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A Preliminary Report - June 1947 (5)

THE PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL SHRINES PROJECT

BY

Charles E. Peterson
Landscape Architect

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N O T E S

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The negatives for the illustrations seem to have disappeared in the intervening years and no attempt has been made to acquire a duplicate set. The original captions have been included without the prints.

With thanks, Jacqueline Hanser and Mary Sutnlan typed this copy.

Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect
Historic Structures

Philadelphia
July 28, 1954

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Edith Tripp, Jacqueline Hauser and Mary Quinlan typed this copy.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
	FOREWARD	1
I	STATUS OF PROJECT	2
II	PRIORITIES IN HISTORIC VALUE	4
III	FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS	9
IV	SOME PLANNING PROBLEMS	13
V	BOUNDARIES AND TAKING LINES	18
VI	RELATION TO CITY PLAN	20
VII	MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS AND DATA	
	A. Historic Site Contract, 1943	22
	B. Philadelphia National Shrines Act, 1946	24
	C. Notes on Independence Hall	26
	D. Notes on Carpenters' Hall	29
	E. Merchants' Exchange. Description of 1848	31
	F. Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House. Draft of Data Sheet	33
	G. Bishop White House. Draft of Data Sheet	35
	H. City Tavern. Draft of Data Sheet . .	37
VIII	SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS	40
IX	PLANS, MAPS AND VIEWS	Illustration
	Larson Plan, 1944	# 1
	Recommended Location for Reception Center	# 2
	Recommended Boundaries for Principal Area	# 3

	Illustration
Portion of the Easburn Map, 1776	# 4
Portion of the Hills Map, 1796	# 5
View North from Independence Hall, 1838	# 6
View East from Independence Hall, 1838	# 7
Independence Hall, 1828	# 8
Independence Hall, 1851	# 9
Independence Hall, South Front, 1947	#10
Independence Hall, East Wing, 1947	#11
Independence Hall, View from Southwest, 1947	#12
"Philosophical Hall", West Front, 1947	#13
Fifth Street, between Walnut and Chestnut, 1947	#14
Sansom (formerly Library) Street, looking East, 1947	#15
The Philadelphia Library, before 1880	#16
Philadelphia Library, Interior View, 1874	#17
Old Custom House, 1828	#18
Philadelphia Bank, 1880	#19
Carpenters' Hall, 1774 (?)	#20
Carpenters' Hall, View from Southwest, 1947	#21
Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House, 1947	#22
Bishop White House, 18__	#23
Bishop White House, 1947	#24
First United States Bank, 1828	#25

	Illustration
Merchants' Exchange, c. 1870	#26, #27
Jayne's "New Granite Building", 1851	#28
Jayne's "New Granite Building", 1947	#29
City Tavern, c. 1800	#30
Jefferson's Lodging House, 1854	#31
Department of the United States for Foreign Affairs, 18__	#32
Christ Church, 1787	#33
Benjamin Franklin's House, 1945	#34
The President's House, A Model	#35
Society Hill Houses, 1836 or 1839	#36
Society Hill Houses, 1947	#37

FOREWORD

This report was prepared for circulation within the National Park Service, and not for general use or publication.

The problems involved in the improvement of the Independence Hall neighborhood are not simple and will not be solved by familiar and routine formulas. The writer's hope is that this report will provoke a thorough and rational discussion of the basic factors which should determine the architectural redesign of the area. Such subjects are taken up as "Priorities in Historic Values," "Functional Requirements" and "Maximum and Minimum Boundaries." Policy in these matters cannot be determined too soon.

This report is prepared from information collected during a recent visit of one month to Philadelphia. Such a brief acquaintance with the area could not afford the writer enough background to discourse at length on its history. However, a certain amount of historic data is quoted herein at the risk of later revision.

The writer has tried to maintain an objective and professional attitude towards this project. It is realized that the exigencies of promotion often make compromise necessary. However, let us start by trying to find the ideal plan even though we may have to depart from it in practice.

Considerable effort has been spent in assembling photographs and photostats for this report; much of the effort will count towards building up a large study collection for future use. The old views, except as noted, are from the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The 1947 photographs are by the writer.

St. Louis
June 13, 1947

Charles E. Peterson,
Landscape Architect.

I STATUS OF PROJECT

With the moving of the main business center of Philadelphia to Broad Street, the Independence Square district fell into a decline from which it has never recovered. Although architectural schemes for the redevelopment of the area have been brought forth from time to time over a period of forty years, little has been accomplished outside of the Square itself. The City has carefully maintained the famous group of historic structures, but a large percentage of the neighboring buildings have fallen into decay and many have been replaced by parking lots.

Participation of the Federal Government in preservation problems here dates from 1939 when the Old Custom House was taken over for restoration. A second measure was undertaken on March 25, 1943 when Independence Hall became a "National Historic Site" through a contract signed by the Acting Secretary of the Interior and the Acting Mayor of Philadelphia.

The present project results primarily from the efforts of the Independence Hall Association. In 1944 this Association collaborated with the Fairmount Park Art Association in the preparation of an attractive promotional brochure featuring drawings by Roy F. Larson, a Philadelphia architect, for developing two "malls"--one north and one east of Independence Square. The movement eventuated in an act of Congress approved on August 9, 1946

> "To provide for investigating the matter of the establishment of a national park in the old part of the city of Philadelphia, for the purpose of conserving the historical objects and buildings therein."

By this act a Philadelphia National Shrines Park Commission was created to study the area and propose suitable legislation for further action by Congress. There have been several meetings of this Commission, the last of which took place on March 11, 1947. As a federal agency it will not exist beyond January, 1948, unless authorization is extended again. An appropriation by Congress of $10,000 was very recently made available to defray the expenses of the Commission, including the publishing of a report to Congress. Present plans call for distribution not later than January 1, 1948.

In the meantime Governor Duff of Pennsylvania has pledged four million dollars of currently available state funds to purchase and clear three blocks of land between Independence Hall and the projected Vine Street Expressway. This would make possible the North Mall of the Larson Plan. The starting of work will probably follow the beginning of the widening of Vine Street. It is possible that resistance from the occupants of buildings who have no place to which they can move may hold up progress. Fourth and Fifth Streets bordering on this area have been designated State Highways as a step towards financing the proposed improvements. The area between would presumably become a State Park.

II PRIORITIES IN HISTORIC VALUES

The scope of the Federal project has not yet been limited. The Act which sets up the Commission directs it to report on the establishment of "...a Federal area...to encompass...the buildings of historical significance in the old part of the city of Philadelphia...for the purpose of conserving the historical objects and buildings in the said area and to provide for the enjoyment and appreciation thereof..." In addition, the improvement of the neighborhood and the reduction of fire hazards are particularly mentioned in this Act.

By reference to a certain petition* the Act outlines a considerable area east of Independence Square as having special historic interest and specifically names Carpenters' Hall, the Old Custom House and the First Bank of the United States as "landmarks and shrines of patriotism." The existence of other buildings of similar importance and worthy of special attention is indicated but none are identified. The Larson Plan of 1944 had featured several others: The Merchants' Exchange, Christ Church (North Market Street), the Free Quaker Meeting House and Betsy Ross House (both on Arch Street) as well as Franklin Court and Christ Church Grave Yard.

At the beginning of April, 1947, Mr. Grant M. Simon, Architect for the Commission, had a large historic sites map in compilation from several sources. This identified and located scores of buildings and

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* The writer was unable to locate a copy of this petition, and there seems to be some doubt that it ever existed.

other features of the city (some existing and some disappeared) between Independence Square and the Delaware River and for some distance north and south.*

The superabundance of interesting sites made it necessary that some criterion be set up as a guide to the selection of those which should be included within boundaries or otherwise given special treatment. A rough classification was prepared by Mr. Simon and the writer, and submitted to and approved by Chairman Lewis on April 9. There were two lists as follows:

CLASSIFICATION A

Those sites related to events leading up to and including the Declaration of Independence (say 1770-1777) and the events connected with the formation of the Federal Government (say 1790-1800) are considered "historic" in the highest sense. The sites and buildings at the top of this classification outrank all others in importance for preservation and marking. The list was subdivided as follows:

	Existing	Disappeared
I Meeting Places		
City Tavern		x
Carpenters' Hall	x	
Old State House	x	
Congress Hall	x	
City Hall	x	

* Prints of this map were sent to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by Chairman Lewis for "authentication." The staff of the Society under the direction of Director R. N. Williams, 2nd, undertook this work about the end of April. On May 12 a research worker was especially employed for this purpose.

		Existing	Disappeared
II	Dwellings and Lodging Houses of Delegates, etc.		
	Washington		x
	Jefferson		x
	Franklin		x
	Morris, Robert		x
	Moylan (Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House)	x	
	Powel	x	
	Indian Queen		x
III	Churches Attended		
	Christ Church	x	
	St. Peter's	x	
	Free Quaker	x	
IV	Cemeteries		
	Christ Church (B. Franklin burial)	x	
	Washington Square (Revolutionary soldiers)		x
V	Other Buildings (Landmarks of the Period)		
	Philadelphia Library		x
	First U. S. Bank	x	
	Pennsylvania Bank		x
	Chestnut Street Theatre		x
	Philadelphia Dispensary		x
	Clark's Hall (U. S. Treasury)		x
	Rickett's Circus		x
	Pennsylvania Hospital	x	
V	Streets, Alleys and Courts		
		x	x

It is obvious that this list was neither complete nor in proper order of priority. Mr. Appleman added some sites in his memorandum to Judge Lewis of April 23. Study of a critical nature should be carried on to make it as comprehensive as possible. All of these sites were conspicuous in Philadelphia life of the period and have important connections with the great events and people of the time. Most of them are near Independence Square and each one should be at least marked.

CLASSIFICATION B

The secondary list of sites was composed of landmarks of interest or importance which did not exist in the great periods as limited above. It read as follows:

	Existing	Disappeared
Old U. S. Customs House (Second U. S. Bank)	x	
Merchants' Exchange	x	
Philadelphia Bank I		x
Philadelphia Bank II		x
Mercantile Library		x
First U. S. Custom House		x
Mechanics' Bank	x	
Friends' Meeting (Fourth and Arch)	x	

The amount of attention which this group should receive is less clear. The National Park Service has already taken over the Old Custom House which was declared a "National Historic Site" on its own several years ago. The Merchants' Exchange is by the same architect (William

Strickland) and of approximately equal interest. It lies within the proposed Federal area as discussed by the Commission.

This list also needs revision, extension and careful evaluation as to priorities. An officially recognized list should, in the end, determine what should be marked and what restored.

III FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

For the purpose of this report it will be assumed that public reservations of the Independence Hall area will be operated as one unified whole. The number of ownerships--Federal, State, City, etc.--in the area is immaterial as long as an agreement is reached as to what the functions of each will be.

It will be assumed here that the title to Independence Hall and its adjoining buildings will remain with the City, along with the primary responsibility of its protection from fire, theft and vandalism. This would mean the continuation of the guard and watchman services now in effect. On the other hand, the interpretive program, let it be assumed, will be handled by the National Park Service. Parking for visitors, a modern museum program, guided tours, production of extensive publications and the restoration and protection of the minor buildings would come under the direction of the Superintendent of the National Park.

Several important types of facilities are needed for visitors, especially for those who come from outside of the city driving their own cars. They are:

(1) Parking space

(2) Comfort stations

(3) Eating places

(4) Shelter for the staging of large groups making tours

(5) A store for sale of publications and souvenirs.

These facilities might be combined with an auditorium and diorama

museum where parties can be briefed in historic background before actually starting on tours or entering the old buildings. It seems more than possible that a million visitors a year would be served at the Reception Center, which would have to be planned on a scale previously unknown in the National Parks.

The ideal location for such facilities would be directly across Chestnut Street from Independence Hall (see Illustration #2). Convenient surface parking could be developed in the adjoining State Park area for automobiles arriving by the new Vine Street Expressway or the Delaware River Bridge. The location would also be convenient for passengers in streetcars, buses and taxis approaching from the main part of the city via Chestnut Street.

A major problem will be the provision of space for parking visitors' automobiles. The streets of downtown Philadelphia are very narrow (50 feet between building lines), and the parking question, difficult in most cities, is at its worst here.* The improvement for park purposes of the blocks east of Independence Square will make the situation even more difficult. At the present time lands around Carpenters' Hall are mostly used for parking cars for private business establishments outside of the proposed Federal area. When these parking lots are ploughed up to plant grass and trees, and when the number of visitors increases on account of the new activities, the pressure for parking space in the neighborhood will be terrific. Rates in the remaining parking lots may be expected to sky-rocket and probably many

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* A large sum has recently be allocated for the study of the downtown parking problems in Philadelphia.

old houses of historic and antiquarian interest will come down as their owners find they can realize more income from parking cars than from renting the houses.

The least that we can do is to make provision for parking the cars of our own visitors. Perhaps 500 could be parked on the State Mall north of Independence Square on the surface and under trees along the sides. This would require a walk of one-third of a mile from those cars parked farthest away.

This writer is not very hopeful for much underground parking. The fact that an underground garage was constructed beneath Union Square in San Francisco has stirred hope in many breasts throughout the country.* From the park standpoint it is important to remember that the provision of soil for growing grass on a roof results in heavy and expensive construction. To grow trees on such a roof is ordinarily impossible. The San Francisco garage has a total of sixteen slender yew trees growing in concrete boxes. In the cool, damp climate of San Francisco shade trees are not very important. In Philadelphia they are. The essential thing to remember is that trees and underground garages do not go together. Another factor to remember is that all points of the Independence Hall area are less than thirty feet above sea level and there would be problems in the drainage of underground structures.

Because parking will be needed in several places east of Indepen-

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* This garage parks some 1700 cars on four levels, charging 25¢ for the first hour, 50¢ for twelve hours and 75¢ for twenty-four hours. It has shown profits for some years on the basis of low interest rates for financing and construction costs as of 1941-42.

dence Square, both to accommodate those regularly working in the various buildings (e.g. the Old Custom House) and for visitors, it may be that multi-storied above-ground garages will be the eventual answer to the problem. Attractively designed, they might be useful to fill in spaces not required for landscape effects.

An inn of Eighteenth Century flavor (à la Williamsburg) might add to the enjoyment of the area. It has been suggested that the row of three-and-a-half story houses formerly fronting on Chestnut between Independence Square and the Old Custom House be rebuilt--the exterior to be a restoration and the interior a modern hotel with the atmosphere of early Philadelphia. It is certainly true that the introduction of such a unit would help encourage the residential rehabilitation of the whole district.

IV SOME PLANNING PROBLEMS

The Philadelphia Shrines Commission already had its own architect--Mr. Grant Simon, A.I.A., a practitioner of long and varied experience. Mr. Simon had prepared some sketches previous to the writer's arrival and a new layout was drawn up and displayed at the annual dinner of the American Philosophical Society, April 25. The writer made no attempts at any designs of his own.

When asked to comment on the plans exhibited by others the following precepts were expressed by the writer as personal opinion:

(1) Avoid, whenever possible, the reconstruction of buildings which have totally disappeared. Such work is very expensive and, when completed, the new building is never exactly like the original nor can it claim to have any great sentimental value.

(2) Do not change the basic layout and character of an historic area by imposing new streets and architectural axes upon it. Whether or not these are called streets, vistas or malls, the principal is the same. The peculiar urban pattern of early Philadelphia will always be of more interest to visitors than modern fashions in planning. Ancient places like "Whalebone Alley", "Gold Alley" and "Library Street"--to name a few within the subject area--are valuable to invoke a real picture of the past. They, with the principal streets laid out by William Penn's surveyors, are the paths upon which our famous early Americans trod and they are quite adequate

to carry present-day visitors. Connecting the little old buildings of the district with formal and symmetrical axes a la Burnham to develop new "lines of sight" would create relationships which have never existed before and which offer, in the writer's opinion, no important advantages.

No doubt there will be many in the National Park Service who will agree with these points but they had not been presented in Philadelphia.

Along such lines the following unsolicited comments are pertinent:

Dr. Hans Huth (Staff, Art Institute of Chicago, National Park Service Collaborator), March 20, 1947:

> "I hope they wont pull down too much in Phil. I [would] hate to see In. H. in splendid isolation, landscaped like a rest room."

Dr. Turpin C. Bannister, (Dean, School of Architecture and Fine Arts, Alabama Polytechnic Institute and Chairman, National Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments, American Institute of Architects), April 10, 1947:

> "The proposed creation of a grand mall on the axis of Independence Hall in Philadelphia threatens to disrupt the eighteenth century character of this unique building. This is not to say that the present adjoining buildings form a suitable setting for the cradle of the republic, but it would equally inept to impose a grandiosa neoclassical or Grand Prix parti on it."

Roy F. Larson (well-known Philadelphia architect who made the plan for the mall to the north of Independence Hall), May 6, 1947:

> "As you know, I am not in favor of spreading too far and having great open areas to the east of Independence Square.... It seems to me that great charm and character can be had in that part of the development by contrast of a fairly confined axis between the Square and Carpenter's Hall and a modest open area around the latter."

These comments deserve careful attention. They are architectural matters of the greatest interest. Since the aesthetic improvement of the Independence Square vicinity is one of the prime objectives of the present projects the opinion of architects cannot be overlooked.

Apropos, in Hegemann and Peets' classic work Civic Art (New York, 1922) the plaza is discussed in general terms (p. 29):

> "The most important way of giving good settings to monumental buildings is to relate them to a plaza, which is another term for grouping them. Architectural grouping, as the previous chapter tried to show, is almost identical with plaza-design. A plaza is an area framed by buildings, this frame of buildings being an essential part of the plaza and the shape of the plaza being designed to show off the frame to best advantage. A plaza is not an area of land around which casual buildings may be dotted."

The Independence Hall group, begun in 1732, has been called "the first civic center" in this country. Its location then lay on the western edge of Philadelphia's development. A full century was to pass before the Square was completely enclosed with buildings and began to approach the architectural ideal. This condition lasted a couple of generations--until 1888 when the Drexel Building was built. The latter, the first tall building facing the Square, overwhelmed the Eighteenth Century structures across the street and threw the whole setting out of balance. Some decades later the Public Ledger rebuilt on the west side a great mass of similar height. The Penn Mutual Building south of the Square followed as "rapid changes....transforming the old frame of the plaza from low Colonial residences of a rather uniform appearance with overpowering and diverging masses of huge business structures."*

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* Hegemann and Petts, p. 133.

These tall structures represent a huge capital investment and they can probably not be eliminated until they are written off as obsolescent. This condition is said to be approaching in the case of the Drexel Building. It would certainly be an architectural courtesy to the ancient buildings of the Square to have all fronting structures limited to three stories.

The objections raised to the removal of architectural frontage on the north side of Chestnut Street [across from Independence Hall] could probably be met by placing there the Reception Center already suggested for functional reasons. This could be designed as low in height, attractive in appearance, allowing a good vista of the Independence Hall tower and yet providing a north wall for the Square. The balance of the Mall would function usefully as a firebreak and (within architectural bounds) an automobile parking zone.

It will be generally agreed to in principle that ugly modern buildings in this area should be removed to improve the setting of the historic buildings. There will, however, be differences of opinions as to the extent to which this should be carried. When one building is pulled down, there is another immediately behind it which is often less attractive. If the pulling down is kept up long enough it will leave the historic buildings standing in large open spaces like country churches, a condition which their designers did not plan for. And ugly buildings will still frame the park area.

Some of these buildings, like Carpenters' Hall, look well enough from any angle.* But the Old Custom House has only two sides that are

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* This is the more surprising because Carpenters' Hall seems always to have been in the center of a built-up square approached from the north only by a narrow alley.

really presentable, and, in the case of the First United States Bank, only the Third Street front has any real character. The Larson plan (1944) and the City Planning Commission plan (1947) meet this condition by building new buildings back into the area, especially along Chestnut Street. The authors of these plans believe, for instance, that the best setting for the Custom House is a pair of flanking buildings, leaving only the classic porticoes at either end exposed.

Such a treatment could be carried out by the National Park Service but it must be remembered that if these lands are condemned for "historic" purposes there may be limitations on the type of redevelopment possible. It may be desirable to incorporate in the organic act setting up the National Park a proviso which will authorize the leasing of any lands on such terms as to permit the erection by private agencies of useful buildings low in height and attractive in appearance. What is needed is not so much open and vacant space as an architectural setting of a sympathetic character.

The restoration of the Dilworth-Todd-Moylan, the Bishop White and any other Eighteenth Century houses on the north side of Walnut Street will help provide a contemporary setting and a screen against distracting buildings and activities outside the area.

V BOUNDARIES AND TAKING LINES

The boundaries to be laid down by the organic Congressional Act should be inclusive enough to cover all lands that might be desired in the foreseeable future. Any lands within these boundaries could then be acquired by gift or purchase without further legislative authority. This does not mean that all properties within the boundaries need be acquired. For instance, Independence Square should lie within the boundaries yet it is not necessary that title to it be taken. On the other hand, once within the boundaries title could be accepted, if offered, without going to Congress again for permission.

The lands required for the Federal project may be classified as follows:

(1) Historic buildings and sites.

(2) Lands in their immediate vicinity required for protection and improvement of landscape surroundings.

(3) Space required for functional purposes, such as parking.

Based on present knowledge it is recommended that the boundaries include:

Main area	Bounded by Chestnut, Second, Walnut and Sixth Streets.
Christ Church	Churchyard only
Franklin House site	In Franklin Court
Jacob Graff House* site	S.W. Corner Seventh and Market
Reception Center site	South half of City Block 4-5.

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* Where Jefferson is said to have written the Declaration of Independence.

Since the site where Washington and Adams lived as Presidents lies on the "North Mall" there is no reason to acquire the site nor to include it within the boundaries. It does not seem likely that anyone would want to reconstruct the house.

The next consideration is the taking lines. While it would be gratifying to get in one appropriation the funds needed for acquiring all the desired lands, this often does not work out in practice. If only part of the requested money is made available, it is desirable to have set up for guidance a priority list of acquisition. The following order is recommended:

(1) All historic buildings in order that they may be saved from possible demolition or alteration

(2) Lands needed for the construction of improvements

(3) Vacant land in danger of being privately developed, thus raising the cost of acquisition

(4) Other lands.

A "minimum taking line" is here suggested to be used as a guide by the National Park Service (see Illustration #3). This line encloses, in the Main area, all the most important historic buildings and sites now identified and would assure their preservation and marking on a high priority basis. Adoption of this principle at the present time does not prohibit the further acquisition of lands up to and including everything inside of the boundary line.

VI RELATION TO CITY PLAN

The staff of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission is much interested in the Independence Hall projects and disposed to be helpful in every way. One of their plans under study, but not yet approved, is the widening of Second Street to 120 feet with dual roadways and tree plantings. This would pass along the eastern boundary of the proposed main Federal area and provide improved access to it.

At one meeting Mr. Robert B. Mitchell (Executive Director) and Edmund N. Bacon (Senior Land Planner) presented their suggestions in the form of a plan for the area. They are making studies to be incorporated into a large and elaborate model (scale 50'= 1") of this section of the city to be shown at the "Philadelphia City Planning Exhibition" at Gimbel Brothers Department Store in September, 1947. They would be glad to have their model reflect the latest decisions which might be made by the Shrines Commission.

The City Planning Commission representatives made objection to disturbing the rather closeknit group of insurance agencies occupying buildings on the north side of Walnut Street between 3rd and 5th Streets. These are being considered by the Shrines Park Commission for purchase and demolition. Almost every property on both sides of Walnut Street in this area is occupied by an insurance activity and as a business community it seems fairly prosperous and stable.

There is a large area between Walnut Street and St. Peter's Church containing many fine early houses. Part of this was known in the Eighteenth Century as "Society Hill". The City Planning Commission is

considering means to rehabilitate this area by restoring the better houses, building new facilities and in general upgrading the type of occupation. If this can be done Philadelphia may take a leading part in preserving a large part of its old residential area. This would be of nation-wide interest; other cities have the same problem. There are probably more Eighteenth Century houses left here than in any other place in the country. Present-day projects for improving "slum" areas by a general demolition often result in the destruction of important architectural values. Ugly new tenements often replace essentially fine old neighborhoods which are merely in need of rehabilitation.

The National Park Service should do everything possible to further this project. The establishment of a National Park between Chestnut and Walnut Streets will help the chances of preserving and improving Society Hill. This in turn would make the future of the whole Independence Hall neighborhood more secure.

VII MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS AND DATA

A. Historic Site Contract, 1943

This agreement, made a little over four years ago, has not, as yet, produced any specific results. The writer believes that the City should agree to an active interpretive program on the part of the National Park Service once the National Park is established.

THIS AGREEMENT, Made and entered into this 25th day of March, 1943, by and between the United States of America, acting in this behalf by Abe Fortas, Acting Secretary of the Interior, hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary", party of the first part, and the City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, hereinafter referred to as the "City", party of the second part.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, The Independence Hall group of historic structures comprising Independence Hall, Congress Hall, Old City Hall, and associated historic objects, located in Independence Square in the City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, are recognized as possessing national significance as associated with, or the scene of, the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress, the meeting place of that Congress, and seat of Government of the United States during the Revolution and during the period 1790-1800, as well as the meeting place of the Constitutional Convention of 1787; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the City to bring about the designation of the said historic structures, objects, and grounds in Independence Square as a national historic site, and to preserve them for public use and for the perpetuation of America's greatest traditions; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Secretary to co-operate with the City in preserving the integrity of the above-mentioned historic structures, objects, and area, and to assist in furthering their interpretation to the American people as a great national heritage, and to supplement the de facto national recognition of this shrine of Liberty by adding thereto the legal designation of the said historic structures, objects, and grounds as a national historic site;

NOW, THEREFORE, In consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority contained in the Act of Congress approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes," the said parties have covenanted and agreed and by these presents do covenant and agree to and with each other and in consideration of the mutual promises herein expressed, as follows:

ARTICLE I. The Secretary agrees, on behalf of the United States of America:

(a) To designate as a national historic site the said historic structures and grounds, and to place thereon an appropriate marker attesting to such designation, as funds become available.

(b) To co-operate with the City in the preservation of Independence Hall and related structures and objects, and to provide assistance in planning and executing measures for such preservation within the limits of available appropriations.

(c) To co-operate with the City in interpreting the national significance of Independence Hall and related historic structures and objects to the American people, and to provide assistance in planning and executing measures for such interpretation within the limits of available appropriations.

(d) In the discretion of the Secretary, to expend such funds as may be made available by appropriation or donation for the purpose of assisting the City in the appropriate preservation, restoration, and use of the historic structures and grounds as a national historic site.

ARTICLE II. The City hereby agrees:

(a) To retain and preserve the grounds and historic structures constituting the Independence Hall group in perpetuity for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States.

(b) To consult with the Director of the National Park Service for all plans for major repairs, alterations, or improvements to the historic structures or their surroundings, except as to present plans in connection with the proposed bomb shelter for the Liberty Bell and the underground reservoir.

(c) To consult with the Director of the National Park Service for all plans for major alterations or modifications in the exhibition and interpretation of the Independence Hall group to the public.

ARTICLE III. It is mutually understood and agreed:

(a) That it is the purpose of both parties to this agreement to preserve the integrity of the Independence Hall group, and to further public appreciation of the full importance of our great heritage in historic sites by insuring to the Independence Hall group its key place in the national program of historical conservation, and to secure this result a high degree of co-operation is necessary, and the parties hereto shall mutually consult on all matters of importance to the program.

(b) That the said historic structures and grounds, subject to the covenants above set forth, shall remain the property of the City, to be used by the City for the purposes above specified and shall be under the control and management of the City.

(c) Wherever in this contract the Secretary is referred to, the term shall include his duly authorized representative.

(d) No member of, or delegate to, Congress, or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this contract or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, but this restriction shall not be construed to extend to this contract if made with a corporation or company for its general benefit.

(e) This agreement may be terminated by either party upon the expiration of one year's notice in writing to the other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said parties have hereunto subscribed their names and affixed their seals (in quintuple) the day, month, and year aforesaid.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By (SGD) ABE FORTAS
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

By (SGD) BERNARD SAMUEL
Acting Mayor.

VII - B Philadelphia National Shrines Act, 1946

This act created the Federal Commission, whose term of existence has subsequently been extended to January, 1948. An area of historic interest is defined but this has subsequently been extended. The "petition" referred to in the second paragraph has not been identified by the writer. The actual appropriation made for the Commission amounted to $10,000.

[PUBLIC LAW 711--79th CONGRESS]
[CHAPTER 943--2d SESSION]
[H. R. 2851]

AN ACT

To provide for investigating the matter of the establishment of a national park in the old part of the city of Philadelphia, for the purpose of conserving the historical objects and buildings therein.

Whereas thousands of residents of the city of Philadelphia, comprising part of the Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania, have petitioned their representatives in the Congress of the United States upon the matters more fully hereinafter set forth; and
Whereas the petition of the residents of the city of Philadelphia calls attention to the existence of many shrines hallowed in American history, as well as several modern buildings owned by the Federal Government, in the area of the city of Philadelphia, beginning at the southeast corner of Sixth Street and Chestnut Street and proceeding southwardly to the northeast corner of Sixth Street and Walnut Street; thence proceeding eastwardly to the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Walnut Street; thence proceeding northwardly to a point on the west side of Fifth Street which would be made by extending the north line of Sansom Street to the east side of Fifth Street; thence proceeding eastwardly along the north line of the said Sansom Street to a point in the east side of Fourth Street which would be made by extending the north line of the said Sansom Street to the east side of the said Fourth Street; thence southwardly to the northeast corner of Harmony and Fourth Streets; thence eastwardly to the northwest corner of Harmony and Third Streets; thence northwardly to a point at which a line extended perpendicularly from the east side of Third Street would meet the angle created by the lines forming the northeast corner of Third and Dock Streets; thence eastwardly along the northerly line of said Dock Street to the northeast corner of Dock, South American, and Moravian Streets; thence eastwardly to the northwest corner of Moravian and Second Streets; thence northwardly to the southwest corner of Second and Chestnut Streets; thence westwardly to the southeast corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets, to the place of beginning; and calls attention to the fact that much of the area above described is run down, some properties are demolished, and others are in such dilapidated condition as to constitute a serious fire hazard of such proportions as to endanger Independence Hall, Carpenters' Hall, the Old Custom House, and the First Bank of the United States, as well as other landmarks and shrines of patriotism, and that such unsightly condition is not conducive to a proper respect and reverence for those American ideals which are symbolized by those shrines; and recommends that the Federal Government establish a national park in the above vicinity and also in the area bounded by Fifth Street on the east, Race Street on the north, Sixth Street on the west, and Chestnut Street on the south, which

will assure at once a beautiful setting for those shrines and maximum protection against fire or other disaster; and

Whereas during these troubled times it is desirable to augment the defense effort of our Nation not only with arms but with proper emphasis on spiritual values; and

Whereas an attractive and inspiring setting will create a stronger sense of reverence for American institutions, laws and orders, which had their beginnings, in large part, in this group of shrines in the formative years around 1776; and

Whereas it is proper, fitting, and desirable that the United States of America should properly enshrine these jewels of democracy, so that all who visit these hallowed places from the far corners of this glorious democracy and the four corners of the world may be stirred with a feeling of patriotic reverence; Therefore

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a commission is hereby created for the purpose of investigating the matter of the establishment in the city of Philadelphia, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, of a Federal area to be called Philadelphia National Shrines Park, or by some other appropriate name, to encompass within its area the buildings of historical significance in the old part of the city of Philadelphia, and to be operated and maintained by the National Park Service, for the purpose of conserving the historical objects and buildings in the said area and to provide for the enjoyment and appreciation thereof in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Sec. 2. The Commission shall be known as the Philadelphia National Shrines Park Commission, and shall be composed of seven individuals, who shall serve without compensation, to be appointed as follows: One Member of the United States Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; one Member of the United States House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one member to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, and four persons, one of whom shall be a resident of the city of Philadelphia, to be appointed by the President of the United States. Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

Sec. 3. The Commission shall meet for the purpose of organizing within thirty days after the enactment of this Act. Rooms shall be provided for the use of the Commission in the New Custom House at Philadelphia. The Commission shall elect a Chairman and executive secretary from among its members.

Sec. 4. The Commission shall make a study of the historic area and the area surrounding and contiguous to the locality involved, the buildings now in existence there, comparative real-estate costs, the advisability of condemnation of all or any part of the said locality and area, which of the present buildings should remain privately owned, if any, and shall prepare a report on all phases of the problem. Such report shall be transmitted to the Congress by the Secretary of the Interior not later than January 3, 1947. Upon submission of the report to Congress, the Commission shall cease to exist.

Sec. 5. The Commission, or any member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, hold hearings and sit and act at such places and times, require by subpena the attendance of such witnesses other than persons engaged in essential war industries as defined by the War Manpower Commission, and the production of such books, papers, and documents, administer such oaths, and take such testimony, as the Commission or such member deems advisable. Subpenas shall be issued under the signature of the Chairman of the Commission and shall be served by any person designated by him. For purposes of the exercise of the functions, powers, and duties conferred or imposed by this Act, the provisions of sections 9 and 10 (relating to the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence) of the Federal Trade Commission Act of September 16, 1914, as amended (U.S.C., 1940 edition, title 15, secs. 49 and 50), are hereby made applicable so far as is consistent with the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 6. (a) The Secretary of the Interior may appoint and fix the compensation, in accordance with the provisions of the civil-service laws and the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, of such experts, advisers, and other employees, and may make such expenditures, including expenditures for actual travel and subsistence expense of members, employees, and witnesses (not exceeding $15 for subsistence expense for any one person for any one calendar day), for personal services at the seat of government and elsewhere, and for printing and binding, as are necessary for the efficient execution of the functions, powers, and duties of the Commission under this Act. The Commission is authorized to utilize voluntary and uncompensated services for the purposes of this Act. There is herby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $15,000 to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(b) The Commission shall have the same privilege of free transmission of official mail matter as is granted by law to officers of the United States Government.

Approved August 9, 1946.

VII - C Notes on Independence Hall*

While the City did not build Independence Hall (it was purchased from the State in 1818 for $70,000) it has maintained it ever since that time and takes justifiable pride in its custodianship. The people of the United States owe the City a great debt of gratitude. Any move to transfer title at this time might provoke a storm of opposition. If the National Park Service is allowed to develop an interpretive program here consonant with its policy for other areas there seems to be no reason why ownership should not stay as it is.

The Independence Hall group is maintained and operated under the Bureau of City Property of the City of Philadelphia. Mr. Warren A. McCullough has been in charge as "Curator" since October, 1946. Mr. McCullough has been associated with the Hall for eleven years, at first as a guard. His present duties are prescribed in a job specification of which he showed the writer a copy; they consist of many things including "research and interpretation" as well as maintenance and protection. The so-called "National Museum" under the Curator's care contains many valuable exhibits acquired by gift, purchase or loan.

The personnel under the Curator's direction total about 33, including some fourteen guards, and operate on a budget of some $60,000 per annum. This does not include the care of the Philosophical Society building (the Society makes its own arrangements) or the maintenance of the grounds, which seem to be handled by the City's Park Department.

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* From memory.

An estimated 6-800,000 persons visit the Hall each year. The figures are based on the number actually registered times three.

I thought perhaps that the Curator had some ideas about how the National Park Service, once in the neighborhood, might assist in the interpretation of Independence Hall and the area in general, but it seemed that such a contingency had not occurred to him. Looking over the agreement with the City dated March 25, 1943, I find that the Interior Department agreed "to co-operate with the City in interpreting the national significance of Independence Hall, etc." but that the City did not agree to anything along those lines.

My recommendation is that the National Park Service be permitted to (1) conduct regular and special guided trips through the Hall and the two dependent buildings during regular hours, and (2) that permission be granted for the National Park Service to take VIP's into these buildings after hours whenever that may seem desirable.

A close inspection of the main group of buildings was not made by the writer, but it was quickly evident that in total they are a real archaeological jungle. "Restorations" began in the year 1828 and have continued, according to various standards, up until modern times. A set of 30 sheets of measured drawings prepared by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and dated July 4, 1918, is perhaps the best single record available. It includes critical notes on parts of the fabric then uncertain as to origin. A most important contribution which could be made by the National Park Service would be the preparation and publication along really professional lines of what might be called A Documentary History of the Independence Hall

Group. I could not find that anyone has even made a checklist of early views of the buildings.

Two works on this subject are expected to be out this year: a volume by the late Joseph Jackson, Philadelphia antiquarian writer, now in press, and another by Harold Donaldson Eberlein, another well known writer with architectural background.

The next restoration contemplated, I understand, is the removal of the top story of the Philosophical Society building which is well known to be a modern addition (1890). Mr. Sydney Martin is the architect.

One of the most unusual features here is the fire protection sprinkler systems. A "wet" (or automatic) system is installed in the dark places as under the roof, etc. while a "dry" system (activated by manual control) throws water onto the outsides of the buildings. Some of the old buildings are covered with wooden shingles and a recent fire in some old buildings across Chestnut Street caused considerable concern.

VII - D Notes on Carpenters' Hall*

This handsome little building is the most important historical feature in the area proposed for Federal acquisition. The writer visited the place once, and in company with Mr. John W. English, President of the Carpenters' Company and Mr. John P. Hallahan, a Warden and Past President. These gentlemen told of their support of the Independence Hall Association and of their hope that Carpenters' Hall would come into a greater and deserved attention from the public as a result of the projects now on foot. They assured cooperation to include everything but loss of control of the Hall.

The Company (instituted 1724) now has about 45 members and seems to be in a flourishing condition. Four dinner meetings are held annually. Its capital, estimated at about $200,000, is invested in stocks and bonds and real estate. Among the latter holdings is the building on Chestnut Street immediately to the front and slightly to the north of the Hall. It pays a substantial rent.

The first floor of the building is open to the public daily, from 9-5, free. It has a scattering of exhibits, including some of the original furniture. The upstairs contains a combination board room and library and quarters for the custodian and his wife. The library, includes some five thousand volumes, and is notable for its early works on architecture and the building arts. There is a small fireproof vault storing manuscripts and rare books.

In charge of the building are a middle-aged couple by the name of

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* From memory.

Jackson. They occupy five small rooms on the second floor. A large outside iron fire escape had to be installed for conformity to fire laws. The custodian is responsible for continuous protection the year around. For this he receives $180.00 per month plus an allowance of $25 for substitutes (sitters).

There is a certain amount of literature available concerning this building but little of it seems to be concerned with its physical history.

VII - E Merchants' Exchange, Description of 1848.

The description given here is from an insurance company manuscript. The building was an important civic monument and no doubt a large amount of data relating to it can be assembled. The interior features mentioned have all, or almost all, disappeared.

Philadelphia Contributionship. Insurance Surveys No. 7442.

"I have Surveyed the Exchange Building belonging to "The Philad.a Exchange Company" situate on Third, Walnut, & Dock Streets. Being 90 feet on Third Street. by 150 feet to Dock Street including the semicircular basement or first story & Portico, thick brick walls faced with marble. Fronting on Third Street from the second story is a portico with four large marble columns fluted & two anties all with richly carved marble capitals. On the Dock Street front is a semi-circular portico with Eight columns & two Anties all with capitals &c. as those on Third Street. The first story is divided into Eleven rooms & two halls, one room large, & occupied as the Post Office, the other rooms as Public & private offices, seven marble mantles, of neat patan [illegible], moulded base round, windows cased, & inside shutters to all these. 6 cornices, fire proof closets with iron doors in seven rooms, the floors of 5/4 in yellow pine, laid on mortar, the whole of the basement floor is arched under. In the halls is marble wash board, stucco cornice & floored with Italian marble flags. In the large hall are two flights of marble stairs, right & left with large continued hand rail of mahogany & large turn'd ballusters & an opening though the 2nd floor about 12 by 14 feet surrounded by rail & ballusters of the same kind. All the door ways on Walnut Street, Third & part of Dock Street have each two plain marble columns with carved caps. Those on the other part of Dock Street are plain marble folding sash doors, Glass 6-1/2 & 8-1/2 by 15"; a vestibule with each also with folding sash doors. Glass in the windows 12 by 18". Brick partition walls dividing all the rooms. — The 2nd Story is divided into six rooms, large Hall & Exchange room, one a reading room, two marble mantles, moulded base, windows cased with double architraves, Glass 13 by 18 & 14 by 20" with panneld inside shutters, the other 5 rooms are occupied as Offices, with marble mantles & neat wash boards, inside Shutters & Stucco cornice. In the Hall is a continuation of the Stairs from the first Story - with mahogany rail & turn'd ballusters to the 3rd Story. In the Exchange room are two marble mantles, moulded base, windows cased, & inside shutters, four large columns of marble with carved caps, similar to those of the Porticos, supporting the roof & ceiling a part of which is a semicircular dome & part flat with a stucco cornice round. The walls & ceiling of this room are ornamented with Fresco painting, outside doors large & folding. The columns in this room also support a circular Lantern of wood, 40 feet high, neatly finish'd outside with Eight columns of wood & with carved capitals, carved roof, covered with copper, ornamented with carved work vane &c. sashes round. The entrance to this room from the Hall has an arch'd head, side lights, venetian door way, & close folding doors. 4 large fluted columns with carved capitals, brick partitions, between the reading room & the North west room, is a flight of open newel stairs such as before described leading to the 3rd Story. The 3rd Story is divided into Seven rooms, & passage, the floor of 5/4" yellow pine, moulded base, windows cased & pannel'd inside shutters.

Those rooms are occupied for public & private purposes, in one is the Magnetic telegraph, operating machine. In this Story is one flight of winding Stairs leading to the Garret, & connecting with a circular Stairs in the Lantern leading to the top of the Same with painted rail, close String & square ballusters. Garret formed in the centre running East & west & plastered stud partitions, floor rough white pine boards, groved, two flat sky lights in the roof, the whole of which is boarded & covered with copper.

"In the cellar are two Furnaces, safely built in brick work, one for the use of the Post office, & the other for warming the Exchange room, the heat from which passes up through a hollow cast iron column in the hall of the first story into the room, covered by a marble curb with a brass revolving ventilator. A smaller one in the Post office of iron. Marble cornice round the whole building, copper gutterd & pipes.

7 Mo. 3rd 1848 John C. Evans
Surveyor

"Liberty of Magnetic Telegraphs in Insured Building. It is expressly understood that this Insurance is not to apply to, nor is the Company to be in any wise responsible for any injury, that may be done to the Fresco or Ornamental painting in the premises hereby Insured.

"Policy No. 7442. Drs. 10.000. at 3 per Cent Drs. 300.—

Agreed to be correct.

John C. Martin
For Phil[a] Exchange Co.

"A Furnace in the Cellar (South West Corner) for warming the room above which appears safely constructed.

November 11th 1851 D. R. Knight
Surveyor"

VII - F Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House

A few sample dates were assembled by the writer to show the relation of Dolly Madison and General Stephen Moylan to this attractive eighteenth century house within the area of historic interest discussed by the Shrines Commission.

DILWORTH-TODD-MOYLAN HOUSE - N.E. corner Third and Walnut

Nov. 23, 1791 — John Todd, Jr. (first husband of Dolly Payne Madison, 1768-1849) buys "the site where is now 149 and 153 So. Fourth and 341 and 343 Walnut from the estate of Jonathan Dilworth. [Note: A member of the Carpenters' Company by that name died in 1787.] Number 51 then and 153 now, is where John and Dolly lived..." A. C. Clark, Life and Letters of Dolly Madison, Washington, 1914, p. 17.

1793 — Directory listing: John Todd, jun. Esq. attorney at law, 51 So. Fourth St. Clark, p. 19.

Oct. 24, 1793 — John Todd dies. Clark, p. 19.

1794 — Directory listing: Dorothy Todd, widow, 51 So. Fourth St. Clark, p. 19.

Aug. 22, 1794 — Letter, Wm. W. Wilkins to Mrs. Dolly P. Todd suggests that the "House and Stables situate in Fourth Street" be placed in trust. Clark, p. 23.

Sept. 15, 1794 — Dolly marries James Madison; they settle in 115 Spruce St. Clark, pp. 25, 26. [Note: Griffen states, probably erroneously, that the house at Fourth and Walnut had been operated as a boarding house by Mrs. Payne, whose daughter Madison married. Griffen, Stephen Moylan, Philadelphia, 1909, p. 135.]

1796 — General Stephen Moylan (1737-1811) moves into house. Griffen, p. 135.

1796 — Directory listing: "Moylan Stephen, commissioner of loans, So. Fourth st. near Walnut st." Stephens's Philadelphia Directory for 1796.

1807 — Directory listing: "Moylan Stephen, commissioner of loans corner Walnut and Fourth." James Robinson, The Philadelphia Directory for 1807.

1810 — Moylan lived here until 1810. Griffen, p. 138. [Note: This needs to be checked. 1808 Directory seems to show that he had moved by that time.]

May 16, 1817 — Plat of lot made for John P. Todd. MS, City Surveyor's Office.

1914 — Photo of building published. Clark, opp. p. 24.

VII - G Bishop White House

Bishop White was a man of national prominence and his fine house, also standing within the area of interest considered by the Shrines Commission, should be preserved. Further study will probably establish the facts concerning its construction.

5-3-003
May 9, 1947

BISHOP WILLIAM WHITE HOUSE - 309 Walnut St.

(White; b. 1748, ordained in London Sept. 1772, chaplain of Congress Sept. 1777, consecrated bishop in London 1787, was Presiding Bishop of United States, d. 1836. See Dictionary American Biography.)

1785 "White William reverend, Walnut b. Third and Fourth-streets". White'sDirectory (1785).

1791 "White Right Reverend William, bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in Pennsylvania, 89, Walnut St." Biddle's Directory (1791).

1794 "White, William, bishop of the state of Pennsylvania, 89, Walnut st." Hardies' Directory (1794).

1796 "White William, bishop, 89, Walnut St." Stephens's Directory (1796).

1808 "White Right Rev. William, D.D. bishop of the Episcopal church 89 Walnut." Robinson's Directory, 1808.

Feb. 25, 1858 No. 309 Walnut Street has insurance liberty of a broker and railroad offices. MS, Phila. Contributionship, Journal No. 4.

Mar. 6, 1858 Description of premises: 26' front, 44' deep, three stories with piazza 9'4" x 16'. Back building 16' x 26', 2 stories. Much detail, including a floor plan. E. C. and H. Chauncey, Trustees. MS, Phila. Contributionship Insurance Survey No. 10,024.

1876 Description of premises: Edward S. Whelan, owner. MS, Phila. Contributionship Ins. Survey No. 12,128.

VII - H City Tavern

Tours of the proposed National Park might well start at the site of this tavern. It was here that the Revolutionary delegates met before proceeding to Carpenters' Hall.

5-2-001
May 15, 1947

CITY TAVERN (South Second Street)

1770	Tavern erected on site of two wooden buildings owned by Edward Shippen. Watson (1900 ed.) I:464. [Note: Date does not agree with that of other writers.]
1773	Tavern completed "in the style of the best London taverns." S&W I:291n.
1773	Tavern opened. Jackson, Encyclopedia, p. 774.
c. 1773-1800	Served as meeting place for merchants to transact business.
1774	Opened by Daniel Smith in 1774. "Looked upon as the finest house of its kind in America." S&W I:291n, II:982.
May 20, 1774	Paul Revere of Boston meets here with Philadelphia citizens on revolutionary matters. S&W I:289.
Sept. 4, 1774	Continental Congress delegates meet here 10 a.m., then walk to Carpenters' Hall. S&W I:?.
Sept. 5, 1774	Delegates "convened at the City Tavern." Province of Pennsylvania gives "a most elegant entertainment" there for nearly 100 guests. Etting, p. 79.
Apr. 24, 1775	News of battle of Lexington & Concord received here. S&W I:295.
Nov. 1775	Ball for Mrs. George Washington, a visitor, evidently planned for this tavern. S&W I:304.
1776	Jefferson takes meals here. S&W I:320.
Mar. 5, 1777	Banquet given by Pennsylvania Assembly for Congress and chief officers of the Army and Navy. S&W I:338.
1777	Daniel Smith, proprietor, signs a petition as a non-combatant remaining in Philadelphia during British occupation. S&W I:365.
July 4, 1777	Congress gives dinner here "for civil and military notables" on first Fourth of July anniversary. S&W I:343.

Late 1777	Balls given by British here. S&W I:371.
July 4, 1778	Congress gives "a decent entertainment" to celebrate second anniversary of Declaration. S&W I:388.
Aug. 23, 1778	French Ambassador gives grand entertainment in honor of Louis XVI's birthday. S&W II:899, 982.
Dec. 17, 1778	George Washington honored by a ball here. S&W I:397.
1779-1793	Tavern kept by Edward Moyston. Also called New Tavern and Merchant's Coffee House. Brenner, MS, HSP.
Nov. 1779	Election dinner celebration. S&W I:407.
1780	"Cold collation" served here. S&W I:414.
1784	Committee to expel Tories meets here. S&W I:438.
Feb. 23, 1785	Merchants and traders meet to discuss paper currency. S&W I:438.
Apr. 20, 1789	Newly elected President Washington gives official banquet here on arrival in Philadelphia. S&W I:454.
Sept. 2, 1790	General Washington and family entertained here by the City. S&W I:464.
Feb. 6(?) 1793	Dinner given to celebrate French victories. S&W I:472.
June 11, 1798	Merchants here meet to subscribe for two warships for the Navy. One was the frigate "City of Philadelphia". S&W I:494.
Jan. 4, 1802	Merchants damaged by French attacks on American commerce meet here to prepare memorials to Congress. S&W I:512.
1806	Importance as merchant's center revived by James Kitchen. Also known as Merchant's Coffee House, Second & Gold Sts. S&W III:2348.
1806	James Kitchen keeps Old City Tavern, now called "The Merchants' Coffee House." S&W I:525.
1854-55	Building torn down and replaced by a brownstone structure erected by a Mr. Leaing Watson (1900) III:349.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations following have been made in this report. The writer believes that an early decision in each case is highly desirable.

RESEARCH

A. That an intensive effort be made to identify all buildings of historic interest and all those which were standing in the period of greatest interest (c. 1770-1800).

SCOPE, BOUNDARIES AND ACQUISITION

B. That the boundary lines for the main area be adopted as herein proposed. (Illustration #3)

C. That the Jefferson and Franklin sites be acquired for park purposes.

D. That Christ Church be given "Historic Site" status as a detached area of the Federal reservation.

E. That the principle of a minimum taking line be adopted.

F. That the order of land acquisition described on page 19 be adopted.

RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

G. That all "historic" buildings within the proposed boundaries be retained and restored, at least externally, as a part of the general setting. Likewise all buildings of the period 1770-1800. (There are very few of these.)

H. That the reconstruction of disappeared buildings be kept to a minimum.

I. That old streets, alleys and walkways be preserved, and, as far as practicable, restored.

J. That the cutting of new streets, alleys and walkways in areas of historic interest be avoided so far as possible.

K. That a Reception Center be developed as a part of the Federal program and that it will be located across Chestnut Street from Independence Hall. (Land would be secured from the State after acquisition by that agency.)

L. That the principle be adopted that utilitarian buildings of proper architectural character may be built back into the acquired area where needed.

MISCELLANEOUS

M. That an understanding be reached with the City--and duly recorded--that the National Park Service will conduct an interpretive program at Independence Hall and its dependencies and at neighboring buildings and in the general area.

N. That such professional and other assistance as possible be given the City Plan Commission and other groups who undertake to plan, organize and execute a movement for the preservation of the worthy old buildings of the east central district of Philadelphia.

#1. Larson Plan, 1944.

This plan, by architect Roy F. Larson, was included in a brochure prepared and published by the Fairmount Park Art Association in collaboration with the Independence Hall Association. It shows a block-wide "mall" extending north from Independence Square to the Delaware River Bridge approaches and a restricted axial development to the east, involving a number of historic buildings. Certain outlying points of interest such as Christ Church were also emphasized.

As shown here only a small part of the area between Chestnut and Walnut Streets is developed as an open park.

Rendered drawing in "Independence Hall and Adjacent Historic Buildings ... A Plan for Their Preservation and the Improvement of Their Surroundings." Philadelphia, 1944, p. 15.

#2. Recommended Location for Reception Center.

The location indicated in red on Chestnut Street would face Independence Hall the principal exhibit. At the focus of converging approaches from both the principal part of the city and the through highways, the site shown would have many advantages. It lies on land which is to be acquired by the State of Pennsylvania. The cross hatched areas is the principal area proposed for the National Park in Illustration #3.

Details of the elaborate connections to the Vine Street Expressway may be found in the tentative plans of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission.

#3. Recommended Boundaries for Principal Area.

This drawing was prepared to show the relationship between the proposed boundary line--which might be described as the maximum taking line--and the minimum acquisition line. The latter includes all historic buildings and is keyed as "Priority Acquisition". It also includes a number of vacant lots which should be acquired before they are "improved" by private owners with undesirable buildings.

#4. Portion of the Easburn Map, 1776.

(Library of Congress)

Early maps, surveys and views of Philadelphia are numerous. By a careful comparison of study prints assembled in convenient form much can be learned regarding the development of the Independence Square neighborhood.

This map of the early Revolutionary period shows that the Square was beyond the closely built part of the city, although four private buildings had been erected on the Walnut Street frontage. While each detail must be checked with other sources of information, the map shows, for instance, the old wall around the State House grounds and the fact that the site of the Dilworth-Todd-Moylan house (northeast corner Third and Walnut) is still vacant.

While the London engraving "A Plan of the City of Philadelphia" gives the date of Benjamin Easburn's survey as 1776, it will be noted that Carpenters' Hall, begun 1770, is not shown.

#5. Portion of the Hills Map, 1796.

(Library of Congress)

This map, some twenty years later than that of Easburn, reflects the changes made in building up the city. The Philosophical Society building (31) now appears and the Dilworth-Todd-Moylan corner is occupied. Other new buildings are the Free Quaker Meeting House (18), United States Bank (35), and the Walnut Street Prison (45).

From an engraving "Plan of the City of Philadelphia" by John Hills, Surveyor and Draftsman.

#6. View North from Independence Hall, 1838.

Across Chestnut Street a century ago there was a fairly uniform frontage of three-and-a-half stories. Such an architectural frame was most suitable to the size, character and position of Independence Hall. Today the buildings are heterogeneous in height and design distorting the original effect. The view is down the center of what is planned as the State "mall".

Lithograph by J. C. Wild.

#7. View East from Independence Hall, 1838.

Except for a few steeples and cupolas no building exceeded the height of three-and-a-half stories.

In the foreground are the gable end of Robert Mills' fire-proof wing to the State House, the City Hall and the American Philosophical Society Building. Across the street is the Philadelphia Library. Beyond are a number of other landmarks which still stand. This is the area in which the proposed Federal project lies.

Lithograph by J. C. Wild.

#8. Independence Hall, 1828.

The Strickland-Childs View shows the Old State House at an intermediate period in its physical history. The original steeple (c. 1750) has been missing for many years and was not replaced until the year this view was published.

Engraving from C. G. Childs Views of Philadelphia and Its Vicinity. Philadelphia, 1828?

#9. Independence Hall, 1851.

This diagrammatic view, published a generation later shows William Strickland's restoration (1828) of the steeple for the City of Philadelphia and a good idea of Robert Mills' fireproof office wings of 1813. To build these wings it was necessary to take off the original arcades and the "Grandfather's Clock" (c. 1759) shown in the preceding view.

Engraving from Rae's Philadelphia Pictorial Directory and Panoramic Advertiser, Philadelphia, 1851.

#10. Independence Hall, South Front, 1947.

The original steeple, missing for many years, was "restored" by William Strickland in 1828 with some changes, especially the addition of a clock. The grounds, originally walled in for security, are now developed as an open city park from plans made early in the Twentieth Century.

#11. Independence Hall, East Wing, 1947.

The original wings, demolished in 1813 for Robert Mills' fireproof wings, were reconstructed in 1898.

#12. Independence Hall, View from Southwest, 1947

This view shows a portion of the North Wing and the stone pedestal of the "grandfather clock" (either the original or a restoration) installed c. 1759 and removed c. 1813. The gable line of the Mills wing torn down a half century ago seems to appear in the brickwork.

#13. "Philosophical Hall", West Front, 1947.

This building, the second oldest on the Square, was built by the American Philosophical Society c. 1785-1787 and has been occupied by it ever since. Because of a shortage of space its library is maintained in the Drexel Building across the street. Present plans call for the removal of the top floor (added in 1890) so that the building may be restored to its original appearance.

#14. Fifth Street, between Walnut and Chestnut, 1947.

This is the frontage facing Independence Square on the East. The four buildings in the center were obviously architect-designed to fit into the historic neighborhood. The Drexel Building lies beyond. The "luncheonette" (right) occupies the Walnut Street corner.

#15. Sansom (formerly Library) Street, looking East, 1947.

This view from Independence Square includes the center of the area proposed for federal acquisition and shows the Drexel Building (left), Carpenters' Hall (center, with cupola), the first U. S. Bank (white painted brick with balustraded parapet) and the new Custom House towering on the skyline. The huge modern buildings in the neighborhood overpower the small-scale constructions of the Eighteenth Century.

#16. The Philadelphia Library, before 1880.

Dr. William Thornton, amateur architect who, soon afterwards, designed the United States Capitol at Washington was the designer of this handsome building. It was one of the most distinguished buildings in the Independence Square neighborhood. Reconstruction on the original site has been suggested.

Photograph from Evening Bulletin, 100 Years in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, 1947, p. 67.

#17. Philadelphia Library, Interior View, 1874

This view was sketched when the building was eighty-four years old and just a few years before it was pulled down. The books, manuscripts, and at least one early display case are preserved at the Ridgeway Library on South Broad Street.

Watercolor by D. J. Kennedy.

#18. Old Custom House, 1828.

William Strickland was the architect of this Classic Revival temple begun in 1818 for the Second Bank of the United States. In later years it became the Custom House, finally to be taken over by the National Park Service in 1939. It has been restored and is now occupied by the headquarters of the Carl Schurz Foundation.

Engraving from Childs' Views of Philadelphia.

#19 Philadelphia Bank, 1830

The Philadelphia Bank originally built on the Southwest corner of Chestnut and Fourth in 1809. In 1836, on the same site, it was rebuilt on a larger scale after a classic revival design by William Strickland. The building was shared by the Western Bank. Just beyond lies Strickland's earlier design--the Old Custom House. This corner is now a parking lot.

Watercolor by D. J. Kennedy .

#20. Carpenters' Hall, 1774 (?)

The Hall was begun in 1770 and completed some years later. In this view, it may be seen that the building has been little changed except that the urns of the roof have disappeared.

Reproduced from Frank M. Etting. The History of Independence Hall, Boston, 1876, p. 60. The source of this view is not cited by the author. It appears to be a pen and ink imitation of a copperplate engraving.

#21. Carpenters' Hall, View from Southwest, 1947.

The Hall, approached only by a long narrow alley, stood in the center of a block surrounded by other buildings. In recent years these were torn down exposing the Hall to a wide view for the first time. The reason for developing the architectural character of the south elevation is not evident.

#22. Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House, 1947.

N.E. Corner Fourth and Walnut Streets

This house was probably built by Jonathan Dilworth, a member of the Carpenters' Company who died in 1787. It was lived in by Dolly Madison (as Mrs. John Todd, Jr.) On the exterior only the first floor has been seriously altered; the interior was not examined. The "L" may or may not be a part of the original house, but it is undoubtedly very old. This can probably be determined with some study.

#23. Bishop White House, 18 .

Several houses of this row on the north side of Walnut Street may still be standing within the proposed Federal area. The fifth from the left and the third from the right is the house of Bishop William White, Rector of Christ Church, Chaplain of Congress in 1777 and one of the founders of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America. Its present condition is shown in the photograph following.

Watercolor by D. J. Kennedy, undated.

#24. Bishop White House, 1947.

Today the house is No. 309 Walnut Street and its original neighbors have disappeared. The first floor wall and the sash of the upper windows have been changed. In the rear much of the original has remained. The interior, which was not examined, is occupied by an insurance agency. The interior pattern of Judge Peter's house (built 1793) is still seen on the walls of the old brownstone building just beyond.

#25. First United States Bank, 1828.

Begun in 1795 and finished in 1798 this handsome building was designed by Samuel Blodgett, Jr., a well-to-do amateur of Philadelphia who was the first Building Commissioner of the City of Washington and influential in its first development. It is a brick building 72' x 96' with a marble front to which there have been some minor additions in the rear and on the roof. The interior seems to have been extensively remodeled.

The first occupant was the United States Bank to be followed by Stephen Girard's Bank. It is now used as a private office building.

Engraving published in C. C. Childs Views of Philadelphia.

#26, #27. Merchants' Exchange c. 1870

William Strickland was the architect of this three-story marble building built 1832-4, facing the intersection of Walnut and Dock Streets. It is considered one of the finest Greek Revival designs in Philadelphia. Changes to the exterior have been minor, but the inside has had a drastic rebuilding.

These views are ink drawings intended to illustrate a work entitled, Baxter's Streets of Philadelphia. #26 is a view from the south, #27 one from the west showing the Third Street front.

#28. Jayne's "New Granite Building", 1851.

This young skyscraper, designed by architect John McArthur, Jr., was perhaps one of the most advanced designs for a tall building in a country now famous for them. Erected about 1850 for Dr. Jayne's drug company it deserves attention as a landmark in American architectural history.

Engraving from Rae's Chestnut Street Panorama.

#29. Jayne's "New Granite Building", 1947.

This remarkable building, now 242-244 Chestnut Street and nearly a century old, is in a good state of preservation. Only the Gothic cupola on the roof has disappeared. The interior was not examined.

#30. City Tavern, c. 1800.

This fashionable tavern of the Revolutionary Period was the scene of many important meetings and celebrations. On September 4, 1774 the colonial delegates moved from here to Carpenters' Hall.

Portion of an engraving by W. Birch & Son, probably about 1800.

#31. Jefferson's Lodging House, 1854.

The antiquarian-artist Kennedy drew this view of the house believed to be where Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. Elsewhere it is stated that the correct house was that of Jacob Graff at the southwest corner of Market and Seventh Streets, a site now operated as a parking lot. That these two are one and the same must be thoroughly checked.

Watercolor by D. J. Kennedy.

#32. Department of the United States for Foreign Affairs, 18 .

Quoting Artist Kennedy, this little building, which no longer exists, stood at 13 South Sixth Street. Here was drafted the Proclamation of Peace in 1783. The site is in the area to be purchased by the State of Pennsylvania for the North Mall. It should be marked as an important seat of government activities in the formative years.

Watercolor sketch by D. J. Kennedy copied from one by C. A. Poulson.

#33. Christ Church, 1767.

This handsome church stands on North Second Street, a third of a mile northeast of Independence Hall. Probably most of the famous patriots of the Revolution and statesmen of the Early Republic worshipped here. The beginnings of its physical history seem to be very obscure; the steeple dates from 1750's. Its architecture was unique in the thirteen colonies.

Recently a committee of the church vestry urged that the building get more attention in the current projects. It is recommended that Christ Church be given the status of an historic site so that its preservation may be guaranteed.

Engraving from the Columbian Magazine, series number not determined.

#34. Benjamin Franklin's House, 1945.

This house, built about 1765, stood in the center of a city block in what is now called "Franklin Court". In the distance is seen the arched entrance from Market Street. The house has been gone for many years but the site has been recently given the City for historical purposes.

Watercolor rendering by Henry McIntire prepared from a conjectural restoration drawing by William Jones Smith, F.A.I.A., of Chicago.

#35. The President's House. A Model.

This model is in the Atwater Kent Museum, South Seventh Street. The museum building, opened in 1938, is one of the points of interest in the Independence Square neighborhood and contains a great collection of original objects relating to early Philadelphia and many attractive displays.

Photograph from the Philadelphia Forum, December, 1944, p. 16.

#36. Society Hill Houses, 1836 or 1839.

At the beginning of the Nineteenth Century a fashionable place to live was south of Walnut Street on "Society Hill" (named for the Society of Traders, who owned a tract in this district at an early date.) A number of the fine houses in this row (east side of Fourth Street, south of Willing's Alley) are still standing.

Watercolor by D. J. Kennedy in the 1830's. The artist has drawn this view in such a way as to give an exaggerated impression of the street width (see photograph following).

#37. Society Hill Houses, 1947.

Eleven out of the original seventeen houses in the row seem to be standing today. Alterations have been made at the first floor level to several, but by and large they have retained their original simple, elegant character. Architecturally these houses are very closely related to the earliest houses in Washington, D. C.

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission wishes to redevelop this old neighborhood retaining its historic values.