



IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

September 6, 1962

391/D-218
SEP 10 1962
J. H. Miller

Memorandum

To: Director

From: *Acting* Regional Director

Subject: Annual Inspection Report of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')
Church National Historic Site

Enclosed is one copy of the annual inspection report for Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site.

Park Historian William Campbell is to be commended for preparing an excellent report, with the assistance of his colleagues Architects Doe and Boeshore and Park Horticulturist Edling.

It is disturbing to note that the deteriorated brickwork of the walls of the church, reported last year, has not been corrected. Doubtless Rev. Roak, rector of Gloria Dei, is aware of the need for repointing and otherwise rehabilitating the exterior of the church, and simply lacks funds to do it. By copy of this memorandum to the EODC we are requesting that it provide such advisory assistance as it can to Dr. Roak on this and related problems.

[Signature]
Regional Director

In duplicate

Enclosure *5*.

Copy to: Supt., Independence, w/c report for delivery to Dr. Roak
Chief, EODC

GLDE
SCANNED

8-30-00

Northwest Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30

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From: *George A. Palmer* Regional Director

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(Sgn.) George A. Palmer

Regional Director

In duplicate

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Chief, EDC

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Independence National Historical Park

(Area)

FILE CODE:

REPORT ON ANNUAL INSPECTION AT

GLORIA DEI (OLD SWEDES*) CHURCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

FROM:

TO: MAY 1962

REPORT ON ANNUAL INSPECTION AT

GLORIA DEI (OLD SWEDES') CHURCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

by

Park Historian William M. Campbell

This report covers the annual inspection of the physical condition and operation of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church National Historic Site.

Architects Doe and Boeshore, Park Horticulturist Edling, and the writer inspected the church and grounds on May 7, 1962. Administrative Assistant McCullough took the photographs.

Condition of Structure

The exterior of the church remains in much the same condition as it was found at last year's inspection. The condition of the mortar and the settlement cracks are, perforce, in worse condition than they were a year ago, and this disintegration of the mortar, mentioned in reports as far back as 1954, is, if not arrested, working slowly through dampness, freezing, and erosion toward the gradual destruction of the building (Illustrations No. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6). All of the roughcasting on the base of the apse, last year removed in part, has since been removed in toto, and the rough stonework should be made watertight by pointing, with such gallating as is necessary to fill large interstices (Illustration No. 5).

Pointing, rather than roughcasting or stucco, is recommended. A lithograph in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by William L. Breton, made in 1828, shows the stonework to have been exposed.

There are some cracked or loosened shingle-tile on the roof, but apparently no leakage.

The exterior paint is in satisfactory condition except for some blisters under the cornice and some of the trim and shutters. The frame of the west entrance doorway is decaying along the edges of the door.

The upper pintle of one of the shutters has pulled out, and the shutter dropped and the lower strap bent.

The interior paint is in good condition.

The Guild House

The poor condition of the masonry exterior of the Guild House has not changed except that, like the church, another year's destructive forces have been at work (Illustrations No. 8, 9, and 10).

The movement of the south wall constitutes a real danger of collapse if not shored until permanent measures of stability are taken.

Condition of the Grounds

The grounds are, in general, in good shape except for the hazardous condition of the two Carolina poplar trees bordering on the walk from the church to the guild hall (Illustration No. 12). However, Dr. Roak has already let a contract to have the trees cut back, leaving about ten feet of the trunks to be covered by the surrounding ivy.

The garden wall along Water Street, north of the guild house, has been pushed out of plumb by the proximity of a row of trees on the grounds' side (Illustration No. 11).

The government property, exclusive of the houses on Christian Street, is adequately maintained.

Special Needs in Preservation, Protection, Maintenance, and Restoration

The most urgent need for preservation of the church is, at present, the cleaning of the joints in the brickwork of all loose mortar and refilling and pointing with the proper mixture of mortar.

The careful examination of the exterior woodwork for such areas where decay has started shows that remedial measures can be taken: the decayed parts removed, "Dutchmen" inserted and properly repainted, the removing of any wiring that is in the least way suspect. There should be a careful investigation of the roof.

Dr. Roak would like a solution for the distribution of heat, less obtrusive than the present radiators.

A careful investigation of the guild house's south wall by a competent architect should be made to determine its safety and make recommendations for making it stable.

Safeguards Against Fire

The tower lofts have been pretty well cleared of stored combustibles; the little remaining should be removed. No objection to the present condition was made by the inspecting officers of the city Fire Department other than the recommendation that the present fusible link CCl_4 bombs be discontinued because of their liberation of lethal fumes and soda-acid extinguishers be installed.

The floors of both lofts are of wood construction, and these areas open into the attic of the church without a fire stop. An unchecked fire in the loft area would destroy the entire building. It is recommended that a fire stop be put between these two areas.

The old brittle extension wires extending through both the lower and upper tower lofts, mentioned in last year's report, have not been replaced.

The houses owned by the Park, Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 Christian Street, are now in bad order. The rear doors are open, as is the front door of No. 4. Rear steps have been removed, and the area around the rear strewn with rubbish. The houses are occupied at night by young people. Government warning signs have been torn down. This constitutes a serious fire hazard until the houses are demolished, and Dr. Roak would like a fence erected between the two properties.

Restoration, Repair, and Maintenance by Owner in Past Year

New electric service panel boards and meters have been installed in the basement of the rectory and service extended into the church.

The venetian blinds have all been resurfaced.

In addition to Dr. Roak's caring for the dead trees (Illustration No. 12), he has transplanted certain trees and shrubs from shaded areas to others more suitable to their proper development. He has also planted pachysandra on the southeast side of the church, which has enhanced the attractiveness of that area.

The guild hall is having some repairs made and is being painted.

Public Access to the Site

The free bus service run by the Philadelphia Transportation Company and paid for by Old Swedes' and the battleship Olympia was discontinued toward the end of the summer for lack of patronage.

This year the PTC will run a tour of the new and old city on Sundays from June 3 to September 30, inclusive, starting at City Hall. Old Swedes' will be one of the stops.

The Gray Line contemplates six bus tours a day, starting from Fifth and Chestnut Streets and stopping, among other places, at Old Swedes'.

Presentation of Exhibitor and Visitor Service Provided by the Owner

Dr. and Mrs. Roak are going abroad this summer. A tape-recorded talk lasting from five to seven minutes will be presented automatically under the direction of a guide.

If the Gray Line project does not materialize, the church's well trained sexton and a host or hostess will daily take over.

A new looseleaf registration book has been installed in the vestibule of the church.

Free and Sales Literature

The flier mentioned in last year's report continues to be available to visitors.

Kind and Quality of Visitor Use

The visitor registration book shows from May 1, 1961, to May 1, 1962, a total of 31,202 visitors, representing 47 states and 11 countries. This is a net gain, in those who signed, of 171% over 1961. This accounts for only those who signed the register; no account has been made of those who did not. Approximately 22,000 attended services during the same period. Two thousand persons attended the annual fair.

Property Changes

None.

Fulfillment of Cooperative Agreement

See Special Needs in Preservation, Protection, Maintenance, and Restoration and Safeguards Against Fire.

Plans of the Owner for Next Year

1. The electric wiring from a pole on Water Street goes overhead from one building to another. It is contemplated to put the wiring underground in the parking lot and run to each building in a way that will not disturb the brickwork or planting.
2. A new electric carillon that will automatically play at stated times is contemplated for the fall. It will be equipped with two manual consoles for non-automatic playing.
3. Dr. Roak would like to know of a method of distributing the heat in the church that will eliminate the present radiators and yet preserve the architectural integrity of the building to the greatest extent.

Miscellaneous Observations

There was some damage by boys' breaking windows on the east side of the church. It has been virtually stopped by the police making some arrests and making the parents come to the police station to get their children.

CHRISTIAN STREET

U. S. Government Property

STREET

STREET

200
5
2
4
3
S

11

GUILD HOUSE

10

9

8

12

RECTORY

3

2

1

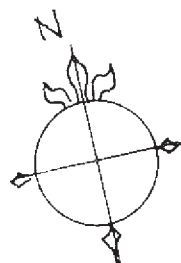
CHURCH

4

6

5

WATER



U. S. Government Property

DIAGRAM
of
OLD SWEDES CHURCH
PROPERTY

Numbers show location of illustrations

DELAWARE AVENUE



Fig. 1. West facade of Gloria Dei Church



Fig. 2. Cracked lintel in north wall of west end of church.



Fig. 3. West wall of north arm. Pointing above window missing, allowing water to enter.

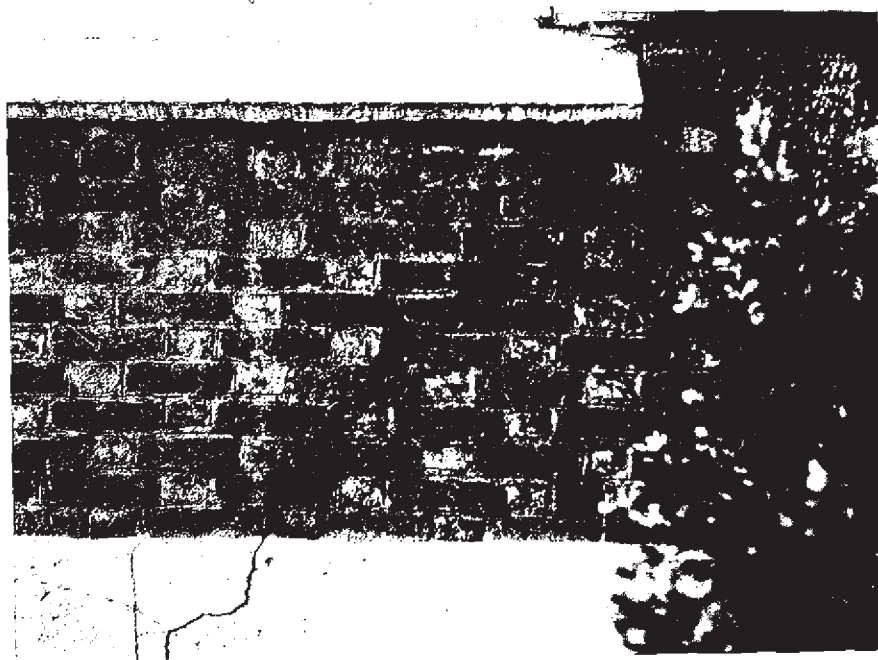


Fig. 4. Settlement crack below window in north wall of east end.

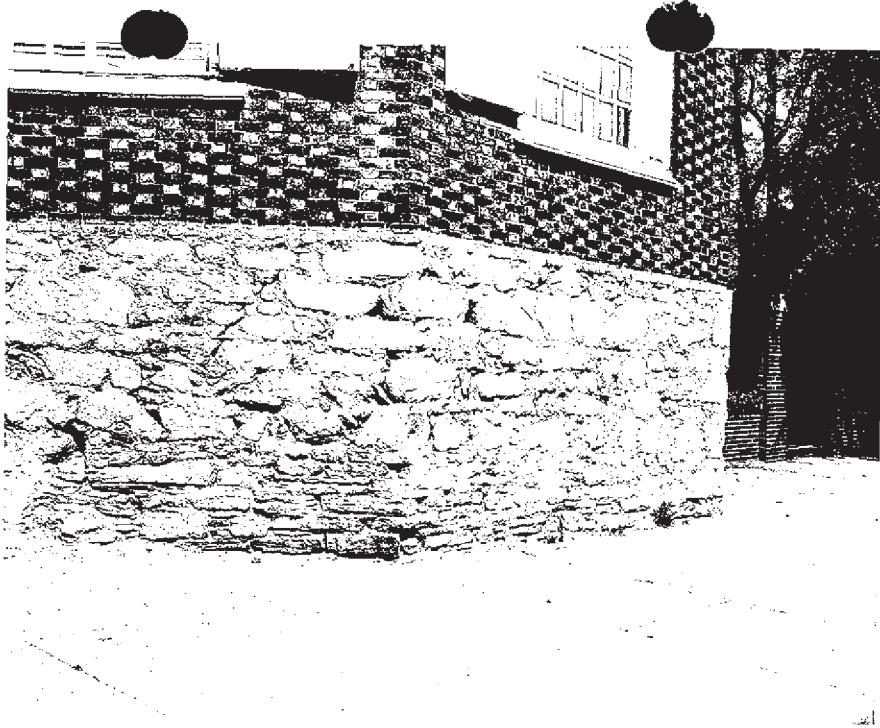


Fig. 5. Apsidal stone foundation looking northwest.



Fig. 6. West wall of south arm, showing interstice $\pm 9''$ deep. Behind this wall is a vault in which are kept early church records.

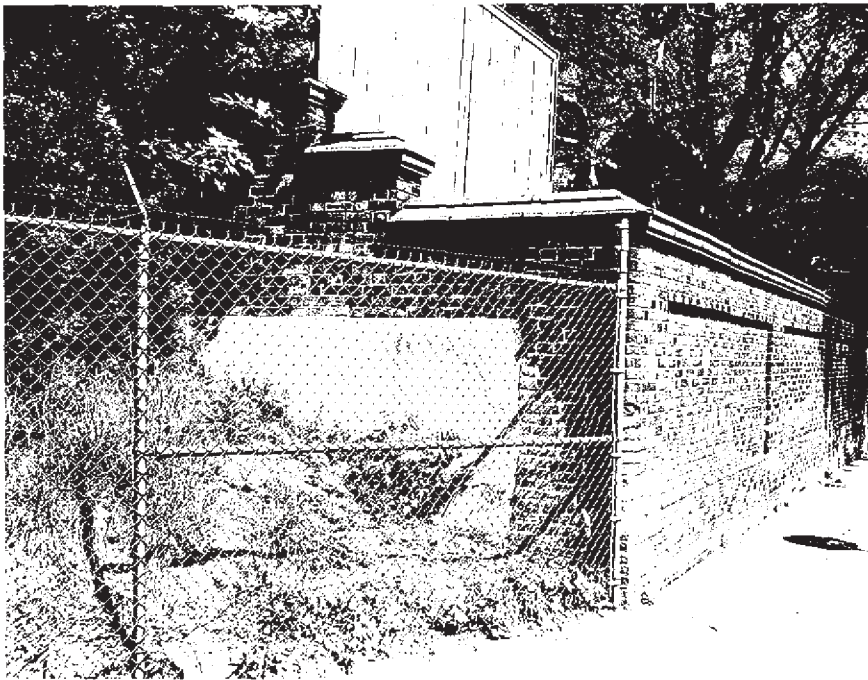


Fig. 7. Return of Swanson Street wall; in good shape.

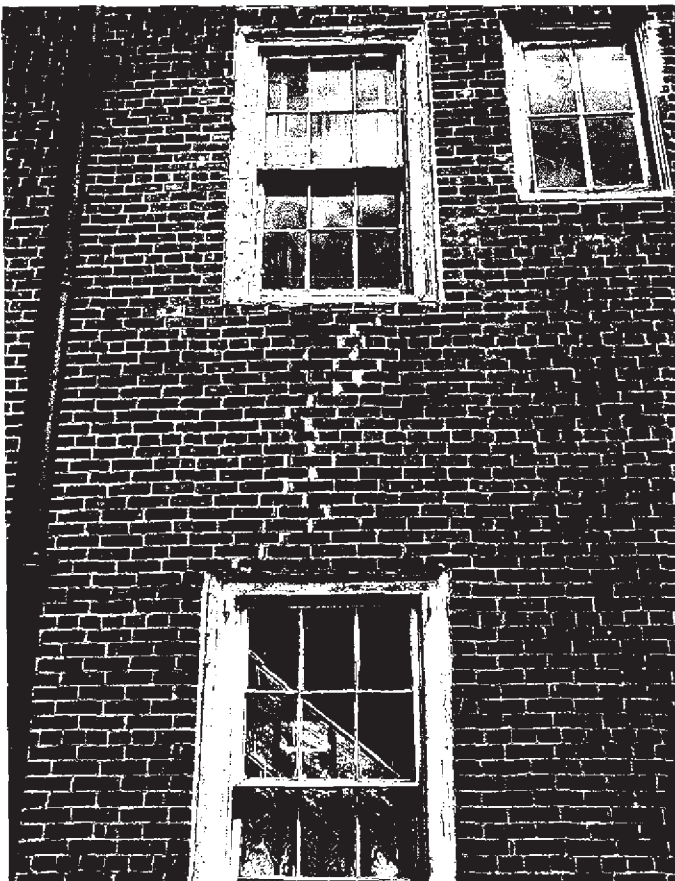


Fig. 8. South wall of Guild House, showing settlement crack between head and sill of lower and upper windows.

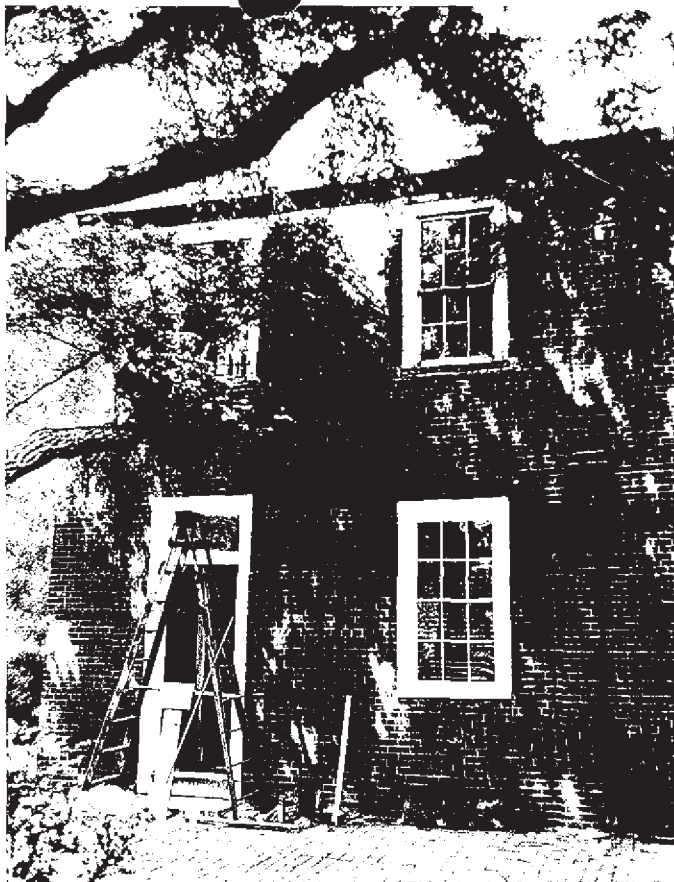


Fig. 9. South end of
east wall of Guild House.



Fig. 10. North end of east wall. Note bricks above window.

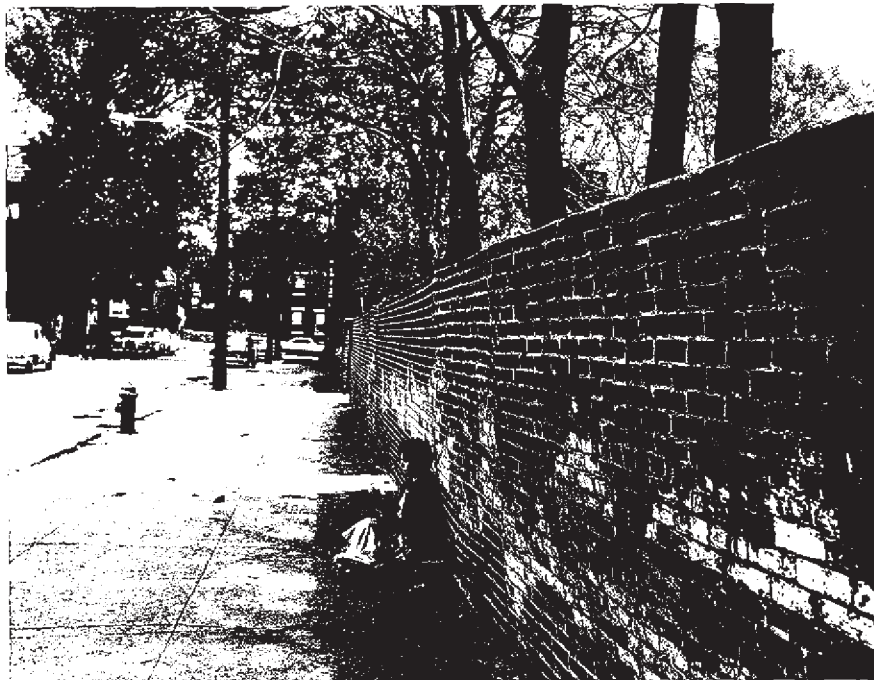


Fig. 11. Water Street wall, pushed out by trees on grounds site.



Fig. 12. Dead Carolina poplar trees to be cut to about 10 feet high and ivy allowed to cover them.