

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I, SUPPLEMENT I

YARD WALL

BISHOP WHITE HOUSE RESTORATION

Prepared by

Norman M. Souder
Architect

October 1962



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

DEC 19 1962

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-DCA

REGION FIVE		Initial and Date
DEC 20 1962		
Asst. Dir.:		
Admin.		
Program		
Asst. Reg. Dir.:		
Adm.		
Finance & Prop.		
Lands & Water		
Personnel		
Asst. Reg. Dir.:		
Civ.		
Natural History		
Oper. & Maint.		
Ranger Services		
Asst. Reg. Dir.:		
Rp.		
Co-op Services		
NP & Rec. Area		
Rec. Res. Surveys		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Assistant Director, Design and Construction

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Yard Wall,
Bishop White House, Independence

The subject report, transmitted with your memorandum of December 3, has been reviewed by the interested Divisions, and the opinion was expressed that the reconstruction of the yard wall, recommended by this report, would result in an unpleasant augmentation of the already large amount of brick masonry in the Park.

The authenticity of the proposed wall is not questioned. The physical evidence and the conclusions are all valid. We question how this reconstruction provides a furthering of the educational values for the visitor. The interpretive planning of the Park does not appear to require this additional construction, and it is our belief that the appearance in this portion of the Park would be hurt by it. It would seem better to delay a decision until the Walnut Street restorations and the landscaping are complete. If, at that time, a review of the situation indicates this construction to be an essential part of interpretation, we will be glad to reconsider.

Accordingly, we find that we do not concur with your recommendation, and the implementation included in Part IV Recommendations of the report, which was otherwise expertly prepared, is disapproved at this time.

A. Clark Stratton
A. Clark Stratton

cc:
Chief, EODC (2)
Superintendent, Independence

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

R30

December 3, 1962

Nelly
12/3
Crumm
12/4/62

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Yard Hall,
Bishop White House, Independence

The subject report, prepared by the EODC, has been recommended for approval by Supt. M.G. Anderson, Independence, and is recommended for your approval by this Office.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Leo

Regional Director

Enclosure

cc:
Chief, EODC
Supt., Independence

Programs

MHolligan: jy

General
Daily
Area

Historic Structures Report, Part I

Yard Wall, Bishop White House, Independence

Assistant Regional Director (CIU)

History & Archeology

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

MAN Summary:

1. Is consistent w/ M. Plan
2. His. & archeol. evidence conclusive except for location of gates & stone capping - this last is controversial & comparative evidence.

Recommended: Approval - no P.H. needed.

Maintenance & Operations

~~Robert G. Cooper~~
~~E. Couch~~ 10/30
Newberry 10/29

Programs

OK 10/30

This is a good report. Not only is the project well documented but we have an estimate of cost!



IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Independence National Historical Park
420 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

October 17, 1962

REGION FIVE		Initial and Date
Reg. Director		
Asst. to Dir. (PA)		
Director's Sec'y		
Asst. Dir. Admin.		
Asst. Dir. Cons.		
Asst. Dir. Edu.		
Asst. Dir. Ext. Affs.		
Asst. Dir. Finance		
Asst. Dir. Gen. Inv.		
Asst. Dir. Ident.		
Asst. Dir. Insp.		
Asst. Dir. Int. Affs.		
Asst. Dir. Legal Coun.		
Asst. Dir. Plan. & Insp.		
Asst. Dir. Rec. Mgmt.		
Asst. Dir. Res. Surveys		
Asst. Dir. Tech. Serv.		
Asst. Dir. Training		
Asst. Dir. Visitor Serv.		
Asst. Dir. Wildlife		
Asst. Dir. Youth & Dev.		
NP & Rec. Area		
Rec. Res. Surveys		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Yard Wall, Bishop White House, Independence.

Please be advised that we approve subject report as of this date.

M. G. Anderson
M. G. Anderson
Superintendent

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

H30

October 17, 1962

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region
From: Superintendent, Independence
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Yard Wall, Bishop
White House, Independence.

Please be advised that we approve subject report as of this date.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Eastern Office, Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-H

October 12, 1962

REGION FIVE		Initial and Date
OCT 15 1962		
Reg. Director		
Asst. to RD(PA)		
Program Coord.		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Adm		
Finance & Prop.		
Lands & Water		
Personnel		
Reg. Dir-Res		
NP & Rec. Area		
Rec. Res. Surveys		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Chief Architect, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Yard Wall, Bishop
White House, Independence

Enclosed for your review and distribution are two copies of the subject report. By copy of this memorandum we have forwarded one copy to the Superintendent for his comments.

This report is based on physical remains still extant at the Bishop White House as well as numerous early photographs and drawings. We believe this report to be complete enough to make a Part II report unnecessary.

The enclosed report was recommended by Mr. Hall, Chief, EODC, on October 12, 1962.

Robert E. Smith
Chief Architect

By:

Henry A. Judd
Henry A. Judd

Enclosure

Copy to: Assistant Director, Design and Construction (2)
Superintendent, Independence w/enclosure
Mr. Souder, w/enclosure

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I, SUPPLEMENT I

YARD WALL

BIRKEN WHITE HOUSE RESTORATION

APPROVAL SHEET

RECOMMENDED

/s/ M.O. Anderson
Superintendent

Date 10/17/62

Henry A. Judd
Acting Supervising Architect, Historic Structures

Date 10-12-62

Robert G. Hall
Robert G. Hall
Chief

Date 10-12-62

/s/ Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director, Northeast Region

Date 11/29/62

APPROVED

Director

Date _____

I. INTRODUCTION

During the removal of the 1880 back building at the Bishop White House a continuation of the original west party wall was found extending to Harmony St. The ten foot high, 8 inch thick wall of continuous brickwork was built integrally with the original back building structures. Further investigation proved that it was the remains of an original garden wall obviously erected by the Bishop at the same time his house was built.

Such walls were known to have existed, but few really old brick yard or garden walls have survived the changes of time.

It is significant that a man of the Bishop White's position and wealth would have had the high wall erected for protection and privacy.

Following in this report is the description of the investigation together with recommendations for restorations.

We wish to thank Archeologist, Moore for his contribution in the archeological findings. Individual credits for photography are given in that section.

II Extent of the Wall

The wall, continuing in an uninterrupted manner from the back building to within two feet of the present Harmony Street curb,

extended along Harmony Street for 26 feet returning along the east property line, a distance of approximately 76 feet to the rear of the front building, enclosed the entire rear yard behind the house.

There is no bond where the wall joined the rear of the front building at the east property line indicating the possibility of a gate or opening into the lot to the east which the Bishop owned at the time his house was built.

A gate in the rear wall undoubtedly opened into Harmony Street for service access and a means of reaching the Bishop's stable which was located on the north side of the street slightly to the northwest of the Walnut Street property.

III. Architectural Evidence

Investigation shows that the west wall of the 1880 building was erected atop the old garden wall. A change in brick type and mortar and the finding of the finished pointing and whitewash on the east face, or interior, face of the original one, clues to the existence of the garden wall. The mortar on the inside face above the original was left rough and unpointed indicating that it was built to be covered by the lath and plaster which was removed by the exploration.

The north wall of the 1880 building was not bonded into the original west garden wall but merely butted against it. The

bonding of the juncture of the north and west walls occur above the point where the 1880 brick was added to the top of the garden wall.

Investigation by Archeology revealed the existence of a few bricks in place on the stone foundation on the Harmony Street elevation.

From a spot approximately two feet from Harmony Street, the garden wall on the east side of the plot becomes involved in a complex of several party wall foundations. These were the foundations of the several buildings known to have existed on the Bishop's east lot (No. 307 Walnut St.) beginning with a "walled-up cellar" dug before the building of Judge Peter's house after 1798.¹

Due to the fact that there is no bond between the house itself and the east garden wall, might indicate that a gate or opening was left in the wall near the front house for access to the lot from the piazza door.

IV Recommendations

It is recommended that the wall be restored as a part of the Bishop White House Restoration to depict more fully the mode of life of the Bishop and his family.

The existing brick can be matched and the wall built to its full height as indicated on the west party wall.

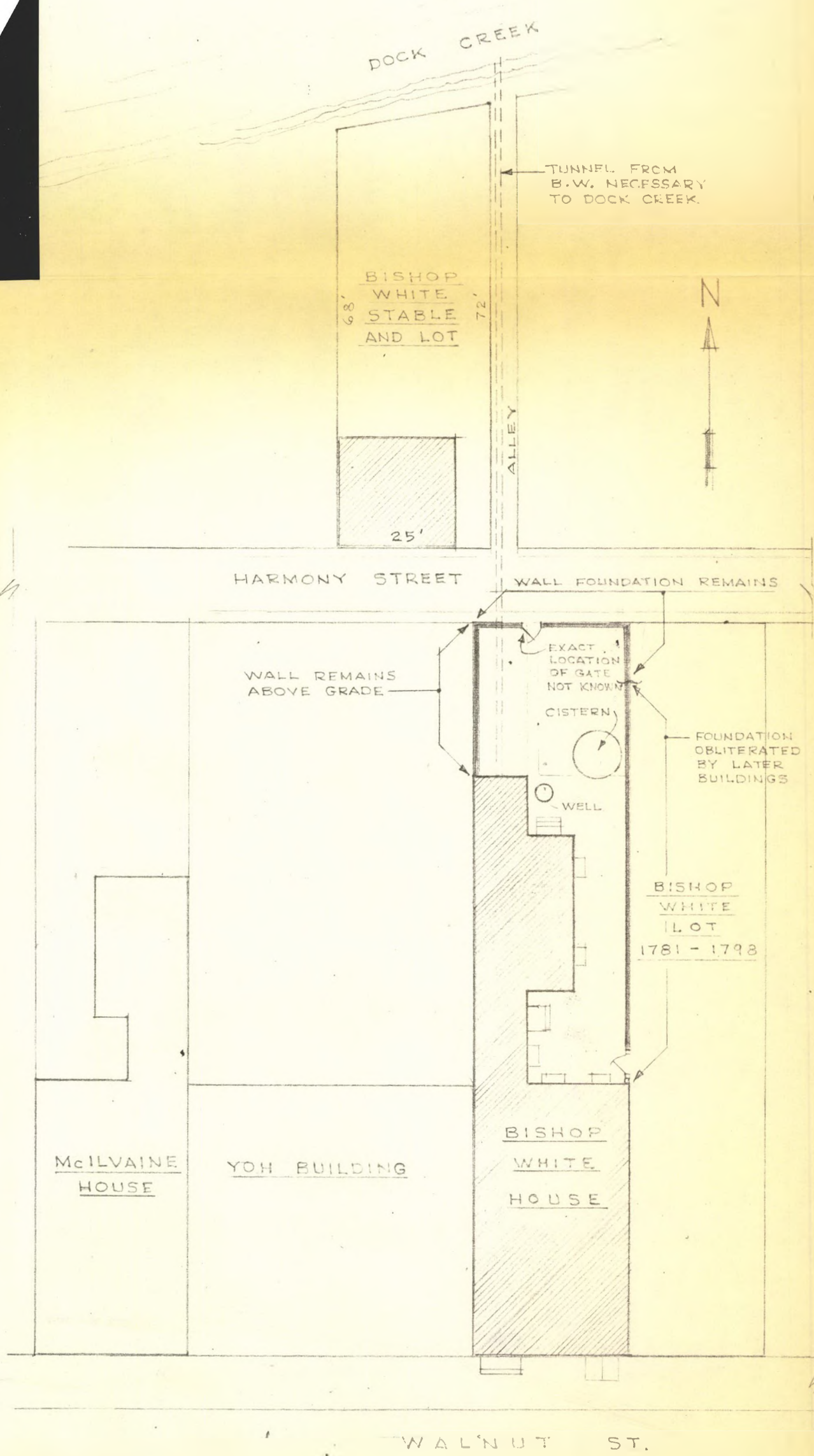
The coping could well have been wood shingle, the common

¹Historic Structures Report, Bishop White House, Part I-Chapter II, Historical data by Historian David Wallace.

method of capping walls at that time. Wood shingle copings were used on church yard walls and a few pictures remain to indicate this. These are included in the accompanying photo section. This method of capping was also used extensively in the outlying areas on stone and brick walls. The remains of such treatment exists on a stone wall at the writer's farm in Chester County.

V. Restoration Costs

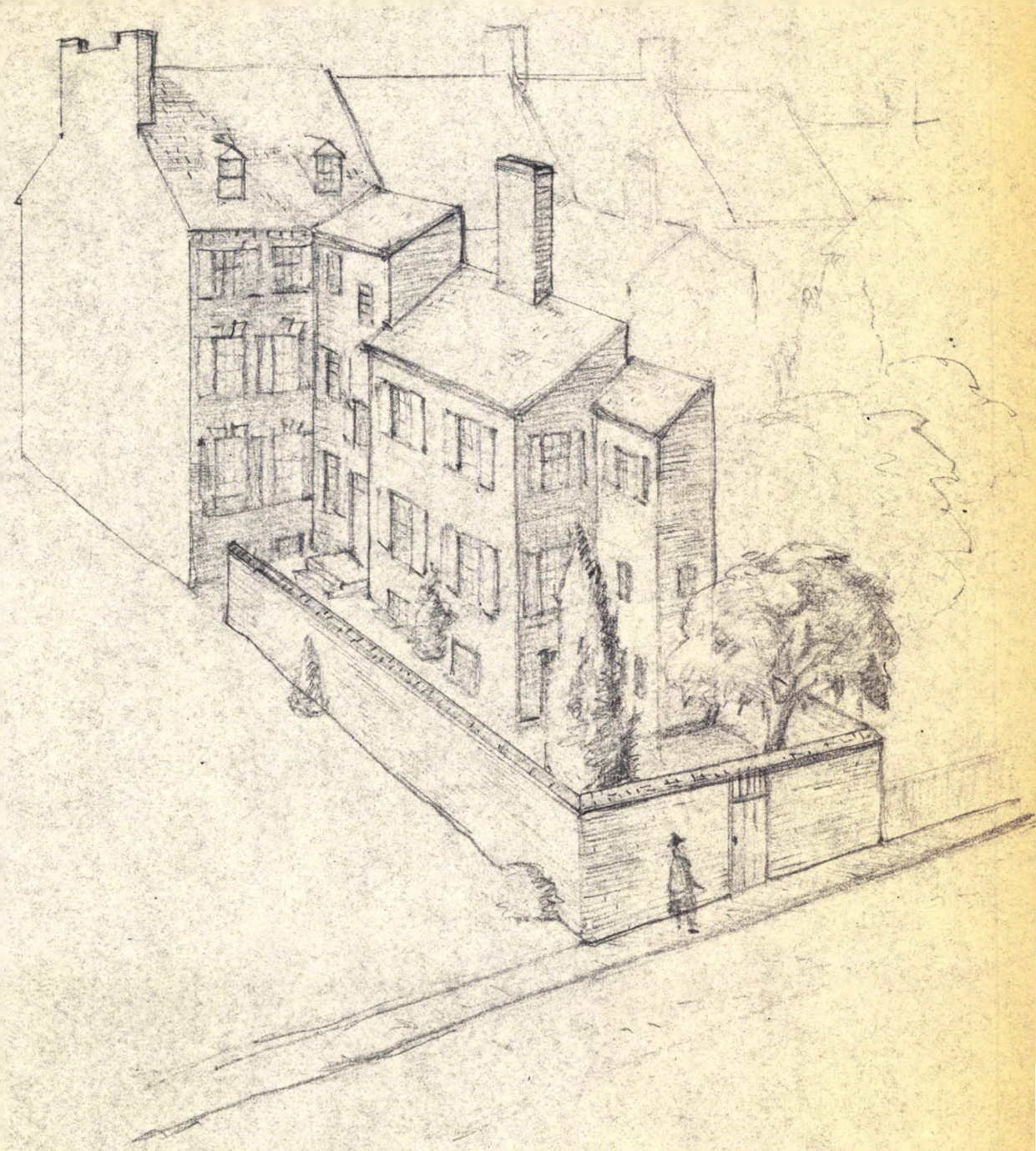
Material	\$4,200.00
Labor	3,500.00
Miscellaneous	500.00
Total	\$8,200.00



PLOT PLAN

SCALE - 1" = 20'

N. M. SOUDER



SKETCH
OF
PROPOSED GARDEN WALL
RESTORATION

West face of west wall. The rod marks the location of the north wall of the necessary at the juncture of the garden wall. The brick on this face is continuous. Note the lowered stone foundation at the garden wall area.

Ph.: T. Dillon, August 1961
Neg. No. EDDC 3007



North wall at Harmony Street. The end of the wall of broken brick on the stone foundation in the center is the original garden wall with the 1880 wall abutting but not toothed into it. The bricks in the lower foreground indicate the old location of the north wall.

Ph.: T. Dillon, August 1961
Neg. No. EODC 3012



The remains of the north garden wall along Harmony Street looking north. The red marks the east boundary of the wall. The barricade shadow falls slightly to the right of the old garden wall. The dimension from the outer face of the wall to the curb is two feet.

Ph.: T. Dillon, August 1961
Neg. No. EXDC 3015



The bricks under the inch markings on the red indicate the original garden wall at the north end of the east wall. From just south of this point the old wall foundation was obliterated by party walls of later buildings.

Ph.: T. Dillon, August 1961
Neg. No. EDC 3008



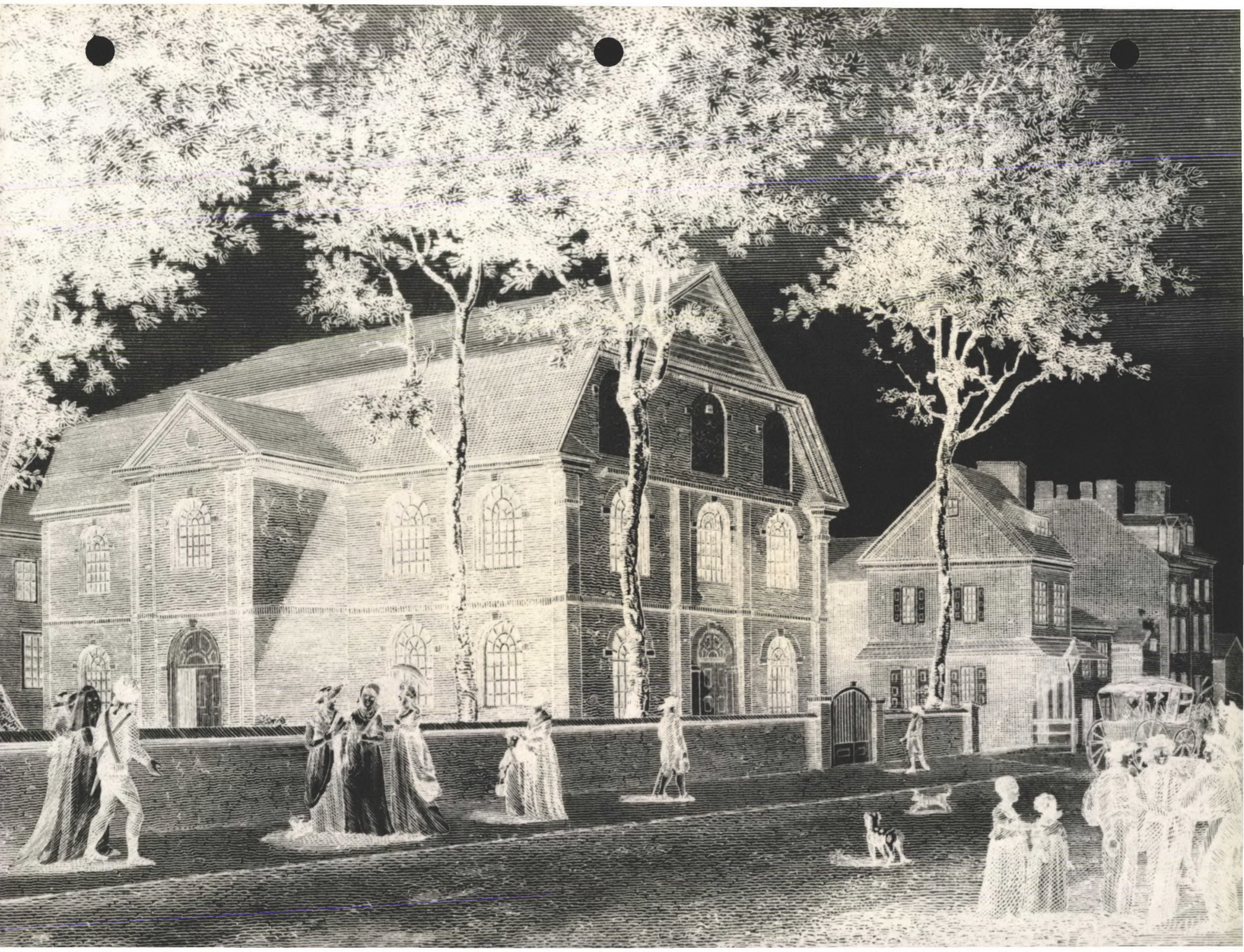
The inside face of the original garden wall shows at the lower part of the photo. The wood strip marks the change in brick and mortar--the 1880 wall was built on top of the garden wall at this point. The joints in the lower portion are finished and the part above rough. Traces of whitewash and paint remain on the garden wall portion. Due to the 1880 plaster this face of the wall was concealed until recently.

Ph.: T. Dillon, August 1961
Neg. No. HODC 3017



The top of the brick yard wall at the old Lutheran Church, 5th Street appears to have been covered by shingles as was the custom at that period. Reverse print of Birch print of 1800.

Neg. DMHP Files No. 4510



The church yard wall in this print of Old Zion Church in 1789 shows the shingle capping. Note the typical slope of the shingles at the gate opening near the center of the wall.

Ph.: Unmarked print.
Neg. IHHP Files



1859 print of The Old Pine Street Meeting House
showing the shingle top and gate posts. It is
proposed that the yard wall at the Bishop White
restoration be similarly finished as in this
and the foregoing prints.

Neg. INEP Files No. 4544
Original Neg. in NSF files



PINE STREET MEETING-HOUSE

PHILA: