

311/131-132
HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT - PART II

on

OLD CITY HALL

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

INDE-228-1

CEBIB#002033

ATTENTION:

PORTIONS OF THIS SCANNED DOCUMENT ARE
ILLEGIBLE DUE TO THE POOR QUALITY OF THE
SOURCE DOCUMENT.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-DCA *Indep*

FEB 2 1962

REGION FIVE	INITIAL AND DATE
FEB 6 1962	
REG DIRECTOR	
ASST. REG. DIR.	
ADMIN.	
REC. RES. PLAN	
RANGER ACCT'S.	
<i>Posted 2/6</i>	<i>CP</i>

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Assistant Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Old City Hall

History	<i>B</i>
Nat. His.	
Archeo.	
Subj.	
Museum	
Spec. Y.	

The subject report has been reviewed by interested personnel in the Division of History and Archeology and in the Division of Architecture. I am pleased to approve it as of this date and as the record now stands with the reservation that studies currently underway may call for some adjustments.

The Eastern Design Office has informed us that the Architectural Data Section, dated May 1961 and included as Chapter III, was originally prepared as Supplement I to Part I. The plan now is to issue what was intended as the Part II Architectural Data Section as a supplement to the report just reviewed. We understand that final typing of this forthcoming material awaits the approval expressed herein.

This Office commends the excellent research done on Old City Hall, particularly with respect to the analysis of known source materials which could be examined and evaluated within realistic time limits. Engaging our particular interest was the examination of the historical associations of the structure in relation to the formative years of the Supreme Court and the statement on the interpretive development possibilities of the structure.

A. Clark Stratton

A. Clark Stratton
Assistant Director

Copy to: Superintendent, Independence
Chief, EODC (2)

OPERATIONS
Asst. Chief
Chief of Maint.
Chief of Arch.
Chief of Hist.
Chief of Plan.
Chief of Rec.
Chief of Res.
Chief of Spec.
Chief of Train.
Chief of Util.
Chief of V. & M.
Chief of W. & S.
Chief of Zoning

Chris 2/8/62
ARC 48

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30-H

January 29, 1962

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JAN 30 1962		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION	<i>m</i>	<i>2/6</i>
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director, Design and Construction
Attention: Chief Architect

From: Chief, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Old City Hall

☒ History	<i>B</i>
☐ Nat. His.	
☐ Archeo.	
☐ Pub.	
☐ Museum	
☐ Soc'y.	

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 16. We are sorry for the delay in answering, but we knew of no Part II report on this structure. The Architectural Data Section is complete in draft form but has not been final typed, pending approval of the earlier reports.

We now find that the Architectural Data Section, Part I, Supplement I, dated May 1961 and forwarded for distribution and approval by this office on May 24, was held by the Regional Office, awaiting the other sections of the report and was relabeled as Part II, when distributed by that office.

We recommend the approval of that report and will issue what was intended as Part II as a supplement.

Robert G. Hall
Chief

By: (Sgd.) Eugene R. De Silets
Eugene R. DeSilets

In duplicate

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Five
Superintendent, Independence

H30-DCA

January 16, 1962

RECEIVED	INITIAL
JAN 18 1962	DATE
<i>R. H. H.</i>	
<i>1/23/62</i>	
<i>1/18</i>	
<i>Programs</i>	

Memorandum

To: Chief, EODC

From: Chief Architect

Subject: Historic Structures Report Part II, Old City Hall,
Independence

<i>B</i>
Mr. H.
Mr. H.
Mr. H.
Mr. H.
Mr. H.
Mr. H.

The subject report was submitted by Acting Regional Director Crouch December 21, 1961 indicating a copy to you. It had previously been recommended by Regional Director Lee on December 5, 1961. We would appreciate notification of any comments from you prior to submitting the report for approval.

SIGNED

John B. Cabot
Chief Architect

In duplicate

Copy to: *✓* Regional Director, Region Five
Superintendent, Independence

OPERATIONS
Asst. Chief
Chief of Maint.
Land
<i>✓</i> Programs
Architect
Engineer
Land, Archt.

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30

December 21, 1961

Valley
12/20
Rachinsky
12/22

Memorandum

To: Director
Acting
From: Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Old City Hall,
Independence

We are pleased to recommend this report to your approval.

As you probably are aware, Consulting Engineer Keast is preparing a report on the structural condition of this building which may cause some of the recommendations made for the stabilization of the Old City Hall to be modified. But rather than hold this report any longer, we believe it best to approve it as it stands, and alter or revise its recommendations when and if the need arises.

(Sgt) J. Carlisle Crouch

Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

Copy to: Supt., Independence
Chief, EODC

MHNelligan/cp

General
Daily
Area
Programs

INTERPRETATION

10/26

✓	History	Ro
✓	Nat. His.	
✓	Archeo	GPC 11-2-61
✓	Museum	HW 10/26
✓	Soc'y	

Reviewed on Exhibit section. Recommend single interpretive panel or sign in vestibule to set stage for remaining exhibits. This also should have a floor plan of the building to show what exhibits are located where. HW.

OPERATIONS

11/2/61

OPERATIONS		
✓	Ass't. Chief	11/7
✓	Chief of Maintenance	
✓	Programs	11/2/61
✓	Architect	11/9
✓	Engineer	11/27
✓	Landscaper	11/21

Very good architectural analyses, But what are the recommendations?



IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Independence National Historical Park
420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

October 16, 1961

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
OCT 18 1961		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
~~INTERPRETATION~~	<i>m</i>	<i>12/24</i>
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACCT'S.		

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, on Old City Hall

Attached is Chapter I, Administrative Data, of the Historic Structures Report, Part II, on Old City Hall which is forwarded for your consideration and for inclusion in the report.

M. O. Anderson
M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

Enclosure (2)

Copy to: Chief, EODC, w/c of enc.

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30

July 13, 1961

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Old City Hall

Attached for your consideration and for addition to your copy of the subject report is one copy of the Architectural Data Section prepared by Architect Lee Nelson, HODC.

With Mr. Nelson's study at hand, you should then be able to prepare the Administrative Data Section of the report which should reflect any changes in your thinking, if any, from the work proposed in the Administrative Data Section, Part II. This Office will need four copies of this last section of the report to complete the other copies.

Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, HODC

MENelligan/cp

General
Daily
Area
Programs



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-H

May 24, 1961

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
MAY 25 1961		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION	<i>me</i>	<i>6/3</i>
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Chief, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, ~~Part I~~,
Old City Hall, Independence

Attached for review and distribution are four copies of the Architectural Data Section for the subject report. One copy has been retained by this office.

Eugene R. DeSilets
Eugene R. DeSilets
Acting Chief

Attachments

Copy to: Supt., Independence
Chief of Design and Construction, Attention: Chief Architect (2)
Mr. Nelson w/copy of report

Post +
F. 21.
3/23

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30

March 9, 1961

Memorandum

To: Chief, EODC

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, on Old City Hall,
Independence NHP

This office has received from Independence all sections of the subject report with the exception of the Architectural and Administrative Data Sections.

Since the architectural data and historical architects' recommendations may be essential in arriving at administrative decisions as to what will be done with "Old City Hall," we wish to inquire as to when the Architectural Data Section (scheduled for completion by November 1, 1960) may be expected. If it has not yet been prepared in final form, your staff may wish to consult the sections already prepared. If so, we shall be glad to lend a copy of the report as it now stands to your office.

Mr Lee Nelson borrowed copy today
Regional Director
3/27/61

In duplicate

Copy to: Supt., Independence

MHNelligan/cp

General
Daily
Area



IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Independence National Historical Park
420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

March 6, 1961

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
MAR 7 1961		
REG. DIR.		
ASST. REG. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, on Old City Hall

Enclosed in quadruplicate for your review and distribution is the Historic Structures Report, Part II, on Old City Hall which includes Chapter II, Historical Data; Chapter IV, Archeological Data; and Chapter V, Furnishings and Exhibition Data.

This report contains a body of hitherto unknown materials relating to the important judicial and governmental units which used the building during the historic period and is thus a contribution to historical knowledge.

M. O. Anderson
M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures (4)

SIGNATURE SHEET

RECOMMENDED

Superintendent Date _____

Ronald F. Lee

Regional Director Date 12/5/61

Chief, Eastern Office, Div. of Design & Construction Date _____

APPROVED

Director Date _____

1130

Memorandum

From: Acting Regional Director

Attached for your consideration and for addition to your copy of the subject report is one copy of the Architectural Data Section prepared by Architect Lee Nelson, EODC.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

In duplicate

MHNe11igan/cp

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
<i>/</i>			<i>Mel</i>
<i>/</i>	Lands & Wildlife Programs		<i>Chris</i>

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

~~H30~~

July 13, 1961

Nelson
7/12
Cramer
7/13/61

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence
From: ^{Acting} Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Old City Hall

Attached for your consideration and for addition to your copy of the subject report is one copy of the Architectural Data Section prepared by Architect Lee Nelson, EODC.

With Mr. Nelson's study at hand, you should then be able to prepare the Administrative Data Section of the report which should reflect any changes in your thinking, if any, from the work proposed in the Administrative Data Section, Part I. This Office will need four copies of this last section of the report to complete the other copies.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

Acting
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

MHNelligan/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area
Programs

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30

March 9, 1961

Nelligan
3/9
Cramer
3/9/61

Memorandum

To: Chief, EODC

From: ^{Acting} Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, on Old City Hall,
Independence NHP

This office has received from Independence all sections of the subject report with the exception of the Architectural and Administrative Data Sections.

Since the architectural data and historical architects' recommendations may be essential in arriving at administrative decisions as to what will be done with "Old City Hall," we wish to inquire as to when the Architectural Data Section (scheduled for completion by November 1, 1960) may be expected. If it has not yet been prepared in final form, your staff may wish to consult the sections already prepared. If so, we shall be glad to lend a copy of the report as it now stands to your office.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

^{Acting} Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Supt., Independence

MHNelligan/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area

Historic Structures Report Part II

on

Old City Hall

Independence National Historical Park

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Prepared by

Staff

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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*
*

February 1961

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CHAPTER I
ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Prepared by Superintendent M. O. Anderson

Chapter I
Section 1
Page 1

NAME AND NUMBER
OF BUILDING

Old City Hall, Independence Square, Building No. 3

PROPOSED USE OF STRUCTURE
AND JUSTIFICATION

Old City Hall is proposed for use in part as a historic house museum and in part for exhibits related to the period of occupancy by the United States Supreme Court (as well as the Circuit and District Courts), to the Independence Hall group of buildings, and to the city in the historic period.

As the meeting place of the Supreme Court from 1791 to 1800, Old City Hall is one of the most historic structures in the United States, of a ranking comparable to that accorded Congress Hall. It is the oldest seat of the Supreme Court still in existence.

To enable visitors the better to visualize this important first decade in the Court's history, it is proposed that the scene of its deliberations on the first floor be recreated with utmost fidelity. This will involve restoration and refurnishing of the vestibule and Mayor's Court to their appearance of the 1791-1800 period.

For the second floor, we heartily endorse the recommendation contained in Chapter V, Section 4, pages 1 and 2, "Recommendations for Interpretive Development." Since the history of the second floor of Old City Hall is not of national significance, its use for the exhibit of special types of objects in our rich collections, rather than a restoration of the original scene insofar as furnishings are concerned, would not be unwarranted. It is understood, of course, that the architecture of the rooms would be faithfully preserved. Also, electrical wiring and outlets essential to the exhibits would be kept to a minimum and concealed.

PROVISION FOR OPERATING
THE BUILDING

To be operated, as heretofore, by the Service under the co-operative agreement with the City of Philadelphia executed on July 14, 1950.

Chapter I
Section 4
Page 1

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COST

\$634,600

CHAPTER II
HISTORICAL DATA

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball

STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE FROM
DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

The erection of Old City Hall in 1790-91 brought to completion the government center, composed of the State House flanked by the County Court House to the west and the City Hall to the east, envisioned by Andrew Hamilton when he purchased the northern portion of Independence Square on behalf of the Province of Pennsylvania in 1732.

In 1736 the Assembly of Pennsylvania passed an act vesting lots at the northwest and northeast corners of Independence Square in trustees, "Upon which two pieces of Ground two publick Buildings are to be erected of the like outward Form, Structure and Dimensions, the one for the use of the county and the other for the Use of the City of Philadelphia,..."¹ The city put off acquiring title until 1762, and not until 1775 did the City Council arrange to have a plan of their proposed hall drawn up for submission to the Assembly. War broke out before further action could be taken; the plan was apparently not even submitted to the Assembly.

With the Revolution, city government under Penn's corporate charter ceased to exist. Not until March 11, 1789, was a new charter enacted by the state legislature. In the interim, the county, using funds derived from the sale of the old jail, erected a county courthouse.

Because of the statutory requirement that the two buildings be "of the like outward Form, Structure and Dimensions," the design of the county building erected earlier determined the design of the city hall. At the time that the Historic Structures Report, Part II, on Congress

Hall was prepared, no data as to the origin of its design was available. However, the discovery of the county treasurer's account for the erection of the county building during the research conducted on Old City Hall has provided the name of the designer. Among the items in this account is a payment of £3.10 to "Henry Hill, for drawing the elevation of the House."² Hill was a wealthy merchant who, in 1786, built the graceful mansion now known as the Hill-Physick-Randolph-Keith House at 321 South Fourth Street. Men of his class and time often were interested in architecture. Certainly a man of his circumstance would not have drawn an elevation of the courthouse simply to earn £3.10. Since he designed Congress Hall, he was also in effect the designer of Old City Hall.

Hugh Roberts supervised the erection of the county courthouse and Mathias Sadler and James Govett were the master carpenters; these men may have added or changed some elements of the design.³

The state legislature chartered a new city government on March 11, 1789, and sixteen days later passed an act for raising eight thousand dollars through a lottery for erecting a city hall.⁴ On October 19 the City Council appointed Matthew Clarkson, George Roberts, Gunning Bedford, David Evans and Thomas Morris a committee to prepare a plan and estimate the expense of erecting a city hall.⁵ Matthew Clarkson, William Colliday, Miers Fisher, David Evans, George Latimer, Isaac Wharton and Thomas Morris were appointed to report an accurate statement of the proceeds of the private estate of the corporation and a convenient plan for the inside of the building.⁶ This committee reported on July 16 (see Appendix A for the report).

The committee which prepared the structural plan was so limited by the provisions of the statutes and the exterior of Old City Hall is so similar to that of Congress Hall that neither the committee nor its individual members can be credited with the design of the exterior. Certainly either Bedford or Evans, both of whom were competent carpenters, and perhaps the other committee members as well, would have been capable of producing the plans for the structure as it now stands.

The committee appointed to prepare an interior plan had a freer hand and the layout of the interior differed somewhat from that of Congress Hall. Unfortunately, this plan has been lost. An alternative interior plan for use if the Congress of the United States should choose to meet in the building, together with a draft of the committee report of July 16, has been found in the papers of Miers Fisher at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (see Illustration No. 11). Both the report and the lettering of the plan appear to be in Fisher's hand and he may have prepared the missing plan as well. In any event, probably any member of the committee could have prepared relatively simple drawings showing room locations; certainly Colliday and Evans could have.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the committee appointed on July 16, a five man committee consisting of Samuel Powel, Matthew Clarkson, Isaac Wharton, John Kaighn and Thomas Morris was appointed "to superintend the erection of the City Hall" (see Appendix A).⁷ Work began almost immediately and the building was ready for use by August of 1791.

The exterior of the new building bore a close resemblance to that of Congress Hall. Inside, it contained a large chamber, a small room and a vestibule on the first floor and two smaller chambers, two or three offices and a hallway on the second floor.

Within five years of the completion of the building, alterations designed to fit it to changing patterns of use began. The structure remained in use until 1917, first as a city hall and then, as agencies of the city government moved elsewhere, as an office for various private organizations. As time went on, the fabric was altered to accommodate the changing pattern of use. Old doors were blocked up and windows were broken out to create new doors. Partitions, including the brick load bearing partition on the first floor, were removed and new partitions installed at new locations, until only the south room of the second floor retained its original size. An addition was built to connect Old City Hall with the American Philosophical Society to the south and another addition connecting with the west wing of Independence Hall was built and demolished.

Despite these many alterations, the Committee on the Preservation of Historic Monuments of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which in 1916 undertook an architectural investigation and prepared restoration drawings, found the building's shell, framing and portions of interior décor to have survived almost intact. Working with these original elements and physical evidence of former conditions, this committee prepared drawings which served as the

basis for the restoration of the building under the direction of the city architect in 1921.

The Building's Structure and Exterior

Erection of Old City Hall began about July 26, 1790, when the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania was "informed that in consequence of the corporation erecting the City Hall, the necessary in the State House yard must be taken down."⁸ Presumably, this was the privy at the northeast corner of Independence Square shown on the 1783 ground plan of the Square, and the excavation for the basement of the new building could not be completed until the privy had been removed.

Construction details remain a mystery. The committee named on July 16 to supervise construction does not appear again on the records, and on February 17, 1793, City Council agreed "to allow David Evans for his superintending the building of the City Hall the Sum of fifty Pounds."⁹ We do not as yet know whether Evans worked under the direction of the committee or whether the committee simply employed him to carry on the work and played no further part in the project.

The story is further complicated by the fact that Evans received over £700 from the city treasurer in 1792-93.¹⁰ The purpose of these payments is not given. The total is too great to have been commission for superintending construction (Hugh Roberts received only £106.14.2 for superintending erection of Congress Hall and providing "Flags") and seems to indicate that Evans was the master carpenter as well as the superintendent. However, the receipt book does not specify the purpose for which

the sums were paid, and they might represent payment for work on other city properties or sums paid Evans for repayment to those working on Old City Hall. If the latter is the case, it is confirmation of the fact that Evans was the master carpenter, since research on other buildings has shown that payments were made either by the treasurer on the basis of a warrant drawn by the superintendent or by the master carpenter who then submitted his account with vouchers for reimbursement.¹¹

The names of other workmen are not known. Petitions asking to be employed in constructing the building were received from James Cornish, turner;¹² Symington and Burn, stonecutters;¹³ Anthony Fannan, painter;¹⁴ Govett and Sadler, carpenters;¹⁵ Robert Allison, carpenter, and Samuel Wheeler, iron worker,¹⁶ but were not acted upon. Apparently the firm of Jones, Clark and Cresson furnished some of the iron work, since on February 11, 1793, their account was read and referred to the committee on David Evans' account.¹⁷

Old City Hall was completed and ready for use by May 10, 1791, when the United States District Court for the District of Pennsylvania met "at the new Rooms in Chestnut Street Philadelphia...."¹⁸

The completed building, 50 feet in front on Chestnut Street and 75 feet deep, including a bay at the south, and two stories high, closely resembled Congress Hall. "It possessed most of the design characteristics attributed to one or another of the classic domestic Georgian types; hipped roof, octagonal cupola with ball and vane, arched first floor windows with keystones and imposts, arched doorways, stone belt

course, rectangular chimneys with moulded copings, a handsomely proportioned cornice with small-scale, bracket-type modillions, and what was perhaps its most distinctive feature, the projecting central pavillion of the facade with low-pitched gable and pediment...."¹⁹ The most important points of difference were the absence of the cast iron balcony on Old City Hall (see Illustrations Nos. 1-5), the presence of windows above the doors which flanked the bay, and the fact that the building had two chimneys on the west and three on the east rather than two on each side (see Illustrations Nos. 1-5, 7-10).

As was the case in Congress Hall, the roof was supported by five trusses spanning from the east to the west walls. The method of framing the second floor was considerably different, however. A brick load-bearing partition about 21 feet south from the front of the building supported the ends of two girders which diverged from each other to bed in the south wall on either side of the bay. These girders were hung from the wall truss which formed the north partition of the Common Council Chamber on the second floor (see Illustration No. 20). The placement of the masonry partition, 11 feet further south than that of Congress Hall, created a spacious vestibule and left ample room for a staircase in the northwest corner.

In the years between the erection of the building and its restoration, the exterior underwent two additions and several minor alterations. The first addition occurred in 1845 when the city, with the permission of the American Philosophical Society, built a structure

connecting Old City Hall with the hall of the Society (see Illustrations Nos. 6 and 13-15).²⁰ By 1860, a small structure had been erected connecting Old City Hall with the east Mills Building and probably in 1873, when a similar structure was erected linking Congress Hall with the west Mills Building,²¹ a more imposing building was erected between the two (see Illustrations Nos. 6 and 8). The first of these structures was removed in 1921; the second was removed sometime prior to the restoration of the wing buildings in 1896-98.

The minor alterations consisted of converting doors into windows and blocking up an existing door. Between 1819 and 1825 the north first floor window of the west side seems to have converted to a door and the door adjoining it seems to have been blocked up (see Illustrations Nos. 3, 4, 8 and 9). With the erection of the structure between Old City Hall and Philosophical Hall in 1845, the center window of the bay was converted to a door (see Illustration No. 16). By 1851, the north first floor window, east side, was converted to a door (see Illustration No. 5), and in 1852 the fourth first floor window from Chestnut Street on the east side was also converted to a door.²² By 1876 a small round window had been broken through the east wall above and between the second and third first floor windows (see Illustration No. 17). And, while no documentary or pictorial evidence had been found, some of the first and second floor windows of the west side must have been converted to doors to provide communication with the structure built between Old City Hall and the Mills Buildings in 1873.

The building's structure also was altered between 1791 and 1921. Two of these alterations involved substantial replacement of original structural members. On February 25, 1823, fire severely damaged the roof of the building and necessitated replacement of the cupola, the roof and much of the roof framing. In 1852 the staircase was removed and relocated; this work must have involved changes in the framing of the second floor.²³ The frequent alterations in room layout discussed below also must have involved some alterations to the structure of the building, but no documentary evidence as to the nature and extent of these alterations has yet been found.

Despite these alterations and additions, a large portion of the building's exterior and its structural system have survived. The walls, including even the keystones, imposts and arched heads of those windows which were converted to doors, have survived as has the cornice, and those small portions which were removed or altered were accurately restored by the city in 1921. Of the original structural elements, a portion of the attic framing, the second story wall truss, and portions of the first and second floor framing remain. Most of the attic framing dates from the repairs following the fire of 1823. The roof and cupola were restored in 1921.²⁴

The Building's Interior

About the appearance of Old City Hall's interior upon its completion, we know only that it was "of an airy and lighter structure [than Independence Hall]; here the Alderman's Court, Mayor's Court, and Supreme

Federal Court are held; the apartments on the second floor are also occupied as public offices."²⁵ For more detailed knowledge of its layout and décor, we must still rely almost exclusively on the 1821 insurance survey (see Appendix B), the 1824 floor plan (see Illustration No. 12), and the building itself as restored by the city.

The first floor was divided into two rooms and a vestibule. The vestibule, about 21 feet deep and 27 feet wide, occupied the northwest corner of the building. The staircase to the second floor began just inside the front door, ran up the north and west walls, turned, and ran up the south wall of the vestibule to the second floor. Adjoining the vestibule to the east was a room about 21 feet deep and 17-1/2 feet wide. The remainder of the first floor was in one large room (see Illustration No. 20).

On the second floor, a hall about 8 feet wide led south about 39 feet from the north center window to the entrance of the Common Council Chamber which occupied the southern 22 feet of the second floor. West of the hall were two rooms separated by the staircase. That in the northwest corner measured about 10 by 18-1/2; that between the staircase and the south room measured about 16 by 18-1/2. The space to the east of the hallway may have been in one or two rooms, but is at present in two rooms; that in the northeast corner measures about 24-1/2 by 18-1/2, that to the south is about 14 by 18-1/2.

According to the 1821 survey, which probably depicts the original décor, the floors of all these rooms were of 5/4 inch yellow pine.

The first floor rooms had a "Base round, double architrave round the doors -- all the windows finish'd with single architraves & circular heads...." The second floor rooms were finished with "base and subbase round, double architraves to the doors & windows, the jambs pannel'd inside, wooden cornice round the passage [hall] & comⁿ council chamber [south room] with modillions & dental...." In the vestibule was "a large open newel stair case leading into the garret, finished with open brackets, turn'd banisters & large painted rails...a large arch with open pilasters [?] & double architraves on the landing of the 2nd floor--..." (see Appendix B and Illustrations Nos. 21 and 23-28). During the restoration, wainscoting was installed in the first floor rooms, but what evidence this was based on is not known.

Alterations to layout and décor began in 1796 and continued until by 1913 only the south room, second floor, retained its original dimensions (see Illustrations Nos. 13, 14, 16 and 17). The Minutes and Journals of Councils show that major alterations occurred following the fire of 1823, which so damaged the Council Chambers that Councils were forced to find temporary accommodations elsewhere; in 1825, when unspecified alterations cost \$128.37 in excess of the sum appropriated to repair the first floor offices; and in 1837-38 when alterations were made to the basement and first floor. In 1852 the interior was further changed by the removal of the original staircase and many other more minor alterations were made in the years that followed.

Of the effect of these alterations on the original décor we know little. The A.I.A. found many elements of décor to be "old work" and retained these elements in the restored buildings (see Appendix B of Part I and Illustrations Nos. 20-23).

The Mayor's Court

The Mayor's Court occupied the southern portion of Old City Hall's first floor, a room about 46 feet wide and 40 feet deep exclusive of the bay at the south. There was a gallery along its north wall and entrance was by way of a door with circular sash over it centered in the north wall. The 1821 survey described it as having, in addition to the 5/4 inch yellow pine floor, windows with single architraves and other design elements in common with the other first floor rooms, "a bar in the middle of the floor, raised two steps, & finished with a circular rail and turn'd banisters, pannel'd below about 3 feet wide & a platform at the south end elevated about 4 feet--...."

During its investigations, the A.I.A. determined that the architrave around the bay was "old work" and it was retained. The A.I.A. also determined that the room was heated by two fireplaces, one each in the east and west walls (see Illustrations Nos. 20 and 25). They did not report finding fireplaces under the southernmost pair of fireplaces on the second floor but it seems likely that the two fireplaces found and restored would not have been adequate to heat the room and an architectural investigation of the piers between the two southern windows of the east and west walls should be undertaken to determine whether or not fireplaces once existed at these locations.

By 1821, the gallery of the Mayor's Court Room had been removed and two small offices erected in the north portion of the original room (see Illustration No. 12). If the 1824 floor plan is to be believed, this alteration involved removal of the eastern part of the brick load-bearing wall which had formed the north wall of the original room, but the floor plan can hardly be accepted as conclusive. The date of these alterations is not known. In 1805, the City Council resolved "to cause inside glazed sashes to be placed in each of the three windows of City Hall, looking into Fifth Street:..."²⁶ to eliminate traffic noises which were disturbing the Mayor's Court, so that at that time the room retained its original dimensions. The Minutes of Select and Common Councils through January 11, 1814 (there are no known existent Minutes for the period 1814-1819), contain no references to such alterations.²⁷ On December 22, 1818, the city purchased carpeting for the room for \$43.80; so small a sum would hardly have carpeted the larger room and this indicates that the alterations had been made prior to this purchase, probably earlier in the year 1818.²⁸

The only other recorded change in the room came in 1846, when Old City Hall and Philosophical Hall were connected. At that time, the middle window of the bay was replaced by a door.

The room was restored in 1921.

City Treasurer's Office

The northeast room on the first floor was occupied in 1824 by the city treasurer. Its original occupant is not known and it may have

been either the city treasurer's office or the Mayor's office. Its dimensions were 17-1/2 feet on the north and south, 21 feet on the east and west. Entrance was by way of a door in the northwest corner. Heat was provided by a fireplace in the east wall. The décor was similar to that of the other first floor rooms.

With the alterations to the Mayor's office in 1818, the treasurer's office was lengthened (see Illustration No. 12). Subsequent alterations to this office, while frequent, cannot be traced from the documentation now available. However, by 1838, fireproof vaults had been installed in the room (see Illustration No. 16).²⁹

In 1921 the room was restored. Two elements of this restoration are questionable. First, it included installation of a door in the south wall leading to the Mayor's Court Room. Since the original wall at this location had been destroyed, it is questionable whether any architectural evidence for this door had survived to be uncovered by the A.I.A.'s investigation. Further, while such a door would have been convenient if the room served as the Mayor's office, it served no purpose if the room was for the office of the city treasurer. Secondly, while the A.I.A. drawings provide for the retention of an existing fireplace in the east wall (see Illustration No. 22), a niche similar to those in the south end of the first floor of Congress Hall was installed in this location (see Illustration No. 24). The niches in Congress Hall have been proved to be of a date later than 1800; the niche in the treasurer's office should be the subject of an architectural investigation to determine whether it, too, is not of a later date.

The Vestibule

Originally, the vestibule containing the stairs to the second floor occupied a space in the northwest corner of the first floor measuring 27 feet wide and 21 feet deep. On November 12, 1829, the Select Council resolved that "the North West Room above the Treasurer's Office [is] to be used for the safekeeping of the original papers of Councils"³⁰ This would seem to indicate that a room had been created out of some of the space in the vestibule and that the treasurer's office had been removed to it. In any case, in 1852 the staircase was relocated and a room created in the northwest corner of the first floor (see Illustration No. 13). The vestibule was restored in 1921.

The Second Floor

The second floor of Old City Hall was originally divided into four or five rooms and a hallway (see Illustration No. 21). The Common Council Chamber occupied the southern 22 feet of the second floor plus the 8-1/2 feet deep bay. Besides the 5/4 inch yellow pine floors, base and surbase, chair rails, and double architraves to its doors and windows which it had in common with the other second floor rooms, the room had pilasters under its windows and a wood dentil cornice (see Illustration No. 28). These added embellishments are strikingly similar to those of the original south room, second floor, of Congress Hall in which the City Council met while Old City Hall was being built. Access was by way of a door with circular sash over it, opening into the room from the hall. It is probable that two other doors entered into the

room from the rooms adjoining it to the north. Heat was provided by a fireplace in both the east and west wall. Although the room was renovated and redecorated frequently during the nineteenth century, its size remained unchanged and much of its original décor seems to have survived (see Illustration No. 22).

The space east of the central hallway may have been in one or two rooms originally. In 1796 the City Council became a bicameral body and on October 17, 1796, a committee was appointed "to examine and report what alterations are necessary to be made in the North East Room... for the accommodation of the Select Council."³¹ Next day the committee reported a plan and Select Council directed the City Commissioners "to cause alterations and improvements to be made in the Rooms now occupied by Select Council as much in conformity to the plan reported by the Committee as may in the opinion of the said Committee be proper...."³² The latter quote infers that the space was then divided into two rooms. The nature and extent of the alterations are not known but by 1824 a curved partition dividing this space was in place and the A.I.A. discovered evidence of the existence of such a partition in 1917 (see Illustrations Nos. 12 and 15). Probably this partition was installed in 1796. The area north of it was used as the Select Council Chamber; the small room to the south served various purposes, and especially for record storage.³³ These rooms were altered and redecorated during the nineteenth century and by 1913 they had been combined with the northern portion of the hall to form a single large room (see Illustration No. 14). In 1921 they were

restored as two rooms separated by a straight partition (see Illustration No. 21).

To the west of the hallway, between the Common Council Chamber and the stairway, was a room 18-1/2 feet wide and 16 feet deep. In May of 1793, this room was assigned to the city surveyor for the storage of his records.³⁴ After 1800 it was the office of the city's watering committee. When the original staircase was replaced in 1852, the room was reduced in size by several feet. It was restored in 1921.

The northwest corner room, 18-1/2 feet wide and 10 feet deep, was designated as the place of deposit for "books drafts, and papers" belonging to the city in August 1791.³⁵ By 1829 fireproof vaults had been installed both in this room and the room to the south and the northwest room had become the council's library.³⁶ The new staircase arrangement of 1852 resulted in the enlargement of the room. It was restored to its original size in 1921.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

On July 9, 1790, Congress voted to move the national capital from New York to Philadelphia, where it was to remain for ten years. The city of Philadelphia, already engaged in erecting a new city hall, immediately turned its attention toward providing facilities for the Federal Government. It appointed a committee to decide upon suitable accommodations for Congress, even offering to release its as yet unbuilt city hall for this purpose. Other committees cooperated in fitting up the County Court House to receive Congress, financed the alterations and furnishings necessary to accommodate the Clerk and committees of the House of Representatives in the west wing of the State House, rented a temporary residence for the President and began construction of a palatial presidential mansion. Of the three branches of the Federal Government, only the judicial branch was ignored; the only reference to providing rooms for its use in all the surviving records of the city is a resolution of Common Council dated November 14, 1799, that the judge of the District Court of the United States be permitted to hold the said court in the Common Council Chamber.

Yet Old City Hall holds a place among America's most historic buildings because for ten years it was the meeting place of the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Circuit Court for the Middle Circuit, and the United States District Court for the District of Pennsylvania.

On September 24, 1789, President Washington signed the Judiciary Act which gave form to the Supreme Court of the United States and established Circuit and District courts to round out a Federal court system. The Supreme Court met for its February and August terms of 1790 in New York and for its February 1791 term in Independence Hall. Both the District and Circuit Courts for Pennsylvania met in Philadelphia before the Federal Government moved; the District Court variously in the judges' chambers, the State House, the clerk's office, and Congress Hall; the Circuit Court probably in the State House.³⁷

On May 10, 1791, the District Court met at "the new Rooms in Chestnut Street Philadelphia,"³⁸ presumably in Old City Hall, and on August 1, 1791, the Supreme Court of the United States met at the new city hall.³⁹ The Circuit Court was meeting there by April 1792.⁴⁰ All three courts continued to meet in the building until July 1800 when the District and Circuit Courts removed to the room recently vacated by the United States Senate.⁴¹ The Supreme Court met in the new room for its August term, 1800.⁴²

Unfortunately, the minutes of the various courts almost never specify the room within Old City Hall in which the sessions of the courts took place. However, the Supreme Court of the United States required a room with facilities for six judges, clerk, marshall, counsel, and juries; the Circuit Court also required facilities for its juries. These facilities were available only in the Mayor's Court, or south room, first floor.⁴³ On two occasions, the Supreme Court met elsewhere; on March 14,

1796, it met in the Common Council Chamber,⁴⁴ and on August 5 of the same year it met in the State House.⁴⁵ The District Court held few jury trials and was extremely mobile, meeting at various times in the "State House," the "Judge's Office," "Belmont" (Judge Peters' country seat), "Middle Ferry, Schuylkill," "Clements Tavern in Bucks County" and "Norristown."⁴⁶ Approximately half of its meetings took place in Old City Hall and there is every reason to believe that, like the meetings of its sister courts, these were held in the Mayor's Court Room.

As it began meeting in Philadelphia, the Court was faced with the task of deciding what its powers were and determining its role in relation to the other great branches of government, the place of the several states in the Federal system and its own relationship with the governments, and particularly the judiciary, of the several states. For its guidance in performing this task, the Court, aside from a body of political theory and experience as interpreted by philosophers as early as Plato and as late as the authors of the Federalist Papers, had only the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and the hardly more specific terms of the Judiciary Act of September 29, 1789.⁴⁷

Upon these bases, with their broad but ill-defined grants of power, the Court began the process, which still continues after 170 years, of establishing the precise meaning of the Constitution and the laws and treaties enacted under it, and the place of the Court in the Federal scheme.

The Bench and Bar

Washington was fully aware of the importance of the judiciary. As he wrote the newly appointed Associate Justices, "[c]onsidering the Judicial System as the chief Pillar upon which our national Government must rest, I have thought it my duty to nominate, for the high offices in that department, such men as I conceived would give dignity and lustre to our National Character;..."⁴⁸ This aim was realized in the men who served on the Supreme Court during its formative decade.

John Jay, the first Chief Justice, while he had little judicial experience, had earned great repute as a statesman, particularly as Secretary of Foreign Affairs under the Confederation and as one of the authors of the Federalist Papers. "In 1789, his prestige as a lawyer and statesman was greater than that of Madison, Hamilton, Livingston or Jefferson; so that John Adams, in speaking later of the early Federalists, said that Jay was 'of more importance than any of the rest, indeed of almost as much weight as all the rest'."⁴⁹ John Rutledge, who presided over the August term of 1795 by virtue of a recess appointment as Chief Justice, had served in the Stamp Act Congress and First and Second Continental Congresses, and the Federal Convention, and had been an Associate Justice of the Court prior to its first meeting in Old City Hall. Oliver Ellsworth, who was named Chief Justice in 1796, had been a member of the Federal Convention, and the Judiciary Act of 1789 was to a large extent his work.

The Associate Justices were men of equal stature. William Cushing had long experience as the chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, and while serving in this post had interpreted the state Bill of Rights as abolishing slavery in the state. James Wilson, a signer of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, had been one of the first to deny Parliamentary authority over the colonies and had posed the earliest and one of the most able arguments for what the British Commonwealth of Nations has become. In the opinion of such authorities as James Bryce, he ranked among the foremost political philosophers of his age. John Blair, who had received his legal training in the Middle Temple, had also been a member of the Federal Convention and had presided over the General Court of Virginia. William Patterson had, like Wilson and Blair, participated in framing the Constitution; as the man who introduced the New Jersey plan, he had a profound influence on the provisions of that document.

James Iredell had led the Federalists in the North Carolina ratifying convention and was recognized as the most able lawyer in the state. Thomas Johnson had represented Maryland in the First and Second Continental Congresses and served as Governor and as chief justice of the General Court of his state. Bushrod Washington, the General's nephew, had studied law under Wilson and had gone on to serve in the Virginia ratifying convention and to become one of the most successful lawyers in the state. Alfred Moore, a veteran of the Revolution, has served North Carolina as a senator and as attorney general. Even Samuel

Chase, who holds the unenviable distinction of being the only member of the Court ever to be impeached, was a man of experience and ability. Highhanded and intemperate though he was, he had been influential in aligning Maryland in support of the Declaration of Independence, which he signed, and several of his decisions while on the Court have become landmarks in American constitutional law. The Constitution was to be interpreted by men who played an important role in its drafting and its ratification.

The United States was represented before the Court by three Attorney Generals during these ten years: Edmund Randolph, 1790-1794, William Bradford, Jr., 1794-1795, and Charles Lee, 1795-1800. All were men of stature. Randolph had served as attorney general and as Governor of Virginia, as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress and as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. He had brought the Virginia plan before the convention and, while he refused to sign the Constitution, had supported ratification in the Virginia ratifying convention. His successor, William Bradford, had been appointed attorney general of Pennsylvania at the age of twenty-five, one year after he began to practice law, and after nine years of service in this capacity had been named to the state Supreme Court. Charles Lee had entered upon public life in Virginia just before the Revolution and had earned the friendship and esteem of Washington, who, one year after Lee's admission to the bar, appointed him Attorney General.

In addition to their official duties, each of these men also appeared before the Court on behalf of private clients; indeed, Randolph appeared as counsel for the plaintiff in the important case of Chisholm v. Georgia.

Private practice before the Court was for the most part monopolized by the leading members of the Philadelphia bar, William Lewis, William Rawle, Edward Tilghman, Jared Ingersoll, Alexander James Dallas and Peter S. Du Ponceau. Ingersoll had served in the Second Continental Congress and in the Federal Convention. Lewis was regarded by his contemporaries as one of the leading lawyers of his generation, and Rawle served for eight years as the United States Attorney for the District of Pennsylvania. Tilghman was reputed to possess the most accurate legal judgment of any man of his day; Dallas, perhaps best remembered as the editor of the first reported cases of the Supreme Court, was Secretary of the Commonwealth and an active attorney; and Du Ponceau, formerly an aide to Von Steuben, was an authority on international law.

Of course, not all the attorneys who appeared before the Court in this period were Philadelphians. Among others, Alexander Hamilton and John Marshall were admitted to practice before the Supreme Court while the Court met in Old City Hall and each argued one case before it.⁵⁰

The Supreme Court and Constitutional Interpretation

Within the limitations of the Judiciary Act, the Supreme Court at its early meetings was free to establish its own rules of procedure and its own customs. At its first two sessions in New York, the Court

established rules for the admission of lawyers to its bar, admitted the first attorneys and counsellors to practice before it, chose the design for its seal and those of the Circuit and District Courts, and decided that its process should issue in the name of the President of the United States. But not until its removal to Philadelphia did the Court enter upon the tasks assigned it. Here the Court entertained its first case (Vanstophorst v. Maryland), heard its first arguments and delivered its first decision (Chisholm v. Georgia). Here the Justices first wore judicial robes,⁵¹ first adopted rules of practice,⁵² and first required counsel to submit briefs.⁵³ Here, too, the Court held the only evening session in the history of the Court⁵⁴ and empanelled the only juries ever to be called to decide a question of fact before the Court.⁵⁵

These "firsts" are interesting and, in their own way, important but it was as the final interpreter of the Constitution and the law, subject only to the will of the people of the United States expressed through amendments to the Constitution, that the Court assumed its greater importance. During its formative decade the Court rendered important decisions regarding the place of the states in the new Federal system, the authority vested in the Federal Government by the Constitution, and the role of the Court as a separate and coordinate branch of that government.

In Chisholm v. Georgia, first of the half dozen landmark cases in the Court's entire history, just such a decision was rendered. The Court in deciding this case, for the only time in its history, took an

action which led to the passage of a Constitutional amendment. The case raised the important question as to whether the Constitution gave the Court authority to entertain suits brought by citizens of one state against another state. This issue involved the fundamental concept of the nature of the Union, for if the states were sovereign they could not, under long established precedent, be sued without their consent; if the Supreme Court could entertain suits against a state, then the states had surrendered at least a portion of their sovereignty by acceding to the Union. Such staunch defenders of the Constitution as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Marshall denied that that document gave the Court this authority but on February 18, 1793, in Chisholm v. Georgia, the Court ruled that a state might be sued by a citizen of another state and, in February 1794, entered by default for Chisholm. This decision aroused much anxiety among the states and, on February 19, 1793, an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting such suits was introduced in Congress. Suits against states continued to be filed as the amendment made its way through the ratifying process. Then, on February 14, 1798, in the case of Hollingsworth v. Virginia, the Court again made history by announcing that it "is of opinion that, on Consideration of the Amendment of the Constitution respecting Suits against States, it has no jurisdiction of this Cause."⁵⁶

The second great question in this field, whether state laws in opposition to provisions of a treaty made by the United States were valid, was also settled by the Court while in Philadelphia. On March 7,

1796, in its decision on Ware v. Hylton, the Court ruled that a Virginia statute was invalid because it violated the terms of the treaty with England. This case was marked by John Marshall's only appearance (on the losing side) before the Court.⁵⁷ Two years later, the Court, speaking through Justice Iredell, enunciated as a policy that the power of declaring a statute void "is of so delicate and awful nature, the Court will never resort to that authority, but in a clear and urgent case."⁵⁸

In three early cases, the Court faced the problem of determining how much power was vested in the Federal Government by the Constitution. In Glass v. Sloop Betsy (February 1794), the Court forcibly asserted the jurisdiction of the Federal courts over prizes brought by belligerents into our ports and thus did much to establish respect for American neutrality.⁵⁹ In Penhallow v. Doane's Admrs., the Court affirmed the right of Federal courts to enforce the decrees of the old United States Court of Appeals in Cases of Captures.⁶⁰ In United States v. La Vengeance, the Court decided that an act committed not wholly on the high seas but partly within the borders of a state fell within its admiralty jurisdiction and thus laid the foundation for extension of Federal admiralty jurisdiction to inland waters.⁶¹

Finally, the Court decided two questions which involved the relationship with the other branches of government. The first arose in 1793 when Washington called upon the Court for its advice on the legal questions raised by his forthcoming Proclamation of Neutrality. The Court, noting that the Constitution had expressly given the President

authority to call on his department heads for advice, refused to render an advisory opinion. This declaration of judicial independence, in the opinion of Charles Warren, "constituted, perhaps, the most notable action of the Court during its first decade."⁶² One year later, the Court, in Ware v. Hylton, for the first time heard arguments respecting the constitutionality of an act of Congress.⁶³ The act involved was held to be constitutional. This case has some notable sidelights: the counsel involved were Attorney General Lee and Alexander Hamilton against Alexander Campbell and Jared Ingersoll; the government paid counsel of both sides;⁶⁴ and Hylton, who instituted the suit to test the constitutionality of the Federal tax on carriages, "in order to provide the required jurisdictional amount,...had to aver that he kept 125 chariots exclusively for his own private use...."⁶⁵

Circuit and District Courts in Old City Hall

But, while the Supreme Court was the pre-eminent occupant of Old City Hall, the Circuit and District Courts were of comparable importance. Many of the cases, heard by these courts while sitting in the bench within the bow window of Old City Hall, were of more than passing interest and on at least two occasions the Circuit Court for the District of Pennsylvania rendered decisions of lasting importance in American constitutional law.

The Circuit Courts, composed at first of two and after March 2, 1793, of one Justice of the Supreme Court sitting with the judge of the District Court, had original jurisdiction in criminal cases. That for

Pennsylvania, meeting in Old City Hall, heard the first American treason trials, those which marked the assertion of governmental authority over the Whiskey Rebels and the Fries Rebels. The trial of Fries is of special interest, for the intemperate manner in which it was conducted by Justice Chase formed one of the articles upon which he was impeached.

The District Court, presided over from 1792 until well after 1800 by Richard Peters, former Secretary to the Board of War, a noted wit and authority on maritime law, exercised jurisdiction over admiralty cases, custom seizures, crimes committed on the high seas and so forth. The Court heard several cases of historical interest. Le Croyable, captured by the Delaware, Stephen Decatur [Senior], Master; the Jalous, captured by the frigate United States, John Barry, Commander; the Le Vainqueur, captured by the Ganges, Thomas Tingey, Commander; and several other French privateers captured by our navy during the quasi-war with France were condemned by this court.⁶⁶

Further, the court shared with the Circuit Court the duty of presiding over naturalization proceedings. The 1790's was a decade of international turmoil and, as the American metropolis, Philadelphia attracted more than its share of those who fled the dungeon, the mob, or the guillotine. Politicians temporarily out of favor, such as Talleyrand and Moreau de Saint-Méry; reformers who had been too critical of conditions at home, such as Joseph Priestley and William Cobbett; businessmen who sensed opportunity in the new country, such as Théophile Cazenove, agent of the Dutch bankers; all joined with thousands of refugees from oppression or revolt in descending upon Philadelphia.

Many of these refugees appeared before the District Court in Old City Hall to participate in the solemn rite of admission to citizenship. Among others, "James Sharples, of the City of Philadelphia Portrait Painter" took time from creating his now famous pastels, some of which grace the Independence National Historical Park collection, to appear in court and renounce his allegiance to George III. On New Year's Day, 1799, Joseph Priestley, world renowned scientist and discoverer of oxygen, was admitted to become an American citizen.

Old City Hall as Municipal Building

In addition to its relatively short association with the Federal courts, Old City Hall enjoyed a long association with the city of Philadelphia. From its completion until the 1890's, it housed various agencies of the government of the city of Philadelphia.

The Mayor's Court, meeting in its first floor room, tried such crimes as keeping tippling or disorderly houses, bastardy, larceny, assault, fornication and so forth. The most eminent members of the Philadelphia bar practiced before it and some of the cases heard involved figures of some prominence. For example, in 1792 William Simmons, the irascible accountant of the War Department who gleefully disallowed the expenditures of two generations of army officers and once challenged the authority of the Secretary of War, was fined five shillings and costs for an assault on one James Roney;⁶⁷ in 1798 the noted Republican editor, William Duane, was found guilty of assault and battery upon William Bradford; and, in the same year, one Joseph Martin was sentenced to six

months at hard labor for "Larceny in Stealing books of the value of Doll^s 7 25/100" from the noted English reform leader, William Cobbett, then a political refugee engaged in making himself as obnoxious to American politicians as he had already become to the British ruling class.⁶⁸

In addition, such officers as the city treasurer, city commissioners, and the watering committee used the building; state courts occasionally sat in it and many private organizations met within its walls. The stockholders of the First Bank of the United States met there to organize and elect directors; the convention of delegates from the several abolition societies met there in 1796; and the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church was held there in 1795.

But of all these associations with the municipality of Philadelphia, the most dramatic was on the occasion in 1793 when yellow fever brought Philadelphia to a standstill. The fever appeared toward the end of July. As it increased in severity, terrified citizens fled to the suburbs and, since many city officials joined them, government ceased to function. In this crisis, Mayor Matthew Clarkson advertised for volunteers to assist during the crisis. On Thursday, September 10, ten citizens met at Old City Hall in response to the advertisement. Old City Hall then became the center from which these men and some twelve additional volunteers set about "averting the progress of destruction, eminently relieving the distressed, and restoring confidence to the terrified inhabitants of Philadelphia." Despite the devoted work of these volunteers,

among whom was Stephen Girard, over four thousand people, or a tenth of the population, died; but, thanks largely to the efforts of the committee, the city continued to exist and suffering was alleviated. In 1797, 1798 and 1799, the fever returned and on each occasion, Old City Hall became the center from which it was combatted.⁶⁹

EVALUATION OF
HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

Old City Hall is of national historical significance because it housed the Supreme Court of the United States during that institution's formative decade. While meeting in the Mayor's Court from 1791 until 1800, the Court had, according to Charles Warren, foremost authority on the history of the Court, formulated "the general principles of judicial procedure and of international and constitutional law on which its subsequent career was to be based." The United States District and Circuit Courts for the District of Pennsylvania also met in Old City Hall and, as coordinate bodies of the Federal judicial system, it was their destiny to take part with the Supreme Court in the history-making processes of the 1790's.

As the municipal center of the young Nation's greatest city and long-time de facto capital, Old City Hall assumes an importance comparable to that of other municipal buildings the National Park Service has classified as having "exceptional value." This aspect of the building's history warrants special consideration in interpretation. Particularly is this true of the building's use during the yellow fever of 1793; as the report of the Philadelphia National Shrines Park Commission points out, "it helped to make American medical history in serving as headquarters for combating the first great epidemic to visit any part of the United States."

The importance of Old City Hall long went unrecognized and its condition did not arouse wide public concern until about 1916. In

1917 the A.I.A. conducted an architectural investigation of the structure and prepared restoration drawings. The city restored the building in 1921. Fortunately, this restoration saved much of the original building for posterity.

Completion of the additional research recommended in Part I has thrown light on the origins of the building and has added a little to our knowledge of details of structure, interior layout and décor. However, it has not uncovered any records of construction nor has it added much to our incomplete records of subsequent alterations and produced significant new documentation for the work of the A.I.A. Nevertheless, we feel that this research, reported in some detail in the following section, has been of value; it has so far reduced the probability of discovering significant data on Old City Hall as to justify proceeding with the restoration of the structure on the basis of the evidence now at hand. Therefore, we draw the following conclusions and offer the following recommendations.

Physical Development

As far as the present state of the exterior is concerned, the following can be said:

1. The stone foundation and brick shell date from the construction, except for relatively minor repairs.
2. The roof was relaid after the fire of 1823; the present roof dates from the restoration of 1921 and seems an accurate recreation of the original.

3. The cupola was rebuilt after the fire of 1823 and was reconstructed during the restoration.

4. The cornice, the marble band course and the keystones and imposts of the doors and windows are original, except for minor repairs.

5. The west door, trim and jamb panelling in the south end of Old City Hall were found to be "old work" by the A.I.A. and may be original.

Thus, the exterior of the building is for the most part composed of original elements or accurate restorations of original elements. However, some few details are doubtful or inaccurate.

1. The iron balcony was installed during the restoration. The building was designed to have such a balcony but early prints are irrefutable evidence that no such balcony was in place until long after 1800. The present balcony should be removed.

2. The steps, except the top step at the door in the west wall, are of granite. They should be replaced by steps of stone matching that of the west door in character and material.

3. The walls have a blotchy appearance, the result of a relatively recent partial repointing. The entire exterior wall surface should be repointed and such repointing should include any techniques necessary to reproduce the characteristics of the original mortar surfaces.

4. All exterior brickwork has acquired a heavy layer of grime. The question as to whether the exterior should be cleaned involves both

Independence Hall and Congress Hall as well and requires a determination of National Park Service restoration policy. This question should be made the subject of a special study, including an analysis of the effect of cleaning on the surface bricks.

With regard to the structural members of Old City Hall, it appears that:

1. The old charred wooden members in the attic are original.
2. The members of the second floor wall bearing partition are original.
3. Portions of the first and second floor framing are original.

Every effort should be made to retain as many of these original elements as possible.

The state of the interior can be summarized as follows:

1. The window architraves of the first and second floor (except those of the vestibule), the architrave of the west door of the south wall, the frame and fan light of the first floor front and side doors, portions of the Mayor's Court cornice, much of the Common Council Chamber cornice, portions of window jamb panelling, the pilasters under the windows in the Common Council Chamber, and perhaps portions of the second floor chair rail and baseboards were found to be "old work" and were retained in the restoration of 1921.

2. All other features of interior room arrangement and décor were the product of the restoration of 1921, plans for which were prepared by the A.I.A. after an architectural investigation.

The A.I.A. investigation remains undocumented. However, judging by the thoroughness of their earlier investigation of Congress Hall and the accuracy of their restoration of that building, the restored elements of Old City Hall are, on the whole, accurate. Questionable elements include:

1. The niche in the city treasurer's office, shown in the restoration drawings as a fireplace, was restored as a niche. An architectural investigation should be made to determine the accuracy of this feature.

2. The door leading from the city treasurer's office to the Mayor's Court was installed during the restoration, but on what evidence we do not know. We recommend retention of this door unless and until we find evidence that originally there was no door here.

3. No fireplaces were restored in the southernmost piers of the east and west walls, first floor, even though there were fireplaces in this location at the second floor. An architectural investigation should be undertaken to determine whether or not fireplaces originally existed at these locations.

4. The location and shape of the partition between the Select Council Chamber and the room adjoining on the second floor seem open to question. An architectural investigation of the east wall adjacent to this partition should be undertaken to locate any evidence of other partitions in this general location.

5. Since the A.I.A. did not supervise the work of restoration and, at least in the case of the fireplace in the city treasurer's office, their drawings were not followed by the city, the A.I.A. drawings should be checked against existing conditions and any discrepancies should be reported.

6. The results of the recommended architectural investigations should be reported on, either in the Architectural Data Chapter of this report or as supplements thereto, so that the report will contain a complete record of all data gathered on the building.

Interpretive Development

The task of interpreting the work of the Supreme Court of the United States and the Circuit and District Courts for the District of Pennsylvania during the formative decade presents us with a great challenge and a unique opportunity, for perhaps no aspect of our history has been more neglected by historians. Of the many authorities who have written on the Supreme Court, only Charles Warren has given any study to its first ten years and he, writing before the minute and docket books of the Court were available, used only the cases reported by Dallas. No one, to our knowledge, has studied and analyzed the Circuit and District Courts. Thus there are no adequate guides for interpreting the work of the Federal courts in this period.

In view of the lack of authorities in the field, the decision not only of how to interpret but what to interpret must be based largely on original research in the records of the courts and a thoughtful

analysis of the results of this research. Fortunately, the minute books and dockets of all three courts and the individual case records of the Circuit and District Courts are virtually complete and readily accessible.

The recommendations made in Chapter IV, Section 4, of Part I that the Mayor's Court Room be refurnished to the period of use by the Supreme Court and that the adjacent city treasurer's office be used for exhibits on the first decade of the Supreme Court are heartily concurred in, though it is recommended that the exhibits be broadened in scope to include the work of the Circuit and District Courts. The work of the Mayor's Court should be included in the interpretation of the Mayor's Court Room.

In addition, it is recommended that the present United States District Court, should it prove willing to adapt itself to the room as restored and refurnished, be encouraged to hold all of its naturalization ceremonies in this room. Court procedures have changed so little that such ceremonies would amount to reenactments and would benefit our interpretive program and, at the same time, provide the court with a most appropriate setting for these ceremonies.

It is further recommended that a photographic reproduction of a section of the minute books of one of the courts for each day of the year, or for all days on which courts met in the room, be utilized in a "Today in History" exhibit. The minutes are legible, contain a concise account of each day's activities, and, as contemporary records, have an impact which would be difficult to achieve in any other way.

The recommendations made in Chapter IV, Section 4, of Part I, as amended in Chapter V of Part II, to use the second floor for housing exhibits are also concurred in.

It is further recommended that the museum displays be adapted to the rooms rather than the reverse. The second floor rooms should be restored to the appearance and dimensions of the 1790's. Original paint colors, if determinable, should be used and copies of period venetian blinds should be placed in the windows. Such intrusions as wiring and electrical outlets which are essential to the exhibits should be kept to a minimum and concealed.

Finally, the two doors flanking the bow window in the south wall of Old City Hall are of interpretive value and should be left unimpeded for use by the public in entering the building and for use of court officials during naturalization ceremonies. The justices, judges, clerks and marshalls are believed to have used them during the 1790's to reach the bench without having to pass through the crowd of curious beyond the bar. Since the trash storage area now occupying this space is unsightly and odorous, it should be relocated.

RESULTS OF DOCUMENTARY
RESEARCH

Chapter II, Section 3, of the Part I report included a recommendation for further research to locate plans, vouchers and papers relating to construction and for research in the extant papers of justices of the Supreme Court, extant records of city agencies that used the building or were responsible for its maintenance, and extant papers of members of the A.I.A. committee which conducted the architectural investigation of 1917.

As the initial step in carrying out the recommended research, a list was prepared of:

United States Marshalls for the District of Pennsylvania	1789-1801
United States Attornies	1789-1801
Clerks of the U. S. Courts	1789-1801
Mayors of Philadelphia	1789-1824
City Recorders	1789-1836
Clerks of the Mayor's Court	1789-1836
Aldermen	1789-1823
City Solicitors	1798-1830
Sheriffs	1789-1830
City Treasurers	1790-1882
County Treasurers	1789-1856
Presidents of Select and Common Councils	1796-1855
Clerks of Councils	1796-1855
Prominent Philadelphia lawyers	1790-1830

This list was then checked against the indexes of the Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in Pennsylvania. Manuscript collections for about a dozen of the people on the list were located, examined, and found to contain no data on the physical history of Old City Hall. The project could be carried further by checking the list against the card catalogues of local repositories and by conducting an intensive search for descendants of the persons on it, some of whom are sure to have personal papers of their ancestors. However, it has been decided not to undertake this at the present time.

As the second step in carrying out the recommended research, manuscripts of Supreme Court Justices were located and examined. The Jay papers had been done; the papers of James Wilson, James Iredell, Samuel Chase and William Cushing were examined and found to contain no data on Old City Hall.

The minute books of the Supreme Court and the Circuit and District Courts for the years 1790 to 1800 were then examined and found to contain no data on physical history. The case papers of the District and Circuit Courts were not searched, but enough samples were inspected to rule out the likelihood of finding physical history data in them. These case papers are voluminous and have great potential value as a source of data with which to interpret these courts, but examination of them has been postponed until Park development is more nearly complete.

The search was then turned to the records of the Philadelphia Municipal Archives. Those volumes of the minutes of city councils not

previously examined were searched; much new data concerning the origins of the building, some new data on its construction, and some new data on subsequent alterations were discovered. The minute and docket books of the Mayor's Court for the years 1788-1825 were examined; little data on physical history was found. Several volumes of miscellaneous records were examined and produced no data. Finally, the records of the City Treasurer were examined. Of these, three classes are worthy of note:

1. City Treasurer's Receipt Books, 1792-1854. This source contains receipts for payments made by the City Treasurer. A typical entry reads:

Rec^d from John Shee t^r of the Corp.--Sixty six
pounds in full of the Committees order of the
19 inst.

March 23, 1792
£ 66.0.0

J. Gostelowe
176 Dollars.

This form of entry contains no indication of the purpose of the expenditure.

2. City Treasurers' Accounts, 1799-1893. Only the early volumes were examined; those for 1820 and later were spot-checked to ascertain whether the entries became more specific. These volumes contain a record of the receipts and expenditures of the City Treasurer. A typical entry reads:

By Appropriation No. 17 of 1814 paid the)
Mayor's order in favor William Allibone Ju^r) - 75

This form of entry also contains no indication of the purpose of the expenditure.

3. City Treasurers' General Ledgers, 1800-1900. The two ledgers for the years 1800-1811 were examined; the others were spot-checked. This source contains, in abbreviated form, the same data found in the Treasurers' Accounts.

These three sources contain a complete record of amounts paid and to whom paid by the city from January 19, 1792, through August 3, 1793, and from 1799 through 1900. Unfortunately, the purpose for which the payments were made is not given, or is given in such general terms as to be meaningless. For example, let us suppose that David Evans was paid \$33.16 for breaking a door between the Treasurer's Office and the Mayor's Court. The entry in these records would indicate only that Evans was paid \$33.16 for "repairs to city property" and would not indicate the nature of the work or indeed whether it was done at Old City Hall, a wharf, a market house, the hay scales, a bridge, or some other city property. It is possible to compile from the Treasurers' records a list of all mechanics who made repairs to city property and all merchants who supplied materials for such repairs and to institute a search for personal papers of all those on the list in the hopes of finding in them some indication of the nature of the work done and whether or not it pertained to Old City Hall. Such an undertaking was not possible in the time allotted for the preparation of this report and will not be possible for some time to come. Moreover, since experience has shown that few mechanics leave records, the chances of making significant discoveries by this means are not good, although it should be attempted if all other sources of data fail.

In addition to the above research, the American Daily Advertiser for the years 1808-1820 was examined in hopes that some reference to the alterations in the Mayor's Court would be found. None was.

One class of records remains to be examined. The record storage center of the Municipal Archives contains a voluminous collection of material known to the staff of the Archives only as "City Comptrollers' Records, 1800-1900" which are piled behind other records and are inaccessible. These records may contain no data on Old City Hall. They may, on the other hand, contain vouchers for the construction, repair and maintenance of the building. The Archives is now moving into new quarters and it is hoped that by March 1, 1961, when this move is completed, these records will become accessible. They will then be examined as thoroughly as the contents warrant. If this source is found to contain data on Old City Hall, that data will be submitted as a supplement to this report.

It is impossible ever to close the books and end research with complete assurance that no significant data remains to be discovered. This is especially true of research on a building which in 170 years has been seen by hundreds of thousands of people from Chief Justice Jay to convicted vagrants, any one of whom might have written a description of the building complete to the last detail. There is no guarantee that such a description, or a complete set of construction vouchers, will not turn up in the most unlikely place the day before the restored and refurnished building is reopened; the County Treasurer's Account for constructing Congress Hall turned up in some tax records shortly after the working drawings for the restoration of that building were approved.

But it is possible to advance research to such a stage that further discoveries are more apt to come through fortuitous chance than through planned research in chosen catagories of records. Research on Old City Hall has reached that point.

NOTES

1. Gertrude MacKinney, ed., Pennsylvania Archives, Eighth Series (Harrisburg, 1931), III, 2355-56.
2. "State of the accounts of John Baker Esq^r: Treasurer of the City & County of Philadelphia, for the Sale of the Old Gaol & Work House, and building the new Court House," County Treasurer's Book, 1794, 1816, manuscript in the Philadelphia Municipal Archives. Hereafter cited as "Baker's Account."
3. ...
"By ditto [Cash] Sadler & Govett for
 Carpenter Work - - - - - 2000. - - - - -

 ...
 By Ditto Hugh Roberts, for Flags &
 Superintending the Building - - - 106.14.2"
Baker's Account. Roberts was a carpenter by trade.
4. James T. Mitchell and Henry Flanders, compilers, The Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, 1909), XIII, 276-82.
5. Minutes of City Council, 1789-93, photostat in Philadelphia Municipal Archives from manuscript in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Hereafter cited as "Council Minutes, 1789-93." Of the committee members, Clarkson was a merchant, Roberts an ironmonger, Morris a brewer, Bedford a house carpenter and insurance surveyor for the Philadelphia Contributionship, and Evans a house carpenter.
6. Council Minutes, 1789-93, 270-71. Of the new members, Colliday was a house carpenter, Fisher a lawyer, Latimer a flour merchant, and Wharton a merchant.
7. Council Minutes, 1789-93. Of the two new members, Powel was a former mayor of the city and one of its most wealthy and cultured citizens, Kaighn was a merchant.
8. Samuel Hazard, ed., Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania...(Philadelphia and Harrisburg, 1851-52), XVI, 410.
9. Minutes of the Corporation, Common Council, January 18, 1793 - October 3, 1796, manuscript in Philadelphia Municipal Archives. Hereafter cited as "Council Minutes, 1793-96."
10. City Treasurer, Checks & Receipts, January 19, 1792 - August 3, 1793, manuscript in Philadelphia Municipal Archives. I am indebted to Mr. Lee Nelson, Branch of Historic Structures, EODC, who compiled the total payments made to Evans from this source.

11. For example, payments for the alterations to Congress Hall in the 1790's were made by warrants drawn on the county treasurer by the commissioners and paid directly to the workmen. Payments for some of the repairs to Independence Hall were made by the master carpenter who then submitted vouchers and was reimbursed.
12. Council Minutes, 1789-93, 217.
13. Council Minutes, 1789-93, 220.
14. Council Minutes, 1789-93, 222.
15. Council Minutes, 1789-93, 228.
16. Council Minutes, 1789-93, 272-73.
17. Council Minutes, 1793-96, 6.
18. Minutes, 10 May 1791, manuscript in [Rough] Minutes of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Record Group 21, National Archives.
19. Historic Structures Report, Part I, on Congress Hall, Chapter II, Section 1, 4-5.
20. Minutes of the American Philosophical Society, November 1842 - January 1846, manuscript in the American Philosophical Society Library.
21. Historic Structures Report, Part II, on Congress Hall, Chapter II, Section 1, 14.
22. "Hereafter the entrance to the police office will be on Fifth Street" -- Philadelphia Public Ledger, May 10, 1852.
23. "The old winding stairway leading from the hall entrance on Chestnut Street,...are to be removed and a flight of stairs constructed from the same entrance on the opposite side of the hall, direct to the rooms above." -- Philadelphia Public Ledger, May 1852.
24. The illustrated report of the investigation undertaken by the A.I.A. in 1916-17 has not been found and we must rely on inferences drawn from the specifications for the 1921 restoration (see Part I, Appendix B) to establish original elements found and retained. See also George M. Ewing and Company, "Report on City Hall" (1959), a typescript in the files of WASO and Branch of Historic Structures, EODC.
25. The Philadelphia Monthly Magazine, I (June 1798), 333-35.

26. Minutes of the Common Council, January 1803 - May 17, 1813, manuscript in Philadelphia Municipal Archives, 133.
27. This fact is not conclusive evidence that such alterations did not take place in these years, for the minutes of council are not particularly explicit as to repairs.
28. "Statement of Expenditures of city commissioners of Phila. for 1818," in New York State Legislature, Senate Documents, 1824-25, 30.
29. "The City Treasurer would occupy the room he now does, with enlarged fire proofs." -- Report of the Committee on City Property, in Journal of Common Council of the City of Philadelphia, October 16, 1835 to October 8, 1836 (Philadelphia, 1837), 83-84.
30. Minutes of Select Council, June 16, 1821 - September 30, 1830, manuscript in Philadelphia Municipal Archives, 611.
31. Minutes of Select Council, October 14, 1796 - April 4, 1799, manuscript in Philadelphia Municipal Archives, 7. Hereafter cited as "Select Council Minutes, 1796-99."
32. Select Council Minutes, 1796-99, 11.
33. "Resolved, That the Books & papers belonging to the Corporation... be removed to the Room between the Select and Common Council Chambers...." -- Select Council Minutes, 1796-99, 12.
34. Council Minutes, 1793-96, 15.
35. Council Minutes, 1789-93, 414.
36. Minutes of Select Council, June 16, 1821 - September 30, 1830, manuscript in Philadelphia Municipal Archives, 611.
37. [Rough] Minutes of the United States District Court for the [Eastern] District of Pennsylvania, manuscripts in Records of U. S. Circuit and District Courts, R.G. 21, National Archives. Hereafter cited as District Court Minutes. Unfortunately, the Circuit Court Minutes for the years prior to 1792 have not been found. On April 11, 1792, this court met in Old City Hall. Minutes of the United States Circuit Court for the [Eastern] District of Pennsylvania, manuscript in Records of U. S. Circuit and District Courts, R.G. 21, National Archives. Hereafter cited as Circuit Court Minutes.
38. District Court Minutes, May 10, 1791.

39. Claypoole's Daily Advertiser, August 2, 1791.
40. Circuit Court Minutes, April 11, 1792.
41. "The Court adjourned until the 8 inst^t at 9 o'clock A.M. at the New District Court Room being the chamber lately occupied by the Senate of the United States." -- District Court Minutes, July 1, 1800.
42. "Pursuant to adjournment the Court met this morning at the Court House." -- Minutes of the Supreme Court of the United States, August 8, 1800, manuscript in Records of the United States Supreme Court, R.G. 267, National Archives. Hereafter cited as "Supreme Court Minutes." All previous entries list the meeting place as "City Hall." The American Daily Advertiser for August 12, 1800, states that the court was then meeting at the County Court House. Robert P. Reeder in his definitive article on the first homes of the Supreme Court, which appeared in volume LXXVI of the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, states that the court held its August 1800 term in Old City Hall, but in the light of the new evidence presented above, this statement is erroneous.
43. Robert P. Reeder, "The First Homes of the Supreme Court of the United States" in Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, LXXVI, (1936), 584-85.
44. Supreme Court Minutes, March 14, 1796.
45. Supreme Court Minutes, August 5, 1796.
46. District Court Minutes. Those meetings held at Belmont, Middle Ferry and Norristown coincide in date with the yellow fever season.
47. The Constitution had stated the powers of the Court in very general terms. After providing that "The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time establish," the Constitution goes on to provide that:

The judicial power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; - to all Cases effecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls; - to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction; - to Controversies to which the United States shall be a party; - to Controversies between two or more States; between a State and Citizens of another State; - between Citizens of different

States; between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

The act to establish the judicial courts of the United States, approved on September 24, 1789, gave form to the Supreme Court, established and defined the jurisdiction of a system of District and Circuit Courts, provided for the appointment of and prescribed the oath to be taken by judges, clerks and marshalls, provided for the issuance of writs and in fact established a Federal judiciary. Two of the provisions of this act bore particularly on the jurisdiction of the Court. Section 13 provided:

That the Supreme Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction of all controversies of a civil nature, where a State is a party, except between a state and its citizens; and except also between a state and citizens of other States, or aliens, in which latter case it shall have original but not exclusive jurisdiction. And shall have exclusively all such jurisdiction of suits or proceedings against ambassadors or other public ministers, or their domestics, or domestic servants, as a court of law can have or exercise consistently with the law of nations; and original, but not exclusive jurisdiction of all suits brought by ambassadors or other public ministers, or in which a consul or vice-consul shall be a party. And the trial of issues in fact in the Supreme Court in all actions at law against citizens of the United States shall be by jury. The Supreme Court shall also have appellate jurisdiction from the circuit courts and courts of the several States in the cases hereinafter specially provided for; and shall have power to issue writs of prohibition to the district courts, when proceeding as courts of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, and writs of mandamus, in cases warranted by the principle and usages of law, to any courts appointed, or persons holding office under the authority of the United States.

Section 25 of the same act provided that decisions of state courts denying the validity of a treaty or statute of the United States, or construing a clause of the Constitution or a Federal statute, or affirming the validity of a state statute when such a statute had been challenged as repugnant to the Constitution of the United States could be re-examined by the Supreme Court of the United States. This provision established the position of the Court as the pre-eminent authority in the field of Constitutional interpretation.

48. Washington to the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, September 30, 1789, in John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., The Writings of George Washington (Washington, 1931-44), XXX, 424-25.
 49. Charles Warren, "The First Decade of the Supreme Court of the United States," in The University of Chicago Law Review, VII (1940), 633. Hereafter cited as "Warren, 'First Decade'."
 50. "On motion of the attorney General J. Marshall and Alexander Campbell Esquires, were admitted Counsellors of this court, and were immediately sworn as such." -- Supreme Court Minutes, February 2, 1795.

"On motion of the Attorney General of the United States, Alexander Hamilton, Esq^r of New York was admitted and sworn a Counsellor of this Court. --" -- Supreme Court Minutes, February 22, 1796.
 51. "A correspondent observes that he was highly pleased today with the appearance of the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States in their robes of Justice,..." -- Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser, February 10, 1792.
 52. "The Chief Justice in answer to the motion of the Attorney General made yesterday, informs him and the Bar, that this Court consider the practice of the Courts of Kings Bench and of Chancery in England as affording outlines for the practice of this Court and that they will from time to time make such alterations therein as circumstances may render necessary." -- Supreme Court Minutes, August 8, 1792.
 53. "The Court gave notice to the gentlemen of the Bar that hereafter they will expect to be furnished with a statement of the material points of the case from counsel on each side of a cause." -- Supreme Court Minutes, February 4, 1795.
 54. "At one session, Saturday, August 22, 1795, the Court sat for its usual time and adjourned until seven o'clock in the evening,... This is probably the only instance of an evening session in the history of the Court." -- Warren, "First Decade," 637.
 55. "State of Georgia
VS
Samuel Brailford
- The Pleadings in this Suit are
this day filed and issue joined
between the parties to the same.

The Jury impannelled and summoned in the above suit being called do now appear to wit

1. John Leaming
2. Joseph Anthony
7. Owen Foulke, junior
8. Robert Smith

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 3. Samuel Hodgdon | 9. Robert Ralston |
| 4. Joseph Ball | 10. Reynold Keen |
| 5. Matthew McConnell | 11. Hugh Lenox |
| 6. Thomas Ewing | 12. John Stille |

and are severally sworn or affirmed to try the issue." -- Supreme Court Minutes, February 4, 1794. Juries were also called in Oswald v. New York and Colting v. South Carolina.

56. Supreme Court Minutes, February 14, 1798.
57. Warren, "First Decade," 630.
58. Charles Warren, The Supreme Court in United States History (Boston, 1922), I, 24. Hereafter cited as "Warren, Supreme Court."
59. Warren, Supreme Court, I, 116-117.
60. Warren, Supreme Court, I, 122-123.
61. Warren, Supreme Court, I, 149-150.
62. Warren, "First Decade," 647.
63. Warren, "First Decade," 648-649.
64. Accounts numbers 7684, 7705 and 7712 in Miscellaneous Treasury Accounts of the General Accounting Office, R.G. 217, National Archives. Hamilton received \$500, Campbell and Ingersoll \$233.33 each.
65. Warren, "First Decade," 648.
66. District Court Minutes, 1798-99.
67. Mayor's Court Minute Book, June 1792 - January 1796, manuscript in Philadelphia Municipal Archives, 20.
68. Mayor's Court Docket [Minute Book], March 1796 - April 1802, manuscript in Philadelphia Municipal Archives, 178-246. Duane was a familiar figure in Old City Hall; perhaps no American editor was assaulted or sued for libel so frequently.
69. All information in this paragraph, including the quote, is from Matthew Carey, A Short Account of the Malignant Fever... (Philadelphia, November 30, 1793). A more readily available, though no more graphic, account can be found in John H. Powell, Bring Out Your Dead (Philadelphia, 1949).

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

Minutes of City Council, 1789-1793
July 16, 1790

The Committee appointed at the last meeting relative to a plan of the inside of a building for a City Hall, &c. and to enquire whether a sum of money in addition to the private estate of the Corporation can be borrowed for the purpose of carrying on the said Building, &c. made report, which was read and ordered to lie on the Table -- the same on motion was read a second time, debated by paragraphs, and adopted as follows:

"The Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the Corporation Funds and whether a Sum of money can be borrowed for the erection of a City Hall and to draw a plan of the building -- report

"That they have examined into the State of the Funds of the Corporation, by reference to the Treasurer's Accounts, and find that he has in his hands about three hundred and forty pounds in Specie; that the Monies due to the Corporation for Rents, &c. immediately payable, amount to about four hundred and sixty pounds, making about eight hundred pounds; upon the speedy collection of which the Board may rely that the Committee apprehend a much larger sum than this (arising from the estates of this city) has been applied to the purposes of lighting, watching, paveing, cleansing and watering the city, but to ascertain the quantum, it will be necessary to have the accounts examined and the several debits for those purposes separated from the debits which are properly chargeable to the account of the real estate, in order that funds may hereafter be kept entirely separate and the Board be enabled to judge from a bare Inspection of the accounts how much money they have in their disposal from time to time.

"The Committee also find that there are due on divers Securities from several persons several sums of Money to the amount of about five hundred and eighty pounds, besides Interest, which Securities they are of opinion should be put into the hands of the Recorder with directions to commence suits thereon if the debtors, after notice, neglect to pay them off. The Committee are of opinion from an examination of the rental that the real estate of the Corporation will yield a neat sum of about two thousand pounds per annum after deducting the incidental charges for repairs and salaries payable out of those funds to the officers of the Corporation; that it will be proper to retain about five hundred pounds per annum to defray the expences of necessary works in the city for which they are not empowered to lay Taxes; that therefore there will remain a clear income of fifteen hundred pounds per annum which may with propriety be applied to the erection of a City-Hall, and pledged for the redemption of any money that may be borrowed to carry on that work; That upon enquiry

from the Managers of the Lottery they are informed, that a number of Tickets are sold, and they are of opinion that a resolution of the Corporation to proceed to the erection of the City-Hall would produce an immediate demand for a great number more, so that the Lottery might be drawn within a reasonable Time. That the Directors of the Bank of North-America are disposed to favour the Corporation with a Loan and have agreed to advance such Sums upon the Orders of the Corporation, or a Committee thereof, as from time to time shall be necessary, to the amount of three thousand pounds in the whole, to be repaid with Interest received from the city estates which sum of three thousand pounds the Committee are of opinion will, with the other funds above mentioned, be sufficient for the purpose.

"The Committee are of opinion that it is expedient and necessary immediately to provide materials for erecting the City Hall, and to proceed to erect the same with all possible expedition, so that it may be covered before the ensuing winter, because if the Congress of the United States should reside here the public Buildings will be so much occupied that there will probably be no place for holding the Mayor's Court, or the Sittings of the Corporation, except in the old Court House in High Street, which is extremely inconvenient and unfit for the purpose.

"The Committee have prepared a plan (and herewith produce it) for the inside of the Hall, which they judge will be proper in case the same should be finished merely for the use of the City; but should the Congress of the United States chuse it for their Sittings, some variations from this plan may be necessary; and the Committee are of opinion that the first opportunity should be taken of offering it to that honourable Body for their use, and if they accept it, that the necessary variations from the plan produced, may be made in the inside for their accommodation, in an advanced state of the work, and need not now be determined on.

"The Committee therefore submit the following Resolutions:

"Resolved 1st That the Treasurer be directed to state separate accounts for all monies received by him from the rents of the City Estates and other Funds belonging to the Corporation, since the first day of June one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine; and from the taxes laid, before and since that time and to charge in the first of the said separate accounts, the sums extended for Salaries to such of the officers of the Corporation as are properly payable thereout, and all expences for repairs and incidentals charges; and to the second all monies expended for lighting, watching, paving, cleansing and watering the City with the Salaries of the City Commissioners, and that hereafter the Treasurer do keep these accounts separate in like manner.

"Resolved 2^d That the Treasurer be directed to demand from the several Debtors of the Corporation all monies due on the Securities in his hands, and in case of failure of payment to deliver the said Securities to the Recorder who is requested to commence suits thereon.

"Resolved 3^d That a Committee of five be appointed by this Board to superintend the erection of the City-Hall who shall have power and be directed forthwith to agree with some responsible person or persons to provide all the necessary materials upon the lowest terms possible for ready money; to agree with proper Masons, Stone Cutters, Carpenters and other mechanics to execute the different parts of the building at the lowest prices, to be paid in money, by installments at different periods in the progress of the work; to draw on the Cashier of the Bank in favour of the Treasurer of the Corporation for such sums of money not exceeding three thousand pounds in the whole as shall from time to time be necessary for carrying on the building, and to draw on the Treasurer in favour of the persons by them to be employed to pay the different bills for work, labour and materials and to report once in two months, or oftener if occasion require, the progress made in carrying on the Building to this Board, to the end that such further or other directions may be given them as events may require.

"Resolved 4th That the monies which upon the accounts to be stated in pursuance of the first resolution shall appear to have arisen from the real and personal estates of the Corporation, the monies arising from the Lottery established by the General Assembly, and the annual sum of fifteen hundred pounds beginning from the first day of June last, arising out of the future rents and profits of the real estate of the Corporation be appropriated and set apart as Funds for defraying the expences of this Building and paying such Sums and the Interest thereof as shall be borrowed from the Bank of North-America to anticipate those Funds; and the same shall continue to be appropriated, set apart and applied to those purposes as fast as the same shall be received, until the whole be paid off.

"Resolved 5th That Samuel Powel, Matthew Clarkson, Isaac Wharton, John Kaighn, and Thomas Morris be the Committee for the purposes mentioned in the third Resolution and that any three of them be a Quorum to transact business and that all orders drawn by a quorum thereof on the Cashier of the Bank for the monies so to be borrowed shall be equally binding on the Corporation as their own Act; and all payments made by the Treasurer upon their orders shall be allowed to him in his accounts.

"July the sixteenth one thousand seven hundred and ninety.
(Signed) "Isaac Wharton Miers Fisher
 Thomas Morris David Evans
 Matthew Clarkson George Latimer"

APPENDIX B

Contributionship Survey Book, 1795-1824, Survey #4045, pp. 368-369

I have Surveyed The City Hall belonging to the "Mayor, Aldermen & Citizens, of Philadelphia, situate on the South-west corner of Chesnut & Fifth streets, being 50 feet front on Chesnut & 75 feet (including the octagon), on Fifth street -- two stories high -- 18 & 22ⁱⁿ walls -- The lower story divided into four rooms, & large hall, floor of 5/4ⁱⁿ yellow pine -- Base round, double architrave round the doors -- all the windows finish'd with single architraves & circular heads -- Glass 12 by 16ⁱⁿ -- a double sett of sash in three windows on 5th street -- one of the rooms occupied as the Mayors office -- has a bar in the middle of the floor, rased two steps, & finished with a circular rail & turn,d banisters, pannel'd below about 3 feet wide & a platform at the south and elevated about 4 feet -- two front doors, & the door into the Mayors office have circular sash over them. -- in the Hall is a large open newel stair case leading into the garret. finished with open brackets, turn,d banisters, & large painted rails. -- The 2nd Story is divided into five rooms & passage, 5/4ⁱⁿ yellow pine floor, base & subbase round, double architraves to the doors & windows, the jambs pannel,d inside, wooden cornice round the passage & com^d council chamber with modillions & dental -- two doors finish'd with circular sash over them -- a large arch with open [pilasters?] & double architraves on the landing of the 2nd floor -- The Garret is not plaster'd -- one circular dormer with [?] opening out to the roof of the octagon -- which is covered with copper -- a Pediment in front with a circular window there'in. -- the roof hip,d at each corner -- a modillion & dental eave round, copper gutters & pipes -- an octagon cupola on the roof, the openings finish,d with circular heads & single architrave with modillions round the pedastal. an ash hole in the cellar. -- [roof?] about 1/2 worn.

12th Mo 29th 1821

John C. Evans

No 4045 Jan 5th 1822

\$15,000 @ 4 pct -- 200 D.

with liberty of naval stores in the cellar
(gunpowder excepted)

APPENDIX C

Horace Wells Sellers to George E. Datesman, February 14, 1918,
With Progress Report Attached

Mr. George E. Datesman, Director,
Department of Public Works,
City Hall, Philadelphia.

Dear Mr. Datesman:

Referring to my conversation with you on Tuesday in regard to Old City Hall, the continuous study that has been given to the survey and problems involved has enabled our Committee to make material progress with the final plans and detail drawings for the restoration. In view of this and to supplement such information as you may have received through the Chief of the Bureau of City Property, the Committee has prepared the enclosed report on the subject following the practice by which such reports were made to your Department from time to time on the restoration of Congress Hall and improvements to the Square.

The present statement refers chiefly to the procedure thus far incident to the survey and researches involved in the restoration, but the conclusions now definitely arrived at will permit submitting to you as desired advanced drawings showing the floor plans of the building as originally constructed and as it will appear when restored. These drawings are now being put in shape for you and will be submitted at the earliest possible moment.

[p. 2] In the meantime as referred to in our conversation it is interesting to note that the evidences of original conditions disclosed by the survey and researches are fully as complete as in the case of Congress Hall and will lead to an accurate restoration of the building as it existed at the period to which Congress Hall has been restored, both buildings having been erected about the same time and intimately related in design as well as in the historic events with which they are most prominently associated. This is especially gratifying in view of the long neglect of the building and the ill considered changes made in it from time to time but aside from the fact that it was the first City Hall possessed by the Corporation there is we know the wide national interest in the restoration of the structure on account of its importance as the original seat of the Supreme Court and of the United States District and Circuit Courts during a very interesting period in the country's history.

The building as originally planned is more interesting than the arrangement of the County Court House (Congress Hall) as enlarged for the accommodation of Congress and when restored the City Hall will add greatly to the historic interest of the whole group.

As soon as the advanced plans are ready I will advise you and if as suggested you desire a conference on the subject, I shall be pleased to hear from you as it is the object of our Committee to render you the fullest possible service in this connection. In the meantime, I remain

Yours very truly,

HWS/L

[Attachment]

PROGRESS REPORT

Relative to the survey and plans for the restoration of the old City Hall at the southwest corner of Fifth and Chestnut Streets, pursuant to resolution passed by City Councils, September 6, 1916, and contract with the Philadelphia Chapter, American Institute of Architects, dated November 15, 1916, governing the services of the Chapter Committee on Preservation of Historic Monuments:

Elliston P. Bissell
Leicester B. Holland
Thomas M. Kellogg

George C. Mason
Emlyn L. Stewardson
Horace Wells Sellers

February 1, 1918.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE RESTORATION:

Pursuant to the resolutions of the Philadelphia Chapter tendering its gratuitous services to the City and the action of the Mayor and City Councils in acceptance of same as confirmed by contract of November 15, 1916, the survey and researches and the drawings now being prepared have in view the restoration of the building in plan and detail to its original condition when erected, in harmony with the purpose accomplished in the restoration of Congress Hall, to the end that the entire group of buildings may be preserved as they appeared when Philadelphia was coincidentally the seat of City, State and Federal government, this historic significance of the group being recognized in the ordinance of Councils, Appendix No. 30, February 1st, 1917, regulating the uses to which the several buildings shall be dedicated.

SURVEY AND PROCEDURE:

To accomplish the foregoing purpose the Committee has held 20 meetings at the building and elsewhere in directing the survey, researches and preparation of drawings, these meetings being generally attended by the Chief of the Bureau of City Property, and the proceedings duly recorded in the minutes and correspondence relating thereto.

In addition to this joint consideration of the problem, individual members of the Committee have given study to the details and undertaken other researches to complete the evidence required.

With labor furnished by the Bureau of City Property portions of the partitions, plastering, floors of modern construction have been removed under the direction and observation of the Committee and all physical evidences of the original construction and architectural details thus disclosed have been carefully recorded by means of notes, measured drawings and by photographs. Through acquaintance with technical methods and architectural design and building construction at various periods, the Committee has been able to identify the original construction where it exists, compared with the workmanship, materials and details of the various alterations which followed during later years, the work of each period being thus clearly defined.

HISTORICAL DATA:

Coincident with the study of the physical conditions, documentary evidence has been collected comprising municipal and state records, records of the United States Courts, historical publications, contemporary newspapers and magazines, early prints and drawings, pertaining to the building or to the uses to which it was applied, first, in its local character as the seat of the municipal government for which it was designed under the original city charter, and second, in its wider national significance, as the seat of the first Supreme Court and of the Circuit and District Courts of the United States, during the period when the County Court House at Sixth and Chestnut Streets was occupied by the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

As in the case of the researches preparatory to the restoration of Congress Hall the essential documentary evidence will be incorporated in the final report for record with the final drawings.

DRAWINGS:

The result of the survey of the building has been embodied in the measured drawings on which is noted the original construction where same exists, in addition to the records and photographs comprising the physical evidence collected.

The scale and detail working drawings for the restoration are now well advanced towards completion and will be supplemented by the specifications and contract documents necessary to the work of reconstruction when funds are appropriated by City Councils for the purpose.

In full appreciation of the historic associations identified with this building and of the fact that it forms part of a national monument possessing more than a local interest, the Committee recognizes the importance of accuracy and faithful adherence to the evidence in every detail of the restoration, in order that the restoration may be so planned and accomplished as to reflect credit upon your Department and the City and to avoid the unfavorable criticism that arbitrary disregard of accuracy would invite. It was with this in view that the Chapter tendered its experience and technical service to the City in connection with these buildings, and which in turn prompts this Committee to give thorough study to the many details which are vital to the success of the undertaking, the full record of which will be contained in a final report on the completion of the work.

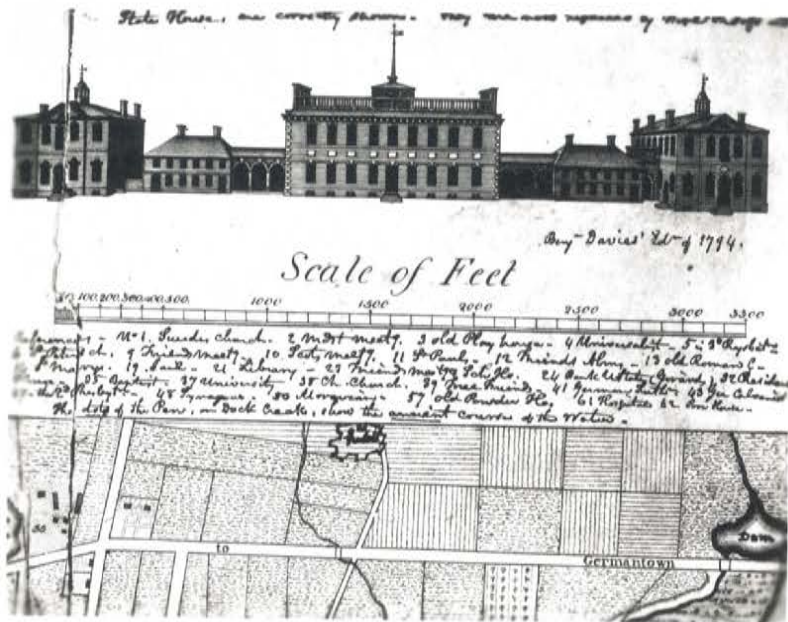
Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee on Preservation of Historic Monuments.

Chairman.

To Mr. George E. Datesman, Director,
Department of Public Works,
City Hall, Philadelphia.

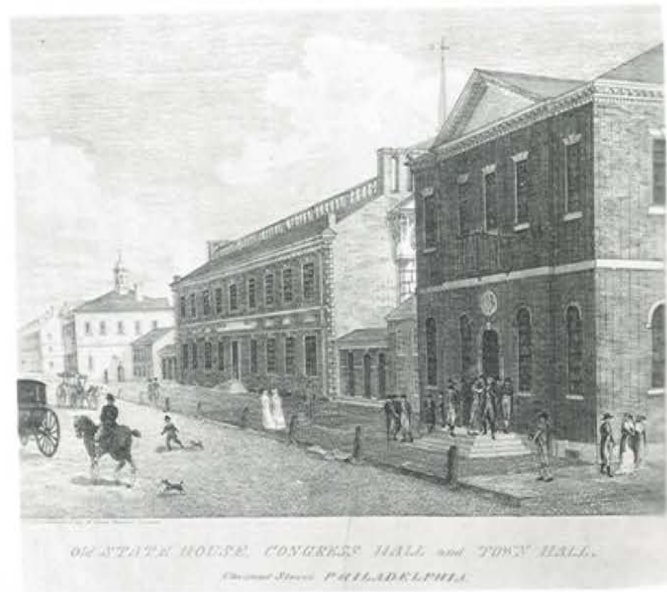
ILLUSTRATIONS

Chapter II
Illustration No. 1

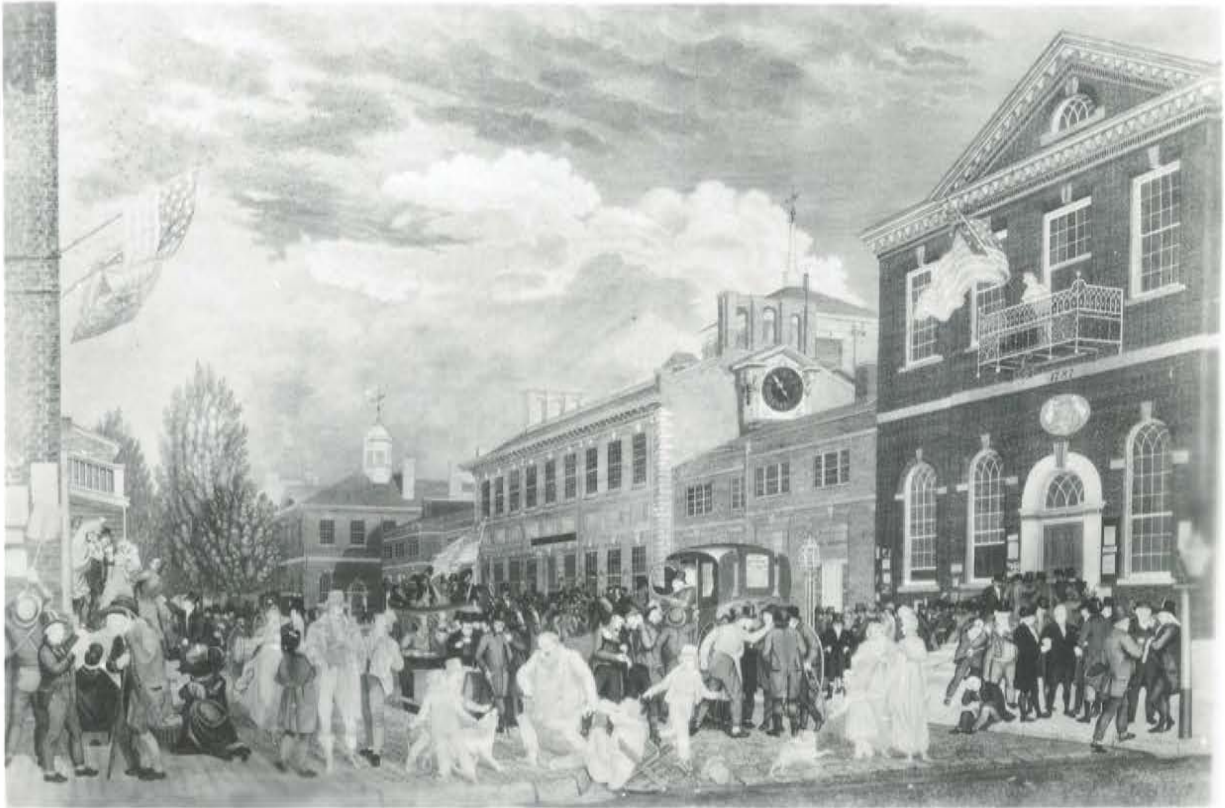


Old City Hall in 1794, from
Benjamin Davies Map of that
year.

Chapter II
Illustration No. 2



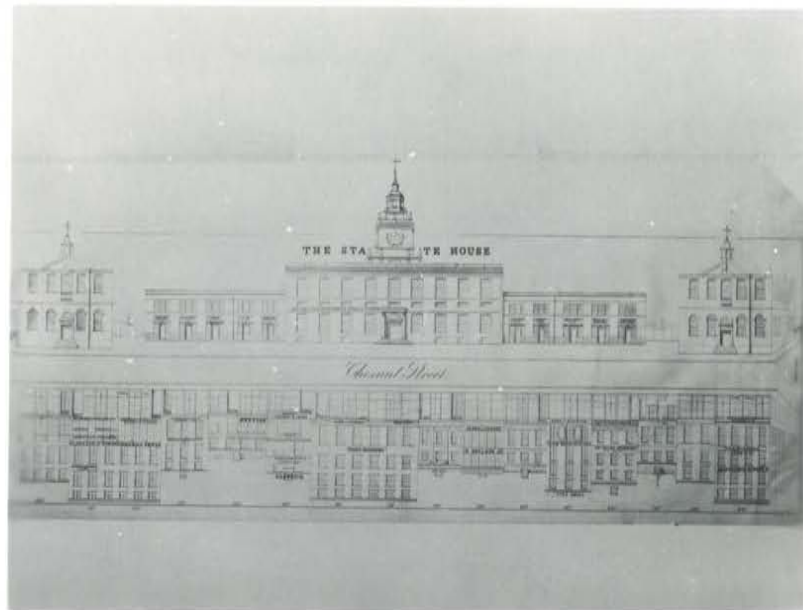
"State-House with a View of Chesnut Street" by William Birch, 1804. Note balcony on Congress Hall, absence of balcony on Old City Hall.



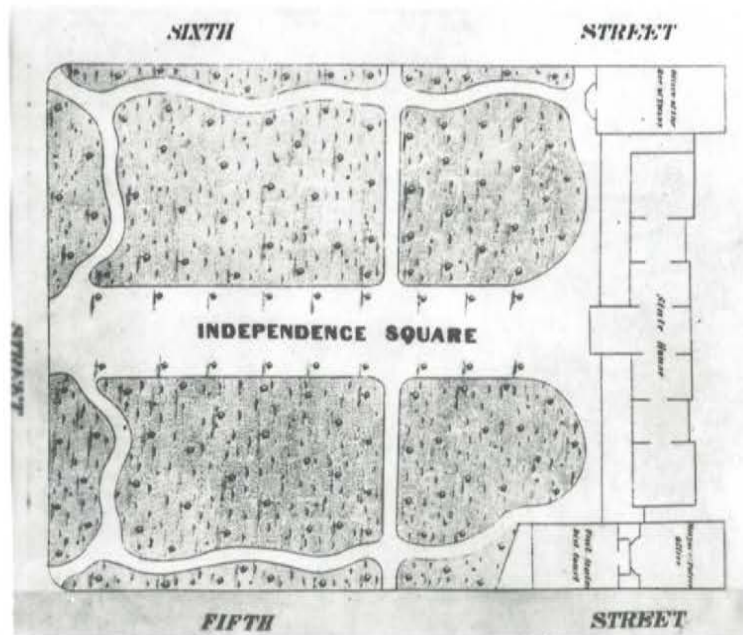
"Election Day--1815." Engraved by Krimmel.
From original in Independence National
Historical Park Collection. Note balcony
on Congress Hall and absence of balcony on
Old City Hall.



"Hotel de Ville de Philadelphie," by
Traversier, 1825. Note change in first
floor door and window of west wall, Old
City Hall.



"Panorama of Chesnut Street from Fifth Street to Sixth Street--1851." From Philadelphia Pictorial Directory, courtesy of Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Note steps leading to door in east wall of Old City Hall.



Independence Square from the Hexamer and Lochner map of Philadelphia, 1860. Courtesy of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Note structures connecting Old City Hall with Philosophical Hall and the East Wing.



Independence Hall Group, 1876, engraved by Poleni. Courtesy of the Library of Congress. Note the two doors and small circular window in the east wall, first floor, of Old City Hall.

Chapter II
Illustration No. 8



OLD STATE HOUSE ROW, showing its aspect before its abandonment by City Councils, COMMON PLEAS COURTS, and their respective Offices in 1908 - including INDEPENDENCE HALL, before its restoration (in center of picture), OLD CONGRESS HALL to right (or at Western end), and OLD CITY HALL, where U.S. Supreme Court sat to left (or at Eastern end).

"Old State House Row, 1895." Watercolor
by A. P. Smith, courtesy of the American
Philosophical Society. Note structure
between Old City Hall and the East Wing.



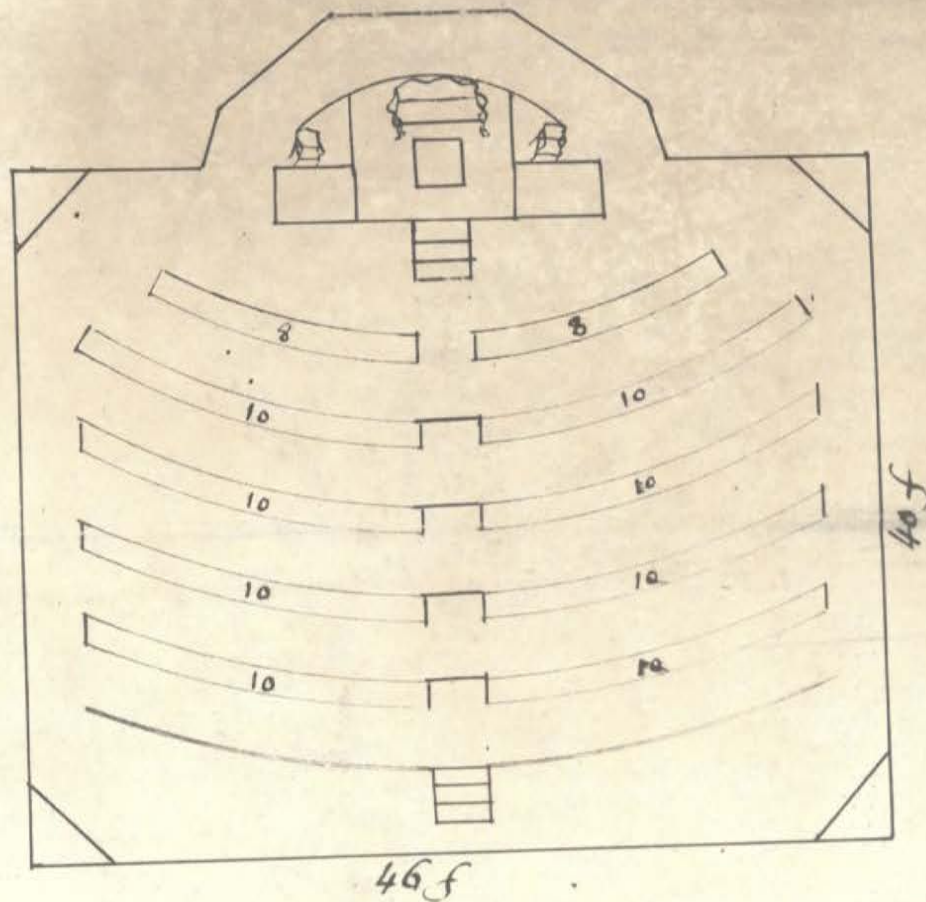
Old City Hall in 1913. Note alterations to door and window, and line marking extent of the structure which once joined the building to the East Wing.

Chapter II
Illustration No. 10



Old City Hall today. Note blotchy
appearance, especially of east wall.

Plan of the City Hall of Philadelphia as it may be laid out to contain 96 Chairs for the Representation of the United States, or in case of need by putting the Chairs nearer together 106 - as 2 f. are allowed for each Chair whereas 20 Inches is sufficient.



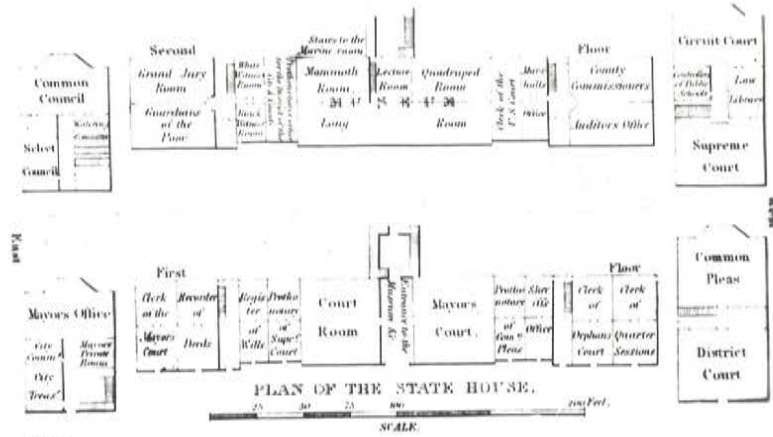
NB - A Chimney is proposed for each corner & sufficient space is left to sit round them

A Passage $3\frac{1}{2}$ f wide is left on the Sides & behind the Speakers Chair to communicate with the Offices in the Philosophical Hall by a Door thro the Middle of the Bow -

A Passage is left of 3 f between the Desks from the North Door to the Chair -

A Passage of 3 f. 3 In. between each Row of Desks for the Members to sit & pass round each other without disturbance -

Chapter II
Illustration No. 12

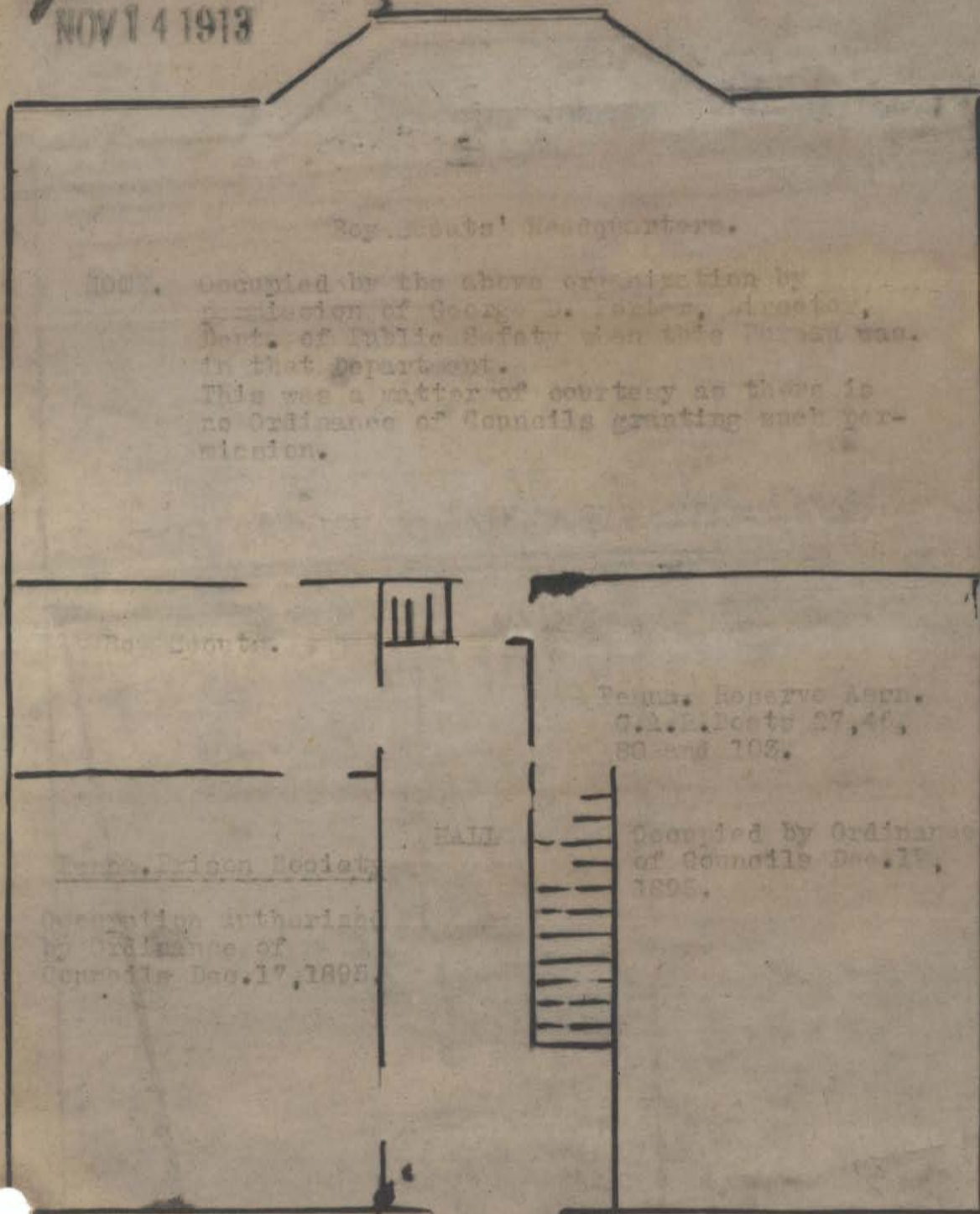


"Plan of the State House in 1824."
Note room arrangement in Old City Hall.

WICHITA HOUSE PLAN OF THE CITY BUILDING.

First Floor.

Hilfred Jordan
NOV 14 1913

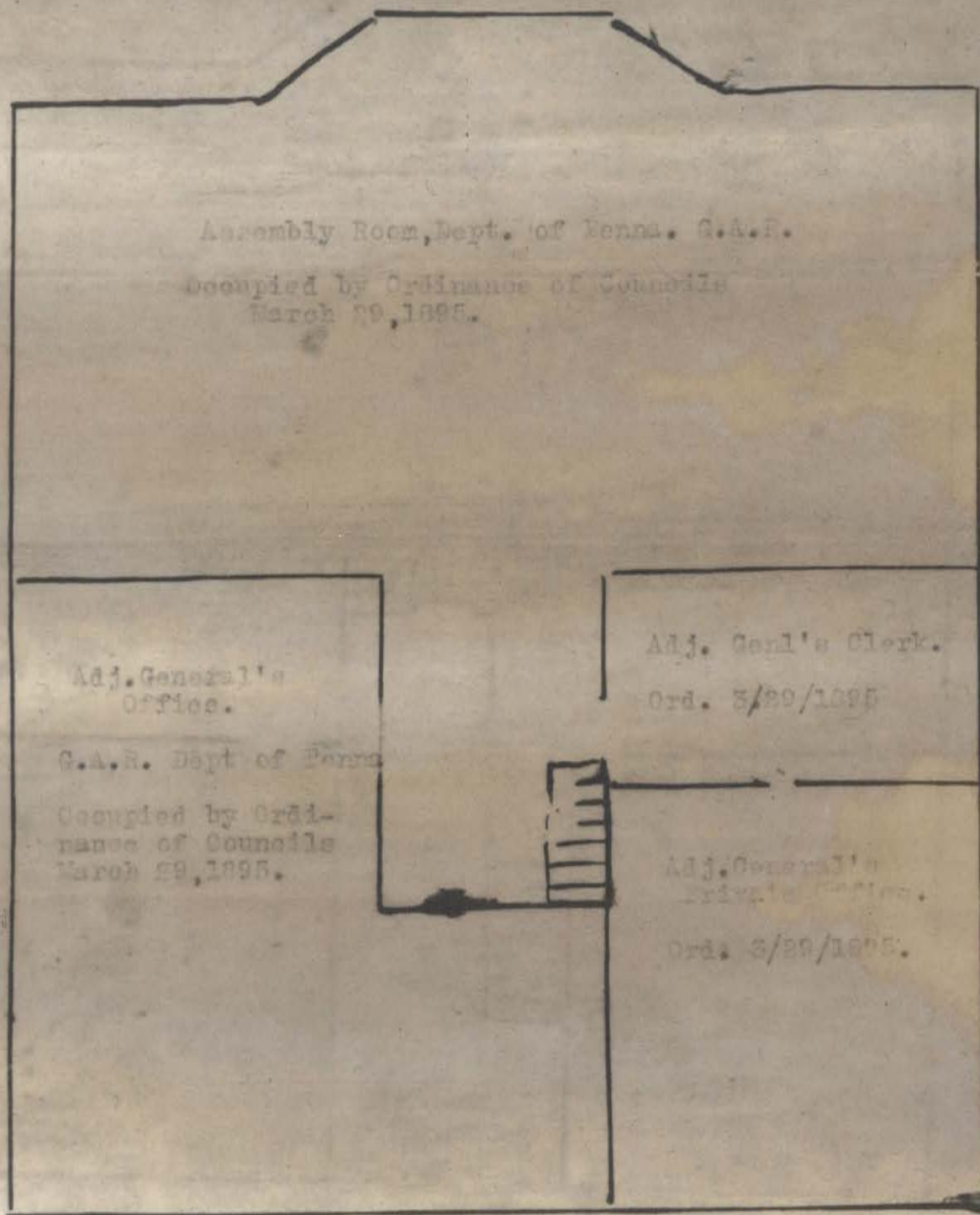


H. J. Anderson
NOV 14 1913

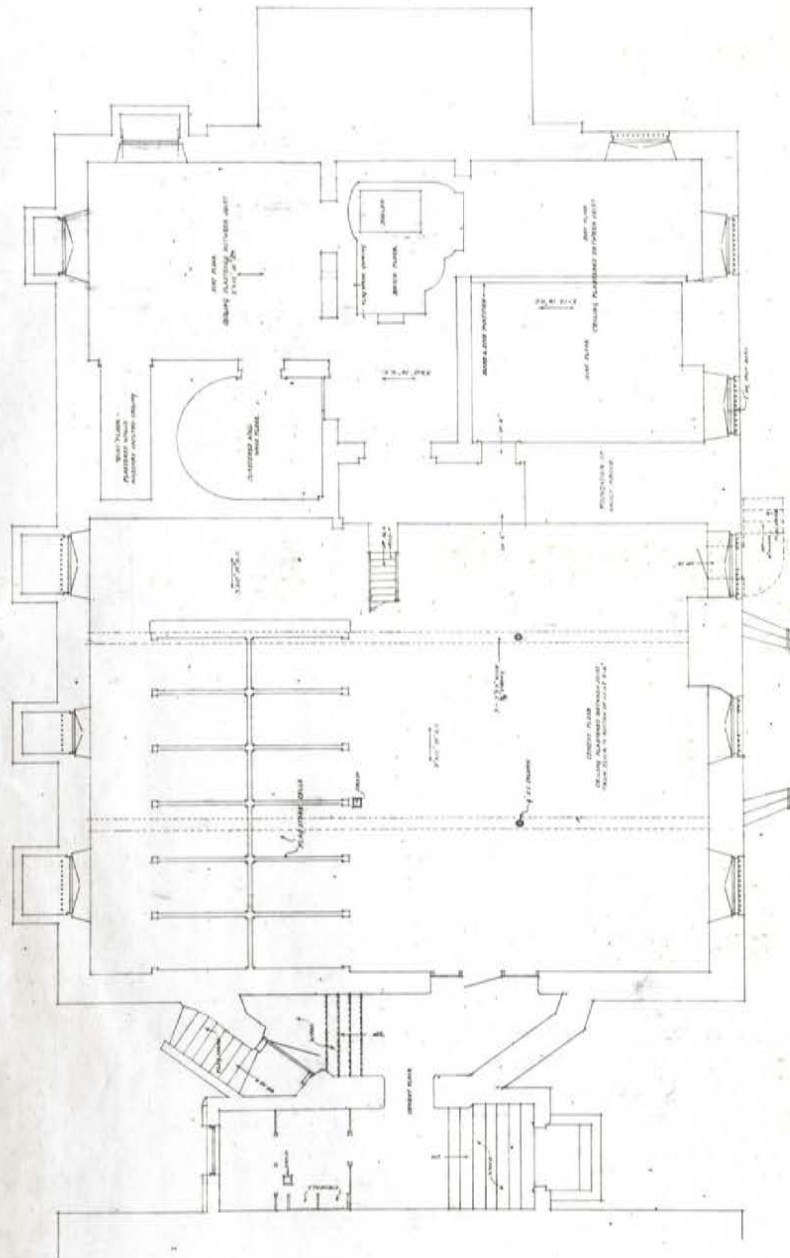
Chapter II
Illustration No. 14

ROUGH FLOOR PLAN OLD CLAY HALL BLDG.

Second Floor.



Chapter II Illustration No. 15



Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

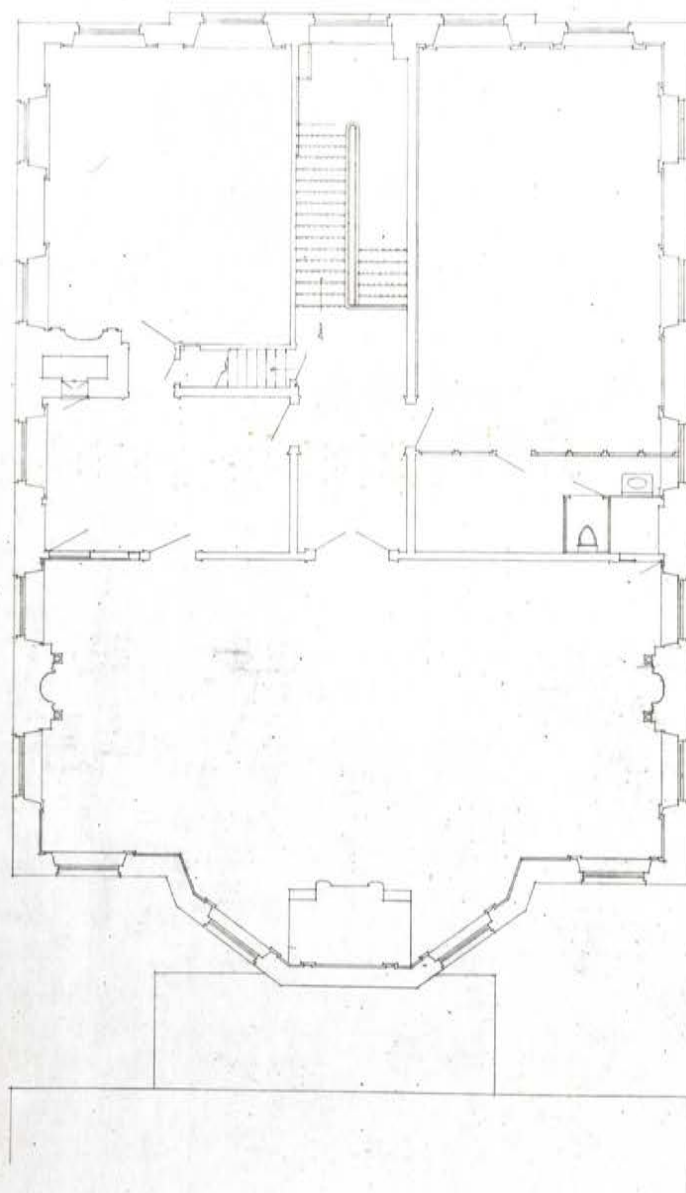
SURVEY FOR THE RESTORATION OF OLD CITY HALL, INDEPENDENCE SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

BASE PLANT
REVISION NO. 1
DATE: 3/1/10
1 of 22

IMPROVEMENT OF
INDEPENDENCE HALL
GROUP OF BUILDINGS
JOHN P. S. SHIRLEY
CITY ARCHITECT, OLD CITY HALL

421

Chapter II
Illustration No. 17



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
LIBRARY
421
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
LIBRARY
1-3

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

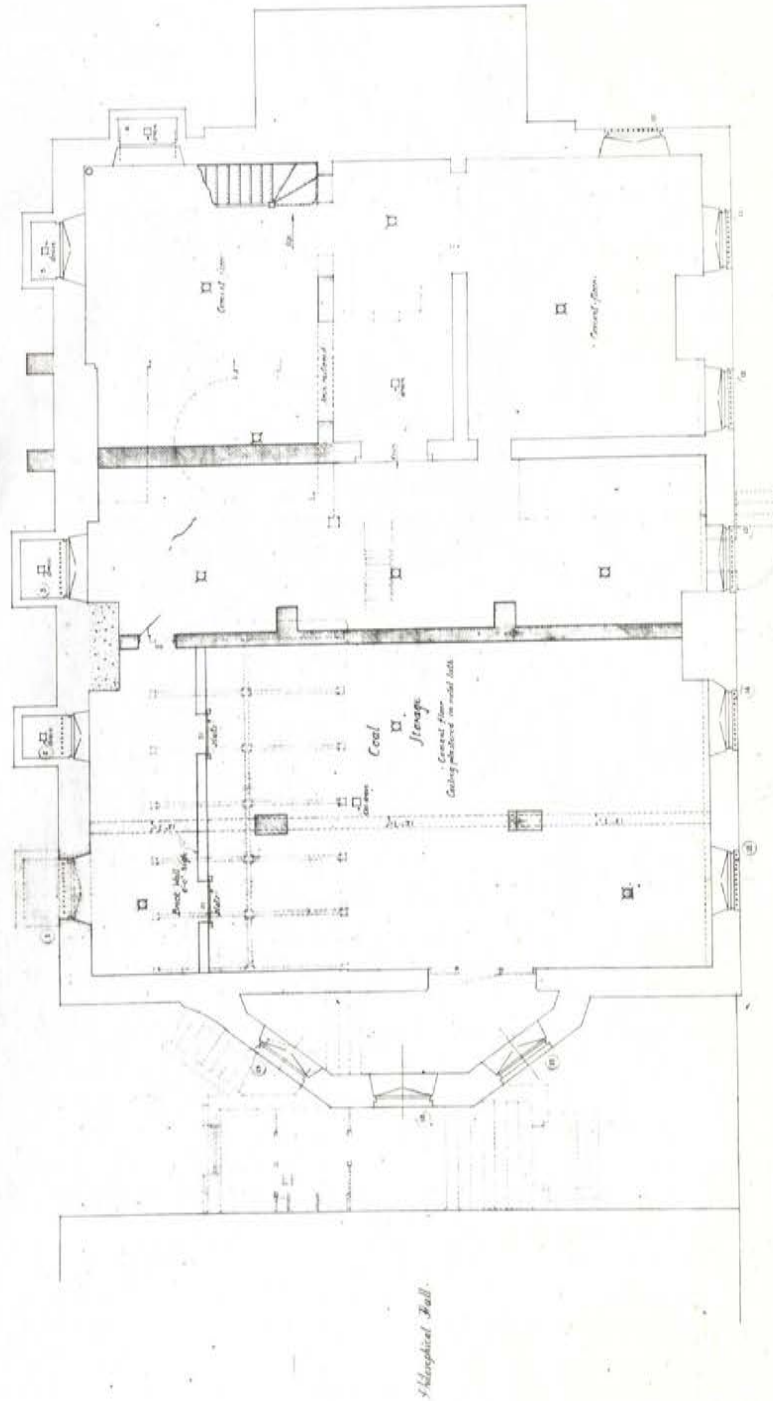
CURVEY FOR THE RESTORATION OF OLD CITY HALL, INDEPENDENCE SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
DRAWN BY 3 MAP-IND 421
DATE 1-2-10



Select Council Chamber, September 21, 1920. Note evidence of curved partition on ceiling.

Chapter II Illustration No. 19



PHILADELPHIA	INDEPENDENCE HALL	TRAIL
7th & 8th	GROUP OF BUILDINGS	421
DATE: 1907	BY: J. B. ZIMMER	1-4

Basement Plan
Drawing No. 4 NHP-INS 421P
Date 4 of 26

Restoration of Old City Hall, Independence Square, Philadelphia, Penna.
American Institute of Architects

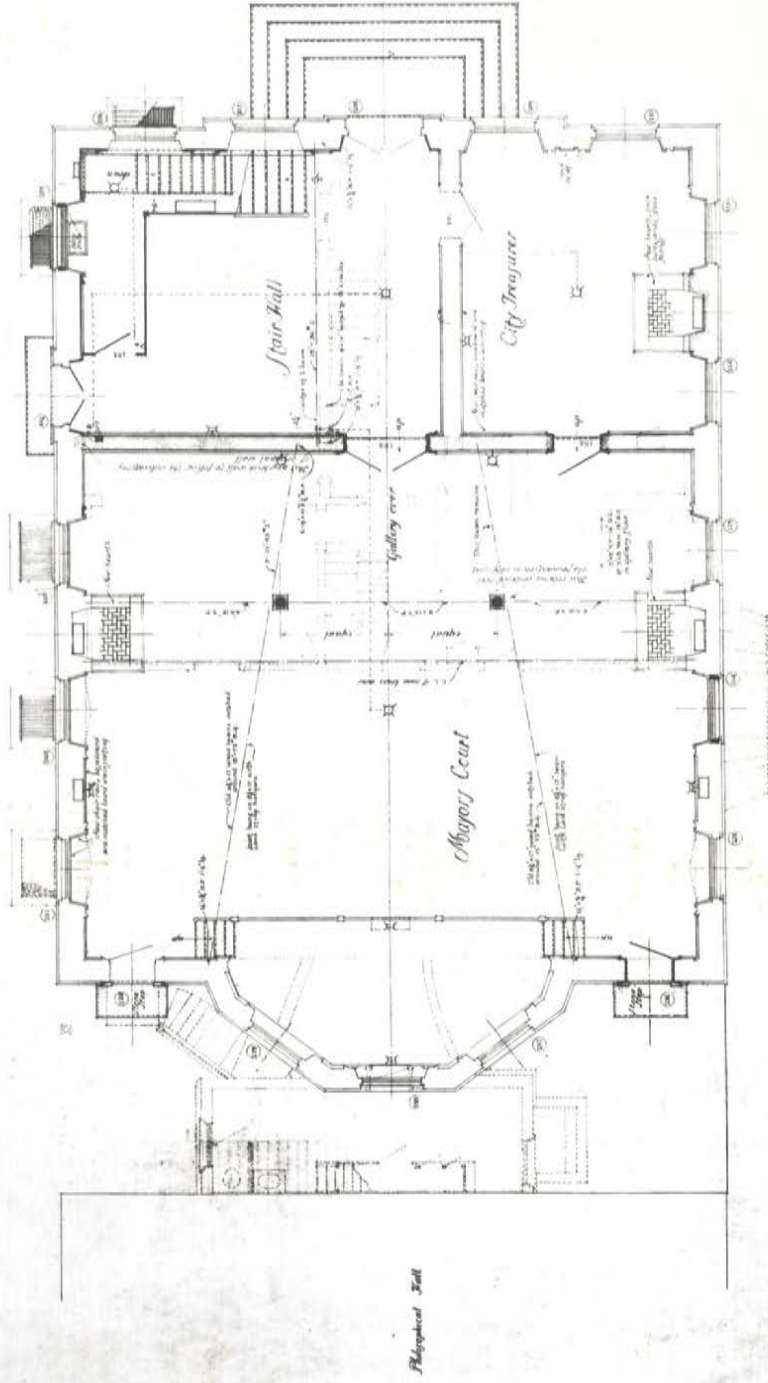
Old material to remain
New material to be removed
New material to be added

MAR 10 9 27 AM
57 26

[illegible]

VERIFY ALL BUILDINGS BEFORE COMMENCING WORK	WORK NO.	421
DATE: 10/1/54	IMPROVEMENT: CE	
CITY: ALBANY	INDEPENDENCE HALL	
OWNER: Albany Housing Authority	GROUP OF BUILDINGS	
DATE: 10/1/54	PLAN: P. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.	
PREPARED BY: ALBANY	CITY OF ALBANY AND CITY HALL	

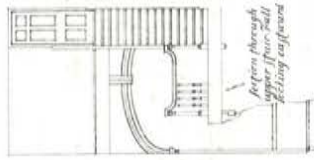
First Floor Plan
Drawing no. 5
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"
Date - 2/11/00



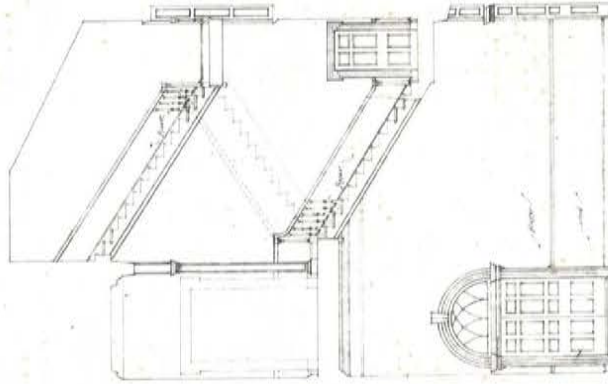
Restoration of Old City Hall
(Philadelphia)

Key to pins

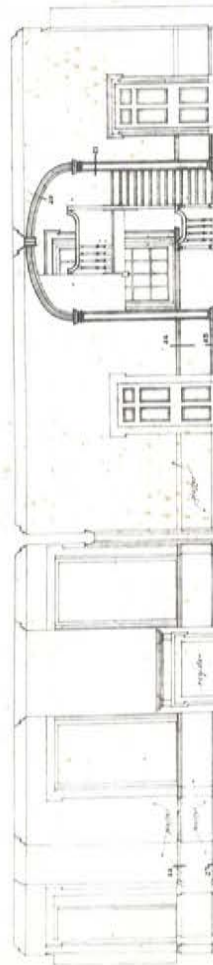
Old material to remain	Old material to be removed	New material	Not done
------------------------	----------------------------	--------------	----------



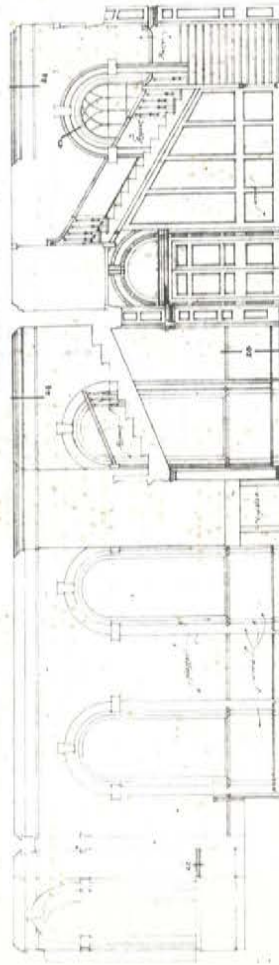
Section through upper floor hall looking eastward



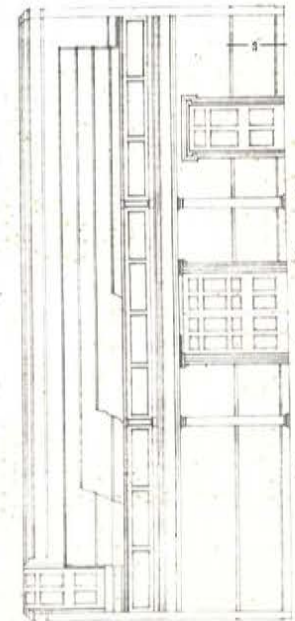
Elevation of south side of stair hall



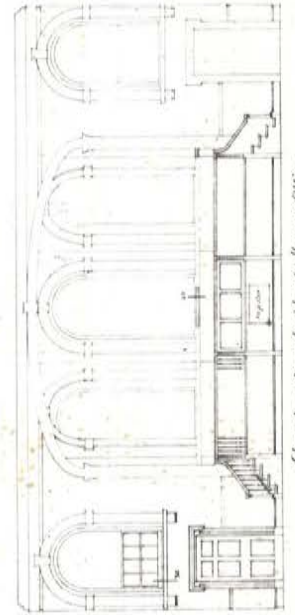
Longitudinal section through building looking westward



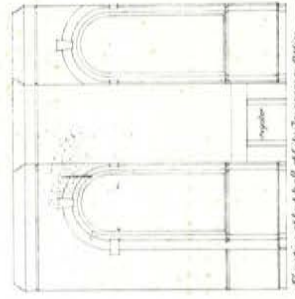
Elevation of north side of stair hall



Elevation of north side of Mayor's Office



Elevation of south side of Mayor's Office



Elevation of east hall of City Treasurer's Office

Chapter II Illustration No. 22

Old work remains shown in outline
New work shown in detail

Restoration of Old City Hall Independence Square Philadelphia Chapter American Institute of Architects

Sections through building
Done 3/1/10 NHP-IND 4271
11 of 25

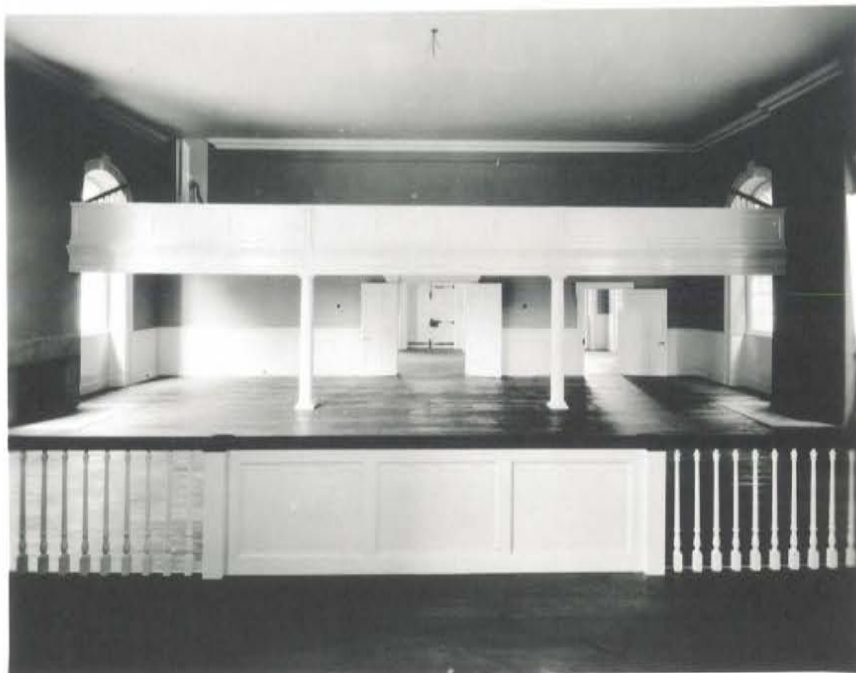
RECORD
IMPROVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE
HALL GROUP OF BUILDINGS
JOHN P. B. SHIPLEY
CITY ARCHITECT 885 CITY HALL



Vestibule and staircase
as restored in 1921.



Treasurer's or Mayor's Office, first floor, Old City Hall, as restored in 1921. Note niche similar to those erroneously restored in south of first floor, Congress Hall.



Mayor's Court Room after restoration.



Second floor hall and stair
landing, as restored in 1921.



West middle room, second floor,
Old City Hall, after restoration.



Common Council Chamber, August 26,
1958. Note cornice and pilasters
under windows.

Historic Structures Report

PART II ~~SUPPLEMENT I~~

ON

OLD CITY HALL

Independence National Historical Park

Architectural Data Section

Prepared by
Lee H. Nelson
Architect
May 1961

ARCHITECT.

RECOMMENDED

Charles P. Brown
Supervising Architect, Historic Structures

Date May 24.61

Ernest R. Seale
Acting Chief, EODC

Date May 24, '61

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction

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APPENDIX A. David Evans, Master Carpenter of Philadelphia

VII ILLUSTRATIONS

29 Photographs and old views. Note: Many old views and photographs, including the A.I.A. record drawings are reproduced in the Historic Structures Report, Parts I and II, and are therefore not included in this report.

VIII DRAWINGS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS, NHP-IND 3201

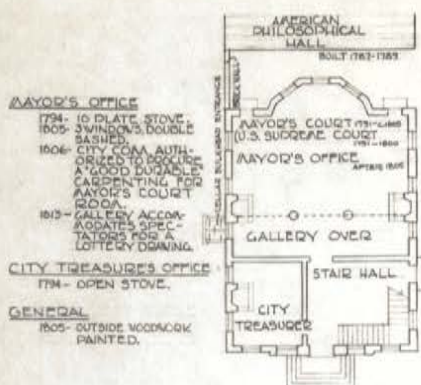
Basement Plan-----	Sheet No. 2
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Attic Framing Plans-----	5
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HABS DRAWINGS

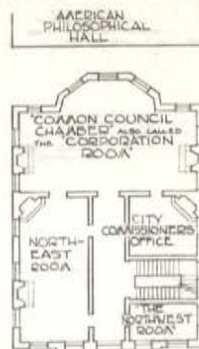
North Entrance Door-----	Sheet No. 2
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FIRST FLOOR

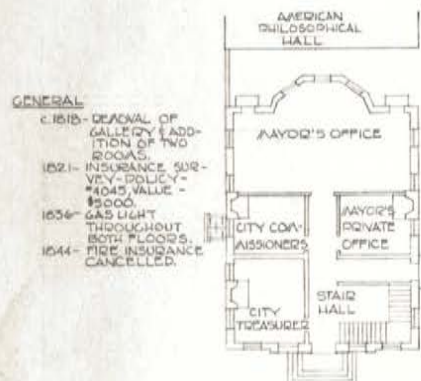
SECOND FLOOR



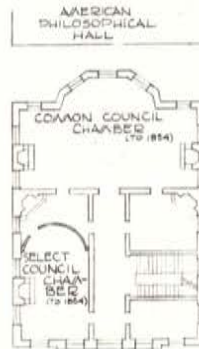
1791 - c.1818



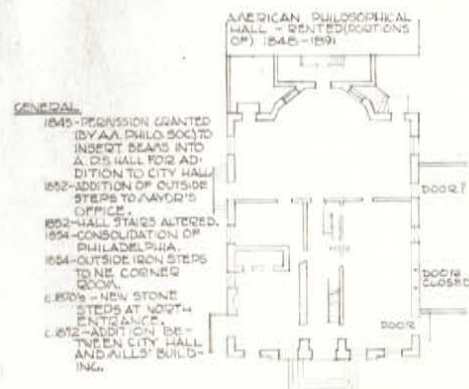
1791 - c.1796



c.1818 - c.1845



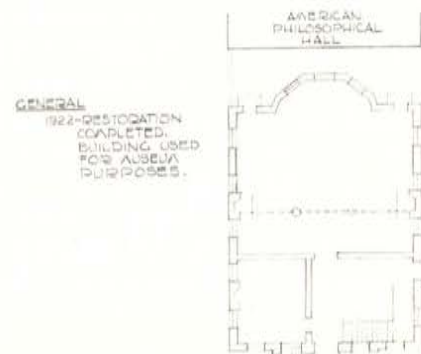
c.1796 - 1852



c.1845 - 1921



1852 - 1921



1921 - 1961



1921 - 1961

COMMON COUNCIL
1791-1800 CHANDLER PLATES.
(STILL IN PLACE)

CITY COM. OFFICE
1793-CITY SECRETARIES ALLOWED
OCCASIONAL USE OF
ROOM, ALSO STORAGE
OF CABINETS, RECORDS,
INSTRUMENTS.

1794-OPEN STOVE.

NORTHWEST ROOM
1793-1796 - THIS ROOM
UNOCCUPIED USED
FOR STORAGE OF
BOOKS, DRAFTS,
PAPERS.

NORTHEAST ROOM
USE UNKNOWN.

COMMON COUNCIL
1797-8 - TWO JO PLATE STOVES.
1821-PLASTER CONCRETE WALLS REPLACED AFTER FIRE.

ROOM BETWEEN SELECT & COMMON COUNCILS
1798-1800- STORAGE OF BOOKS & PAPERS ORDERED
REMOVED TO THE ROOM BETWEEN THE SELECT
AND COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

SELECT COUNCIL
1798-1800- PARTITION ADDED.
1799-1800- RESOLVED TO ALIQUOT A SUITABLE ADDI-
TIONAL STOVE FOR THE USE OF THE COUNCIL.
1800-1801- TO BE KEPT IN THE CITY COMMISSION-
ROOM TO HAVE A STOVE & FIRE PURCHASED OF H. SCHWEDY - \$4.44

MIDDLE ROOM WEST SIDE
1801-1802- CITY COMMISSIONERS REMOVED TO FIRST FL.
1802-1803- GRANTED TO THE SUPERVISOR OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
1803-1804- WATERING COMMITTEE ALLOWED USE OF THIS ROOM.

NORTHWEST ROOM
1801-1802- CITY SUPERVISOR
1802-1803- SUPERVISOR RECEIVED HIS RECORDS.
1803-1804- ROOM CARPETED.

GENERAL
1804-1805- FIVE ROOMS & PASSAGE IN SURVEY
1806- GAS LIGHTS IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

GENERAL
1854- FUNCTION OF ALL ROOMS
AFTER CONSOLIDATION CONFUSED.

GENERAL
1922- RESTORATION COMPLETED.
BUILDING USED FOR
MUSEUM PURPOSES.



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1791	1	PREPARED BY J. H. KELLY, JR. FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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I. FOREWORD

The brief Part I Architectural Data Report on Old City Hall was completed by the undersigned in a matter of hours in December, 1958. It was written before the historians' reports (July, 1959) were started and is very limited in scope.

The substantial nature of the present "Supplement" by Mr. Nelson makes it, in effect, a tail that wags the dog. It has taken advantage of recent documentary studies, new measured drawings, special photographs, and the opportunity of opening up the fabric and looking into the structural secrets. It adds up to a careful architectural statement of the age and authenticity of the various parts of the structure.

The Park historians have already incorporated a large amount of the architects' plans and reports of the 1921 restoration so that material is not reproduced here.

The working drawings for the prospective restoration and the Part II report have already been under way for some time.

Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
May 23, 1961

II. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this Report

The objectives of this report are to ascertain (where possible) the original appearance of Old City Hall, to evaluate the restoration of 1921-22, and to lay a groundwork for the forthcoming rehabilitation of the building to its most historic period 1791-1800.

Architecturally, this is a preliminary effort, for there is much to be learned about the building that will require additional study. Supplements to this report will cover such topics as paint colors, heating stoves, and structural problems.

Our understanding of the fabric is not complete for two reasons: (1) the absence of documents directly related to construction, and (2) the above mentioned restoration, which removed much of the primary physical evidence. But the latter obstacle is not so serious as might be imagined. Under the remarkable leadership of Horace Wells Sellers, the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects undertook the study of Old City Hall in 1917 and prepared plans and specifications for its restoration. The actual work was done by contract and did not begin until 1921, under the supervision of the Philadelphia Department of Public Works. Several important and revealing documents have been preserved from the restoration. These include correspondence, survey drawings, working drawings, specifications and photographs of the work. These are now in the archives of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the American Philosophical Society, and Independence National Historical Park.

As we become better acquainted with these documents and correlate them with the present fabric, we are impressed with the

integrity and sincere application of the A.I.A. committeemen to the problem at hand. We could only wish they had left a more complete written and photographic recording of the restoration.

Acknowledgments

The earliest published work on Old City Hall is also the most comprehensive to date. This is Robert P. Reeder's "The First Homes of the Supreme Court of the United States," Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, vol. lxxvi, no. 4, 1936, 583-593 (reprinted separately in 1958). The other published work is a brief part of an article by E. M. Riley, "The Independence Hall Group," Historic Philadelphia, issued as vol. 43, part 1, of the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, 1953, 26-27.

A more detailed study of the building began in 1958, and was incorporated in the following mimeographed reports:

Historic Structures Report, Part I, on Old City Hall,
Independence National Historical Park, July 1959.

Chapter I, Administrative Data by Superintendent
M. O. Anderson.

Chapter II, Historical Data by Historians S. Sydney
Bradford, Jr. and Franklin R. Mullaly.

Chapter III, Architectural Data by Charles E.
Peterson, Supervising Architect,
Historic Structures.

Chapter IV, Furnishings and Exhibition Data by
Museum Curator David H. Wallace.

The history staff of Independence National Historical Park have rendered a valuable service in the accumulation and cataloging of data pertaining to the evolution of Old City Hall. We have only built upon the groundwork of that enormous contribution. The writer is grateful to Historian David A. Kimball for making readily available recently discovered documents relating to the early history of the

building. The writer is especially indebted to Architect Penelope Hartshorne, who has generously shared her knowledge and understanding of Congress Hall, the progenitor of Old City Hall. She has saved the writer many hours of study by pointing out the similarities between the two buildings.

Lee H. Nelson
Philadelphia
April 1961

III. ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND OF OLD CITY HALL

Origin of Building

Except for its distinguished occupancy (1791-1800), there is nothing very unique about Old City Hall as a public building. Historically, it was the last eighteenth century building to be erected upon Independence Square. Architecturally, the outward form of the building was patterned after Congress Hall (1787-89) in its original form. Such striking similarity was no accident, for the symmetry of the two flanking State House buildings had been under consideration for a full half century.

As early as 1736, the Assembly determined that

two public Buildings are to be erected, of the like outward [Form], Structure and Dimensions, the one for the Use of the County, and the other for the Use of the City of Philadelphia...¹

Despite the need for these public buildings, they did not materialize at that time. The interest in city and county buildings was revived from time to time, always with a reiteration of the early intention that the said County and City buildings be "made and constructed of the Like outward form..."²

The source of this architectural precept, if it may be called that, would be difficult to determine, but it was established at an

¹Pa. Archives, Ser. VIII, vol. III, 2355-56

²Stat. at Large of Pa., VI, 17 February 1762, 181-82.

In 1789, a similar desire was expressed, "And whereas the city of Philadelphia is possessed of a lot of the northeast corner of the said square sufficient for the erecting of a city hall of the same dimensions and form with the county court house lately built, which, when completed, will add considerably to the elegance and usefulness of the whole..." Stat. at Large of Pa., XIII, 277.

early date. That the two buildings were built alike is a matter of record and reflects the long established English tradition of symmetrical grouping.

To say that Congress Hall and Old City Hall are designed in the "Federal" rather than "Georgian" style, is simply not adequate. Such an attribution is more indicative of period rather than style.

Architecturally, Congress Hall and Old City Hall are transitional. Certain elements of the design mark changing fashions: The de-emphasis of the roof-line, the projecting pedimented bay, the rear octagonal bay, and the larger glass areas.

The best contemporary examples on the Philadelphia scene which display this feeling are the Library Hall (built 1789-90), and the Episcopal Academy (started in 1790). Before the end of the century, these tendencies matured in such buildings as the President's House (1792-97), the Market Street Presbyterian Church (1793), the First Bank of the United States (1795-98), and the Center House of the Pennsylvania Hospital, built 1794-1805.

With the arrival of William Thornton, L'Enfant, Samuel Blodget, Jr. and B. H. Latrobe, the classical revival seems to have taken root in Philadelphia during the last decade of the eighteenth century. The architecture of Old City Hall should be considered as anticipatory to that movement.

Influence on later buildings. Architectural design is a process of experimentation and refinement. Furthermore, it is a slow process, especially so in the eighteenth century when the transmission of ideas was not so efficiently expedited as they are today.

Direct influence is difficult to prove, but it would not be surprising if the design of Congress Hall and Old City Hall influenced later public buildings.

Two conspicuous examples of similar buildings are the Burlington County Court House (1796) at Mt. Holly, New Jersey,³ and the Old Town Hall (1798) at Wilmington, Delaware.⁴ These two buildings are architecturally akin to Old City Hall, not only in general form and proportion, but in detail as well.

The Burlington County Court House is largely intact and so closely parallels Old City Hall, that it should be carefully studied to facilitate understanding of the problem at hand (see Illustration No. 29).

³The Burlington County Court House was built by Michael Rush, "contracting carpenter," and the construction was superintended by Samuel Lewis, "Master carpenter." Directors of the building committee were Richard Cox, Zachariah Russell, and Joseph Budd. Lacking the counsel of a professional architect, it was customary for the building committee of a public edifice to cast about for a suitable prototype, and it is altogether possible that Old City Hall or Congress Hall served as a model. The design had been agreed upon by August 4, 1795, for on that day the specifications were listed in detail. See Minutes of Board of Freeholders, Book B, 100, ms, Burlington County Records. Construction apparently began in 1796, and was ready for use on 11 May 1797. This building has been recorded on 28 sheets of drawings for the Historic American Buildings Survey (Survey No. 6-27).

⁴The Old Town Hall, Wilmington, was heavily restored in 1927 under the direction of Edgar V. Seeler, who admittedly used Congress Hall as a prototype for missing details.

Exterior similarities include: the arrangement of door and window openings, the projecting pedimented bay, the hipped roof with cupola, the semi-circular bay at the rear of the building, the large "gothick" sash, and the stone trim (keystones, impost blocks and belt course). Interior similarities include: several elements of the floor plan, the stairway arrangement, and much of the interior trim including the elliptical arch at the second floor landing.

Probably because of its later date (1796) the court house at Mt. Holly reveals an attempt to "update" the building by the inclusion of certain "Federal" style motifs in the frontispiece and fanlight.

Such similarity is more than academic. To be sure, every building has its own individualities, but to understand the fabric of any structure requires a familiarity with the general architectural style and detail of the period.

When a building such as Old City Hall is missing many of its original parts (i.e., stairway, doors, windows, partitions, trim, etc.), it is extremely helpful to have other buildings to serve as reference points. The restoration of Old City Hall will be materially benefited from the study of architecturally related buildings.

IV. BRIEF PHYSICAL HISTORY1789-1791 (Construction Period)

On 19 October 1789, the Philadelphia City Council appointed a committee "to prepare a plan and estimate the Expence of erecting a City Hall."⁵ This committee consisted of Matthew Clarkson, George Roberts, Gunning Bedford, David Evans and Thomas Morris. Of this group, both Bedford and Evans were master carpenters and would have been competent to prepare a plan and estimate, especially since it was determined to follow the example of the county court house. Not until 1 February 1790 did the committee make its report, which was read in council. This report (like many others not written into the minutes) has been lost and we are unable to determine the extent of the committee's efforts. However, the intent to proceed with construction must have been public knowledge for the council was soon plied with petitions for employment on the projected building. Several members of the building trades seeking such favor had worked on Congress Hall.⁶

On 12 July 1790, the committee report was read a second time. With an estimate of costs in hand, the council appointed another committee whose function was to be threefold, 1) appraise

⁵Minutes of City Council 1789-1793, 19 October 1789, 167.

⁶Applying for employment were Symington and Burn, stonecutters; James Cornish, turner; Anthony Fannon, painter; Joseph Govett, Mathias Sadler, Robert Allison, carpenters; and Samuel Wheeler, iron-worker, Minutes of City Council 1789-1793, 22, 29 March, 26 April, 16 July, 1790.

the assets of the corporation, 2) investigate the possibility of borrowing further sums of money and 3) to "report a convenient plan for the inside of the building."⁷

As requested, the committee submitted a full report with respect to ready money, monies due the corporation, income from real estate rentals, the possibility of increased sales of lottery tickets, and the availability of £3000 credit from the Bank of North-America. With the fiscal arrangements apparently resolved, the committee turned its attention to getting the work underway. Portions of this important report follow.

The Committee are of opinion that it is expedient and necessary immediately to provide materials for erecting the City Hall, and to proceed to erect the same with all possible expedition, so that it may be covered before the ensuing winter, because if the Congress of the United States should reside here the public Buildings will be so much occupied that there will probably be no place for holding the Mayor's Court, or the Sitzings of the Corporation, except in the old Court House in High Street, which is extremely inconvenient and unfit for the purpose.

The Committee have prepared a plan (and herewith produce it) for the inside of the Hall, which they judge will be proper in case the same should be finished merely for the use of the City;⁸ but should the Congress of the United States chuse it for their Sitzings, some variations from this plan

⁷Minutes of City Council 1789-1793, 12 July 1790. Members of the committee were: Matthew Clarkson, Wm. Colliday, Miers Fisher, David Evans, Geo. Latimer, Isaac Wharton and Thomas Morris.

⁸The above mentioned plan has not been located.

may be necessary;⁹ and the Committee are of opinion that the first opportunity should be taken of offering it to that honourable Body for their use, and if they accept it, that the necessary variations from the plan produced, may be made in the inside for their accommodation, in an advanced state of the work, and need not now be determined on.
.....

Resolved 3^d That a Committee of five be appointed by this Board to superintend the erection of the City-Hall who shall have power and be directed forthwith to agree with some responsible person or persons to provide all the necessary materials upon the Lowest terms possible for ready money,¹⁰ to agree with proper Masons, Stone Cutters, Carpenters and other mechanics to execute the different parts of the building at the lowest prices...¹¹

Whether the building was to be laid out as a city hall or adapted for the deliberations of Congress, it is evident that the necessary "variations" were minor. Only the seating and heating arrangements would have required last minute modification. The well-known Residence Act was approved on the same day (16 July 1790) that the committee proposed offering the building to "that honourable Body." However, the urgent necessity for accommodating both Houses of Congress left no alternative except to use the recently completed county courthouse. Thus it was the courthouse rather than the city hall became known as "Congress Hall."

⁹For the alternative plan to accommodate Congress, see the "Plan of the City Hall of Philadelphia as it may be laid out to contain 96 chairs for the Representatives of the United States...", n.d., Miers Fisher Papers, ms, Hist. Soc. of Penna.

¹⁰In Resolution No. 5 of the same report, the following were named to be the committee of five: Samuel Powel, Matthew Clarkson, Isaac Wharton, John Kaighn and Thomas Morris.

¹¹Minutes of City Council 1789-1793, 16 July 1790, 273.

Brief Physical History, 1789-91, continued

Erection of the city hall did not get underway until late in the summer of 1790. When Congress convened on 6 December 1790 (in the county court house), the city hall was far from complete. In fact, it was not ready for occupancy until the following summer. Although the building was finished for the city's use instead of Congress', its occupancy was shared with an equally distinguished branch of the Federal government during the years 1791-1800. The Supreme court of the United States first met in the building during the first three days of August 1791.¹² The nearness to final completion is reflected in two separate bills, one for venetian blinds and curtain rails dated 22 August 1791,¹³ and another for chimney plates dated 31 October 1791.¹⁴ Other accounts were not settled until 1792 or later.

¹²"The Supreme Court of the United States met yesterday agreeably to notice, at the new City Hall....," Mail, or Claypoole's Daily Advertiser, 2 August 1791, 3. For other references to that event see Robert P. Reeder, op.cit., 583, n. 195, 196.

¹³David Evans Day Book, vol. 2, page 59B, ms, Historical Society of Pennsylvania. David Evans, joiner, was a cousin to the master carpenter of the same name.

¹⁴Minutes of the City Council, 31 October 1791, 426.

Except for the fact that David Evans was paid £50 for "superintending" the work, no vouchers have been located which might clarify our understanding of the fabric.¹⁵ There are several treasurers receipts for sums totaling over £700 paid to David Evans in 1792-93 (see Appendix A). We cannot be certain that these sums pertain exclusively to the city hall but if they do, it is likely that Evans acted as clerk of the works for sub-letting work, keeping accounts and disbursing funds for the city. Evans was accustomed to acting in that capacity. His background as a master carpenter and his interest as a city councilman strongly suggests that David Evans played such a role in the construction of the city hall.

Final cost of the building is not certain. Disbursements from 1 June 1790 to 1 June 1792 totaled £5619/5/9-1/2, and that figure probably reflects everything except incidental post-completion expenses.¹⁶

¹⁵"It was agreed by the Board, to allow David Evans for his superintending the Building of the City Hall the Sum of fifty Pounds." Minutes of the Corporation, Common Council, Book 1, vol. 2, 17 February 1793, 6.

¹⁶This figure is broken down as follows:

Paid (June 1, 1790-June 1, 1791) on account of building the city hall	£3642/10/0
Paid (June 1, 1791-May 31, 1792) on account of building the city hall	£1976/15/9-1/2
Total	£5619/5/9-1/2

See Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser, 6 September 1791, 3:1-2; 4 April 1793, 3:3-4.

At first, the city hall was more than adequate for the purpose, despite the multiple use of several rooms by the city and Federal courts until 1800 when the nation's capitol was removed to the new city of Washington. The rapid growth of Philadelphia's city government soon required additional office space and after the 1854 Consolidation the building was hopelessly inadequate.

1791 - 1800

We know of only one interior alteration that possibly took place during the building's most historic period. In 1796 the legislative branch of the city (the City Council) was organized into two parts, thus requiring separate chambers for each branch, called the Select and Common Councils. The Common Council (larger of the two) adopted the old City Council room at the south end, second floor. To provide a suitable chamber for the smaller Select Council, we believe that the large northeast room, second floor, was modified by installing a curved partition (semi-circular in plan), thus reducing the room in length and creating a small room between the two council chambers. This alteration is illustrated and discussed at length in Section VI.

1800-1823

After 1800, more significant changes took place to the interior room arrangements.¹⁷ Sometime after 1813 and before 1821, the Mayor's Court room was reduced in size by removal of the gallery and the division of the space under the gallery into two rooms. These were occupied by the City Commissioners and by the Mayor's private office.¹⁸

The precise date for this change of plan is not certain. In 1813, the gallery was offered for the accommodation of ladies interested in witnessing the first drawing of the Grand State Lottery.¹⁹

¹⁷Minor work was also accomplished during this period. In 1805, the councils resolved to have "one or more" coats of paint laid on the outside woodwork. Minutes of the Common Council, 20 January 1805, 109.

Also in 1805, the councilmen ordered "inside glazed sashes" to be installed at each of the three windows on the Fifth Street side of the first floor Mayor's courtroom. Although later assumed to be storm sash, they were originally intended to reduce the transmission of street noises, so distracting to court proceedings, See Minutes..., 7 August 1805, 133-34.

¹⁸As early as 1811, the mayor complained of the inconvenience of not having a private office. Perhaps this precipitated the first floor alterations. See Minutes...10, 26 January 1811, 410, 417-18.

¹⁹Aurora, 30 April 1813, 3:4. This invitation to the "ladies" of Philadelphia, was called to the writer's attention by Mr. Phillip G. Nordell, Ambler, Pa.

The gallery had been removed prior to the 1821 fire insurance survey, which describes the lower story as "divided into four rooms & large Hall."²⁰ We are inclined to date this change about 1818 from a bill for carpeting the Mayor's room. The Mayor gained a private office in this alteration, and its small size (ca. 16x18 feet) seems to agree with the small carpeting voucher for \$43.87.²¹

On 27 February 1823, the city hall suffered a conflagration which might have been disastrous, but the quick action of the hose and pump companies limited the damage to the roof and cupola. The fire (apparently caused by "the foulness of a chimney") consumed the south half of the attic, together with the dormer window and cupola.²² Although the roof framing was badly charred at the north end of the building, it was retained and is still in place.

The city councils met on the evening of the fire and appointed committees to provide for future meetings until the city hall could be repaired.²³

²⁰ Philadelphia Contributionship..., Survey Book, 1795-1824, Survey No. 4045, 29 December 1821, 368-369.

²¹ Statement of Expenditures of city commissioners of Phila. for 1818, N.Y. State Legislature, Senate Documents, 18-24-25, 20.

²² Accounts of the fire are plentiful. See Aurora, 28 February 1823, 2:3; United States Gazette, 28 February 1823, 2:1; Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, 28 February 1823, 3:1; letter from C. W. Peale to Rubens Peale, 5 March 1823, C. W. Peale Letter & Book XVII, 297; Poulson's...Advertiser, 1 March 1823, 3:1.

²³ Minutes of the Common Council, 27 February 1823, 379.

The following day (28 February), representatives of the Contributionship insurance company viewed the damage, and agreed to proceed with the repairs, unless the city authorities should prefer cash to make their own repairs.²⁴ The city commissioners decided to have the Contributionship make the repairs, and their carpenter, John C. Evans, was directed to proceed accordingly.²⁵

The Contributionship records are not clear as to the final cost, but it appears to be \$1,892.16.²⁶ The work involved a new ceiling and medallion in the Common Council Chamber, two new attic trusses and much new roof framing, a new dormer window complete, a new shingle roof, and an entirely new cupola including framing. Repairs were completed by early July 1823. On 10 July, the councils tendered their "polite" thanks to the County Commissioners, Eastern District Court of Pennsylvania, and the District Court of the United States for accommodating the councils in the court house.

²⁴Philadelphia Contributionship..., Board Minutes, 1817-23, ms, 28 February 1823, 173.

²⁵Ibid., 4 March 1823, 177.

²⁶Ibid., 197, 199, 232.

1824-1852

Numerous changes continued for the next three decades, climaxed by drastic interior "improvements" in 1852.

Important alterations were carried out in 1825. On 10 February of that year, the two councils appointed a joint committee to inquire and report as to

what repairs if any are required to the Mayors' City Commissioners' and Treasurer's offices; and also whether a better plan of arrangement of rooms occupied by the several offices including that of the Register of the Water works cannot be made so as to conduce more to publick convenience and the safety of the publick papers and property in the City Hall.²⁷

On 17 February, the committee made its report (unfortunately lost), and on the 24th, the councils directed the city commissioners to carry into effect the repairs and alterations according to the "plan of the committee."²⁸ As of 10 March, this plan was abandoned in favor of a plan by John Haviland, Philadelphia architect, as follows.

Resolved...That the plan submitted by the City Commissioners and projected by Mr Haviland for the improvement of the City Hall in lieu of the plan adopted by Councils on the 24th Ult^o be approved and that the City Commissioners be authorized [under the direction and superintendence of a joint committee of two members of each Council] to contract with John Haviland to complete the same, for a sum not exceeding twenty-two hundred dollars agreeably to his proposal.²⁹

²⁷Minutes of Select Council, 10 February 1825, 262.

²⁸Ibid., 17 February 1825, 264, 24 February 1825, 266.

²⁹Ibid., 10 March 1825, 271. The Common Council concurred with an amendment, included above with brackets supplied.

Unfortunately, the extent of Haviland's work is presently unknown. The appropriation (\$2200) indicates its importance however. In fact, the completed work exceeded the appropriation by \$128.37.³⁰ We can only speculate that the changes were substantial.

On 28 January 1836, the Committee on City Property submitted a lengthy report and a plan (by William Strickland, Philadelphia architect) for interior alterations to the City Hall. Strickland's plan is not extant, but the surviving report describes the proposed removal of the Mayor's office to the old state house, and appropriation of City Hall for city offices and for the Girard Treasurer.³¹ The expense "of the alterations, with fire proof closets in the several rooms, would be \$3,760."³² The above project languished for a year and a half. Finally on 26 June 1837, the committee on City Property resolved that

it is expedient to carry into execution the plan [by Strickland?] recommended in the Said report [of 28 January 1836] and that the Commissioner on City Property be authorised

³⁰Ibid., 6 October 1825, 305

³¹This particular project is not mentioned by Agnes Addison Gilchrist, William Strickland... (Philadelphia: 1950), nor in Additions to William Strickland..., a supplement of the Journal, Society of Architectural Historians, October 1954.

³²Journal of Common Council of the City of Phila., 28 January 1836, 83-84.

to employ Thomas U. Walter to prepare a plan and estimate of the expense of altering the Basement Story of the City Hall for the accommodation of the City Police. and also to alter the first Story of the building in conformity with Said Report.³³

Thus, in the years 1825, 1836 and 1837, alterations and repairs were respectively planned from drawings and estimates by the noted architects John Haviland, William Strickland and Thomas Ustick Walter. Unfortunately these documents are not extant, nor is there sufficient evidence to determine the extent of the work planned or executed.

From 1837 to 1842, a considerable amount of repair work was accomplished, including carpentry, masonry, glazing, painting, etc., but the precise nature of the work is not clear.

In 1842, for example, a carpenter was directed to

construct a stairway, in the room adjoining the Treasurer's office, to communicate with the Fire Proof above, instead of the purchase of a Fire Proof Safe...³⁴

We do not understand this reference except that it may allude to the existence of the half-level room in the space once occupied by the spectator's gallery.

³³Minutes of Committee on City Property, 1836-38, ms, vol. B, 26
June 1837, Philadelphia City Archives.

³⁴Minutes of Committee of Finance, City Councils, ms, 29 June 1842,
Philadelphia City Archives.

In 1845, the American Philosophical Society granted the city permission to insert wooden beams into the A.P.S. Hall for an addition to City Hall.³⁵ Not only did the city fill the gap between the two buildings, but they rented increasingly larger portions of the A.P.S. Hall from 1848 to 1891.³⁶

By 1852, the need for more office space was desperate. Talk of a new city hall was rife, but funds were not available and the impasse was temporarily solved by a drastic interior modification. The main staircase was completely removed and replaced with a straight flight of north-south stairs beginning just inside the main entrance (see frontispiece, "Evolution of the Fabric"). The west side exterior doorway was sealed, and a new exterior opening created from the window just north of the doorway. Alterations of unknown nature were also made to several rooms.³⁷

The removal of the masonry cross-wall (between the Mayor's private office and the stairwell) created one large room (ca. 12x26 feet). About 200 square feet of additional office space were gained by this alteration (and another 100 sq. ft. on the second floor), but it was a real architectural loss from our point of view, for the original staircase was destroyed.

³⁵American Philosophical Society, Minutes, Nov. 1842-Jan. 1846, ms, 16 May 1845, 308.

³⁶The complex story of the City's interest in the Philosophical Hall, and the attempted sale of the building by the United States, is treated at length by William E. Lingelbach, "Philosophical Hall," Historic Philadelphia, issued as vol. 43, part 1, Transactions, American Philosophical Society, 1953, 51-53.

³⁷Minutes of Committee on Finance, ms, n.p., 1852.

1852-1921

The record after 1852 is somewhat confused. In 1854, the City of Philadelphia consolidated several outlying districts which created a desperate need for additional space to accommodate the expanded activities of the city government. Two outside entrances and steps were added to the east exterior wall; a fireproof vault was built into the west middle room, second floor; and a "mezzanine" room was made possible by the very high ceiling (ca. 20 feet) of the first floor. This mezzanine room of course had no source of natural light, so a round window opening was "punched" through the exterior masonry wall, and a separate stairway was built to reach this middle level. This situation remained unchanged until the A.I.A. restoration.

During this period the space between the Mills' buildings and City Hall was filled in with a two story brick block of Victorian design. The west wall of City Hall, while not structurally disturbed, in effect became a party wall. This addition was removed about 1896, but the "ghost" of its outline is still visible on the west side of Old City Hall.

By the mid 1890's, Old City Hall was abandoned for official use owing to the completion of the new city hall at Penn Square. The rooms in the old building were then occupied by various organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America and the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1914, the A.I.A. Preservation Committee called attention to the "advanced state of decay and delapidation." By agreement with the City of Philadelphia, the A.I.A. undertook the architectural study and preparation of plans for its restoration. Actual work was delayed until after the war.

1921-1960

In 1921, the City of Philadelphia let a contract for the restoration of Old City Hall. Work was completed early in 1922. The restoration was generally a careful one and is discussed in greater detail in the following sections. The building has been used for museum purposes since its dedication on 2 May 1922.

V. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERIOR FABRIC 1791-1800

Size and General Description

In plan, the building measures 50'-7" by 65'-11". Briefly described, the building is a two story brick block on a raised base of stone, with a projecting pedimented bay and main entrance centered on the north facade, a five-sided projecting southern bay reaching from ground to the cornice, with a hip-roof surmounted with an octagonal cupola (see Illustration No. 1).

Foundations

The exterior foundations of Old City Hall were laid as a continuous footing 26 to 30 inches thick, using random-sized quarry stone laid in lime mortar.

The interior foundation walls were of stone and brick, that is, laid with stone footings, brick walls and arches, and stone spandrels.

Many of the cellar brick arches were removed in the nineteenth century to provide for jail-cells, fireproof vaults, and other "works of progress." They have been replaced with pipe columns, stud partitions and new walls of brick. The original character of the interior cellar foundations (such as exists at Congress Hall) is largely missing.

Exterior Brick Walls

The exterior walls of Old City Hall are of load bearing brick construction, two stories high, the thickness being 22 and 18 inches at the first and second floors, respectively. For the most part, the

Exterior Brick Walls, continued

original bricks are still in place. They are red in color, average 8-3/8 x 4-1/8 x 2-1/8 inches in size, are laid in Flemish bond without glazed headers. Queen closer bricks are used at all the corners (including the front bay) and along one side of some windows and door jambs. The lime mortar joints were originally tooled, but more recently re-pointed with Portland cement. Some joints have been re-tooled but most are not. Several window openings were converted to doorways in the nineteenth century. During the 1921-22 restoration, those areas were carefully filled in with new brickwork, and the hand of time has blended the new with the old.

Exterior Openings

Doorways and Doors. As originally constructed, Old City Hall had but five exterior door openings, a central doorway on the north, two in the south wall, one on the west wall, and one furnishing access to the intended balcony over the main entrance. This arrangement was changed in the nineteenth century with the addition of two doorways in the east wall, two in the west wall, and the closing off of the original west doorway. These "improvements" were corrected during the last restoration. Fortunately, none of the original door openings were damaged in this evolutionary process.

The central doorway (see Illustration No. 2) retains its original stone trim, including the stone base, pilasters, capitals, stone arch and moulded keystone. Also original, we believe, are the

Exterior, doorways and doors, continued

front double doors, wooden architrave and fan light. This is most fortunate, for they served as prototypes in the restoration of Congress Hall. Furthermore, the front double doors retain their original fold-back hinges and sliding bolts. These unusual doors were found in place by the A.I.A. and preserved in the restoration. Only the rim lock and latch appear to have been replaced.

As to the western side door, the brick pilasters, base, caps, brick arch and moulded keystone appear to be original. However, the well known 1815 Krimmel painting casts doubt on this observation.³⁸ Krimmel painted those parts as though they were of stone rather than brick. There is no physical evidence of any change. The brick trim may have been painted white. The double doors were removed in the nineteenth century and the opening sealed off. The doors therefore date from the 1921-22 restoration, but the fan light was found in situ and retained.

The two south doors lost their exterior "kneel" architraves in the nineteenth century, but the A.I.A. found the "ghosts" of the architraves on the brickwork, and they were replaced in kind.³⁹ This is an interesting point of departure from Congress Hall, which employs frontispieces for the two south doors. Frontispieces could not have been used on Old City Hall for the two south doors because of the

³⁸"Election Day-1815," oil painting by Krimmel, Winterthur Museum, Wilmington, Delaware.

³⁹The term "Kneel" architrave was used in the Carpenter Company's Rule Book of 1786.

Exterior, doorways and doors, continued
windows close above.

The southwest door is original, but the southeast door was reconstructed in 1921-22.

Window Openings and Sash. The location and number of windows in Old City Hall has not basically changed since 1790-91. Four of the first floor window openings were once converted to doorways, but the rest are unchanged.

All first floor window openings were round headed, with brick arches and a plain keystone. Second floor window openings were rectangular with flat arches of brick and a center voussoir of stone. The difference in the window styles between the first and second floors is partly reflected in the interior ceiling heights: 20'-1" on first floor, 15'-5" on second floor. Except for two attic windows (mentioned later), embellishments were limited to plain dressed stone sills, keystones, and impost blocks. The openings were otherwise undecorated.

The round-headed first floor windows were fitted with "gothick" sash, as they were called in the eighteenth century. This style of sash is distinguished by the criss-crossing of curved muntins, each drawn on the same radius as the round-headed opening, but with variable center points. This forms a pattern of pointed arches, hence the designation "gothick." This feature

Exterior, windows, continued

did not originate with Old City Hall, but had been used for several decades in Philadelphia buildings.⁴⁰ The "gothick" sash was illustrated in the Carpenters Company Rule Book of 1786, and was often mentioned in fire insurance surveys.⁴¹

Both upper and lower sash were moveable, counterbalanced with cast lead weights. In 1805, three windows on the Fifth Street side (lighting the Mayors Court) were fitted with a "double sett of sash," that is, an extra set of sash installed just inside the original sash. These should not be confused with storm sash, for their purpose was to reduce distracting street noises. The clattering of wagon wheels on the nearby pebble-stone streets must have had a disquieting effect upon courtroom deliberations.

The double-sash were still in place during the 1821 fire insurance survey. Their removal date is not known.⁴²

⁴⁰Three earlier examples are: Carpenters' Hall (1770-74), Protestant Episcopal Academy (ca. 1787), and of course Congress Hall (1787-89). Later examples include: Associate Presbyterian Church (1790-91), Zion Lutheran Church (as rebuilt 1796) and St. James Church (1807-09).

⁴¹e.g. "...3 windows and 2 doors arch^d. and gothick sashes in arch^d. part..." from survey of Library Hall, 3 November 1790, Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire.

⁴²Some Congress Hall windows were also fitted with double sets of sash in the early nineteenth century. The 1823 Survey of Congress Hall lists the following rooms with double-sash.

1st Floor: South Court Room - 2 windows on Sixth Street
North Court Room - all windows
2nd Floor: North Room - all windows
South Room - 5 out of 7 windows

Double sash existed in Congress Hall on some windows into the twentieth century.

Exterior, windows, continued

Not counting the round-headed portion of the first floor windows, all were arranged with 12 over 12 lights and 4 lights wide.⁴³ The glass size was 12 by 16 inches according to the 1821 survey, and is verified by surviving original sash.

Thirteen old sash (and parts of four others) survived on the first floor until the 1921-22 restoration and nine old sash survived on the second. Ten old sash (and parts of three others) still survive on the first floor and six old sash survive on the second floor.⁴⁴

Fan Light at North Pediment. The fan light in the north pediment is not original. It was replaced in the A.I.A. Restoration. From old views, it appears to be correct in design and detail. The fan light opening has not been altered, and its moulded keystone is original.

South Dormer Window. The south dormer window was destroyed in the 1823 fire. There are no known views of either the original or its replacement. The present sash are actually casement windows installed during the A.I.A. restoration. Perhaps the original dormer sash also operated on the casement principle. The dormer furnished light and ventilation to the attic and access to the roof.

⁴³The 1815 engraving of Krimmel's painting is quite precise with respect to the window arrangements for both the first and second floor.

⁴⁴The number of old sash which survived to 1918 was indicated on the A.I.A. drawings. Those which survive to 1961 are visually discernable.

Exterior, windows, continued

The Congress Hall dormer survived the fire of 1821, but its present casement windows are modern replacements. We cannot be certain of the original design in either case.

Center Window-Second Floor-North Facade. The north central second floor window was unique, being 5 lights wide, thus making an arrangement of 15 over 15 lights.

The opening is extra high to allow for a set of double doors (under the window) to provide access to an intended balcony. However, the present sash, double doors and balcony date from the A.I.A. restoration and were patterned from Congress Hall. There is no evidence that a balcony was installed on Old City Hall until well into the nineteenth century, although its installation was intended in the original construction. The moulded keystone over the window is original.

Cellar Window Openings. The cellar windows were probably fitted with sash, but we have no knowledge of the details. The openings have dressed stone lintels and sills, between which is a grillage of vertical bars, one inch square, spaced on four and one half inch centers.

Each cellar window along the west side (and one at the northwest front corner) had an exterior "well", lined with dressed stone. Many of the original stones still outline the extent of the cellar window wells. The cellar windows along the east wall were entirely above grade and did not require window-wells.

Shutters. There is no evidence that shutters were ever installed on Old City Hall.

Stone Steps

Only two original stone steps have survived from any of the four exterior entrances. These two survivors are the top steps of the west entrance and the southwest entrances. They were the only steps with nosings, and were retained in the A.I.A. restoration. They are limestone with moulded nosings.

The main entrance steps are of granite, installed sometime in the nineteenth century. They were taken down during the A.I.A. Restoration, recut with nosings and set back into place. All other granite steps (on the west, southeast, and southwest entrances) were newly installed in 1921.

It is very likely that all original steps were of limestone similar to the two original steps still in place.

Roof

Shingling. The hipped roof was probably covered with dressed wooden shingles, and the 1821 insurance survey noted that it was "about 1/2 worn." Contrary to popular belief, there is no basis for thinking that the rustic hand-riven shingle was widely used in Philadelphia. They were hand-riven to be sure, but nearly always "dressed" so as to make them smooth. (This fact is emphasized by the discovery of old dressed shingles still in place under later metal roofs). The most common shingle materials were cedar, cypress and pine, but cedar was preferred and most of the eighteenth century shingles

Exterior, roof, continued

were of that species.⁴⁵

Typical shingles were long (from 20 to 36 inches) with tapered butts about one-half inch thick. The shingles were laid with 7 to 12 inches of exposure to the weather. Sometimes the roof was painted with red brickdust, but usually left unfinished.⁴⁶

Old City Hall lost its original roof covering (and cupola) during the 1823 fire. The roof was replaced following structural repairs, and some of the 1823 shingles are in situ under the rebuilt cupola.⁴⁷

The 1823 roof was provided with a typical roof "comb" which projected two inches, that is, the top course of shingles on one side of the ridge overlapped the top course on the other side (see Illustration No. 28). This "comb" or overlapping course of shingles at the ridge was installed to take advantage of the prevailing rains.

⁴⁵In 1794, Benjamin Davies noted that, "The Houses in the city and suburbs are mostly three stories high, built with bricks, in a plain, elegant stile, and covered with cedar shingles." From Benj. Davies, Some Account of the City of Philadelphia", Phila., 1794, p.9.

⁴⁶May 22 [1782], "Ye Painter at work this week painting ye Roof of our house and back Building with Brickdust." From...the Journal of Elizabeth Drinker from 1759 to 1807, A.D. (Philadelphia: 1889), 140. cf. "Fish Oil For Roofs, 1798," an Eighteenth century painting specification and agreement between St. George Tucker and Jeremiah Satterwhite, Williamsburg, Va., 30 August 1798, published in the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, XI, No. 4, 34-35.

⁴⁷The 1823 shingles are ca. 30 inches long, tapering from 0" - 1/16" at one end to 5/8" at the butt end. The width varies from 6-1/2" - 8-1/2". The butts are beveled. They are laid 8-1/2" - 9-1/2" to the weather with 1/8" - 3/8" space between shingles.

Exterior, roof, continued

On Old City Hall, the 1823 "comb" lapped over the west side of the main ridge. Similar "combs" were used on the ridges of the north pediment and south dormer. Old views reveal that nearby buildings had similar "combs," all lapping over the western side of the dormers, indicating the habit of protection from rain. The 1823 covering utilized "fan-tail" shingling along the hips, rather than the present "Boston-hip."⁴⁸ There is good reason to believe that shingling practices in 1823 were substantially unchanged from the late eighteenth century.

According to the 1821 insurance survey, the south, five-sided bay was decked with copper, and it is reasonable to assume that it was built that way.⁴⁹ It is presently metal coated with tar.

One further note. An old view (ca. 1850) shows an access hatch on the western side of the roof. Such hatches were common to eighteenth and nineteenth century Philadelphia buildings for the purpose of watering down the roof in the event of a nearby fire. However, it is neither mentioned in the 1821 survey, or the 1823 accounts of the fire-fighting efforts. The framing of the hatch is still in place, but the physical evidence indicates that it was installed after the fire.

⁴⁸See 1850 view looking east from State House steeple, I.N.H.P. Negative No. 2097, and a similar but later view, I.N.H.P. Neg. No. A-2278.

⁴⁹Sheet copper roofing was also used for example on the First Bank of the United States (1795-97), and the Loganian Annex of the Library Company (1794).

Exterior, roof, continued

Cornice. Most of the exterior cornice is original. This wooden arcuated cornice with its band of fretwork has come down to us almost intact. The 1821 insurance survey described it as a "modillion & dental eave round [the building]." The 1921-22 restoration replaced a few missing parts on the front facade near the northwest corner and a short stretch of fretwork on the west side. There are no other known changes to the original cornice.

Cupola. The original cupola was totally destroyed in the 1823 fire, but a very good likeness of it appears on the 1815 Krimmel engraving.⁵⁰ It is further described in the 1821 fire insurance survey as follows:

an octagon cupola on the roof, the openings finish,d with circular heads & single architrave with modillions round the pedestal.

Within the limitations of this description, it is in agreement with the 1815 view. The cupola as rebuilt in 1823 was apparently patterned after the Congress Hall cupola which had burned in 1821 and that rebuilding probably followed Old City Hall. This hypothesis is not documented, but the remarkable similarity between the two cupolas suggests that they were architecturally alike

⁵⁰The cupola is also shown on the Benjamin Davies Map of Philadelphia, 1794; and the "State-House With a View of Chestnut Street, Philadelphia," by William Brich, 1798. Neither view however, approaches the fidelity of the Krimmel engraving.

Exterior, roof, continued

from the beginning. Some missing parts were replaced during the 1921-22 restoration and it is presently sheathed in sheet metal, but there are no significant differences between the existing 1823 cupola and the pre-fire cupola shown on the Krimmel engraving (see Illustration No. 3).

North Pediment. The north pediment is presently unchanged from its 1790-91 appearance. The pediment framing is original, as evidenced by the fire-charred structural members and hand-wrought nails used in its construction. A later chimney penetrated its upper surfaces, but it has been removed. Closer investigation will reveal the age and condition of the pediment cornice.

South Dormer. The south dormer was destroyed in the 1823 fire and its original appearance is unknown. The present dormer is a post-fire construction with later modifications.

The Congress Hall south dormer survived the 1821 fire, and probably served as the prototype for the rebuilt City Hall dormer. The original south dormer was described in 1821 as "opening out to the roof of the octagon..." The meaning however is vague. We could take it to mean that the dormer was (1) fitted with moveable lower sash, or that (2) the present casement sash approximates the original conditions.

The south dormer fan light is old, probably dating from 1823. Most of the exterior trim was replaced in 1921, again using Congress Hall for a model.

Exterior, roof, continued

The dormer cheeks were probably originally shingled, but there is no documentary evidence for this feature, except for mid-nineteenth century photos of the building.

Rainconductor Gutters and Pipes. No parts from the original rain-water conductor system have survived to the present day. The only reliable early view is the engraving of the 1815 Krimmel painting. The detail in that view is not sufficiently precise for interpretation.

The 1821 survey simply described the system as "copper gutters & pipes." Old photographs only prove that the heads and pipes were replaced at an early date.

Obviously the A.I.A. faced the same problem, for their specifications reveal that the rain conductors were to "match" those on Congress Hall. The present pipes are in the correct location, for the stone belt course was originally notched to receive the pipes. Perhaps the notch itself led the A.I.A. to use rectangular pipes.

At the original time of construction, both round and rectangular pipes were in use. We are inclined to agree with the A.I.A. in their choice. In all other respects, the detailing of heads, collars and gutters bears up under comparison with old photos of similar installations on other Philadelphia buildings. There is not sufficient documentary evidence to find fault with the existing heads and pipes.

Exterior, roof, continued

Chimneys and Chimney Caps

Originally, there were but five chimneys (each with a stone cap) on Old City Hall, three on the east side and two along the west side. This unbalanced arrangement was simply due to the fact that the northwest corner of the building was left unheated on both floors. In the mid-nineteenth century, this deficiency was corrected by the addition of three more chimneys, noticeable in several of the old views.

Sometime in the nineteenth century, the two western chimneys were raised in height. The same stone chimney caps were merely displaced to the loftier position. In 1921-22 these two chimneys were lowered to the original position as marked by the change in brickwork. The three eastern chimneys have survived except that a few bricks have been replaced, the joints repointed, and the stone caps replaced.

Paint Colors

Exterior paint was limited to doors, sash, wooden architraves, dormer trim, and cornices. So far as we know all paint was removed during the A.I.A. restoration. Apparently the colors were not recorded. We may be able to find "islands" of original paint in crevices or hard-to-reach places, but the colors are presently unknown. The Krimmel painting of 1815 should also be consulted.

VI. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERIOR FABRIC 1791-1800

Cellar Floor Plan

Unfortunately, the cellar floor plan has been altered beyond recognition of its original layout. The cellar was not described in the 1821 fire insurance survey, except to say that it had an "ash hole."

The cellar space was probably compartmentized with interior foundation walls, arches, and doorways, similar to Congress Hall. We know that the cellar was rented to Stephen Girard in 1792, and that he used the space for storage until well into the nineteenth century.⁵¹ The renting of cellars in public buildings was a common practice in Philadelphia. This brings up the problem of external access to the cellar. Apparently the building was equipped with the usual cellar bulkhead doors, and the physical evidence indicates that it was located at the middle window on the east wall.⁵²

⁵¹Minutes of City Council, 1789-1793, 19 March 1792, 441. Girard petitioned the council to rent the Cellar under the City Hall. On April 14 following, the cellar was rented to Girard at fifty pounds per annum. Ibid., 30 April 1792, 449. In 1821, the councils resolved, "That it shall hereafter be the duty of the City Commissioners to purchase all the fire wood that may be necessary for the use of the different corporate offices within the City Hall to be deposited together in the cellar thereof, ...And the Commissioners are hereby directed to have the Ash hole in the cellar in safe condition." Minutes of the Common Council, 22 November 1821. The cellar was used for coal and ashes until the National Park Service converted the heating system from coal to steam.

⁵²The existence of an outside entrance to the cellar is suggested by the following, "Pd. a man for watching on the night of 30th Nov.: The door of City Hall Cellar which was repairing 1.00," Girard Papers, Cash Book 1818-1819, 3 December 1818, Girard College.

First Floor Plan

During the period 1791-1800, the first floor plan was quite simple, viz., (1) an open stairhall at the northwest corner, measuring about 22 by 27 feet, (2) a Treasurer's office at the northeast corner, measuring about 17 x 22, and (3) the Mayor's Court Room, occupying the entire south half of the first floor, including the octagonal bay (see frontispiece, "Evolution of the Fabric").

Apparently the first floor arrangement remained unchanged during the period 1791-1800, but was materially altered at several times in the nineteenth century. The original layout has been deduced principally from 1) the 1821 insurance survey, 2) the 1824 "Plan of the State House," 3) the A.I.A. record drawings and photographs related to the 1921 restoration, and 4) the surviving fabric. By correlating the available information, the main architectural features can be established for the 1791-1800 period.

Stairhall: The stairhall for example was not altered before the 1850's and some of its features are described in the 1821 survey. Location of the original stairway was shown on the 1824 plan, and later verified by the A.I.A. Access to the stairway was immediately to the right upon entering the front center doorway. The stairs proceeded upwards along the north wall with a landing at the northwest corner. It then followed the west wall to a landing over the west entrance door. At this point, the stair furnished access to a gallery overlooking the Mayor's Court Room, but the main stair turned eastward paralleling the brick cross wall to the second floor, all described in 1821 insurance survey as

Interior, first floor plan, continued

follows:

in the Hall is a large open newel stair case leading into the Garret. finish'd with open brackets, turn'd banisters, & large painted rails.

The outline and pitch of the stairway and hand rail were quite precisely located (in the old plasterwork) by the A.I.A. This evidence was recorded photographically (see Illustrations 7 and 8), and incorporated into the A.I.A. working drawings. There seems to be little doubt as to the stairway location as interpreted by the A.I.A., but the details were largely borrowed from the old stairway at Congress Hall. The only other significant feature in the stair hall was the large doorway leading to the Mayor's Court Room. These double doors had "circular sash over them," according to the 1821 survey, which apparently referred to a large fan light window. The A.I.A. undoubtedly relocated the doorway correctly, but its general size and design were taken from Congress Hall.

Treasurer's Office: The first floor Treasurer's office has been more fortunate in retaining much of its original fabric. Perhaps this is because all four walls of the Treasurer's office are constructed of brick, two of them exterior masonry walls. Of the two partition walls, one, (between Treasurer's office and stair hall) survives intact together with its door trim and jamb paneling. The other masonry partition wall (between Treasurer's office and Mayors Court) was slightly modified in the nineteenth century to accommodate a fire-proof vault. During the A.I.A. restoration the vault was

Interior, first floor plan, continued

removed and a doorway located to provide access between the Treasurer's office and Mayor's Court. Perhaps the A.I.A. perceived some physical evidence for that doorway, but we have no knowledge of it, nor is there any historical document to support it. The 1824 plan does not show a door at that location, but it should not be considered infallible for we can definitely establish the original existence of a second floor doorway not shown on the 1824 plan. Therefore, since the A.I.A. may have found justifiable physical evidence for the doorway, we suggest it be left for future clarification.

Mayor's Court: The present Mayor's Court (see Illustration Nos. 9 and 10) is not substantially different from its original appearance, except for the courtroom furniture, bar, rostrum, etc. This room was described in the 1821 survey as follows:

one of the rooms occupied as the Mayors office
[Mayors Court originally] - has a bar in the
middle of the floor, rased two steps, & finished
with a circular rail & turn,d banisters, pannel's
below about 3 feet wide & a platform at the south
end elevated about 4 feet -

This description by itself is not sufficient to recreate the courtroom setting of 1821. Furthermore, we cannot be sure that the room remained unchanged until 1821. The lack of architectural clues in the fabric will be a real obstacle to any reconstruction.

Projecting Bay: Aside from the courtroom paraphernalia, the two most conspicuous features were the projecting southern bay and the spectators' gallery. The bay or "octagon" as it was called, is little changed and was visually important as a focal point for the courtroom.

Interior, first floor plan, continued

In fact there could have been little other justification for its construction. As a focal point it originally served the Mayor's Court (later Supreme Court) on the first floor and the Common Council on the second floor. A projecting bay takes an otherwise box-like space and gives it "direction," much like the apse of a religious edifice.

This feature was common to the mid-eighteenth century courthouses of Virginia, and is known as the "compass" end. The court house at Mt. Holly, N. J., (1796) has a true "compass," or semi-circular bay. The old Town Hall (1798) at Wilmington is approximately octagonal like Old City Hall. The bay is a conspicuous feature from within and without the building, but it was not new to American builders.

Gallery: The spectator's gallery is more difficult to evaluate because it was removed at an early date - sometime after 1813 but before the 1821 survey.

There is no known description of the gallery written before its removal, but clues to its original location were found by the A.I.A. and photographically recorded (see Illustrations No. 12 and 13). Despite its removal, the gallery was outlined in the old plastered sidewalls, including access from the main staircase, the gallery steps, the rail, and the beam pockets for the supporting joists. From this evidence, the general lines of the reconstruction were determined. Only the details were subject to interpretation. We do not have sufficient

Interior, first floor plan, continued

information to improve upon the A.I.A. reconstruction of the gallery.

Second Floor Plan

The five rooms on the second floor were 1) stairhall, 2) northwest corner room, 3) middle room, west side, 4) Select Council Chamber, and 5) Common Council Chamber with "octagon" bay.

Stairhall: Originally the stairway entered the second floor from the west side of the building and joined a central north-south hallway which furnished access to all five rooms on the second floor. Although the stairway was completely changed in 1852, the second floor hall retained its original dimensions, 8 by 40 feet. Of the five original doorways off the hall, three have survived the extensive alterations.

At the north end of the hallway was a large window opening (see Illustration No. 16), intended to open upon a balcony, which if built, would probably have been similar to Congress Hall. The south end of the hall terminated in large double doors opening to the Common Council Chamber. The junction of the hallway and stairway was framed with an elliptical arch supported by pilasters (see Illustration No. 15), described as follows in 1821,

...wooden cornice around the passage [hall],
a large arch with open pilasters & double
architraves on the landing of the 2nd floor -

The arch was reconstructed by the A.I.A. While we cannot vouch for its correctness, it is in keeping with the period.

Interior, second floor plan, continued

Northwest room: The northwest corner room originally measured about 10 x 18 feet but in 1852 was enlarged to 23 x 18 feet. This room, originally constructed without any means of heat, may have been intended for the storage of corporation records. At least it served that purpose in the 1790's.

Middle room: The middle room, west side, was also a small room measuring only 16 x 18 feet. In the nineteenth century it was made even smaller (12 x 18), but was restored to its original plan by the A.I.A.

Select Council Chamber: The northeast corner room is the least understood room in the building. According to the A.I.A. interpretation, there were two rooms on the east side of the second floor, respectively measuring about 18 x 24 and 18 x 13 feet. We believe that there was only one room, about 18 x 39 feet, for the following reasons.

An Act of 1796 created the Select Council, and it appears that the northeast corner room, second floor, was altered to suit the needs of that legislative body. We cannot be certain, but there is some evidence that the room was modified by the addition of a cross partition on a semi-circular plan. This created an odd-shaped middle room of little consequence, fit only for storage purposes (see sketch).

Our contention that the change was made within the historic period is based upon five items of interest: (1) an October 1796 mention of a plan for alterations to the "north East chamber on the

() Interior, Second floor plan, continued

second floor of the City Hall for the accommodation of the Select Council,"⁵³ (2) a November 1796 resolution that the public records be removed "to the Room between the Select and Common Council Chambers,"⁵⁴ (3) the 1821 insurance survey which lists five rooms and a passage on the second floor, (4) the 1824 "Plan of the State House," which shows the curved partition, (5) physical evidence contrary to the A.I.A. interpretation,⁵⁵ and (6) physical evidence indicating that the curved partition was constructed before cut nails superseded hand-wrought nails (see sketch).

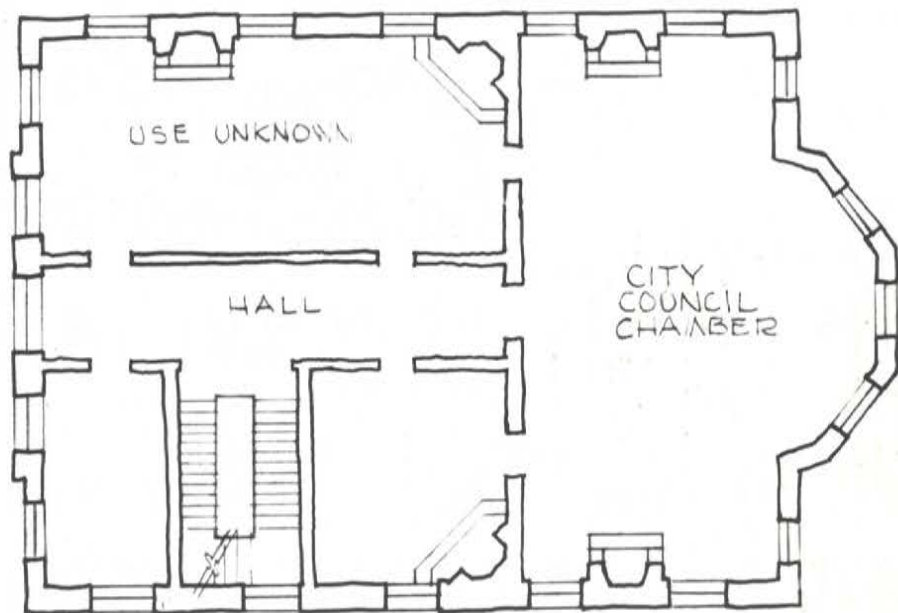
⁵³On 17 October 1796, the Select Council resolved "That a Committee of two be appointed to examine & Report what alterations are necessary to be made in the north east Room on the second Floor of the City Hall for the accommodation of the Select Council." Minutes of the Select Council, 17 October 1796, 7.

The above mentioned committee made its report on the following day and submitted a plan of alterations. The plan was adopted and a committee appointed to superintend the execution of the work. The plan has been lost. Ibid., 18 October 1796, 11.

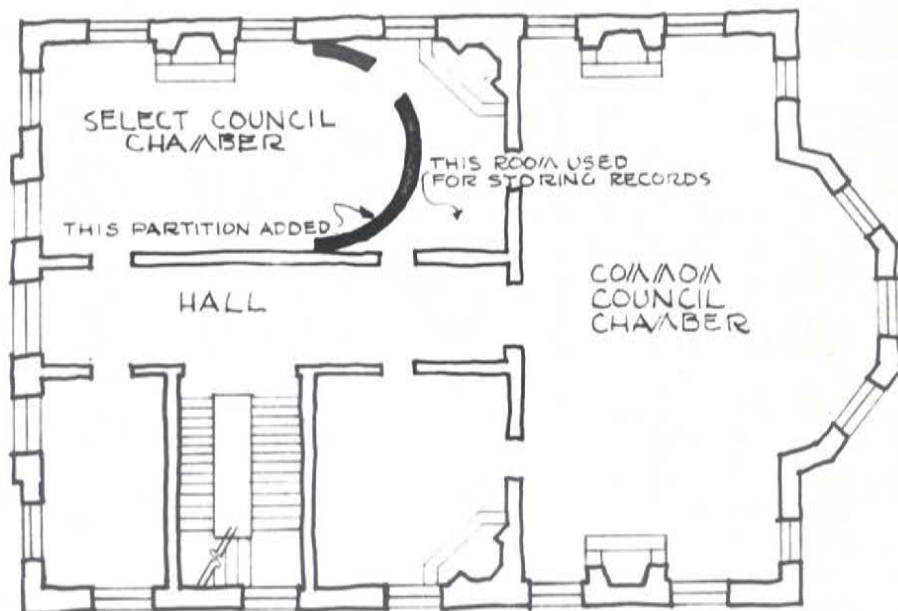
⁵⁴"Resolved, That the Books & papers belonging to the Corporation...be removed to the Room between the Select and Common Council Chambers," Ibid., 10 November 1796, 18.

We believe that the room alluded to was created by the partitioning of the Select Council Chamber. Its smallness and odd-shape probably suggested its use for storage. Prior to that time, the corporation records had been kept in the unheated northwest room as follows, "Resolved, that the Northwest Room in the second Story of the City Hall be appropriated for depositing the Records of the City," Minutes of the City Council, 26 August 1791, 414, Cf. Ibid., 7 September, 1791, 416.

⁵⁵The writer has found hand wrought lath nails in the ceiling joists, directly in line with the partition installed during the 1921-22 restoration. Because of these lath nails, and because the ceiling retains its original lath, there could not have been two rooms as interpreted by the A.I.A.



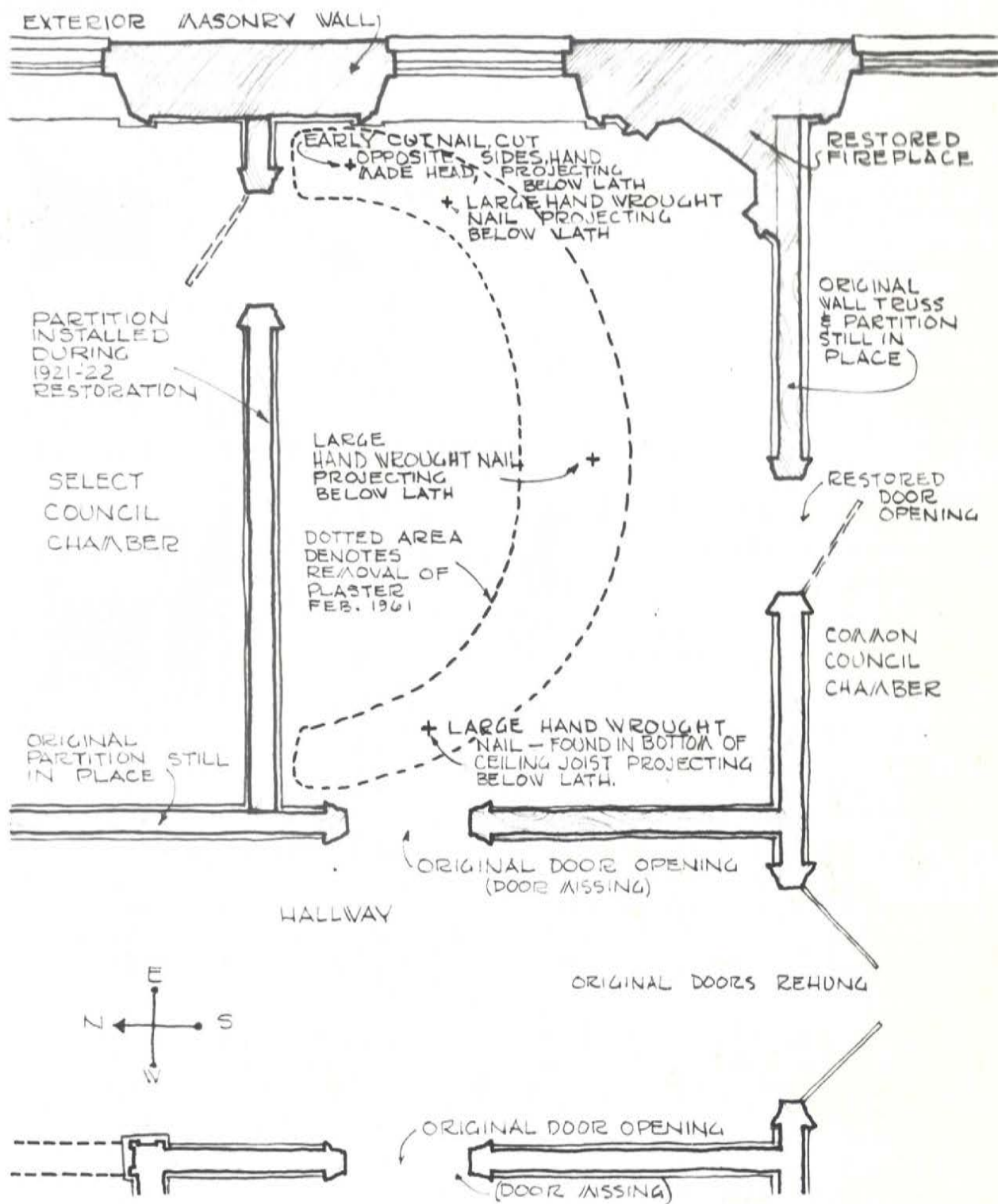
OLD CITY HALL / 2ND FLOOR / 1791 - c. 1796



OLD CITY HALL / 2ND FLOOR / c. 1796 - c. 1852

SKETCH SHOWING 2ND FLOOR ALTERATION
FOR SELECT COUNCIL c. 1796 / $\frac{1}{16}$ " : 1'-0"

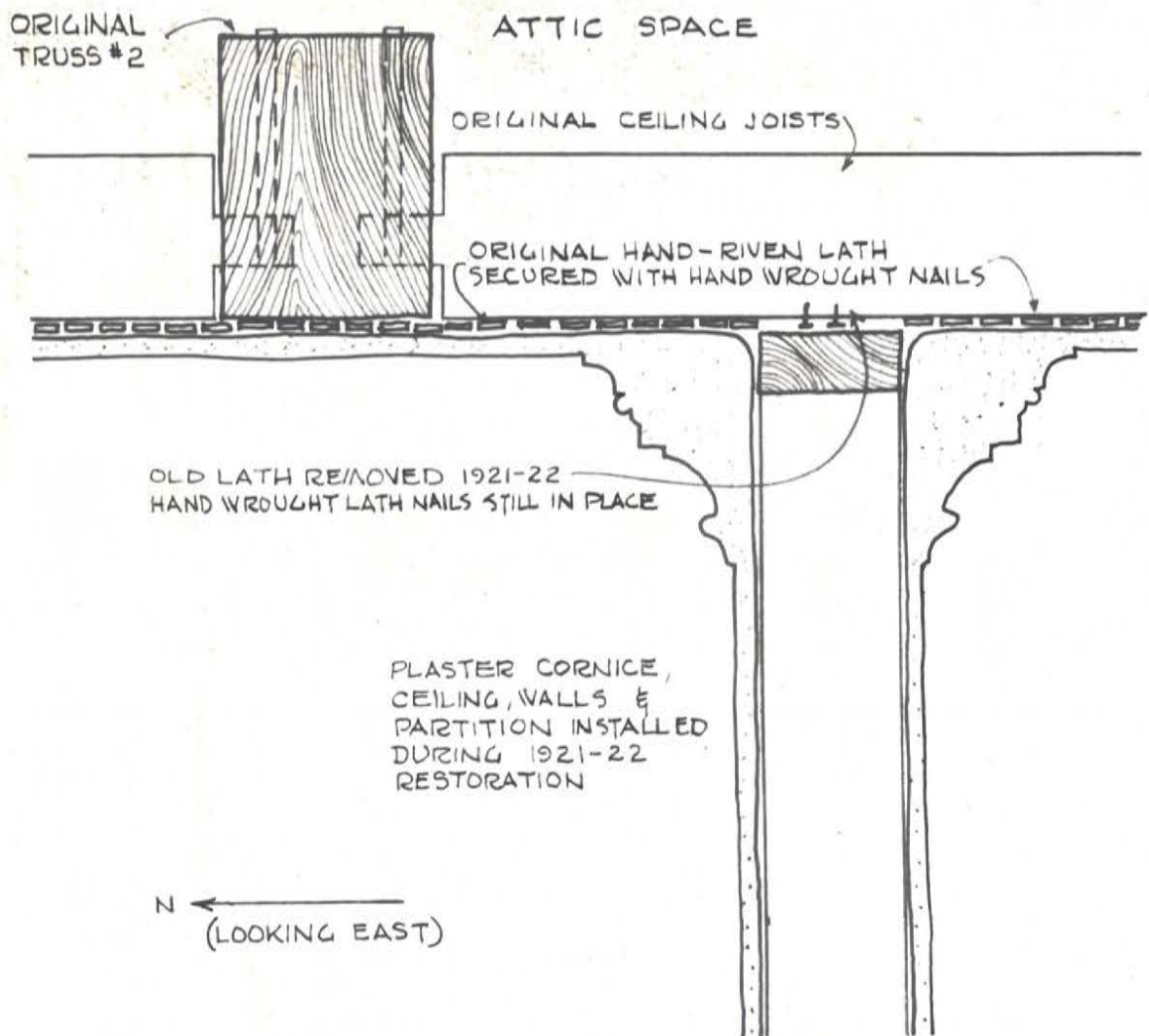
DRAWN 16 MARCH 1961, J.M. EVERETT



OLD CITY HALL - PHILADELPHIA

SKETCH SHOWING EVIDENCE OF CURVED PARTITION IN SELECT COUNCIL CHAMBER - ADDED CA. 1796. SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$ " : 1'-0"

DRAWN 15 MARCH 1961, J. M. EVERETT



SECTION

OLD CITY HALL - PHILADELPHIA

SKETCH SHOWING EVIDENCE THAT 1921-22 PARTITION
IN SELECT COUNCIL CHAMBER DOES NOT REPRESENT
AN ORIGINAL CONDITION. SCALE: $1\frac{1}{2}'' : 1'-0''$

DRAWN 15 MARCH 1961, J.A. EVERETT

Interior, second floor plan, continued

It should be emphasized that the curved partition was a rather superficial alteration, applied to the walls, floor and ceiling without becoming a structural part of the fabric. Its appearance is conjectural.

This arrangement, if actually carried out in 1796, continued at least until 1824, and is shown on the "Plan of the State House" for that year.

Common Council Chamber: This is the only room in Old City Hall to retain its original dimensions intact, and most of its original trim, including modillion cornice, chair rail, window sash, and double entrance doors (see Illustration No. 19).

This room measures approximately 22 x 46 feet, not including the projecting southern bay. Through the years only two minor changes were made in the plan, and these involved relocation of the flanking entrance doors from the opposing middle rooms (see Illustration No. 24). Main access to the council chamber has always been through the large double doors located midway along the north wall of the room, which point is also the south terminus of the second floor hallway. These double doors are original but were rehung by the A.I.A.

The 1821 survey contains a cryptic comment which apparently pertains to the second floor, "two doors finished with circular sash over them." This may be a reference to a fan light over the above double doors, but the A.I.A. did not find evidence for them, and we can offer no other explanation.

Interior, continued

Garret or Attic

The garret was not finished or sub-divided for occupancy but it was provided with floor boarding. According to the 1821 survey, the garret was not plastered.

Sole access to the garret was by stairway (from the second floor) which entered the garret directly over the second floor stair landing. There is no evidence of a roof hatch until after the 1823 fire.

Structural Systems

Basically the structural systems used at Old City Hall were typical of the period - well grounded in concept, but not structurally designed or detailed in the modern sense. The exterior walls are of load-bearing masonry and all secondary structural systems are dependent upon the masonry. The first floor was originally carried with a network of wooden girders and floor joists supported by the outside walls and masonry walls in the cellar.

One masonry cross wall was carried up to the second floor level. On the first floor, this cross wall separated the open stair hall and Treasurer's office from the Mayor's Court room. Joist pockets were built into that wall to carry the north end of the spectator's gallery. The leading edge of the gallery was probably carried by two wooden columns, long since removed, but reconstructed and relocated by the A.I.A. on the basis of piers in the cellar (now gone). The masonry cross wall (mentioned above) at the second floor level, provided joist support for the

Interior, continued

northwest corner room, the Select Council chamber and part of the hallway.

Wall Truss: The most interesting device on the second floor is the structural partition or "wall truss" which serves as the north wall of the Common Council room. This wall truss bridges the width of the building, a clear span of 46 feet, to provide for unobstructed space in the Mayor's Court below.

The wall truss per se was not new to the field of building construction. It was an accepted practice in Philadelphia and illustrated in the Carpenters Company Rule Book of 1786. It was possible to place door openings between the panel points, so as to allow for the diagonal timbers. This particular truss had sagged to an alarming degree by the twentieth century, and the A.I.A. introduced steel girders (in the attic) with iron tension rods in an attempt to preserve the wall truss in fact if not in function.

Floor Girders: Another system is employed in the second floor level and should be mentioned. In addition to the usual floor joists, a pair of 8-1/2 x 17 inch wooden beams spanned from third points on the wall truss to points on the outside masonry walls on each side of the "octagon" bay. These askew girders were not parallel with the building (see sheet no. 5, A.I.A. drawings).

Roof Framing: The roof framing system was typical for a large building with a hipped roof. Five wooden trusses provided the primary structural support for the roof and cupola. Three of the trusses are original, though badly charred from the 1823 fire.

Interior, structural systems, continued

The two southernmost trusses were so badly damaged during that fire, that they required replacement and date from the 1823 repair work (see Illustration No. 27).

The trusses are self-supporting with a clear span of 46'-6". The structural design does not fall into modern category of truss type, but they are very similar to a "queen-post" truss (see Illustration No. 25). These trusses are different in that they have a king-post centered on the top chord, and the king post is braced by major roofrafters which rest upon the diagonal members of the main truss. This gives the appearance of a king-post truss resting on a queen-post truss. The total height of these trusses is about 14'-6". The truss spacing is not constant, but varies from 7'-10" to 9'-10". Wooden purlins span between the trusses and carry the minor roof rafters. Heavy hip-rafters complete the roof framing system. Most of the joints are mortised and tenoned together, with iron U-straps used on the vertical tension members (see Illustration No. 26). The second floor ceiling joists are mortised and pinned to the lower chord of the trusses, except where repairs have necessitated changes.

Cupola Framing: The 8 vertical cupola posts rest on wooden girders which in turn rest on the top chord of the queen-post truss. This design introduces high bending moments in the top chords of the two middle trusses which are no heavier in construction than the other trusses. Generally they were all over-designed and are in relatively good condition.

Flooring and Baseboards

Both the first and second floors were originally laid with 5/4 inch yellow pine, according to the 1821 insurance survey. The floorboards were probably face nailed with T-headed wrought nails, similar to those found in attic floor boards.

According to the A.I.A. "Specifications for the Restoration of Old City Hall" (p. 27), all old flooring was to be removed and replaced, except in the Mayor's Court where the new wood flooring was to be nailed on top of the old floor. If the under flooring exists and proves to be original, perhaps something of the courtroom layout can be determined from the old floor boards.

Unfortunately, no original baseboards survived the A.I.A. restoration. We have no basis for evaluating the correctness of the A.I.A. baseboard design, except from an incomplete fragment found loose in the attic. If further study indicates this fragment to be part of an original baseboard, it will be valuable for its paint colors.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes

Plastering: The walls and ceilings of Old City Hall (both floors) were plastered throughout, except for the first floor wainscot which was sheathed with vertical matched boards. Plaster (on the outside walls and brick cross wall) was applied directly to the brickwork. Modern plaster and wire lath was laid over the original wood later throughout much of the second floor wall and ceiling surfaces.

Interior, wall and ceiling finishes, continued

The A.I.A. specifications called for the removal of all old plaster on wooden lath. However, plaster over brick walls was to be "carefully hacked all over," that is, retained as a base for new plaster. Therefore, much original plaster is still in place under the present plaster, and its re-exposure may help to determine the existence of paint colors or whitewashing.

Ceiling Medallion (2nd Floor): The Common Council Chamber probably had an ornamental plaster ceiling medallion, but it is not mentioned in the 1821 survey, and its appearance is conjectural. The plaster ceiling in that room was destroyed by water damage in the 1823 fire. The post-fire repairwork was executed and financed by the Philadelphia Contributionship. The present plaster ceiling medallion dates from that repairwork, and it is unlikely that the Contributionship would have paid for the medallion unless it replaced one destroyed in the fire (see Illustration No. 23).

Although the present medallion post-dates the 1791-1800 period, we do not suggest its removal because of 1) its antiquity and good design, and 2) our complete lack of knowledge concerning the earlier one.

Lathing: The framed partitions and ceilings of both floors were originally prepared for plaster with hand-riven lath secured with wrought nails. Much of the original lath is still in place, for the A.I.A. specified its retention and application of wire lath over the old work. This was a wise decision for it enables us to ascertain the originality of certain features such as doors and partitions.

Interior, wall and ceiling finishes, continued

Paint: Wall and ceiling colors will be difficult to determine because of the widespread plaster removal during the A.I.A. restoration. We hope to find some areas of original plaster over brickwork where original paint has survived. This subject will be discussed in the Part II Report.

Cornices

All rooms on the first and second floor (except second floor hall and Common Council chamber) originally had moulded plaster cornices. Portions of those cornices had survived into modern times, and were presumably noted by the A.I.A. Profiles for new plaster cornices are shown on the A.I.A. working drawings (sheet No. 18), and we can only assume that they match the originals. Unfortunately, the restoration plasterers did not follow the drawings, for the cornices are a very loose interpretation of the intended design.

For some reason, the second floor hall and Common Council room were set apart with wooden cornices, and are mentioned in the 1821 survey,

wooden cornice round the passage & comⁿ
council chamber with modillions & dental.

The Common Council chamber retains its original modillion cornice intact except for minor repairs (see Illustration No. 19). The cornice on the north wall of that room was taken down during the A.I.A. restoration, but was replaced following structural modifications in the wall.

Interior, woodwork, continued

Doorways and Doors

One original doorway survives on the first floor - the doorway leading from the stair hall to the Treasurer's office. The paneled door is old, but was rehung from another location where it had been hung in the nineteenth century. Other doors and doorways on the first floor are reconstructions, incorporating details from the lone survivor and from Congress Hall.

Three original doorways survive on the second floor - the large doorway leading to the Common Council Chamber, and two doorways leading from the hall into the east and west middle room. The original doors from the two latter openings were rehung by the A.I.A., but have been since removed and lost.

The two doors leading to the Common Council Chamber are important not only for their size, but for the fine paneling on both faces of the doors (see Illustration No. 20). The paneling has been badly treated during its several paint removals, and the doors themselves exhibit a patchwork of repairs, mostly from lock replacements. Nonetheless, it is fortunate that these doors escaped the numerous "improvements" of the nineteenth century.

All other doors (several were called "old" by A.I.A.) have disappeared sometime in the last forty years.

The following interior door openings have their original architraves and jambs: Nos. 151 (first floor), 251, 252, 253, 254, and 255 (second floor, see Illustration No. 17). This is the numbering system adopted by the A.I.A. for their restoration drawings.

Interior, woodwork, continued

The "double" architraves are cited in the 1821 insurance survey. The word "double" simply implies an extra moulding (backband, ogee and bead) in contrast to a "single" architrave (backband and bead).

Hardware

Hardware at Old City Hall was originally limited to door hinges, sliding bolts and rim locks. We have no knowledge of other hardware. The only hinges which appear to be original are the wrought-iron, folding pintle-type hinges on the main entrance doors. All interior doors have been rehung with modern butt hinges. Originally they probably used cast-iron butt hinges.

The double-hung window sash had a rope, pulley and counterweight arrangement, which was replaced with a modern mechanism by the A.I.A. A lead sash weight was preserved and is now in the park museum collection. The original pulley details are not known.

Heating and Fireplaces

All rooms (except northwest room, 2nd floor) were originally designed to be heated with one or more fireplaces, although stoves were introduced before 1800. A supplement will deal with the use of iron stoves in Old City Hall. The fireplaces are discussed individually, as follows:

The Treasurer's Office had a fireplace between the first and second windows, east wall, which was probably adapted for use with an open stove in 1794. The original appearance is not known. At some unknown time, the fireplace was drastically altered. (see Illustration No. 14).

Interior, heating, continued

Its appearance just prior to the A.I.A. restoration is not certain, but the working drawings called for its reversion to a fireplace. For some unrecorded reason, a niche was built instead of a fireplace, although niches were very popular in Philadelphia in the ca. 1840's. Recent architectural investigation leaves little doubt that it should be a fireplace.

The Mayor's Court had only two fireplaces with stone jambs and heads, and a brick hearth surrounded with marble (see Illustration No. 11). Several ten-plate stoves were installed in 1794, but not necessarily placed in the fireplace openings.

At some undetermined time, the openings were sealed with brick and plastered. The original stone facings were discovered by the A.I.A. under a later coat of plaster, and were exposed and preserved in the restoration. The stone facings are similar to those at Congress Hall. The hearths and supporting trimmer arches were replaced by the A.I.A., probably from Congress Hall prototypes.

A search has been made for other fireplaces in the Mayor's Court, more particularly between the fourth and fifth window openings. Second floor fireplaces in the same location suggested the possibility of four fireplaces in the Mayor's Courtroom. However a recent investigation verifies the A.I.A. interpretation of two fireplaces in the Mayor's Courtroom.

The Select Council Chamber (second floor) fireplace was closed off at a early date, and the absence of stone facings suggested (to the A.I.A.) marble facings and a wood mantel, which were supplied during the 1921-22

Interior, heating, continued

restoration. In fact, it appears that evidence for restoring the second floor fireplaces had been obliterated in the nineteenth century, and the present designs are primarily based upon Congress Hall. The 1821 insurance survey is silent on the subject of fireplaces and stoves.

Most interesting on the second floor is the use of corner fireplaces in the east and west middle rooms. Their appearance is conjectural, but ~~their~~ existence was established by the A.I.A. (see Illustration No. 18). The corner fireplace, west middle room, was fitted with an open stove in 1794, but the necessary alterations are not documented.

The Common Council Chamber completes the roster of fireplaces. That room was supplied with two fireplaces, which were supplanted by ten-plate stoves in 1797-98. Both fireplaces were modified in the nineteenth century. Behind the later work the A.I.A. found cast-iron jambs and backs in place. Believing them to be original, the A.I.A. left them in situ. Upon careful examination and removal of the iron plates, we concur that they are original (see Illustrations No. 21 and 22). The present marble facings, wood mantels, brick and marble hearths were patterned from examples at Congress Hall.

APPENDIX ADavid Evans, Master Carpenter of Philadelphia, ca. 1734 - ca. 1817

No drawings, file papers or vouchers have yet been located for the erection of Old City Hall. Beyond the fact that David Evans superintended the work, little is known about the construction of this building. During the period in question, Evans was a city councilman and served on the committee appointed to prepare a plan and estimate for the proposed building. Evans, a well-known Philadelphia master carpenter, may not have been the designer, but he would have been competent to do it. He was obviously more than a working carpenter, for he was acquainted with the best English publications on architecture. In 1763, he presented the Library Company with two volumes of Abraham Swan's Designs published in 1757. He was accustomed to furnishing plans and detailed estimates for building projects.

It is unfortunate that so little is known about the master carpenters of Philadelphia and the important work which they performed. What follows is a brief biographical outline of David Evans, which may help to establish his background and ability to undertake work of this sort.

ca. 1734

Birth Date [Louise Hall, From Artisan to Architect, p. D-93, ms Dissertation, 1954, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina (copy at Octagon Library, Washington)].

- 1761 Active in the Union Library Company and had an important part in bringing the Union Library Company's building into being. He provided the lot for it next to his own house on Pear street (now Chancellor) in 1761, and was perhaps its designer and builder. [Charles E. Peterson, "Library Hall" Historic Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society, 1953, 132, n. 25].
- 1762 May 17 An advertisement for the 17th annual meeting of the Union Library Company calls for it to be held "at the New Library, in Third street." Appended to the advertisement is the note, "The Cellar under said Library is to be lett, enquire of David Evans, next Door." His address is also given as, "David Evans, at his House adjoining the Union Library, at the Corner of Pear and Third-streets, Philadelphia." [E. V. Lamberton, "Colonial Libraries of Philadelphia," PMHB, vol. 42, 198-199].
- 1764 Jan 13 Evans presented the Library Company of Philadelphia with a two volume set of Abraham Swan's Collection of Designs in Architecture (London: 1757). [Cited in Peterson, op. cit., 146, item 276 and n.3].
- 1765 Application for admission to the Carpenters' Company, delayed by referrals until election in 1769. [Louise Hall, op. cit.].
- 1769 Elected to Carpenters' Company. Evans attended so seldom that his name was not always kept on the Warden's list. He entered occasional proposals to resign, or have his son (David, Jr.) admitted in his place, or be relieved of fines for non-attendance. [Ibid.]
- 1769 Evans a member of the American Philosophical Society. [Ibid.]
- 1770 Evans resigned as a member of the American Philosophical Society. [Ibid.]
- 1771 Evans acted as "Superintendent" for the construction of "Fairhill," Germantown, for John Dickinson. The two men were cousins. [See extensive collection of correspondence and vouchers, Logan Papers, vol. 30, passim, ms, Historical Society of Pennsylvania].

- 1771 Feb 14 Evans made an agreement with John Smith of Burlington. As soon as Smith would give Evans a title to his house on north side of Chestnut street between 6th and 7th (237-3/5 feet frontage and 150 feet deep), Evans was to pay £3000. [Maria Dickinson Logan Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania].
- 1771 Feb 19 John Dickinson, Esquire; David Evans, House carpenter, and Nicholas Hicks, Bricklayer, entered into bond with James Allen for a debt of £200. Nature of debt unknown. Perhaps it was related to the above mentioned house on Chestnut street. [Logan Papers, vol. 34, 70].
- 1772 July 13 The Friends Free School Corporation paid Evans £50 "for the use of the School house building in Pine Street." A similar order for £100 is undated. [Friends Free School Corporation Accounts, 1750-1778, Gratz Collection, ms, Hist. Soc. of Penna.].
- 1772 July-Aug. The Friends Free School was billed for 58,000 bricks delivered by Jacob Graff "by Order of Mr David Evans." [Ibid.]
- 1773 March 5 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Evans acted as general contractor for remodeling a house on Chestnut street for John Dickinson. Evans submitted a "Draught of the Alteration of the Stairs in the old house for thy Examination..." Exact location of the house not known. Perhaps Dickinson purchased Evans' 1771 mortgage for a house on the north side of Chesnut street between 6th and 7th (see 14 Feb. 1771 entry above). [Logan Papers, vol 30, 49].
- 1775 Nov 16 Letter: Evans to Israel Pemberton, from New London. Describes his safe arrival, intent to go on to Providence. Inquires after his wife's health. Is traveling in company with John Parrish. [Pemberton Papers, vol. 28, 108, ms, Hist. Soc. of Penna.].
- 1783 In the will of David Evans, house carpenter, of 1783, he gives all his carpenter's tools to his cousin, David Evans (cabinetmaker). [An undocumented, unsigned research card in INNHP files (Occupation Index)].
- 1783 June 2 Evans was paid £6.0.0 for "Making State Room &c aboard Ship," by Isaac Norris. [Norris Family Accounts, 1781-90, vol. 3, 50, ms, Hist. Soc. of Penna.].

- 1786 March 11 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Evans measured John Dickinson's lot on Chestnut street and "found" 177' 4" east of the house and 76' 4" west of the house. The house measured 62' 6" in front, making a total frontage of 316' 2". (see 1773 entry above). [Maria Dickinson Logan Papers, op. cit.].
- 1789 May 28 Evans was a shareholder in the Library Company of Philadelphia which had recently assimilated the Union Library Company. He assisted the Committee by making some preliminary designs. [Peterson, op. cit., 132]. The Library Company building committee consulted with Evans about the expense of a building 46 x 68 feet in size. Evans "...attended with a plan and an estimate of the brick work..." but the committee adjourned so as to allow Evans the opportunity to submit a more detailed estimate. [Minutes of the Proceedings of the Directors of the Library Company of Philadelphia, vol. 3, 137, ms, Ridgeway Branch, Library Company].
- 1789 May 30 "David Evans attended [the Library Company committee meeting] with an Elevation of a building, and an estimate of the expence [sic] of the building, without Cellars, very minutely made, amounting to \$1999-18-0. [Ibid.]." Apparently his "Elevation" did not satisfy the directors. A new committee was appointed to "prepare a suitable plan and elevation of the building, to make inquiry with regard to the best method of procuring Materials and engaging workmen." [Ibid., 157]. The final design by William Thornton was the result of a competition.
- 1789 Nov. 5 Evans received one share in the Library Company, owing to a general distribution of shares to carpenters and bricklayers engaged in building Library Hall. In February 1790, shares in the Company were again distributed to workmen, apparently as a partial payment for their services. [Ibid., 185, 191-2].
- 1790 April 24 Evans injured in a fall from a scaffold on Race Street. [Diary of Christopher Marshall, 24 April, 1790, ms, Hist. Soc. of Penna., Cited in Peterson, op. cit., 132, n. 25].

- 1789-91 Evans served the city as Common Councilman. He was appointed to a committee (19 October 1789) to prepare a plan and estimate for erecting a new city hall. [Minutes of City Council, 19 October 1789]. On 12 July 1790, Evans was appointed to another committee to investigate the fiscal ability of the city to undertake construction of the building. [Ibid., 12 July 1790].
- 1792 March 31 City Treasurer's receipt for three hundred dollars [E112.10.0], ordered paid 31 March 1792, to David Evans. [Treasurer's Receipt Book, ms, 1792-3, p. unpagged, Phila. City Archives].
- 1792 May 8 Evans received E529.1.1-1/2 in full of the Mayor's Order May 8, 1792. [Ibid.].
- 1793 Feb 17 It was agreed by the City Council to allow David Evans for his superintending the building of the city hall the sum of fifty pounds. "The Committee of Accounts to whom were referred David Evans' accounts, made Report in his favor, amounting to forty one Pounds, eleven Shillings and six pence and the Mayor was requested to draw an order on the Treasurer for the Same." [Min. of Corp., Common Council, Jan. 18, 1793 - Oct. 3, 1796, p.6].
- 1793 March 11 "The Memorial of David Evans on motion seconded, was read a second time--Whereupon, it was moved and seconded, that the Resolution of this Board [City Council] relative to David Evan's Account entered into at the last Meeting be reconsidered, which was passed in the Affirmative--Whereupon it was moved and seconded, that David Evan's Account be referred to a Committee, which passed in the Affirmative, and Messieurs Barclay Craig and Fo(x) were accordingly appointed."----[Minutes of the Corporation, Common Council, Book 1, vol. 2, Jan. 18, 1793 to Oct. 3, 1796, 9].
- 1793 May 21 Evans received E41.11.6 [\$110.87] by the Mayor's Order, 21 May 1793. [Treasurer's Receipt Book, op. cit.].

- 1794 Dec 2 Extract from Journal of Elizabeth Drinker: "David Evans was here last evening. He owns a place near ours by Logan's Mill - wished H. D. [Henry Drinker] and others would wait on the Grand Jury to solicit the building of a Bridge over that bad part of the road." [Extracts from the Journal of Elizabeth Drinker, from 1759 to 1807, A.D., ed. by Henry D. Biddle, Phila., 1889, 250].
- 1798 Aug 4 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Evans gives advice on fireplace construction in Dickinson's new house on Jones Neck near Dover, Del. Included in the letter is a sketch (for the mason) which shows flues, corbelling, and "side closet." [Logan Papers, vol. 31, 46].
- 1798 Nov 17 Entry in Eliz.. Drinker Journal: "David Evans came this evening for an order to bury Rachel Taylor, formerly Rachel House. He spent an hour with us, and exercised his gift, which seems natural to him. W. D. [William Drinker] said, when he was gone, it made him think of the old saying, 'Laugh and grow fat.'" [Ibid., 337].
- 1800 June 23 Direct Tax Records, Phila., 1800: David Evans, occupant and owner; Cypress Alley adj. Henry Hills Estate; value of tract, \$200; tax, 38¢. [Direct Tax Records, Phila., Pa., 1800, 43, National Archives].
- 1800 There is a David Evans listed in the 1800 Census Records, New Market Ward, as follows: Head of Household; David Evans
- | Free White Males | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Under
10 yrs. | Under
16 yrs. | Under
26 yrs. | Under
45 yrs. | Over
45 yrs. |
| - | - | - | - | 1 |
- | Free White Females | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Under
10 yrs. | Under
16 yrs. | Under
26 yrs. | Under
45 yrs. | Over
45 yrs. |
| - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 |
- [Population Schedules of the Second Census of the United States, 1800, ms, Pennsylvania volume 9, City of Phila., 306, National Archives Microfilm Roll No. 43].

- 1800 Aug 23 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Evans has been chosen along with Wm. Garrigues (of Frankford) to arbitrate the dispute between Dickinson and the carpenters engaged in building Dickinson's house near Dover. [Logan Papers, vol. 32, 5].
- 1800 Aug 27 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. If his health permits he will be in Wilmington next week. Evans has written Garrigues to that effect. It would be proper for the carpenters to write Garrigues also. Evans is planning to bring his daughter, and declines Dickinson's offer to send a wagon for them. [Logan Papers, vol. 9, 17].
- 1800 Sept 4 Evans "measured" John Dickinson's house near Dover, Delaware, as an arbitrator in a dispute between Dickinson and Samuel Askew, the builder. [Logan Papers, vol. 32, 24].
- 1800 Nov 11 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Evans will send the book of dimensions (measuring) with the price affixed to each item in and about the Buildings. "This book I intend for thy inspection only." [Logan Papers, vol. 9, 18].
- 1803 Dec 13 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. If health permits he plans to be in Wilmington on the 15th re impending law suit. Asks Dickinson to look up his letters and "measurements" to refresh his memory. [Logan Papers, vol. 32, 22].
- 1803 Dec 19 Evans' book of measurements for John Dickinson's house (near Dover) was given in evidence to the jury at New Castle, Delaware, in the law suit of Samuel Askew vs. John Dickinson. [This book of 42 pages in Evans' handwriting is preserved in the Logan Papers]. [Logan Papers, vol. 32, 24].
- 1804 March 12 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Expresses regret upon hearing of Dickinson's misfortune (the burning of the house on Jones Neck). Requests information on damages so as to be able to prepare estimates for repair work. [Logan Papers, vol. 33, 59].
- 1804 March 22 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Promises to forward a plan for rebuilding the house. Recommends John Evans (a "distant" relation) to do the repair work. [Logan Papers, vol. 33, 64].

- 1804 March 27 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Evans plans to come to Dover soon. [Logan Papers, vol. 33, 65].
- 1804 March 30 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Evans in poor health and cannot come, but sends sections, estimates and general advice [the estimates survive in the Logan Papers]. [Logan Papers, vol. 33, 66-67].
- 1804 April 11 Letter: Evans to Dickinson. Evans states that he had been a director and surveyor to an insurance company [Insurance Office of North America] for 10 years. [Logan Papers, vol. 33, 72].
- 1804 April Letters: Evans to Dickinson. Due to a misunderstanding over the extent of damage to Dickinson's house, Evans was attempting to use his connection with the insurance company to arrive at an equitable settlement for all concerned. [Logan Papers, vol. 33, 79, passim].
- 1807 Evans testified "now entering my seventy fourth year." [Louise Hall, op. cit. Circumstances of testimony not cited].
- 1815 Direct Tax Records, Phila., 1815: Walnut Ward: Evans, David - Walnut between 3d & 4th, value of tract \$4,025; Tax \$8.49, Locust Ward, Evans, David [Senior] 221 Spruce, no valuation listed.
- Locust Ward, Evans, David - 20 Prune [Locust], no valuation listed.
- Locust Ward, Evans, David - 22 Prune [Locust], value of tract \$10,925; Tax \$23.05.
- Locust Ward, Evans, David, jr. - 225 Spruce, Value of tract \$4,025; tax \$8.49. [Direct Tax Records, Phila., Pa., 1815, National Archives].
- 1815 "Evans finally wore out the [Carpenter] Company's patience with refusal to pay quarterages and in 1815 was expelled 'with but one dissenting voice [sic]'" [Louise Hall, op. cit. See also Charter, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Carpenters' Company, 60, Phila., 1916].
- ca. 1817 Death

DAVID EVANS IN THE PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORIES

Note: David Evans, carpenter, is listed here together with his son. They are sometimes listed as "senior" and "junior." David Evans, joiner, is also included here because of the frequent confusion between the two men.

- 1785 [White's] Evans, David, House carpenter, Union b. Third and Fourth streets
 , cabinet maker, Arch b. Third and Fourth streets
- 1785 [Macpherson's] , House-carpenter, 68 [Union-street]
 , 70, ditto
 , Joiner, 320 [Arch-street]
 , 223, Cherry-street
- 1791 , house carpenter, 83 Union St.
 , joiner, 115, Mulberry St. 21 Cherry St.
- 1793 , house carpenter, 83 Union St.
 , cabinet maker, 215 and 115, Mulberry St. [Arch]
- 1794 , house carpenter, 83 Union St.
 , cabinet and venetian blind maker, 115 & 215 Mulberry St. [Arch]
- 1795 , House-carpenter, 83 Union-Street
 , Cabinet-maker, 215 Mulberry-street [Arch]
- 1796 , house carpenter, 83 Union st.
 , cabinet maker, 215 Arch st.
- 1797 , house carpenter, 83 Union st.
 , jun., architect, 37 Almond st.
 , cabinet maker, 215 Arch st.
- 1798 , house carpenter, 83 Union st.
 , " " , 37 Almond st.
 , cabinet maker, 215 Arch st.
- 1799 , house carpenter, 83 Union st.
 , " " , 37 Almond st.
 , cabinet maker and Venetian blind maker, 215 Arch st.
- 1800 , [no listing]
 , cabinet maker and Venetian Blind maker Arch st. next 211

- 1801 , sen. gentleman, 83, Union Street
 , cabinet maker [next to 113] Arch Street
- 1802 , Sen. carpenter, 83 Union
 , jun. " , 79 Union
 , cabinet maker, 215 Mulberry
- 1803 , sen. carpenter 83 Union
 , jun. " 87 Union
 , cabinet maker 115 & 215 Mulberry
- 1804 , sen., gentleman, Spruce above Seventh
 , jun., carpenter, 81 Union
 , cabinet maker 115 and 215 Mulberry
- 1805 , sen., gentleman, Spruce above 7th
 , jun., carpenter, Spruce above 7th
 , cabinet maker, 115 & 215 Mulberry
- 1806 , sen., gentleman, Spruce above Seventh
 , cabinet maker 115 and 215 Mulberry
 , jun., currier, back 58 south Second
 , jun. & Co., curriers 38 Chesnut
- 1807 , sen., gentleman, 81 Union
 , cabinet maker, 115 and 215 Mulberry
 , jun. and Joseph, curriers, 29 Chesnut
- 1808 , sen., gentleman, 81 Union
 , cabinet maker, 215 Mulberry
 , jun. & Joseph, curriers, 29 Chesnut
- 1809 , sen., gentleman, 221 Spruce
 , cabinet maker, 215 Mulberry
 , jun. & Joseph, curriers, 29 Chesnut
 & 92 N. Front
- 1810 , sen., gentleman, 221 Spruce
 , cabinet maker, 215 Mulberry
 , jun. & Joseph, curriers, 92 north Front
- 1811 , gentleman, 221 Spruce
 , cabinet maker, 215 Mulberry
 & Joseph, shoe store, 238 High
 & Co. merchants, 56 south Second
 Evans, David F. , lumber merchant, 60 north Eighth
 Evans, David J. , currier, 33 Elfreth's alley

- 1811 , sen., gentleman, 221 Spruce
 , cabinet maker, 215 Mulberry
 , jun., currier, Pegg's
 , D. & J. shoe and leather store,
 238 High
- 1813 [senior not listed]
 , cabinet and venetian blind maker,
 115 and 215 Arch
 , shoe vender, Pegg st.
 , and Joseph, shoe store, 242 High
- 1814 , gentleman, 221 Spruce
 , cabinet and venetian blind maker,
 215 Arch and Loxley's court [last
 listing]
- 1816 , gentleman, 221 Spruce
 no others listed
- 1817 [Dawes'] , gentleman, 221 Spruce
- 1817 [Robinson's] , gentleman, 221 Spruce [last listing]

VII ILLUSTRATIONS

29 photographs and old views

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

General exterior view of Old City Hall from Independence Hall tower.

Although the masonry has been repointed, the basic fabric remains more or less intact. The roof, south dormer and cupola were replaced following the fire of 1823. The present roof covering, gutters and rain water system date from the 1921-22 restoration. All five chimneys are original. The two western chimneys were made taller during the nineteenth century, but the excess height was removed during the restoration and new stone caps were installed. The three eastern chimneys retain their original stone caps. Each chimney has two flues but they were sealed in 1921-22. Additional nineteenth century chimneys were removed at the same time.

Photo: James L. Dillon, 19 August 1960
Neg. No. EODC 1194

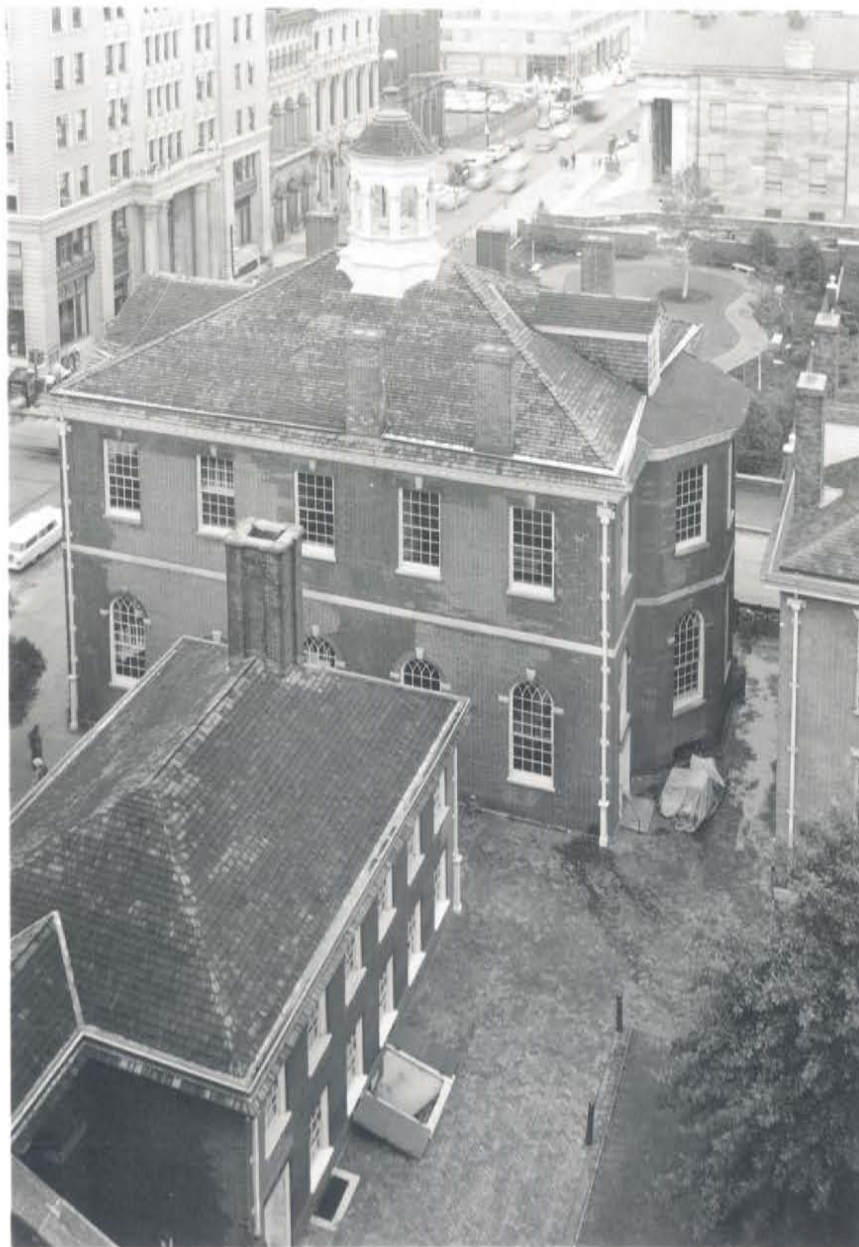


ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

Exterior view of north entrance doorway and doors. The entire door ensemble appears to be original including stone trim, doors, architrave and fanlight. Only the granite stone steps are replacements, probably from the late nineteenth century. A photograph taken ca. 1861-68 (INHP No. 6409) shows an earlier set of steps with footscrapers. The present steps were installed without nosings. They were removed during the 1921-22 restoration, recut with nosings and reset on the same foundations.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1177



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

Cupola and roof, looking north from south dormer.

The original design of the cupola is best shown on the engraving of Krimmel's well-known painting, "Election Day-1815." This feature was described in the 1821 insurance survey as "an octagon cupola on the roof, the openings finish,d with circular heads & single architrave with modillions round the pedestal." The original cupola was destroyed in the 1823 fire. The present cupola dates from the post-fire rebuilding. It is evident that the 1823 cupola follows the original design very closely. Much of the cupola was sheathed in metal in recent years.

It is interesting that the Congress Hall cupola was destroyed by fire in 1821. When rebuilt, it may have been patterned after city hall cupola. The 1823 fire at city hall - necessitated rebuilding that cupola which, in turn, probably followed its newly built counterpart at Congress Hall.

This suggested architectural cross-pollination is not documented, but considering the high degree of similarity between the two cupolas, it is a reasonable hypothesis.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1383



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

Detail of South Dormer

The original south dormer was destroyed in the fire of 1823 and was rebuilt shortly afterwards. Much of the 1823 exterior trim (including casement sash) was replaced during the 1921-22 restoration. Only the fanlight appears to date from the 1823 period.

The City Hall dormer was described in the 1821 insurance survey as follows, "one circular dormer with back opening out to the roof of the octagon." The term "circular dormer" was often applied to a dormer with a semi-circular window. An earlier but synonymous term was "arched dormer." Therefore the original design of the dormer was probably similar to Congress Hall which retains its 1793 dormer.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1384



ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

ca. 1917 photo of northeast corner (Fifth and Chestnut) of Old City Hall. Photo reveals that 1) the rain conductor pipe was a replacement, 2) that all visible sash were probably old, 3) that the cellar bulkhead had been removed, and that 4) a round window opening had been punched through the exterior masonry (between second and third windows, east wall) to furnish daylight to a mid-level room probably added in the mid-nineteenth century.

INHP old glass slide No. 6821
Copy neg. no. EODC 1614



ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

Interior view of north entrance doors.

The physical evidence indicates that the door frame, doors, fanlight, horizontal architrave over doors and hardware (except latch and lock) are very old if not original. The pilasters, capitals, arch and keystone were reconstructed during the 1921-22 restoration.

Especially interesting are the fold-back doors with the special double-knuckle strap hinges, and long sliding bolt. The hinges are presently fixed so that the fold-back feature is inoperative. All paint was removed from the doors during the restoration, and the original color is unknown.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1181



ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

Northwest corner of stairhall, Old City Hall. Notations on photo (Nov. 24, 1917) presumably made during the A.I.A. investigations.

The door opening in the west wall was originally a window opening, and the conversion had been made ca. 1852 when the original stair case was removed and the old stairhall made into office space. Removal of the later wallpaper and plaster revealed the outline of the original stairway, the first landing (in corner) and handrails. These outlines formed the basis for the A.I.A. restoration of the staircase, which we believe to be sufficiently accurate that it should remain unchanged.

INHP old glass slide No. 6823
Copy neg. no. EODC 1609

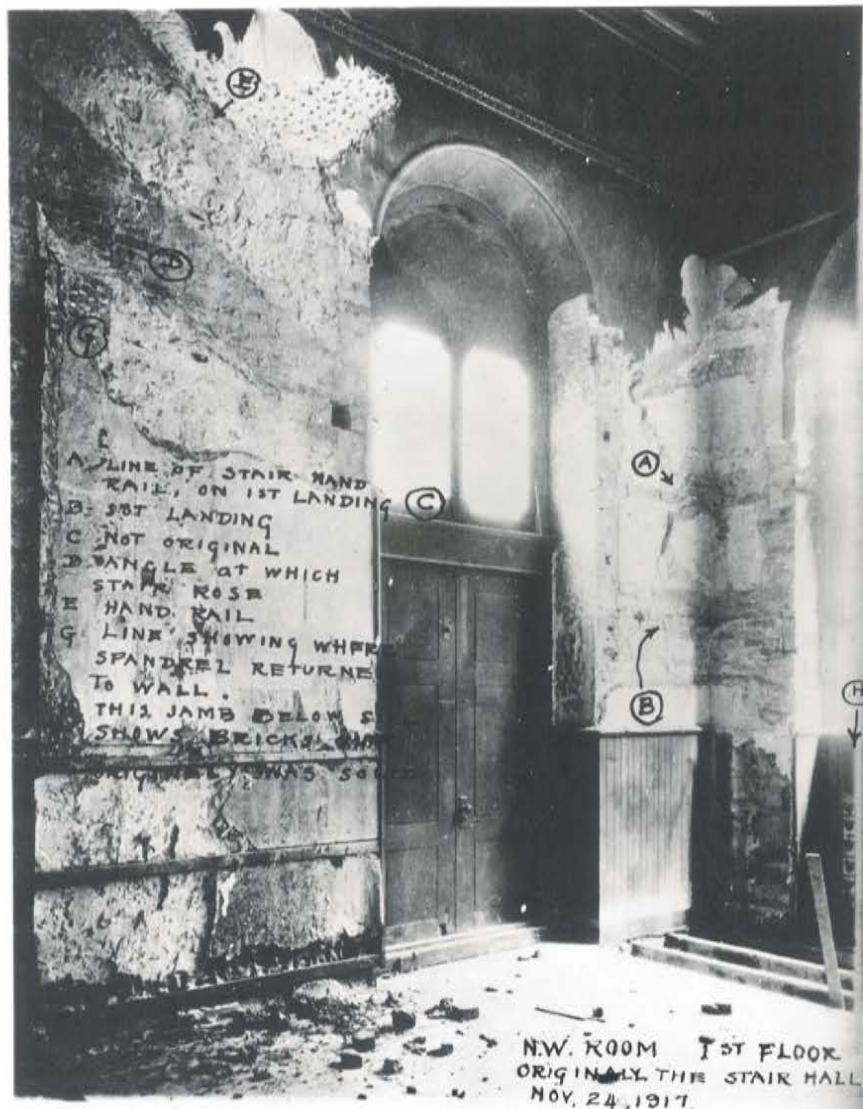


ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

ca. 1917 photo of west wall, first floor, showing bricked-up doorway. Notations are presumably contemporary with the investigation. This view is especially revealing with respect to the main stairs, wall rail, landing, and gallery, and establishes the basis for the A.I.A. restoration of those features.

When the bricking was removed from the doorway, the original fanlight was found in situ.

Wallpaper visible in upper right hand corner of photo dates from after the mid-nineteenth century.

INHP old glass slide No. 6827
Copy neg. no. EODC 1612

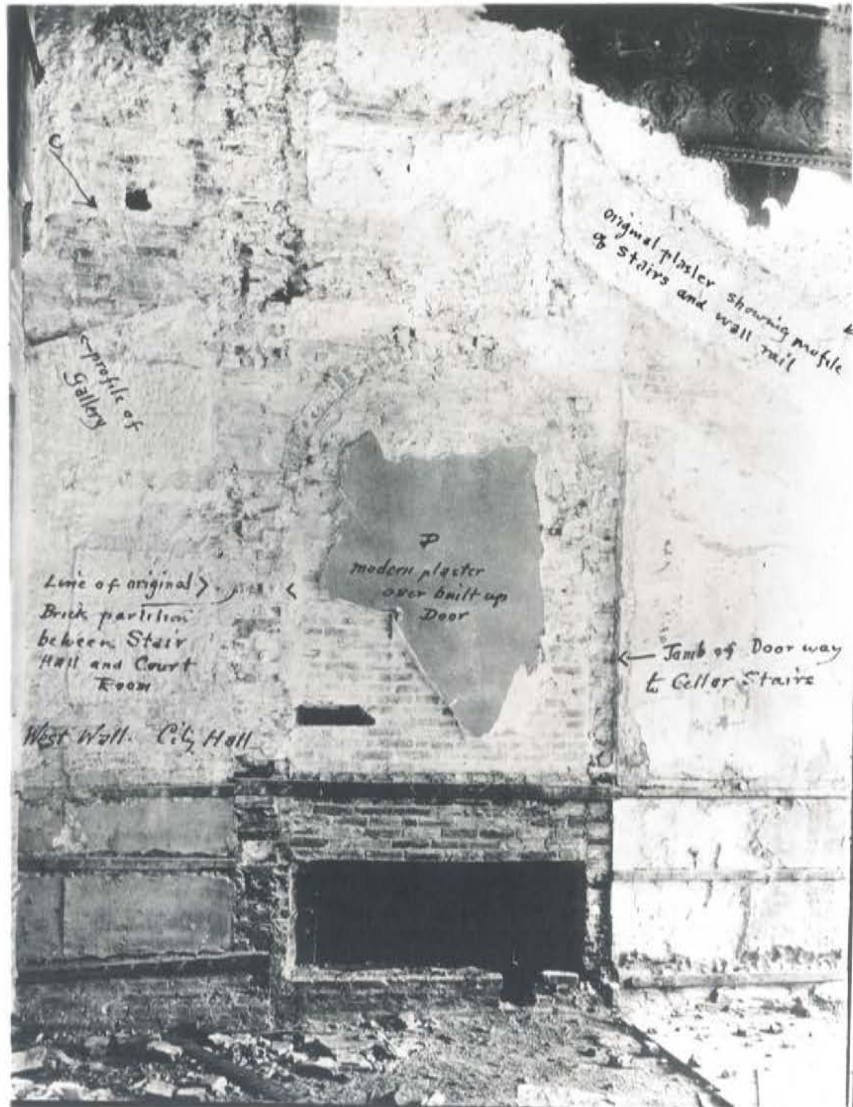


ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

The "octagon," Mayor's Court, first floor.

Unfortunately, we know very little about the courtroom features of this important room. The existence of a rostrum seems certain enough. The 1821 fire insurance survey mentions "a platform at the south end elevated about 4 feet." Even without this description, a rostrum would be required by the high cellar windows in the "octagon." In the mid-nineteenth century, the center window was converted to a doorway so as to furnish access to the enclosed area between the city hall and the Philosophical Hall.

Much of the architectural trim, according to the A.I.A. drawings (sheet no. 13) is original including the pilasters, elliptical arch, window architraves, plaster cornice and most of the sash. We have not yet verified the A.I.A. findings on these features.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1189



ILLUSTRATION NO. 10

Southwest corner, Mayor's Court, first floor.

Much that is visible here was believed by the A.I.A. to be original, including the door, door architrave, window architrave, sash, and plaster cornice. We have not yet verified these findings.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1183



ILLUSTRATION NO. 11

West fireplace, Mayor's Court, first floor.

It is strange that so large a space as the Mayor's courtroom would have been furnished with only two fireplaces. The physical evidence precludes the existence of other fireplaces.

Iron stoves were installed in the Mayor's courtroom before 1800, but whether they supplemented or superceded the fireplaces is not known. It is likely that the fireplaces were abandoned entirely by mid-nineteenth century in favor of central heating. Fortunately, their abandonment left them relatively intact. The fireplaces were unsealed during the last restoration. The original stone jambs and heads are still in place. The hearths were rebuilt at that time, but whether they are conjectural in design or represent a replacement in kind, is not known. The brick back is modern and conceals a heating duct.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1180



ILLUSTRATION NO. 12

Photo (24 Nov. 1917) showing profile of gallery on east wall of Mayor's Court. In retrospect, the "profile" appears insufficiently distinct for an accurate restoration, but we are too far removed from the evidence at hand to evaluate the A.I.A. interpretation. There is some indication of a wall pocket for the hand-rail, but we wonder how the main balcony beam was supported at the wall.

The photo indicates the futility of further investigation in this area, and we recommend deferring to the A.I.A. judgement with respect to the balcony.

The stone-faced fireplace (lower right hand corner) is probably original, for the opening had been sealed and entirely covered with plaster.

INHP old glass slide No. 6825
Copy neg. no. EODC 1611

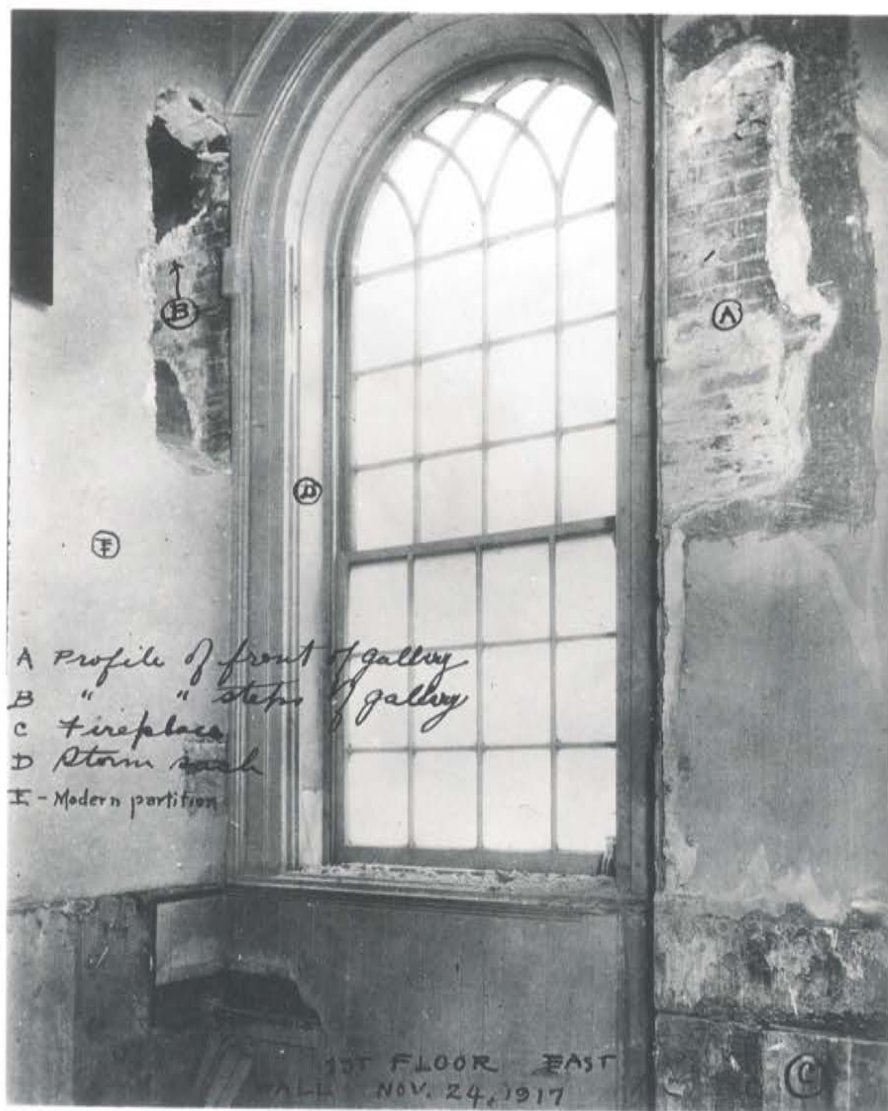


ILLUSTRATION NO. 13

ca. 1917 photo showing profile of gallery on west wall of Mayor's Courtroom. Joists seen above were a nineteenth century intrusion, apparently intended to provide mid-level office space between the first and second floors in the area originally occupied by the gallery.

The gallery profile is not as sharp and convincing as one would expect from the application of plaster against wood. Even a later plaster overcoat (following removal of the gallery) should not have affected the sharpness of the profile. Careless removal of the plaster overcoat may account for the fuzzy profile.

We do not understand the apparent absence of a beam pocket for the main transverse gallery beam, although there does seem to be a beam pocket for the handrail (visible just below the later joist).

INHP old glass slide No. 6824
Copy neg. no. EODC 1613



Profile of gallery face on
west wall.

FIRST FLOOR WEST WALL
MAY 21 1967

ILLUSTRATION NO. 14

Fireplace, Treasurer's Office, first floor.

This fireplace has been altered more extensively than any other in the building. We believe that it was originally similar to the other first floor fireplaces, that is, with a stone head and stone jambs. The original flue survives from the earliest period. At a later time, the stonework was removed and the brick facing cut back. The plaster face visible in the picture just below the wooden beam (right hand side of fireplace) represents the finish surface of the second phase. There is also evidence for a rectangular niche (note plaster area inside fireplace) but its purpose is not clear. The A.I.A. working drawings called for its restoration as a fireplace but some intervening factor caused it to be made into a tall semi-circular niche. This may have been a concession to accommodate the heating duct, the base of which is visible here, just to the right of the floor register. The heat duct was made to follow the original flue to the second floor level.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1185



ILLUSTRATION NO. 15

Hallway, second floor, looking south.

Except for the 1852 modification of the stairway, the second floor hall is largely original including the three doorways shown in this view. The end wall and side walls are also original and retain their original lath, although the plaster dates from 1921-22. The elliptical arch at the stairway landing was reconstructed from the 1821 insurance survey which noted "a large arch with open pilasters & double architraves on the landing of the 2nd floor," and a "wooden cornice round the passage [hall]."

The cornice appears to be largely original, but some parts were repaired or replaced during the last restoration. A single modillion block recently found in the attic appears to have come from the hallway. If so, it is important for its paint layering.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1381



ILLUSTRATION NO. 16

Window at north end of second floor hallway.

This interesting feature served a dual purpose. The very high window (about 10 feet) with its double-hung sash furnished the only natural light and ventilation to the second floor hallway. Underneath the windows was a very low pair of double doors which would have furnished access to an iron balcony similar to Congress Hall. However there is no evidence that the balcony was erected until the late nineteenth century, but it is obvious that the balcony was intended to be included in the original construction. Its omission is a curious fact. No reliable early views show the balcony, but the balcony would have been the raison d'etre for the unusual combination window and door arrangement. A photo taken ca. 1861-68 shows this arrangement in place, but still without the balcony.

All the interior woodwork including the architrave, sash and doors were replaced during the 1921-22 restoration, but parts of the architrave were laid aside in the attic, where we recently found them. These parts are invaluable because they retain all the paint layers up to 1921.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1186



ILLUSTRATION NO. 17

Doorway between hallway and west middle room, second floor.

This photo shows an original "double architrave" as described in the 1821 insurance survey. Note that the architraves facing the hallway are "knead" (or dogeared), but otherwise identical in design. Both doorways shown in this photo are original. All paint was removed during the 1921-22 restoration. Original colors are unknown.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1187



ILLUSTRATION NO. 18

Corner fireplace, west middle room, second floor.

Since corner fireplaces were not commonly used in eighteenth century public buildings, it is unfortunate that the two in city hall were nearly obliterated at some undetermined time.

The evidence for their restoration in 1921-22 is not adequately documented. From a study of the A.I.A. drawings (especially sheet no. 6), we are led to believe that some traces of the original brickwork survived behind the wall surface. Restoration photos also reveal the diagonal wooden framing members around the hearths. Therefore, the existence of corner fireplaces seems certain, but the details remain as conjectural today as they were in 1921-22.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1175



ILLUSTRATION NO. 19

General view of Common Council chamber, second floor, looking

west.

This room retains more original features than any other room in the building. These include the wooden modillion cornice, "single architraves" around the windows, most of the sash, and the fireplaces with their cast iron chimney plates. New parts (1921-22) are the mantelpieces, baseboards and floor boards. This room has never been reduced or altered in plan. Visible to the left is the projecting bay, called the "octagon" in the 1821 insurance survey.

Except for the plaster ceiling medallion, the room was replastered during the 1921-22 restoration, but portions of the original wall-plaster remain in place behind the new work.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1192



ILLUSTRATION NO. 20

Double entrance doors to Common Council chamber, second floor.

During the 1918 architectural investigation, the A.I.A. decided that these doors were original, together with the "double architrave" around the doors. The architrave is secured with hand wrought nails. The doors appear to be equally old, judging from the wood and general design. The A.I.A. noted that the doors had been rehung so as to swing into the hall (sheet nos. 3 and 6, A.I.A. drawings). Apparently the A.I.A. found evidence to indicate that they were originally hung to swing into the council chamber, and they were changed accordingly using modern butt hinges. It is very probable that cast iron butt hinges were originally used, as there is no indication of surface mounted strap hinges. Cast iron butt hinges were introduced from England in the 1780's, and were used in the Bishop White house. All paint was removed during the restoration. The original color was not recorded.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, 10 February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1179



ILLUSTRATION NO. 21

East fireplace, second floor, Common Council chamber.

All fireplaces in the city hall were more or less modified in the nineteenth century, but the two fireplaces in the Common Council chamber suffered only superficial or decorative changes. Both are original with respect to the opening size, the brickwork and cast iron "chimney plates." The iron plates in the east fireplace were removed for examination for the first time since installation during the present architectural study.

The A.I.A. restoration drawings of 1918 (sheet no. 6) called for removal of the nineteenth century trim, and reconstruction of the hearths, marble facings and wood mantels.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1376



ILLUSTRATION NO. 22

Iron chimney plates from east fireplace, Common Council chamber, second floor.

On 31 October 1791 an account from Hilary Baker, iron-monger, for "Chimney Plates furnished by him for the City Hall was presented and referred to the Committee appointed to superintend the Building."

The number of such plates purchased is not known, but they have survived in situ in the two fireplaces in the Common Council chamber. The plates shown above were first removed in February 1961 to verify their authenticity. The fireplaces were especially constructed to accommodate these plates. Hand-wrought anchors (2 per back, 1 per jamb) secure the plates to the brickwork (see sheet no. 12 of the HABS measured drawings for the complete installation and details). The same old lime mortar surrounded the anchors as was used in the masonry walls. A similar iron jamb has been found at the Bishop White house embedded in the later masonry below the second floor front fireplace, where it was used as a lintel when the first floor fireplace was removed.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1386



ILLUSTRATION NO. 23

Plaster ceiling medallion, Common Council chamber, second floor.

The physical evidence indicates that this medallion (or rose) dates from the repairwork following the 1823 fire. The 1821 insurance survey does not mention a plaster medallion, but the omission is not significant. Since the post-fire work was actually carried out by the fire insurance company (the Philadelphia Contributionship), it is unlikely that they would have done any work beyond replacing the damaged or destroyed features.

The ceiling probably suffered extensive water damage which caused some of the lath and plaster to fall. The lath under the present medallion is secured with an advanced type of cut nail (cut from opposite sides with machine stamped heads) not available in 1791 but in common use by 1820.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1388



ILLUSTRATION NO. 24

Photograph of north wall near northeast corner of Common Council chamber. This view was recorded in 1917 during the A.I.A. investigation prior to restoration. The notations were presumably supplied by a member of the A.I.A. committee in charge of the work. The notes are self explanatory and there is little we can add except to wonder if the baseboards were original. We believe that the "paneling" below the chair rail is really a late nineteenth century wallpaper. The wall emblems and picture molding just below probably date from the 1890's occupancy by the Grand Army of the Republic.

INHP old glass slide No.6826
Copy neg. no. EODC 1610

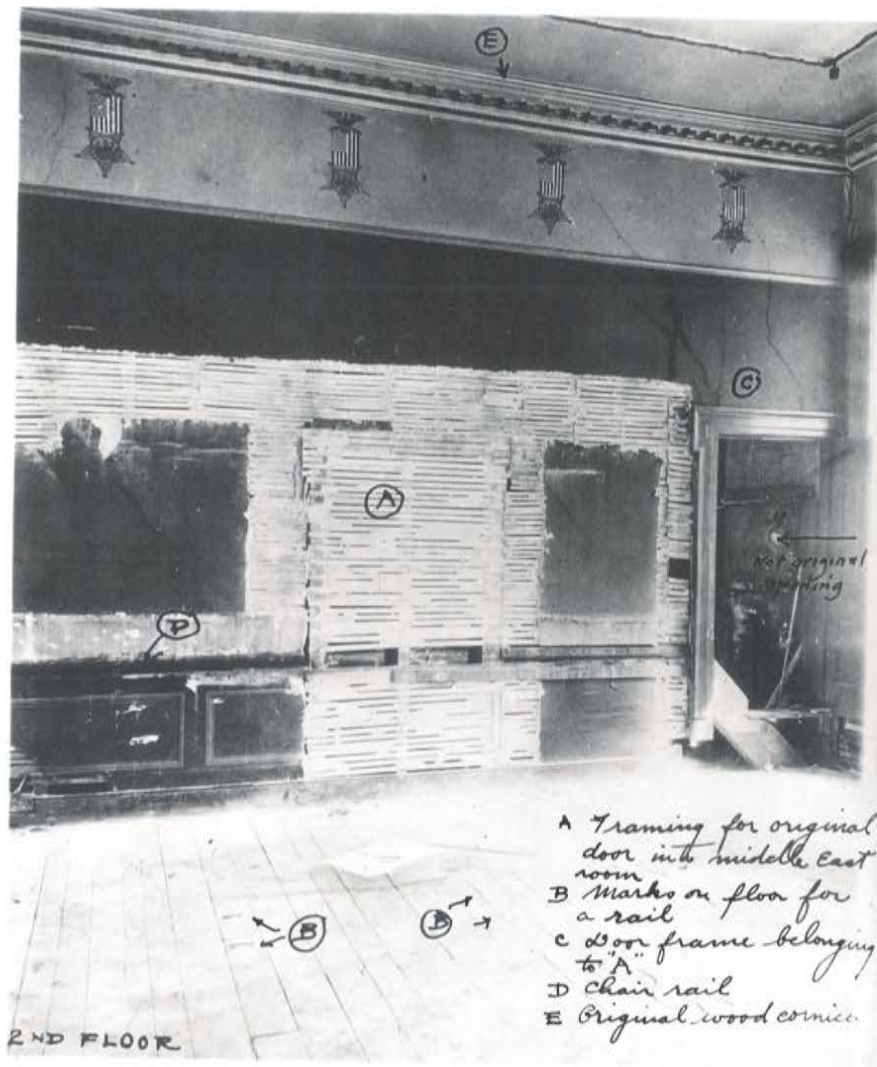


ILLUSTRATION NO. 25

View of attic framing system, looking south.

This general view reveals the extent of the 1823 fire damage. Despite the surface charring, the structural members are generally sound.

Also visible here are the timber girders and posts comprising the cupola sub-structure, replaced after the 1823 fire.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. ECDC 1380



ILLUSTRATION NO. 26

Attic truss detail

Several periods of construction are visible here. Most interesting is the typical joint connection between the lower chord and the queen post. The basic joint is a mortise and tenon secured with treenails, but supplemented with an iron "U" strap and iron wedges. Ceiling joists are mortised and tenoned into the lower chord of the truss. However, the 1823 fire caused some modification here. Some of the joists (at the right) were sawn off and additional members bolted to each side of the lower chord. The joists were then secured with an interesting type of iron joist anchor. While the truss members are often more than adequate for the loads, the connecting devices fail to develop the strength of the material.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. ECDC 1385



ILLUSTRATION NO. 27

Oblique view of southernmost attic truss (over Common Council chamber).

This view demonstrates the precarious structural condition of this queen post truss. In addition to deflection in the lower chord (about 5 inches), the posts are badly out of plumb in opposing directions and the top chord is noticeably twisted. Diagonal members were added at some unknown time, but they have **weakened** rather than helped the truss. This truss is one of two which were replaced as a result of the 1823 fire. This is the only attic truss which spans the width of the building without the aid of partition walls under the truss. A further complication is the ornamental ceiling medallion which is located directly under the truss. Removal of the truss would be difficult and it is more likely that a supplementary structural system would satisfactorily solve the problem.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1379



ILLUSTRATION NO. 28

View of old shingling in place under cupola.

These shingles were installed following the 1823 fire which consumed the roof, cupola and part of the attic framing. There is evidence here that the shingling preceded rebuilding of the cupola. Apparently the cupola framing posts were installed just before the shingling and flashed to prevent leakage during the construction period, but the actual enclosing of the cupola was not completed until shortly thereafter. The shingles are about 30 inches long, with beveled butts $5/8$ inches thick, and placed with nine inches to the weather.

Note a remnant of the roof "comb," i.e., the projecting course of shingles beyond the ridge. This was an ancient practice that continued well into the nineteenth century. The roof comb took the place of flashing on roof and dormer ridges.

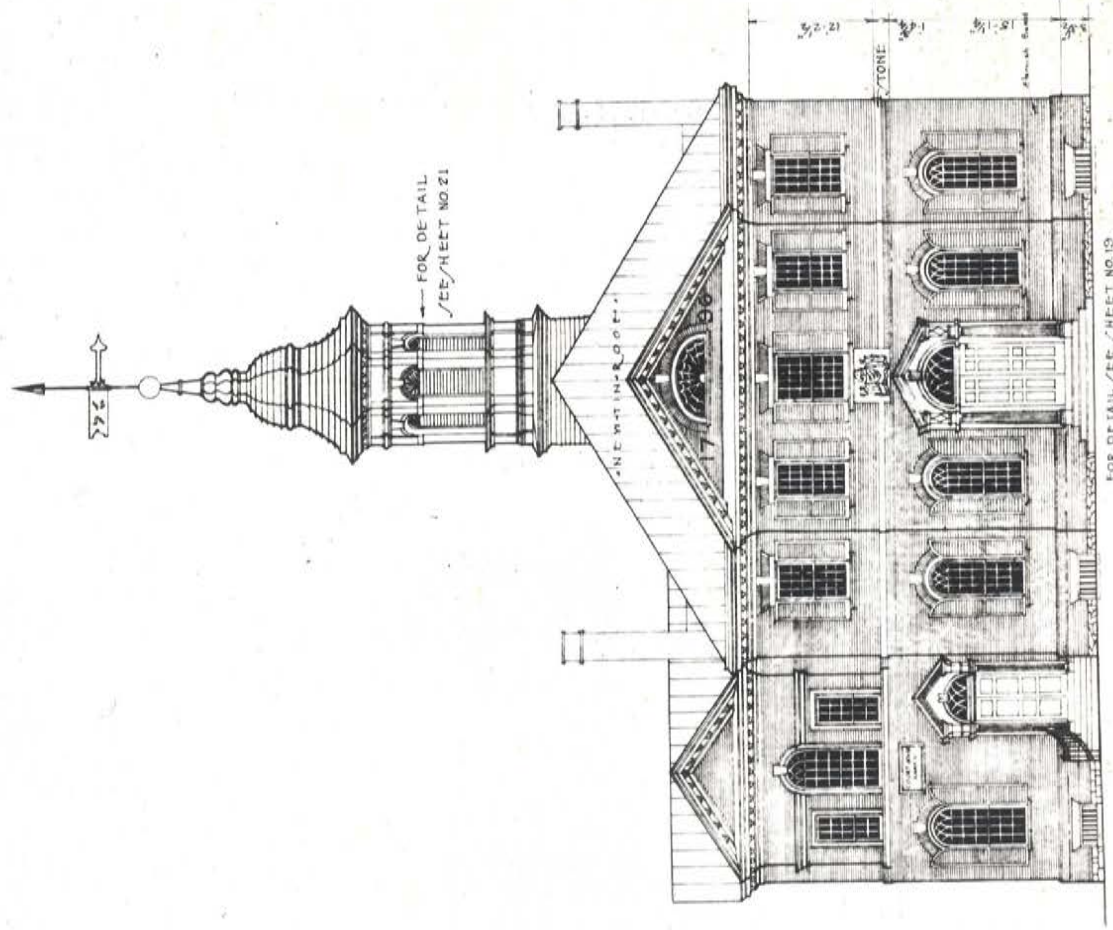
Photo: James L. Dillon, 19 August 1960
Neg. No. EODC 1197



ILLUSTRATION NO. 29

Burlington County Court House, Mt. Holly, New Jersey, 1796.

Architecturally, this building is so closely related to Congress Hall and Old City Hall, that it should be studied to facilitate the restoration of the latter. Both buildings are similar in their general design and detail. It is altogether possible that the Court House at Mt. Holly was patterned after the Philadelphia city and county buildings. The Burlington County Court House has been recorded on 28 sheets of drawings for the Historic American Buildings Survey.



FRONT ELEVATION

1/8" = 1'-0"

SURVEY NO. 6-27

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY

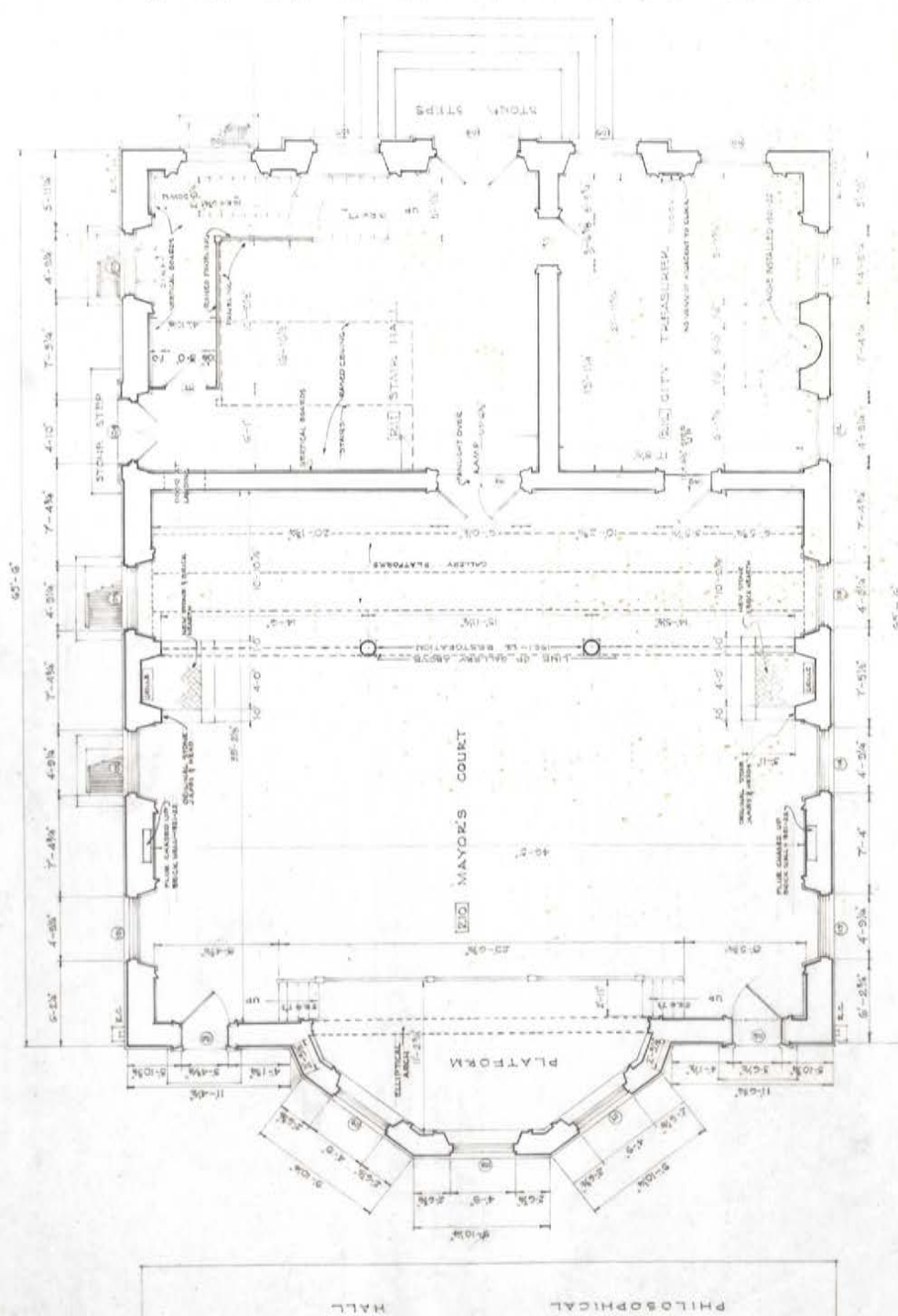
NAME OF STRUCTURE
BURLINGTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

EUGENE L. HOUVER, DEL.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS

VIII DRAWINGS

7 sheets, NHP-IND 3201

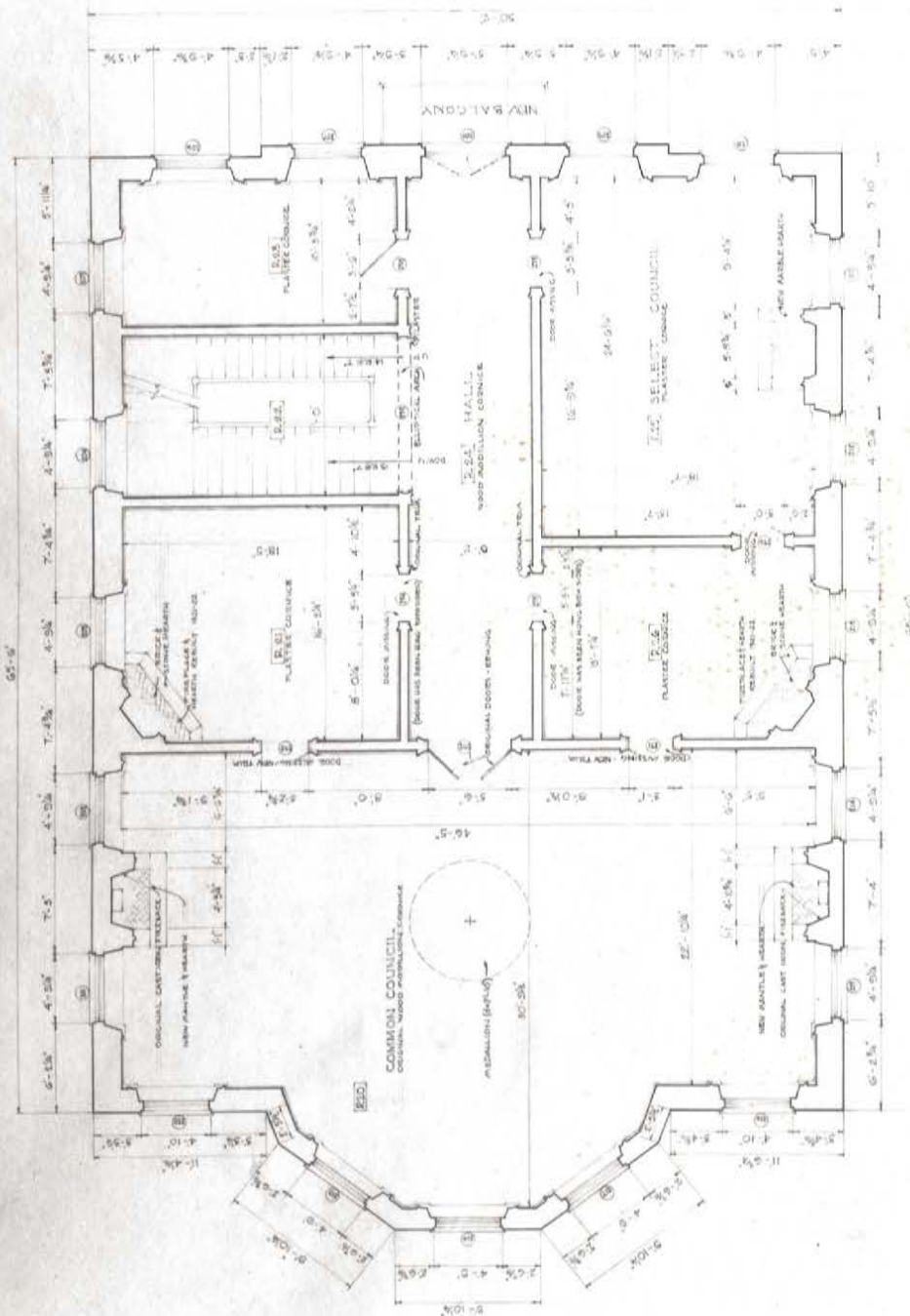
11 sheets, HABS Drawings



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

[illegible]

EXISTING BUILDING
RENOVATION OF OLD CITY
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTS BUILDING, 11, 118 (HISTORIC SOCIETY OF PHOENIX)



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

RECOMMENDED
APPROVED

DATE	REVISION	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION
1934	1	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1934	2	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	3	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	4	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	5	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	6	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	7	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	8	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	9	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	10	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	11	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	12	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
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1934	17	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	18	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
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1934	98	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	99	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS
1934	100	REVISIONS BY T. A. HARRIS

EXISTING BUILDING
RESTORATION OF OLD CITY HALL DRAWING BY POLA CHARTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
SHEET NO. 100
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19106

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



TRUSS DETAIL--A

TRUSS DETAIL - B



TRUSS DETAIL - C



TRUSS DETAIL - D



TRUSS DETAIL--E

SCALE: 1:10" = 1'-0"

TRUSS DETAIL - C
UNUSUAL JOINT DETAIL

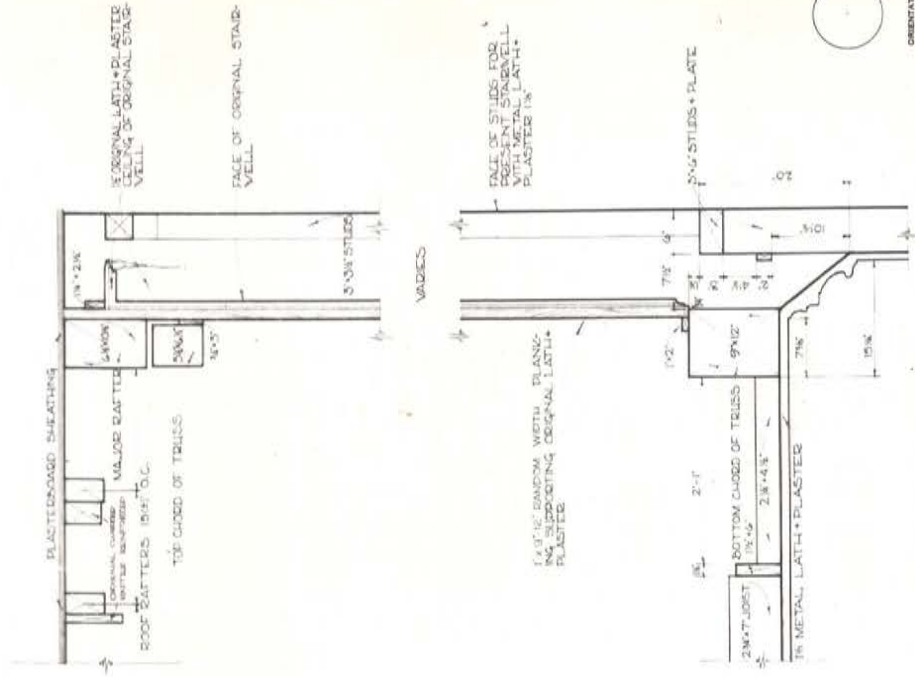
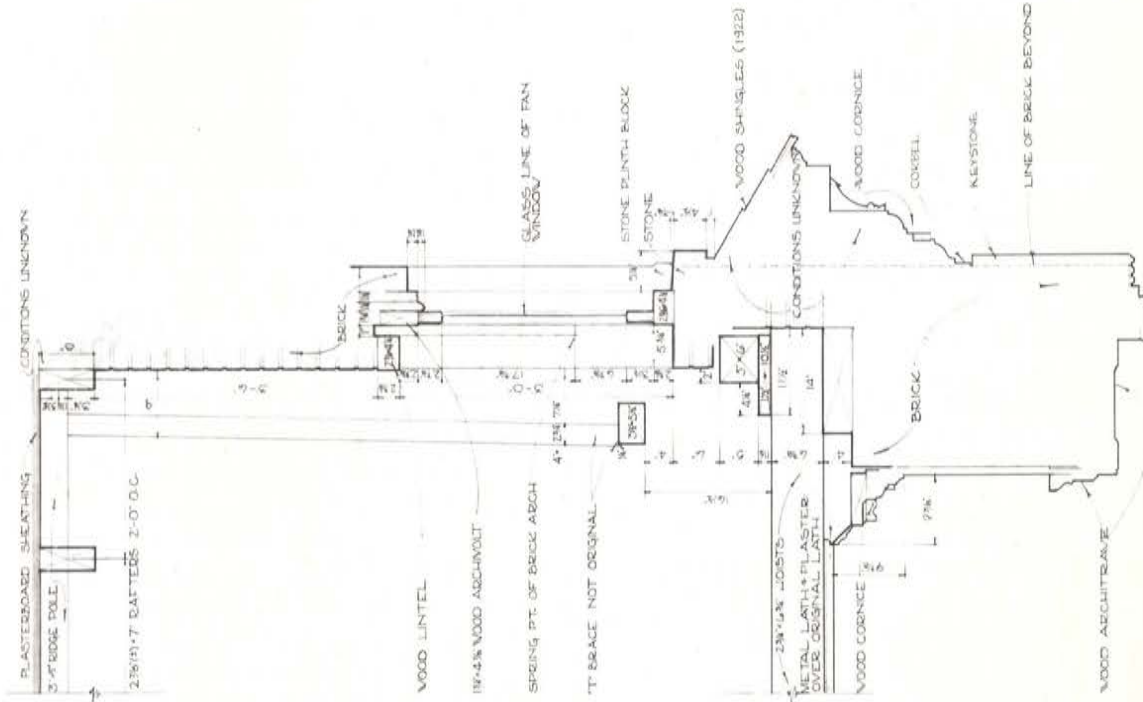
SECTION 1

SECTION 2

SECTION "3" TYPICAL DETAIL

SECTION "4

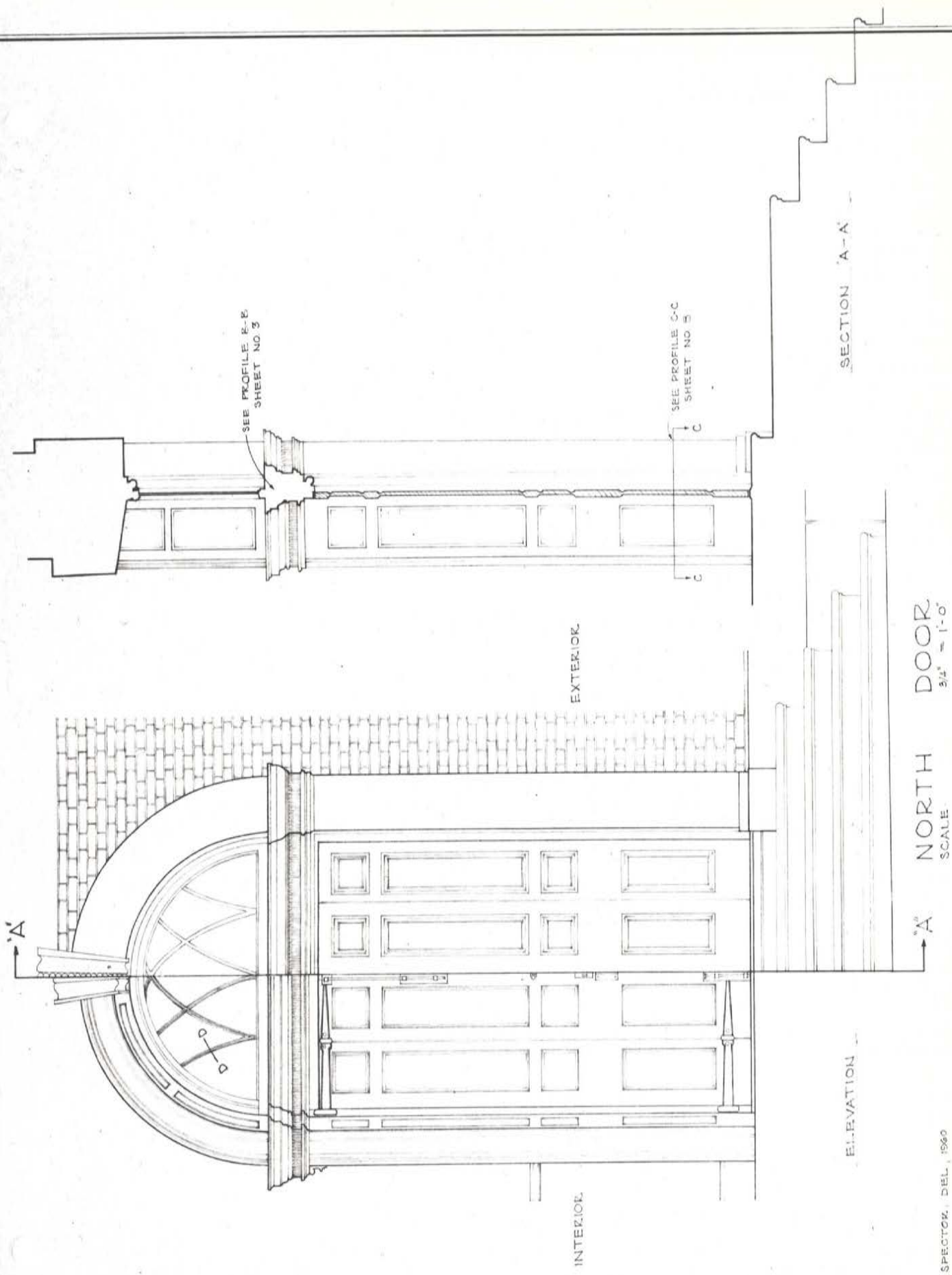
DETAILS OF JOIST CONNECTIONS
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



SECTION 'B-B' THROUGH STAIR

VELL

[illegible]



E. SPECTOR, DEL. 1960

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN		NAME OF STRUCTURE OLD CITY HALL SOUTHWEST CORNER, FIFTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA		SURVEY NO. 	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND MANUSCRIPTS
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1- SEE DOOR PROFILE
THIS SHEET

NORTH DOOR
FULL SIZE

HEAD PROFILE B-B

JAMB PROFILE

MUNTIN PROFILE

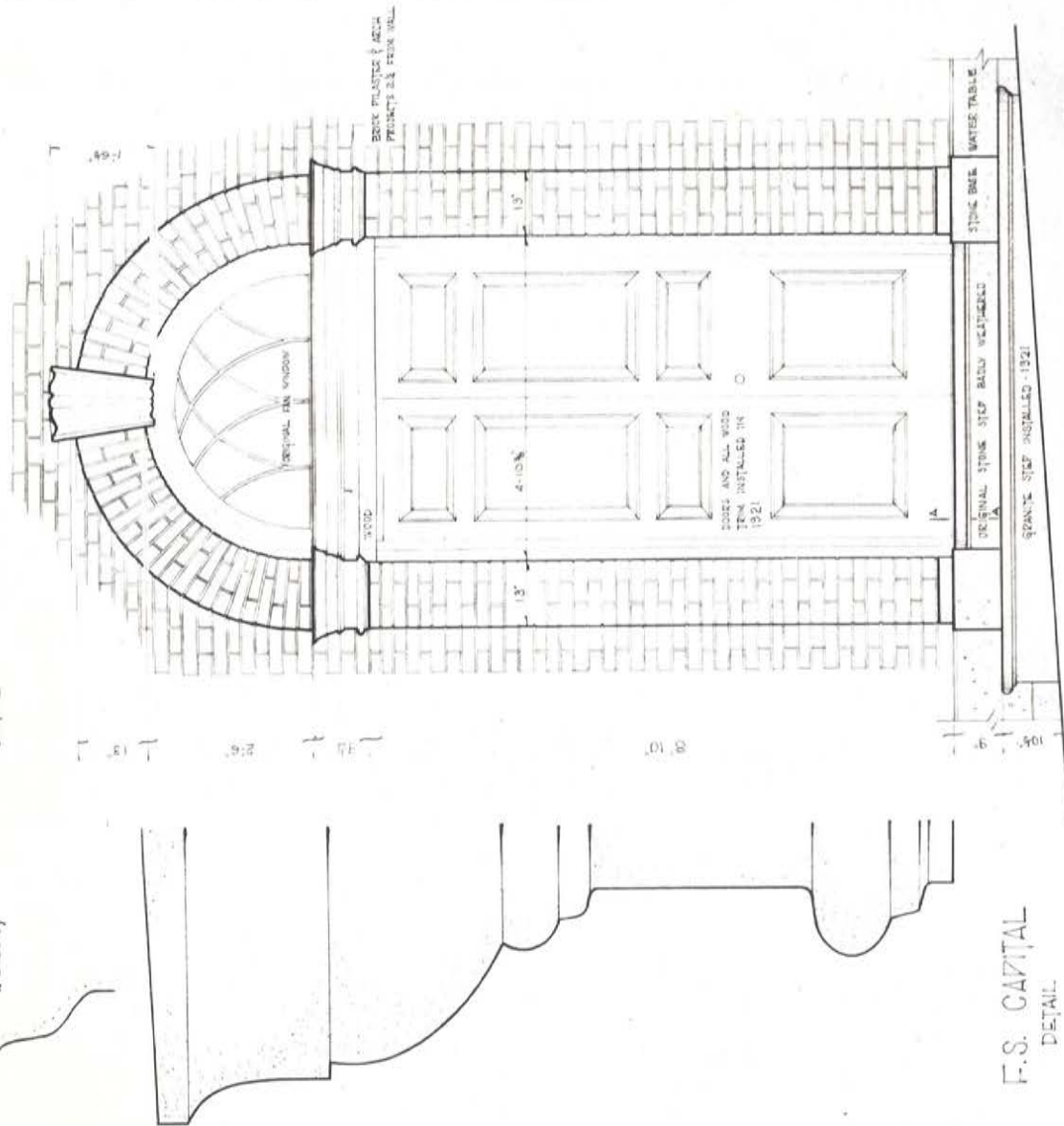
E. SPECTOR, DEL. 1960

DOOR PROFILE

NAME OF STRUCTURE OLD CITY HALL		SURVEY NO.		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY		SHEET 3 OF 12 SHEETS	
SOUTHWEST CORNER, FIFTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA							
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR							

F. S. MUNTIN
DETAIL

THE DOOR OPENING RETAINS SEVERAL OF THE ELEMENTS: THE TOP STEP, BELOW PILASTERS & ARCH, STONE BASE, IMPOST, KEYSTONE, AND FAN WINDOW - DOOR WAS REMOVED IN 1952, AND OPENING BLOCKED OFF. THE DOOR AND SURROUNDING WMA WERE RESTORED BY THE AIA. IN 1921-2.



F.S. CAPITAL
DETAIL

WEST EXTERIOR DOOR

SCALE - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch = 1 foot

TIRINACCO, E. - DEL. 1360

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE

NAME OF STRUCTURE
CITY HALL
OLD

SOUTH WEST CORNER FIFTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS

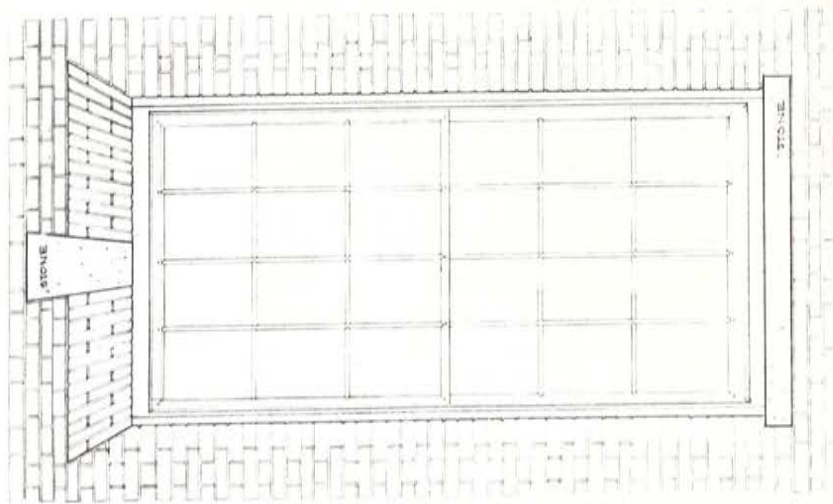
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

SURVEY NO.

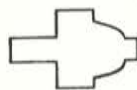
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 4 OF 12 SHEETS

INSTITUTE OF CONSTRUCTION
MANAGEMENT

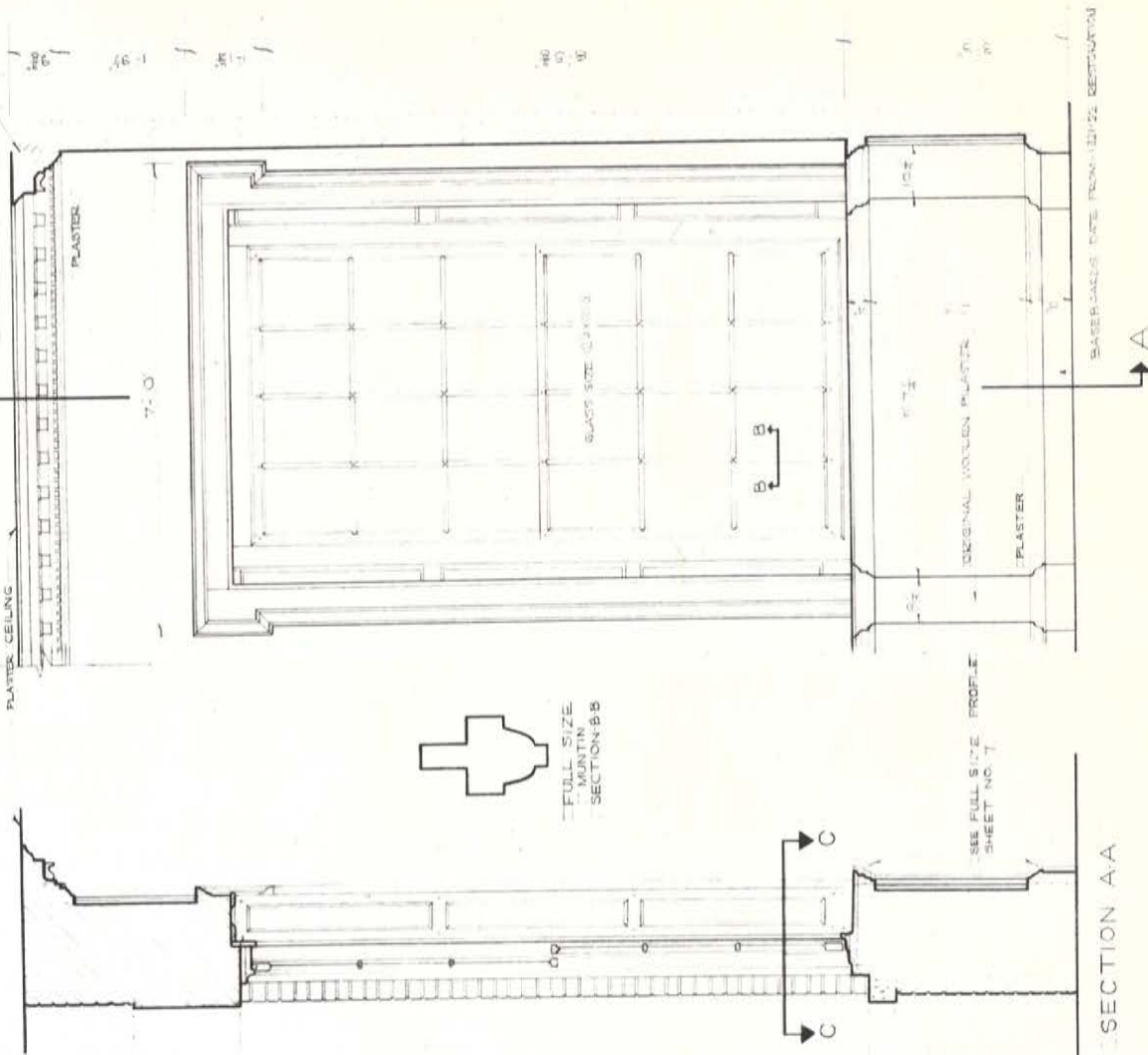
FLEMISH BOND
CLOSURE BRICK ON EAST SIDE OF OPENING
TAPERED BRICK LINTEL



(ENTRANCE WINDOW)



FULL SIZE
MUNTING
SECTION-B-B



SECTION A-A

SECTION C-C

SEE FULL SIZE PROFILE
SHEET NO. 6

WATER-BACKS DATE FROM 1872 RESTORATION

TYPICAL ORIGINAL WINDOW COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER

SCALE 3/4"=1'-0"

WINDOW NO. 220

ELI. MACCO DEL. 1895

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE

OLD CITY HALL

SCOTT-WEST COVER FIFTH AND WEST ST. ST. LOUIS

PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA

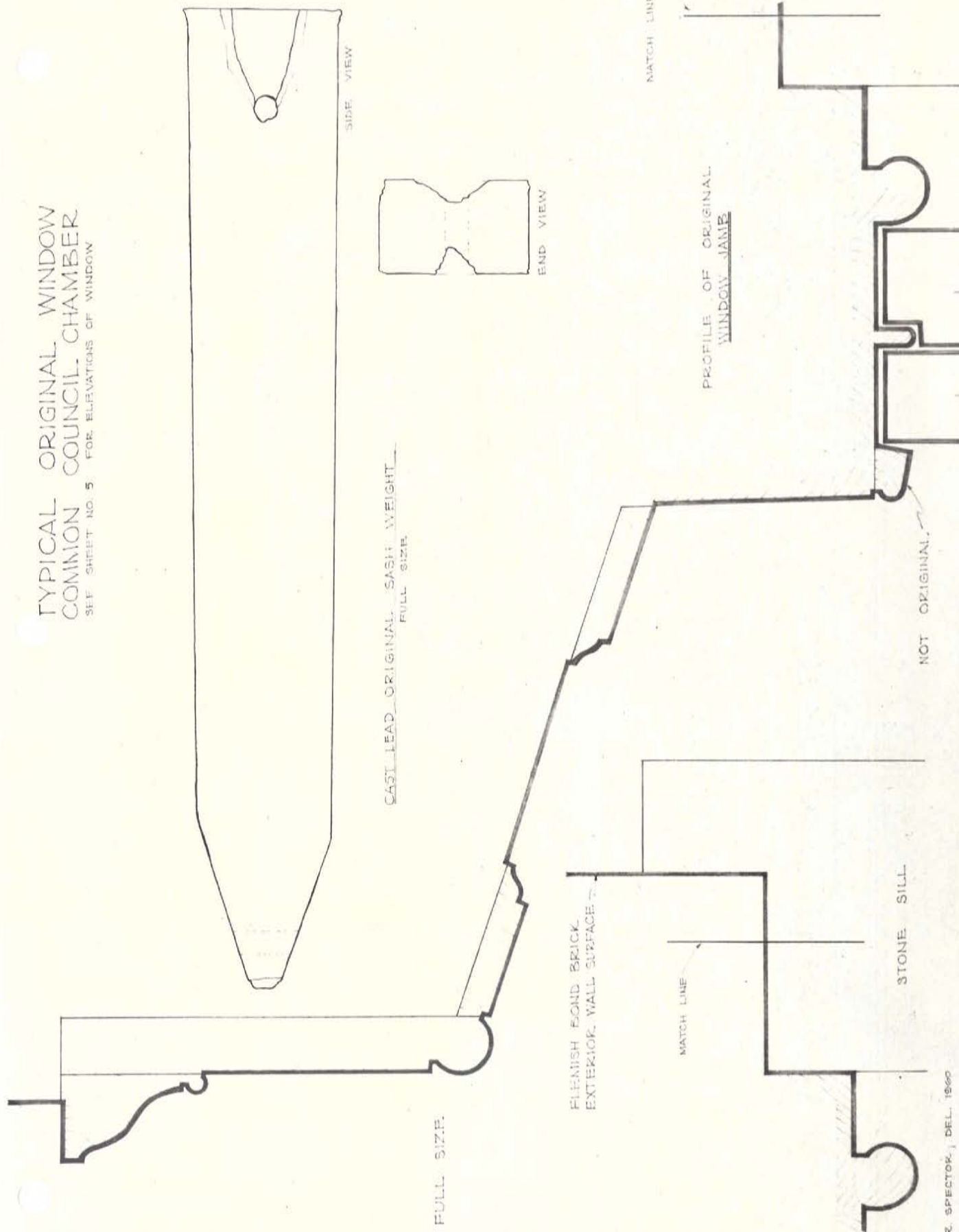
SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 5 OF 12 SHEETS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
HATCH HOUSE

TYPICAL ORIGINAL WINDOW COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER

SEE SHEET NO. 5 FOR ELEVATIONS OF WINDOW

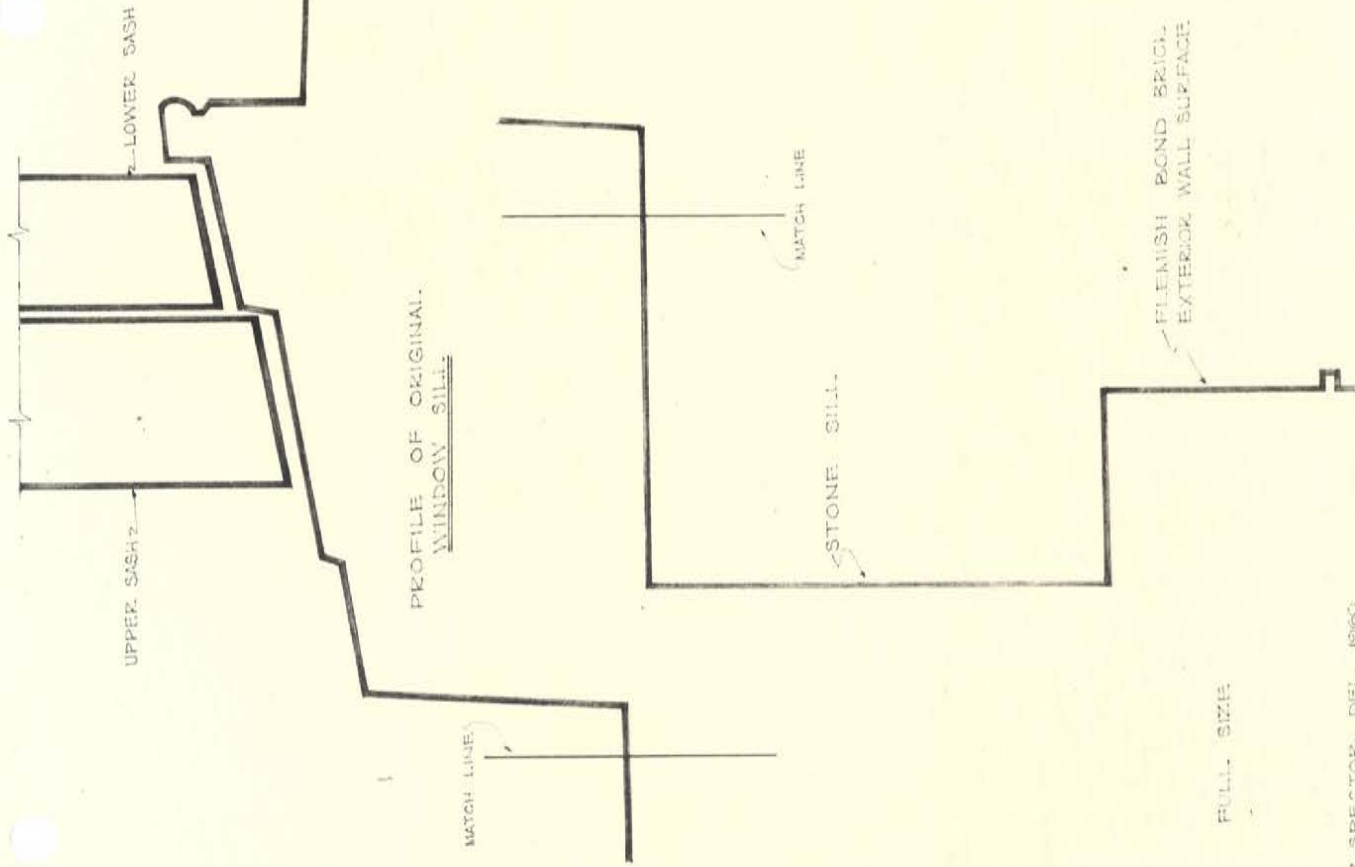


R. SPECTOR, DEL. 1960

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN		NAME OF STRUCTURE OLD CITY HALL	SURVEY NO. _____	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 6 OF 12 SHEETS	OFFICE OF ARCHITECTS (PRINT NAME)
SOUTHWEST CORNER, FIFTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA					

TYPICAL ORIGINAL WINDOW COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER

SEE SHEET NO. 5 FOR ELEVATIONS OF WINDOW



R. SPECTOR, DRL., 1960

CEILING

PROFILE OF PLASTER CORNICE
NOT ORIGINAL (AUG 1921)
ROOM BETWEEN COMMON COUNCIL
CHAMBER & STAIRWELL

MODILLION 6" O.C. - 2" WIDE

DENTILS 15" O.C. - 3/4" WIDE

PROFILE OF ORIGINAL
WOOD CORNICE
LOCATED OVER 2ND FLOOR
HALL WINDOW (204)
(SEE SHEET 5)

NORTH WALL

FULL SIZE PROFILES

ETICHIMACCO DELL 1960

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

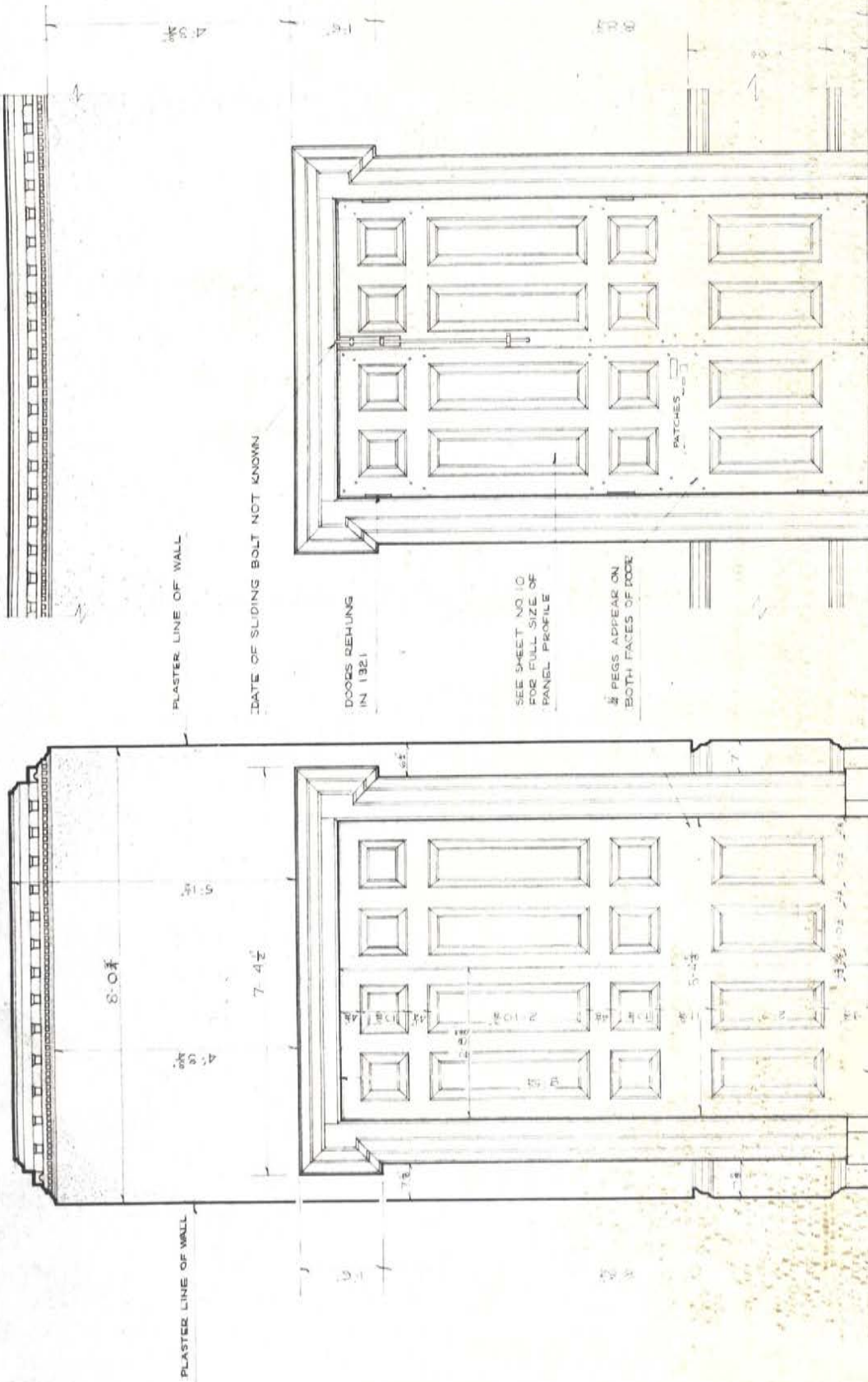
NAME OF STRUCTURE
OLD CITY HALL
SOUTHWEST CORNER FIFTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

SURVEY NO.

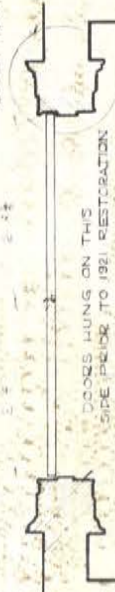
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 8 OF 12 SHEETS

DATE OF DRAWING
MAY 1960



ORIGINAL HALL DOOR TO
COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER
SCALE 1/4\"/>

SEE FULL SIZE PROFILE
SHEET NO. 10



DOOR REHUNG ON THIS
SIDE PRIOR TO 1921 RESTORATION

ESTABLISHED 1921

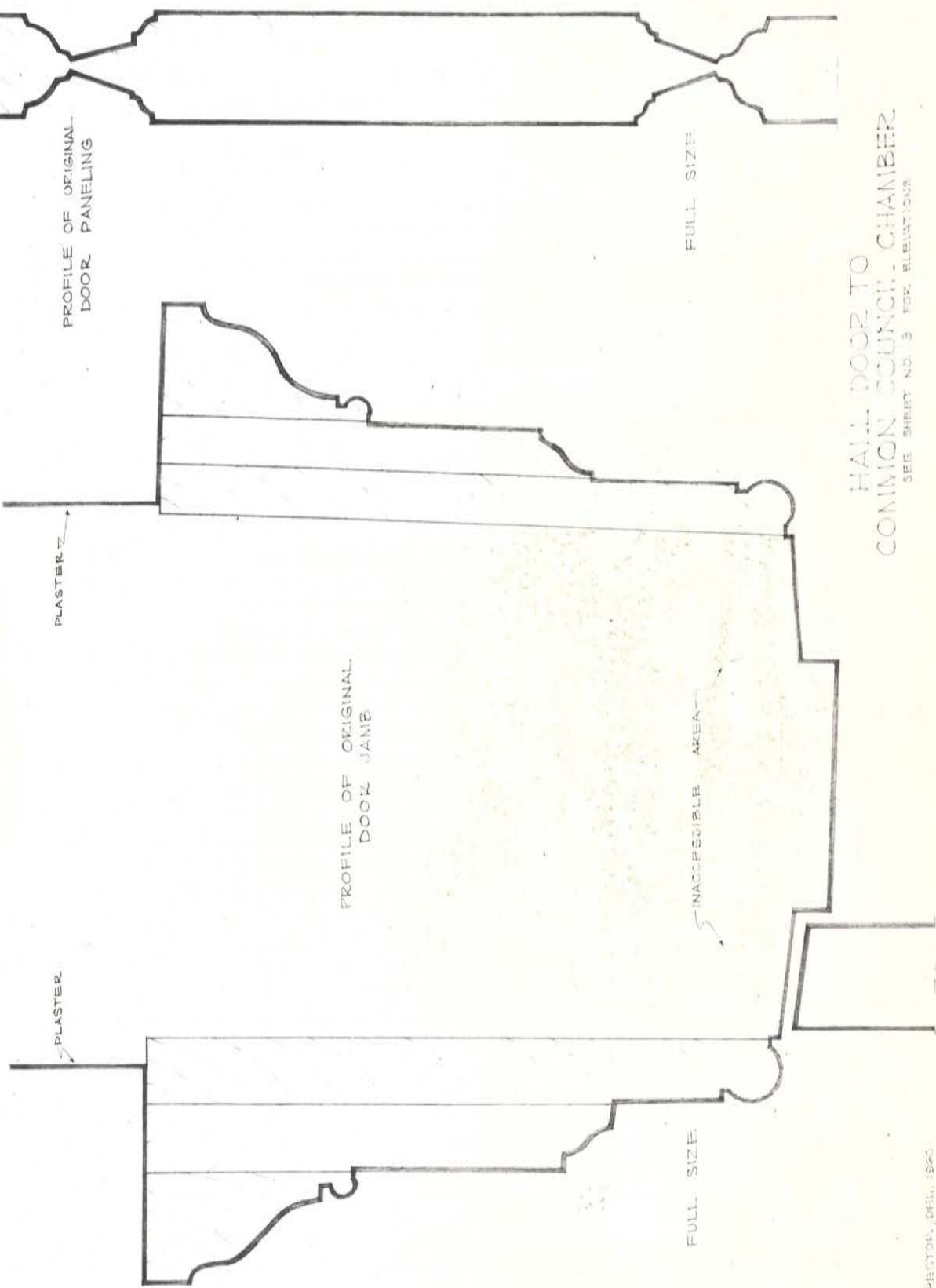
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE
OLD CITY HALL
SOUTHWEST CORNER FIFTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 9 OF 2 SHEETS

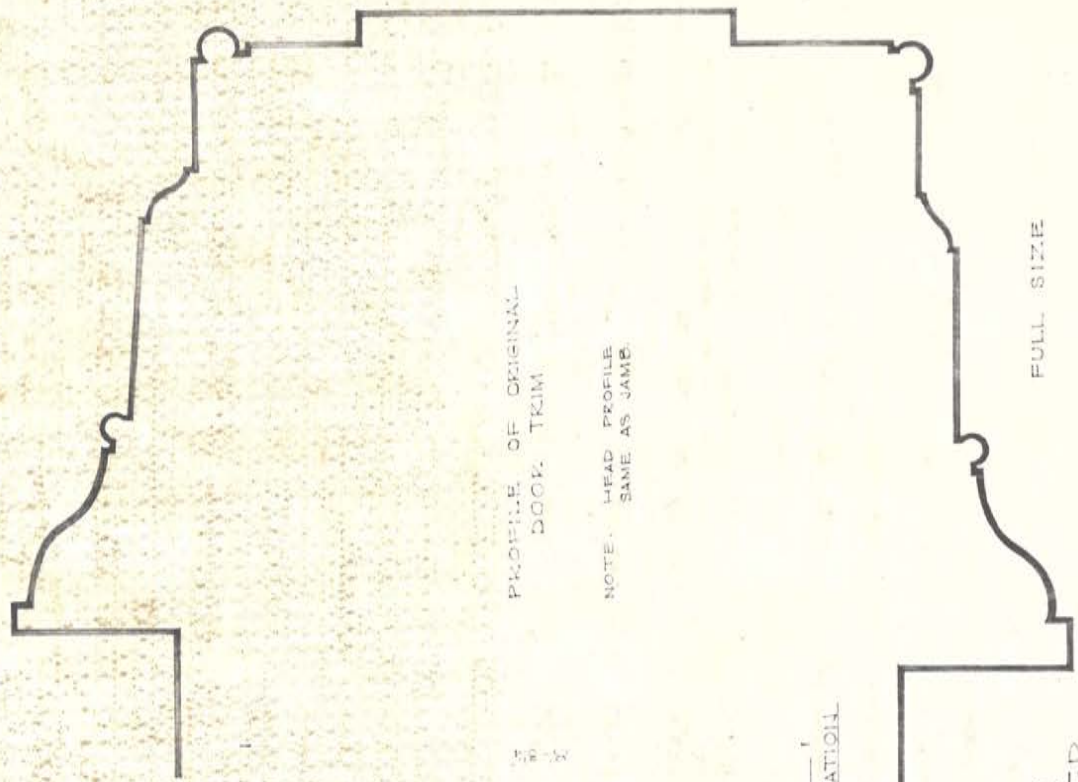
DATE OF SURVEY
MAY 1921



HALL DOOR TO
COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER
SEE SHEET NO. 3 FOR ELEVATIONS

W. SPECTOR, DECEMBER 1920

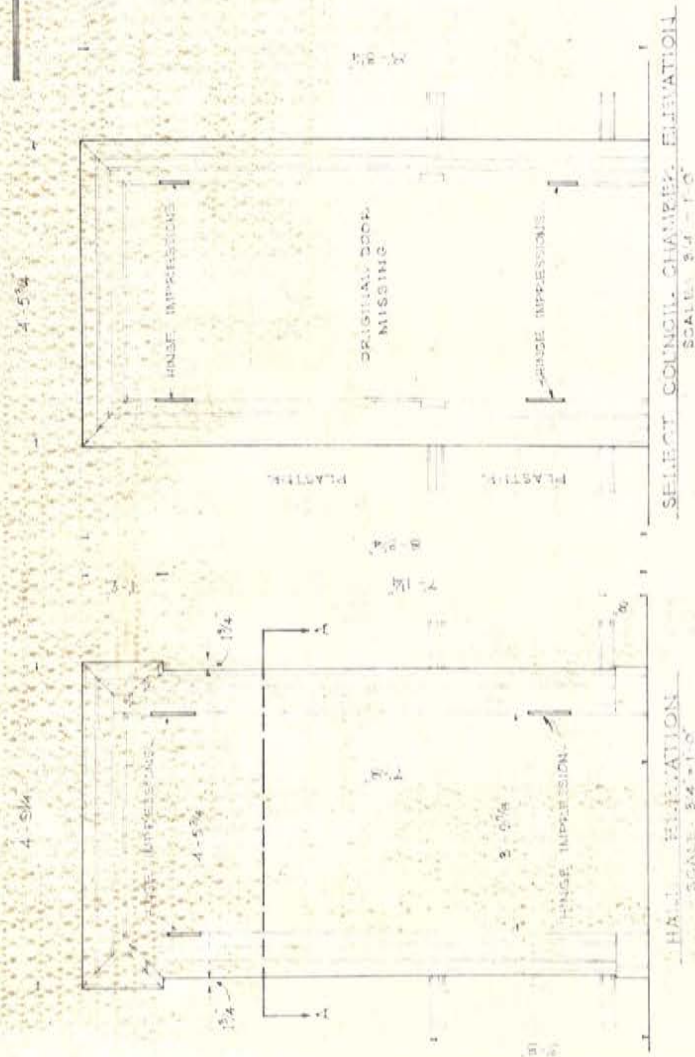
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN	NAME OF STRUCTURE OLD CITY HALL SOUTHWEST CORNER FIFTH AND CHRISTIANITY STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA	SURVEY NO.	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 10 OF 12 SHEETS	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS REEL NUMBER
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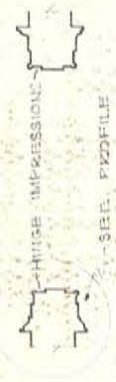
PROFILE OF ORIGINAL
DOOR TRIM

NOTE: HEAD PROFILE
SAME AS JAMB

FULL SIZE



SELECT COUNCIL CHAMBER ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



SIDE PROFILE

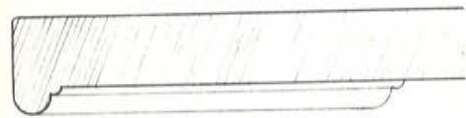
SOUTHWEST DOOR IN
SELECT COUNCIL CHAMBER

SECTION A-A
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

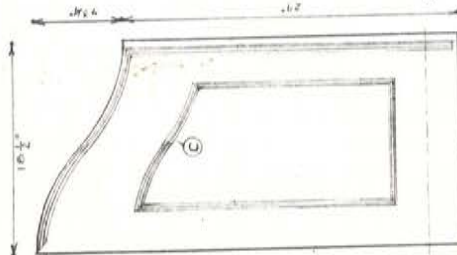
R. SPECTOR, DEL. 1960

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN		NAME OF STRUCTURE OLD CITY HALL	SURVEY NO. _____	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 11 OF 12 SHEETS
		LOCATION OF STRUCTURE SOUTHWEST CORNER, FIFTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA		

FIREPLACE FLUE BRICKED UP AND SUPPORTED ON METAL PIPES



SECTION THRU BACK PANEL
FULL SIZE DETAIL (C)



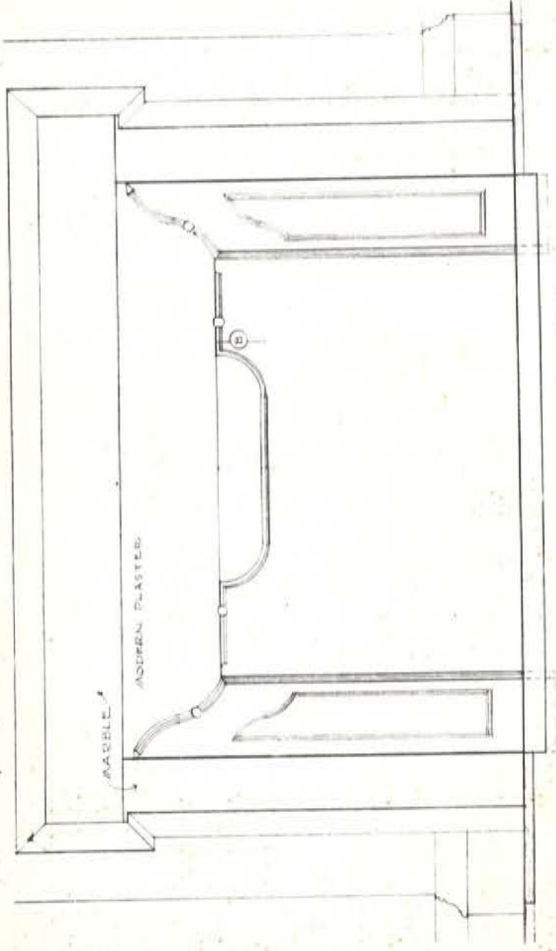
BACK

16 1/2" 17 1/2"

ELEVATION (SIDE PANEL)
1 1/2" = 1'-0"

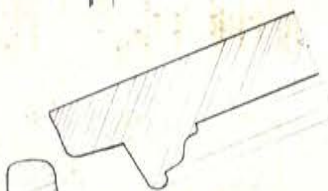
FIREPLACE WITH CAST IRON FIREBACK - SECOND FLOOR
COMMON COUNCIL ROOM - EAST WALL

ELEVATION (FRONT OF FIREPLACE)
1 1/2" = 1'-0"



ANDERSON PLASTER

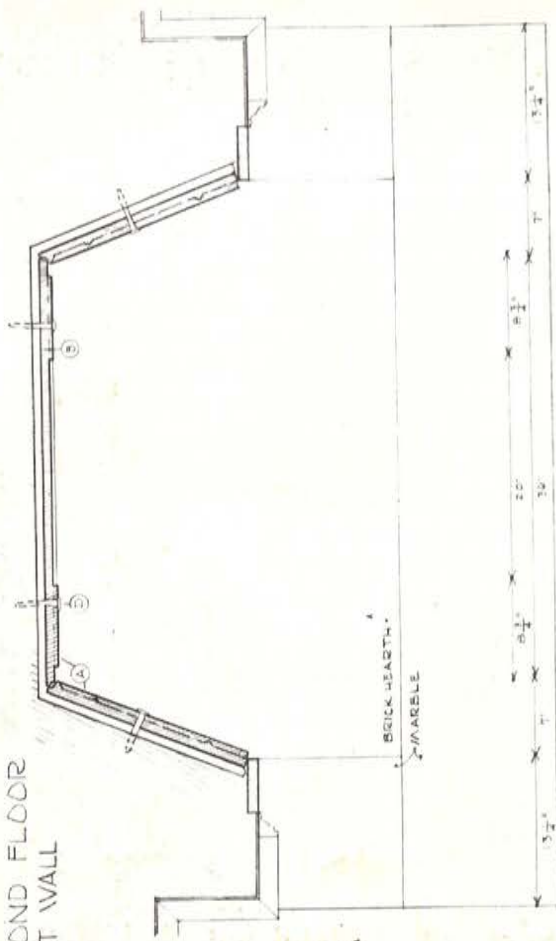
WOOD TRIM & MANTLE DATE FROM 1921-22 A.I.A. RESTORATION



REFLECTED PLAN
FULL SIZE DETAIL (C)

BACK

SIDE PANEL



BACK HEARTH
SIDE PANEL

PLAN



MANTLE & WOOD DATE FROM 1921-22 A.I.A. RESTORATION

WROUGHT IRON CLIP
FULL SIZE BACK PANEL (B)



WROUGHT

RAISED MOULDING (SIDE PANEL)
FULL SIZE DETAIL WITH PROFILE SECTION (C)



J. A. EVERETT - DEL. 1921

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE

OLD CITY HALL

SOUTHEAST CORNER FIFTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 12 OF 12 SHEETS

DATE

CHAPTER IV

ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball
and Archeologist B. Bruce Powell

THE EXCAVATIONS

No archeological work has been undertaken for the express purpose of investigating the physical history of Old City Hall. Excavations in the basement might be expected to locate footings of original basement walls, the ash pit mentioned in the 1821 insurance survey, and possibly the remains of the privy torn down in 1790 to permit construction of the building.

None of these features are important enough to justify the expense of excavation, and none is recommended.

CHAPTER V

FURNISHINGS AND EXHIBITION DATA

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball
and Curator David H. Wallace

FURN. & EXH.

EXISTING HISTORIC FURNISHINGS

No additional furnishings historically associated with the building have been located since the writing of Chapter IV, Section 1, of the Part I report on Old City Hall (q.v.).

PROPOSED FURNISHING PLANS

The Furnishing Plan, Parts a-c, for the first floor of Old City Hall was submitted in August 1959.

Parts d-f are scheduled for completion by July 1, 1961.

PROPOSED FINANCING
OF REFURNISHING

The estimated cost of refurnishing and exhibits in Old City Hall has been revised downward from \$185,000.00 to \$125,000.00. Refurnishing costs are proposed to be met out of construction funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
INTERPRETIVE DEVELOPMENT

First Floor

Vestibule: Furnish with reproduction of period chairs and settees for visitor use.

Mayor's Court: Historic House Museum, refurnished in period (1791-1800) of use by Supreme Court of the United States.

City Treasurer's Office: Focal Point Museum, with exhibits on the first decade of the Supreme Court and the Circuit and District Courts of the United States.

Second Floor

Since none of the second floor rooms has historical associations of national significance, we recommend that these rooms be used for exhibits, permanent and changing.

It is recommended that the hallway and two east rooms be devoted to the display of material relating to Philadelphia as the national capital and to Old City Hall and the city government at the end of the eighteenth century and beginning of the nineteenth century. Birch's views of the city and material on the yellow fever epidemics of 1793 and 1798 would be important features of these exhibits.

For the large south room and the two west rooms, we recommend displays of selected material from some of the Park's special collections. These would relate directly to the story of Independence Square, but would be supplementary to the more formal exhibits proposed for Focal Point Museums elsewhere in the Independence Hall group. Among the special

collections that would be drawn upon are the museum specimens which were displayed in Independence Hall before and during the Centennial celebration of 1876; artifacts recovered during the recent archeological investigation of the Square; documents and personal effects of Signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

All of these exhibits should be designed to harmonize as nearly as possible with the architecture and decoration of the rooms, which should be restored to their original appearance.