

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I, SUPPLEMENT 1

on

**REHABILITATION OF EXTERIOR WOODWORK
INDEPENDENCE HALL STEEPLE**

Prepared by

Staff

Independence National Historical Park

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

August 1960



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-DCAH

FEB 11 1963

REGION FIVE		Initial and Date
FEB 13 1963		
Reg. Director		
Asst. to RD/EA		
Program Coord.		
Asst. Reg. Dir.		
Finance & Prop.		
Lands & Water		
Personnel		
Asst. Reg. Dir.		
Natural History		
Oper. & Maint.		
Ranger Services		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Rp		
Co-op Services		
NP & Rec. Area		
Rec. Res. Surveys		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Assistant Director, Design and Construction

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural
Data Section, Structural Rehabilitation of Steeple,
Independence Hall

The Division of History and Archeology and the Division of
Architecture have reviewed the subject report and concur with
your recommendation. I have approved the report this date.


A. Clark Stratton

cc:
Chief, EODC (2)
Superintendent, Independence

Jan 2/13

Kelly

2/13

Crown
2/13/63

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30-CHA

February 13, 1963

Memorandum

To: Director

From: *Acting* Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part III, Rehabilitation of
Exterior Tower Woodwork, Independence Hall, Independence

We are forwarding a copy of the subject report which has been reviewed
and approved by this office.

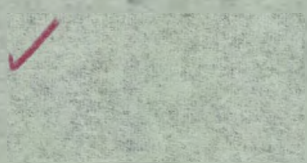
(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

Acting Regional Director

Enclosure

cc:
Chief, EODC
Supt., Independence

BGreen
General
Daily
Area



H30

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

September 14, 1960

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence

From: Acting Assistant Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Supplement 1,
Rehabilitation of Exterior Woodwork, Independence
Hall Tower

The subject report is recommended for approval.

Murray H. Nelligan

Acting Assistant Regional Director

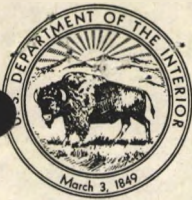
In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

MHNelligan/cp

General
Daily
Area

Programs



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

H30

August 26, 1960

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
AUG 29 1960		
☐	REG. DIRECTOR	
☐	ASST. REG. DIR.	
☒	OPERATIONS	9/1/2
☒	INTERPRETATION	9/1/2
☐	ADM.	
☐	REC. RES. PLAN	
☐	RANGER ACT'S	
✓ 100-2 post CP		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Chief, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Supplement I
Rehabilitation of Exterior Woodwork, Independence
Hall Tower

We recognize that the Park maintenance staff was on the point of repairing and repainting the tower and steeple in 1958, but that the emergency work at Congress Hall diverted them. It is unfortunate that such a long time has lapsed since the steeple and tower woodwork was last painted. Perhaps the extensive repairs now going on would not have been necessary if repainting had been done (every three years was recommended in Architect Lukens' 1951 report, p. 16) on a maintenance schedule. We trust that such a schedule is now being worked out at the Park and will be provided for and carried out from now on.

In the joint report of Architects Coryell and Wistar of June 30, 1960 they stressed that it would not be "advisable,...to rip out and replace flashing which is in sound condition." We agree with their recommendation but note in Chapter I, Section 2, page 2 of the August, 1960 report that it is intended to "Replace all flashings and sheet metal."

We would like to see a breakdown of the \$30,000 estimate.

From bulb?

We are pleased to find that the report's recommendation to date each piece of wood replaced is being carried out.

Architect George Wrenn is learning a great deal about the tower

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Engineer		
	~~Architect~~	✓	7/30 9/1/5
	Land Archt		
	Programs	✓	Chris 9/2

and steeple. We are grateful for the co-operation he has received. Mr. Wrenn is preparing a draft of an Historic Structures Report now. We hope to submit it early in September.

Eugene R. DeSilets
Eugene R. DeSilets
Acting Chief

Copy to: The Director
Supt., Independence
Chief of Design and Construction 2



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

August 25, 1960

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-DCA

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
AUG 29 1960		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG DIR		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Chief Architect

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Supplement 1,
Rehabilitation of Exterior Woodwork, Independence
Hall Tower, Independence

The Historic Structures Report, Part I, Supplement 1, Rehabilitation of Exterior Woodwork, Independence Hall Tower, Independence National Historical Park, has been reviewed by the interested Divisions in the Washington Office and is recommended for approval.

Robert E. Smith
Robert E. Smith
Acting Chief Architect

Copy to: Chief, EODC (2)
Supt., Independence

H30

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 22, 1960

Kelly
6/21

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Supplement 1,
Rehabilitation of Exterior Woodwork, Independence
Hall Bell Tower

In further reference to your memorandum of June 2 to Chief, EODC, and in accordance with FO 11-56 and Section 303, Chapter 3, Building Construction Handbook, an approved Historic Structures Report and drawings will be required prior to initiation of the rehabilitation proposed in your memorandum. For the work proposed, a supplement to Part I will serve the purpose, in our opinion. It should of course include the inspection report prepared by Messrs. Coryell and Wistar, in addition to the usual Administrative and Historical Data Sections.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

MHNelligan/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area
Programs

Historic Structures Report, Pt. 1, Supplement 1, Rehabilitation of Exterior Woodwork, Ind. Hall Tower.

COMMENTS DUE 9/1/60

INTERPRETATION

8/24 ✓ *B* *ole*

8/25 ✓ *John 8/30*

8/29 *W. H. H. - LAST W*

✓	History
	Nat. His.
✓	Archaeol.
	Publ.
	Museum
	Sec'y.

OPERATIONS

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Engineer		
	Architect		
	Land Archt		
	Programs		

W. H. H. 8/30 Agree
CRH

1130

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

August 19, 1960

Passarelli
8/19
Roo
206
8/19
J. Gibson
8/19

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

**Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Supplement 1,
Rehabilitation of Exterior Woodwork, Independence
Hall Tower**

Attached in duplicate for your review and comment is the Historic Structures Report, Part I, Supplement 1, Rehabilitation of Exterior Woodwork, Independence Hall Tower. In line with our memorandum of June 22, we have added the inspection report prepared by Architects Coryell and Wistar dated June 30.

Comments should be submitted by September 1, 1960.

(Sgt) J. Carlisle Grouch

Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachments

**Copy to: Chief, NSDC w/report
Supt., Independence**

CPassarelli/lh

General
Daily
Area
Programs



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

H30

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

August 12, 1960

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
AUG 16 1960		
REG. DIRECTOR		
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 I, Supplement 1,
Rehabilitation of Exterior Woodwork, Independence
Hall Tower

Enclosed in quadruplicate for your review and distribution is
(Adm. & Hist. Sections)
the Historic Structures Report, Part I, Supplement 1, Rehabilita-
tion of Exterior Woodwork, Independence Hall Tower.

M. O. Anderson
M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures (4)

SIGNATURE SHEET

RECORDED

Robert E. Smith, Acting Chief Architect Date 7/25/60
Director

Murray H. Nelligan, Acting Asst Date 9/14/60
Regional Director

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

APPROVED

Superintendent Date _____

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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

Independence Hall, Building No. 10.

JUSTIFICATION

Inspection of the exterior woodwork of Independence Hall Tower above the main building cornice shows rapid deterioration. In many areas paint has weathered almost completely away and there is considerable evidence of decay and other unsound conditions in the exterior woodwork.

All exterior woodwork on Independence Hall and the two Wing buildings, from grade to and including the main cornice, was completely rehabilitated in 1958. The next step in the rehabilitation program for Independence Hall was to be the rehabilitation of the tower including woodwork, roofs and flashings. About this time we became involved with emergency work on the cornice of Congress Hall. Subsequent events related to the initiation of the construction program resulted in stopping all maintenance and rehabilitation work on the Independence buildings, by Park forces, except the rehabilitation of window frames and sash.

Since Independence Hall is scheduled for structural rehabilitation after Congress Hall and Old City Hall are completed, and considering the existing condition of the exterior woodwork of the tower of Independence Hall, it is recommended that the exterior rehabilitation of the tower be undertaken as soon as possible.

Because of the unknown factors involved in this type of work, and the Park's past experience gained in handling similar problems

related to the woodwork on the first floor of the Hall, and the rehabilitation of the exterior woodwork with several buildings, we recommend that EODC assign this phase and area of the rehabilitation of Independence Hall Tower to the Park for initiation and execution as soon as possible as a force account project.

In the event the work is assigned to the Park advantage should be taken by EODC of the scaffolding being in place to complete the architectural research on the exterior of the tower. Such a program should be closely coordinated with the rehabilitation schedule.

The portion of the tower proposed for rehabilitation extends from the main cornice to the base of the bell cupola. The cupola is covered with sheet metal and does not appear in bad condition. It is suggested that the cupola and spire be rehabilitated by contract.

The proposed rehabilitation would include the following work:

1. Construct scaffolding
2. Remove paint
3. Repair woodwork
4. Replace all flashings and sheet metal
5. Cover roof between brick and wood portions of the tower
6. Paint all woodwork

If work can be started this month we believe, unless unforeseen conditions are discovered, and the architectural research is well programmed and coordinated, that the work can be completed by December 1, 1960. This is desirable since we wish to avoid having scaffolding on the tower next spring and summer in view of the probability that the installations related to Son et Lumiere will be involved at that time.

PROVISION FOR OPERATING HOUSE

PART OF INDEPENDENCE HALL

Steeple is part of Independence Hall, hence this question
is not applicable here.

Chapter I
Section 4
Page 1

ESTIMATE OF COST
OF REHABILITATION

\$30,000

CHAPTER II
HISTORICAL DATA

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball

STRUCTURAL HISTORY

The Historic Structures Report, Part I, on Independence Hall, Chapter II, Section 1, pages 11-15, contains a discussion of the structural history of the brick tower and wooden steeple of Independence Hall. It points out that the brick tower and its woodwork up to the beginning of the wooden steeple is the original, erected between 1750 and 1753. The wooden steeple itself is a restoration, designed by William Strickland and erected in 1828. An 1829 insurance survey of the new steeple is included as Appendix I in the Part I Report.

We have nothing to add to the material contained in the Part I Report at this time.

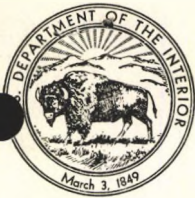
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

See Part I, Section 2, page 3.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The exterior woodwork of the brick tower is the original, put in place when the tower was erected. Every effort should be made to preserve it intact. If the proposed rehabilitation work reveals that any of this work has so far deteriorated that it must be replaced, replacement elements should be marked and dated, and the replacements should be recorded for the Park master file.

The steeple is a restoration, and has undergone numerous repairs. It is, as a restoration of an original element and as perhaps the first historic restoration in this country, important, and replacement of its elements should be kept to a minimum. Such replacements as are necessary should be recorded and copies of the records kept in the Park files.



IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

June 30, 1960

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUN 30 1960		
REG. DIRECTOR		7/7
ASST. REG. DIR.		7/6
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five
Chief, EODC

From: Architects Coryell and Wistar

Subject: Joint Report - Inspection of Exterior of Tower of
Independence Hall

In compliance with the Regional Director's suggestion in his memorandum to the Superintendent of June 22, Architects Coryell of the Region and Wistar of EODC made a joint inspection of the exterior woodwork of the tower of Independence Hall which is proposed for immediate rehabilitation by the Park.

It is agreed that the entire exterior of the tower is in urgent need of repainting and should be done before the ravages of another winter take its toll.

It is also agreed that the proper procedure requires the removal of the present paint from all woodwork. At this time the condition of the fabric should be carefully examined. Unsound wood should be replaced and deteriorated flashing should be renewed. Any flashing which is improperly set or with insufficient lap or coverage should also be corrected at this time. We do not think it advisable, on the other hand to rip out and replace flashing which is in sound condition.

From a cursory inspection the condition of the metal coverings to the pent roofs renewed in 1951 appears to be in sound condition and it is not considered advisable to replace these if closer investigation proves these coverings can be put in weathertite condition by repair of flashings and repainting. The wood balustrade requires attention.

It is noted that the weatherboarding covering the tier immediately below the belfry is of recent design and should be replaced by boards in keeping with the Strickland period.

L. B. Coryell

L. B. Coryell
Architect

Thomas Wistar, Jr.

Thomas Wistar, Jr.
Architect