

MAY 21 1971

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May 17, 1971

Memorandum

To: Director, Northeast Region
Attention: Interpretation & Visitor Services Specialist

From: Superintendent, INHP

Subject: Assembly Room Furnishings Plan

Enclosed you will find mimeographed sheets for incorporation into your copies of the Assembly Room Furnishings Plan. The first is an Errata sheet to be placed in the Plan facing p. 1 of Part D. The second is self-explanatory.

We have given every consideration to Dr. Wallace's criticism and recommendations (Memorandum to Director, Northeast Region, dated July 24, 1970), but find justification for the deletion of only two items: "Franklin's Sedan Chair," and the "Map Table." The remainder of his comments are moot points and do not justify a major revision of the plan at this time.

Chester L. Brooks

cc: David H. Wallace

JCM/ds

SIGNATURE SHEET

RECOMMENDED

Director Date _____

Regional Director Date _____

APPROVED

Superintendent Date _____

FURNISHING PLAN
for the
ASSEMBLY ROOM, INDEPENDENCE HALL

Prepared by
Staff
Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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February 1970

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PART A

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PURPOSE

Prepared by Supervisory Historian
Martin I. Yoelson

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PURPOSE

Independence Hall is the most historic building in the United States. On the first floor, east room, is the Assembly Room, the most historic chamber in the United States. Here, the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, the Articles of Confederation were ratified on March 1, 1781, and the Constitution of the United States was framed in the summer of 1787. The Assembly Room was the meeting place of the Second Continental Congress from 1775 to 1783 (excepting 1777-1778, the years covering the British occupation of the city of Philadelphia). The great leaders of the period passed through its doorways. The proposal that the Assembly Room be refurnished with greatest fidelity to its appearance of 1776 and the years immediately following is essential to the most effective interpretation of the room and the great events associated with it.

PART B

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Prepared by Supervisory Historian
Martin I. Yoelson

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Independence Hall was erected by the colonial assembly for use as the provincial capitol of Pennsylvania. It continued to serve this purpose until 1799 when the government of the commonwealth moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Assembly Room was occupied by the provincial legislature from 1735 to 1775, and again, from 1783 to 1799. It served as the meeting place of the Second Continental Congress from 1775 until 1783, and in 1787 it was the scene of the Federal Convention. In this "neat but not elegant" room the Declaration of Independence was adopted and signed, the Articles of Confederation were ratified, and the Constitution was framed. Adjoining the Assembly Room was that "very elegant apartment," the Committee and Library Room, into which "Mr. Washington,...from his usual modesty, darted..." when nominated to command the Continental Army.

The seat for many years of the provincial assembly, the pre-dominantly political force in the most rapidly growing English colony, the Assembly Room in 1775 was offered to the Second Continental Congress as a place of deliberation. This room held the characteristic furnishings of an English colonial legislative body, but in its arrangement and decor reflected the peculiar reticence of its Quaker leadership. This was manifested in the simplicity of the room's plaster walls and sparse and unostentatious furnishings. The Congress which inherited these surroundings was made up of men of outstanding talents. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Samuel Adams, John Dickinson, Roger Sherman, John Hancock, John Witherspoon,

John Jay, Robert Morris, James Wilson, Patrick Henry, and George Wythe are only the best known of those who served as Independence was debated.

In the years before the Continental Congress departed in 1783, the Assembly Room was the scene of the events which signified success of the Revolutionary cause: adoption of Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence (July 2, 1776); recognition by foreign powers; French Minister Conrad Alexander Gerard's reception; celebration at the news of the Yorktown surrender; establishment of a government under the Articles of Confederation; and the arrival of the news that the war had ended.

Congress twice left the Assembly Room in time of danger: once in the winter of 1776-1777; and again in September of 1777 when the British barracked artillery troops in the room and left it a shambles. Congress returned in July of 1778 and remained until June 21, 1783. Later the Pennsylvania Assembly took up its old quarters again.

The circumstances of Congress' departure--following a soldiers' mutiny which threatened its membership--symbolized the weakness of the Articles of Confederation which led within a few years to the Federal Convention and the reconstructing of the nation's governmental structure. The Assembly Room's final great moment was at hand when the delegates of twelve states (Rhode Island not attending) convened in the Assembly Room on May 25, 1787 and elected George Washington as the presiding officer. Four months later the work of framing the great federal charter was complete. Signed by the delegates present on September 17, 1787, the Constitution was forwarded to the Continental Congress for submission to the people of the several states.

PART C

DOCUMENTED ACCOUNT OF HISTORIC FURNITURE

Prepared by Curator Charles G. Dorman

DOCUMENTED ACCOUNT OF
HISTORIC FURNITURE

Part D, "Descriptive List of Proposed Furnishings," includes the data for this section of the Furnishings Plan Report. The included information is thoroughly presented.

PART D

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PROPOSED FURNISHINGS

RESEARCH, COLLATION, AND TEXT

Curator Charles G. Dorman

EDITION AND SUPERVISION

Supervisory Curator Frederick B. Hanson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Initial thanks are due to James M. Mulcahy, Museum Specialist, who undertook the refurnishing of the Assembly Room when it became the responsibility of the National Park Service. Using the objects acquired at that time, and adding to this corpus of material, we have brought the room to a very close approximation of its appearance on July 4, 1776.

Editorially, this Furnishing Plan benefited from the assistance given the writer by Dr. David H. Wallace, former Supervisory Curator, Independence National Historical Park, and his successor Frederick B. Hanson. The real labor involved, the typing and stencilling and collating was accomplished by Mrs. Dorothy S. Spungen, Museum Technician.

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Part D, p. 18, line 9: "Illus. No. 16," should read "Illus. No. 17."

Part D, p. 57, line 10: "floor plan (Page 133)," should read
"floor plan (Part E, p. 3)."

Part D, p. 113: "Illus. No. 3942," should read "Illus. No. 9242."

Part D, p. 120: "Illus. No. 3943," should read "Illus. No. 9243."

Part D, p. 10: delete "Franklin s sedan Chair."

Part D, p. 122: delete "Franklin's Sedan Chair," accompanying text,
and footnote No. 166.

Part D, pp. 9, 13, and 25-28: delete all references to "Map Table."

INTRODUCTION

July the fourth, seventeen hundred seventy-six, as an historic image, belongs to every American. And perhaps there are as many versions as there are Americans. Independence Hall, properly the Pennsylvania State House, is the known setting, but beyond this most people have only a vague impression of the Assembly Room.

It is our purpose not only to authentically recreate this setting, but to bring it, through interpretation, into clear focus as an historic image. The governing idea is that the Assembly Room should represent the two major events in American history which occurred within its walls; the adoption of Independence on July 4, 1776, and the establishment of the Constitution in 1787. This time span presents certain problems with respect to furnishings but preference must be given, when possible, to the room's appearance in 1776.

The setting, the Assembly Room, begins long before our historic period (1775-1787), and so it is to the archives of the Pennsylvania Assembly (published serially, Harrisburg, Pa.) that we must turn for details of its appearance on May 10, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress accepted it as their meeting place, as guests of the Province of Pennsylvania. The Proceedings of the Assembly of Pennsylvania have survived relatively intact since its inauguration with the Penn Proprietorship at the end of the seventeenth century; so orders for furnishings for the Assembly Room begin with its completion in 1742 and though general in form, give us ~~us~~ to its early appearance.

INTRODUCTION

July the fourth, seventeen hundred seventy-six, as an historic image, belongs to every American. And perhaps there are as many versions as there are Americans. Independence Hall, properly the Pennsylvania State House, is the known setting, but beyond this most people have only a clear picture of the Liberty Bell and a vague impression of the Assembly Room with a centrally placed podium containing a mahogany armchair behind a baize-covered table.

It is our purpose not only to authentically recreate this setting, but to bring it, through interpretation, into clear focus as an historic image. The governing idea is that the Assembly Room should represent the two major events in American history which occurred within its walls; the adoption of Independence on July 4, 1776, and the establishment of the Constitution in 1787. It is the Declaration of Independence, however, which is the crux of our interpretation, and so in this furnishings plan we have oriented our research and thinking to re-create the furnishings of the room as they must have appeared to the delegates who gathered on that bright and warm Fourth of July.

The setting, the Assembly Room, begins long before our historic period (1775 to 1787), and so it is to the archives of the Pennsylvania Assembly (published serially, Harrisburg, Pa.) that we must turn for details of its appearance on May 10, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress accepted it as their meeting place, as guests of the Province of Pennsylvania. The Proceedings of the Assembly of Pennsylvania have survived relatively intact since its inauguration with the Penn proprietorship at the end of the seventeenth century; so orders for furnishings for the Assembly Room begin with its completion in 1742 and though general in form, give us clues to its early appearance.



Illustration #1. Congress Voting Independence, July 4, 1776. Oil painting by Edward Savage, in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. INHP Neg. #7828.

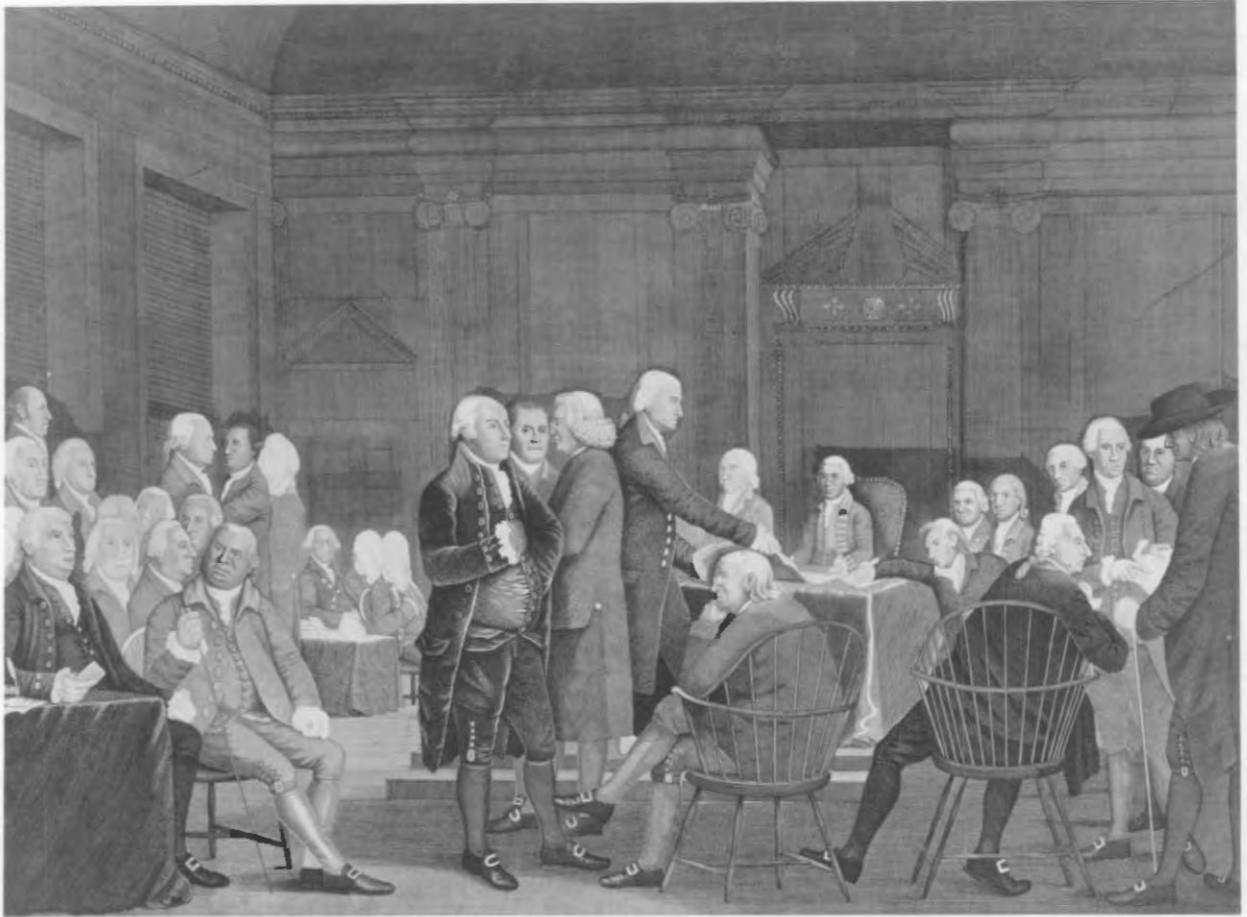


Illustration #2. Congress Voting Independence, July 4, 1776.
Unfinished copper-plate engraving by Edward Savage. INHP Neg. #2745.

John Adams, politician, statesman, and chronicler of his nation's birth pangs, lamented in his old age: "Who shall write the History of the American Revolution? Who can write it? Who will ever be able to write it? The most essential documents, the debates and deliberations in Congress, from 1774 to 1783, were all in secret, and are now lost forever."¹ Fortunately, Adams through his own voluminous writings helped to supply this need, and with the writings of his colleagues during the sessions of Congress and as reminiscences later, the stirring drama unfolds. Many members of the Continental Congress wrote long letters to their friends and kept secret diaries, fully aware of the fateful role they were playing and consciously recording the lines for posterity within the bounds of the secrecy instruction set by Congress. Many of these letters and excerpts from diaries were later published in the eight volume Letters of the Members of the Continental Congress, edited by Edmund C. Burnett (Washington, D.C., 1923).

The laconic daily entries in the Journal of Congress by its permanent Secretary Charles Thomson provide us with another source of occasional information on the appearance of the Assembly Room during our historic period, to the degree that purchases for the accommodation of the Congress were noted as being authorized. These, though far less productive of information than Burnett's Letters, are found in The Journals of the Continental Congress, published in thirty four volumes (Washington, D.C., 1908).

¹. Letters of Members of the Continental Congress, edited by Edmund C. Burnett, 8 vols., Wash., D.C., 1921. Introductory Note, vol. 1, p. iii.

The letters written by distinguished visitors to the Pennsylvania State House from east coast America as well as from abroad, provide us with a few brief descriptions of "the room where Congress sits" and these can be found in manuscript form or as printed travel journals.

The notes and correspondence of the members of the Constitutional Convention also provide us with references to the room (The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, New Haven, Conn., 1937. Edited by Max Farrand).

The problem of refurnishing an historic building is much facilitated if an inventory from its historic period has survived; while the ultimate documentation the antiquarian could wish for is an accurate pictorial representation of a room or rooms in the structure. The Pennsylvania State House, being a public building, was not inventoried as its domestic counterpart would have been with each succeeding owner in the eighteenth century. We do, however, have two pictorial renderings of the Assembly Room as it appeared, with considerable license, to their late eighteenth century painters: "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence" by John Trumbull, and "Congress Voting Independence July 4, 1776" by Edward Savage. The research on these two paintings by Museum Specialist James M. Mulcahy (published in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Volume LXXX, Number I, January, 1956) shows us that the Trumbull painting has no value as a factor in the refurnishing of the Assembly Room; while Edward Savage's painting -- upon which the artist worked from 1796 until 1817 -- can, with careful interpretation be most valuable to our project.

Two objects of great historic importance have survived from the period of the Revolution and in themselves symbolize our two interpretive features: The Declaration and The Constitution. These are the silver inkstand made in 1752 by Philip Syng for the Pennsylvania Assembly, and the Speaker's chair made in 1779 for the second floor Assembly Room to which the Assembly had moved in 1775 to accommodate the Congress. They represent as well the interpretive dichotomy necessary as the result of the British occupation of Philadelphia in 1777-78. During this period the Pennsylvania State House was used as a barracks for the British soldiers and a prison for captured American officers. When the British left the city, they left the State House devoid of furnishings and filthy. The silver inkstand, being valuable and portable, had been hidden from British eyes, but the furniture of the building had to be replaced; thus the new Speaker's chair, which, when returned to the first floor original Assembly Room, served not only the Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, but also Washington as President of the Federal Convention in 1787.

Historic moments truly live only in the awareness and memory of those who were a part of the drama. Posterity can share these moments vicariously, however, through the historian's interpretation of contemporary records and reminiscences. Both the details of a setting and the significance of an event may well be better understood by a historian than by the actual participants. With the use of the surviving records concerning the contents of the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House in the eighteenth century, we have attempted in this furnishings plan to accurately recreate the setting.



Illustration #3. The Assembly Room looking toward the East wall as it appears in 1967 while the refurnishing is still in progress. INHP Neg. #9219



Illustration #3. The Assembly Room looking toward the East wall as it appears in 1967 while the refurnishing is still in progress. INHP Neg. #9219

Summary List of Furnishings

Object

Tables:

Delegates'

Speaker's

Secretary's

Publications

Map

Table Accessories:

Delegates'

Speaker's

Secretary's

Publications

Map

Chairs:

Delegates'

Speaker's

Secretary's

Visitors'

Doorkeeper's

Wall Decorations:

Penn Arms

Popple map and world map

Chambly trophy flag

Declaration broadside

Oil painting and engraving of Washington

Engraving of Montgomery monument and portrait

Summary List of Furnishings

Object

Heating equipment:

Firebacks

Andirons and fire tools

Fuel

Tinder box

Bellows

Stoves

Lighting equipment.

Glass chandelier

Candle box

Candlesticks

Candle extinguishers

Accessories:

Pennsylvania Hospital charity box

Franklin's sedan chair

Curtains

Screens

TABLES

Delegates'

In the year 1742, when the Assembly Room was completed architecturally and was furnished to accommodate the twenty-four incumbent Assemblymen, the tables² at which each six-men-per-county group sat must have been much like the Speaker's table, only smaller. Four tables for county delegations,³ a large table for the Speaker,⁴ and a large table for the Clerk of the Assembly, were perhaps all the tables to be found in the room in 1742. This estimated number would have served until 1749-1752 when four additional counties⁵ were erected, necessitating the addition of four more tables.

²."Joseph Watkins Charging for a large Table; two Forms & a stool, & for making other two Forms, making and fixing two Frames & 9 boxes, & for 250 foot of Boards & etc in all £5.-9.-" (Bill for furniture made for the Library Company of Philadelphia quarters on the second floor of the West Wing of the Pennsylvania State House.) Library Co. Minutes, Vol. I, p. 101. May 12, 1740.

³.Six each from the three original counties: Philadelphia, Bucks, and Chester (1728); and Lancaster (1729).

⁴.One would assume that just the reverse would be the case, but all contemporary references note the large size of the Speaker's table. "Our President was seated in a Mahogany armed chair on a platform raised about two feet, with [a] large table covered with green cloth..." Elias Boudinot to Mrs. Boudinot, August 8, 1778. Burnett, Letters.... See also Doniol Plan, Illus. 17.

⁵.York County 1749
Cumberland County 1750
Berks " 1752
Northampton " 1752



Illustration #5. Large painted pine library table, originally used in the Library Company of Philadelphia's room on the second floor of the West Wing of the Pennsylvania State House. Believed to be the "large Table" made by Joseph Watkins and for which he was paid on May 12, 1740. Tables of this type were probably used in the Assembly Room. Library Company of Philadelphia Collection. INHP Neg. #9222.

By May 10, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress convened in the State House, using the room and furniture of the Pennsylvania Assembly, two more counties⁶ had been added to the roster, making ten counties needing ten tables, plus the Speaker's table, and the Clerk's table, and perhaps a map table. The Congress would have supplied three additional tables to accommodate the twelve accredited colonial delegations and the anticipated arrival of an accredited Georgia⁷ delegation.

Each of the eventually thirteen states had a table⁸ in the Assembly Room, at the head of which sat a senior or chosen spokesman for each delegation while his fellow delegates sat informally to each side of him, presumably keeping the front of the table, which faced the Speaker, clear of obstructions. As most of the drafting of resolutions was done in committee meetings held elsewhere, it was not necessary for each member of a delegation to have a writing area at his Colony's table. Further, the number of delegates and the size of the room precluded such a lavish use of space.

⁶ Bedford County 1771
Westmoreland " 1773

⁷ On May 13, 1775, Dr. Lyman Hall arrived at the State House as a representative of St. John's Parish in Georgia. Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. II, p. 44.

⁸ "... Congress meets in a large room on the ground floor. ... It is furnished with thirteen tables each covered with a green cloth. One of the principal representatives of each of the thirteen states sits during the session at one of these tables...." E. W. Balch, trans., Narrative of Prince de Broglie 1782. Magazine of American History, I, Part I (1877). pp. 231-235.



Illustration #6. Pine stretcher-base library table, made in Philadelphia in the mid-18th century for use in the Loganian Library. Tables of this type were probably used in the Assembly Room. Library Company of Philadelphia Collection. INHP Neg. #9223.

During the sessions of the Continental Congress the delegates' tables were arranged in a loose semi-circle about the President's podium. The customary arrangement is not at present known although the few specific references⁹ to seating in the room during our historic period seem to suggest that the New England States sat to the Speaker's left, the middle states in the center, and the South on the Speaker's right. The present conjectural table assignments in the room are oriented geographically; and this would make one wonder how, under the circumstances, Washington, a Virginia delegate, could have "satt but three chairs off" from John Adams of Massachusetts, "and not more from the door of the library room."¹⁰

⁹Letter in Houghton Library, Harvard University. John Adams to _____ Temple, April 24, 1815.

¹⁰For the announcement of the birth of the Dauphin of France on May 13, 1782, Charles Thomson states, that "On the left of the chair sat delegates from ¹Massachusetts, ²Rhode Island, ³Connecticut, ⁴New York, ⁵New Jersey. On the right sat ¹Georgia, ²South Carolina, ³Virginia, ⁴Maryland, ⁵Delaware, ⁶Pennsylvania. The whole in a semi-circle, New Hampshire and North Carolina were not represented." Burnett, Letters of Members of the Continental Congress, VI, pp. 348-350.

Also: "The members of each state shall sit together in Congress, for the more ready reference with each other on any question about to be taken that the house might not be disturbed by the members moving from one part to another to confer on the vote to be given. That for the better observance of order, New Hampshire shall sit on the left hand of the President & on every question be first called & each state from thence to Georgia, shall take their seats in order that their states are situated to each other. The delegates of the respective states to sit in their order of seniority." [This proposal was rejected by the Rules Committee.] From: Report of Committee on [the] Revision [of] Rules. (Entered March 16, 1781) Reports of the Continental Congress.

Perhaps the positions of the names of the fifty-six delegates on the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence may be the clue to the seating arrangement. On August 2, 1776, fifty members of the Second Continental Congress signed the engrossed copy, followed over the next five years by the remaining six members. Here, the delegations are: the Southern states to the President's right (Hancock signed in the top center, corresponding to his position in the room) the middle states in the center, and the New England states to the President's left.

Though it would entail a re-orientation of the tables presently assigned; it is suggested that credence be given the references to the New England delegates being "on the left of the chair..." and that our table assignments be changed accordingly.

For ceremonial occasions¹¹ the seating was carefully planned to accord with the protocol of the affair and the desire of the Congress to honor and impress a distinguished visitor. In such cases the members of Congress were ranged formally along the three walls, with the Speaker's dais as the middle of the semi-circle, while the guest-of-honor was seated in a large armchair facing the President. The delegates' tables were removed on such occasions. (Illus. #17).

11: "... We gave the Sieur Gerard his public audience. The ceremony as follows: Our President was seated in a Mahogany armed chair on a platform raised about two feet with [a] large table covered with green cloth and the Secretary along side of him. The members all seated round within the Bar and a large armed chair in the middle opposite the President for the Plenipotentiary." Letter from Elias Boudinot to Mrs. Boudinot, August 8, 1778. Burnett, Letters....., Vol. III, p. 363.

Fortunately, for our purposes, three tables of the type probably used in the early furnishing of the Pennsylvania State House have survived. One of these, an unusually large stretcher-base library table (Illus. #5) may be the item mentioned in the Philadelphia Library Companies Minutes for May 12, 1740 as: "Joseph Watkins Charging for a large Table...."¹² At this time the Library Company was furnishing its new quarters on the second floor of the West Wing of the State House. A pair of smaller tables (Illus. #6) belonging to the Library Company, though not mentioned in the Watkins account, happen to be a little later in date from a style standpoint and may be counterparts of the tables supplied at the mid-century for additional members of the Assembly. Their small size and the presence of a long single drawer in the apron distinguishes this type from similar but larger stretcher-base kitchen tables of the same period having unusually deep aprons and two drawers, a large one for table linen and a small one for eating utensils.

It is recommended that four replicas of the Library Company table (Illus. #5) be made to represent the tables of the Assemblymen of the first four Pennsylvania counties, but that they be scaled down to the same dimensions as the pair of library tables in Illustration #6. To represent the tables supplied between 1749 and 1775, six replicas of the Library Company table (Illus. #6) should be made in the original dimensions and painted the original brown color. For the three additional tables to accommodate the Congress, tables matching the previous six Assemblymen's tables should be provided.

¹². See above footnote #1.

Speaker's Table

So much can be divined for our purposes from a letter Elias Boudinot wrote to his wife on August 8, 1778,¹³ that references to it in this report may seem, except for their pertinacy, repetitive. He states: "Our President was seated in a Mahogany armed chair on a platform raised about two feet, with [a] large table covered with green cloth...." The French minister, Gerard, reporting to his King, said basically the same thing: "The President was seated in a chair [Speaker's] on a two step platform having before him a table covered with a green cloth."¹⁴ Significantly, the Plan (Illus. #16), which illustrated the Sieur Gerard's report shows the table before the President to be the largest object in

¹³ Burnett, Letters...., Vol. III, p. 363.

¹⁴ Henri Doniol, Histoire de la Participation de La France a L'Establishment des Etats-Unis, d'Amerique (Paris, 1888), Vol. III, pp. 311-313.

the room. It all but fills half of the Speaker's rostrum. Since the other positions in the room are shown in their relative scale, one can assume that the large size of the table as shown on the Plan is correct.

It is recommended that a replica of the large pine stretcher-base table,¹⁵ owned by the Library Company of Philadelphia (Illus. #5), be made for the Speaker's rostrum and that its top measure 5 feet, 10 inches by 3 feet, 2 inches, the measurements as they appear by computation¹⁶ on the Plan. It is suggested that it be painted brown to match the Library Company table.

¹⁵. Stylistically, the large table owned by The Library Company may well be the very one mentioned in "Joseph Watkin's charging for a large Table....," as found in the Library Company Minutes, (Vol. I, p. 101) for May 12, 1740.

¹⁶. These measurements must, of necessity, be relative, but they are as nearly accurate historically as presently known source material can make them. While working out the approximate dimensions of the table as pictured on the Plan in Doniol with NPS architect Lee Nelson, he observed that the Plan made the Assembly Room appear 32 feet in depth instead of 40 feet, and warned that other measurements should not be taken seriously. We are concerned, here, however, with relative size and do not expect exact dimensions.



Illustration #6-A. The Speaker's table in the Assembly Room showing the Syng inkstand, Folwell chair, the cockleshell frieze which was part of the original woodwork, and a nineteenth-century copy of the Penn Arms. INHP Neg. #9229.



Illustration #7. A delegates' table. The three armchairs in the foreground are said to have come from the State House. The open book was owned by a member of the Pennsylvania delegation and is inscribed by him: "Charles Humphreys, June 1776." The closed book has "Assembly of Pennsylvania" embossed in gold on its cover and could have been borrowed from the adjoining Library and Committee Room. INHP Neg. #9223.

Secretary's Table:

The painting "Congress Voting Independence" by Edward Savage and its companion-piece, the unfinished engraving taken from it, serve as visual reference guides (Illus. 1 & 2). Some minor aspects of the painting need interpreting, however. President John Hancock is shown presiding at the voting session, seated in a chair with a high upholstered back before a baize covered table; on his immediate right hand is the permanent secretary of the Continental Congress, Charles Thomson. Thomson appears to be seated at the same table with Hancock. Some credence seems to be given this arrangement by the comment of Henry Laurens when he and Secretary Thomson were arguing over the distribution of Congressional publications: "... Mr. Thomson then descended from the Platform; I reached out my hands to take another Copy...."¹⁷ Again, at the reception for the Chevalier Gerard, we find the delegate from New Jersey, Elias Boudinot, stating that Secretary Thomson was seated beside the President.¹⁸ At the 1782 reception for the French Minister,¹⁹ the Secretary was stationed on the first step of the platform to receive the official notification of the birth of the Dauphin from the Secretary of the Legation, and in turn to present it to the President of Congress. Despite these perplexing leads, specific references to Thomson's having a table of his own are shown on the seating plan of the Assembly Room, August 6, 1778,

¹⁷. Burnett, Letters of Members of the Continental Congress, Vol. IV, pp. 397-399.

¹⁸. See Delegates' Tables, Note #8.

¹⁹. "Suppressed Acct. Ceremonies," Congress, May 13, 1782. Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Bound Manuscripts, MSS. Division.



Illustration #7-A. Secretary Charles Thomson's table in the Assembly Room as it may have appeared during a session of the Continental Congress (1775-83); showing a large inkstand, ballot box, reference books and writing paper. INHP Neg. #9230.

and again in 1782, in the Prince De Broglie's description of the room in which account he refers to a table for the Secretary of Congress. To receive all this, it appears that the President of Congress normally sat in solitary dignity on the podium,²⁰ while the Secretary of Congress sat at a table on the floor to his right.²¹ On ceremonial occasions the Secretary stood on the first step of the platform to receive official papers and during ordinary sessions of the Congress was frequently at the President's table, placing documents there, or receiving instructions.

It is recommended that the Secretary's table be a duplicate of the Speaker's or President's table. That is, a replica of the large pine (1740) folio and map table (Illus. 5) owned by The Library Company of Philadelphia, and that the reproduction be scaled down so that its top measures 5 feet, 10 inches by 3 feet, 2 inches; that it be painted a chocolate brown like the original Library Company table.

Publications Table:

By the time Secretary Thomson's table had been supplied with the items necessary for his work; inkstand, pens, writing paper, blank ledger, a few reference books, sealing wax, wafers, taper stick, pounce box, pen knife, ruler, spare ink supply, and whatever other items he may have preferred personally, there would have been no room for the piles of unbound

²⁰. See Illustration #17.

²¹. E. W. Balch, trans., Narrative of Prince De Broglie. p. 23.

Journals of Congress which, with other publications, be distributed to each delegate.²² A separate table seems necessary to serve all these functions. In addition this table may have been the one occasionally used to give distinguished visitors a seat of honor to the right of the President, when they, in an unofficial capacity, wished to observe the workings of The Congress.²³

It is recommended that a duplicate of the Secretary's table be placed next to that table for use as a Publications table, and also as a place for official visitors or distinguished guests, and that one Windsor armchair be placed at the table.

Map Table:

Benjamin Franklin, as Clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly, wrote in 1746 to William Strahan, a printer friend in London, ordering large maps for the walls for the Assembly Room. Near the end of the following year the maps

22. [Aug. 31, 1779]. ...Henry Laurens, Statement to A Committee of Congress, Philadelphia, Sept. 1, 1779.]. "The particular complaint made Yesterday, is of Mr. Thomson's affrontive answers when I requested him to let me have only two copies of the Journals for my State which I had an immediate use for. His first answer was I won't I replies, you won't Mr. Thomson, what language is this? I tell you I want them for my State - to which he again answered; I won't, but added, till I have given every member present one; Mr. Thomson then descended from the Platform; I reached out my hands to take another copy, he snatched [it] from me and said, you shan't have it. This repeated insult brought instantly to my mind his former conduct and provoked me to say, he was a most impudent fellow, that I had a good mind to kick him; he turned about doubled his fist and said you dare not, I recollected the time and place and let him pass on. When he had humoured himself he returned with many spare Journals in his hands and gave me on; I barely asked him if he might not as well have done this at first." Burnett, Letters of Members of the Continental Congress, Vol. IV, p. 399.

23. [Aug. 15, 1778] "Ordered that Mr. Deane be introduced, and that a seat be prepared for him at the end of the lower table, on the President's right hand." Ford, ed. Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. XI, p. 799.

had not yet arrived and he repeated his request in another letter to Strahan: "I must desire you to send me per first Opportunity the Maps formerly wrote for, viz. Popple's large One of North America pasted on Rollers: Ditto bound in a Book."²⁴ Franklin acknowledged receipt of the maps in a latter part of 1748.²⁵ It is the large bound volume of map plates that concerns us here.

The Library and Committee Room was not added to the State House until 1752, thus it is probable that the bound reference copy of the Popple map was placed on a table in the Assembly Room. As it was for the use of Assembly members and not the general public, both the bound folio and the table would probably have been along the wall inside the bar. With the completion of the Library in 1752, there is a possibility that the folio map volume was placed in it. However, with the approach of the Revolution, other maps were ordered by the Assembly and by The Congress²⁶ to facilitate discussion of military plans, and it is possible that at least one map table remained in the Assembly Room for ready reference by the delegates.

²⁴ Benjamin Franklin to William Strahan, May 22, 1746. The Papers of Benjamin Franklin (New Haven, 1961). Vol. III, p. 77.

²⁵ Benjamin Franklin to William Strahan, October 19, 1748. The Papers of Benjamin Franklin (New Haven, 1961). Vol. III, p. 321. "I received your Favour of April 25, with the Maps, &c..." ALS, Pierpont Morgan Library.

²⁶ "That there is due to John Fromberger, his account for maps of Nova Scotia &c. supplied Congress, one hundred and seventy three dollars and 20/90. September 4, 1779." Journals of Continental Congress, Vol. XV, p. 1027.

Also: "[Entry, January 2, 1779] No. 1285. To a warrant in favor of Andrew Burkhart for an American Atlas for Congress [\$] 100." Journal, Treasury Office & Auditor General's Office, p. 248. This was ordered Oct. 5, 1778. Journals of Continental Congress, XII, p. 983. National Archives R.G. 39.



Illustration #8. Pennsylvania mid-18th century walnut stretcher-base table to serve as a Map Table for the Assembly. The map shown, in bound sheets, is Popple's 1733 map of North America, the same edition as the one ordered for the room by Franklin in 1746 through his London agent. INHP Collection. INHP Neg. #8779.

It is recommended that the Pennsylvania, walnut, stretcher-base library or tavern table with a single drawer (INHP Cat. 1145), presently used as a map table, remain.

TABLE ACCESSORIES

Delegates' Tables

To the ten tables in the Assembly Room representing the counties of Pennsylvania in 1775, the Second Continental Congress added three more tables to accommodate all of the thirteen colonial delegations. Each table was covered with green baize and contained an inkstand.²⁷ Though each table was indeed the official "duty station" of the members from each colony, the tedious work was done elsewhere, privately or in committee. It was thus not necessary for the members of a delegation to use their table in Congress for extensive writing; it was more importantly a "command" and "listening" post. Even so, to bolster an agreement it was often necessary for a member to have some reference book by him. He could have brought his own, or have used the resources of the adjoining Library and Committee Room. Even the "latest intelligence" from a delegates' local newspaper was appropriate as a reference source.

27. "While officiating as chaplain of Congress, he [William White] had opportunities of observing some tokens of the difficulties under which Congress laboured, in procuring the means of carrying on the war, and the very reduced state of their finances, at some periods. The two following facts, related by himself, are striking proofs of their distitution of funds, and the very low state of their credit. On one occasion, going into the chamber of congress to perform his duty as chaplain, he remarked to one of the members; 'You have been treating yourselves, I perceive, to new inkstands.' 'Yes,' was the reply, 'and private credit had to be pledged for the payment.'" Wilson, Bird, Memoir of the Life of William White, p. 56.

Though some affluent members of The Congress came to the State House in their own carriage, most of them rode or walked. Thus evidence of horsemanship would have appeared in the room, mostly in the form of a riding crop. Personal accoutrements would also make their appearance in the form of eye glasses, ear trumpets, tobacco boxes, snuff boxes, walking sticks, and the like.

We are fortunate to have as part of the Independence Hall Collection, a few personal accessories of some members of the Second Continental Congress. These have been placed in the Assembly Room along with the conjectural counterparts of objects also believed to have originally been used by the members of the Congress.

Quill pens ink and sand. Though there are a few references to members of Congress writing at their state's table in the Assembly Room, they usually only took brief notes. Quill pens²⁸ and a supply of ink²⁹ and sand³⁰ would have been standard equipment for the inkstand at each table.

²⁸. See Secretary's Table footnotes, p. 22.

Also: (Oct. 2, 1790) "200 Dutch Quills \$2.⁰⁰." Account #2277.
Misc. Treasury Accounts, R.G. 217, National Archives.

²⁹. (Oct 3, 1790), "Vial Ink 13 cents; Red Ink, Black Ditto 29 cents; Ink Pot 30 cents; Jug Ink, 40 cents." Op. cit.

³⁰. (December 24, 1790) "4 lb. Black Sand, 27 cents." Op. cit.

Very few references to writing accessories which might have been used by members of Congress at their tables are as specific as the payment George Walton of Georgia made on October 22, 1776, to the Philadelphia printer, binder and bookseller, Robert Aitken, for a "Silver Case & pencil, Ass Skin Memor[an]d[u]m" at a cost of "£1:1:9."³¹ The only quill pen in the Independence Hall Collection which has survived from our historic period is one said to have belonged to the Delaware Signer Caesar Rodney (S.N. 3.028).

Personal Accessories. From research and through the survival of a few artifacts, we can deduce the type of appropriate personal belongings for some of the delegates' tables in the Assembly Room. The spectacles case which originally belonged to Rhode Island delegate William Ellery has survived in the Independence Hall Collection (S.N. 45.025); a gold-headed cane (S.N. 24.078) once the property of George Read of Delaware is another personal association item, as are also the canes of Jefferson (S.N. 24.070); and Lafayette (S.N. 24.006). Beyond these actual survivals, we can justify the presence of other specific items. Certainly there could be no more personal an accessory at Franklin's place on the Pennsylvania table than a pair of bi-focal eye glasses, a device, by repute, of his own invention and which he is seen wearing in some of his portraits.³² The fact that Pennsylvania

³¹. Waste Book of Robert Aitken, Library Company of Philadelphia collection, p. 465

³². "Benjamin Franklin, 1785" by Charles Willson Peale in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts shows Franklin wearing what may be bi-focal lenses. Benjamin Franklin in Portraiture by Charles Coleman Sellers, American Philosophical Society, Phila., 1962. 452 pp. + 44 pp. Illus.

Signer James Wilson is portrayed wearing thick-lens glasses³³ calls for a Pair of similar spectacles at his place at the Pennsylvania table.

Caesar Rodney of Delaware arrived in Philadelphia on July 2nd, just in time to cast his decisive vote for independence. As he had ridden hard through a rain storm for eight hours,³⁴ and was obliged, because of a facial cancer to hold a green silk handkerchief before his face to lessen the irritation caused by the dust, it would be appropriate to have a large handkerchief at his place³⁵

33. Frontispiece: James Wilson, Founding Father, 1742-1798, by Charles Page Smith, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1956, 426 pp., also a portrait at INHP, S.N. 13.313 shows Wilson wearing glasses.

34. Caesar Rodney to Thomas Rodney: Philada. July the 4th 1776.

Sir _____

"... I arrived in Congress (tho detained by thunder and Rain) time Enough to give my Voice in the matter of Independence. It is determined by the Thirteen United Colonies, without even one decenting Colony. We have now got through with the Whole of the declaration, and Ordered it to be printed, so that you will soon have the pleasure of seeing it. Hand-bills of it will be printed, and sent to the Armies, Cities, County Town etc. To be published or rather proclaimed in form." Burnett, Letters..., Vol. I, p. 528, item 758.

35. Manuscript, ex collection of Mrs. Newlin Booth, New Castle, Delaware, present location unknown [C.G.D.]

Tobacco boxes. If the presence, by tradition, of a freshly filled snuff box in the Senate today is a criterion, the taking of snuff and other forms of tobacco in public buildings is justified. It is well known that snuff taking was popular, and that Signer Francis Hopkinson took snuff, as recorded in 1787 by Robert Aitken in his waste book.³⁶

An indication of the liberal use of tobacco by members of Congress in the eighteenth century is suggested by the number of spitting boxes called for in the invoices of the period.³⁷

The refurnishing of the Room after the Summary Report of 1955 introduced eighteenth century Dutch brass snuff and tobacco boxes on the tables. It is no doubt antiquarian justice that some of the accessories on the tables of the delegates to the Second Continental Congress should have their origin in Amsterdam, for it was to this same city that Congress turned for loans in 1782 to help finance the Confederation.

³⁶. [15 June 1787]

Francis Hopkinson Esq.^r Dr
To Snuff Box pd. [£] ..2..6."
Waste Book of Robert Aitken, Library Company of
Philadelphia. Collection #465.

³⁷. "By Cash paid Joseph Baker for 2 Sand Boxes for Council [£] . 8. 4"
[Sept. 21, 1792]. Papers of the Register General, R.G. 24, Division
of Public Records, Harrisburg, p. 99-100.

Newspapers. Various tables would have had newspapers left on them. The Congress subscribed to a total of fifty³⁸ copies of newspapers for its members, not fifty separate publications of course, for the colonies could not at that time boast of so many; but a selection from all the colonies, and for the middle colonies, some in duplicate. Newspaper files for reference were apparently kept in the Library and Committee Room, but current issues could be perused by a delegate at his table.

Reference Books. Reference books brought from one's own collection or borrowed from the adjoining Library, would have been found on the delegates' tables. Charles Humphrey, Quaker member of the Pennsylvania delegation, and a veteran member from the First Continental Congress, went out and purchased a copy of the most up-to-date Pennsylvania Laws in June, 1776.³⁹ soon after his re-election, in order to prepare himself for the new session.

³⁸. "February 9, 1779... Ordered, That the Secretary desire Messrs. Hall & Sellers, and Messrs. Bradford, to send for the use of the members of Congress weekly fifty of their respective newspapers."

Also: "20 January 1780 ... No. 1507 ... For a warrant in favour of John Dunlap Printer for one thousand nine hundred and fifty five dollars 18/90 [inflated Continental money with no specie backing] for the Pennsylvania Packet furnished Congress & the Committee of Foreign Affairs from the 3^d July 1779 to the 1st ultimo ... 1955.18" Journal, Treasury Office & Auditor of Accts., April 16, 1776 to Sept 20, 1781. National Archives, R.G. 39, p. 326.

³⁹. The Acts of Penna..., Phila., 1775. Inscribed "Charles Humphreys, June, 1776" on title page. INHP Cat. No. 904.

Table Covering. According to the custom of the times in public buildings, and verified by the Savage painting (Illus. 1), each table was covered with green cloth, probably baize. Baize is the only specific kind of fabric mentioned in any accounts for the State House.⁴⁰

The baize shown in the Savage painting covers the tables to the floor, the length traditionally used in public buildings, at least until the latter part of the eighteenth century.⁴¹

Inkstands. Of necessity, each table had to contain an inkstand. A three-well, footed inkstand is shown in the Savage painting (Illus. 1).⁴² There is a comment about inkstands specifically in the Assembly, which was made by the Chaplain of Congress, the Reverend Mr. William White: "You have been treating yourselves, I perceive, to new inkstands." "Yes," was the reply, "and private credit had to be pledged for the payment."⁴³ This incident was apparently soon after the British left the city, for the new inkstands would have been replacements for those which disappeared during the occupation.

⁴⁰ "[March 9, 1780] please to pay unto Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald the sum of two hundred & forty Six pounds one Shilling and ten pence for Baze for covering the Tables in the Assembly Room [second floor]." Authorization of the Committee of Assembly found with the Sellers Family Papers, Vol. 6, p. 7. MSS Dept. American Philosophical Society Library. [Baize: a coarse, long-napped fabric usually of wool and dyed in plain colors]. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.

⁴¹ By the late eighteenth century there are several accounts and illustrations of shorter pieces of baize, and baize tacked to the table tops. See: The Microcosm of London... By Pugin and Rowlandson, New York; Charles Scribner's Sons, 1904. 3 vols.; 18th century English political prints in the collection of Wilmarth S. Lewis, Microfilm #500, INHP Library; and Congress Hall Accounts, INHP card file.

⁴² The general form, known today as the "Treasury type" inkstands, was generally of pewter and was usual in public buildings throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

⁴³ Rev. Bird Wilson, Memoir of the Life of Bishop White, James Kay & Brother, Phila., 1839, p. 143, Illus. p. 56.

It is recommended that each delegates' table be covered with green baize to the floor, that it contain a pewter inkstand, quill pens, sand and writing paper.

In addition to the personal accessories in the INHP collection appropriate for a few of the tables, it is suggested that where appropriate accessories are known relating to the personal habits of specific delegates, such as spectacles, ear trumpets and etc., these be acquired.

For other tables, accessories representing the customs of the times, although not necessarily documented, such as newspapers, wallets, pipes, tobacco and snuff boxes and etc., should be acquired.

Speaker's Table

Baize. It is well established that the Continental Congress covered its President's table with green baize on state occasions. Elias Boudinot, delegate from New Jersey, writing to his wife, August 8, 1778, said "... We gave the Sieur Gerard his public audience. The Ceremony as follows: Our President was seated in a Mahogany armed Chair on a platform raised about two feet, with [a] large table covered with green cloth..."⁴⁴ The official French report of this reception for the First French Minister Plenipotentiary also bears this out by specifically mentioning ~~that~~ the table before the President of Congress was covered with "un tapis vert."⁴⁵ Perhaps the date of the reception, August 6, 1778, the middle of a Philadelphia summer, is the reason these contemporary accounts do not mention baize on the other tables in the room.

⁴⁴. Elias Boudinot, August 8, 1778. In Burnett, Letters.... Vol. III, p. 363

⁴⁵. Henri Doniol, Histoire de la Participation de la France a L'Etablissement de Etats-Unis, d'Amerique. (Paris, 1888), III, 311-313.

However, four years later, on May 9, 1782, Secretary Charles Thomson, in anticipation of a visit from the French Ambassador wrote to Robert Morris: "Sir, It is the desire of Congress that the table before the President and the tables before the members be covered with green cloth...."⁴⁶ Was this because we had become older and wiser in the ways of diplomatic receptions and knew that protocol required coverings for the delegates' tables during a public audience, or had Philadelphia experienced a warm spring and Congress retired its hot table cloths for the season?

The significance of Thomson's application to the Secretary of Finance is that, by inference, the tables prior to the reception were not covered with green baize, and the evidence that a Mr. Patton, the door-keeper, was called upon to supply the necessary fabric.⁴⁷ As to the

⁴⁶. Papers of The Continental Congress, Vol. 49, p. 401 (R.G. II, N.A.)

⁴⁷. May 9, 1782
"Sir,

It is the desire of Congress that the table before the President and the tables before the members be covered with green cloth on the day of the public audiences. Mr. Patton waits on you to receive your directions, respecting this matter.

I am

Sir

Your obed humble Servt

Chas Thomson

To R. Morris Esq^r.
Superintendant of Finance"

Papers of Continental Congress, Vol. 49, p. 401. National Archives,
Washington, D.C.

manner of dressing or draping the baize over the tables in the Assembly Room, we have excellent pictorial evidence in the Savage engraving of "Congress Voting Independence - July 4, 1776." (Illus 2). In an uncomplicated manner which had its precedent in the seventeenth and eighteenth century English court and assembly rooms, the green baize was draped over a table to almost floor length and "kicked in" at the ends of the table to provide an outward cant to the corners.

Inkstand. The Philip Syng silver inkstand,⁴⁸ the chief relic of the Assembly Room furnishings from our historic period (Illus. 34), has pride of place position here, though the Presidents of Congress are known to have used a "Glass Ink Pott" when they returned to the room after the British occupation.⁴⁹ It is possible that they had used a similar ink pot from their initial occupancy on May 10, 1775, for the silver inkstand was apparently one of the few objects taken upstairs by the Pennsylvania Assembly. It follows, that though we do not have positive

⁴⁸. Feb. 12, 1752. "Ordered, That the Superintendent of the State-house do provide a suitable Ink-stand of Silver for the Use of the Speaker's Table." Votes of the Assembly, Vol. IV, p. 210. Pa. Archives, 8th Series, Vol. IV, p. 3485.

1752 "To Philip Syng, his Account for a Silver Inkstand for the Use of the House. 25.. 16.. 0." Pa. Archives, 8th Series, Vol. IV, p. 3534.

⁴⁹. October 16, 1778. "a glass Ink Pott for the President, two thirds of a dollar." Money due Robert Patton as doorkeeper to Congress, from June 16, to October 13, 1778. Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 136, II, folio 625. In Ford, Journals of the Continental Congress, XII, 1029, note 2.

proof that the silver inkstand was in the first floor Assembly Room at the time of the Declaration of Independence, there is a strong tradition that it was. This does not mean that the inkstand was brought downstairs for either July 2nd or 4th, for the events of those all-important days did not involve any ceremonial signing of papers by the members as a whole. That auspicious occasion came on August 2, 1776, when, by pre-arrangement, all members of the Congress were required to appear to sign the engrossed Declaration of Independence as evidence of their loyalty. Significantly, fifty members of Congress of the fifty five total, made a particular effort to be on hand that day for the signing; the remaining five members signed within the following five year period, ending with Thomas McKean affixing his signature to the document in 1781.

For an occasion as significant to the members of the Second Continental Congress as the signing on August 2, 1776, of the engrossed Declaration of Independence, the members, and particularly posterity-conscious President John Hancock and permanent Secretary Charles Thomson would have desired an inkstand worthy of the historic implications of their actions. Thus, if there is a kernel of truth in every great tradition, the element of truth in the tradition that the Syng inkstand was used at the signing of the Declaration of Independence may mean that it was borrowed from the Pennsylvania Assembly on that day.

We do know, however, that the inkstand was once again in the Assembly Room at the time of the Constitutional Convention.⁵⁰

Hand Bell. Although no invoice for the purchase of a handbell for the Speaker of the Assembly has come to light, and there are no references in the published correspondence of the members of the Continental Congress to the use of a handbell by the President, it may be that its presence was just one of the multitude of things which the eighteenth century assemblyman and member of Congress took for granted and thus did not feel obligated to mention in his correspondence. An early nineteenth century chronicler of the local scene stated that "Some of the speakers used hand bells to keep silence."⁵¹ A contemporary historian in his research on the Pennsylvania Assembly assures us that: "About nine o'clock on the first day, a bell was rung to call the members together."⁵²

⁵⁰ The Pennsylvania Assembly did not move immediately back to the first floor of the State House when Congress left for Princeton in 1783. For a while, the old Assembly Room was used as a storeroom; then in October of 1784, the artist Robert Edge Pine obtained the permission of the Assembly to use it as a gallery for his paintings (Pa. Packet, Nov. 15, 1784), with occasional interruptions when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was in session (Pa. Packet, Dec. 1, 1784). By November, 1786, Pine had removed his paintings to his own newly-enlarged house on Eighth Street (Pa. Archives, 1st Series, II, 95)

The Assembly back in its old quarters by the end of 1786, turned the room over to the Constitutional Convention during the summer recess of 1787.

⁵¹ Hazard's Register, Vol. V, Jan. to July 1830, p. 115.

⁵² Yale University, Charles M. Andrews Collection. I. S. Mitchell, "The General Assembly of Pennsylvania, 1682-1776."

Presiding officers traditionally have some means of calling their members to order. A gavel would be ineffectual on a baize covered table unless it was accompanied by a sounding block, and this does not appear to be the tradition associated with the Pennsylvania Assembly.

Aitken Bible. In 1782 the Philadelphia printer Robert Aitken, who had shared in the printing of the Journals of Congress since 1776, published the first American Bible in the English language. He had secured the endorsement of Congress for this work and noted it in the book. As a token of appreciation he sent one of the first copies of the Bible to President John Hanson "for the use of Congress."⁵³

As evidence of the basic trust in God manifested by the founding fathers, and guided by the venerable Bishop White, both as Chaplain of the second Continental Congress during the Revolution and Chaplain of the United States Senate during the ten-year period when Philadelphia was the nation's capital; it is suggested that a copy of the Aitken Bible be placed upon the Speaker's table for use at oaths of allegiance or other swearing-in ceremonies, and for the use of the Chaplain of Congress at the opening of each session and on days of special observance such as a Day of Thanksgiving or the memorial service for a national figure.

⁵³. "Sir I beg your Excellency to present my warm acknowledgements to Congress for the favor done me by the recommendation of my Edition of the Bible, and to request their Acceptance (for use of Congress) of one of the first copies, as a Specimen of the work they have honored with their patronage." Letter, Robert Aitken to John Hanson, Sept. 25, 1782. MSS. in Papers of Cont. Congress (Item 78, Vol. A, p. 426; R. G. 11, National Archives, Wash, D. C.).

Silver Case Pocket Watch. Since 1752 the State House had been equipped with a public clock which marked each hour with the sounding of the State House bell. For the interim time, watches, such as they were, were depended upon. It seems logical that the time setter for the sessions would have been the presiding officer, using his personal watch. During the first year that the Second Continental Congress occupied the Assembly Room, Christopher Gadsden, delegate from South Carolina, "moved that the Congress should purchase a handsome Time Piece and set it up in the Assembly Room in the State House where we meet, as a Present for the Use of the Room. Wilson and Willing desired the motion might be dropt as the Assembly expected no Consideration and it was with drawn...."⁵⁴

It is suggested that a mid-eighteenth century English or French silver case pocket watch be placed upon the Speaker's table to serve as the official time piece.

Goose Quill Pens would have also been a part of the equipment on the Speaker's table, placed in and by the silver inkstand.

Books. One ready reference book seems also in order -- a bound copy of The Journals of the Proceedings of Congress, January to May 1776. Printed in Philadelphia in 1776.

Table Covers. Assuming that the awareness of the two great episodes of our historic period, 1776 and 1787, would not have been lost upon the incumbents, it is suggested that the green baize, used at least through the winter and on ceremonial occasions throughout the year, be used for our interpretation.

⁵⁴. Burnett, Letters of Members of Continental Congress, Vol. I, p. 276.

It is suggested that the Philip Syng inkstand remain on the Speaker's table and that the Aitken bible already in the INHP collection, a brass hand bell, some writing paper, and goose quill pens and a mid-eighteenth century pocket watch be used on the table as appropriate accessories.

A small personal memorandum book and a mechanical pencil are also suggested for this table. The President of Congress in his executive capacity would have had to make notes of meeting times, subjects for discussion pending from a previous meeting, and many other small details which would not all be incorporated in the transactions being recorded by Secretary Thomson.

Secretary's Table:

Baize. It is believed that, from custom and the desire for conformity, this table was covered with green baize.

The duties of Charles Thomson, permanent Secretary of the Continental Congress, dictated what he had to have immediately at hand (Illus. 7-A); writing paper, writing equipment and a large inkstand.⁵⁵ His major requirement was to have a plentiful supply of writing paper.⁵⁶

⁵⁵. A three-well inkstand with quill pen in place appears in the Savage painting Congress Voting Independence, July 4, 1776. (Illus. 1).

⁵⁶. "May 14, 1777 - That there is due to William Tricket[t], for stationary supplied by him to the president of Congress and Board of War, the sum of 139 18/90 dollars." Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. VII, p. 360.

sharpened goose quill pens,⁵⁷ and ink. The recording itself was effected by a form of shorthand which was transcribed later into the Journal in Thomson's office in the East Wing. He also served as a sort of reference librarian, arbiter of rules and administrative assistant to the President.

Ballot Box. In deference to the German-speaking members of the Assembly from the western countries -- so there would be no misunderstanding of the affirmative and negative in voting -- the Assembly voted "yea" by standing and "nay" by remaining seated.⁵⁸

The Continental Congress, however, employed a secret ballot, consisting of a name or choice written upon a slip of paper, which was then rolled and placed in a ballot box. The box was passed about the room and when each delegate had cast his vote the box was placed upon Secretary Thomson's table where it was opened, the ballots counted, and the results conveyed to the President.

The references to balloting in the First Continental Congress are not very specific, saying only that "the ballots were brought in and

⁵⁷. See Illus. I.

⁵⁸. (1783) "When the votes are to be taken, those in the affirmative rise, and those in the negative remain sitting. The members of German descent (if as is sometimes the case, from a lack of thorough readiness in the English language they either do not properly grasp the matter under discussion or for any other reason cannot reach a conclusion) are excused for sitting doubtful until they see whether the greater number sits or stands, and then they do the same as always to keep with the largest side." Johan David Schoepf, Travels in the Confederation, (1783-1784), trans. Alfred J. Morrison (Phila., 1911), Vol. I, pp. 382-383.

examined..." or "the ballots being taken and examined..."⁵⁹ In the Second Continental Congress, at the expiration of John Hanson's term of office as President in 1782, "The eleven other states gave their votes by means of a Poll submitted to the Secretary (in the form of) a rolled paper upon which was written the name of a Delegate for which the Delegation voted."⁶⁰

The voting procedure of the Second Continental Congress is spelled out for the record on May 15, 1782: "On motion of Mr. (Theodorick) Bland, seconded by Mr. (Samuel) Holten, Resolved, That in future, when small committees are to be appointed, the members shall ballot at their seats, and a member for each State shall put their ballot into a box which shall stand on a table, and when all the states present have balloted, the secretary shall take out the ballots and deliver them to the President, who shall note down the number for each person, and declare their names distinctly."⁶¹

⁵⁹ (May 15, 1782) "On motion of Mr. (Theodorick) Bland, seconded by Mr. (Samuel) Holten, Resolved, That in future when small committees are to be appointed, the members shall ballot at their seats, and a member for each State shall put their ballot into a box which shall stand on the table, and when all the states present have ballotted, the secretary shall take out the ballots and deliver them to the President who shall down the number for each person, and declare their names distinctly." Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. XXIV, p. 344.

⁶⁰ French Foreign Office. Political Correspondence with the United States of America, Vol. 22, (Historic Foreign Affairs, Paris). Folio 417.

⁶¹ Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. XXIV, p. 344.

Items suggested for the Secretary's table are: a large pewter inkstand, a supply of goose quill pens, a penknife, a pounce box,⁶² a supply of writing paper, the Journal of Congress,⁶³ a blank book,⁶⁴ a few reference books from the adjoining library which may have been requested by the President or needed by the Secretary,⁶⁵ the Secretary's small personal memorandum book with a mechanical pencil between the leaves,⁶⁶

⁶² June 11, 1781, Congress Dr.

to 1 Pounce Pot -.5.-"

(Waste Book of Robert Aitken. Library Company, Coll. 369).

⁶³ The formal entries in the Journal of Congress must have been made by Charles Thomson after the session had adjourned for the day, using the notes he had made on the spot. It was from the finished entries in the Journal that the proceedings were printed for distribution to the Delegates. Thomson would have had at hand during sessions of Congress the manuscript Journal for reference in case of a dispute about past proceedings.

⁶⁴ "25 Nov. 1778 - For a Warrant in favour of George Reinhold for Blank Books for the use of Congress ...44.45!" Journal of the Treasury Office & Auditor of Accounts. April 16, 1776 to Sept. 20, 1781. MSS., N.A.R.G. 39/ p. 244.

⁶⁵ Members of Congress were given the use of the State Library, but with reservations, as is seen in the letter from William Henry Drayton, delegate from South Carolina, to President Joseph Reed: "April 22, 1779 - Sir, In obedience to the order of Council this day published, I do without delay return into your hands the first & second Vol^s of "State Tracts" which I had removed from the State Library, where I had not time to use them[,] to my lodgings, where, after Congress hours, I had time to turn them over with attention.

These are the only books which I ever removed from the Library. If I could have thought that such an use of the Books would have given offence, I should not have taken such a liberty. However, I shall not repeat a conduct which I find disagreeable." Pa. Archives, 1st series, Vol. VII, pp. 328-329.

⁶⁶ Pocket books and memorandum books are frequent survivals as personal memorabilia. Sometimes the two are combined. George Walton, delegate from Georgia, bought, on October 22, 1776, from Robert Aitken, printer publisher, stationer and bookbinder, a "Silver Case & pencil ..18-[and an] Ass Skin Memord.^m ..3. 9." Waste Book of Robert Aitken, MSS., Library Company of Philadelphia, Coll. 369.

a ruler,⁶⁷ an India rubber ball eraser, a metal document box with handle and lock for transporting particularly important papers between the Assembly Room and the Secretary's office, or the office and the residence of the President,⁶⁸ leather saddle bags⁶⁹ containing letters for Congress from the various state governors and delegates away from Philadelphia on business.

It is suggested that the ballot box, INHP Cat. No. 7302, be placed upon Secretary Thomson's table to represent the one originally there during the Second Continental Congress. (Illus. 36).

67. In Pennsylvania Assembly records: "1783 Nov^r 14th To a ruler &... -166" Comptroller General Papers, Public Records Office, State Archives, Harrisburg, Pa.

68. All the boxes, trunks, and iron chests mentioned in the records of the Pennsylvania Assembly and the Continental Congress would have been too bulky to be conveniently portable. A dispatch box is very much in the English governmental tradition (the Queen of England, today, still receives the Prime Minister's dispatch box, conveyed to Buckingham Palace by carriage). In this day before the brief and attache case, the President of Congress may have supplied his own dispatch box, or, most likely, its invoice has just not survived.

69. Charles Thomson's leather saddle bags exist today. According to the family tradition they were preserved because they are the very ones in which Thomson conveyed the official notification of his election to the presidency to Washington at Mount Vernon. Perhaps these saddlebags could be obtained for the purpose.

Publications Table:

On a singular occasion -- the adoption of the Declaration of Independence -- the proceedings of the Continental Congress were printed in the course of one night, in the form of a broadside.⁷⁰ This was not the usual case, however, for the proceedings normally were printed each week⁷¹ and distributed by Secretary Thomson to members. The Secretary would scrupulously dole out single copies of the Journal of Congress to the members present before he would permit extra copies to be taken.⁷² The approximate daily turn-out of delegates in the Assembly Room during the sessions of the Second Continental Congress was about forty-eight,⁷³

⁷⁰. A copy of this broadside from the personal papers of John Nixon, who read the Declaration to the public for the first time in a ceremony in the State House Yard on July 8, 1776, is in the INHP collection, Cat. No. 1071. The broadsides were printed by John Dunlap during the night of July 4, 1776, so that the members of the Continental Congress would have copies to study and distribute the following day. (Evans, American Bibliography, #15, 155).

⁷¹ Nov^r 20, 1779.... I have herewith sent you a copy of their Journal from the First of January last and shall continue to send you from time to time their weekly publications." Circular letter from the Secretary of the Continental Congress to the Governors of the thirteen states. Supreme Executive Council Records, Executive Correspondence 1779, State Archives, Harrisburg, Pa.

⁷² ... The particular complaint made Yesterday, is of Mr. Thomson's affrontive answers when I requested him to let me have only two copies of the Journals for my State which I had an immediate use for. His first answer was - I won't. I replied, you won't Mr. Thomson, what language is this? I tell you I want them for my State - to which he again answered, I won't, but added, till I have given every member present one...."Henry Laurens, statement to a Committee of Congress, in Burnett, Letters..., Vol. IV, pp. 397-399.

⁷³. Miriam Quinn Blimm, Historian, INHP, gives the total of delegates present on July 4, 1776, as forty-seven, possibly forty-eight. She compiled the list from information provided by Edmund C. Burnett in volumes 1 & 2 of The Letters of the Members of the Continental Congress (Washington: Carnegie Institution, 1923). Mrs. Blimm also checked this information against that given by Dumas Malone in The Story of the Declaration of Independence (New York: Oxford University Press, 1954) in the Dictionary of American Biography, in Herbert Friedenwald's The Declaration of Independence (New York: Macmillan Co., 1904), and other sources.

plus the President and the Secretary; thus each week a minimum of fifty installments of the Journal were available on the publications table. However, since it was the custom for delegates to forward a copy to their home legislature to be placed on file, and to distribute others to friends and constituents, the weekly pile of Journals may have amounted to as many as five hundred.

It is suggested that individual stacks of eighteenth century blank paper, cut to the same size as an unbound installment of the Journal of the Continental Congress be placed upon the publications table and that original copies of the Journal be placed upon the top of each stack.

Map Table:

The only object upon this table for which we have a record is the bound folio of Popple's map, which is the justification for the table. (See pages 25 & 26). To assist the peruser of the map, it is suggested that a large eighteenth century English magnifying glass to be placed on the table and a small eighteenth century ivory scaled ruler, to assist in reckoning mileage on the map, be placed alongside the magnifying glass.

CHAIRS

Delegates' Chairs:

The problem of identifying the kinds of chairs used in the Assembly Room at the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence has been subject to considerable change in the past forty years. As the result of nineteenth century mistaken enthusiasm, the Congress Hall chairs were enshrined in the Assembly Room as "Signers" chairs.

Largely as a result of the research of William MacPherson Hornor,⁷⁴ this mistake was recognized and eventually under the aegis of the National Park Service, the Congress Hall chairs were removed.

1742-1777

All surviving references to chairs in the Assembly Room before 1775, thus far located, are to rush seat chairs only. As early as 1733, the Assembly, in rented quarters, had ordered 12 chairs from Caleb Emlen.⁷⁵ In 1760 "... 12 rush bottom chairs for the State House" had been ordered from Thomas Ackley.⁷⁶ Rush seats being less durable than Windsors, on March 30, 1776, a bill "for making 6 chairs bottoms at 17 shillings" was presented by John Fiss.⁷⁷

Typically the Delaware Valley eighteenth century rush-seated chair would have had 5 graduated slates in its back, and boldly-turned front legs and front stretcher (Illus. 9).

⁷⁴ William MacPherson Hornor, The Blue Book of Philadelphia Furniture..., Phila., 1935, 340 pp. Page 297.

⁷⁵ "Paid Caleb Emlen for 12 Chairs for the Assembly Room.... [S] 1.16-" Trustees of the General Loan Office, z/w Province of Pa., July 23, 1733, in Norris MSS., Misc., (Large folio), p. 187. Historical Society of Pa., Phila.

⁷⁶ Thomas Ackley, Philadelphia turner and chairmaker Learned his trade with Solomon Fussell, who was making rush bottom chairs as early as 1742. Ackley's shop was on the east side of Fourth St. near Market and the family lived on the floor above the shop. In 1764 he advertised this building for sale. He was the father of John Brientnall Ackley, also a rush-seat and Windsor chairmaker. Ethel Hall Bjercoe, The Cabinetmakers of America. Doubleday & Co., Inc., N.Y., 1957. 252 pp., Illus. p. 19.

⁷⁷ Hornor, Blue Book..., pp. 304, 306.

It is likely that there were also many Windsor chairs used in the State House during this period, for they were already a common form of seat furniture in Philadelphia.* To cite their use in another public building, Thomas Gilpin supplied 12 windsors for the manager's room of the Pennsylvania Hospital, just a few blocks from the State House, in the 1750's (Illus. 11).⁷⁸

By May 10th of 1775, the Assembly had turned over its first floor room, complete with furnishings, to the Second Continental Congress, and moved to the second floor. The move was completed on relatively short notice, and on October 18, 1775, it was "Ordered, that one Dozen and a half of Windsor chairs be immediately procured for the Use of the House,"⁷⁹ in their new second floor quarters. Although the records are not clear as to from whom these chairs were ordered, it may very well have been Francis Trumble, for, seven months later, on May 31, 1776, he was paid for "2 tables and 12 chairs" for the court room of the State House.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ Thomas Gilpin, Windsor chairmaker, Birmingham Township, Chester County, Pa., May 23, 1700 (birth), died Wilmington, Delaware, October 25, 1766. Working in Philadelphia, c. 1727 to 1756. Transcripts of Friends Records (particularly Birmingham and Wilmington Meetings), Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa., and Hornor, Blue Book...., p. 297.

⁷⁹ Pa. Archives, Series 8, VIII, 7308.

⁸⁰ "...pd. Francis Trumble for 2 tables and 12 chairs May 31, 1776 ... £6.14.0." State Archives, Harrisburg, Cash Book (MS) (Dec. 1, 1775 to Feb. 11, 1780), p. 36.

* See Illus. 10.



Illustration #9. Delaware Valley rush seat chairs which presumably resemble the twelve... "Rush bottom chairs for the State House" ordered in 1760. INHP Collection. Neg. #9224.



Illustration #10. Pennsylvania paddle post Windsor armchairs, datable on stylistic grounds, to the second quarter of the eighteenth century. INHP Collection. INHP Neg. #9225.



Illustration #11. Comb back Windsor armchairs branded by Thomas Gilpin, chairmaker who worked in the Philadelphia area from 1721 to 1766. Gilpin is known to have supplied Windsor chairs for the Pennsylvania Hospital. INHP Collection. INHP Neg. #9226.

Presumably these orders specifying windsors for the second floor reflected the same kind of furnishings that the assemblymen had been accustomed to in the first floor Assembly Room. This is borne out by the Savage painting (Illus. 1) which shows windsor arm and side chairs.

The Assembly Room known to delegates of the Continental Congress in 1775, then, was furnished with chairs representing the accretion of the previous forty years; a rush-seated arm and side chairs, and windsors of varying ages and styles.

On July 4th, 1776, there were approximately forty-eight members of the Congress, plus Secretary Thomson, seated in the Assembly Room (See Appendix I). This number includes the members who were present and voted for the adoption of a Declaration of Independence and those who were present but chose not to vote for it. At no time were all the members accredited to the Congress present at a single session; and on our signal day, some members who were wholeheartedly in favor of Independence were away on public or private business. Again, by the time of the engrossing of the Declaration, in August 1776, some members of the Congress were absent and others had been replaced by new men. All members of the Congress were required to avow their espousal of Independence and share the responsibility by signing the document. This included members elected after July, 1776.

The furnishings of the room were destined not to last, for, with the British occupation of the city from Sept. 1777 to June 1778, the State House was vandalized and "the inside torn much to pieces."^{81.}

1778-1787

In refurnishing the State House after the British left the city, Francis Trumble was again called upon to supply windsors. The earliest post-occupation account is a notice of payment dated August 22, 1778 "for the year 1777 and 1778, etc. paid Francis Trumble for 19 windsor chairs at the State House... 64.2.6."⁸² The room location is unclear. Later that month another payment was made to "... Francis Trumble for Windsor chairs for the Assembly Room [on the second floor] by order [of the] Assembly. Aug. 27 84.15.0."⁸³ If the price per chair was the same for both orders, twenty-five chairs were procured in the second lot. Again in November, "Francis Trumble [was paid] for 20 Windsor chairs for the use of the Assembly Nov. 27. 1778... 60.0.0."⁸⁴

^{81.} "... the State House was left in a most filthy situation and the inside torn much to pieces and is now cleaning and repairing for the purpose... [of receiving the French Minister]." Letter, July 20, 1778, Josiah Bartlett to William Shipple. Burnett Letters of Members of the Continental Congress, Vol. III, p. 340.

^{82.} State Archives, Harrisburg, Comptroller General, Financial Record, Journal "A-1" (1775-1786), p. 45.

^{83.} "pd. Francis Trumble for Windsor Chairs for the Assembly Room by order Assembly." Aug. 27, 84.15.0.

^{84.} State Archives, Harrisubrg, Compt. Gen. Fin. Rec. Journal "A-1" (1775-1786), p. 85.

In terms of style, the original accounts described Trumble's chairs for the State House as "Round Top Scrol arm Chairs," "Ditto plain do do," "Low back," and "sack back Windsors."⁸⁵ In today's jargon we assume these meant, respectively, bow-back armchairs with carved knuckles, bow-back armchairs without knuckles, low-back armchairs, and bow-back side chairs. Some chairs have survived bearing the brand of Francis Trumble (Illus. 12) although they are without documentation relating them to Independence Hall.

Other chairs, unbranded, have survived with tradition of having come from Independence Hall (Illus. 13, 14).

There are no further references to the purchase of windsors until several years later, on Nov. 24, 1784, when James Lees received "2 dozen Windsor Chairs for the State House at £12 per doz..." from Captⁿ James Pearson.⁸⁶ By this time some of the older windsors apparently needed overhauling for his account also includes "... Repairing & Painting 4 d[itt]o [windsors] for d[itt]o [the State House] at 8/4 [£-.8.4] per pc [piece] @1.13.4."⁸⁷ Although no account so far located clearly places any windsor chairs specifically in the first floor Assembly Room, it may be inferred from the evidence cited above; i.e. the custom of the time and contemporaneous use of windsors elsewhere in the State House, and from their use in the Savage painting

⁸⁵. Hornor Blue Book, pp. 304-306.

⁸⁶. Independence Square, State House, Maintenance Vouchers & List, 1784, Oct. 10-Dec. 21, No. 1-25, State Archives.

⁸⁷. Ibid.

"Congress Voting Independence" (Illus. 1),⁸⁸ that they were used as well in the Assembly Room, and that the bulk of them were supplied by Francis Trumble.

It can also be inferred that, since all accounts after 1776 are for windsors, locally made windsor chairs were replacing the old rush-bottomed slat backs as the basic kind of seat furniture in the State House.

It is recommended that 48 pre-Revolutionary-style windsor and rush-bottomed chairs be distributed at the delegates' tables as indicated in Appendix #1, and as shown on the floor plan (Page 133) to represent members present at the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. To represent the 55 members who assembled for the Constitutional Convention in the summer of 1787, it is recommended that 7 additional slat-back and/or windsor chairs, representing this group, be placed along the north and south walls.

It is further recommended that a paint study be made of all the Windsor chairs used in the Assembly Room to ascertain the most prevalent original color used. This color should then be used on all the Windsor chairs in the room.

88. The painting, although done several years after the fact, shows delegates seated in windsor bow-backs. Note that the chairs shown (although incorporating some artistic license) are of the form generally considered to be pre-Revolutionary in that the back bow is supported by a single continuous armrail, as opposed to the post-Revolutionary form in which separate armrails are attached to the back bow.



Illustration #12. Philadelphia sack back Windsor armchairs
branded by Francis Trumble who, in the years 1776 to 1778,
supplied seventy-eight chairs for the State House.
INHP Collection. INHP Neg. #9227.



Illustration #13. Pair of Windsor armchairs owned by the Lancaster County Historical Society, the gift of Mr. Henry Slaugh. These chairs have a history of having come from Independence Hall. They may be part of the 1778-1790 furnishings which were moved to Lancaster in 1799. INHP Neg. #9240.



Illustration #14. Windsor armchairs said to have been purchased in 1800 at a sale at the Pennsylvania State House. INHP Neg. #9228.

Presiding Officer's Chair (Speaker of Pennsylvania Assembly)

c.1742-1778

On May 10, 1775, when the Honorable Peyton Randolph, delegate from Virginia, was unanimously chosen President of the Second Continental Congress,⁸⁹ he took his seat upon the podium of the Assembly Room. The chair in which he sat had apparently been in place as the Speaker's chair since the room was initially furnished in the year 1742.⁹⁰

It is unlikely that the Speaker's chair survived the British occupation,⁹¹ and if it did, it is now no longer identifiable as such. It is possible however, for us to approximate its appearance. In 1753 Plunkett Fleeson, upholsterer and curtain maker was paid for making a new "bottom" for the chair.⁹² In this context he refurnished, reupholstered and recovered either the slip or the tight seat of the chair. Since the "bottom" only was specified, presumably the chair did not have an upholstered back.

In the English and American tradition of Speaker's or Master's chairs, it was undoubtedly an armchair of a size befitting the dignity of the position it occupied. Speaker's or Master's chairs are noted for

89. "The Members being convened in the State House proceeded to the choice of a President, when upon Motion the Hon^{ble} Peyton Randolph was unanimously chosen president." Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. II, p. 12.

90. Historic Structures Report, Part II, on Independence Hall, 1962. Chapter II, Section I, p. 28.

91. See footnote #81.

92. Hornor Blue Book, pp. 304-305.

the extended height of their back -- it will be noted that this tradition was taken into account by John Folwell when he constructed the "Rising Sun" chair. Thus we have an armchair with a slip seat and an unusually high back. Assuming that it had been constructed in 1742, it would have been in the Philadelphia Queen Anne style, and probably made of walnut. Characteristically, it would have had scrolled arms, upholstered seat, cabriole legs and trifid front feet.

The Speaker's chair shown in the Savage painting (Illus. 1) has a high, rounded, upholstered back studded with ornamental brass tacks. Since it is likely that the original Speaker's chair was destroyed during the British occupation, the chair shown in the painting, although undocumented, may well have been the large, leather covered chair made by Thomas Affleck for the Speaker of the Pennsylvania State Senate in 1790.⁹³

Presiding Officer's Chair (President of Congress)

1778-1783

There is no documentation for the survival of the original Speaker's chair beyond the British occupation. Concurrently, there is also no documentation for the chair used by the President of the Second Continental Congress during its subsequent occupancy of the room.

⁹³. Savage worked on his painting very much after-the-fact, from 1796 to 1814, and though he must have inquired among his Philadelphia contemporaries about the furnishings of the Assembly Room in July of 1776, he was probably in error when depicting the Speaker's chair. The records specify a chair only with an upholstered seat, a type used after the British occupation as well.

In the summer of 1778 every effort was made to eradicate the evidences of abuse with which the British had treated the State House, so that a brave show could be effected for the reception of the Sieur Gerard, the French Minister Plenipotentiary. As far as was practicable in this "hurry-up" state of affairs, "make-do" practices were followed.

Two matching Chairs of State were required as "Our President was seated in a Mahogany armed chair ... and a large armed chair in the middle opposite for the Plenipo(tentiary)."⁹⁴ (Illus. 17). There is no invoice for the purchase, but there is a bill:⁹⁵ "That there is due to Hyman Taylor,⁹⁶ for making two chair seats for the use of Congress (at the public Reception of Monsieur Gerard) \$27.30." This leads one to believe that the chairs were not purchased as a completed unit, new, from a local cabinetmaker, but had been procured by some other means, secondhand, and that their slip seats, being worn, required renewing; thus the above bill.

⁹⁴ Elias Boudinot to Mrs. Boudinot, August 8, 1778. In, Burnett, Letters.... Vol. III, p. 363.

⁹⁵ Journals of Continental Congress, XII, p. 864.

⁹⁶ Hymer (sic) Taylor, Upholsterer, in Front-street, between Market and Arch-streets (late from Saint James's, London) begs leave by this method, to inform his friends, and the public in general, that he makes up all kinds of furniture in the newest fashion, viz. Dome, teaster, drapery, Venetian, Gothic, canopy, four-post and couch beds; also field and camp beds, all sorts of mattresses; with Venetian and festoon window curtains, and every other article of household furniture, on the most reasonable terms. Amelia Taylor, Milaner and Mantua Maker, makes up all sorts of milanery goods, ...N.B. Genteel lodgings to be let, with the use of a kitchen, &c." Pennsylvania Evening Post, March 26, 1776; The Arts & Crafts in Philadelphia, Maryland and South Carolina, 1721-1785, pp. 212, 213. By Alfred Coxe Prime. The Walpole Society, 1929.

Large mahogany armchairs which were not new, but which were elegant enough in 1778 to be Chairs of State for the President and the Minister, would have most likely have been Philadelphia Chippendale armchairs with scrolled arms, high pierced splat backs, slip seats, carved cabriole legs and claw and ball feet (Illus. 15).

Conjecturally, the most convenient way to obtain furniture was the confiscation of Tory property; a movement at its height in the city at this period. Perhaps the master's chairs used at the reception were appropriated for the occasion in this manner; or they may have been provided by some well-to-do Philadelphian. Presumably the chairs remained with the Congress until Congress moved to Princeton in 1783.

Presiding Officer's Chair

(Speaker of Pennsylvania Assembly, President of the Constitutional Convention, "Rising Sun") May 14, - Sept. 17, 1787.

As part of the refurnishing of the State House following the departure of the British from Philadelphia, and for its own use on the second floor, the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1779 ordered a Speaker's chair to be made by the local cabinetmaker, John Folwell⁹⁷ (Illus. 15.). This chair served the Pennsylvania Assembly from 1779 until well into the nineteenth century. It served the Speaker exclusively on the second floor of the State House until 1786, when the state legislature moved its furnishings down to the old, then unoccupied, first floor Assembly Room.

⁹⁷. (Dec. 3, 1779) "Paid John Folwell per order of Assembly for Materials for Speaker's Chair." Journals of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, 1776-1781. (Philadelphia, 1782), p. 636; Comptroller-General Financial Accounts, Journal "A-1," (1775-1785), p. 119, Division of Public Records, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg.



Illustration #15. Philadelphia style, 18th century Chippendale armchair with high back. Two chairs, probably of this type, were used by the President of Congress and visiting dignitaries in the Assembly Room during diplomatic receptions. Photo courtesy of Philip Cowan. INHP Neg. #9218.



Illustration #16. "Rising Sun" chair made in 1779 by John Folwell for the second floor Assembly Room. It was moved to the original Assembly Room on the first floor about 1786. INHP Collection.

The following year, in 1787, the legislature conveniently adjourned for the summer on March 29th. They made their room available to the members of the Federal Constitutional Convention, who met from May 14 to Sept 17th. The Folwell Speaker's chair was in the room for the historic convention and was used by its presiding officer, George Washington, as witnessed by James Madison. Madison, the dedicated Chronicler of the convention, recorded for posterity Franklin's prophetic comments about the President's chair:

"Whilst the last members were signing it [Constitution of the United States] Doctr. Franklin looking towards the Presidents Chair, at the back of which a rising sun happened to be painted, observed to a few members near him, that Painters had found it difficult to distinguish in their art a rising from a setting sun. I have, said he, often and often in the course of the Session, and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting: But now at length I have the happiness to know it is a rising and not a setting Sun."⁹⁸

In 1799 the State government moved to Lancaster, and in 1812 to Harrisburg, in each instance taking along most of its original furniture, including the Speaker's chair. As late as 1852, the Speaker's chair was still in use in the House of Representatives, in Harrisburg.⁹⁹

⁹⁸ Madison's Notes, in Max Farrand, ed., The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787, (4 vols., New Haven, 1937), Vol. II, pp. 648-649.

⁹⁹ "Revolutionary Relics - During the sessions of the Monumental conventions, which sat last week, repeated inquiries were made by the delegates from abroad, as to the whereabouts of the ancient furniture of Independence Hall. They were informed by the Committee, that the chair in which John Hancock sat when he signed the Declaration of Independence, has been taken to Harrisburg, and was used in the House of Representatives as the Speaker's chair, while other articles of less importance, but still interesting, from historical associations had been removed, and were in the possession of individuals. The delegates from other states appeared to be surprised that the authorities of the city should have parted with that which would have added so much additional interest to the Hall, and which really was almost a part of the sacred building...." Phila. Public Ledger, July 12, 1852.

By 1867, with the Centennial approaching, momentum had gathered to return the "ancient furniture of Independence Hall" to that building. The Speaker's chair was brought back to Philadelphia and formally presented to the City on Washington's birthday.¹⁰⁰ Placed on exhibition in the Assembly Room, it has remained there ever since.

It is recommended that the "Rising Sun" chair be restored and remain as the Speaker's Chair.

Historically it represents the most important, and, to our knowledge, the only surviving piece of furniture associated with the Constitutional Convention; the second half of the story to be interpreted in the Assembly Room.

Secondly, it provides a tangible connection between the public and three historically famous personalities, as well as a connection between them: Washington, as presiding officer of the Constitutional Convention; Franklin, who imaginatively interpreted the chair as a symbol of the future of the United States; and Madison, who recorded the incident.

¹⁰⁰Feb. 22, 1867. "On Feb. 22, 1867, celebrations of Washington's birthday was held in the Assembly Room in Independence Hall at which time the so-called "Hancock Chair" [Rising Sun chair] and the "Declaration of Independence Table" were presented formally to the City of Philadelphia by authorities of the State of Pennsylvania." Unidentified newspaper clipping, Feb. 23, 1867, INHP files

Secretary's Chair

The secrecy injunction which obtained for both Continental Congresses and the Federal Convention precluded the presence in the Assembly Room during their sessions of any unauthorized persons. As a result, permanent Secretary of the Continental Congress Charles Thomson's two clerk assistants presumably remained in the Secretary's office on the second floor of the east wing. Thus, there should properly be only one chair at the Secretary's table. One that, under the circumstances, he apparently took over from the Clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly. Presumably the Secretary's chair was similar in form to those of the delegates, a practice true in the 1790's in Congress Hall where the Clerk of the House and members sat in similar chairs.¹⁰¹

It is recommended that a windsor or rush seat armchair be placed at the Secretary's table.

Visitor's Chair

Officers of the Continental Armed Forces who had business with the Congress were announced at the door by the doorkeeper, ushered into the gallery, and with the approval of the President, permitted to take a seat within the bar at the front of the room in order to present their business before the members. General Gates on an official visit on June 18th, 1777, had as advocate, Roger Sherman, Delegate from Connecticut, who "informed" Congress that he, [Gates] was waiting at the door, and wished admittance. Mr. Paca desired to know for what purpose,

¹⁰¹. See INHP, Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall, March, 1963. Illus. 3.

to which friend Roger replied to communicate intelligence of importance. He was accordingly ushered in, and after some awkward ceremony, sat himself in a very easy cavalier posture in an elbow chair, and began to open his budget."¹⁰² Perhaps the "awkward ceremony" referred to was in having the General stand at the Secretary's table while Charles Thomson administered the oath of secrecy.

It is also possible that a distinguished private person who the Congress wished to honor, may have been permitted to observe the workings of the Congress, as was the custom followed by the Pennsylvania Assembly on the second floor. There, a visitor, commenting upon the obliging nature of Speaker Thomas Mifflin, said: "Upon my expressing a wish to hear the debates of the Assembly, he politely offered me a front seat in the house."¹⁰³

It is recommended that a rush seat or windsor armchair be placed at the Publications Table for distinguished visitors.

¹⁰². Letters, 1776-1788, Philip Schuyler, p. 209, Bancroft Coll., MSS., [NYPL].

¹⁰³. Diary of Robert Hunter, MSS., Huntington Library, Vol. II.

Doorkeeper's Chair

From the beginning, secrecy as to their deliberations and resolutions was required of members of the Continental Congresses. To aid in the maintenance of this requirement the Congress employed a doorkeeper,¹⁰⁴ much in the manner that the Assembly of Pennsylvania had maintained such an officer before it turned its first floor quarters over to the Congress. The Pennsylvania Assembly had a sergeant-at-arms in addition to a doorkeeper, who saw that order was maintained; but the Congress, perhaps as much from an economy standpoint as from the standpoint of security, chose to incorporate both in the person of a single doorkeeper.

Doorkeepers in eighteenth century public buildings sat in elevated positions inside the entrance to court or assembly rooms.

¹⁰⁴Contingent expenses

"[No.] 974 - For a warrant in favor of Charles Thomson for sundries paid for him to Andrew McNair late doorkeeper to Congress.... [\$] 56.30." Journal, Treasury Office & Auditor General's Office, p. 151, National Archives. (Sept. 30, 1769),

"No. 1229 There is due to Robert Patton his Pay as Doorkeeper to Congress from 16th June to the 13th October 1778 inclusive Two Hundred and Forty Dollars;...." Papers of Continental Congress Item 136, p. 625, Vol. II (National Archives, R.G., 11).

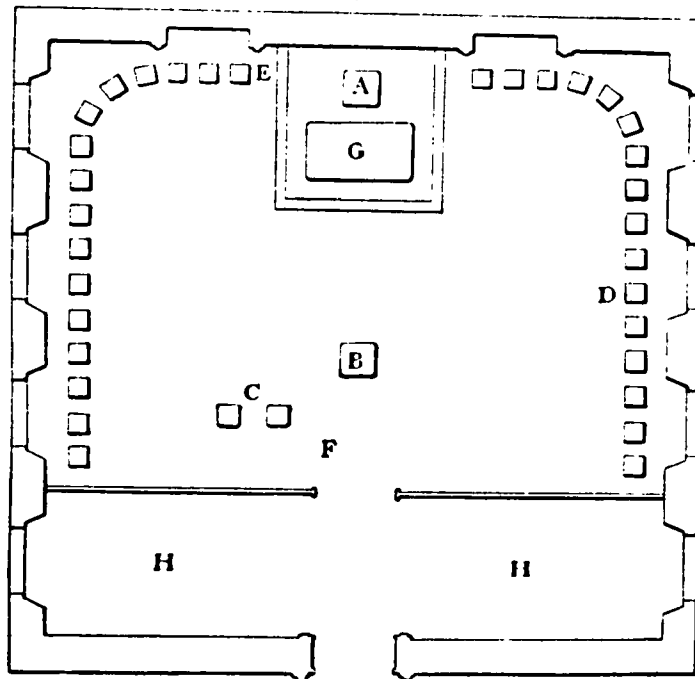
"[1752] It was the practice in the House of Assembly to have candles lighted at dark. The Speaker would then call 'Candles,' and the Door-keeper would immediately bring them in." Hazard's Register, Vol. V, (Jan. to July, 1830), p. 115.

Here they could have a reasonably unobstructed view of the chamber, and could be immediately recognized by a Judge or Speaker in order to assist in maintaining order and in any way to assist the ranking official. Some Windsor chairs, having extended legs, may have been made for the use of doorkeepers, such as those in Carpenters' Hall which are said to have been used by the First Continental Congress. Other doorkeeper's chairs such as those used in Congress Hall in the 1790's, were on "pedestals"¹⁰⁵ or low platforms. The tradition of a Doorkeeper's chair upon a low platform continues to this day in the Pennsylvania Legislature and State Courts.

It is recommended that a reproduction Windsor armchair having extended legs, or a regular Windsor armchair placed upon a period platform, be located just inside the entrance to the Assembly Room.

¹⁰⁵. INHP Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall, March 1961.
Part D, Section III, pp. 44-45.

PLAN
*de la Salle du Congrès des États-Unis de l'Amérique
lors de la remise des lettres de créance
du Ministre Plénipotentiaire du Roi.*



RENOI.

- A Fauteuil du Président
- B Fauteuil du Ministre Plénipotentiaire
- C Sièges du Comité
- D Membres du Congrès
- E Secrétaire du Congrès
- F Secrétaire de Légation
ou cortège de bonnet
- G Table couverte d'un tapis vert
- H Public debout

Illustration #17. Seating plan of Assembly Room, August 6, 1778, at the reception of Conrad Alexandre Gerard, first French Minister to the United States. From Henri Doniol, Histoire de la Participation de la France à l'Etablissement des États-Unis d'Amérique, Paris, 1881. INHP Neg. #1504.

WALL DECORATIONS

Penn Arms.

Governor John Penn wrote to his brother Thomas in England on March 17, 1764, "... some of the members the other day, were for pulling down the [Penn] Arms over the Speakers Chair and putting up the Kings Arms in their place.¹⁰⁶ Due to the intelligent planning of William Penn and the wise administration of his family, the royal grant to discharge a debt had become not only a "Holy Experiment" but a family bonanza. Human nature being ever constant in its foibles, it follows that an undercover movement existed to make Pennsylvania a Crown Colony instead of a private Proprietorship. This was successfully avoided by the Penns in residence on both sides of the Atlantic and their chosen representatives, and so the family arms remained in place until the Revolutionary period. If these carved wood arms were ceremoniously burned on July 8, 1776, at the same time that the Royal Arms above the Judge's Bench in the Supreme Court Room were consigned to a bonfire in

¹⁰⁶. Penn MSS, Vol. IX, Official Corresp., 1758-1764, p. 216, Letter, John Penn to Thomas Penn, March 17, 1764.

the State House Yard,¹⁰⁷ the act was not mentioned by contemporary observers of the occasion.

When the British evacuated Philadelphia in the summer of 1778, both the Pennsylvania Assembly and the Second Continental Congress returned to the city. There was an intensive three-month period of necessary refurbishing of the State House, which had been much-used and abused during the occupation.

As an indication of the temper of the times, we find that the Assembly had John Folwell, Philadelphia cabinetmaker, make a new Speaker's chair and the State House Arms.¹⁰⁸ These were of course installed in the second floor Assembly Room. In 1786, three years after Congress had left Philadelphia and its room in the State House, the Pennsylvania Assembly moved downstairs to its old quarters. They brought with them John Folwell's new Speaker's chair and the State Arms he had produced. The sign-painter

107. [July] 6. [1776] ... Near eight, went to committee Philosophical Hall, where eight members were voted for and carried by majority, some of whom I have no objection to, but would not rise, nor agree to support at the election some others. Agreed that the Declaration of Independence be declared at the State House next Second Day. At [the] same time, the King's arms there are to be taken down by nine Associators, here appointed, who are to convey it to a pile of casks erected upon the common for the purpose of a bonfire, and the arms placed on the top. This [Monday] being Election day, I oppose the notion, only by having this put off till next day, fearing it would interrupt the Election, but the motion was carried by a majority.

[July] 8. Warm sunshine morning. At eleven, went and met Committee of Inspection at Philosophical Hall; went there in a body to the lodge; joined the Committee of Safety (as called); went in a body to State House Yard, where, in the presence of a great concourse of people, the Declaration of Independence was read by John Nixon. The company declared their approbation by three repeated huzzas. The King's Arms were taken down in the Court Room, State House [at the] same time.... Extracts from the Diary of Christopher Marshall (1774-1781), edited by William Duane. (Albany, 1877), p. 82

108. "Sir, Please to pay Mr John Folwell two hundred pounds for Stuff to make the Chair and State Arms. William Hollingshead, Chas. Willson Peale, Committee of Assembly. Dec. 7. 1779. David Rittenhouse Esq., State Treasure. Decem. 7, 1779 Received the Contents John Folwell." Sellers Family Papers, Vol. 6, p. 6. [MSS. American Philosophical Society.]

Matthew Pratt, depicting "The Federal Convention of 1787,"¹⁰⁹ showed the State Arms in place above Washington, the presiding officer of the Convention, so we know that the Penn Arms did not survive into the post-Revolutionary era. Just when they were removed we do not yet know.

¹⁰⁹. The painting has apparently not survived but a description has: "One of Matthew Pratt's most famous signs, perhaps the best for the artistic skill displayed in the execution of so vast a subject, was the picture of the Convention seated in Independence Hall, which he painted for the 'Federal Convention of 1787' Inn, kept by Hanna, and afterward by George Poppal, at No. 178 South Street, between Fourth and Fifth. The figures in this picture were striking likenesses of the members of the Convention." In the Portfolio of 1824 this sign was thus described:

"The room itself was correctly represented as it stood at the time - richly wainscoted, with pediments over the doors, and Ionic pilasters supporting a full entablature of the order beneath a coved ceiling - though all these appropriate accompaniments of a public apartment have since been taken down by some ruthless commissioner of repairs, to be replaced with naked walls and meagre door-cases, which now disappoint the expectations of those who visit this memorable council-chamber, which has not been inaptly denominated 'the cradle of American Independence,' and which ought to have been scrupulously preserved in its pristine state to future ages. On one side of this highly-interesting historical composition the President, George Washington, was seen in the chair, under the lofty central panel at the east end of the room, which was then ornamented with the arms of Pennsylvania. On his right, Judge Wilson occupied the chair with that imposing air which was natural to him, and which had strongly impressed the delineator; while on his left and immediately under the eye of the spectator, sat the aged Franklin in his armchair, which must have been placed so near the bar that the venerable sage, then in his eighty-third year and suffering under a peculiar infirmity, might approach his seat in the sedan-chair he had bought in Europe, and which was the only mode of conveyance he could then support. On the other side of this contemporaneous memento the House was depicted in committee, and no particular feature of the scene is now recollected, but on both sides was inscribed the following quaint prognostication of their patriotic exertions, which has since been so happily fulfilled, -

'These thirty-eight men together have agreed That
better times to us shall very soon succeed''

As part of the Park's inheritance from the old Independence Hall Collection, we have a small carved wood Penn Arms accessioned in 1912 with no indication as to its origin (Illus. 18). These arms were gilded when found and upon investigation proved to have had no previous coats of paint. Heraldry is an exacting art and the arms granted to Sir William Penn were silver and black in color. Because of their incorrect coloring, these are not the arms which originally hung in the Assembly Room, and are probably of late nineteenth century origin.

Armorial and pseudo-armorial cartouches were well known to prosperous eighteenth century Philadelphians, whether they were entitled to the device by inheritance, or merely aspired to one. Such arms in overmantel cartouches are found at "Woodford" in Fairmount Park and the Powel House (pseudo-armorial) on Third Street. The architectural cartouche most pertinent to our study is that above the pulpit in St. Peter's Church at Third and Pine Streets. Here, within a broken arch, we find a cartouche installed when the building was erected in 1761.¹¹⁰

110. "Above and behind the pulpit is a large handsomely moulded panel surmounted by a broken pedimental head, with a carved floreated design in high relief within the break. Tradition has it that this panel was originally intended to contain the Penn Coat of Arms, but I find no historical evidence of the fact. At any rate it remained plain." St. Peter's Church..., by C.P. Beauchamp Jefferys. The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, October, 1923, p. 352.

"I never studied the design closely enough to see if the 'fesse with plates' was carved in low relief below the white or cream paint. If it is there then obviously I was in error. The present coat of arms shown in the photograph in Old Philadelphia Houses... [Elizabeth McCall, Old Philadelphia Houses in Society Hill, Phila., 1966, p. 157] does not conform to Penn arms as the 'plates' show dark on a light 'fesse.' I do not know when this was done but I imagine rather recently. The Rev. Joseph Koci, Jr., should be able to tell you; it was probably done under his rectorship." Letter from C.P. Beauchamp Jefferys, Newport, R.I., October 14, 1966, to the writer. The present gold embellishment on the woodwork in St. Peter's Church is done with what must be gold paint instead of gold leaf. At any rate, the applied gold Penn's arms above the pulpit are neither correct nor original with the woodwork.



Illustration #18. Penn family coat of arms. Carved and gilded wood, 19th century. Found in Independence Hall, c.1912. INHP Collection. INHP Neg. #26657.

This does not preclude the possibility that upon close inspection, a properly painted Penn Arms could be discovered under layers of paint.

The cartouche is larger than the Penn Arms now in the Park collection and has been made to be seen to the best advantage from below.

It is recommended that the nineteenth century arms, re-painted in the proper colors, be hung above the Speaker's chair until a reproduction of the original, larger, arms can be carved.

Wall maps

If the arriving delegates were to give sideward glances as they entered the Assembly Room, they would have found, hanging upon the walls two 8' x 8' maps, suspended from rollers attached at the top of the central moldings. In 1746, Benjamin Franklin, Secretary of the Assembly, wrote to his friend William Strahan in London: "... to desire you to send me two setts of Popple's Mapps of N. America one bound the other in Sheets, they are for our Assembly"; to which he added the postscript: "I forgot to mention, that there must be some other large maps of the whole World, or of Asia, or Africa, or Europe, of equal Size with Popple's to match it; they being to be hung, one on each side the Door in the Assembly Room; if none can be had of equal Size, send some Prospects of principal Cities, or the like, to be pasted on the Sides, to make up the Bigness."¹¹¹ He enquired again in 1747: "I must desire you to send per first Opportunity the Maps formerly wrote for, viz. Popple's large One of North America pasted on Rollers; Ditto bound in a Book: and 8 or 10 other maps of equal

¹¹¹. Benjamin Franklin to William Strahan, October 19, 1748. The Papers of Benjamin Franklin (New Haven, 1961). Vol. III, p. 77.



Illustration #19. A Map of the British Empire in America with the French and Spanish Settlements adjacent thereto, by Henry Popple, London, 1733. A copy of this map, on rollers, hung in the Assembly Room. INHP Neg. #9231.

Size to be had; they are for the long Gallery and the Assembly Room in the Statehouse. If none so large are to be got, let Prospects of Cities, Buildings &c be pasted round them, to make them as large."¹¹² The receipt of the maps in October of 1748 was duly acknowledged by Franklin,¹¹³ and their continued presence upon the wall was noted by Massachusetts delegate to the Continental Congress John Adams, who, writing to his wife on August 13, 1776, notes concerning Popple's map: "It is the largest I ever saw, and the most distinct, not very accurate. It is Eight foot square. - There is one in the Pensilvania State House."¹¹⁴

It is recommended that a pre-1748 set of Popple's map of North America, 8 feet by 8 feet, be "pasted up," and hung on rollers on the south side of the west wall.

It is recommended that a map of the whole world, colored, and pre-dating the year 1748, be hung on rollers within the moldings on the northwest side of the wall of the Assembly Room and that prospects of the principal cities be pasted around it to take up the bigness.

Since these maps will be located in the area used by visitors, special consideration should be given to protecting them. Perhaps they should be protected by a plexiglass baffle.

¹¹². Ibid. Vol. III, p. 321.

¹¹³. "I receiv'd your Favour of April 25, with the Maps, &c...." ALS, Pierpont Morgan Library.

¹¹⁴. Adams Family Correspondence, (Cambridge, 1963), Vol. II, p. 90.

Chambly Flag

Chambly, near Quebec, was the scene of a much-heralded success in our ill-fated Canadian campaign. Two pairs of colors, apparently two Regimental colors and two Union-Jacks, arrived in Philadelphia on the night of November 4, 1775, for presentation to Congress. Since the courier had arrived after the Congress had adjourned for the day, he delivered them to the residence of John Hancock. In a burst of patriotism and whimsy, Mrs. Hancock festooned all of the flags about her bed chamber where John Adams observed them.¹¹⁵

All four flags were apparently delivered to the State House the following day, three to the War Office and one to the Assembly Room, where they were hung flat against the wall, in the manner of tapestries.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁵. "Nov. 4, 1775... Two Pair of colours belonging to the Seventh Regiment, were brought here last night from Chambly, and hung up in Mrs. Hancock's Chamber With great Splendor and Elegance." Adams Family Correspondence, Vol. I, The Belknap Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1961. p. 320.

¹¹⁶. As the number of battle flags grew they were assembled in the east wing in Secretary Thomson's office and in the War Office. "Secretary Hall... has nothing remarkable but the manner in which it is furnished; the colors taken from the enemy serve by way of tapestry." Chastellux, Travels in North America, 1780-82, p. 223.

Also: "In a wing just by the hall of Congress, is an apartment for the reception of indian deputations. The war department is also in that part of the building, and has a large room, where are kept with the greatest care and order, the flags and other trophies taken from the enemy." E.W. Balch, "Narrative of Prince de Broglie," Magazine of American History, Vol. I (1877), p. 232.

John Langdon, delegate from New Hampshire, writing to a friend two days later, on November 6, said: "... [I] Have the pleasure to inform you ... that we have the Regimental Colours of the Seventh Regiment [Illus. 20] hung up in Congress which was taken at Chamble [sic] which place was taken by our troops, with all Six Tons of Powder, Provision, arms in Considerable quantity...."¹¹⁷ The exact position of the trophy flag is not known, but from what is known of the use of the wall areas in the Assembly Room, it seems possible that this flag was hung on the panel above one of the fireplaces. Since it was not an American regimental flag to be retired with honors, it would probably not have been accorded the position of highest honors, i.e. to the right of the President of Congress.

The original flag has survived and is now in the West Point Museum Collection (Illus. 20).

It is recommended that the original flag be procured on loan, or that a replica be made and hung against the south side of the east wall of the room.

Declaration of Independence Broadside

The Prince de Broglie visiting Philadelphia in 1782, like all visitors of note, included a visit to the Pennsylvania State House on his tour. In the Assembly Room he observed, among other things, "... a bad engraving of Montgomery, one of Washington, and a copy of the Declaration of

¹¹⁷ Letter, Nov. 1775, John Langdon to A. R. Cutter in Folder 4 "Old Congress" (Case I, Box 8), Gratz Coll. HSP.

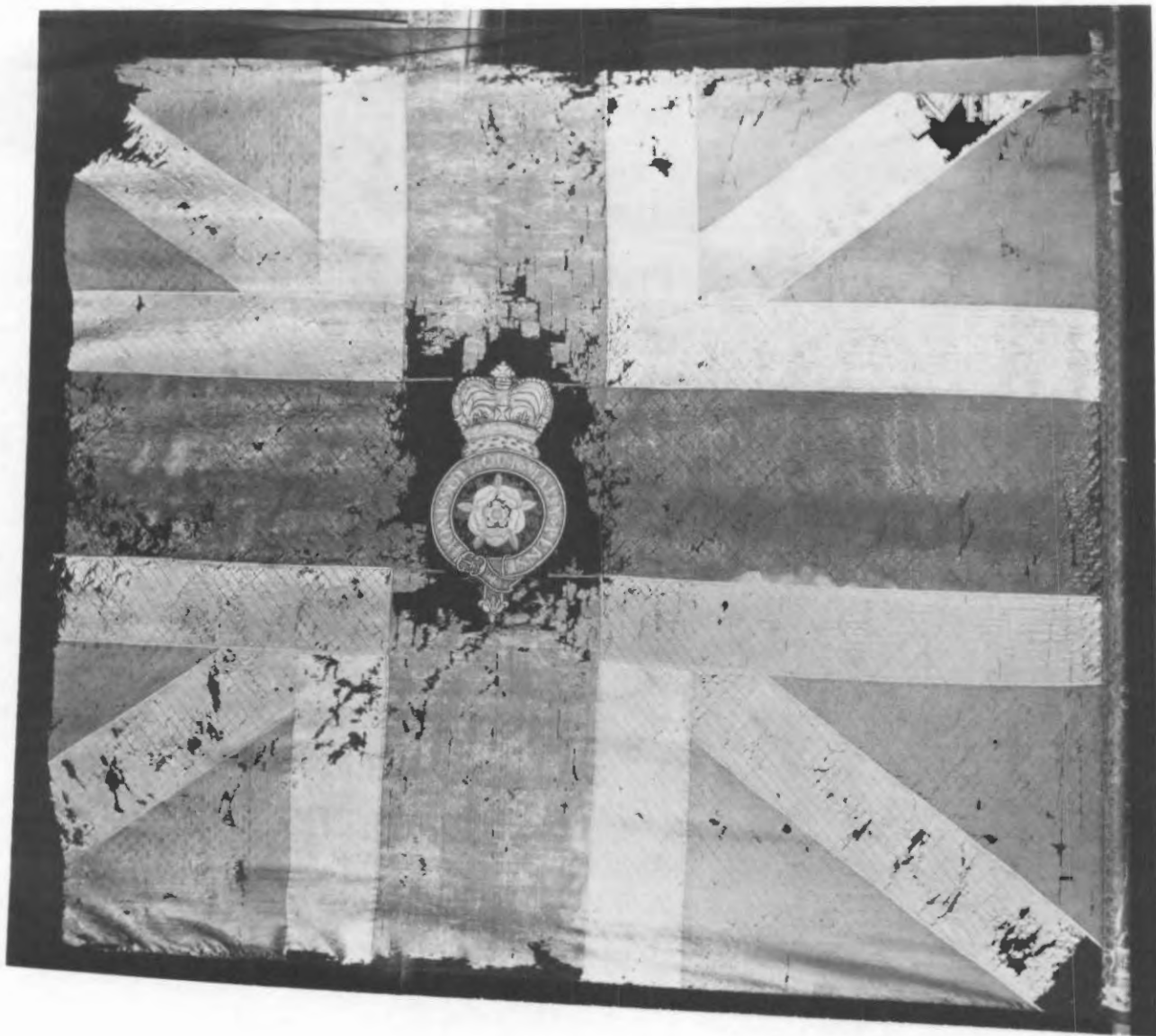


Illustration #20. Seventh Royal Fusilier's flag, captured at Chambly in Canada and hung in the Assembly Room in 1775. West Point Museum Collection. INHP Neg. #9105.

Independence."¹¹⁸ It is quite possible that the Declaration referred to was one of the broadsides printed the night of July 4, 1776, by John Dunlap (Illus. 25; note, this and the following 4 illustrations are numerically out of sequence) which had been framed and hung in the room as a memento of its recent historic past and a constant reminder that the Nation's true independence was still to be fought and worked for.

One of the treasures of the Independence National Historical Park is a Dunlap broadside (Cat. No. 1071) found among the papers of John Nixon, who, as Sheriff of Philadelphia County, gave the Declaration of Independence its first public reading on July 8, 1776.

It is recommended that the original Nixon broadside be placed in an eighteenth century frame and securely hung in the plaster panel immediately north of the entrance door. This position above the Doorkeeper's chair would provide a degree of safety for the print and at the same time it would be readily readable by the visitor in the gallery area.

¹¹⁸ E. W. Balch, translator. "Narrative of the Prince de Broglie 1782," Magazine of American History, Vol. I (1877), pp. 231-232.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.
He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Now have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

Attest.
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

Illustration #25. Declaration of Independence, first printed edition, July 4-5, 1776. This copy once belonged to Col. John Nixon. INHP Collection, Cat. No. 1071. INHP Neg. 8343.

Oil Portrait and Engraving of Washington

As a fitting tribute to Washington, the man of the hour, who had accepted the command of the Continental forces in their first floor Assembly Room, the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania spread upon its minutes for January 18, 1779:

"Whereas, The wisest, freeest, & bravest nations, in the most virtuous times have endeavored to perpetuate the memory of those who have rendered their country distinguished services by preserving their resemblances in statues & paintings; This Council, Deeply sensible how much the liberty, safety, & happiness of America in General, & Pennsylvania in particular, is owing to His Excell'y General Washington & the brave men under his Command, do resolve, That His Excell'y Gen'l Washington be requested to permit this Council to place his Portrait in the Council Chamber, not only as a mark of the great respect which they bear to His Excellency, but that the contemplation of it may excite others to tread in the same glorious & disinterested steps which lead to public happiness and private honor, and that the President be desired to wait on his Excellency the General, with the above request, and if granted to inquire when & where it will be most agreeable to him for Mr. Peale to attend him."¹¹⁹

Washington agreed to sittings in a letter dated January 20, 1779 and the likeness was taken in the few days between January 20, and February 1. (Illus. 23). Over a month was required to finish the portrait and upon completion it was hung in the first floor Assembly Room, apparently because there it could better "excite others to tread in the same glorious and disinterested steps..."¹²⁰ It made just such a predictable impression upon the Marquis De Chastellux who on December 4, 1780 was shown "... the hall in which the Congress meets...", and thus

¹¹⁹. Colonial Records, Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, Vol. XI, pp. 671-672.

¹²⁰. Charles Coleman Sellers, Portraits by Charles Willson Peale, Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. 42, Part I, 1952, p. 227.



Illustration #23. Life size portrait in oils of Washington by Charles Willson Peale. This painting was commissioned by the Assembly of Pennsylvania in 1779 and hung in the Assembly Room from 1779 to 1781. Collection of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. INHP Neg. #9234.

described it: "... This Hall is spacious without being lavishly decorated; its handsomest ornament is the portrait of General Washington, larger than life. He is represented at full length in that noble and easy attitude which is natural to him; cannon, flags, and all the attributes of war form the accessories of the picture.¹²¹

Tradition and latter day conjecture would place the painting within the tabernacle frame behind the Speaker's chair. For the period it remained in the Assembly Room this may have been its position; however, on September 9, 1781, vandals broke into the State House and, among other things, slashed the portrait six times in the upper background.¹²² This prompted the artist to take the portrait back to his studio for repairs. There it remained until the latter part of the year 1784, when it was returned to the State House,¹²³ but as it was then without a frame, "James Reynolds, Carver and Gilder," was paid thirty-nine pounds ten shillings in specie by the Supreme Executive Council for a burnished gold frame for the Washington portrait, and for pasting, varnishing and putting four maps on rollers.¹²⁴ As the first floor Assembly Room was not then

¹²¹. Marquis De Chastellux (translated by H.C. Rice), Travels in North America.... University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1962. Vol. I, p. 143.

¹²². Fitzpatrick, ed., Writings of Washington, Vol. XIV, p. 33, footnote #38.

Also: Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. 42, Part I, p. 227.

¹²³. See footnote #120.

¹²⁴. (November 26th, 1784) "Upon reconsidering the account of James Reynolds, for a picture frame in burnished gold, for the portrait of his Excellency General Washington, and pasting, varnishing and putting four maps on rollers,... [£39..10..0]." Colonial Record, Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, Vol. XIV, p. 265.

in use it is believed that the Washington portrait joined the portraits of Franklin and Wharton¹²⁵ in the Supreme Executive Council Chamber on the second floor. Washington, as President of the Federal Convention in 1787, was thus spared the embarrassment of presiding in the shadow of a life-size rendering of himself. But, to return to the Assembly Room during the tenure of the Second Continental Congress: The Prince de Broglie, visiting the room in 1782, after the oil portrait had been vandalized and returned to the artist's studio, noted that there was then only an engraving of Washington to be seen as part of the decorations.¹²⁶ Presumably this was a copy of the engraving which Peale advertised in January, 1781, as a: "... new Impression in Metztintio from the original Picture belonging to the State of Pennsylvania; Poster size, i.e. 14 Inches by 10 Inches, exclusive of the Margin."¹²⁷ (Illus 24). The life-size portrait hung in the first floor Assembly Room from April, 1779 to September, 1781.¹²⁸ This in itself does not make it an historically essential part of the room's furnishings, however, for it was placed in the room where Congress sat, initially perhaps, as a courteous gesture, then reclaimed by the artist (it had never been paid for, though the artist thought of it as State property), eventually returned to the State House and placed in the Governor's office where it remained until Peale reclaimed it again, and placed it in his Museum in the Long Gallery.¹²⁹

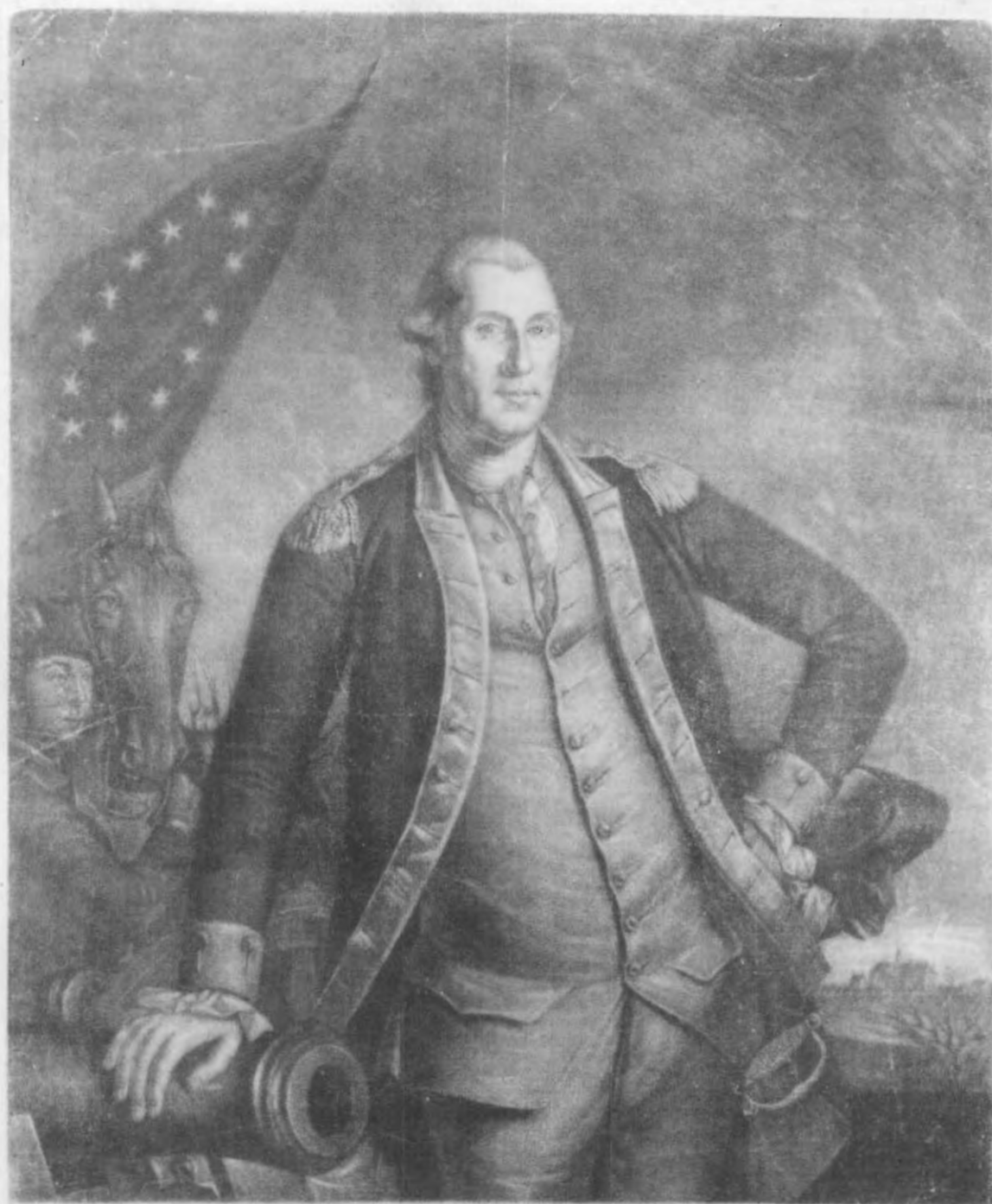
¹²⁵. See footnote #120.

¹²⁶. See pages 94 to 95.

¹²⁷. Pa. Gazette, Jan. 3, 1781, p. 3 col 3.

¹²⁸. See Illus. 23

¹²⁹. Ibid.



Chas Willson Peale Pinx't et fecit (1780)
His Excellency **George Washington** Esquire Commander in
Chief of the Federal Army —
This Plate is humbly Inscribed to the Honorable the Congress of the United States of America
By their Obedient Servant Chas Willson Peale.

Illustration #24. Mezzotint engraving by Charles Willson Peale of Gen. George Washington. Philadelphia, 1780. A copy of this engraving hung in the Assembly Room. INHP Neg. #1674.

Since it is likely that the small, framed mezzotint engraving of Charles Willson Peale's George Washington hung in the Assembly Room for many more years than Peale's original painting, it is recommended that an original mezzotint be again hung there.

Montgomery Engravings

The first fallen heroes of a noble cause receive the acclaim which is their due. On January 25, 1776 a committee of Congress 'resolved that a monument be procured from Paris or any other part of France, and erected in that Room of the State House in Philadelphia in which The Continental Congress now sit, and that it bear an Inscription sacred to the memory of Genl Richard Montgomery and best calculated to perpetuate his fame.'¹³⁰ The sum of three hundred Pounds Sterling was allotted for the monument and Doctor Franklin was appointed to see to its execution Franklin carried through his commission well, having obtained a marble monument by the sculptor Caffieri¹³¹ and having it shipped for safety's sake to the southern port of Edenton, North Carolina. There it remained all through the Revolution, and for some time thereafter when finally

¹³⁰.Committee of Congress, Report on Memorial for General Montgomery. In Burnett, Letters of Members of the Continental Congress, Vol. I, p. 329.

¹³¹.Jean Jacques Caffieri, French sculptor.

upon the return of General Montgomery's remains to New York City, the long-neglected monument was installed under the portico of St. Paul's Church and became the General's tomb.¹³²

An engraving of the monument, by Gabriel St. Aubin (Illus. 21), had been included in the packing case, along with the instructions for assembling it.¹³³ However, it must have been another copy of the engraving, the one which Franklin had sent to Henry Laurens as President of Congress, which was hanging in the Assembly Room when it was defaced by vandals in September 1781,¹³⁴ together with Charles Willson Peale's

¹³². The Monument of General Richard Montgomery, by Henry W. Kent, p. 1. Typescript in INHP files.

¹³³. Ibid. p. 5.

¹³⁴. "In September, 1781, vandals broke into the State House at night, and slashed this portrait [Washington by C.W. Peale], and an engraving of General Montgomery's monument." Writings of Washington (footnote), Fitzpatrick, ed., Vol. XIV p. 33

Also: March 4, 1780 - A letter of October 4, 1779, with a postscript of 28th of the same month, from B. Franklin, minister of plenipotentiary at the Court of France, was read enclosing a copy of his letter to the Marquis de La Fayette, with the sword ordered to be present to him, the Marquis' answer, a description of the sword with the devices thereon; 'and engraving of the monument ordered to be erected to the memory of General Montgomery'; two invoices of goods shipped on board the Therese, 1777, a memoir of Count Mallebois; a journal of the cruise of Commodore Paul Jones, in which he captured the Serapis and Countess of Scarborough men of war; a memorie of two gunners, late belonging to the Frigate Boston, Captain Tucker; and the claim of some French seamen, who belonged to Captain Cunningham, for wages and prize money." Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. XVI, p. 226.

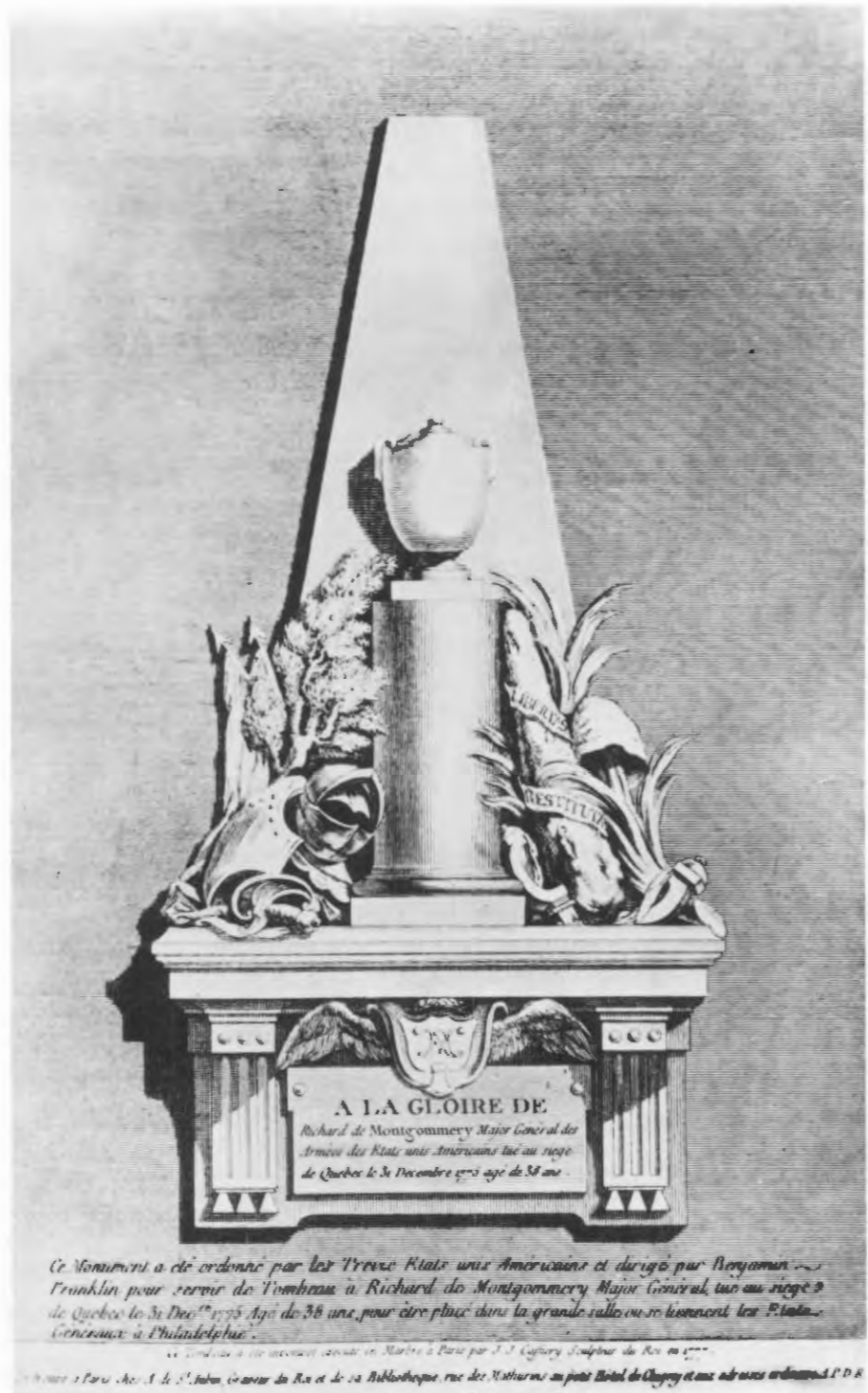


Illustration #21. Engraving by St. Aubin, of Paris, of a monument commissioned by The Congress in January 1776, in memory of General Richard Montgomery who was killed during the siege of Quebec in 1775. INHP Neg. #9232

life-size portrait of Washington. The portrait was immediately restored by the artist, but the engraving of Montgomery's monument may have been damaged beyond repair. It was apparently replaced by the small "bad engraving of Montgomery" as observed by the Prince de Broglie, visiting the State House the following year.¹³⁵ This was probably the crude portrait done posthumously by the Philadelphia engraver John Norman¹³⁶ (Illus. 22).

It is recommended that either an original Gabriel St. Aubin engraving, or a John Norman engraving be framed and hung in the room.

¹³⁵ E. W. Balch, trans; "Narrative of the Prince de Broglie 1782," Magazine of American History, Vol. I (1877), pp. 231-232.

¹³⁶ Stauffer, Richard McNeely American Engravers on Copper and Steel. 3 vols. New York. #2342 Richard Montgomery, line, rectangle, full-length in uniform; 3/4 right; right hand on breast, holding sword. 5.11 x 3.10. Inscription: Major Gen^l Rich^d Montgomery / Slain in storming Quebec Dec^r 31st 1775. / J. Norman sc." Circa 1782, Vol. I, p. 60.



Illustration #22. An engraving of General Montgomery by John Norman, Philadelphia, circa 1780. This posthumous portrait is apparently the one seen by the Prince de Broglie in the Assembly Room in 1781 and called by him "a bad portrait of Montgomery." INHP Neg. #9233.

HEATING EQUIPMENT

Fire Tools

The initial heating facilities for the Assembly Room were the two large fireplaces flanking the Speaker's podium in the east wall. In 1744, Joseph Trotter,¹³⁷ merchant was paid for two pairs of tongs, and as they were relatively expensive - £3- they must have been of a quality to match the architectural concept of the panelled east wall and the carved marble fireplace facings. A year later two more expensive embellishments were added to the fireplace when William Branson was paid £6.3.2 for "iron chimney backs."¹³⁸

Firebacks

Firebacks with an Independence Hall history have not survived the changes to the room made in the nineteenth century, so we cannot say for certain how they may have been decorated. One thing seems likely, however, and that is that they did not contain a rendering of the Royal Arms so frequently found in English firebacks of this period and found on even a few American-made ones. Pennsylvania was a Proprietary Colony

137. "[1744] Paid Joseph Trotter, for two Pair of Tongs ——— 3..0..0." Pa. Archives, 8th Series, Vol. IV, p. 2946.

138. "[1745] Paid William Branson for Iron Backs, 6..3..7." Pa. Archives, 8th Series, Vol. IV, p. 3047.

A curious circumstance concerning these firebacks is that John Kinsey, one of the Superintendents of the State House, had paid for them in 1745 but the Assembly did not reimburse his heirs until 1766. "A Member, in Behalf of the Heirs of John Kinsey, Esq., deceased presented to the House on Account, amounting to Six Pounds One Shilling and Three-pence, for some Iron Chimney-Backs, delivered by William Branson, in the Year 1744, for the Use of the Statehouse, and charged to Mr. Kinsey, who paid for the same but does not appear to have been reimbursed by the Public." (Sept. 15, 1766), Pa. Archives, Eighth Series, Vol. VII, p. 5903. If the error in the amount was not recognized, then the heirs of Kinsey were shortchanged by 2 shillings, 11 pence.

vigorously held against the attempted usurpations of a "Court [Royal] Party.' The arms above the Speaker's chair, for instance, were those of the Penn family, not George II. On the other hand, the fireback design would hardly have been either Biblical or historically Pennsylvania German. A good precedent is found in the products of a forge owned by a Pennsylvania Governor; the "Graeme Park" fireback made at Sir William Keith's foundry on the Christina River in Delaware (Illus. 26). This design consisted of swags within an arched top, and the date of manufacture. The same design was used by other Pennsylvania foundries after the ore supply at Keith's had become exhausted in 1728.¹³⁹

Andirons

Extant records of the Pennsylvania Assembly, in regard to the furnishing of the Assembly Room during the colonial era, are indicative for an over-all impression, but many specifics are missing. The fact that no voucher for the purchase of andirons specifically for the Assembly Room has been found does not mean that they did not exist. As a corollary, in 1742 Samuel Kirk was paid "for a pair of Hand Irons, Five Pounds"¹⁴⁰ to be used in the General Loan Office on the first floor of the west wing. If the cost here is an indication, then these andirons must have been

¹³⁹ Mercer, Dr. Henry C. The Bible in Iron, 3rd edition, Doylestown, 1961. p. 249, notes 385 and 386.

¹⁴⁰ Committee appointed by order of Assembly to settle Accounts of the General Loan Office.

Paid Samuel Kirk

'for a pair of Hand Irons Five Pound' [£5]."

Pa. Archives, Votes of Assembly, (Series 8), Vol. IV, p. 2008.



Illustration #26. Firebacks made for "Graeme Park," Bucks County, Pa. The firebacks ordered by the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1745 were probably similar to this one. Plate 385, The Bible in Iron, by Henry Mercer. INHP Neg. #9236.

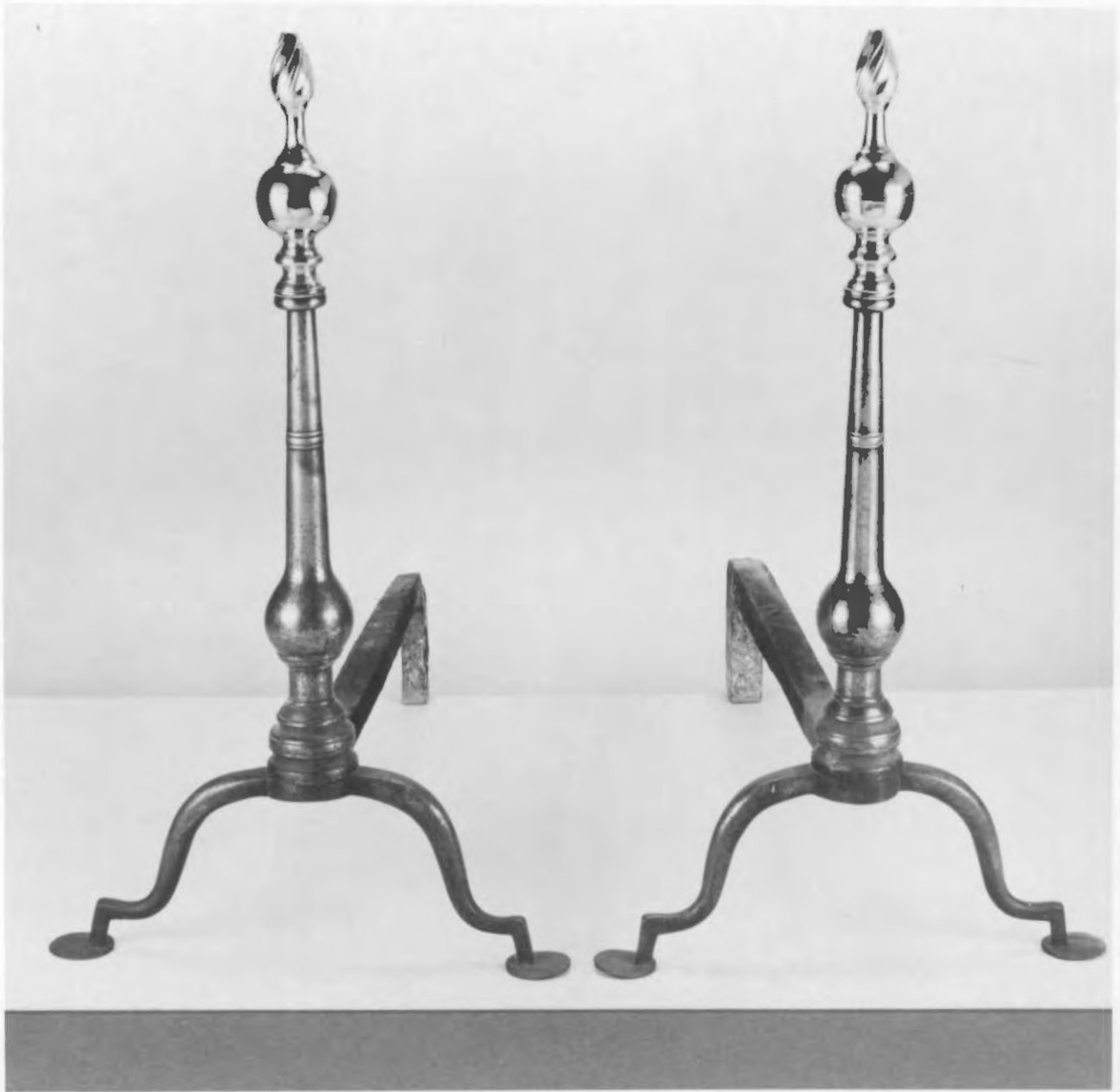


Illustration #27. American iron and brass andirons; second quarter of the 18th century. Andirons similar to these were probably purchased for the initial fitting of the Assembly Room fireplaces. H. F. du Pont Winterthur Museum Collection. INHP Neg. #8776.



Illustration #28. Pair of mid-18th century iron and brass andirons. Possibly American. These andirons may resemble the andirons originally used in the Assembly Room. Collection of Matthew & Elisabeth Sharpe. INHP Neg. #9237.

pretty impressive. One can safely conclude that andirons were used in the Assembly Room fireplaces and that they were of the same quality or better, than those for the Loan Office; and that they were of comparable quality to the expensive fire tongs and firebacks mentioned above. Brass and iron andirons of the period and quality appropriate for use in the restored Assembly Room can be found in the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum (Illus. 27), and a private collection (Illus. 28).

Fuel

From the earliest occupancy of the Assembly Room¹⁴¹ through its use during the Second Continental Congress¹⁴² - and beyond - the wood supply for the fireplaces and stoves was the charge of the doorkeeper.

Hickory was the preferred wood because of its ready combustion and heating qualities.

Tinder box

In the absence of a supply of hot coals having remained on a winter morning from the previous day's fire, a tinder box would be necessary to start the fires for the new day. Usually this took the form of a hammered iron box containing the proper accessories of flint, steel, combustible and candle; though a rarer and rather dramatic form is the pistol shaped spark maker.

¹⁴¹. (1743) "To Thomas Burden, as Doorkeeper of the House, ... cutting and piling wood, and for Candles...." Pa. Archives, 8th Series, Vol. IV, p. 2896.

¹⁴². (June 9, 1779) "That there is due to James Brown, his account for sawing wood for the use of Congress, Eighteen dollars and 60 [cents]" Journals of the Continental Congress, Vol. XIII, p. 41.

Bellows

Near the end of the Second Continental Congress' tenure of the first floor Assembly Room, there is an elaborate reference to the second floor, some contents of which, would obtain as well for the first floor, and among which items listed is a bellows.¹⁴³ This could be used when needed at either the fireplaces or the ten plate stoves.

Stoves

As Pennsylvania added more counties in the eighteenth century, either by establishing new ones in the westward movement or by splitting Penn's original counties in the east, six representatives were added to the Assembly for each county. During the winter sessions from the first occupancy of the State House until the year 1772, the assemblymen stoically relied on the fireplaces in the east wall for warmth. However, by 1772 the fifty four men representing the nine counties at that time could not all huddle before the fires. The remedy is well documented. On January 18, of that year "An Account from Lewis Brahl for two stoves and Pipes for the Assembly Room amounting to Twenty-seven Pounds sixteen shillings and Eleven pence, was laid by Mr. Hillegas before the House, and an Order for the Sum drawn on the Treasurer, to be paid out of the Fund appropriated by Law for Repairing the State-House..."¹⁴⁴ These

¹⁴³. ... for shovel, Tongs & Andirons[,] bellows, sheet iron, Candlesticks, Snuffers, & green cloth for the Secretary's office...
Comptroller General Waste Book, 1775-1783, MSS, p. 541, Div. of Public Records, Harrisburg.

¹⁴⁴. Pa. Archives (8th Series), Vol. VIII, p. 6758. A 10-plate stove dated 1772, made at the Berkshire Furnace has survived and is in the INHP collection, Cat. 3113 (Illus. 29).



Illustration #29. Pennsylvania cast iron ten-plate stove signed: "John Patton, Berkshire Furnace, 1772." The two stoves of local manufacture which were set up in the Assembly Room during the winter of 1771-72 must have closely resembled this one. The rococo decoration of this stove can also be seen in fine Philadelphia cabinet-work of this period. INHP Collection. INHP Neg. #9238.

stoves supplemented the fireplaces as a source of heat and were apparently placed on each side of the room back toward the bar ¹⁴⁵ Raised about a foot from the wood floor ¹⁴⁶ on cast iron legs, with a stove pipe rising to the cornice level and then carried by hangers to a flue opening above each fireplace, ¹⁴⁷ they must have presented a striking if incongruous addition to the architecture of the room (Illus. 30). The frequent bills

145. "It seems necessary to assign the reasons why the debates at the general Assembly are not given in this evening's paper. Mr. Carey's situation renders it dangerous to expose himself to the cold in the gallery; where he formerly took notes: he therefore through the medium of the Hon. the speaker endeavoured to prevail on the house to indulge him with permission to sit within the bar near one of the fires. But some members who are displeased with the publication of the debates, so far discountenanced this application that it was fruitless to press the matter..." Pa. Evening Herald, Wed. Nov. 9, 1785.

146. Although open stoves, such as those in Congress Hall sat upon copper or lead sheeting to protect the hearth and carpet from heat and sparks; apparently 10-plate stoves sat on unprotected floors. See Shelley, Donald A. Lewis Miller Sketches & Chronicles. Historical Society of York Co., York, Pa., 1965 p. 68, 110.

147. Historic Structures Report, Part II (Portion) Architectural Data Section on Independence Hall Assembly Room, EODC, 1964. Drawing 3404 - East Wall Assembly Room. Evidence on Brick Wall after removal of existing woodwork. See Wallace, Philip B. Colonial Churches and Meeting Houses.... Architectural Book Publishing Co., N.Y.C., 1931, pp. 200, 201, for a similar surviving arrangement of stove piping.

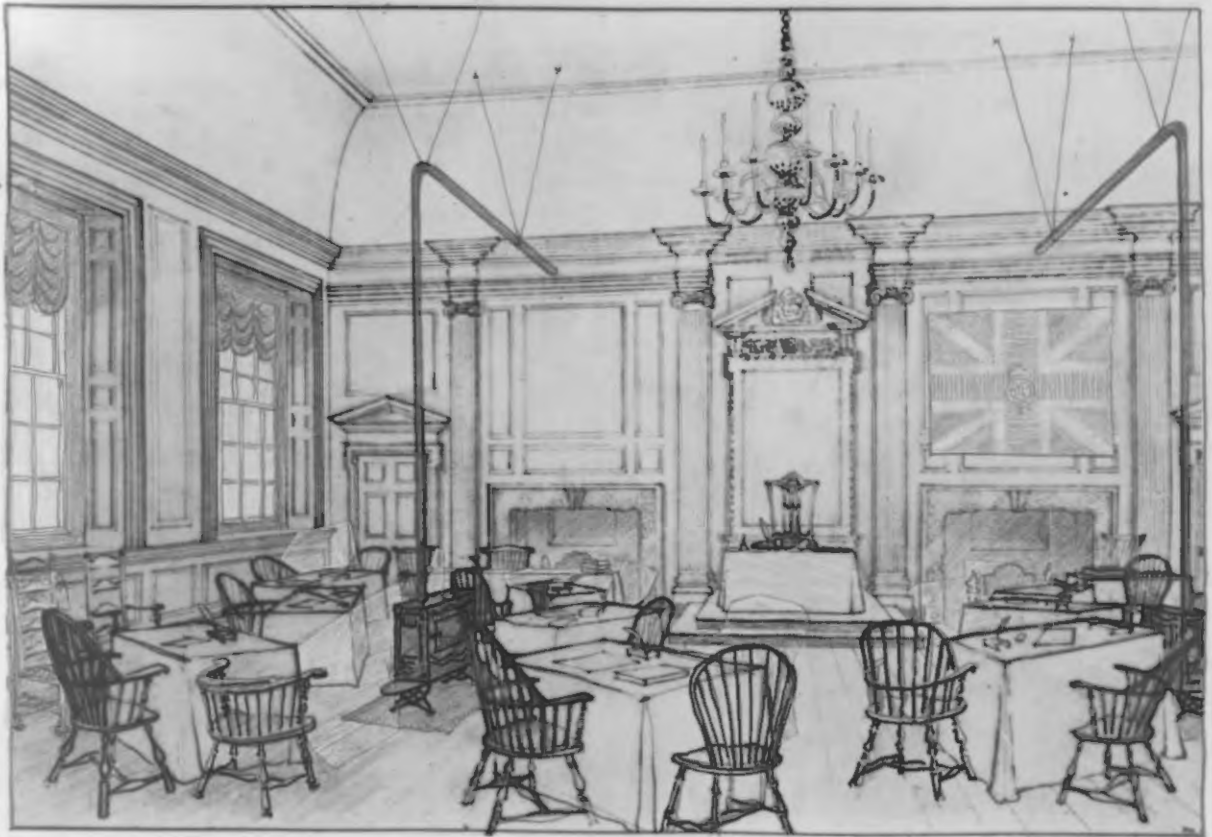


Illustration #30. The Assembly Room as it will appear when the refurnishing has been completed. The stoves shown will, in the 18th century manner, be stored during the warm seasons. Drawing by National Park Service Architect Penelope Hartshorne. INHP Neg. #9239.

for either putting up or taking down¹⁴⁸ stoves in the State House seem to imply that its stoves were removed and stored during the warm seasons

During the sessions of the Second Continental Congress for the winter of 1775-1776, the stoves had such a poor draught due to some malfunction of the flues or pipes, that Richard Smith, delegate from New Jersey, mentioned in his diary on Friday, 23 February, 1776: "... The Two Stoves in our Room were ordered by general Consent to be taken down as affecting the Health and Eyesight of the Members...."¹⁴⁹ In self defense they must have solved the draught problem, for new stoves ordered by the Congress from Cornwall Furnace¹⁵⁰ in nearby Lancaster County were installed during the winter of 1778-1779.

148. (December 12, 1775)

"To Received of John Nixon Five Pounds 13/8 in full for a Stove, frame & pipes Set up at the State House in full - 5. 13. 8.

George Esterly"

"John Nixon's Receipt Book" (1775-76), folder in Supreme Executive Council Records (Box 2), State Archives, Harrisburg.

also: "Received August 16th 1785 of James Pearson Ten Shillings.... Taking down stoves in the Assembly Room....

Richard Carty (his mark)"

Journal of House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, 1776-81, p. 478, Library Company of Philadelphia.

also: "March 6, 1779 — To Jacob Eckfield, for stove pipes and iron work for the assembly room 107.14-0." Library Company of Philadelphia, p. 479.

"Feb. 8, 1779 to John Parkes for putting up two stoves and altering chimney at the State House 15. 14. 6." Library Company of Philadelphia, p. 478.

149. R. Smith's Journal, (MSS) Box 40, Case I, Gratz Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

150. Cornwall Furnace Journal, April, 1778, records receipt of \$125 for stoves sent to the Continental Congress. Transcript of Journal at Hopewell Village National Historic Site.

It is recommended that the "Graeme Park" fireback in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania be reproduced in duplicate for the Assembly Room. The date, being interchangeable on the original mould, should be changed to "1744" the date of delivery of the State House firebacks.

If it is possible to acquire the pair of early eighteenth century andirons (Illus. 28), they should be placed in one fireplace and replicas made for the other. If it is not possible to acquire these andirons, they should be reproduced.

It is recommended that two sets of large scaled early eighteenth century fire tools (shovel¹⁵¹ and tongs), with brass finials approximating those of the andirons, be obtained to serve for the fireplaces, and that one set of plain late eighteenth century stove fire tools (shovel and tongs) serve for both stoves.

It is recommended that the "John Patton, Berkshire Furnace, 1772" ten-plate stove (Illus. 29, INHP Cat. 3113) be restored and one be reproduced from it. In the winter both stoves should be placed in the room as shown in Illus. 29. During the summer months the stoves should be removed as in the eighteenth century.

A supply of hickory wood fuel should be used for both stoves and fireplaces.

¹⁵¹. Although only tongs were listed in the early account (fn 140), it was customary to use both shovel and tongs at a fireplace.

LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Chandelier

Despite the much-quoted references to candles being "brought in" to light the late afternoon or evening sessions of the Pennsylvania Assembly, there is strong circumstantial evidence that in the mid-eighteenth century the room was also lit by a centrally hung chandelier as indicated by the eighteenth century chandelier hanger found in the ceiling (Illus. 31).¹⁵² The mid-point of the century is suggested, because, although records to show its date of installation have not been located, the so-called Independence Hall chandelier arm (Illus. 32) which was displayed in Long's Museum,¹⁵³ if valid, is from an English glass chandelier of the period 1750-1770.

The logical time for such an installation would be the 1752 to 1756 era when the State House was being so liberally embellished with a stair tower and belfry, a Library and Committee Room. For a glass chandelier to have been installed in the 1750's would have made the Assembly Room lighting very much in the latest London fashion and of great elegance. One wonders, under the circumstances, why there is not even one contemporary reference to it.

¹⁵². The hanger was one of two installed in the eighteenth century, moved in the eighteenth century, and then replaced in the early nineteenth century by another chandelier support system. For further information and photographs see the following:

Evidence drawing - NHP:IND #3502

Photographs from Washington office of Archeology & Historic Preservation, Historic Structures, Neg. #157.599, and 157.561.

Nelson - Historic Structures Report, Part II (Portion) Architectural Data Section on Independence Hall Assembly Room, INHP, 1964, Ill. 13.

¹⁵³. Presently owned by Stanley Wohl, Brice House, Annapolis, Md. See Wohl Correspondence, INHP Museum files.

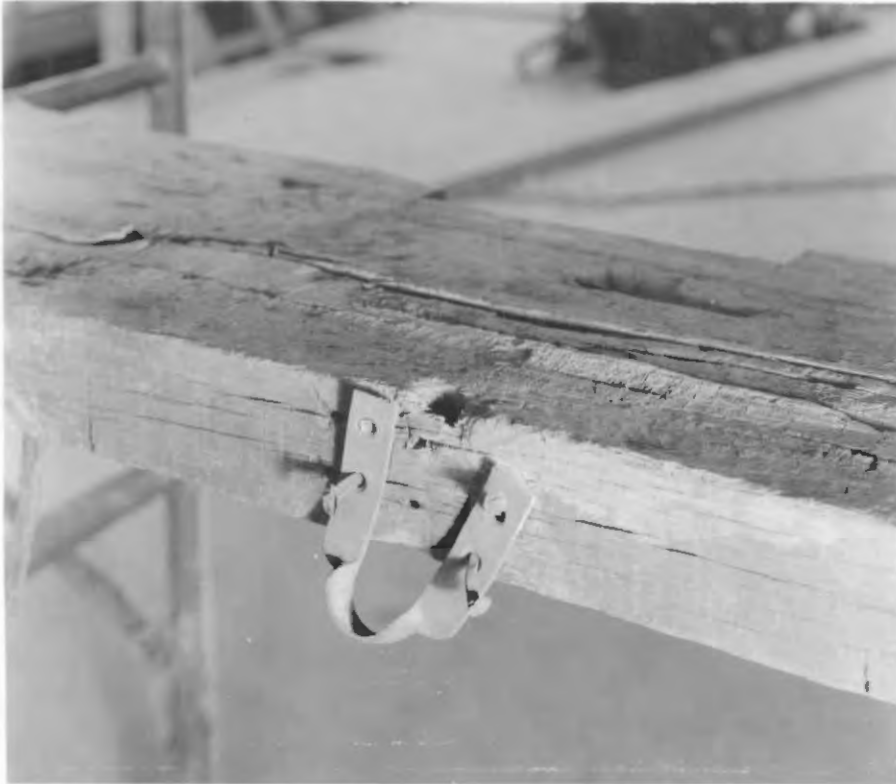


Illustration #31. 18th century wrought iron chandelier hook found in ceiling of Assembly Room. INHP Neg. #3930.

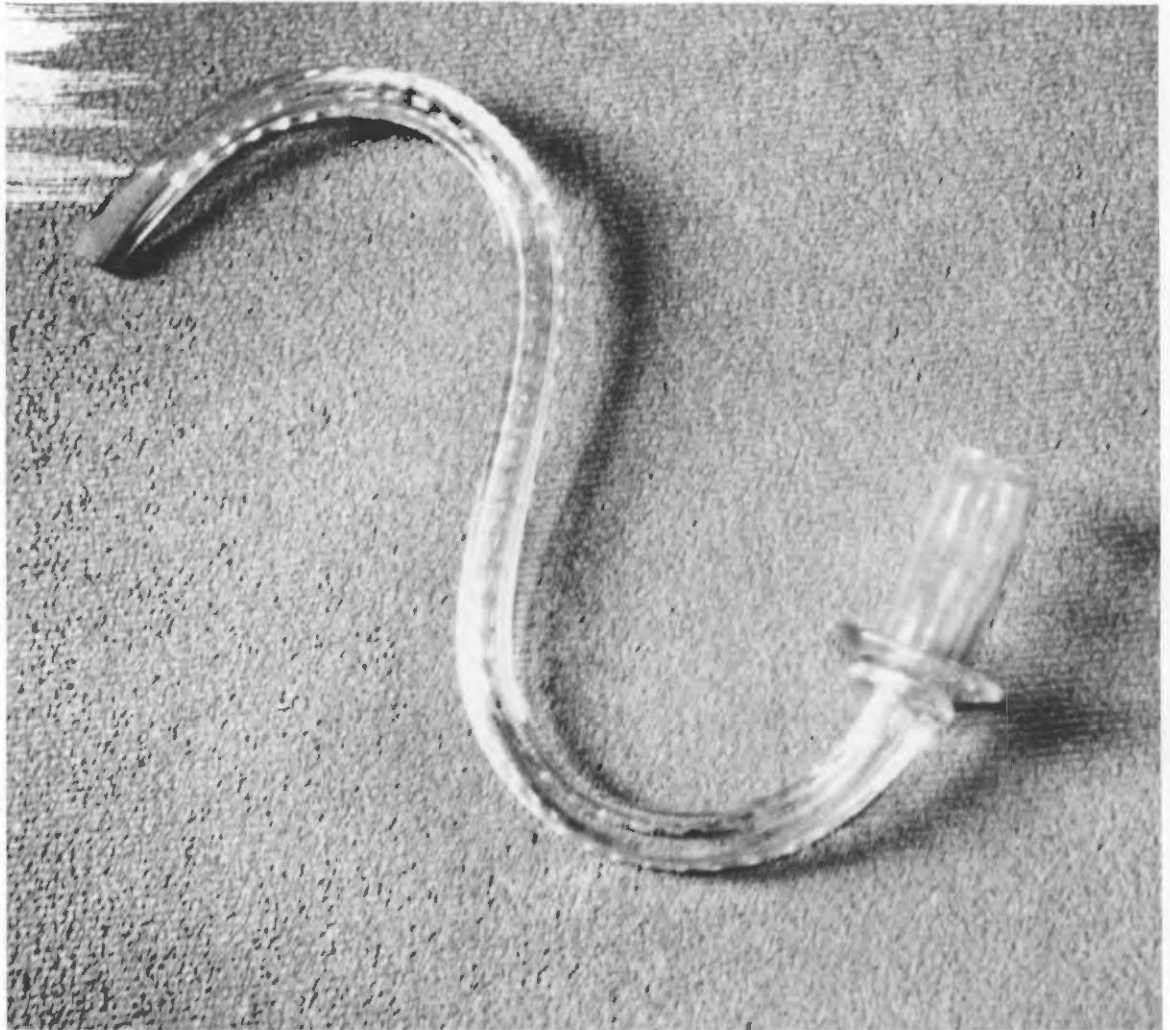


Illustration #32. English glass chandelier arm formerly exhibited in Long's Museum in Philadelphia. Said to have been part of a chandelier from Independence Hall. Third quarter of 18th century. Stanley Wohl Collection. INHP Neg. #9241.

One of the few mid-eighteenth century English glass chandeliers known to the writer is in the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum (Illus. 33). This chandelier has twelve branches, and, although similar in style to the Long chandelier arm, seems small for the scale of the Assembly Room.

Another tradition lends support to the belief that a chandelier hung in the Assembly Room in the eighteenth century. It is the crystal chandelier (S.N. 63.003) which was hung in the room in 1824 and again from the middle of the nineteenth century until removed by the National Park Service in the 1950's. It is circa 1790 in style and construction, and was purchased second-hand for \$200 in 1824 by the Lafayette Reception Committee. Perhaps there was a tradition, still remembered in 1824, that the room had been lighted in the eighteenth century by a crystal chandelier and the Reception Committee desired to find an "antique" one to place there in honor of "The Nation's Guest."

It is recommended that, in spite of its scarcity, an English mid-eighteenth century 12 or more branch glass chandelier be procured, its scale determined by the scale of the Long Museum arm.



Illustration #33. Mid-18th century English glass chandelier with arms similar to the Long's Museum chandelier arm [see Illus. #32]. A chandelier of this type may have hung in the Assembly Room in the third quarter of the 18th century. Collection of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum. INHP Neg. #3942.

Candle box and candles

During the more than fifty-eight years that the Pennsylvania Assembly occupied its State House, the after dark deliberations of the group were lighted by candles "brought in" by the doorkeeper¹⁵⁴ at the request of the Speaker. We do not know from which direction the doorkeeper brought his supply of candlesticks and candles. He could have stored them on shelves in the guard room, or on shelves in the Library entry or elsewhere. Candles were purchased by the pound¹⁵⁵ and must have been conveniently stored in wooden boxes because of their fragile nature.

Candlesticks

It is curious to note that all the references to candlesticks used in the State House, thus far located, mentioned the rooms for which they were purchased, and are: steel candlesticks for an office¹⁵⁶ and silver candlesticks and sconces for the Governor's Council Chamber¹⁵⁷ but there

¹⁵⁴."[1752] It was the practice in the House of Assembly to have candles lighted at dark. The Speaker would then call "Candles," and the Doorkeeper would immediately bring them in. Some of the speakers used hand bells to keep silence." Hazard's Register, Vol. V. (Jan. to July, 1830), p. 115.

¹⁵⁵."October 20, 1777. To 6 pounds of Candles for a Gard [sic] at the Statehouse £0.9.0

To 35 pounds Candles for the Council at Dif'rent times £2.1.6" Pa. Archives, 2nd Series, Vol. I, pp. 284-87.

¹⁵⁶. 18 Nov^r 1785 Rec^d of Francis Johnston Esq^r Rec[eiver] Gen[,] thirteen shillings and six pence specie for a pair of steel candlesticks and snuffers for the use of his office Rec^d p hands 13/6 / J. Keble [signed] Poultney & Wister / p^d for 5 lb Candles 5/6 [Reverse] / 1785 Nov 18 / Poultney & Co. £.19^s [total] / Records of the Comptroller General, 1782-1809, Folder: "1785." Div. of Public Records, Harrisburg.

¹⁵⁷. Paid ... Timothy Berrett for a pair of plated Candlesticks and one pair of double sconces... [per order of the President in Council]... [April 9, 1777]... £19. 10. 0. Comptroller General Journal -A - 1, Contingent Expenses for the years 1777 & 1778, p. 42, Acc't No. 68. State Archives, Harrisburg, Pa.

is no mention of the Assembly Room or of brass candlesticks. In 1778 there was an order for purchasing £10.0.0 worth of candlesticks for the second floor Assembly Room,¹⁵⁸ but the material is unspecified. This does not rule out the use of brass candlesticks in the first floor Assembly Room. Perhaps there was an unwitting use of materials to accord with importance of the setting, i.e., silver for a Governor, brass for an Assemblyman, and steel for a Clerk.

The English and American political and public building renderings investigated so far are unclear, since they are usually depicted in daytime when candlesticks were out of sight. Candlesticks for speakers, however, such as in Rowlandsons House of Commons print,¹⁵⁹ are shown as being of brass.

Candle Snuffers

The complete rehabilitation of the State House after the British evacuated the city in June, 1778, must have taken at least six months. Presumably the snuffers ordered then¹⁶⁰ were of steel, judging from the number of snuffers that have survived from the eighteenth century.

¹⁵⁸.pd. Lewis Grant for Candlesticks, snuffers, &c. for the use of the Assembly... Dec. 12, 1778.... £10.0.0. State Archives, Harrisburg. Compt. Gen. Financial Records, Journal A-I (1775-1786) p. 86.

¹⁵⁹.R. Ackerman The Microcosm of London, N.Y., Charles Scribners Sons. 1904 (reprint), Vol. I, opp. p. 189.

¹⁶⁰.See footnote 156



Illustration #34. Silver inkstand made by Philip Syng for the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1752 at a cost of £25 - 16 - 0. INHP Collection. Photo courtesy of Philadelphia Museum of Art. INHP Neg. #8786.

It is recommended that brass candlesticks, snuffers and candles in wooden boxes be stored on the shelves in the Library and Committee Room entry, and that a chandelier lighter and extinguisher be hung from the door molding of this entry.

ACCESSORIES

Charity Box

America's first community sponsored hospital, the Pennsylvania Hospital, was dedicated in Quaker fashion to the most humane and advanced treatment known in 1751, and was founded through the efforts of Benjamin Franklin and his friends.¹⁶¹ One of the schemes for raising funds for the building was the placing of a contribution box or "Charity Box" in the State House.¹⁶² This was obviously by Franklin who was Clerk of the Assembly from Oct. 15, 1736 until he became an Assemblyman in his own right in 1752.

The box was placed in the gallery of the Assembly Room,¹⁶³ where under the watchful eyes of the doorkeeper, it was available to visitors and Assemblymen. Despite the precaution of placing it in the Assembly

¹⁶¹. (July 1, 1751) "The subscribers to the HOSPITAL are hereby notified that Monday next, being the first of July, is the day appointed by the late Act of Assembly, for the first choice of Managers of the said hospital. All concerned are desired to attend for that purpose at the Statehouse, at three a clock in the afternoon." Pa. Gazette, June 27, 1751.

Also:

(July 4, 1751) "Monday the first Instant, the Contributors to the Pennsylvania Hospital, met at the State-House, and chose twelve Managers and a Treasurer, to continue till the Election in May next, viz. Joshua Crosby, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Bond, Samuel Hazard, Richard Peters, Israel Pemberton, junior, Samuel Rhodes, Hugh Roberts, Joseph Morris, John Smith, Evan Morgan, and Charles Norris, Treasurer, John Reynell." Pa. Gazette, July 4, 1751.

¹⁶². (Aug. 6, 1761) "They who visit the House are likewise desired to remember the Charity-Box, affixed in the Hall." Pa. Gazette (Microfilm, APS), p. 1, col. 1,2,3.

¹⁶³. Ibid.

Room, rather than in the Hall,¹⁶⁴ the box was stolen, and the Assembly minutes for March 8, 1771 tell us that "The House being informed that some Person or Persons unknown did, in the Night of the Seventh Instant, break into the Assembly Room in the State-House of this City, and from thence feloniously take and carry away the Hospital Charity-Box with a Sum of Money therein,

Ordered, That the Clerk do issue an Advertisement offering a Reward of Ten Pounds to any Person who shall apprehend the said Felon or Felons, to be paid upon his or their being legally convicted."¹⁶⁵

Although the felons may or may not have been caught, the box has not survived. A rather elaborate eighteenth century charity box has survived, however, in Truro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island (Illus. 35). The Pennsylvania Hospital box may have been simpler in form, much like an oversize salt box, fitted with a slot in the lid and secured by an iron hasp, strap and padlock.

¹⁶⁴. Although one reference used the term 'Hall,' presumably it means Hall of Assembly, or Assembly Room. "They who visit the [State] House are likewise desired to remember the Charity-Box, affixed in the Hall." Pa. Gazette, Aug. 6, 1761.

¹⁶⁵. Pa. Archives, 8th Series, vol. VIII, p. 6662.

Also:

(March 12, 1771) "Last Thursday night the Assembly Hall of the local State house was broken into, and the box for the hospital with the money contained in it was stolen from there. Whoever brings the thief, male or female to arrest so that he or she is convicted of larceny in accordance with the law shall have ten pounds reward by ordinance of the Assembly." Der Wochenliche Philadelphische Staatsbote, No. 477, March 12, 1771.



Illustration #35. Charity box of mahogany with silver mounts. One of a pair made for the Touro Synagogue, Newport, R. I. Mid-18th century.

In 1771 a charity box for the Pennsylvania Hospital, perhaps much less elaborate, was stolen from the Assembly Room. INHP Neg. #3943.



Illustration #36. A ballot box which could be carried around to the delegates' tables was used in the Assembly Room by the Second Continental Congress. This early 19th century Pennsylvania wooden ballot box may resemble the one used by The Congress.
INHP Neg. #9244.

It is recommended that a Charity Box be secured and attached by wrought angle irons to the top moulding of the wainscot between the door-keeper's chair and the cut corner of the plaster molding on the northwest wall of the Assembly Room. The angle irons should provide minimal security, 2 holes each, to suggest the ease with which the box was stolen. The box should have the words "CHARITY BOX" and "PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL" painted on it.

Franklin's Sedan Chair

In order to attend the sessions of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 with some degree of comfort, Franklin was carried from Franklin Court to the bar of the Assembly Room in a sedan chair¹⁶⁶ he had presumably recently brought from France. As this was perhaps the first conveyance of its kind seen in Philadelphia, it was probably "parked" outside the bar in a corner to keep it away from the public, in the State House central hall.

It is suggested that an eighteenth century, plain, leather covered, sedan chair be acquired and placed in a corner of the Assembly Room gallery area, as an indication of the attendance of Franklin at the Constitutional Convention.

166. "... a Sedan-chair, in which I have often seen him carried by two men, to and from the State House, when he was President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. This Sedan-chair was sent to the Pennsylvania Hospital, where it remained a great many years, in the garret; but on inquiry about it, lately, I ascertained that it had been broken up and burned." Col. Robert Carr, "Personal Recollections of Benjamin Franklin," The Historical Magazine, IV, second series (Aug. 1868), pp. 59, 60.

Window Curtains

By the year 1742 the Assembly Room of the State House had been completed architecturally. It had also been supplied with enough furniture and accessories to accommodate the number of Assemblymen then in attendance. However, since there were no curtains, possibly no baize on the tables, and no rug on the floor, the accoustics was a problem. This situation obtained until the year 1745 when it was "Ordered", That the Superintendents of the State-House provide some Means of breaking the Echo in the Assembly-room, that the Members may better hear one another.¹⁶⁷

Thus far we do not have a follow-up entry for this order; perhaps, green baize was placed on the tables to the satisfaction of all concerned. It is not until November of 1748 that we find reference which would have further improved the accoustics: "Ordered", That the Superintendents of the State-house provide Screens and Curtains for the Assembly Room.¹⁶⁸ This was shortly after the Assembly had reconvened after adjourning to the "1st 2nd Day, next 11th month,"¹⁶⁹ or, first Monday in November (1748), the screens referred to must have been fabric panelled standing draught screens which would also have served to absorb some of the echo mentioned above.

¹⁶⁷. Pa. Archives, 8th Series, Vol. IV, p. 3081.

¹⁶⁸. Ibid, Vol. IV, p. 3233.

¹⁶⁹. Ibid, Vol. IV, p. 3228.

Plunket Fleeson upholsterer and curtain maker, was paid £1.. 9.. 6¹⁷⁰ during the 1754-55 sessions of the Assembly and £1.. 9.. 0¹⁷¹ during the 1755-56 sessions "For putting up Window Curtains." Perhaps curtains installed in 1748 had become too fly-specked and faded.

The fact that one of early Philadelphia's most accomplished curtain makers¹⁷² was employed to embellish the State House gives us cause to consider the nature of the window hangings. When one considers the expanse of window area and the direct sunlight problem as a result, a system of draw curtains seems the likely solution. The size of each window reveal and the inaccessibility of the upper section from floor level would call for a cord and pulley system, to adjust the curtains.

It is not until 1784 that we find entries in the Assembly Minutes relating to Venetian blinds, and then for the second floor Assembly Room. Savage in his painting "Congress Voting Independence" (Illus. i), shows Venetian blinds, but no curtains. This painting, however, was done long after the fact and perhaps by this time Venetian blinds had been installed in the first floor Assembly Room.

¹⁷⁰. Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives (Pa.), 1754-1755, p. 187. Library Company of Philadelphia.

¹⁷¹. Ibid, 1755-1756, p. 163.

¹⁷². "Plunket Fleeson. - Drums, Colours and Cartooch-boxes, made and Drums new headed and repaired by Plunket Fleeson, Upholsterer, at the Easy Chair, the Corner of Fourth-street, in Chestnut street, who continues to make all Kinds of Upholsterers Work, in the best manner and newest fashion, at the most reasonable rates; sells choice live geese feathers cheap, sea beds, bed bottoms, India pictures &c." Penna. Gazette, Aug. 7, 1755. Alfred Cöxe Prime, The Arts & Crafts in Philadelphia Maryland and South Carolina 1721-1785, The Walpole Society, 1929 p. 202.

It is recommended that the curtains of the Assembly Room be made of green fearnought or green moreen (a woolen fabric with a watered figure). This would maintain the color tradition for eighteenth century English and American public buildings. Moreen would be in accord with the fabric mentioned most frequently in household inventory references in Philadelphia during our historic period. Fearnought was used in Congress Hall. The curtains should be installed within the window frame or reveal. That the hanging and operation of the curtains be in the manner suggested by the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century engravings of Daniel Marot, French Huegenot designer. This would entail a pulley operation in which the curtain when raised would appear as four shallow swags. To conceal the pulley operation, but avoid the unnecessary embellishment of a valance, it is suggested that the front of the pulley box be covered with the top section of the green ~~curtain~~ curtain.

Screens

In 1745 an echo problem in the Assembly Room had probably been solved by putting curtains at the windows and baize covers on the table. By 1748 there was an additional problem - draughts - for it was "Ordered, That the Superintendants of the State-house provide Screens and Curtains for the Assembly Room."¹⁷³

¹⁷³. Pa. Archives, 8th Series, Vol. IV, p. 3233.

Since Plunket Fleeson probably provided the curtains, he probably provided the screens also. Considering his occupation and the month that the order was issued (November) the screens intended were probably fabric-panelled draught screens. Such screens appear before doors and in halls in the public rooms pictured in English eighteenth and nineteenth century guide books; particularly in Pugin and Rowlandson's Microscosm of London.¹⁷⁴ Presumably there were two or more screens inside the bar or between a window and a delegates' table.

It is recommended that four wooden framed Cheval¹⁷⁵ screens, covered with green moreen or baize, be provided for use in the Assembly Room.

¹⁷⁴. The Microcosm of London..., N.Y., Scribners, 1904, 3 vols. illus. Vol. III, p. 197 (heat screen), p. 269 (draught screen); Vol. I, p. 16 (draught screen), p. 40 (wood and glass draught screens), p. 193 (green draught screens), p. 205 (green draught curtains), p. 207 (draught curtain).

¹⁷⁵. Cheval screen. Sometimes a saw horse sort of affair, but most frequently two uprights with screen between them, stabilized by projecting horizontal members on the floor.

Part D
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APPENDIX I

PENNSYLVANIA

Benjamin Franklin	5	8	Benjamin Franklin
Charles Humphreys			Robert Morris
John Morton			George Clymer
James Wilson			Thomas Fitzsimmons
Thomas Willing			James Wilson
			Thomas Mifflin
			Jared Ingersoll
			Gouverneur Morris

DELAWARE

Thomas M'Kean	3	5	George Read
George Read			John Dickinson
Caesar Rodney			Gunning Bedford, Jr.
			Richard Bassett
			Jacob Broom

MARYLAND

Wm. Paca	3	5	Daniel of St. Thomas Jennifer
Thomas Stone			Daniel Carroll
John Rogers			James McHenry
			John Francis Mercer
			Luther Martin

VIRGINIA

Thomas Jefferson	5	7	Washington
Benjamin Harrison			George Mason
Thomas Nelson junr			George Wythe
Francis Lightfoot Lee			John Blair
Carter Braxton			Edmund Randolph
			Dr. James McClung
			James Madison

NORTH CAROLINA

Joseph Hewes	2	5	Hugh Williamson
John Penn			Alexander Martin
			William R. Davie
			William Blount
			Richard Dobbs Spaight

SOUTH CAROLINA

Edward Rutledge
Thomas Heyward junr
Thomas Lynch
Arthur Middleton

4

4

John Rutledge
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney
Pierce Butler

GEORGIA

Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
Geo. Walton

3

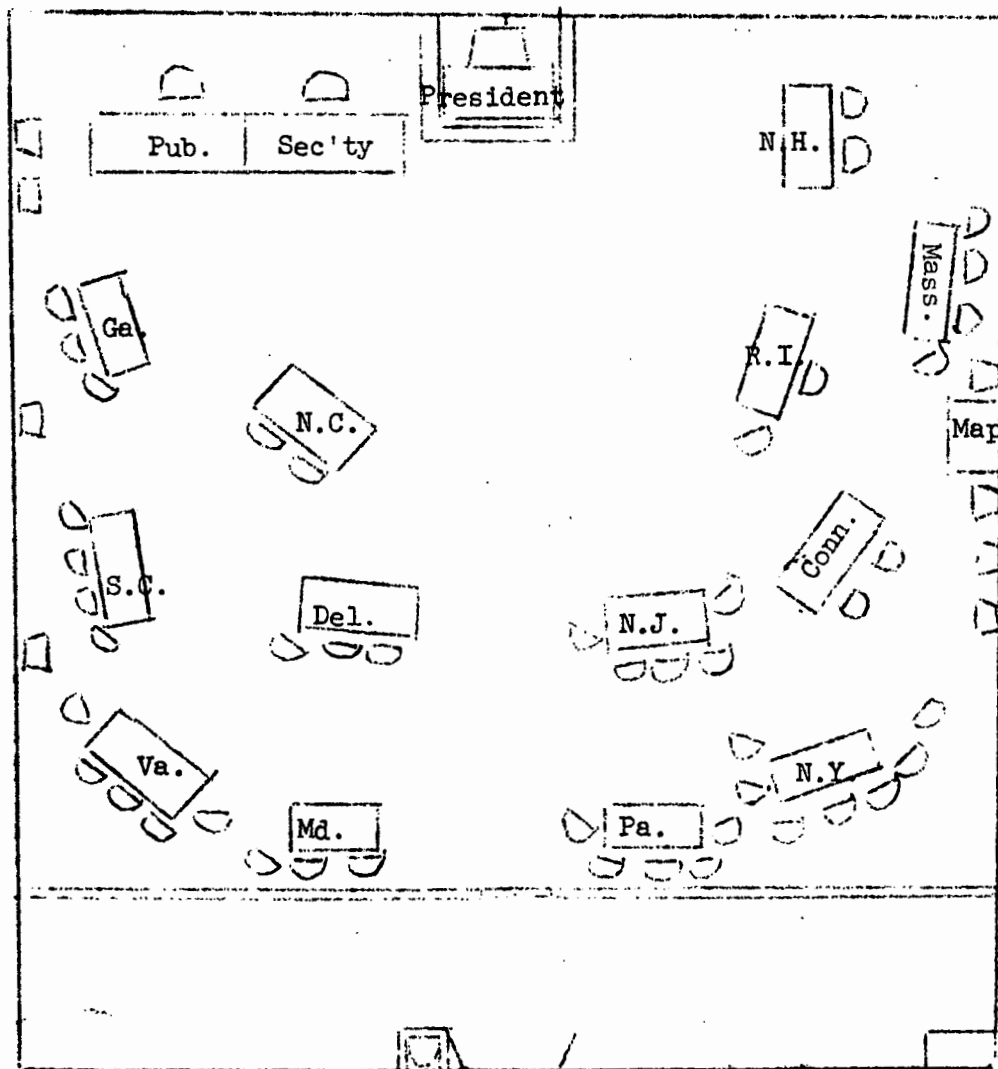
4

Abraham Baldwin
William Houston
William Few
William Pierce

Part E
Page 1

READY REFERENCE
and
DIAGRAMMATIC FLOOR PLAN

1. The Second Continental Congress met in the room from May 10, 1775 to June 21, 1783.
2. Approximately forty-eight members of the Second Continental Congress were on hand July 4, 1776; at which time the Declaration of Independence was adopted.
3. On August 2, 1776, fifty members of the Second Continental Congress signed the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence. Six remaining members signed later.
4. We presently have reason to believe that the delegates sat in this order: Georgia in the northeast corner of the room (to the spectators' left) and New Hampshire in the southeast corner (to the spectators' right). See diagram, Part E, p. 3.
5. The Constitutional Convention, with Washington as President, consisted of fifty-five representatives from twelve states (Rhode Island was not represented). It was in session in the room from May 25 to September 17, 1787. The Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787. By this time only forty-one delegates remained; fourteen having gone home during the summer. Thirty-eight delegates signed the document, and the name of a thirty ninth member who was absent, was signed by proxy.
6. In our seating plan: we have placed 48 chairs at the 13 delegates' tables in the room, to represent the forty-eight members present on July 4, 1776. We have placed 7 chairs against the walls of the room to represent the additional number necessary for the fifty-five members of the Constitutional Convention.



Doorkeeper

Sedan chair

DIAGRAMMATIC FLOOR PLAN
of the Assembly Room
Showing 47 delegates' chairs for July 4, 1776,
and 8 along the walls to represent the
additional chairs required for the
Constitutional Convention

Part F
Page 1

Part F.
Estimated Costs
and
Sources of Supply

In an era of escalating prices in the antiques market it is fortunate that a corpus of furnishings for a restored Assembly Room was begun in the 1950's under James Mulcahy and continued to the present time. In general mass and overall impression, the furnishings of the room appear completed, but there are a number of expensive details which still must be attended to. A summary list of objects yet to be obtained follows. Add 5% per year to estimated cost:

	<u>Estimated cost</u>
1. English glass chandelier, mid-18th c.	\$15,000.00
2. Approx. ten 18th c. Pa. Windsor chairs to replace the five reproduction chairs presently in the room. @ \$750.00	7,500.00
3. One reproduction of INHP Berkshire Furnace, 1772 ten-plate stove.	500.00
4. Restoration of antique stove in INHP collection, and reproduction of stove pipes and hangers for both stoves.	500.00
5. Two sheet iron pads for stoves, one coal bucket, bellows, poker and shovel.	250.00
6. Six Fearnought or Moreen curtains. @ \$400.00	2,400.00
7. Sixteen reproductions of the Library Company tables (INHP shop). @ \$200.00	3,200.00
8. Mounting, hanging and protecting Popple wall map.	1,200.00
9. One English mid-18th c. 8' x 8' map of the world, or an approximation thereof.	1,200.00
10. Mounting, hanging and protecting above map.	1,200.00
11. Reproduction of Pennsylvania Hospital Charity box. (INHP shop).	75.00
12. Framing and protecting Declaration of Independence broadside.	300.00

	<u>Estimated cost</u>
13. One large 18th c. magnifying glass.	\$ 125.00
14. One small ivory or mahogany ruler	25.00
15. One tinder box, or one pistol flint.	35.00 150.00
16. Pair of early 18th c. andirons.	1,800.00
17. Reproduction of above andirons.	300.00
18. Two reproductions of Graeme Park firebacks. @ \$150.00	300.00
19. Late 18th c. French sedan chair.	2,500.00
20. Reproduction in wood of original Penn family coat-of-arms.	600.00
21. Charles Willson Peale engraving of Washington in period frame.	1,000.00
22. Frame for Montgomery engraving	50.00