.A..

See 6 next page

Footnote 6

Bank of U.S. Check No 330
in Folder 13 Box 55
(Yi 27361 F) McAllister MSS,
Ridgeway Libraray

Bank of U.S. 2nd
Erectio of
Amt. paid for work

Nov. 17 1820

(Reverse side of Check) Office of the Building of the Bank of the United States

Aleander Pampton in full for 133 ft. 9 in of marble coping for wall between Bank and Mr. Kuhn's house $ 133.75

Wm. Strickland Archt.

Thos.P Roberts Clerk of the works

A REPORT ON THE GROUNDS SURROUNDING THE "SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES" WITH EMPHASIS ON CONDITIONS DURING THE PERIOD OF [redacted] (1819-1836)

CAST IRON FENCE

CHESTNUT STREET

A cast iron fence similar to that exisitng on the Library Street approach, existed on either side of the terrace along Chestnut Street.

EAST SIDE OF TERRACE, CHESTNUT STREET

On the east side of the building terrace along Chestnut Street, the cast iron fence was separated into three sections. One section was attached to the Browne and Robb building later the Western Bank. The center section consisted of two gates and the third section was attached to the terrace wall. The space occupied by these sections was ~~19'0"~~ 19'0" broken down as follows 4'9", 8'0", and 6'3" respectively.

There were four and three quarter units of the large circular part of the cast iron fence pattern used in these three sections. One large circular part was attached to the Browne and Robb building, the two gates consisted of one circular unit each, and the section attached to the terrace wall consisted of one and three quarter units of the large circular part of the cast-iron fence.

A row of small rings was incorporated along the bottom of the large circular units of the cast-iron fence on this side of the building terrace only. These rings were similar to those appearing on the existing gates on Library Street. Their purpose and function was to bring the top of the cast iron fence level with the top of the terrace wall. Chestnut street sloped from west to east as it still does and the rings were added to compensate for the grade change. Below the Cast-iron fence and on which it stood, was a stone curb which was exposed about 4" above ground level. FIGURES ~~Footnoted~~ 5,6,8,12,13,15,17,19 and 20, show the construction details of the Cast-iron fence and its placement.

CAST IRON FENCE CONTINUED

WEST SIDE OF TERRACE, CHESTNUT STREET

On the west side of the building terrace, along Chestnut Street, the cast iron fence was again broken into three sections. One section, consisting of one unit of the large circular pattern of the cast-iron fence, and occupying 4'9", was attached to Norris Row and later to the United States Post office. The center unit consisted of two gates and occupied 8'0" leaving 6'3" or room for one and three quarter units of the cast-iron large circular fence pattern. The total distance from the terrace wall to the property line was 19'0" or the width of the passageway on the west side of the building terrace as per deed discription. (see Footnote 5) This total number of sections corresponds with that on the east side of the building terrace and occupied the same amount of space. Most drawings show five units of the cast iron circular fence pattern on this side of the building terrace, but the space spaned by this fence would allow room for four and three quarter units .

The cast iron fence on this side of the building terrace consisted only of the large circular fence pattern and did not have a row of small rings on the bottom as that on the east side. This was due to the fact that Chestnut street slopes from west to east on this site, and in order that the fence be level with the top of the terrace wall, the small row of rings were eliminated. However there was a stone curbing on which the fence was secured. The height from present grade to the top of the terrace wall on the west side of the building terrace is 39" and on the East side of the building terrace is 54". (figures 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, show the fence on the west side of the building terrace.

CAST IRON FENCE Continued

LIBRARY STREET

The Cast Iron Fence ran completely along the top of the terrace wall and extended over the passageways on top of wing walls being disrupted only by gateways on each passageway and one in the center of the terrace wall leading into the Library Street entrance to the building. The gateways were 8'0" wide and contained two gates, similar to the ones existing in the center entrance on Library street. Each gate contained one large circular fence pattern along with a row of small rings immediately below them, then a row of bars, and the small row of rings repeated again. Upon close examination of the gates leading into the East passageway, it has been observed that the gateway has been widened as have the gates to permit passage of present day vehicles. The original curbstone is still in use although it has been moved and centered on the gates. It is believed that the section of terrace wall and wing wall running from the center gates to the East gates has not been altered and is 59'3" long and contains the original eighteen units of the cast iron fence. (see ~~footnote~~ figure 7. 1). The section of the terrace wall and wing wall running from the center gates to the West gates has been altered and it is believed to have been 59'3" long and contained the same number of units of the cast iron fence. Since there were three gateways occuping a total of 24 feet, and the terrace walls mentioned above occupied 118 feet 6 inches, the remaining 15 feet ½ inches was divided between the west wing wall west of the west gates and the east wing wall east of the east gates in this manner; 7'1½" on the west as this was the amount of space remaining from the property line to the west gates; and 7' 11" on the east of the east gates to the east property line. The east wing wall east of the east gates had two complete units of the fence with the 2 part arcs on the ends, The wing wall west of the west gates had two complete units also, but only one part arc. (see footnotes 1, 6, 13, 18, 19)

Footnote 2

TERRACE WALL

The terrace wall ran completely around the building, excepting for the Library Street center entrance, and the ~~two~~ center openings on the East and west sides of the building ~~at the center where loading and unloading into the cellar took place~~ used as service entrances to the basement. Its construction was similar to that of the existing on the East side of the building along the East passageway.

Underline: Terrace wall along Chestnut Street

Along Chestnut Street, the terrace wall ran across the entire front of the building ~~to~~ beyond the building line? to points 19' from each side boundary line. There were ~~many~~ steps, then extending along the front of the building leading from Chestnut Street to the top of the terrace wall. The original steps were located just inside of the cast iron fence on either side of the building and led to the top of the terrace walls, ~~from the passageways.~~ On the west of these, the sixth ~~There were~~ six ~~steps~~ leading to the top of the terrace wall, including the terrace wall itself, ~~along the west passageway.~~ being on the east (see ~~footnote~~ figure 22) There were seven steps, ~~on the east side of the terrace~~ the seventh necessary because of the ~~street~~ grade. ~~Footnotes~~ Figures 4, 5, 6, ~~7, 8~~, 9, show the terrace wall across the front of the building ~~and date~~ as well as other details prior to ~~the~~ 1838, ~~in their depiction~~. ~~Footnotes~~ Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, show the steps on the sides of the building terrace.

Terrace Wall along the East Passageway.

The terrace wall ~~existing~~ along the East passageway is located on the original site. But around 1868 the opening leading to the cellar was has been enlarged (angled) to ~~admit~~ permit easier loading and unloading of goods. (see ~~footnote~~ figure 23) ~~The terrace wall is~~ It extends 13'6" ~~out~~ from ~~the side of~~ the building proper. This distance corresponds with the distance from the building of the wall foundations uncovered on the west side ~~of the building~~ during ~~a recent~~ excavations recently to install a steam line. The width of the opening ~~to allow goods to be unloaded~~ at the basement entrance was 8'7". This again is ~~from~~ evidenced recorded by upon the recent excavation ~~and can be seen in~~ (see the Field notebook titled "Second Bank of the U.S., 1954"). ~~Footnotes~~ Figures 2, 5, 6, 7, 15, ~~16, 17, 18~~, 19 show this terrace wall. 4

TERRACE WALL (CONTINUED)

TERRACE WALL, WEST PASSAGEWAY

Recent excavations for the installation of a steam line uncovered the foundations walls of the west terrace wall. It was noted that the terrace wall was 13'6" out from the building proper and the opening leading to the cellar doors at the center of the building was 8'7". These figures are recorded in a field notebook titled "Second Bank of the U.S., 1954" Footnote 4 evidences the removal of the terrace wall around 1881. Figures 2,4,7,12,13,15,17,18 show the terrace wall on this side. Figure 18 also show the opening leading to the center of the building as do figures 2 and 7.

TERRACE WALL, LIBRARY STREET

Except for the portion of the wall cut offon the west side of the building along Library Street, the terrace wall on Library Street is the same as the original. See figures 2 and 18.

CHEEK WALLS

CHEEK WALLS, CHESTNUT STREET

On the steps leading up from the terrace to the portico, there were cheek walls similar to those existing at present on the Library Street approach. Upon close examination of the Chestnut Street steps it can be seen that there have been changes made to the steps. The side stones have been cut and stepped, and the treads on either end of the stairs are of the approximate length or width of the cheek wall.and much shorter than the average length of the other treads in the stairs. Figures 1, thru 10, show these cheek walls on the Chestnut street frontoof the building.

CHEEK WALLS, LIBRARY STREET.

THE cheek walls on library Street are original.

FENDER POSTS

THERE are at present 2 fender posts on the Library Street approach to the East passageway. It is noted that there were fender posts located on this side as early as 1868 and possibly as far back as 1824. See footnote 23. It is thought that vehicular traffic approached the building passageways only from Library Street and therefore that there were also fenderposts on the West passageway entrance. The Chestnut street entrances do not show any fender posts in any of the drawings or photos and therefore it is believed that there weren't any.

CARRIAGE BLOCKS

CARRIAGE BLOCKS, Chestnut Street

A carriage block of hexangular shape was located west of the center of the building on the pavement along Chestnut Street. (see figure 3,4,11,12,17) One rectangular carriage block can be seen in figures 11 and 17 to the west of the hexangular block.

CARRIAGE BLOCKS, LIBRARY STREET

WE have no direct evidence for the presence of any carriage blocks on Library street in the vicinity of this building; however, figure a photo (figure 18) showing buggies parked on this side. tends to suggest this.

LAMPS

LAMPS, CHESTNUT STREET

A street lamp once stood along the curb on Chestnut Street East of the center of the building about 60 feet from the East property line. (See figures 3,5,17,19.)

Lamps, EAST PASSAGEWAY

Another was lamp located inside the East Passageway south of thesteps leading up to the terrace. (See figures 4,5,12).

LAMPS

LAMPS, WEST PASSAGEWAY

A third was

~~There was a~~ lamp located on the section of the Cast Iron Fence attached to Norris Row. The design of this lamp may be found in "Colonial Iron Work in Philadelphia". (see footnote 21) The lamp was attached to the top of the cast iron fence between an arrow head. (See figures ~~footnotes~~ 4,9, 12, 17, & Footnote 1

Underline LAMPS, LIBRARY STREET

Between 1863-1881 there was a lamp ~~located along~~ Library Street, The lamp ~~was~~ of similar design in ~~as the one which was located~~ to those on Chestnut Street between 1827 and 1839, and ~~was~~ located about 10 to 12 feet west of the center of the building along the curb on Library Street. (see figures ~~footnotes~~ 5,7,18,19.).

It ~~has been indicated by~~ Mr. Wm A. Dunn in ~~footnote 21~~ states that there were lamps attached to the top of the fence along Library Street. A measured drawing of them ~~appeared~~ is found in this volume "Colonial Ironwork in Philadelphia." In a letter to Independence National Historical Park, dated March 24, 1955, Mr. Dunn reconfirms the existance of such lamps on the fence at the time of his recording of the fence in 1929-1930. Their exact location and number is not known by ~~him~~. From a drawing by Strickland (figure ~~footnote~~ 3) we note that two lamps are attached to the top of the fence in a view of Chestnut Street. Although the fence was never constructed as such on Chestnut Street it does suggest the location of the Lamps on the fence on Library Street. This location seems to be at a point which is the terminus of the terrace walls and at which the wing walls begin. Upon inspection of the existing section of fence at this point, there can be seen two bolts larger than those used to connect the fence sections and space the proper distance apart necessary to attach the wrought iron lamp to the fence. (See footnote 21). Every view we possess of the Library street facade of the building ~~does not show~~ show the terminal points of the side terrace walls and therefore we do not have any photographic record to substantiate this matter.

PASSAGEWAYS

EAST PASSAGEWAY

The passageway on the East side of the building is 19' wide at Chestnut Street and 22'10" wide at Library Street. The difference in width at these two points is due to the jogs made by the property line along the east side. According to a report by Strickland(see footnote #2) the passageways were paved. In a letter dated May 28, 18 68 by Chas. Close(fnote #3) consideration is being made for the repaving of the passageway and it is suggested that the North section of the passageway remain in the old paving bricks which were laid in a heringbone pattern edgeways.

Trees were placed within the passageways about 3 feet out from the base of the terrace walls. (see footnotes 5,10,13,14,16,17,18,19, Among the original vouchers still preserved at the Ridgway Library, In the records of checks on file in the history section of this office, there is one for it is noted that a ched dated Aug 31, 1821 which reads made out as follows: "Michael and Samuel Fox on acct. of bricks delivered for pavement, &c. $500.00". and also a check was issued on July 6, 1821 to "John Stull in full for digging foundation for pavement, gravel for ditto, and hauling dirt 72.20$" This plus the letter concerning the brick pavement seems to authenticate Stricklands statement that the passagewasy were paved.

WEST PASSAGEWAY

The passageway on the west side of the building was 19' wide along Chestnut Street (seefootnote #5) and 21'10" wide along Library Street. The difference in width was due to the fact that the building was placed parallel to Chestnut Street and the West property line is not at right angles to Chestnut Street. This passageway was also paved as stated above.

Trees also lined this passageway and were about 3 feet out from the terrace wall, the reason for this being that this was the approximate center of the open area between the buildings neighboring the property and the building itself. See footnotes figures 4,5,7,9,10,12, & thru 18

PAVING

PAVING, WALKS ALONG CHESTNUT AND LIBRARY STREETS

The sidewalks in front of the building and in back of the building along the terrace walls was paved with large blocks of flagstones jointed together. see footnotes 4,8,11,13,15,16,18,19,20. In substantiating this, we have a record of checks made out to "Samuel Haines for regulating curb stone 4.50" dated June 15, 1821 one made out to "George G. Leiper for 150 ft curb stone @ 75¢ 112.50" dated Aug 24, 1821 (this is the frontage of the property along Chestnut Street). A check was also made out to "Flag stone cutters 44.86½ " Dated October 13, 1820 and one to "Nicholas Struck porterage of flagging, marble, poles, etc, 66.37" dated November 10, 1820,

PAVING, PASSAGEWAYS

The passageways were paved of brick laid edgeways in a herring-bone pattern, see footnotes 12 and 13 . and also the statement made regarding the passageways in this report.

PAVING, TERRACES

The terraces were paved with large flag stones jointed together (see footnote 12). A record of checks issued at the time of construction in research files, "Second Bank of U.S." JHHPP) Buchas ~~on file in the history section also state as follows~~: "Flag stone cutters 44.86½" dated Oct 13, 1820 and one dated November 10, 1820 help substantiate the fact that flagging was used on the terraces. "Nickolas Struck porterage of flagging, marble, poises, etc, 66,37".

TREES, CHESTNUT AND LIBRARY STREETS

There were originally no trees lining either Chestnut Street or Library Street in the vicinity of the Second Bank of the United States (see ~~footnotes~~ figures 1 thru 20).

Trees, EAST WEST PASSAGEWAYS

~~THERE WAS A SINGLE~~ There was originally a single row of trees on each side of the building about ~~2~~ two to ~~3~~ three feet out from the terrace wall. ~~As to~~ We do not know the number of trees in each passageway, ~~we do not know~~, but ~~from a~~ by studying the drawings and photos available, we note that the trees started at a point opposite the center of the porticos on Chestnut street. There were buildings on both sides of the bank building along Chestnut Street at least until 1910, this, the space was limited to planting in the 19' area in the passageway and the 13½ foot area of the terraces. From all available evidence it is believed that the trees were six in number in each passageway and that they were spaced 30 feet apart. (~~see footnotes 4,13,14,16,17,18,19~~)

(See ~~footnotes~~ figures ~~4,5,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19~~ 4,5, 8 thru 19 for trees.)

Brick Walls

West Side of the Property

A brick wall with a marble coping was built in 1820 on the west side of the property line on the property of Mr. H. Kuhn on Norris Row. This wall was 133'9" long (see footnote 26). From the Horace Wells Sellers collection(figure 14)we observe that a brick wall enclosed part of the back yards of the Norris Row building. By measuring from the Library Street Freestanding Wall with cast iron fence 133'9" we come to a point approximately 26' from the rear of the Norris Row building. This point is also the same approximate point of intersection as shown in figure 14. I believe that the wall immediately to the rear of Norris row was in existance at the time the Second Bank was being built, and that in order to enclose the passageway completely the Second Bank applied for and recieved permission to build the wall on the property of Mr Kuhn. As to the height of the wall, we note that in the deed description to the property west of the Second Bank a restrictive clause mentions the height of 8'. "Restriction: And subject also the express restrictions and positive prohibition that no building or obstruction whatever shall at any time or times hereafter be built upon the herby granted lot of ground in the rear of South of the building now erected thereon exceeding in height the present partition wall being 8' from the surface of the ground on the East line of the said lot".

Brick Walls Cont.

East side of the Property Line.

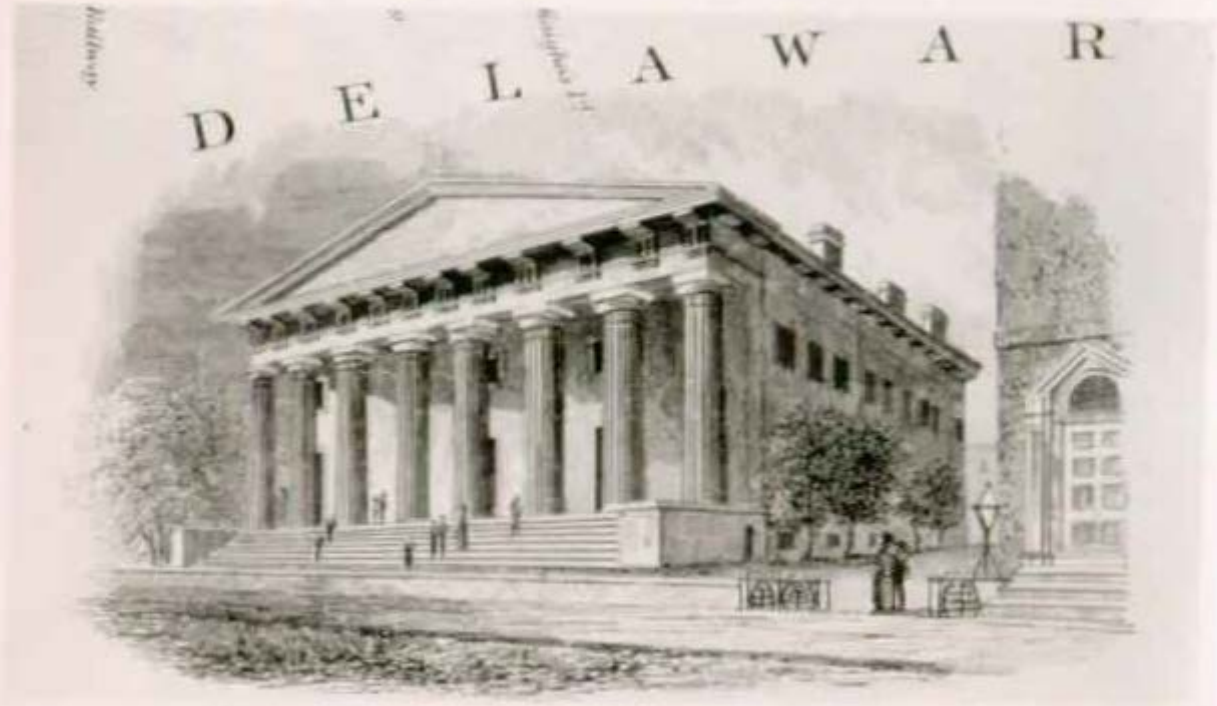
Although I have been unable to find any mention of a brick wall on the East side of the building, I firmly believe that said wall was in existance either being built prior to the Second Bank or built at the same time. It seems logical that both passageways be enclosed since the front and back of the buiding was and since the Second Bank paid for a wall on the west side of their property. Upon close examination of the existing wall on the east side of the property, I have observed that the wall is not on the property of the Second Bank and it is a similar situation to that on the West side, in that it is not on the Second Bank property.

OBSERVATIONS

After making a study of the grounds surrounding the second Bank of the United States from all materials available to me, I find that in the report made by Wm Strickland in "The Port Folio" (footnote 42) that there are discrepancies in the dimensions he gives for the terraces and like. Since the report was published during the construction of the building it seems logical that changes occured in the course of construction and ~~therefore~~ the report has erronious dimensions.

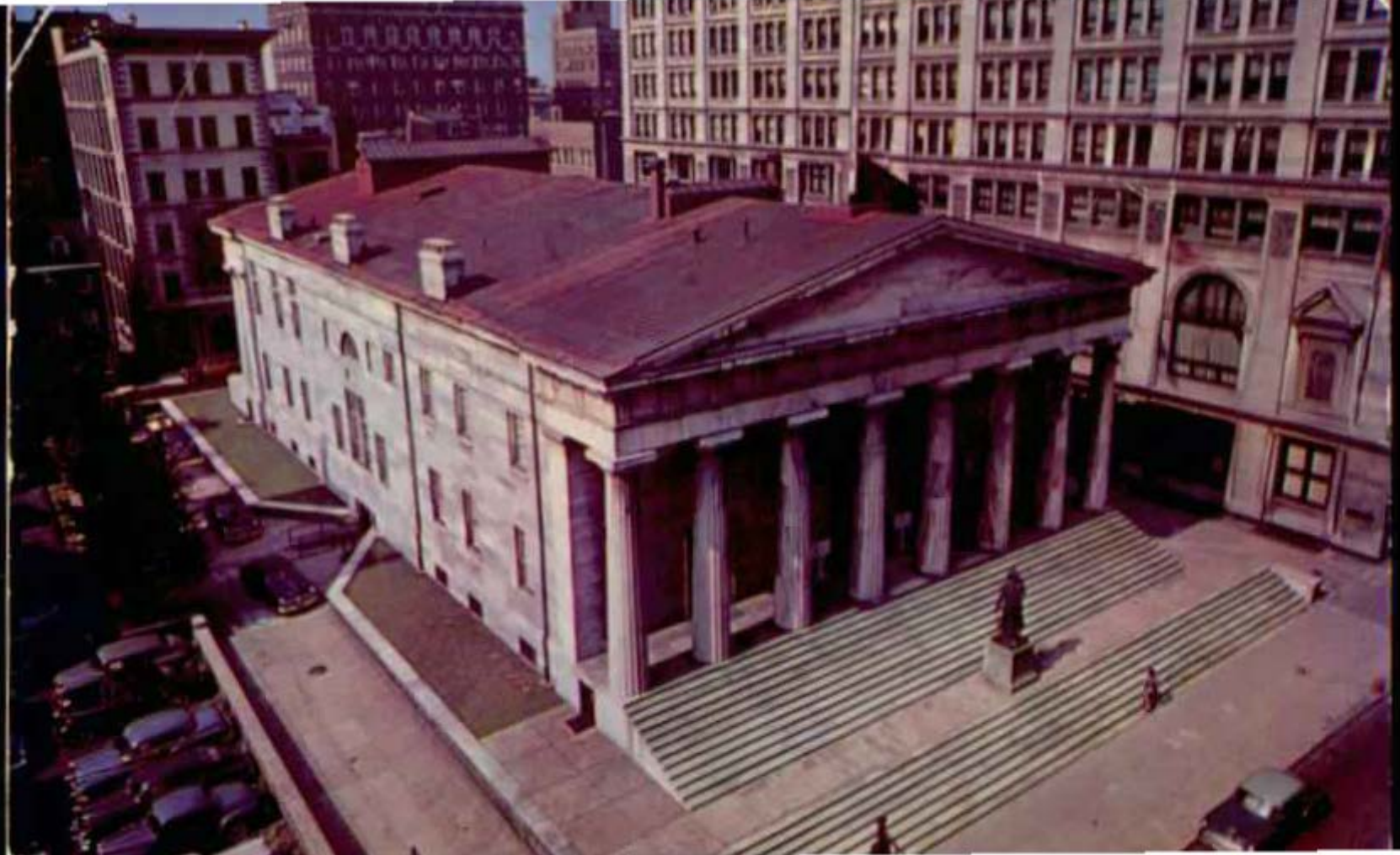
Between 1836 and 1838 major changes took place on the grounds around the Second Bank. This was the period during which the building ceased to be the Second Bank of the United States, and became the United States Bank of Pennsylvania. In ~~Mrs Gilchrist~~'s book "William Strickland" and again in her supplement to ~~this book~~ states that William Strickland was called in to do the remodelling of this building in 1836-38. Although her reference to the source for this statement is inconclusive, we feel that it is a very logical statement in that Strickland supervised the construction of this building and was called upon in 1844 to supervise the remodelling of ~~the building into~~ the Custom House. During this period of change, Mr Strickland designed and built for the Philadelphia Bank, on the East of the United States Bank a new building, and there fore it makes it even more logical that he would undertake the remodelling of this building at this time.

There has been some conclusions drawn by me after studying this report, but I have been very careful in trying to keep them separate from the facts. It is hoped that maybe in the future more material will come to the fore, but until then, we feel that we have done all we could do on this matter.


D E L A W A R



PANORAMA of PHILADELPHIA







FORMERLY THE SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

Old Philadelphia Custom House



THE Corner Stone for the Second Bank of the United States was laid October 19, 1819. The building was completed and opened for business in 1824. William Strickland was the architect and his name is engraved on the inside of one of the front porticos.

All the marble in and outside the building is probably of Pennsylvania origin. The marble columns inside are of the Ionic order. The clock-face is surrounded by an Isthmian wreath carved in one entire block of Pennsylvania white marble. Most of the inner door jambs, sills and imposts are marble.

It was during the time when this building was used as the Second Bank of the United States that the great controversy over the establishment of the Federal Monetary System took place between President Jackson and Nicholas Biddle, the President of the Bank. The charter was not renewed and the bank was then re-organized as the Second Bank of the United States of Philadelphia. Following the great panic of 1837 the bank went out of existence. Later, the building was taken over by the government and for 89 years, or until 1934, it was used as the United States Custom House.

Rather than allow the edifice to be torn down or commercialized, several people in Philadelphia who were primarily interested in preserving it because of its architectural and historical features, succeeded in getting the building transferred to the United States Department of the Interior and set aside as a National Historic Site under the supervision of the National Park Service.

In 1940 the Old Custom House was renovated with WPA labor and with the assistance of cash contributions from the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation. It was, with the exception of a few of the rooms, restored to the condition in which it existed in 1824.

The building was leased to the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, Inc., as custodians, under the stipulation that they would be responsible for minor repairs and keep it open to the general public as a National Historic Site. In return for this service, the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation has the use of the Old Philadelphia Custom House as its national headquarters.



CARL SCHURZ MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.
Custodians



THE SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

The Corner Stone for the Second Bank of the United States was laid October 19, 1819. The building was completed and opened for business in 1824. William Strickland was the architect and his name is engraved on the inside of one of the front porticos. This building is the best architectural sample of Greek revival in the United States, according to the National Park Service. It is established as a National Historic Site in the custody of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, Inc.



THE HALL

The large hall in the center of the Old Philadelphia Custom House is an ideal place to hold extra mural affairs,—concerts, musical evenings, dances, group meetings, lectures and anniversaries.

It was during the time when this building was used as the Second Bank of the United States that the great controversy over the establishment of the Federal Monetary System took place between President Jackson and Nicholas Biddle, the President of the Bank. The charter was not renewed and the Bank was then re-organized as the Second Bank of the United States of Philadelphia. Following the great panic of 1837 the bank went out of existence. Later, the building was taken over by the government and for 89 years, or until 1934, it was used as the United States Custom House.

The Philadelphia National Bank made such use of it when President Potts spoke to the bank personnel on the afternoon of May 6, 1947. The Penn Mutual Insurance Company has a sustaining membership in the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation which allows the use of our hall for three affairs during the year. You may be interested in a similar arrangement.

In addition to the use of this fine hall for social functions, we use it constantly for art exhibits and for the display of old coins. You will be interested in the complete set of U.S. fraction paper money used by our government after the Civil War which has been loaned to us by Julius Windner.

Your organization may be looking for such a hall to accommodate extra mural interests in this section of the old city. Write or phone LOmbard 3-7768 either for a reservation or Sustaining Membership.

Sustaining Membership *(covers use of hall 3 times a year)*	$50.00
Custodial charge for an evening affair	$25.00
Custodial charge for an afternoon affair	$15.00

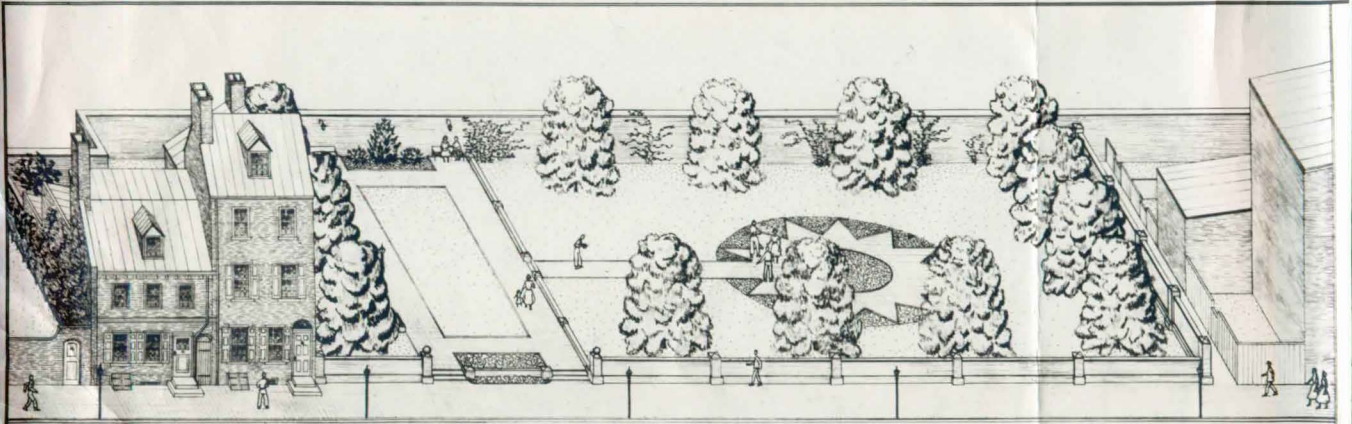
CARL SCHURZ MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.
420 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA 6, PA.



ROBERT MORRIS

Patriot-Statesman-Financier

1734—1806



LOCUST STREET ISOMETRIC VIEW