CRBIB# 001963
391/134893

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

Independence National Historical Park

– Loc. in folder written in Hand Ltr.
– exp. title of – "Est. of extent
& cost of addl work required to
complete archl research" for Pts

Prepared by
Joseph Petrak
June 1964

for

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

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-DCA

SEP 16 1964

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast

From: Assistant Director, Design and Construction

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section, Second Bank of the United States, Independence

The interested Divisions have reviewed the subject report and they concur with the recommendation contained in your July 28 memorandum.

I have approved the subject report this date.

J. E. N. Jensen

Northeast Region SEP 21 1964	Initial and Date
Reg. Director	
Asst. to RD (PA)	
Asst. to RD (Dev. L)	
Resource Studies Adv.	
Asst Reg. Dir. Adm.	
Finance & Prop.	
Personnel	
Programs	
Asst Reg. Dir.-Oper.	
Interp. & VS	
Land & Water	
Maintenance	
Master Plan Coord.	
Res. Manage. & VP	
Asst Reg. Dir.-Co-Act	
Fed'l Agency Assis.	
NPS Studies	
State Assistance	

2 ✓ 9/24
3 ✓
1 ✓ 9/23

posted

cc:
Chief, EODC (2)
Supt., Independence

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-DCA

SEP 1 8 1964

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast

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I have approved the subject report this date.

J. E. N. Jensen

cc:
Chief, EODC (2)
Supt., Independence

Northeast Region
SEP 21 1964

	Initial and Date
Reg. Director	
Asst. to RD (PA)	
Asst. to RD (Dev. I)	
[illegible] Adv.	
[illegible] Adm.	
[illegible] Econ	
[illegible]	
[illegible] S	
[illegible] Oper.	
[illegible] VS	
[illegible] Visitor	
Maintenance	
Master Plan Coord.	
Res. Manage. & VP	
Asst Reg. Dir. Co-Act	
Fed'l Agency Assts.	
NPS Studies	
State Assistance	

Granted

Nelligan 7/23
Posted gmf

H30-KHA

JUL 28 1964

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section, Second Bank of the United States, Independence NHP

The subject section of the Historic Structures Report, Part I, is recommended to your approval. It has also been recommended by Superintendent M. O. Anderson, Independence NHP.

The other sections of the report - Administrative, Historical and Furnishings and Exhibits Data - were approved in March 1960.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Enclosure

cc:
Chief, EODC
Superintendent, Independence

MHNelligan/gmf
General
Daily
Area

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Independence National Historical Park
420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-RHA

July 2, 1964

Northeast Region JUL 6 1964	Initial and Date
Reg. Director	
Asst. to RD (PA)	
Asst. to RD (Dev. L)	
Resource Studies Adv.	
Asst Dep. Dir. Adm.	
Finance & Acct.	
Personnel	
Programs	
Asst. Reg. Dir. - Sec.	
Interp. & V.	
Land & W.	
Maintenance	
Mgmt. Eng.	
Res. Mgmt.	
Asst Reg. Dir.-Co-Act	
Fed'l Agency Assts.	
NPS Studies	
State Assistance	

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section, Part I, Second Bank of the United States

Rec'd Dmf

In line with Acting Regional Director Palmer's memorandum of June 11, we have reviewed the Architectural Data section for Part I Historic Structures Report on the Second Bank of the United States and recommend it for approval.

M. O. Anderson

M. O. Anderson

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT, PART I, ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION,
SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES, INDEPENDENCE NHP

1. Mr. Lukens

A good concise report which should be read carefully by anyone concerned in the Regional Office to allay the present outcry. J.B.L. 7/16

2. Mr. Golub

7/20

OK

3. Dr. Nelligan

Franey 6/10

Nelly 6/10

Posted

H30-RHA

JUN 11 1964

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence

From: Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section, Part I, Second Bank of the United States

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Architectural Data section for the Part I Historic Structures Report on the Second Bank of the United States. The Administrative, Historical and Furnishings and Exhibits Sections of this report were approved in March 1960. Please let us have your comments on this section of the report as soon as possible.

George A. Palmer

Enclosure

GMFraney
General
Daily
Area

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
Philadelphia, Pa. - 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-H

June 5, 1964

Posted

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Chief Architect, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section, Part I, Second Bank of the United States, Independence

Enclosed for your review and distribution are three copies of the subject report which was recommended for approval by Acting Chief DeSilets this date.

A Part II report and working drawings covering the restoration of the roof has been prepared and a favorable bid has been received for this portion of this restoration project.

We request your review of these reports at your earliest convenience so that an award for the restoration of the roof may be made this fiscal year.

Robert E. Smith

Robert E. Smith

Enclosure

cc:
Assistant Director, Design and Construction
Superintendent, Independence

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

March 15, 1960

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Second Bank of the United States, Amended Administrative Data Section, Furnishings and Exhibition Data Section

In accordance with the agreement reached at the Independence Park conference held here last week by all offices concerned, we recommend the subject report to your approval.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

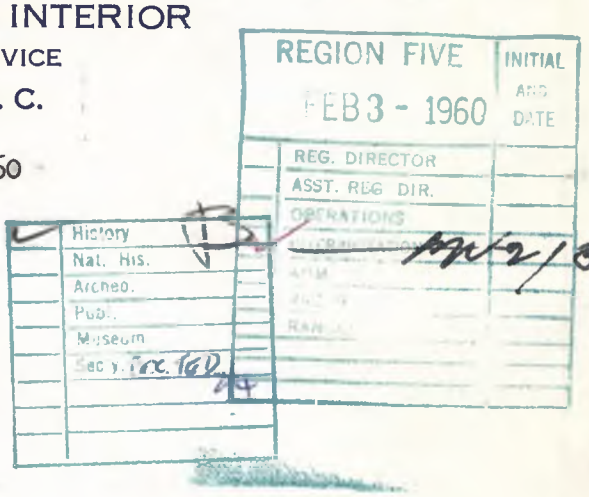
MHNelligan/cp

General
Daily
Area
Operations Division

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-DCA

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

February 1, 1960



Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Chief Architect

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Amended Administrative Data Section, Furnishings and Exhibition Data Section, Second Bank of the United States, Independence

The Historic Structures Report, Part I, Amended Administrative Data Section, Furnishings and Exhibition Data Section, Second Bank of the United States, Independence National Historical Park, has been reviewed by the interested Divisions in the Washington Office and is recommended for approval.

Robert E. Smith
Acting Chief Architect

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

Historic Structures Report, Part I
Independence NHP

Second Bank of U.S.

INTERPRETATION

✓	History	
	Nat. His.	
✓	~~Archeo.~~	
	Publ.	
	Museum	
	Sec'y.	
✓	~~Architect~~ (East)	

1-25

The integrity of the building as an historic structure can only be maintained by its use to interpret the function of the 2nd Bank of the U.S.
RC.

OPERATIONS 11/18/60

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Engineer		
	~~Architect~~	~~VH~~	~~11/22~~
		JEC	11/18/60
	and Archt		
	Programs		

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Recommended
Supt 2/3/60

must recognize that ultimate use has to await much work on other bldgs.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR 2/17/60

Would like to discuss this with Supt Anderson when we meet on the proposed uses of the various bldgs in Indep Park in near future

R F Lee

COMMENTS DUE (SUPT) JAN. 25

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

January 15, 1960

Nelligan 1/15

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Second Bank of the United States, Independence NHP; Amended Administrative Data Section, Furnishings and Exhibition Data Section

Attached for your review are two copies of an Administrative Data Section, Part I, for the subject building revised as of December 11, 1959, a Furnishings and Exhibition Data Section, and a new Table of Contents. To facilitate review comparison with the Administrative Data Section originally submitted, it is suggested that the revised section be inserted in your bound copy of the report.

In accordance with established procedure, comments should be submitted to the Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park, no later than January 25.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachments

Copy to: Chief, EODC, w/attachment
Supt., Independence

MHNelligan/cp

General
Daily
Area
Operations Division

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Independence National Historical Park
Old Custom House - 420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

REGION FIVE
DEC 18 1959
INITIAL AND DATE
REG. DIRECTOR
ASST. REG DIR
OPERATIONS
INTERPRETATION
ADM
REC RES. PLAN
RANGER ACT

December 11, 1959

(NPS Mus. USE)

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region V

From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Amended Administrative Data Sections for Historic Structures Reports, Parts I, on Second Bank of the United States, McIlvaine House, and Kid Houses

In line with our memorandum of October 13, 1959, subject: "Development - Park Building," we submit herewith amended Administrative Data Sections for the Historic Structures Reports indicated above. With respect to the Second Bank of the U. S., we are also submitting Furnishings and Exhibition Data Section together with new Table of Contents. Please have one set of these inserted in place of the present sheets in your copies of the reports and forward the remainder to WASO and EODC for similar handling and review.

In your comments on my memorandum dated October 23, you have indicated concurrence in these proposals.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Penna.

June 16, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Second Bank of the United States - Occupancy of Library Company of Philadelphia

We confirm that it is now in order for you to notify the Library Company that Plan No. 515-A1 is acceptable with the modification and exceptions as outlined in your memorandum of April 24 on the above subject.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Chief, EODC

General
Daily
Area
Programs

Neubauer:
MMMMn:emh

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

April 24, 1959

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

REGION FIVE
APR 27 1959
INITIAL AND DATE
REG. DIRECTOR
ASST. REG. DIR.-OPERATIONS
ADM.
REG. RES. PLAN
RANGER ACT'S

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Second Bank of the United States - Occupancy by Library Company of Philadelphia.

We note copy received of memorandum of April 13 to you by Chief of Design and Construction Vint recommending for approval subject Report. We also note his concurrence with the exceptions contained in Chapter I, Section 2 of the Report concerning the proposed modifications, drawing NHP-IND-3102 (No. 515-A1), for the structural alterations necessary to adapt the building for use as a library and archives involving the Library Company of Philadelphia.

By memorandum dated November 19, 1958, we submitted to you Plan No. 515-A1 provided us by the Library Company of Philadelphia setting forth the alterations proposed by them to accommodate their library collection in this building. The plan was submitted at that time for review of all concerned, in order that we might, in due course, properly advise the Library Company as to its acceptability. Final review and associated decision was withheld pending the completion of subject Historic Structures Report, Part I. Now that this report has cleared, with the exceptions noted above, we would like to confirm whether or not it is proper for us to notify the Library Company that Plan No. 515-A1 is acceptable with the exceptions relating to the change in the front corridor elevator entrance, and the modification of their plan so as to relocate the two door openings to their proposed stacks on the Library Street side of the building - that is, no new doorway entrance would be constructed through the east and west walls of the corridor separating the main banking room at the Library Street end of the building. Rather, we would require that the Library Company provide for necessary door openings in the library stack area which they would construct in the south portion of the building.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

COPY IN Prog.

In duplicate

copy to: Chief, EODC

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-DCA

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

April 13, 1959

REGION FIVE
APR 16 1959
INITIAL AND DATE
REG. DIRECTOR
ASST. REG. DIRECTOR
OPERATIONS
INTERP. ASST.
ADM
REC. R.S. PLAN
RANGER ACT'S
Histor.
Nat. H.
Archeo.
Museum
Sec'y

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief of Design and Construction

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Second Bank of the United States, Independence

The Historic Structures Report, Part I, Second Bank of the United States, Independence National Historical Park, has been reviewed by the interested Divisions in the Washington Office and is recommended for approval.

We concur with the exceptions which are noted in Chapter 1, Section 2, Page 1, concerning the proposed modifications, Drawing NHP-IND-3102, for the structural alterations necessary to adopt it for use as a library and archives. We believe these exceptions are necessary to preserve the integrity of the remaining sections of the original fabric of this structure.

Thos. C. Vint, Chief of
Design and Construction

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

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

H30

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

April 7, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report - Part I - Second Bank of the United States

We have reviewed the subject report and concur with your recommendations concerning the collaborative use of the building by the National Park Service and the Library Company of Philadelphia, and with the latter institution's plans for adapting it to library use, with the exceptions noted in the Administrative Data Section as to the two new doorways proposed by the Library Company.

We notice that no suggestion is made in the report as to how the story of the Library Company and any museum objects it owns are to be interpreted and exhibited to visitors. We agree that the National Park Service should control all exhibits presented in the Banking Room. However, we believe and have always assumed that it was because the Library Company is such an intimate and important part of the park story that it was appropriate to house it in the park; hence, its story and the pertinent parts of its collections should be brought to the attention of visitors.

Therefore, we suggest that you consider telling the Library Company's part in the park story by means of appropriate exhibits in the Banking Room under a cooperative agreement which stipulates National Park Service control over the planning, installation and revision of such exhibits. Or, you may wish to explore with the Library Company and Carpenters' Company the possibility of eventually telling the story of the Library Company on the second floor of Carpenters' Hall, where the Library Company and its collections were housed in 1776. This would enable the telling of this part of the park story in an historically appropriate situation, rather than in the historically disassociated Second Bank, and would limit the Library Company's use of the Second Bank to strictly utilitarian library use.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

MHNelligan/cp
General
Daily
Area
Operations Division

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

3/24/59

Historic Structures Report, Part I - SECOND BANK of US
INDEPENDENCE NHP

INTERPRETATION

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

Good report. Would have been helpful to have had included drawings for conversion to proposed library use. Should have a Furnishing Section – at least in Part II – on the Banking Room. Need more research on the real story behind Jackson's Bank war. The analysis given seems shallow in the light of recent scholarship in this field. Recommend we send copy of this report to Federal Hall Historians for guide in handling structural history. partial

OPERATIONS 3/30/59
Complete Another good report

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR I question need for a Part II because reconstructing will be for a Library by the Library Assoc. The feasible joint operation of this bldg. bothers me. I would restrict use of Banking Room to Exhibit by Lib. and keep NPS operating staff out. I know director has said we need Banking Room but do we, really?
4/3

REGIONAL DIRECTOR I have no special comment. See no reason why joint use is not feasible. If proven otherwise, no great public value will be lost in my opinion. 4/6/59

H30

Banw, 3/24

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

March 24, 1959

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I - Second Bank of the United States, Independence NHP

In accordance with FO-11-56, attached for your consideration is the Historic Structures Report, Part I (Administrative and Historical Sections), for the Second Bank of the United States, prepared by the Independence staff. The Architectural Section is in preparation and will be distributed for review and comment later.

Please review and submit comments by April 3.

George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Chief, EODC, w/copy report
Supt., Independence

cp
General
Daily
Area
Operations Division

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Independence National Historical Park
Old Custom House - 420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

REGION FIVE
MAR 5 - 1959
INITIAL AND DATE
REG. DIRECTOR
ASST. REG DIR
OPERATIONS
INTERPRETATION
ADM
REC RES. PLAN
RANGER ACT'S

March 4, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Historic Structures Report for the Second Bank of the United States - Part I

In accordance with the instructions in your memorandum (H30) dated December 17, 1958, we are transmitting in quadruplicate, for review and distribution, the Historic Structure Report for the Second Bank of the United States (Old Philadelphia Custom House).

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures (4)

In duplicate

H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 4, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Historic Structures Report for the Second Bank of the United States - Part I

In accordance with the instructions in your memorandum (H30) dated December 17, 1958, we are transmitting in quadruplicate, for review and distribution, the Historic Structure Report for the Second Bank of the United States (Old Philadelphia Custom House).

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures (4)

In duplicate

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Independence National Historical Park
Old Custom House - 420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

December 23, 1958

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, V

From: Acting Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Historic Building Report for the Old Philadelphia Custom House (2nd Bank of U. S.)

This will advise that we will undertake the preparation of the Historical Data Section of an Historic Building Report, Part I, on subject building, as requesting in Acting Regional Director Palmer's memorandum of December 17 and Associate Director E. T. Scoyen's earlier memorandum, and we anticipate its completion on or about March 1.

By memorandum this date, we are requesting EODC to assist us in the preparation of the Architectural Data Section of this report.

EODC
Arch
Sec

Dennis C. Kurjack
Acting Superintendent

Copy to: Chief, EODC
Director

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

SECOND BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

Independence National Historical Park

A P P R O V A L S H E E T

RECOMMENDED

M. O. Anderson — Date 7/2/64
Superintendent

Eugene R. DeSilets — Date June 5, 1964
Chief, EODC, Acting

Ronald F. Lee — Date 7/28/64
Regional Director, Northeast Region

APPROVED

J. E. N. Jensen — Date 9/16/64
Director Asst Dep Director

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	2. Marble and Stonework	
	3. Iron Work	
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I. INTRODUCTION

The Second Bank of the United States a Greek Revival structure designed by William Strickland, Architect and Engineer, was erected in 1819-1824. Strickland's design was the winner of a competition held for the design of this structure. The structure both interior and exterior, surrounding terraces and the stair approach to the Bank on Chestnut Street have been altered from the original design in the many alteration projects made from 1836 through 1941.

A restoration from the physical evidence, old photographs and additional historical research will require very careful study.

The Second Bank was designated as a National Historic Site in 1939. A rehabilitation and partial restoration effort was undertaken by the Works Progress Administration in 1940-41. However, this project did not attempt restoration south of the main Banking Room. The study of this area cannot proceed until the building is vacated by the Independence National Historical Park offices. In this area major alterations have taken place and an extensive architectural investigation will be required.

The many alterations, rehabilitations and partial restorations that took place in this structure are very well described in the Historic Data Section of the Historic Structures Report, Part II, dated June 1962, Chapter II, Section 1, pages 9 to 16.

Joseph Petrak
Architect
June 1964

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Exterior

The exterior face of this structure was erected of Pennsylvania marble, quarried in Montgomery County. The first floor is elevated above the sidewalk and the building is terraced on the north, east and south sides. The original west terrace was removed when the passage was widened in 1881. The present flight of marble steps extending along the front (Chestnut Street) which leads up to the north terrace are not original but were installed sometime after 1840. Originally the north terrace was flanked by steps on either side to the east and west passage. The approach to these steps was by a pair of iron gates and railing that flanked the terrace. On the west passage, this iron work was removed when the passage was widened in 1881. The iron gates and railing in the east passage was removed sometime after 1910.

The original marble cheek walls on each side of the north portico steps were removed in about 1840.

The main entrance doors (pair) on the north facade appear to be original. The two present windows that flank the entrance door and the three windows on the second floor are not original. They were installed sometime after 1850. The two windows on the first floor, originally were sham doors and the three windows on the second floor were sham windows.

Four additional windows installed on the second floor of the east facade and four windows on the west facade were probably introduced during the alteration work of 1864-65.

The entrance doors (pair) on the south facade appear to be original. The two windows that flank the entrance also appear to be original. The other three windows are not. On the right side adjacent to the original window one original sham door remains. Only the architrave for a sham door remains on the left side adjacent to the original window. Only one original sham window remains on the second floor of the south facade and is directly above the first floor sham door. The sham window at the extreme left was replaced with a window at a date now unknown. Additional research will be required to determine whether the remaining three windows are original.

A large portion of the existing iron work along the south terrace wall is original, including the center gates that open to a flight of steps up to the portico. Only one section remains of a pair of gates that open to the east passage. A pair of gates that opened to the west passage may have been removed when the passage was widened in 1881.

The present roof is covered with a standing seam tin roof. None of the present skylights or the covered stair to the roof are original. Documentary evidence indicates that the original roof covering was a standing seam copper roof. Physical and photographic

evidence of three skylights and a roof hatch has been uncovered. The present marble chimneys are original.

B. Interior

Extensive physical and historic research will be required to restore the Stockholder's Room, the two Committee Rooms and the two marble stairs adjacent to the Committee Rooms. The interior walls of these rooms no longer exist. Other rooms will require careful study to determine what is original and what has been altered or restored in past projects.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Exterior

1. Roof

The present skylights, covered stairway and the tin roof should be removed and the roof restored to its historic appearance with a standing seam copper roof sheathing, skylights and roof hatch.

The marble chimneys should be re-pointed and the chimney hoods and supports should be re-set. Replacement of some marble hoods and hood supports will also be required.

2. Marble and Stonework

The present non-historic marble steps that lead up to the north terrace on Chestnut Street should be removed and a marble retaining wall should be restored over the existing original stone foundation that once supported this wall. Marble steps should be restored in the east and west passage in their original locations flanking the north terrace. The paving of the entire north terrace with marble paving slabs is also recommended. Restoration of the marble cheeks over their existing original stone foundation on the east and west side of the steps that lead up to the portico should be done. The entire structural system for stairs and terrace requires reinforcing.

The windows on the north facade are non-historic and should be replaced with sham doors on the first floor and with sham windows on the second floor.

The four non-historic second floor windows on the east and four on the west facade should be removed and the openings faced with marble blocks matching the adjacent marble work.

Several second floor windows on the south facade are non-historic. Physical research will be required to determine which windows should be omitted and which should become sham windows. Three non-historic windows should be removed on the first floor, one opening becoming a sham door matching the one existing original and the other openings faced with marble blocks matching the adjacent marble work.

The terrace retaining wall in the west passage should be restored over its existing original stone foundation.

The original marble stair treads at the north and south stairways to the porticos have shifted and somewhat displaced over a period of years. It is recommended to reset all stair treads.

3. Iron Work

Railing and gates that flanked the north terrace (Chestnut Street) that were once the entrance to the terrace and the east and west passages should be restored. The original railings and gates along the south terrace (Library Street) are in need of repair. Additional railing and gates will be required to extend in front of the west passage.

B. Interior (First Floor)

The partial restoration that took place in 1940-41 by the W.P.A. should be scrutinized very carefully. The Stockholder's Room, Committee Rooms and the two marble stairways be restored to their historic appearance.

It is recommended that the interior restoration be deferred until personnel is vacated from the premises.

Restoration of the exterior may be done at this time without any interference.

Part I
Historic Structures Report
on
The Second Bank of the United States
in
Independence National Historical Park

*
*
*

Prepared by
Staff
Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*
*
*

February, 1959

SIGNATURE SHEET

RECOMMENDED

_____ Date _____
Director

_____ Date _____
Regional Director

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

APPROVED

_____ Date _____
Superintendent

12/59

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CHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Prepared by Superintendent M. O. Anderson

NAME AND NUMBER
OF BUILDING

Second Bank of the United States (Old Custom House),

420 Chestnut Street, Building No. 13.

PROPOSED USE OF STRUCTURE
AND JUSTIFICATION

With the cancellation of application by the Library Company of Philadelphia to occupy the Second Bank of the United States, as indicated in a letter dated October 30, 1959 from Nicholas B. Wainwright, President of the institution, our original recommendation for the alteration and joint use of this by the Company and the Park as a library and exhibit area is voided. Instead, we now recommend that the building be reserved exclusively for Park use; that it be altered, rehabilitated, and utilized to exhibit the Park's large and priceless portrait collection, to provide central storage and laboratory space for the Park museum and archeological collections and activities, and to present the story of the Second Bank of the United States.

It is proposed to use the first floor of the building principally as a gallery of paintings, prints, and sculptures in the Independence National Historical Park Collection, one room for a permanent exhibit on the history of the Second Bank of the U. S., and the basement and upper floors for staff offices, conservation laboratory, and a central storage and study area for the Park collections.

As pointed out by Curator Wallace elsewhere in this report, we need to emphasize the fact that the importance of the Independence National Historical Park collection of historical art, consisting of about 400 oil paintings, miniatures, pastels, sculptures, and over 250 prints, is widely recognized. It is a unique collection, one of the

great collections of early American art. More than 100 of the portraits came from Peale's museum and were acquired by the City in 1854 at the sale of Peale's Gallery. Charles Willson Peale, the great artist of the Revolutionary period, painted about 90 of these portraits, the largest collection of his work in any collection. Another of the collections, the Sharples pastels of important Americans, is also the largest of its kind in the United States. Other noted American artists represented are Benjamin West, Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Sully, James and Rembrandt Peale, and Samuel F. B. Morse. The value of these paintings is estimated at $1,500,000.

Historically, these paintings represent perhaps even greater importance in terms of the Park story. Brought together originally as a national portrait gallery of distinguished early Americans, about 150 of them are life portraits of figures of the Revolutionary and early Federal periods.

The Second Bank building is the only one in the Park which lends itself almost ideally to the purposes of such a gallery. It is solid and reasonably fireproof; it is physically adaptable to requirements of a gallery, such as air-conditioning, and humidity control without undue detriment to the historic character of the building; it has ample space for hanging and storing the collection; and it is an attractive structure well situated in terms of Independence Square with which the collection is so closely identified.

PROPOSED USE OF STRUCTURE
AND JUSTIFICATIONS

The Director in a memorandum to the Regional Director dated May 14, 1958 together with attached copies of letters to Congressman Byrne, Mayor Dilworth, and the President of the Library Company of Philadelphia (all of the same date), approved making available to the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Second Bank of the United States building, excepting the main banking room, subject to the negotiation of a cooperative agreement. The main banking room is to be retained by the Service for exhibit purposes, to tell the story of the Second Bank of the United States.

A study of the building to determine the extent of structural alterations necessary to adapt it for use as a library and archives was since conducted by the Company through the architectural firm of Borie and Smith. We consider acceptable their proposed modifications (Drawing No. 515-A1) with the following very important exceptions:

1. The proposed door opening to the elevator in the front of the building. This should be eliminated and in its place an opening should be provided on the south side. There should be no door opening from the main corridor which is a public area.

2. The proposed door openings through the east and west walls of the south corridor (leading from the main banking room to the south end of the building). There should be no door openings here for the reason already stated above. Moreover, these walls are original and among the very few on the first floor still surviving from the date of construction. Additional doors, if needed, could be provided in the south wall (where there already are doors, in fact). Access to them from the corridor could be provided by increasing the space between the south wall and the first row of stacks somewhat.

PROVISIONS FOR OPERATING BUILDING

It is proposed to operate the building by the Park staff, particularly the curatorial staff of the Division of Interpretation who would work and have their offices here.

PROVISIONS FOR OPERATING
BUILDING

It is proposed to operate the building jointly with the Library Company of Philadelphia on the basis of a cooperative agreement, which is to be negotiated. The Library Company would assume the full cost of adapting portions of the interior for use as its library as well as the maintenance of these portions. The Park and the Service will assume responsibility for the main banking room, including the development of exhibits, interpretation, and maintenance.

12/59

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE
OF COST

Rehabilitation of (exterior) structure ----- $111,000 (net)

Fitting up first and second
floors for exhibition and storage
of paintings, etc. ---------- $ 50,000

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE
OF COST

For rehabilitating structure (exterior) -----	$111,000	(net)
For development of exhibits in main banking room ------	10,000	(net)

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL DATA

Prepared by Historian James R. Sullivan

STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE FROM
DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

The building at 420 Chestnut Street is located on the south side of that street about midway between Fourth and Fifth Streets. Originally known as the Second Bank of the United States, it became in later years (1845-1934) the Custom House for the Port of Philadelphia. Designed by William Strickland, this structure stands today as one of the finest and most influential examples of Greek revival architecture in America.

In 1818 the Bank of the United States purchased the Joseph Parker Norris, the Caldwell-Keppele, and the Thomson properties to erect a suitable structure to house the banking establishment. Shortly thereafter, on May 3, 1818, the following notice appeared in The Philadelphia Gazette and Daily Advertiser:[1]

> Bank of the United States
>
> May 12, 1818
>
> Architects of science and experience, are invited to exhibit to the Board of Directors, on or before the 1st day of August next, Appropriate designs and elevations for a Banking House, to be erected on the site purchased for that purpose, bounded on the north by Chesnut and on the south by Library street, containing one hundred and fifty-one feet in width east and west, and two hundred twenty-five in depth north and south.
> The ground plan will include an area of about ten or eleven thousand square feet in a rectangular figure of equal or unequal sides, as may be best

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[1] Cited in Agnes Addison Gilchrist, William Strickland, Architect and Engineer, 1788-1854 (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1950), p. 53.

> adapted to the interior arrangement. The building will be faced with marble, and have a portico on each front, resting upon a basement or platform of such altitude as will combine convenience of ascent with due proportion and effect.
> In this edifice, the Directors are desirous of exhibiting a chaste imitation of Grecian Architecture, in its simplest and least expensive form.
> Five hundred dollars will be paid for that design, which shall be approved, and two hundred dollars for the next best specimen.
> By order of the Board of Directors,
> Jona. Smith, Cashier.

The bids were opened on August 31 and after due deliberation on the part of the Board of Directors the plans drawn by William Strickland were selected. Strickland began work immediately. Samuel Hines was hired to survey the lot on Chestnut Street and work on the building commenced. The cornerstone was laid April 19, 1819.

The structure was completed in 1824 at a cost of nearly half a million dollars. Erected of Pennsylvania marble, quarried in nearby Montgomery County, the building was the most distinct and unique example of Greek revival architecture in America. Strickland's plan generally followed the desires expressed by the Directors in their notice soliciting plans from leading architects. The area of the building was 11,954 square feet, exclusive of porticoes[2], which was slightly larger than the Directors intended it to be. The bank was built upon a terrace that gave the build-

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[2] Agnes Addison Gilchrist, "Before Our Time", The American-German Review, XVII (June, 1951), p. 23.

ing much of its architectural effect. The structure, as reported by Strickland in 1821, was 161 feet long, including the front, or north portico, and 87 feet wide.[3] The erection of the south portico extended the length of the building approximately 22 feet. (See Appendix A for Strickland's description.)

The main entrance was from the terrace on Chestnut Street (see Figure 1). It was approached by a flight of steps extending along the front which led to a portico with eight large fluted Doric columns, each four feet six inches in diameter and twenty-seven feet high. The columns were copied from the Parthenon at Athens and were used in front and rear porticoes to support a simple entablature.

The first floor, or ground story, was elevated and surrounded by the terrace.[4] The entrance opened into a large vestibule, 30 feet long (left to right) and 18 feet deep,[5] and was flanked on the right by the Loan Office and on the left by the Transfer Office. Just beyond the vestibule was a lobby that led to the Banking Room.

Between the Banking Room and the Loan Office was the President's Room. The Cashier's Room was located between the Banking Room and the Transfer Office.

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3 Art. XIX "New Bank of the United States in Philadelphia", The Port Folio, XII (July - Dec., 1821), pp. 204-207.

4 See James G. Kiryakakis, A Report on the Grounds Surrounding the Second Bank of the United States with Emphasis on Conditions During the Period from 1819 to 1836 for description of terrace and walls.

5 C. G. Childs, Views in Philadelphia and Its Environs, from original Drawings taken in 1827-30 (Philadelphia: Published by C. G. Childs, [1830]).

The Banking Room, 81 feet long and 48 feet deep, occupied the center of the structure with the long axis running east and west. Palladian windows at either end permitted light to enter the room. The outstanding feature of the Banking Room was two rows of six fluted marble columns each running east and west. These columns, 22 inches in diameter, were ten feet from the side walls, and formed a screen for the clerks' desks. The columns were patterned after the Greek Ionic order and supported the vault and lateral arches of the Banking Room. The semicircular vault had a span of 28 feet and was 81 feet in length, divided into seven panels. An Isthmian wreath carved in marble surrounded the face of the clock which occupied a position over the entablature in the center. The tellers' counters were composed of marble forming paneled pedestals across each end of the room.

The Stockholders' Room was rectangular, 50 feet long and 28 feet deep. It possessed a groin arched ceiling and at each end was ornamented with niches eight feet wide.

A Committee Room was located at each end of the Stockholders' Room and these in turn were flanked by two marble stairways leading to the clock room and offices on the second story. Another stairway, located between the north lobby and the President's Room, led from the Banking Room to the directors', engravers' and copperplate printers' rooms. The rooms were illuminated by a "roof-light".

The interior sills, door jambs, and imposts were of marble. The fireplaces were constructed under the windows and recessed into the walls. Each was covered with thick cast iron plates. The Banking Room was heated by two cast iron furnaces lined with fire bricks.

Finally, the entire structure was sheltered by a roof covered with copper.[6]

The floor plan as drawn by Strickland assigns only two dimensions, those of the Banking and Stockholders' Rooms. However, from Strickland's Receipt Book (1815-1845) several undated pages are devoted to mathematical calculations estimating the number of square yards of plaster needed for the main floor of the bank building and from these calculations one can draw the room dimensions.[7] The dimensions differ slightly, as noted in the table below, but not enough to discount the figures.

	Length	Width	Height
Banking Room	80 feet	47 feet	28 feet (Arch)
Stockholders' Room	40	30	Arch
Committee Rooms	16	14	13 feet
Stairways (South)	14	8	30

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[6] Much of this is confirmed by the Checks drawn on the Bank of the United States. Nos. 228-420, Folder 46, Box 54 (Y12 7361F); Folder 13, Box 55 (Y12 7361F); Folder 67, Box 55, (Y12 7361F), McAllister Mss, Ridgeway Library, Philadelphia. Transcripts in Master File, Independence National Historical Park.

[7] William Strickland, Receipt Book 1814-1815 Acc Books, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Division of Public Records, pp. 93-101.

Vestibule (South)	10	12	9
Clerk's Room	14	12	13
Assistant Cashier's Room	14	12	13
President's Room	25	21	13
Cashier's Room	25	21	13
Stairway (North)	21	8	40
Lobby (North)	21	10	9
Vestibule (North)	60		15
Loan Office	24	18	13
Transfer Office	24	18	13

When the bank's charter expired in 1836, the building was occupied by the United States Bank of Pennsylvania, chartered by act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania on February 18, 1836. Strickland was called upon to supervise the necessary maintenance and repairs to the structure. However, no records of this work have been found.

The state-chartered bank succumbed in 1841 and shortly thereafter the trustees offered the property for sale. Congress appropriated funds in 1844 for purchase of the property as a Custom House for the Port of Philadelphia. Once again Strickland was brought back to superintend the renovation of the building. His report to the Collector of the District of Philadelphia outlines the

work done at that time.[8] The counters and desks of the Banking Room were re-arranged, the upper floors whitewashed, the lower floors painted, grates and fireplaces removed, marble columns and architraves scrubbed with pumice stone, and the steps, paving, gas pipes, door fixtures, and the roof repaired.

Considerable correspondence[9] concerning a 1857 proposal to alter the Custom House and transfer it to the Post Office Department provides valuable information on the building as it appeared in that year. The Philadelphia architects LeBrun and Runge prepared the modification plans and these are still available (see Figure 7). The significance of the LeBrun and Runge plan is that it demonstrates how few changes -- limited chiefly to doors -- had taken place in the structure since 1824. It must be emphasized that the proposed changes were not adopted and the structure was not altered at this time.

In 1864-65 extensive alterations were made to house a Sub-Treasury Office in the building. The work was under the supervision of John McArthur, Jr., probably best known for his work as architect for the City Hall at Broad and Market Streets. The Public Ledger reports that "In making the necessary alterations, six large brick arches had to be removed, which did not seem to have been

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8 Letter, Strickland to Blythe, Dec. 9, 1844, General Records of the Department of the Treasury, Mss, National Archives, Washington.

9 Letter, Walter to Brown, July 30, 1857, Records of the Public Buildings Administration, Mss, National Archives, Washington.

constructed to strengthen the building, as might have been supposed."[10] Eighteen wrought iron beams were purchased at the same time from the Phoenix Iron Company, but whether they were used to replace the arches is not known.[11] Iron stairways were installed by the Wood and Perot Ornamental Iron Works, but no specific locations were given.[12] During this period of alterations some windows in the east and west walls were enlarged, but unfortunately neither the number changed nor the size are recorded.[13] It is quite possible that what appear to be additional windows today were the enlargements mentioned in the invoices. (see Figures 10 and 11) These figures point out that four windows were added to the east and west sides, three in the rear third of the structure over each window on the main floor and one north of the circular window in the center section.[14] Considerable work was done to install or repair skylights particularly in the section to be used by the Treasury but no

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10 Public Ledger, Oct. 12, 1864.

11 Voucher, Phoenix Iron Company, Sept. 27, 1864, Records of the Public Buildings Administration, Mss, National Archives, Washington.

12 Letter, Wood and Perot Iron Works to Rice, Sept. 13, 1864; Voucher, United States Government to Wood and Perot, Nov. 21, 1864; Letter, Rogers to Rice, Nov. 22, 1864; Voucher, Wood to Perot Iron Works, Dec. 31, 1864; Bill, Wood and Perot Iron Works, ibid.

13 Vouchers, United States Government to William Gray, Nov. 1864; Rice to Gray, Jan. 6, 1865, and Feb. 9, 1865, ibid.

14 Public Ledger, Oct. 12, 1864; Voucher, Cumming & Brodie, Apr. 1, 1865, Records of the Public Buildings Administration, Mss, Washington.

specific locations are given. Italian marble washstands were installed[15] and a new white marble floor was laid in the Treasurer's Room on the first floor.[16] At the same time "black and white marble [flooring] alternately" was laid in the "centre room."[17] A hot water furnace was also installed.[18] The last item of record for this period is one covering the construction of burglar proof vaults, but it, like the other materials of this period, tells little as to location.[19]

In 1868, further remodelling was done with money that Congress had appropriated earlier. The center of the Banking Room had been used by the public but was now to be occupied by the clerks' new walnut desks arranged in such a way as to form a spacious corridor with marble tile around the four sides of the room.[20]

No plans are extant of the alterations carried out in 1864-65 and 1868. However, in 1872, McArthur prepared plans for further modification of the Treasury Office (see Figure 28).

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15 Voucher, Rice to Gray, Jan. 6, 1865, ibid.

16 Letter, Gray to Rice, Mar. 1, 1865; Voucher, Rice to Gray, July 19, 1865, ibid.

17 Ibid.

18 Letter, Morris Tasker & Co. to Rice, Sept. 30, 1864; Voucher, United States Government to Morris Tasker & Co., Dec. 27, 1864, ibid.

19 Bill of Jackson, Burnett & Co. (1866) Dec. 14, 1865, ibid.

20 Public Ledger, Jan. 31, 1868.

Fortunately he prepared two sets: "as it is" and proposed, which present portions of the first, second, and attic floors as they appeared in that year. A comparison of these plans with those of 1857 indicates that considerable change had taken place on the first floor. The Stockholders' Room became the main office for the Treasury and a banking counter extended into the open portion of this section. Moving clockwise the west Committee Room housed the Bookkeeper and Assistant Treasurer, the west stairway remained, followed by the Assistant Bookkeeper's Room, the money vault, passage way, water closet, Cashier's Room, and finally a double stairway. On the second floor were offices, a record room, closets, water closets, ladies counting room, and vaults. The attic contained no rooms but was dotted with skylights above that allowed light through the floor lights to the second floor. One discrepancy should be noted in the documentary evidence. The Public Ledger (see Footnote 10) stated that in making the necessary changes for the Sub Treasury six large arches were removed from the front of the building. McArthur's plans show the Treasury Office in the south end of the building. The weight of evidence shows that the Treasury was in the south portion and the Public Ledger account is probably in error. It is likely that McArthur's plans of 1872 present the work undertaken seven years earlier.

Sometime during the last half of the nineteenth century the Stockholders' Room, with its high groined vault ceiling was renovated and enlarged. It as well as other office ceilings were changed to the present cast iron and brick arched type.[21]

The last major structural changes on record were those undertaken by the Works Progress Administration under the guidance of the National Park Service in 1940-41. A new Custom House was built at the southwest corner of Chestnut and Second Streets in the early 1930's. When the old Custom House was vacated, the federal government announced it would be disposed of as surplus property. However, a movement to preserve the structure bore fruit with its designation as a National Historic Site in June, 1939. In December, an agreement was consumated with the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, Inc., whereby the Foundation was to occupy and maintain the building for 20 years.

Beginning in 1938 various representatives of the National Park Service prepared reports on the history and architecture of the building. Measured drawings were submitted and are found in the Historic American Building Survey records in the Library of Congress. Working drawings for a partial restoration were also prepared. Nearly $125,000 was spent on this project. The work is

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21 Charles M. Peterson, "Before Our Time", The American-German Review, XVII (Oct. 1951), p. 12.

summed up in a National Park Service report in 1947:[22]

> Among the major items in the project were the replacement of most of the exterior millwork to conform to original designs, replacement of interior floors, removal of stairway and restoration of Chestnut Street entrance, replacement of heating plant and electrical installations, refinishing of all interior walls, ceilings, and millwork, repainting, cleaning, and waterproofing exterior walls, steps, etc., repairs to roof, replacing cast iron fence and landscaping adjacent lot.

The report presents a description of the stairways leading from the north vestibule to the second floor. On each side of the vestibule was a flight of wrought iron stairs. Near the midpoint in elevation between the first and second floors the two flights reached a common landing and continued as a single flight to the second floor.[23] (see Figures 13, 14, and 15) During the restoration this stairway was removed and the vestibule, lobby, and stairway were partially restored to their original position and size. Likewise the marble flooring in the center of the Banking Room was removed and replaced with a wooden floor. Doors and panels along the north and south sides of the Banking Room were altered, some reverting to their positions in the original plan, others to serve for decorative or functional purposes.[24]

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22 "Old Philadelphia Custom House" (National Park Service Report, 1947).

23 Ibid.

24 This work may be compared by consulting the drawings prepared for the Historic American Building Survey and for the rehabilitation of the Custom House (see Figures 18 and 29).

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Ownership of Property

The land now occupied by the Second Bank of the United States was originally owned by William Penn. Unlike a simple house lot, the property eventually purchased for the bank building came from several parcels of land. The bank directors purchased property from Joseph Parker Norris, Caldwell & Keppele and Edward Thomson in 1818 to erect the structure. In 1830 two additional lots were purchased: one from Thomas Hewson on the east and one from Hartman Kuhn on the west. (For a more complete description of the property, including chain of title, see Appendix B.)

History of the Second Bank

The refusal of the Republicans to recharter the First Bank of the United States in 1811 left the nation without a strong central banking authority when war was declared the following year. This had severely handicapped the federal government during the War of 1812 and finally left the currency in near chaos. State banks sprang up overnight; their note issues doubled; and the volume of bank loans increased. The over-expanded structure of credit collapsed under the weight of the war and most banks had suspended specie payment. The federal government issued $80,000,000 in bonds for which it received but $34,000,000 in specie. The public debt increased nearly three fold. Clearly positive action had to be taken to bring financial order out of chaos.

To remedy this financial dilemma the Second Bank of the United States was chartered in 1816 for a period of 20 years. The initial task of the new bank was to restore the currency and rehabilitate the government finances. The bank did not at first enjoy an unblemished reputation. Its first president, William Jones, had mismanaged the institution. However, Langdon Cheves, its second president, restored its solvency and weathered tests of the bank's constitutionality. The Supreme Court of the United States upheld the bank (McCulloch v. Maryland) against the individual states which sought to tax the branch banks out of existence. Chief Justice John Marshall's opinion stands "as a crucial and lasting affirmation of federal powers under the Constitution."

The most successful period of the bank was from 1823 to 1832, from the ascendency of Nicholas Biddle as its president to the attack by President Andrew Jackson upon the banking house. The presidential election of 1832 was a victory for Jackson and a defeat for the bank. The bank had been managed well since 1819 and had provided a uniform and satisfactory monetary system for the business world. It was profitable to the government and the stockholders, but was most unpopular in the debtor West. Jackson shared this western prejudice and feared the bank "as a dangerous monopoly prejudicial to the interests of the common man."

However, the President refrained from any overt expression of this attitude until 1832 when Biddle allowed the bank to become a political issue. Even though the bank's charter was not to expire until 1836 the supporters of Henry Clay prevailed upon Biddle to ask for a renewal of the charter. Jackson vetoed the bill, the fight was joined and the bank was made an issue in the presidential election of 1832. Jackson was victorious and the bank was doomed. Biddle attempted to stem the tide by ordering a contracting of loans and producing a tight credit policy. This merely convinced the people that Jackson was right and the powers of the bank were dangerous to the nation. Jackson fought back by refusing to deposit government funds in the bank, placing them instead in the "pet banks." This dealt a staggering blow to the bank before its charter expired in 1836.

Biddle remained with the bank which now petitioned the Pennsylvania legislature for a charter. The petition was granted on February 18, 1836. However, the bank no longer was a regulator of currency or a central bank. Its policy changed from one of astuteness to one of "empire building" and it collapsed permanently in 1841. Biddle had been cheered for the success of the bank, now he was blamed for its failure. He was indicted for conspiracy to defraud the bank but the charges were dismissed.

Four years after closing its doors the building was reopened by the federal government and until 1934 served as the

Custom House for the port of Philadelphia. Its origin as the proud edifice which housed the Second Bank of the United States was generally forgotten. It was rescued from oblivion in 1939 when it was named a National Historic Site.

The structure played an important role in the world of architecture as well as in finances and banking. It was an early exemplar in the development of the Greek Doric style of classical architecture in this country. Its basic features were patterned after the Parthenon in Greece. This structure was widely imitated throughout the nation. When branch banks were established in other cities, many of them were patterned after the "mother bank" on Chestnut Street. Many others that did not follow the Greek chose some form of classical architecture as exemplified by the facade of the Wall Street Office of the Second Bank of the United States. It epitomized American taste in public buildings in the early nineteenth century:[25]

> The ancient temples were repositories of wealth and sources of credit, but it was not this circumstance that inspired American banks to house themselves in classic forms. Rather it was compliance with the tendency of a new and ambitious country, such as the United States to "improve" itself....The superabundance of the primitive all around made the Americans aspire for the sophisticated and the correct; and there was nothing more correct than the Greek.

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25 Bray Hammond, "The Second Bank of the United States", Historic Philadelphia From The Founding Until the Early Nineteenth Century. Issued as Volume 43, Part 1 of the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. (Philadelphia, 1953.), p. 82.

EVALUATION OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

The Second Bank of the United States was patterned after the Parthenon by the architect William Strickland and is considered one of the finest examples of Greek revival architecture in the United States. The structure is one of the few noteworthy public buildings of this style and period that have survived to the present.

The building attracted international attention, particularly from Europe. It received the highest praise by a correspondent of the London Morning Chronicle who declared that it excelled the Bank of England in elegance and equalled it in utility. Furthermore, this edifice antedated similar adaptions of the Parthenon in Europe.

The building began as the home of that august financial institution--the Second Bank of the United States. Although remembered chiefly as the Custom House for the City and Port of Philadelphia from 1845-1934, its historical associations go far beyond the routine of customs collections. The tap root of this institution reaches deep into the early cultural growth of America; it symbolizes Philadelphia's supremacy in the financial world; even more it marks a milestone in the history of banking in the United States; and finally it was the storm center of the bitter struggle between Andrew Jackson and his followers on the one hand and Nicholas Biddle, Henry Clay, and the Whigs on the other that sealed the fate of the bank.

The impressive edifice which once housed the Second Bank of the United States is unquestionably one of the most important structures in the history of the nation, symbolizing as it does the great political and economic issues of America's adolescence and the tastes and pretensions of a young people.

Conclusions

In view of the importance of the Second Bank Building in the history of the United States, all of the remaining original features should be preserved.

The exterior of the bank building has changed little over the past 135 years. It is known that the roof has been modified, but little is known about its original structural elements. The modifications do not detract from the building's appearance. Three of the second floor windows in both east and west walls have been enlarged and one window has been added to the center section of these walls (see Figures 3, 10, and 11). Some changes have also been made in treatment of windows and doors on the south end of the building (see Figure 8).

Successive changes in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries have so altered the interior of the Second Bank of the United States that few of the original interior structural features remain, except in the Banking Room which has remained essentially

as it appeared in 1821. Practically the only changes have been in doorways that have been cut or closed. The walls of the Lobby (south), the north walls of the Cashier's Room and the President's Room have not been removed at any time. Quite possibly the same may apply to the west wall of the Cashier's Room, the east wall of the President's Room, and the east wall of the Assistant Cashier's Office. Architectural investigation to determine if these walls are original is recommended.

No early plans of the second floor are available. Here again architectural investigations would have to be undertaken to determine if any of the walls are original in the vault, an unmarked room 24' x 11' 10", the records room, and the water closet (see Figures 19 and 28).

Early plans of the attic and basement are unavailable but some changes were made with the floor lights in the attic (see Figures 20 and 21).

APPENDIX A

Mr. William Strickland's description of the "New Bank of the United States" as it appeared in The Port Folio XII, (July - Dec., 1821), pp. 204-207.

> In the design and proportions of this edifice, we recognize the leading features of that celebrated work of antiquity, the Parthenon at Athens. In selecting this example as a model for a building such as a bank, requiring a peculiar internal arrangement and distribution of space and light, it becomes a difficult task for an architect to preserve all the characteristics of a Grecian temple, whose original and appropriation was solely for the worship of the Gods, and for depositories of public treasure. The peripteros or flanking columns of a Grecian building produces a decidedly beautiful feature in architrave. But they cannot be applied with their proper effect to places of business, without a sacrifice of those principles which have a constant application to internal uses and economy.
>
> The design before us is of the Grecian Doric, characterised as Hypaetheros, having eight fluted columns 4 feet 6 inches in diameter, embracing the whole front, taken from the Parthenon, or temple of Minerva, Hecatompedon at Athens, being divested of the columns of the peripteros and pronaus, of the sculptured metopes of the freize, and the basso-relievo figures in the Hympanum of the pediment.
>
> The columns rise from a basement 6 feet in elevation supporting a plain entablature, extending along the sides of a parallelogram 86 by 160 feet including the body of the building and porticos that project 10 feet 6 inches from each of the fronts. The vertical angle of the pediment is 152° forming an uninterrupted line from end to end of the ridge or apex of the roof.
>
> The ascent to the porticos from the street is by a flight of six steps, to a terrace or platform, extending 16 feet on each flank, and in front of the edifice.

It is on this terrace that the building is reared, and from which it derives a great portion of its effect. The gateways on the right and left, open into paved avenues, which extend from Chesnut to Library streets, along each of the flanks serving to insulate the building from surrounding objects, it being inclosed along these avenues by a return of the iron railing exhibited in the front elevation.

This edifice is situated in a north and south direction fronting on Chesnut and Library streets.

Its length including the portico, is 161 feet, and breadth in front 87 feet. The floor of the principal or ground story is elevated 9 feet, surrounded on all sides by a terrace 14 feet wide, rising 3 feet wide, and paved with large flag stones jointed together. The main entrance is from Chesnut street, by a flight of marble steps extending along the whole front of the portico.

The door in the centre opens into a large vestibule with circular ends embracing the Transfer and Loan offices on the right and left, together with a commodious lobby leading to the banking room.

The vestibule ceiling is a prolonged panneled dome divided into three compartments, by bands enriched with the Guilloches springing from a projecting impost containing a sunken frette.— The pavement is tessilated with American and Italian marble throughout.

The Banking room occupies the centre of the building, being 48 feet wide, having its length 81 feet, in an east and west direction, and lighted exclusively from these aspects. Its leading features present a double range of six fluted marble columns 22 inches in diameter, at a distance of 10 feet each from the side walls, forming a screen or gallery for the clerks' desks which are placed within the intercolumniations.

These columns are of the Greek Ionic Order, with a full entablature, and blocking course on

which the great central and lateral arches are supported; the central arch being semi-cylindrical is 28 feet in diameter, 81 feet in length, and subdivided into seven compartments with projecting concentric platbands over and of equal diameter with each column, the intervals being enriched with square sunken moulded pannels; this ceiling is 35 feet from the floor to the crown of the arch, executed with great precision and effect.

An Isthmian wreath, carved in one entire block of Pennsylvania white marble, surrounds the clock-face, which occupies the space of the first pannel over the entablature in the centre, the design of which is copied from the reverse of an antique gem, found at Corinth, and described by Stuart in his valuable work on the Antiquities of Athens.

The tellers' counters are composed of marble, forming pannelled pedestals across each end of the banking room commencing at the first column from each of the end walls.

The stockholder's room is a parallelogram of 28 feet by 50 feet, being lighted from the south front, having a groin arched ceiling, with projecting platbands, enriched with the Guilloches springing near the base of the groin angle, across the semicircular intrados of the arch. Each end of the room is ornamented with niches 8 feet wide, the heads of which form an architrave concentric with the semicircular pannels in the tympanum of the shortest diameter.

The committee rooms from the stockholders', open right and left, flanked by two flights of marble stairs, leading to the clock chamber, and other apartments in the second story. The private stairway from the banking room leads to the directors', engravers', and copper-plate printers' rooms being lighted from the roof by a plain convex glass light, 20 inches in diameter, and six inches thick, manufactured in Boston by Messrs. Jarvis & Co. the light being inserted in a marble curb, is placed on the apex of a cone which perforates the arch above the stair-way.

All the internal door jambs, sills, and imposts are of marble.— The fire places are principally under the windows, and formed within the thickness of the external walls, and covered with thick cast iron plates.

The banking room is amply warmed by two cast-iron furnaces, lined with fire-brick, being simply erected within an air chamber, through which the external atmosphere passes and becomes heated by the furnace, it then rises through the arch into a circular cast-iron pedestal, perforated on the sides, out of which it is suffered to escape into the room.

The whole body of the building is arched in a bomb-proof manner from the cellar to the roof, which is covered with copper.— All the groin arches are girdled at the springing line with iron straps, passing round within the body of the division walls.

It may be here practically useful to observe, that all buildings of a public nature, should be thus constructed, as the only safeguard against the ravages of the incendiary, and the no less fatal but inevitable attacks of time.

APPENDIX B

CHAIN OF TITLE

In order to clarify the chain of title it will be necessary to create three land groups and discuss each in turn for purposes of identification (see Figure 22).

The first to be discussed is Parcel A (see Figure 23) and identified as passing from Joseph Parker Norris to the Bank of the United States. In June 1682 William Penn granted to Richard Davis, a gentleman of England, 1250 acres "to be alloted and set out in such places or parts of the said Province [Pennsylvania]." No property dimensions are recorded and there are some small gaps in the chain of title but these do not hinder the efforts in establishing the ownership rolls in the ensuing years. Davis turned his grant over to David Lloyd et.al. with instructions to dispose of this property in Pennsylvania. Lloyd himself acquired title to the Chestnut Street property in 1702 which was described as four lots on the south side of Chestnut Street each 49 1/2 feet in breadth and 249 feet in depth. Lloyd also acquired title to the lot abutting Fifth Street but no date of transfer is recorded. That same year Lloyd sold the lots (247 1/2 frontage and 249 feet deep) to Enoch Story, a vintner, who in turn transferred the land to Joshua Carpenter, a brewer, in 1704 for the sum of £200. Upon Carpenter's death the lots were inherited by his widow Elizabeth. The property remained with Elizabeth Carpenter or her heirs until

it passed to Charles Norris, merchant, in 1754. Charles Norris died in 1788 leaving the lot described below to his son Isaac. Beginning at a stake a distance of 139 feet 2 inches from the southeast corner of Chestnut and Fifth Street (on the south side of Chestnut Street), thence by the allotment of George and Deborah Logan southwardly 225 feet to a court 50 feet wide, then on the same eastwardly 115 feet 4 inches to a stake in Andrew Caldwell's line, and then by his lot northward 133 feet, westward 7 feet, and northward 92 feet to Chestnut Street, and by the same street westward 108 feet to the beginning.

Isaac Norris sold a part of his large lot to his brother Joseph Parker Norris, a merchant, in 1790, described as being situated on the south side of Chestnut Street, beginning at a distance of 139 feet 2 inches from the southeast corner of Chestnut and Fifth Streets, then by the ground formerly of George Logan (then of Adam Kuhn) a distance of 225 feet to a court, then eastward 32 feet 9 inches to the other ground of said Isaac Norris, then northward 225 feet adjoining the wall of a mansion to Chestnut Street, then westward 32 feet 9 inches to the beginning.

In 1802 Isaac died intestate and the estate was divided among two brothers and a sister, Joseph Parker Norris, Charles Norris and Deborah Logan. Charles and Deborah sold their shares to Joseph in 1804 who sold his entire holdings described above to

the President, Directors, and Company of the Bank of the United States for the sum of $102,000 in 1818.

Parcel B (see Figure 24) is the second area to be discussed and identified as passing from Michael Keppele, Catherine Caldwell Keppele and Elizabeth Caldwell to the Bank of the United States. The first transaction was a warrant dated March 1, 1684, by which William Penn conveyed to Edward Luffe the lot on the south side of Chestnut Street beginning at a point 247 1/2 feet from the southeast corner of Chestnut and Fifth Streets extending southward 255 feet, then eastward 49 1/2 feet, then northward 255 feet, and then along Chestnut Street 49 1/2 feet to the beginning. By inference we learn that in 1747 Samuel Parr was owner of the lot formerly owned by Edward Luffe. On June 6, 1747, John Lassell deeded a lot to Samuel Parr that was bounded on the west by a lot formally owned by Luffe but was now owned by Parr. In 1750 the estate of Samuel Parr was conveyed to William Parr, who in turn sold the property to Thomas Campbell, a merchant. Twelve years later Thomas Campbell conveyed the lot adjacent to the Charles Norris dwelling to his son Peter.

However, Peter Campbell, who was Tory in his sympathies, lost the property during the American Revolution when it was seized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Campbell estate was sold to Andrew Caldwell in 1780, and contained a lot 106 feet in width

and 255 feet in depth, bounded on the east by John Sober, on the south by the back lots of Walnut Street, on the west by Charles Norris, and on the north by Chestnut Street. This particular piece of property had three large parcels and numerous minor tracts that were involved in various transactions. It will suffice for our purpose to consider the larger parcels under consideration.

The west portion of the lot, 23 feet by 120 feet, was deeded by Andrew Caldwell and his wife to Sarah Caldwell, a widow, in 1786. This property in turn passed to Catherine Caldwell Keppele and Elizabeth Caldwell, who sold it to the Bank of the United States in 1818. The land to the rear of this lot 23 feet in width and 135 feet in depth went to Catherine and Elizabeth by their step-father in 1793. Catherine, who married Michael Keppele, and Elizabeth, a spinster, sold the property to the Bank of the United States in 1818.

The lot east of the above lot is described as lying south of Chestnut Street. It extended eastward 68 feet 4 inches, then south for 151 feet, then east for 15 feet, then south 104 feet to Walnut Street, then west 83 feet 4 inches and north to the beginning. It was bounded on the west by Keppele and Caldwell, on the north by Chestnut Street, on the east by lots granted to Pennel Beale, a cabinet maker, and on the south by Walnut Street. The entire lot was sold to Pennel Beale in 1809. Beale in turn carved out three

smaller lots. The westernmost lot (Parcel C) (see Figure 25) contained a front of 22 feet on Chestnut Street and 225 feet in depth and was sold to Edward Thomson in 1809, and Thomson in turn sold the property to the President, Directors, and Company of the Bank of the United States in 1818.

The center lot (Parcel B) (see Figure 26) from this group of three was sold to Anne Townes in 1811 and is described as beginning in the middle of the partition wall dividing Beale's structure from that conveyed by Beale to Edward Thomson, then south 84 feet 8 inches, then east 9 inches, then south 42 feet 4 inches, then east 8 feet, then south 8 feet 9 inches, then west 2 feet, then south 89 feet 3 inches to Library Street, then east along Library Street 15 feet 4 inches to a three foot alley, then north along the west side of the alley and other ground of Beale 225 feet to Chestnut Street, then west 22 feet 4 inches to the beginning. This lot passed to Felipe Fatio in 1811 to be held in trust for Maria Therese Fatio. Two years later at a sheriff's sale the property passed to Thomas Hewson, who sold it to the President, Directors, and Company of the Bank of the United States in 1830.

Parcel D (see Figure 27) came to the bank in 1830. It began with Charles Norris granting to his daughter Deborah and her husband George Logan the parcel of land east of the Isaac Norris lot on Chestnut Street which was 83 feet 6 inches wide and 225 feet

in length. George and Deborah Logan sold the plot to Dr. Adam Kuhn in 1790 which was described as 27 feet 10 inches wide and 225 feet long bounded on the east by Isaac Norris, on the south by the alley, on the west by the ground of William Williams, and on the north by Chestnut Street. That same year Joseph Parker Norris sold a strip of land 2 feet wide and 255 feet long on the west edge of his property to Kuhn. Kuhn's lot was now 29 feet 10 inches wide and 225 feet long. Adam Kuhn died intestate and the plot passed to Charles and then to Hartman Kuhn, the sons of Adam Kuhn. Hartman Kuhn sold the property to the President, Directors, and Company of the Bank of the United States in 1830.

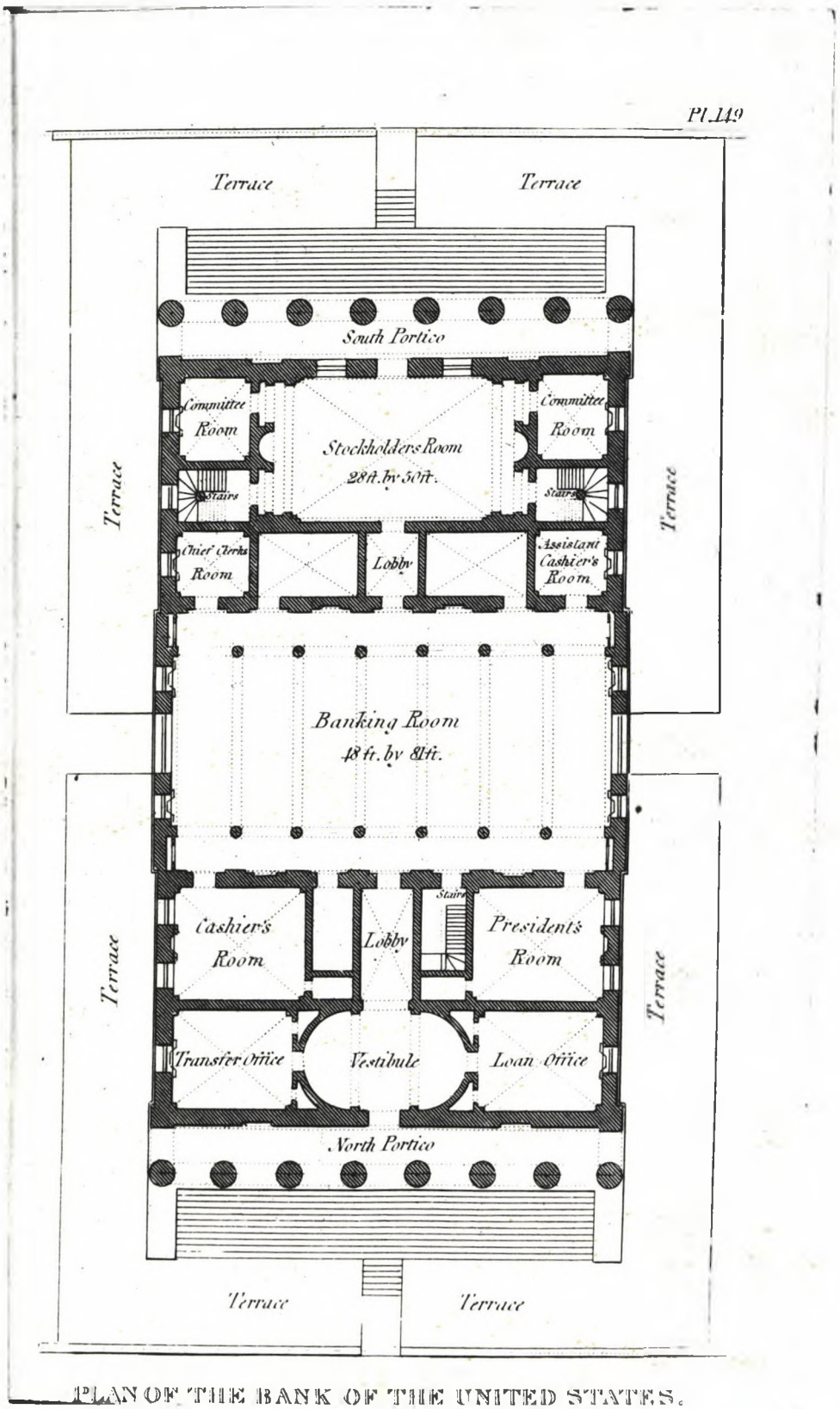
The Second Bank of the United States was chartered in 1816 for a 20 year period. A bill to recharter the bank passed both houses of Congress in 1832, but received a resounding veto by President Jackson. The bank came to an end in 1836 and the property was sold to the President, Directors, and Company of the Bank of the United States that was chartered by Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania on February 18, 1836. The property is described as the five contiguous lots, the marble banking house, and other structures that were erected upon the grounds.

The bank sold a portion of the former Hartman Kuhn lot to the Mechanics Bank of the City and County of Philadelphia in 1841. It was 29 feet 10 inches along the south side of Chestnut

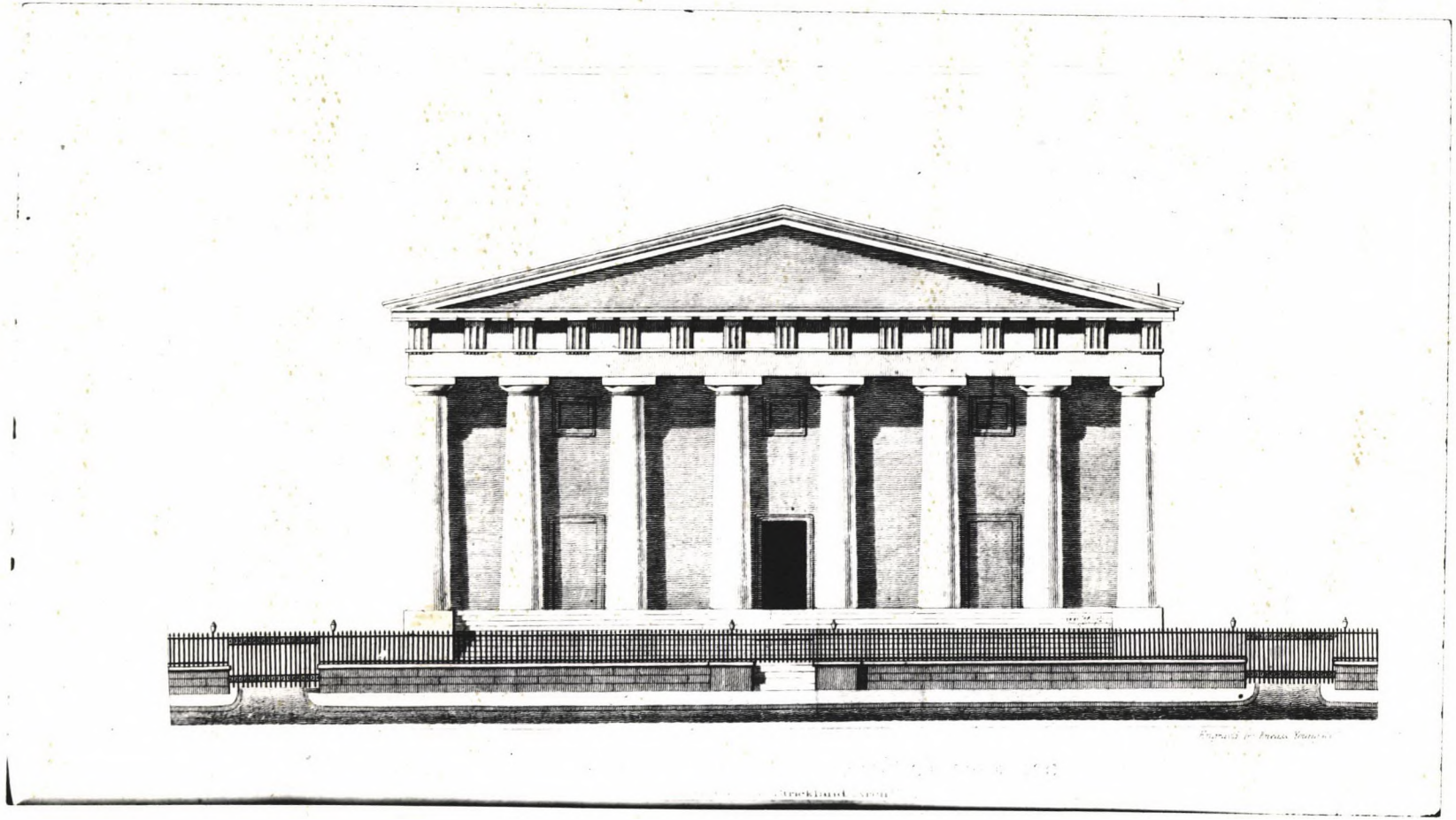
Street and extended to a depth of 80 feet. The latter bank sold it to Lyon J. Levy two years later. In the meantime the Bank of the United States (chartered by Pennsylvania) was placed in the hands of trustees (1841) and they sold the rear portion of the former Kuhn lot to Levy in 1843 bringing the size of the lot to 29 feet 10 inches in width and 225 feet in depth.

The trustees sold the large remaining portion of the bank property to the United States of America in 1844 and the federal government secured the lot formally owned by Levy through Henry M. Phillips who had purchased Levy's property at a sheriff's sale in 1860.

ILLUSTRATIONS



William Strickland's plan of the first floor of the Second Bank of the United States. From The Port Folio XII, (July - Dec., 1821).



The Second Bank of the United States. Front elevation. Engraved by Kneass Young & Co. Photostat Negative from the Analectic Magazine. Philadelphia 1819. Vol. 13, p. 203.

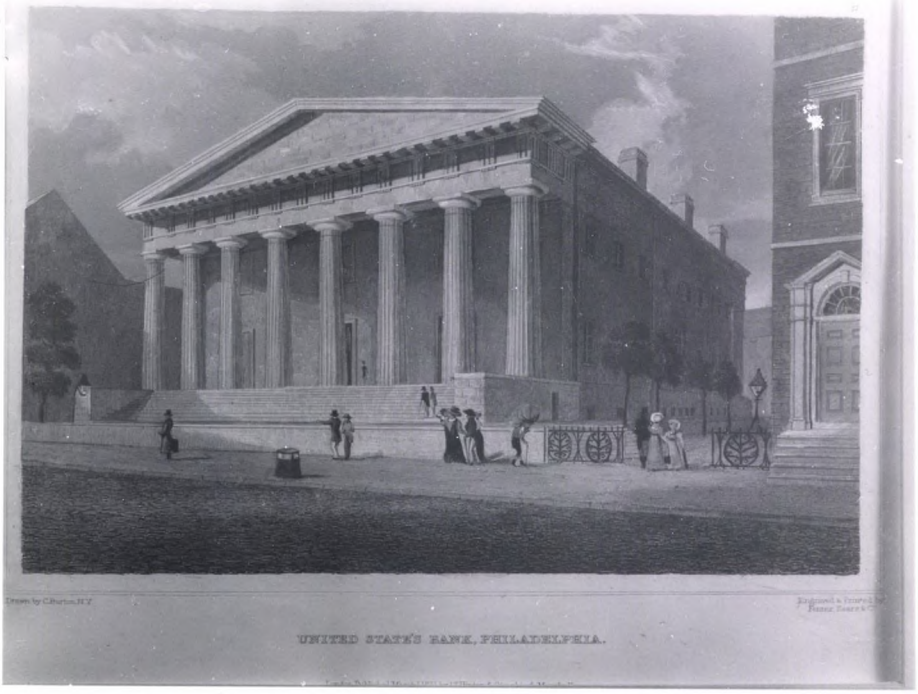
Chapter II
Figure 2

Chapter II
Figure 3

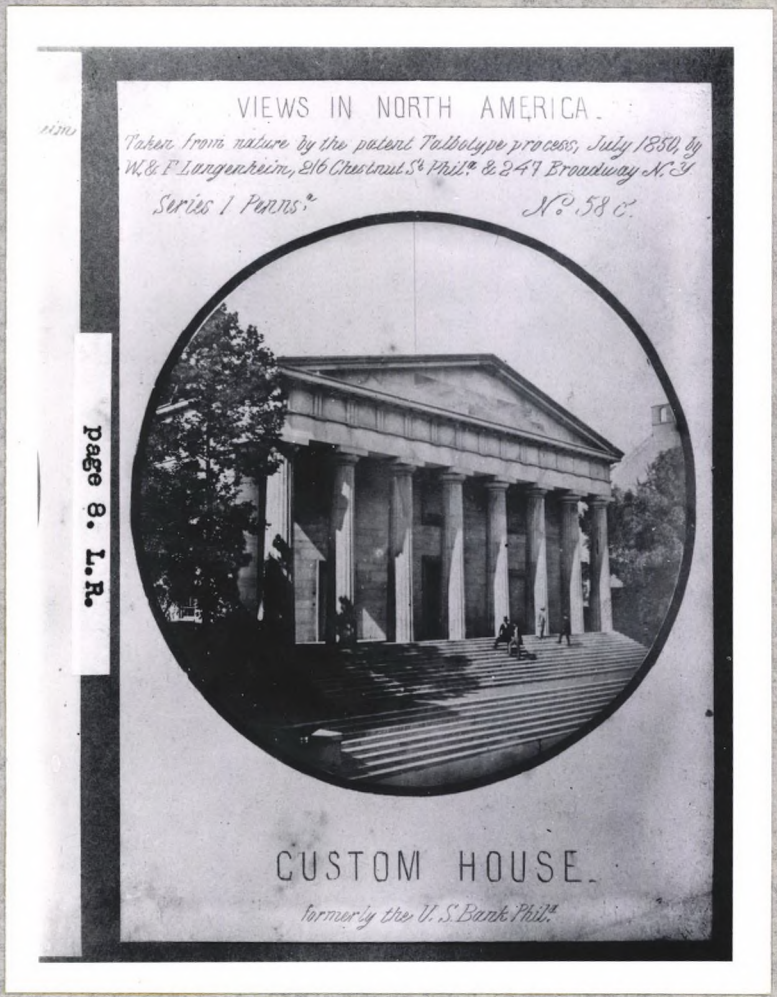


Second Bank of the United States. Tinted print, Thos. Birch, publisher, 1827. Philadelphia Scrapbooks, Library Company of Pennsylvania.

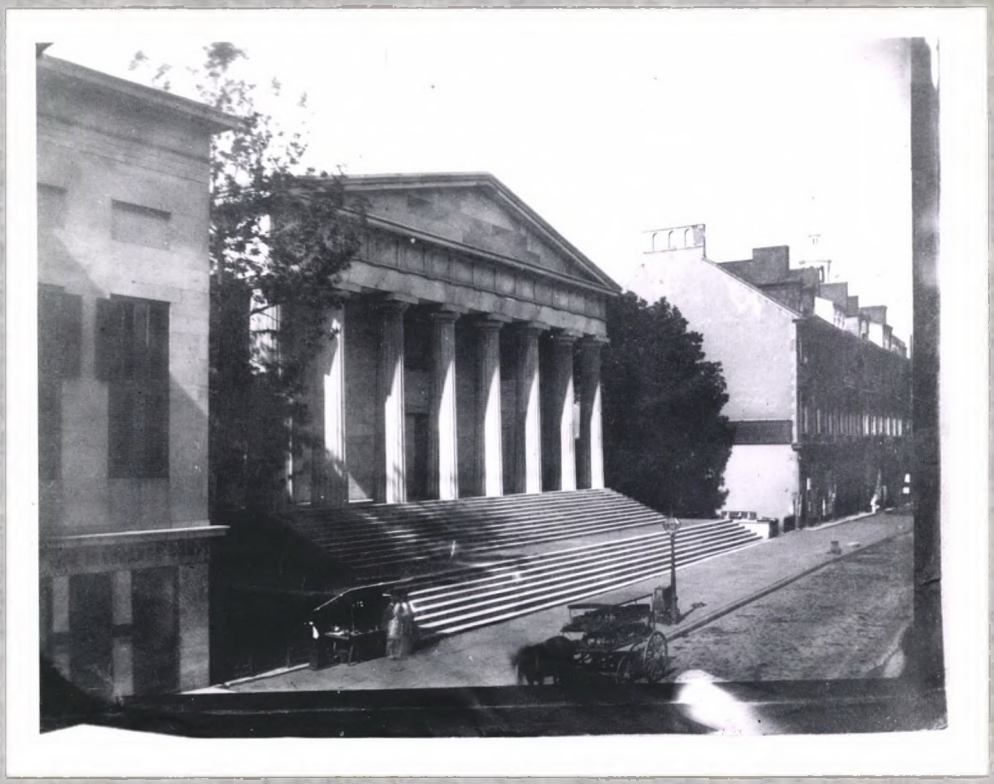
Chapter II
Figure 4



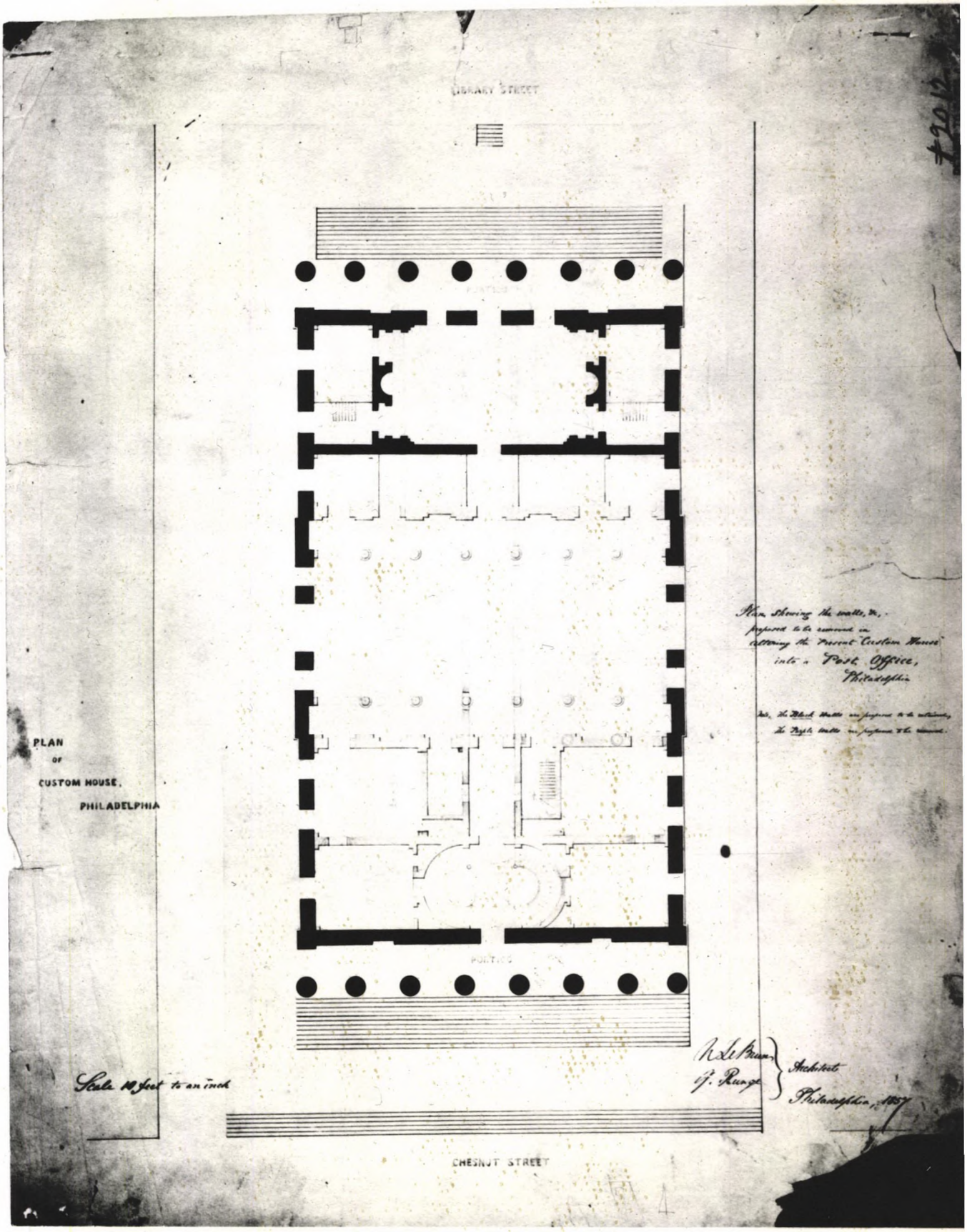
Second Bank of the United States from original engraving drawn by C. Burton, 1831. Engraving owned by Independence National Historical Park.



Custom House, July 1850, by W. & F. Langenheim - Talbotype. Missouri Historical Society.



Custom House between 1850-1863. Philadelphia Scrapbooks, Library Company of Philadelphia.



The LeBrun and Runge plan for proposed alterations in 1857. The black walls were to be retained and the light walls were to be removed. This plan was not adopted.



Old Custom House from Library Street. Photograph between 1863-1881. Philadelphia Scrapbooks, Library Company of Philadelphia.

Chapter II
Figure 9



West half - Philadelphia Bank after remodelling - Old photograph - Gift of Mr. Lutz to American Philosophical Society - Lutz Collection - Nov. 5/1945

Second Bank of the United States on right. Note CUSTOM HOUSE letters. 1910.

Chapter II
Figure 10

View from Northeast, March 1950.



Chapter II
Figure 11

View from Southwest, March 1950.



Chapter II
Figure 12



Second Bank of the United States. Looking eastward, July 17, 1957.



The Chestnut Street front hall and stairs leading to the second floor. Doors open into Main Banking Room. Stairs have been removed and oval hall restored. 1940-1941.



Chestnut St. entrance showing stairs to second floor and basement being removed.

Photograph taken during 1940-1941 restoration.



Second floor landing of stair. Being removed during restoration.

Photograph taken during 1940-1941 restoration.



Main Banking Room after restoration by the National Park Service.

The Banking Room during restoration in 1940-1941.

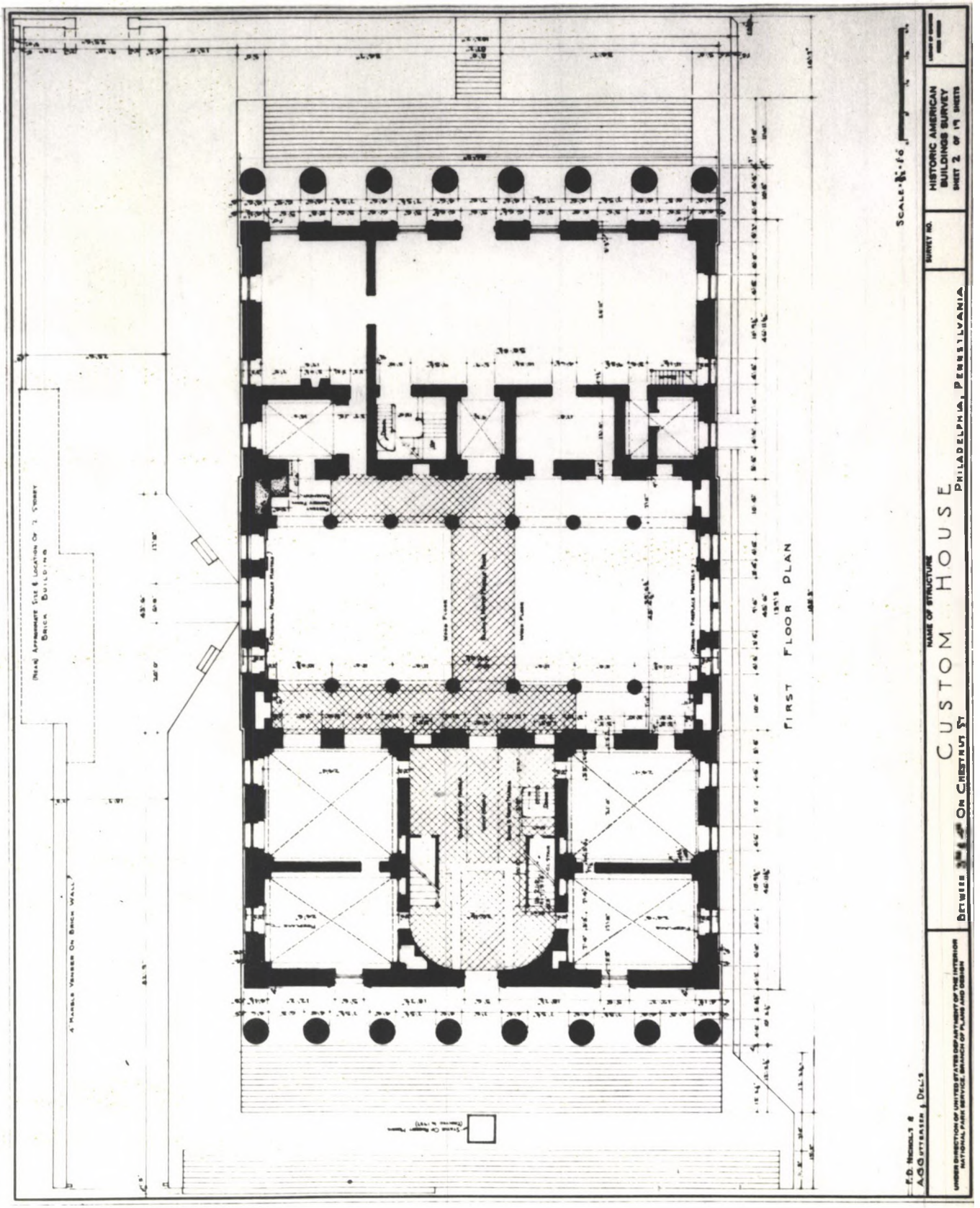
Chapter II
Figure 17

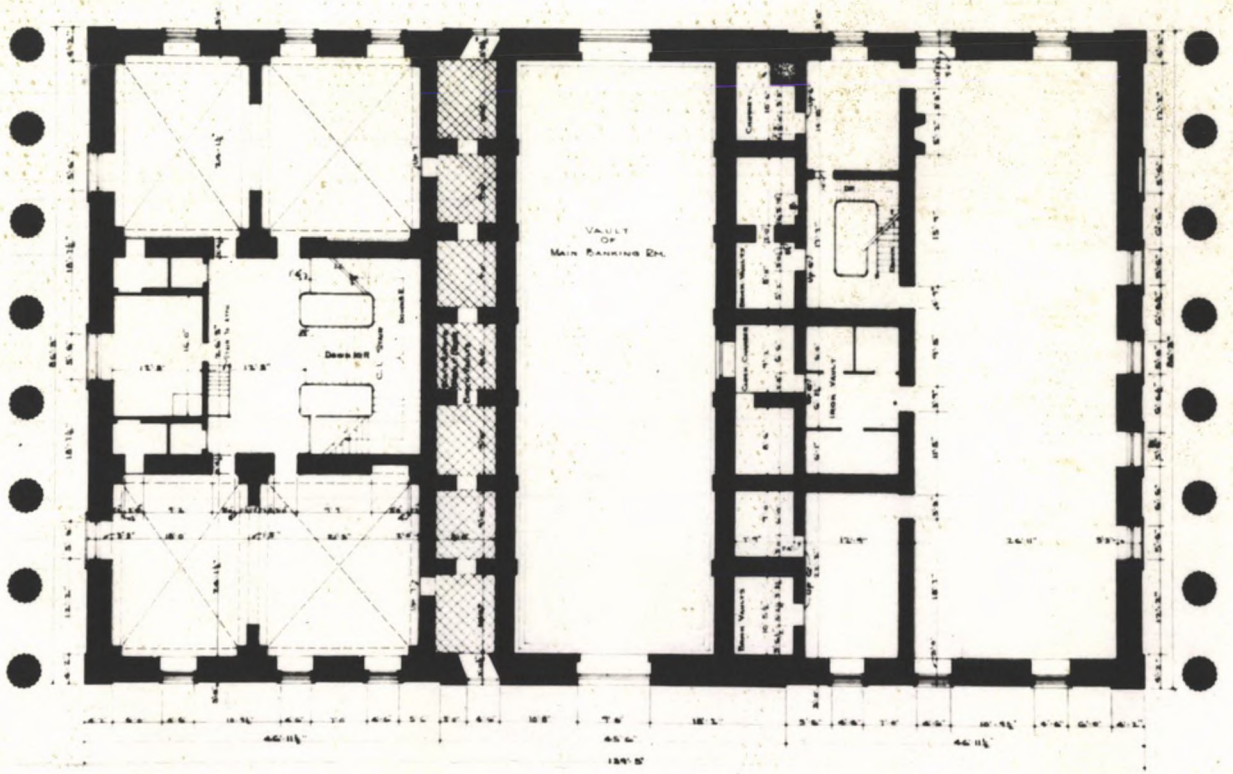


Main Banking Room during restoration by the National Park Service.

The Banking Room in 1941 after restoration.

Chapter II
Figure 18





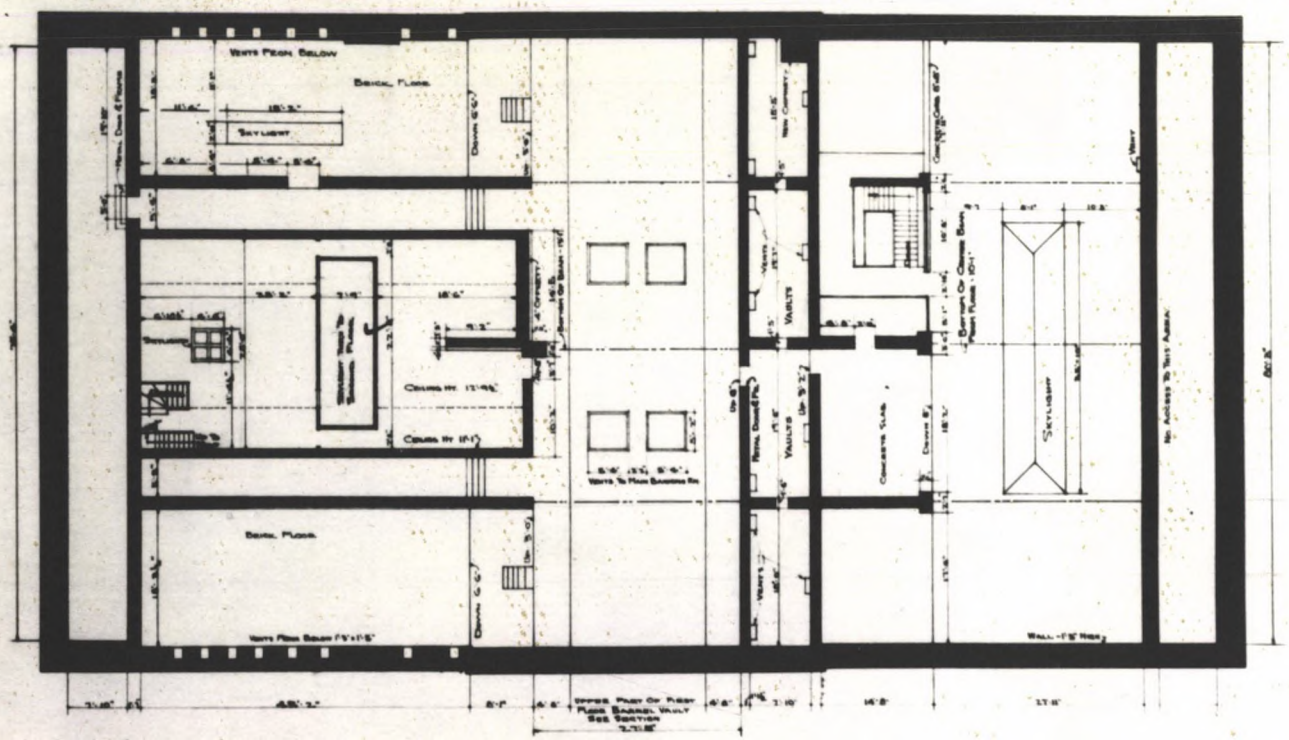
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

F.D. NICHOLS &
A.G. GUTTERSEN; DELT.

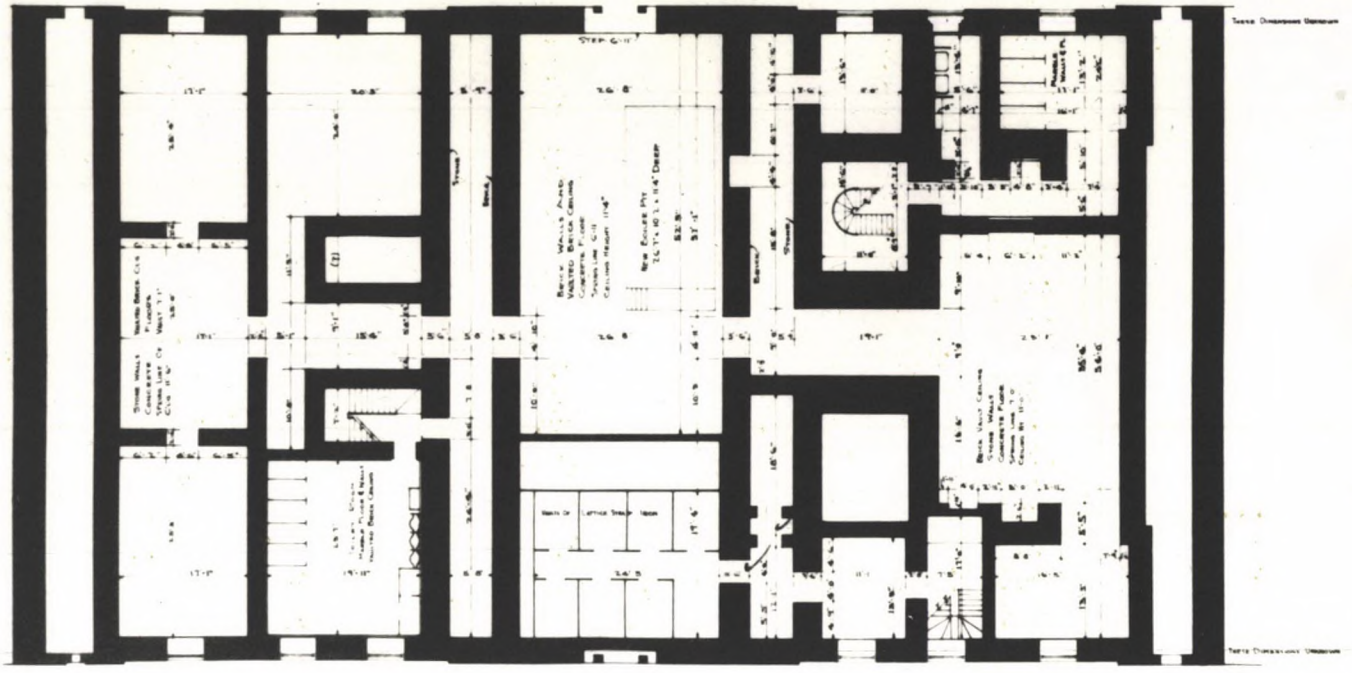
SCALE 1/8" TO 1'-0"

UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN	NAME OF STRUCTURE: CUSTOM HOUSE — BETWEEN 3RD & 4TH ON CHESTNUT ST — PHILADELPHIA; PENNSYLVANIA	SURVEY NO.	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY — SHEET 3 OF 19 SHEETS	LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Chapter II
Figure 19



Chapter II
Figure 20



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

F. D. NICHOLS &
A. G. GUTTERSEN: DELS.

Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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

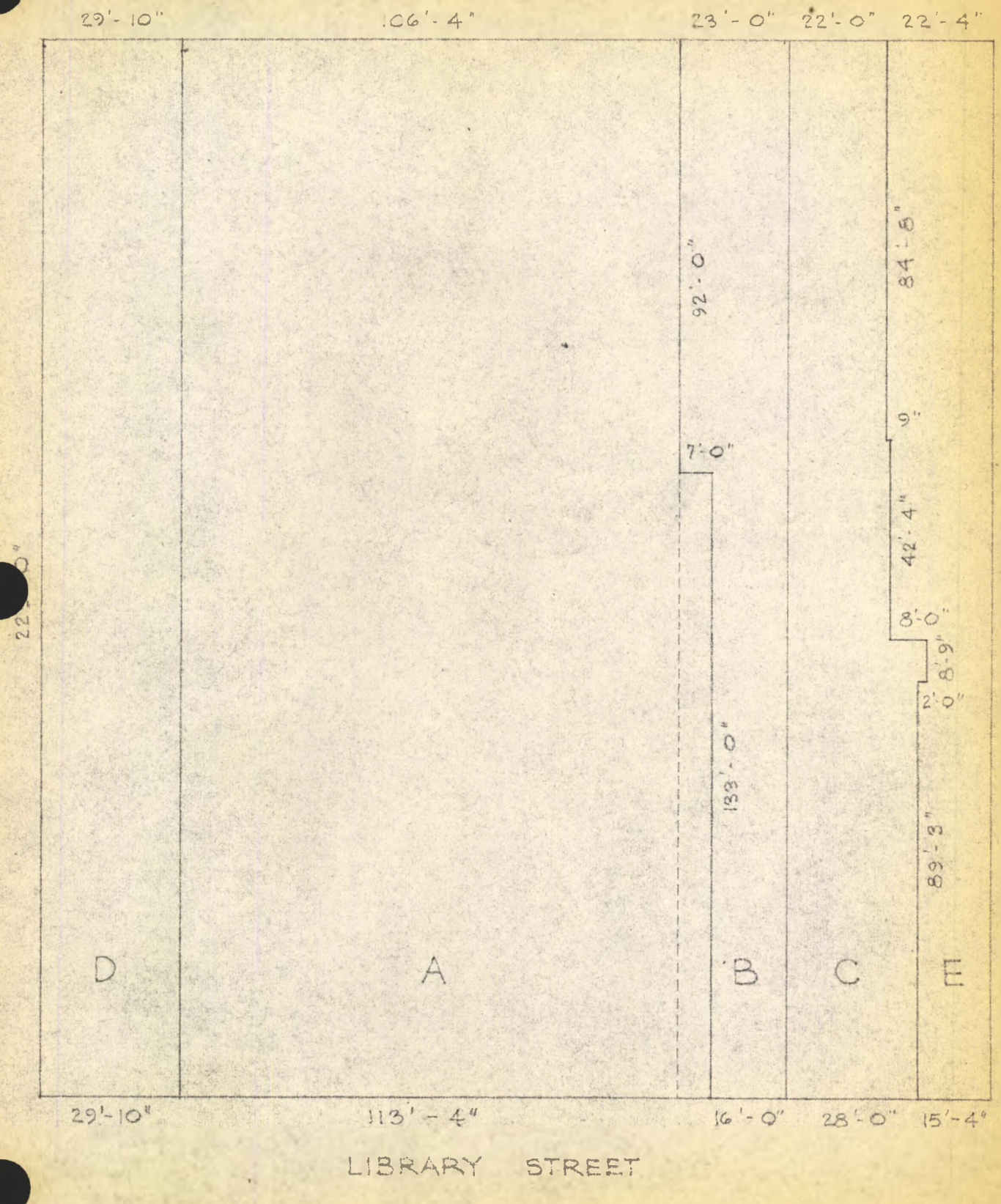
NAME OF STRUCTURE
CUSTOM HOUSE
BETWEEN 3RD & 4TH ON CHESTNUT ST.
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

SURVEY NO.

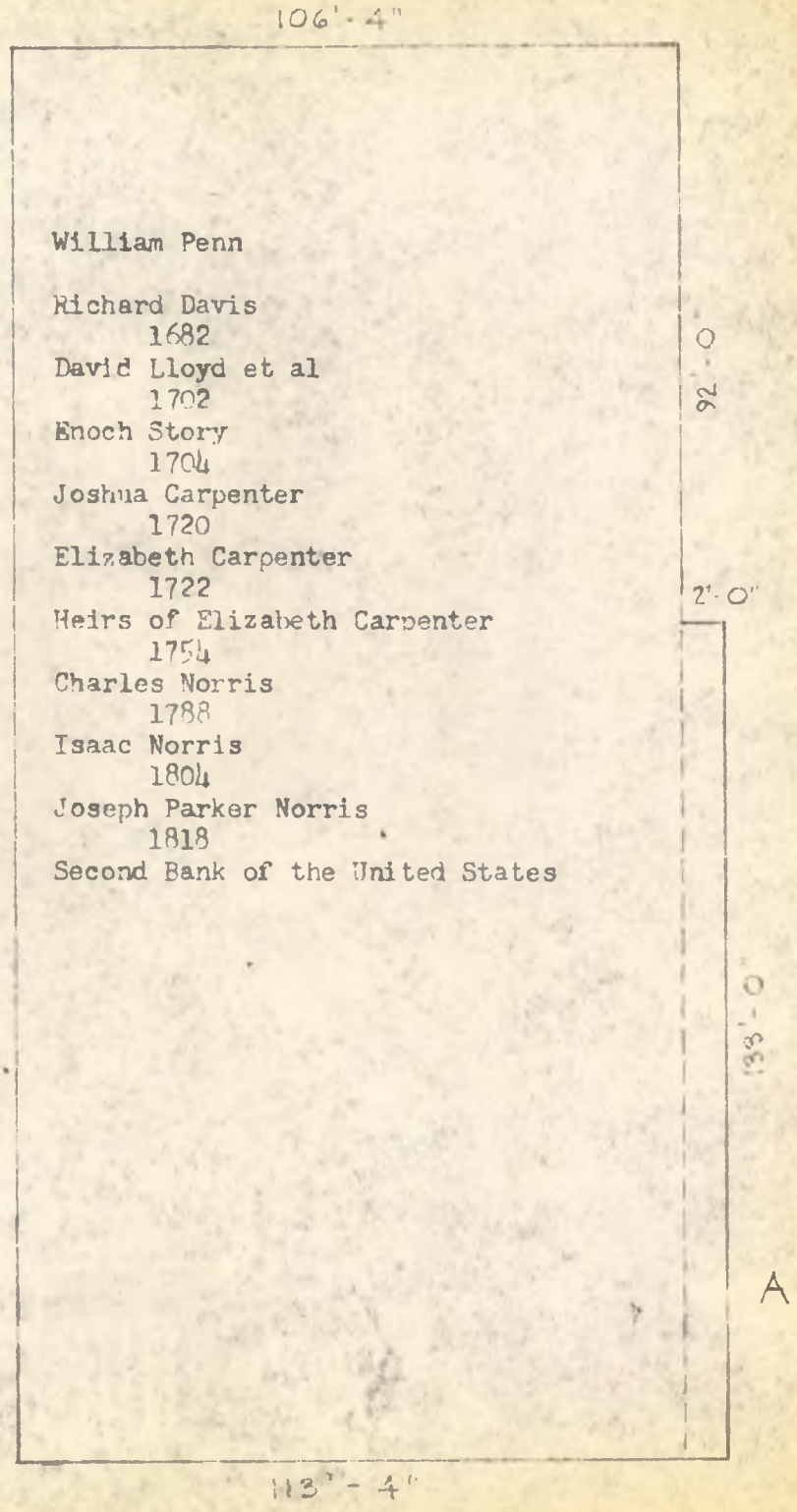
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 19 SHEETS

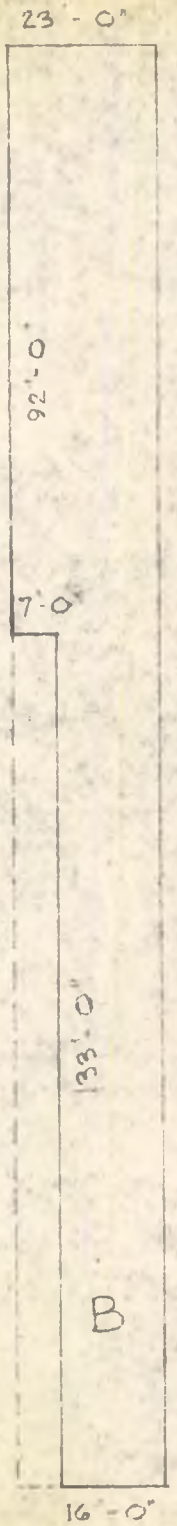
Chapter II
Figure 21

Chapter II
Figure 22



Chapter II
Figure 23





Thomas & Richard Penn

Edmund Luffe

Samuel Parr
1750
William Parr
1756
Thomas Campbell
1762
Peter Campbell

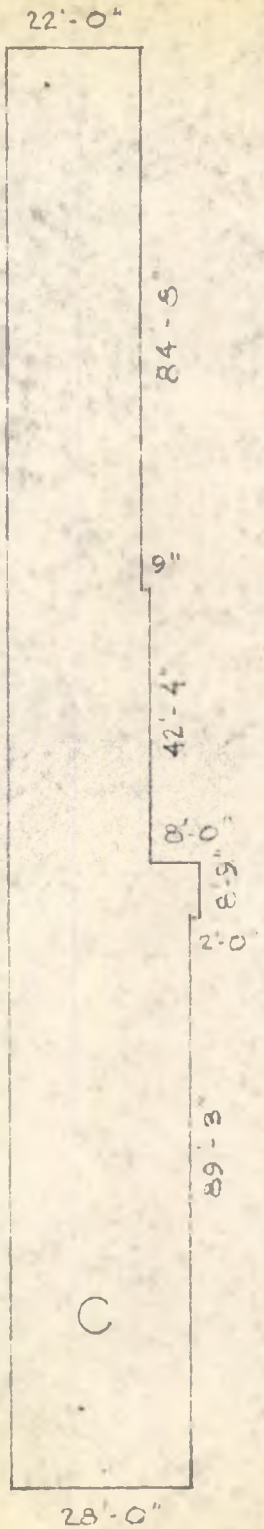
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (war seizure)
1780
Andrew Caldwell
1786
Catherine & Elizabeth Caldwell

Caldwell & Keppele
1818
Second Bank of the United States

1786
Sarah Caldwell

Catherine & Elizabeth Caldwell
1818
Second Bank of the United States

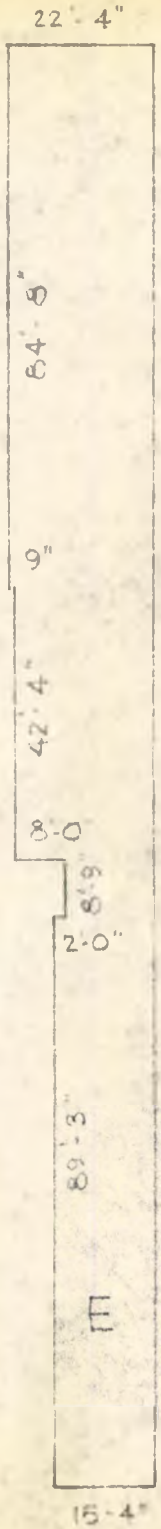
Dotted line represents property 7 feet x 133 feet that was included in deed of Caldwell-Keppele to Second Bank of the United States 1818.



William Penn (by his commissioners)
1688
Thomas Jones
1688/9
Elizabeth Morgan (Walker)
1693
Robert Furrows
1702
Thomas Lassell
1710
Mary Lassell h/w
1737
John Lassell (son)
1747
Samuel Parr
1750
William Parr
1756
Thomas Campbell
1762
Peter Campbell (son)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (war seizure)
1780
Andrew Caldwell
1793
Catherine & Elizabeth Caldwell

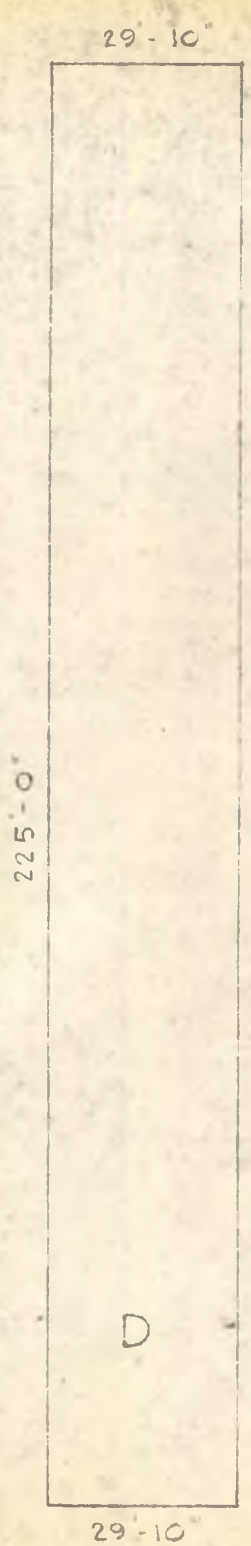
Caldwell & Keppele
1808
Pennell Beale
1809 & 1810
Edward Thomson
1818
Second Bank of the United States



William Penn (by his commissioners)
1688
Thomas Jones
1688/9
Elizabeth Morgan (Walker)
1693
Robert Burrows
1702
Thomas Lassell
1710
Mary Lassell h/w
1737
John Lassell (son)
1747
Samuel Parr
1750
William Parr
1756
Thomas Campbell
1762
Peter Campbell (son)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (war seizure)
1780
Andrew Caldwell
1793
Catherine & Elizabeth Caldwell

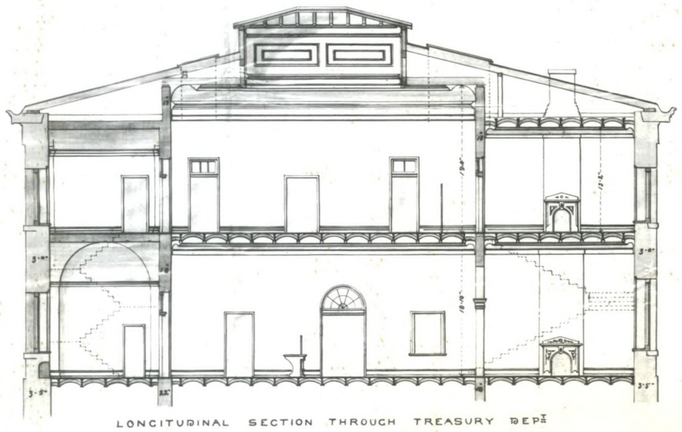
Caldwell & Keppele
1808
Pennell Beale
1811
Anne Townes
1813
Thomas Hewson (via Sheriff's Sale)
1830
Second Bank of the United States



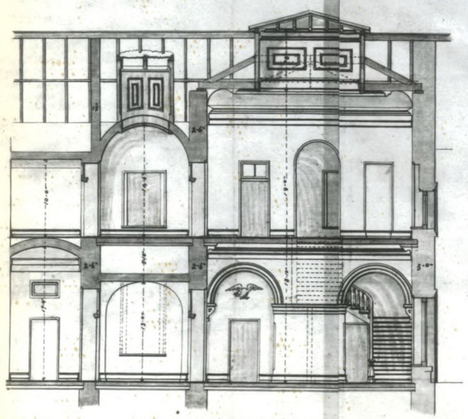
William Penn

Richard Davis
1682
David Lloyd et al
1702
Enoch Story
1704
Joshua Carpenter
1720
Elizabeth Carpenter
1722
Heirs of Elizabeth Carpenter
1754
Charles Norris
1788
George Logan & Deborah Norris Logan

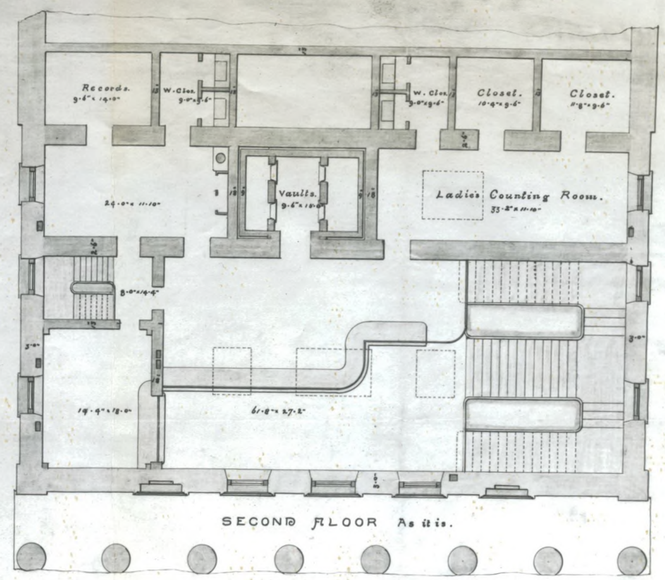
Adam Kuhn
1817
Hartman Kuhn
1830
Second Bank of the United States

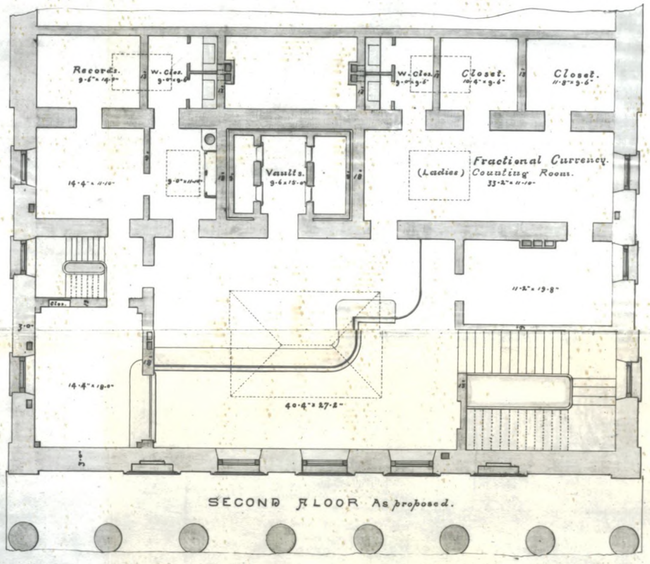


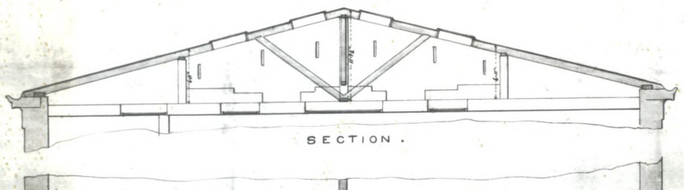
LONGITUDINAL SECTION THROUGH TREASURY DEPT
As proposed.



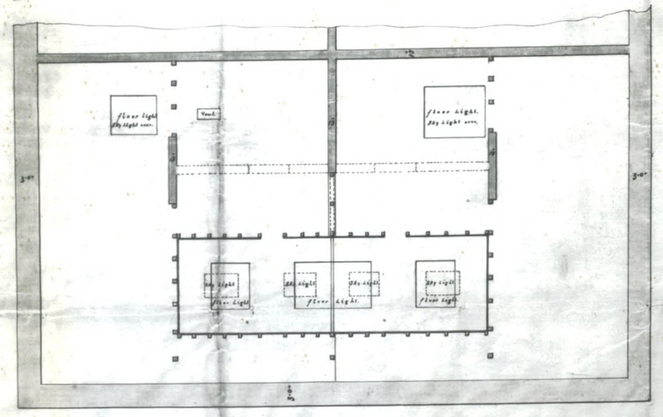
TRANSVERSE SECTION.
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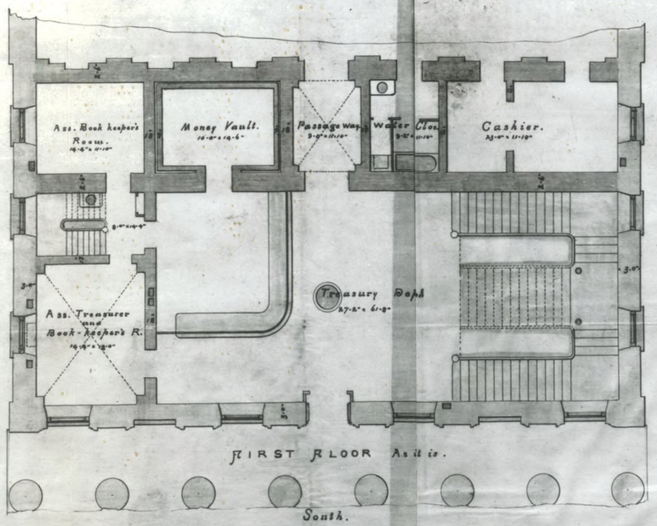
SECTION.

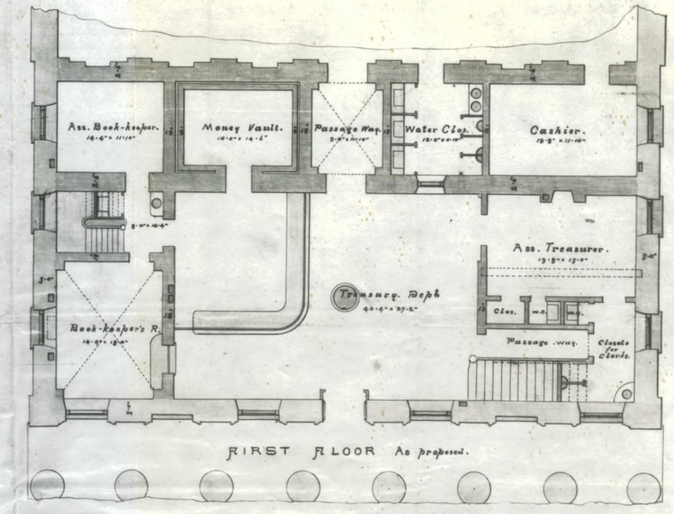


Scale 1/8 in. = one foot.

SUBMITTED BY
JOHN. McARTHUR JR. ARCHT.
SUPT OF U.S. PUBLIC BUILDINGS.
PHIL. JANY 1872

TO A.B. MULLETT.
SUPERVISING ARCHT.
U.S. TREASURY DEPT.
WASHINGTON D.C.





GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Washington, D. C.
Prints Control Unit
RECORDS OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION.
General Files: Incoming Correspondence Relating to the Old Custom House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Rocky Mt. Region

REHABILITATION OF CUSTOM HOUSE

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

OLD MUSEUM/PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING, NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

DRAWING NO. NHS-PCH 1001-A

SHEET 2 OF 24

REGION 1

RECOMMENDED ____ DATE ____
CONCURRED ____ DATE ____
APPROVED ____ DATE ____

BASIC DATA

DESIGNED BY

REVIEWED

CLEARED

· CUSTOM · HOUSE · PLACE ·

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

· CHESTNUT · STREET ·

· AVENUE ·

· MAGNOLIA · STREET ·

NORTH

EAST QUAY PLAN

TERRACE

· SCHEDULE · OF · WORK ·

· DOOR · SCHEDULE ·

No	ACT	LOCATION
1	2	(E) Bi-fold Doors, 5'11"H (E) 3'11"W Door-1
2	4	(E) Doors 6'-8"H (E) 3'-0"W (E) 1 3/4" Panel Doors "
P2	2	(E) Pocket Doors (E) 3'-0"W "
3	1	(E) 3'-0"W Door-3
4	4	(E) 3'-0"W (E) 7'-0"H (E) 1 3/4" Panel Doors "
5	2	(E) 3'-0"W (E) 7'-0"H Door-5
6	11	(E) 3'-0"W (E) 7'-0"H (E) 1 3/4" Panel Doors (E) Door-6
7	3	(E) 3'-0"W (E) 7'-0"H Door-7
8	2	(E) 3'-0"W 10'-0"H Door-8
9	1	(E) 3'-0"W 11'-0"H Double Door Door-9

NEW WORK :

EXISTING WORK :

TO BE REMOVED :

SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

Figure 29

CHAPTER III

FURNISHINGS AND EXHIBITION DATA

Prepared by Museum Curator David H. Wallace

EXISTING HISTORIC FURNISHINGS

Of the original furnishings of the Second Bank of the United States, only the great wall clock over the south door of the Banking Room is still in the building. No other furnishings are in the Park collections and none have been located elsewhere.

PROPOSED FURNISHING AND EXHIBIT PLANS

Since it is not proposed to refurnish any part of the building as it was furnished during the occupancy of the Second Bank of the United States, no furnishing plan is scheduled.

An exhibit plan for the first floor is scheduled for completion by June 30, 1960.

RECOMMENDATION FOR
INTERPRETIVE DEVELOPMENT

It is recommended that the first floor of the Second Bank building be used principally as a gallery for the exhibition of paintings, sculptures and prints from the Independence National Historical Park Collection of Historic Art, with one room reserved for a permanent exhibit on the history of the Second Bank of the United States, and that the basement and upper floors be used for curatorial offices, a conservation laboratory, and a central storage and study area for the Park collections.

Justification

Internationally recognized as one of the great collections of eighteenth century American art, the Independence National Historical Park Collection of Historic Art consists of about 400 oil paintings, miniatures, pastels, and sculptures and over 250 prints. It is particularly rich in portraits by Charles Willson Peale, one of most important American artists of the Revolutionary and early Federal periods and founder of the Philadelphia Museum which was located in Independence Square from 1794 to 1828. Over 100 portraits in the collection originally hung in Peale's Museum, were bought by the City of Philadelphia in 1854, and hung in Independence Hall from then until 1957 when they were placed in storage for lack of a safe place to exhibit them. Of these 100, over 90 were painted by Charles Willson Peale, the largest group of works from his hand in any collection. Since the 1870's the collection has also included

forty-six pastel portraits of prominent Americans, drawn during the 1790's by James Sharples and members of his family. This is the largest group of Sharples' pastels in one collection in the United States. Other artists of note represented in the Park Collection are Benjamin West, Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Sully, Henry Inman, James and Rembrandt Peale, Samuel F. B. Morse, and C. B. J. F. de St. Memin. Although it is difficult to place a monetary value on paintings which have not been on the market for over a century, it is believed that the collection as a whole is worth at least $1,500,000.

Historically this collection is important for several reasons. It contains over one-third of the paintings which were in C. W. Peale's Philadelphia Museum (1784-1849), the first important American museum of arts and sciences and from 1802 to 1828 the chief tenant of Independence Hall. It contains approximately 150 life portraits of persons prominent in national affairs during the Revolution and the first fifty years of the Federal Republic. Finally, the collection as a whole has been an integral part of the Independence Hall complex ever since the City of Philadelphia began developing the shrine in the 1820's and 1830's. As a substantial reminder of America's first important museum, as a national portrait gallery of distinguished early Americans, and as a part of the history of Independence Hall itself, this collection has very real importance in terms of interpreting the Park story.

As Independence National Historical Park develops, it will become, even more than it is now, the symbol of American devotion to liberty. It is important, therefore, that this gallery of historical paintings and prints, which portray the features of many leaders in America's fight for liberty under law, should be carefully preserved and displayed in a setting worthy of their significance. For this purpose the Second Bank building is in many respects ideally suited. It is an imposing and attractive structure well located near the physical center of the Park. It is of solid and relatively fire-proof construction. It is adaptable to the physical requirements of a painting gallery, such as air-conditioning, humidity control, and lighting, without undue expense or detriment to the historic character of the building. It affords sufficient space for hanging and storing of the entire collection, as well as for the necessary curatorial offices and conservation laboratory.

Recommended Use of Space

As a basis for planning, the following uses are recommended for the various rooms of the building. Reference is made by letter to attached floor plans.

First Floor:

Vestibule and corridor areas (A, B and C) should be used as passageways with no exhibits except perhaps for a few bronze or marble busts in the vestibule and prints in the corridors.

The room to the west of the vestibule (F) can be used for exhibits on the history of the Second Bank of the United States and on William Strickland, architect of this building, the Philadelphia Exchange and the present tower of Independence Hall.

Rooms L and M, in the southeast corner, should be reserved for staff use in connection with preparing exhibits.

The Banking Room (H) and rooms D, E, G, I, J, and K would provide suitable space for hanging at one time approximately 150 of the paintings and pastels and about 30 prints. These might be distributed as follows: Room G, portraits of French and other foreign participants in the American Revolution; Rooms D and E, paintings of Pennsylvania subjects, including West's "Penn's Treaty"; Rooms I and J, prints and miniatures; and Room K, paintings from the Peale and Sharples collections. The Banking Room (H), as the focal point of the gallery, should be used for exhibiting the most important groups of portraits in the collection, such as the Pine, Rush, Sharples and James Peale portraits of Washington, the Signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Signers of the Constitution. Larger special exhibitions could also be staged in the Banking Room through the use of movable partitions.

Second Floor:

The rooms at the north end (A through E) can accommodate the curatorial offices (C and D), the conservation laboratory (E and F). The women's rest room (B) would be for public use.

At the south end of the building Room G would serve as the storage area for paintings and prints. The adjoining small rooms would be useful for work and study areas.

Third Floor:

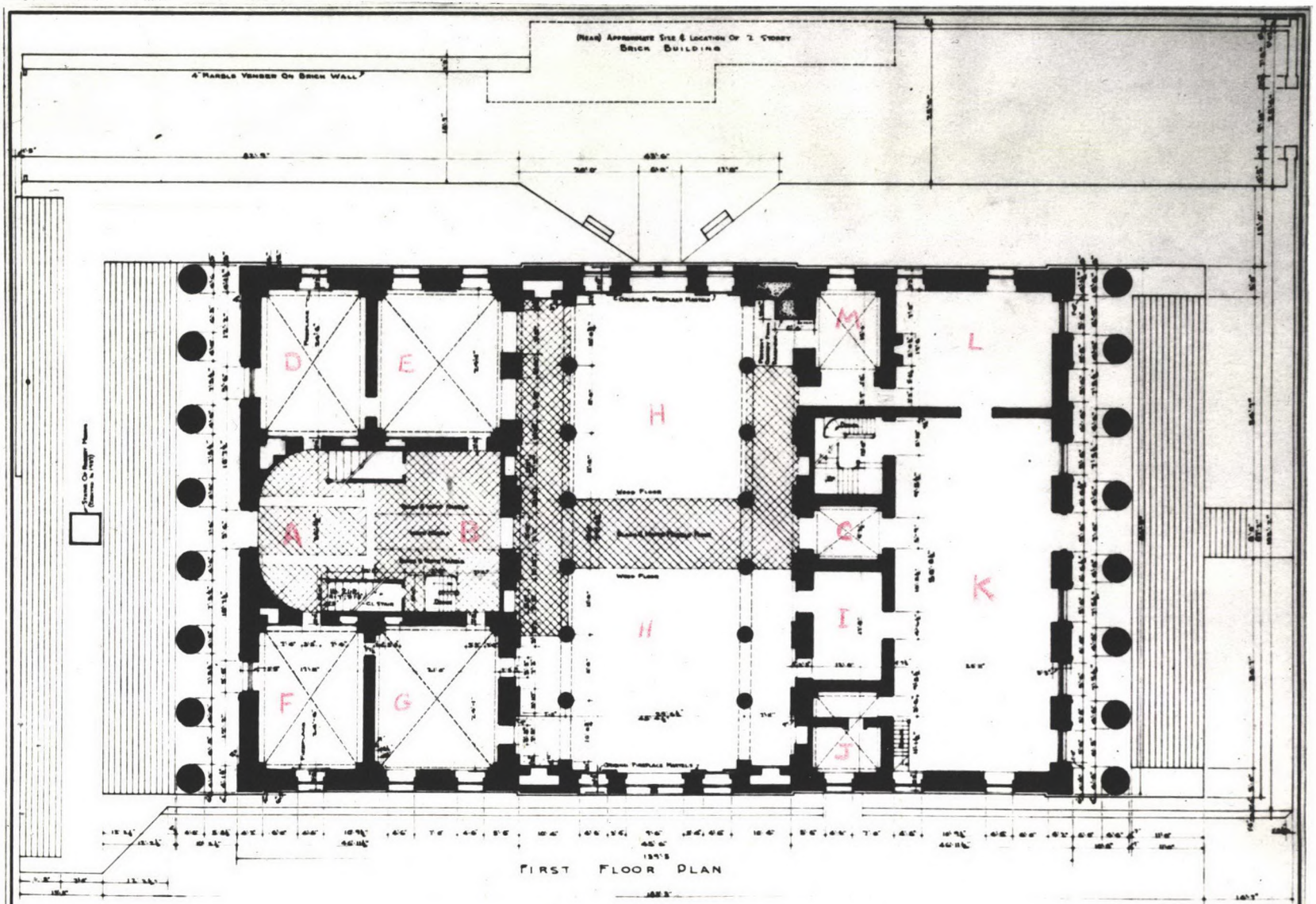
The only useable third floor space is at the north end over the second floor hallway (A). With proper humidity controls, this would make an excellent room for processing and temporary storage of new accessions.

Basement:

The basement should house the central museum storage and study area (except for paintings and prints), the archeological laboratory and study area, and facilities for conservation of museum objects (except paintings and prints). The available space is adequate for these purposes.

PROPOSED FINANCING
OF INTERPRETIVE DEVELOPMENT

It is estimated that the cost of fitting up the first and second floors of the Bank building for the exhibition and storage of paintings and other art objects would be about $50,000, over and above the costs of general building rehabilitation. Of this amount only $10,000 is provided for in the current P. C. P. for the building.



F.D. Nichols &
A.G. Uttersen, Delrs

Scale: 1/8"-1'0"

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

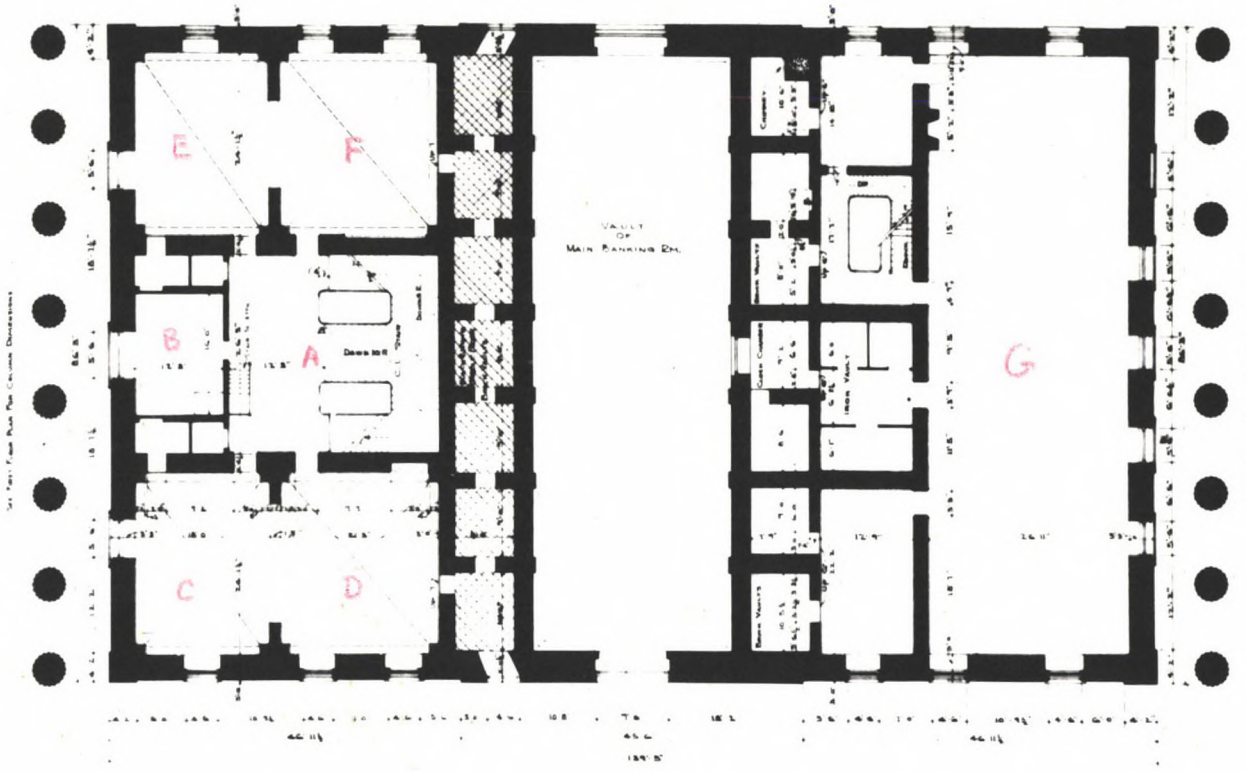
NAME OF STRUCTURE

CUSTOM HOUSE

BETWEEN 3RD & 4TH ON CHESTNUT ST PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 2 OF 19 SHEETS



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

A.G. Gutterson, Del.

NAME OF STRUCTURE

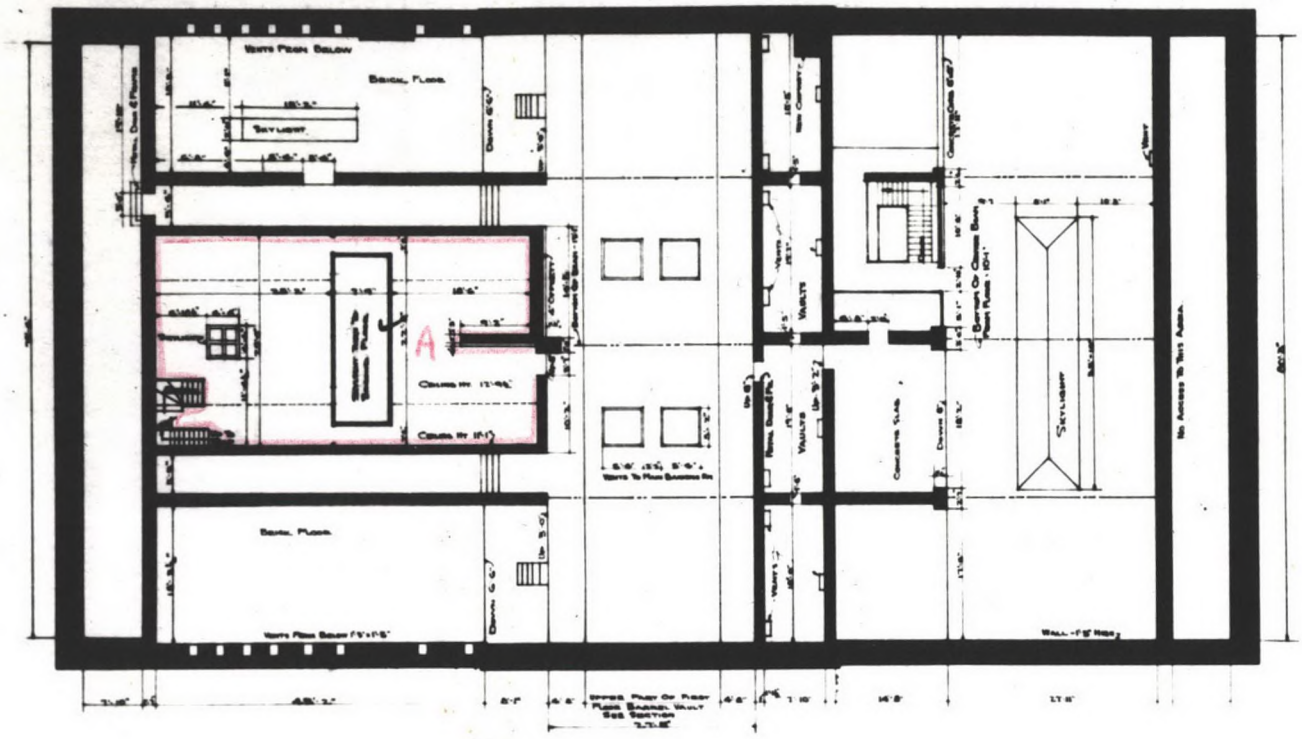
CUSTOM HOUSE

BETWEEN 3RD & 4TH ON CHESTNUT ST. PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 3 OF 19 SHEETS



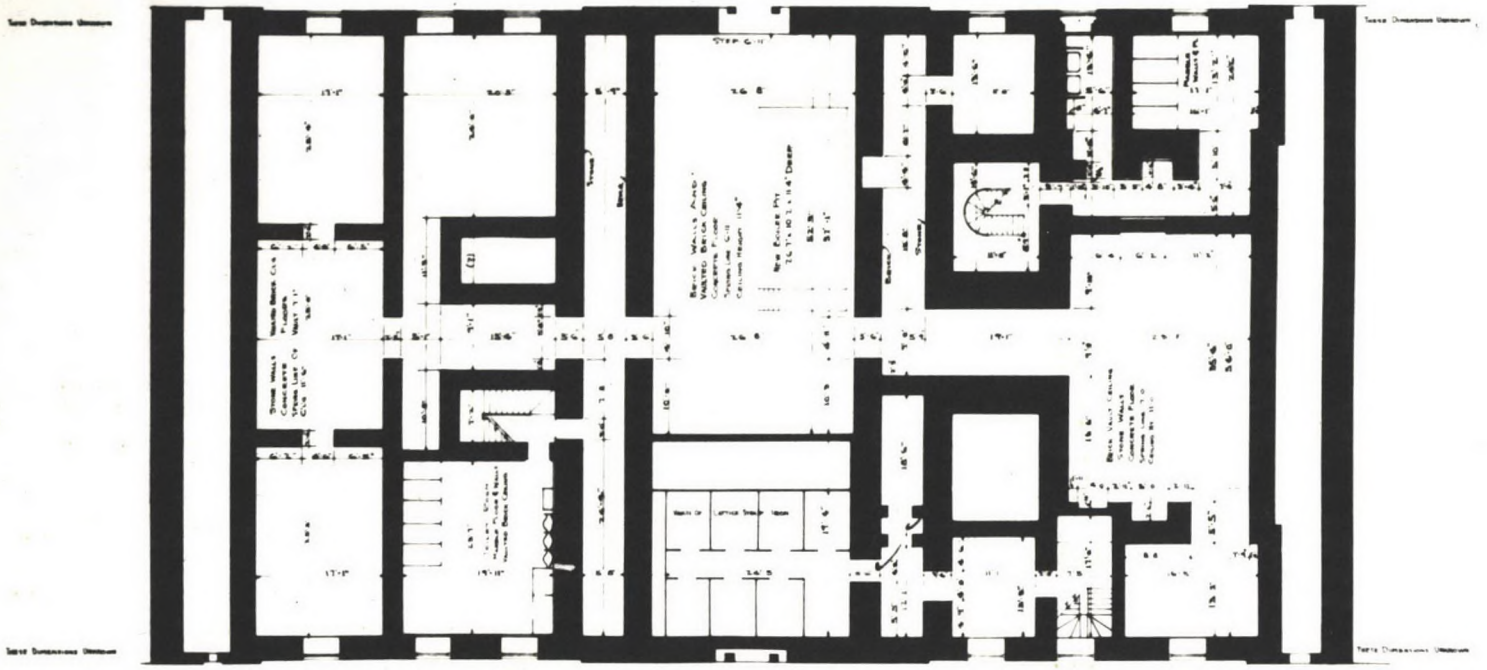
ATTIC FLOOR PLAN

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

NAME OF STRUCTURE
CUSTOM HOUSE
DELAWARE & CHESTNUT STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 4 OF 19 SHEETS



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

F. D. NICHOLS &
A.G. GUTTERSEN; DELS

Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

	NAME OF STRUCTURE	SURVEY NO	
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN	CUSTOM HOUSE. BETWEEN 3RD & 4TH ON CHESTNUT ST. PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 1 OF 19 SHEETS