H30

OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
Lands		
Engineer		
✓ Architect	RSC 4/28	
Land Archt		
Programs		4/25

REGION FIVE APR 22 1958	INITIAL AND DATE
✓ REG. DIRECTOR	4/25
✓ ASST. REG. DIRECTOR	4/25
✓ OPERATIONS	4/25
INTERPRETATION	4/25
ADM	
REC. RES. PLAN	
RANGER ACT'S	

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

Memorandum

To: Chief of Design and Construction

From: Acting Chief, EODC

Subject: Historic Building Survey Report, Bishop White House, Independence National Historical Park

We have reviewed the subject report submitted with Regional Director Tobin's H30 memorandum to the Director of April 15. Superintendent Anderson and his staff have made a commendable presentation. All of the research, archaeological as well as historical and architectural, seems excellently documented and complete.

In General, we concur with the recommendations contained in Chapter III, Section 4. However, the two items on Page 3 of this section suggest that prior to a final decision on the Bishop White House, the Historic Building Survey Report for the McIlvaine House should also be reviewed. It is our feeling that the final decision on these two houses are almost irrevocably tied together.

Technicians from our office have from time to time made a cursory and visual inspection of the historic buildings along Walnut Street between 3rd and 4th, and believe that the entire problem of satisfactory restoration of any of these structures lies entirely within the solution of providing structural stability. Our experiences with attempting to salvage original portions of New Hall leave us skeptical about saving exterior walls of other structures where new structural support within the framework of an existing building is required. Therefore, in principle, we heartily endorse allowing the reinforced concrete frame of the "Yoh" Building to remain. This will provide the desirable structural ties for both the Bishop White and the McIlvaine Houses. We also concur in the suggestion to remove as much of the "Yoh" Building as is necessary to recreate a historic street scene with a period reconstruction of this facade.

This concurrence does not either criticize or endorse the entirely charming sketch of Mr. Campbell, Plate No. 27, which is a fine architectural presentation. Perhaps further architectural research might reveal the early characteristics of the building or buildings that occupied the site of the "Yoh" Building.

We suggest that this research, together with any still necessary on the McIlvaine House, be immediately completed in order to accomplish the recommendations as expeditiously as possible.

We feel that this group along Walnut Street, perhaps all restoration and reconstruction on Walnut between 3rd and 4th Streets could be best accomplished under a professional services contract with an architect of demonstrated interest and ability in the field of historic restorations. The name of Grant Simon comes to mind as one not only interested in the Park, but eminently qualified in this field, though as an expert he is not alone.

This memorandum should be cross-referenced with our comments on the Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House, as the two are interdependent.

Subject to the consideration of these comments, I have recommended this report as of this date.

ROBERT P. WHITE
Robert P. White
Acting Chief

In duplicate

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Five
Supt., Independence NHP (2)

H30

Nelligan 4/24

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

April 24, 1958

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Building Survey Report, Bishop White House

We are pleased to approve the subject report, including the recommendations for its stabilization and restoration. We also agree with the proposed use of the restored structure, the detailed planning for which we know will carefully determine just how the religious theme is actually to be presented.

This is an excellent, well written and well illustrated report. It demonstrates how effective this report can be in pulling together all the more or less diverse aspects and considerations involved in work on an important historic structure to insure that none are overlooked in arriving at basic administrative decisions, as well as accomplishing the project itself in accordance with the highest standards. You and all those of the park staff who participated in its preparation are to be congratulated on a thoroughly excellent presentation.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

MHNelligan/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area
Operations (Mr. Nelson)

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DATE: April 22, 1958

FROM :

SUBJECT: Comment - Bishop White's Survey Report

This is an excellent well written report. The staff at Independence should be congratulated on their thoroughness.

It appears that more emphasis has been placed on the religious aspects than is necessary. This is a very sensitive item with the American Public and should be handled in a very delicate manner.

I concur in the Architectural Recommendations to fully restore the Bishop White House and to modify the Yoh Building with a period facade as shown on Plate 27.

L B Coryell

L. B. Coryell
Regional Architect

H30 Barnes 4/15

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

April 15, 1958

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Building Survey Report, Bishop White House, Independence National Historical Park

In accordance with the procedure outlined in FO-11-56 dated February 16, 1956, attached for your consideration is the Historic Building Survey Report for the Bishop White House, Independence National Historical Park, prepared by Superintendent M. O. Anderson and his staff. By copy of this memorandum, we are forwarding a copy of the report to EODC for review and comment.

We anticipate being able to review and comment on the report by April 23. In view of construction schedule, we would appreciate prompt review by all offices concerned.

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

Copy to: Supt., Independence
Chief, EODC (w/c report)

Nelligan/Barnes/cp

General
Daily
Area

4/15/58

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Historic Building Survey Report - Bishop White House

Interpretation

4/18 1 ~~Cotter~~.
3 Barnes ~~Willcox~~ Looks like another excellent report Notum for detailed accuracy used

2 **Operations** Caryell RSE 4/22

Assistant Regional Director 4/28

Regional Director I go along with the restoration proposal and in general the expressed proposed use. As expressed to Director in other communication (the interpretation program, I believe) I feel most careful study will have to be given on just how the "religious theme" is to be presented; however this need not cause any delay or uncertainty on restoration. JPT 4/23/58

Dr. Nelligan

RETURN TO INTERPRETATION BY APRIL 22.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

H30

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

April 14, 1958

REGION FIVE
APR 14 1958

	INITIAL AND DATE
REG. DIRECTOR	
ASST. REG DIR.	
OPERATIONS	
INTERPRETATION	
ADM	
REC RES. PLAN	
RANGER ACT'S	

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region V

From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Historic Buildings Reports for Bishop White House and the Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House

In accordance with memorandum dated February 15, 1957, we are herewith transmitting in triplicate for review Historic Buildings Reports for the Bishop White House and the Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures (3)

SIGNATURE SHEET

RECOMMENDED

_____ Date _____
Director

_____ Date _____
Regional Director

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

APPROVED

_____ Date _____
Superintendent

Historic Building Report
on
Bishop White House
in
Independence National Historical Park

Prepared by
Staff
Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

April, 1968

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CHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Prepared by Superintendent A. O. Anderson

NAME AND NUMBER OF BUILDING:

Bishop White House, 309 Walnut Street, Building No. 8.

PROPOSED USE OF STRUCTURES
AND JUSTIFICATION:

Historic House Museum with restoration and refurnishing of Bishop White's second-floor study and specialized museum illustrating the theme of religion and independence on the first floor. Many of the original furnishings are still extant, and it is believed that some of these could be acquired to form the basis of the restoration. Artifacts, unearthed in the course of archeological excavations in the basement, and documentary data are available. Bishop White is a historic figure of considerable importance in the Park story, particularly in terms of his role in the religious life of the Revolutionary and Federal periods.

The building is one of the oldest private residences in the Park. Its preservation is required by law, as set forth in Public Law 795 - 80th Congress, approved June 28, 1948, and it has been approved for restoration and rehabilitation as part of the Mission 66 program and the Master Plan.

PROVISION FOR OPERATING THE HOUSE

House is proposed to be operated by the Park Staff. No funds have yet been programmed for refurnishing the house, and no cooperative agreements have yet been executed or proposed for this or other purposes.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COST FOR REHABILITATING THE STRUCTURES AND GROUNDS:

$141,800.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL DATA

Prepared by Historian David Wallace

STRUCTURAL HISTORY FROM DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

The Bishop White House, No. 309 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, was built in 1786-1787 by Dr. William White, first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania. A substantial amount of documentary material exists which describes the house and the structural changes made in it over the years, beginning with brief insurance descriptions of 1787 and 1795, and including a thorough survey by the Philadelphia Contributionship in 1858. For convenience, this material is presented below in chronological sequence. Pictorial material depicting the Bishop White House at various periods from 1836 to the present has been placed in an appendix, also in chronological sequence.

(1) Extract from Minutes, Mutual Assurance Company, August 8, 1787 (typed transcript, INHP microfilm reel 36a):

> Agreed to make Insurance on the following buildings--
> On Reverend Doctor William White's House, Piazza, Stair Case, Kitchen & Necessary Situate on the North Side of Walnut Street between Third & Fourth Streets--
> On the House £500
> Piazza, Stairs, Kitchen & Necessary . . . . . 250 at s30 % -- £11:5:0
> N.B. If any damage shall be done to the windows in case of Fire, it shall be estimated at the same rate as if the Glass had been of the size of 8 by 10 inches.

(2) Extract from Trustees' Accounts, Mutual Assurance Company, November 14, 1795 (typed transcript, p. 7, INHP microfilm reel 36a):

> for a Deposite of the Revd. Docr. Willm. White for planting two Trees in the front of his dwelling House the 14th Nov. 1795, Policy No. 191 . . . . . £1:5:0

(3) Extract from Policy No. 191, Mutual Assurance Company, renewal dated November 20, 1795 (original at Mutual Assurance Company, photostat in INHP files):

> His dwelling House situate on the north side of Walnut Street, between Third & Fourth Streets, the said House being twenty-six feet front, and forty four feet deep, and Three stories high, with window Glass of the dimensions of twelve & half inches, by twenty two & half inches, but if any damages shall be done to the windows in case of fire, it shall be estimated at the same rate as if the Glass had been of the size of eight by ten inches --- Two Trees in front of the House.

(4) Extract from Policy No. 192, Mutual Assurance Company, renewal dated November 20, 1795 (original at Mutual Assurance Company, photostat in INHP files):

> the Backbuilding of his Dwelling House, situate on the north side of Walnut Street, between Third & Fourth Streets, consisting of a Piazza, ten feet by fifteen feet and three Stories high, a Kitchen with winding Stairs, twenty five feet nine inches, by sixteen feet, & two Stories High, a Necessary ten feet, by nine feet, & two Stories high.

(5) Extracts from Policy No. 1460 (a re-insurance in lieu of Policies No. 191 and 192), Mutual Assurance Company, dated February 9, 1803 (original at Mutual Assurance Company, photostat in INHP files):

> This Policy witnesseth that the Revd. Dr. William White...is hereby insured...upon his dwelling House situate on the North side of Walnut Street between Third & Fourth Streets, the said House being twenty six feet front & forty four feet deep & three Stories high, with Window Glass of the dimensions of 12-1/2 Inches by 22-1/2 Inches but if any damage should be done to the Windows in Case of Fire, it shall be estimated at the same rate as if the Glass had been of the size of 8 by 10 Inches. Backbuildings of the aforesaid House Consisting of a Piazza ten feet by fifteen feet & three Stories high, a Kitchen with Winding Stairs 25 feet 9 Inches by 16 feet & two Stories high --- A Necessary 10 feet by 9 feet & two Stories high.

[On November 22, 1836, the executors of Bishop White transferred this policy to the purchaser of the property, Charles Chauncey. The property was thereupon inspected by the Mutual Assurance Company, whose Secretary, Lawrence Lewis, noted on the original policy: "Alterations allowed as p[er] view Decr. 12, 1836." The alterations were not specified. Policy No. 1460 was cancelled on February 26, 1858.]

(6) Policy No. 10,024, Philadelphia Contributionship, survey dated March 6, 1858 (original at Philadelphia Contributionship, photostat in INHP files):

> I have Surveyed a Brick House & Back Buildings for Elizabeth C. Chauncy & Hannah Chauncy Trustees & owners, situate on the North side of Walnut Street No. 309 West of & near Third street. The House being 26 feet front 44 feet deep, Piazza 9 feet 4 inches by 16 feet, both 3 stories high. Back Building 16 feet by 26 feet, two stories high. 14 & 9 inch walls.
>
> The Lower story (Main Building) in two rooms & passage, the floor of yellow pine, moulded wash boards & surbase and double architraves to the doors & windows, one white marble mantel, recess closets & stucco cornice around the ceiling, a box Entry or vestibule to one of the front doors (the one in the Room) with sash doors, 12 lights 10 X 17, & 3 transom lights over. There is also a vestibule in the passage with panel door, side lights & fan sash over, also transom lights over front door, one arch in the passage, one twin window front segment head 16 lights 14 X 22 inside shutters, two 12 light windows back, the Glass 11 X 20 outside shutters.
>
> The second story (Main Buildin) in two rooms & short passage, the floor of yellow pine, wash boards, surbase & architraves the same as lower story, two wooden mantels & 4 breast closets, plain stucco cornice around the ceiling, three 12 light windows front & two back, the Glass 12 X 20 outside shutters.
>
> The third story in two rooms & short passage, the floor of yellow pine, moulded wash boards & surbase, single

mouldings to the windows & plain architraves to the doors, two wooden mantels & four breast closets, three 6 light windows front & two back, the Glass 12 X 22, outside shutters.

The Garret in 3 rooms & passage, the floor of yellow pine, plain wash boards & plain mouldings, one closet in the passage, two circular head Dormers front & two plain Do back, a close winding stairs to the Loft which is floored with rough boards & plastered, Trap Door in the Roof & step ladder, two 9 light sash 8 X 10. Open newel stairs in the piazza finished with Ramp'd painted Rail & half Rail & turned balusters from the lower to the 3d story, & straight stairs from thence in the main Building to the Garret. One 18 light window, two 15 light & two 12 light Do in the piazza, the Glass 8 X 10, outside shutters to 1st & 2d story windows, one Closet under the stairs.

Back Building, Lower story in one room, yellow pine floor, moulded wash boards & single mouldings & one large closet, two 16 light windows, the Glass 10 X 16 & one 18 light 8 X 10, outside shutters, a stationary wash stand & cold water. A shed back 7 feet 8 inches by 10 feet.

The second story Back Building in two rooms, the floor of yellow pine, plain wash boards & surbase & single mouldings, one wooden mantel & one closet, three 15 light windows, the Glass 8 X 10, outside shutters, one 8 light 8 X 10 Venetian shutters, & one 3 light 8 X 10.

The Loft above is plastered & has a rough floor & one 4 light window in the end & a Trap Door in the Roof. There is a plain straight & winding stairs from the Cellar to the Loft. Wooden modillion cornice front, plain wooden cornice back. Tin Gutters & pipes. The first and second stories papered all through except 2d story entry, two rooms in the 3d story also papered.

[First floor plan, see below, Illustration No. 2]

March 6th 1858 D R Knight Surveyor

Liberty of Offices for Brokers & Rail Road Companies
Policy No. 10,024 Drs 4,000 3 per Cent Drs 120

Agreed to be correct
for the assured
Jas. Bayard

(7) Policy No. 12,128, Philadelphia Contributionship, survey dated March 16, 1876 (original at Philadelphia Contributionship, photostat in INHP files):

> I have Surveyed a brick Building belonging to Edward S. Whelen, situate on the North side of Walnut Street No. 309, West of and near Third Street, the Building being Twenty Five feet Six inches front, by Forty Four feet Four inches deep, with a Piazza Nine feet Four inches wide by Sixteen feet deep, both Three Stories high, and a Back Building Sixteen feet Four inches wide by Twenty Five feet Four inches deep, with an Extension of it, Eight feet Nine inches wide by Ten feet deep, both Two stories high, Walls 9 and 13 inches in thickness.
> Main Building, First Story, divided into 2 rooms, passage, and vestibule. Yellow pine floor. Moulded base. Two pairs of folding front doors, with 3 light transoms. One pair of 12 light 10 x 17 in. folding sash doors, and three single [undecipherable] doors. One pair of 16 light 14 x 22 in twin windows with inside shutters in 8 folds and 2 lengths, receding into boxes, and wire guards outside. A vestibule of grooved boards inside of folding doors in room. Two 12 light 11 x 20 in windows with wainscot and outside shutters on the rear, 6 in double Architraves. Two recess Closets with two doors each. Surbase in room and passage. One white Marble pilaster Mantel. Stucco cornice. One semi-circular transom.
> Stairs. Open string and newel stairs, with ramped rail and turned balusters (both painted); paneled spandrils; quarter landings, with steps between them. Two doors in piazza. One each 12 and 15 light single hung 8 x 10 in windows, with outside shutters, on stairs to 2nd Story. Closet under stairs.
> Second Story, divided into 2 rooms and a short passage. Yellow pine floor. Moulded surbase and base. Seven doors. Five 12 light 12-1/4 x 17-1/4 in windows with outside shutters, 5 in double Architraves. Four closets. Two framed wooden Mantels; one basket grate. Stucco cornice.
> Third Story, divided into 3 rooms and 2 passages, two of the partitions being of grooved boards. Yellow pine floor. Plain base and surbase. Eight doors. Five 6 light 12-1/4 x 22-1/2 in windows with outside shutters; two 12 light single hung windows on the stair (8 x 10 in glass); 4-1/2 in double Architraves. Four closets. Two framed wooden Mantels. Close string stairs with painted rail & balusters to Attic story.

Attic, divided into 2 rooms and a short passage. Yellow pine floor. Plain base. Four doors. Two 6 light 12 x 21 inch solid frame dormer windows, semi-circular heads, with 6 lights with curved side in the semi-circle; two 12 light 8 x 10 in solid frame dormer windows in the rear. One flat skylight in the roof containing sixteen 10 x 14 in lights, the ends being lapped. One closet. Close stairs to Loft.

Loft, in one room. Yellow pine floor. That part of the roof between the chimney shafts rises vertically as high as the ridge, at right angles to the slopes and has a 9 light 8 x 10 in sash hung with hinges over each of them. The walls and ceiling plastered; room about 16 feet wide.

Back Building, First Story, in two rooms (including the Extension). White pine floor. Moulded base. Five doors. Two 16 light 10 x 16 in windows and one 18 light 8 x 10 in single hung window, all with outside shutters. Privy in 2 parts in the Extension, each part containing a seat and risers with two drops. Close stairs to 2nd story.

Second Story, in two rooms including the Extension. White pine floor. Plain base. Four doors. Three 15 light 8 x 10 in single hung windows, with outside shutters, one each 8 light and 3 light windows, hung with hinges, 6-1/4 in Architraves. Surbase on walls. One large closet, shelves half height (next ceiling) with 6 drawers in the base below; internal closet with dwarf door. One framed wooden Mantel, with basket Grate. Close winding stairs to Loft. Loft inaccessible.

Cellar under main, piazza and back buildings, Natural floor. Four close batten doors. Two each 9, 12 and 15 light 8 x 10 in windows hung with hinges; one window with wired frame outside; iron bars outside to all. Close string stairs with painted rail and square balusters to 1st story.

Roofs. A double pitch roof to the Main Building with a heavy wooden Modillion cornice in the front and rear, and plain wooden cornice and single pitch roofs to the piazza and Back and Extension Buildings, all covered with Tin; tin gutters and conductors. All doors and shutters are paneled and all windows double hung unless otherwise described. Gas in the 1st and 2nd stories and the rooms and passages of them papered.

3 Mo[nth] 16 1876 I. Louis Moore Surveyor

[First floor plan, see below, Illustration No. 7]

Liberty Offices
Policy No. 12,128 $4,000 at 5 p.c. $200
agreed to be correct
Edw[d] S. Whelen

(8) Policy No. 12, 128, Philadelphia Contributionship, re-survey dated April 19, 1880 (original at Philadelphia Contributionship, photostat in INHP files):

I have Resurveyed the foregoing described premises and find the following Alterations and Additions Viz. The Back Building and part of the Piazza described in the Survey [1876 Survey, No. 7, above] have been removed and a lateral Extension of the Piazza 16 feet wide by 18 feet 9 inches deep, one story high, and a Back Building 18 feet 4 inches wide by 53 feet 6 inches deep, two stories high, have been built instead of them.
Lateral Extension, in one room. Yellow pine floor, Base, moulded and subbed. One pair of 2 light 23 x 36 in folding doors, with 2 light transom and outside shutters. Opening in ceiling under skylight. Back Building, First Story, divided into 3 rooms and a short passage (water closets room included). Yellow pine floor. Base, moulded and subbed. Two 2 light 29 x 23 in, one 2 light 22 x 23 in, and two close doors; one 2 light transom. One each 12 x 44 in and 23 by 44 in, and five 20 x 44 in windows, all in 4 lights, with outside shutters. 6 in pilaster Architraves, with angle blocks. Two raised Grates. Stucco cornice. Water closet room. An enclosure of grooved boards divided by a wooden partition into two parts, each containing a valve container water closet, with hinged seat and lid, two dwarf doors (Enclosure 5 feet 3 inches wide by 3 feet 8 inches deep and 7 feet high) Enclosed wash basin, with countersunk top and 10 in skirting, both of marble, and plated cock for cold water. One white-ware Urinal, slate slabs against walls, partitions and in floor, viz, Back 36 inches, sides 23 inches wide, all 5 feet high; slab floor, 23 x 36 inches. Silver-plated cock above Urinal. The entire finish of hard-wood.
Stairs. Former stairs removed and a close string stairs of hard-wood with balustrade and newel of same (to 2nd story) substituted; newel 6 x 6 inches; turned balusters 1-7/8 inches diameter.
Second Story, divided into 3 rooms (including water closets) and short passage. Yellow pine floor. Base, moulded and subbed. One each 2 light 24 x 21 in and 22 x 21 in doors, and one close door. Five 4 light 20 by 40 in, and one each 23 x 40 in and 12 x 40 in windows 6 in Architraves. Two open fire places, with Architraves of black marble 5 in wide.

Stucco cornice. Hardwood finish. Water closet room, Enclosure of grooved boards, 5 feet 8 inches wide, by 3 feet 8 inches deep, & 7 feet high, divided by a wooden partition into 2 parts, each containing a valve container Water Closet, with hinged seat and lid, Enclosed wash basin, with countersunk top, and 10 in skirting, both of marble, and silver-plated cock. A white-ware Urinal with plated cock, in a slate enclosure 54 inches wide by 23 inches deep, with a slate floor, 23 x 54 inches, open at top and on one side.
Cellar under new part, without divisions, mortar floor. One each 8 light 10-1/2 x 12 in 10-1/2 x 9 in windows, and three 4 light 12-1/2 x 15 in windows, all hung with hinges; iron bars and wired frames outside. "One New Hot Air Furnace." Step ladder to yard with folding cellar door above.
Alterations in the Main Building.
First Story, Former front removed, and an Ashler of brown stone, with pilasters of the same around the openings, and a brown stone entablature above them, substituted. Story divided into room and passage. Folding front and passage doors. A vestibule about 5 feet 8 inches wide, 3 feet deep, and 9 feet high, built inside of front door, one pair of 2 light 15 x 54 in folding vestibule doors, a 29 x 54 inch light in side of vestibule. One 4 light 48 x " twin window. One pair of 2 light 20 x 45 in doors in rear, with a 2 light 18 x 18 in transom. 6 in Architraves. A fire proof Closet Nine feet wide by Six feet Four inches deep and Eight feet high, with single and folding iron doors, the Exterior walls of glazed bricks, in north west angle of room. One white marble pilaster mantel, with raised Grate. An Entablature on stucco pilasters, placed transversely at ceiling in center of room.
Roofs. The roofs of the Main and Piazza Buildings have been covered with Tin. Single pitch roofs, covered with Tin to the Addition. An Eight light 22 x 110 in double pitch skylight of hammered glass, on roof of lateral Extension; twelve 18 x 18 in and ten 17-1/2 x 18 in vertical lights in vertical part between roof and the covering of skylight including 8 lights hung with pivots [?]. Size of horizontal opening about 11 feet by 13 feet; the triangular sides tinned [?] above the vertical lights.

4 Mo[nth] 19 1880 I. Louis Moore, Surveyor

Note. The sashes of the front windows have changed to 4 lights of 37 x 32 in glass in the second and to 4 lights of 37 x 21 in glass in the 3rd stories. Two enclosed

wash basins, with curved fronts, and countersunk tops, with 9 in skirtings, both of marble, and one plated cock, in 2nd story. Walls and ceiling papered.

4 Mo 19 1880 I. L Moore, Surveyor

agreed to be correct

Edw[d] S. Whelen

(9) Permits for alterations to No. 309 Walnut Street, transcribed by Architect William M. Campbell from Permit Books in the Bureau of Licenses and Inspections, Room 219, City Hall Annex, Philadelphia

(a) April 18, 1910 307-309 Walnut Street Permit No. 2240
Use - Light manufacturing
General repairs - take out partitions and erect new partitions, enclose elevator shaft, etc.
Fireproof partitions [,] outside metal escapes front and rear
Est. cost - $8500,00
Owner - Huston Estate [the Houston Estate actually owned 305-307 Walnut; 309 Walnut was owned by Edward S. Whelen]
Architect - Wm. C. A. Mitchell 319 Walnut Street
Contractor - Wm. Morrow 320 Harmony Street

(b) April 16, 1914 309 Walnut Street Permit No. 2483
Use - Offices (no housing)
Cut two passage door[s] through wall, 3 ft. wide and 7 ft. high.
Existing structural conditions not to be impaired.
Est. cost - $100.00
Owner - Hare & Chase - 309 and 311 Walnut Street [apparently lessee, since 309 was still owned by Whelen or his estate]
Contractor - Bushnell Bros. 2246 N. 5th Street

(c) August 1, 1916 309 Walnut Street Permit No. 5389
Use - Offices
Remove 1st story partitions and substitute I-beams and posts.
See plans - Beams and columns supporting walls to be fire-proofed - no additions.
Est. cost - $2500.00
Owner - Land Title & Trust Co. [acting for Whelen Estate?]
Architect - Heacock & Hokanson 1218 Chestnut Street
Contractor - H. B. Davis 240 N. 16th Street

(d) September 5, 1918 309 Walnut Permit No. 3710
Use - Office work
Enlarge office on second floor by removal of stud partitions. Put three window frames in side yard. Remodel present skylight, first floor, etc.
Est. cost - $1300.00
Owner - Wm. Walker, agent Land Title Co. [acting for Whelen Estate?]
Contractor - F. B. Davis.

(e) May 18, 1920 309-311 Walnut Permit No. 4158
Use - Offices
Erect partitions for new toilet rooms on second floor No. 311 and alterations [,] partition of 2" x 4" studs plastered on metal lath both sides.
Building less than 5000 sq. ft. -- Does not interfere with exit to fire escape.
Est. cost - $1,000
Owner - Lehigh Valley R. R. [actually a tenant]
Contractor - F. J. Hoover & Sons, Inc. 1023 Cherry Street

(f) July 3, 1940 309 Walnut, rear Permit No. 3289
Build a new 13" brick wall on old foundation wall to be 8' high above pavement level on rear street. Work to be done in accordance with condemnation Notice No. 2799. Old wall being taken down.
Est. cost - $117.00
Owner - Wm. C. O'Neill & Sons 309 Walnut Street
Contractor - F. B. Davis & Son, Inc. 240 N. 16th Street

(g) May 9, 1946 309 Walnut Permit No. 2075
At present vacant
Use - Dw[ellin]g & offices and assembly of printed forms for tax purposes
New front - stone base - brick - plate glass - no additions
Yard space remaining - over 144 sq. ft.
Est. cost - $2550.00
Owner - Benj. Steinberg 1900 Chestnut Street
Architect - Colish & Etter
Contractor - S. H. Levin Co. 1717 Sansom Street

(b) June 13, 1946 309 Walnut Street Permit No. 7713
Plan No. 821

Present - vacant
New office and dwelling
New front previously applied for May 19 1946
Additional work - new stair and partitions - no addition
Open yard remaining over 144 sq. ft.
Est. cost - $200.00 ($2250 on previous permit)
Owner - Benj. Steinberg - 309 Walnut Street
Architect - Collah & Stier 17th & Sansom Street

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

1. Early History of 309 Walnut Street (1683-1836)

The land on which the Bishop White House, 309 Walnut Street, stands was originally part of a grant from William Penn to John Tibby in 1683. Tibby's lot had a 49 1/2 foot frontage on Walnut Street and extended 212 feet north to the bank of Dock Creek. After John Tibby's death the property passed to his son, Thomas Tibby, carpenter, who erected a "tenement" on it, the precise location of which is not known. On his death the property, still with the same boundaries, passed to his widow, who sold it a month later, February 17, 1714/5, to Edward Robinson, skinner, in whose hands it remained until 1732.

In 1732 Robinson sold the lot for £140 to Andrew Hamilton (1676-1741), Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly and, just at this time, the moving spirit behind the building of the new State House three blocks away on Chestnut Street. Hamilton apparently bought the lot as a speculative investment. His own home was "Clarke Hall," at the southwest corner of Third and Chestnut, just across Dock Creek from his Walnut Street property.

On Andrew Hamilton's death in 1741 the Walnut Street property passed to his son Andrew, Jr., who died in 1747. He in turn left it to his son William Hamilton (1745-1813), best known as the proprietor of a great estate, "The Woodlands," west of the Schuylkill. It was William Hamilton who in 1781 sold to the Reverend William White,

Rector of the United Churches of Christ Church and St. Peter's, the lot on which White erected his house, now No. 309 Walnut Street.

Soon after their marriage in 1773, White and his wife had made their home in a house on Front Street just below Pine. There they had lived until sometime in 1780 or 1781, when they moved into a house on Walnut Street (present No. 303), which they rented from Mrs. Mary Hamilton. It was in this house, no longer standing, that White was living when he was chosen Bishop of Pennsylvania in 1786.

Soon after he took Mrs. Hamilton's house on Walnut Street, White decided to build for himself. Accordingly, in the late fall of 1781 he bought two contiguous lots a little further along on the same side of Walnut, beginning seventy-nine feet west of Third Street. The easterly lot, fronting twenty-two feet on Walnut, he bought from Robert Morton on November 30th. This piece of ground (present No. 307) already had on it a walled-up cellar, but White made no further improvements on the property and finally sold it in 1798 to his friend and neighbor Richard Peters. The westerly lot, purchased on December 1, 1781, from William Hamilton of "The Woodlands," was the one on which White's house was erected. The lot had a twenty-five foot frontage and ran back 120 feet to "a 12 foot wide alley or courtway left open by the said William Hamilton on the rear of his Walnut Street lots and extending into Third Street." White's deed granted him the use of this alley, now known as Harmony Street. Two years

later he bought a small parcel of land on the north side of it on which he erected a two-story brick stable about 1792.

Very little information has been found regarding the actual construction of the Bishop White House. Work had not yet begun in 1786 when the tax assessors listed the Reverend Mr. White's "vacant lot" at £500. It was under way the following year when his "Unfinished House & Lot" were assessed at £800, and must have been substantially completed by August 1787 when the Bishop took out insurance on it. The family probably took possession late in 1787 or early in 1788. They remained there until 1836, almost forty years.

The completed house was assessed at £1900 in 1788 and £1500 in 1789. The stable, first mentioned in 1792, added £200 to the Bishop's assessment, while two horses, a "light waggon", and one cow added another £113. The actual city tax on these properties amounted in 1793 to £8/6/8 and in 1796, when it was first computed in dollars, to $42.84. From these figures, well above the average for the period, it is evident that the Bishop's house was a fairly pretentious one. It remained his home for almost forty years.

2. Later History of 309 Walnut Street (1836-1951)

Owners. Bishop White died on July 12, 1836. Mrs. White having died many years before, the house was sold on November 22, 1836, for the benefit of the estate. It was bought for $25,000 by Charles Chauncey (1777-1849), a prominent lawyer and friend of the late Bishop.

Chauncey himself lived next door at 87 (present 307) Walnut and had his law office at 85 Walnut. On his death in 1849 Chauncey's three houses on Walnut passed to his unmarried daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth. Hannah died in 1851 and Elizabeth in 1870. In 1876 the executors of Elizabeth Chauncey sold No. 309 Walnut (the Bishop White House) to Edward S. Whelen, broker, who had been renting part of it since 1857. Whelen's executors sold the building in 1920 to William C. O'Neill & Sons for $37,500. In 1946 it was bought for $13,500 by Benjamin and Rose K. Steinberg from whom it was acquired by the United States Government for inclusion in Independence National Historical Park. for $33,000 plus 1 years free occupancy for Steinbergs.

Tenants. For the first twenty years after the Bishop's death the house apparently remained in use as a private residence. In 1837-39 it was the residence of Matthew C. Ralston, merchant, and from 1851 to 1857 it was the home of Nathaniel Chauncey (1789-1865), a younger brother of Charles Chauncey and uncle of the owners, Hannah and Elizabeth Chauncey. Nathaniel Chauncey was a non-practising attorney who was chiefly noted for his exhaustive research on the antecedents of the American Chaunceys.

By the middle of the nineteenth century Walnut Street between 3d and 4th Streets had been engulfed by the westward movement of business and had lost its pleasant residential character. The old houses remained, but they had gradually been taken over by insurance companies, insurance and stock brokers, and even railroad companies.

No. 309 (the new system of numbering was adopted in 1856) withstood the tide for a time, but by 1857 two brokerage firms were established in the house, E. S. Whelen & Company and Schott & Green. The Whelen firm (later known as Townsend Whelen & Company) was to remain there until 1911, over fifty years, and in 1876 became owner of the building. None of the other tenants stayed so long, at least nineteen having come and gone by 1877. This number included five brokers or brokerage firms, (1857-1868), the Huntington and Broad Top Mountain Railroad and Coal Company (1858-1859), the Shamokin Valley and Pottsville Railroad (1859-1863), the Diamond Coal Company (1865-1870), six other coal mining and shipping firms or agencies (1866-1872), a white lead manufacturer's office (1867), a commission agency (1868), a liquor dealer (1869-1870), the Vessel Owners and Captains' Association (1869), and the business office of the Excelsior Press Brick Manufacturing Company, reorganized in 1874 as the Excelsior Brick and Stone Company (1869-1876). Since 1876 the chief occupants of the building have been Townsend Whelen and Company (to 1911) and William C. O'Neill & Sons (1920-1946), stock and insurance brokers, respectively.

EVALUATION OF
HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

Although it was the home of Bishop White for almost forty years, no events of public significance can be directly associated with the Bishop White House, No. 309 Walnut Street. It is historically important, therefore, only in so far as the Bishop himself was important.

Bishop White's claim to be remembered by the people of the United States rests principally on two separate but related achievements: his long service as Chaplain of Congress and his leadership in the establishment of an American Episcopal Church independent of the Church of England. Historically, the latter is the more significant.

The name of William White first came into prominence in 1777. Just thirty years of age, White was then only an assistant minister of Philadelphia's Christ Church and St. Peter's, but he endeared himself to the Patriots by refusing to remain in Philadelphia after the British occupation. This action stood out the more prominently because White's two colleagues, including the former Chaplain of the Continental Congress, Jacob Duche, elected to stay in Philadelphia and soon after deserted the American cause entirely. White's sturdy patriotism was officially recognized when Congress, meeting in York during the dark days before Saratoga, elected the young clergyman one of its two chaplains. He was to serve in this capacity for the next six years, until Congress's removal to New York in 1783. During this same

period, as Rector of Christ Church and St. Peter's, White also served as pastor to many of the Members of the Continental Congress.

When Congress returned to Philadelphia in December 1790, one of its first actions was to elect two chaplains. Again White, now Bishop of Pennsylvania, was selected for this post of high dignity, for which his eminence as a religious leader and his past services as Chaplain made him a natural choice. He was re-elected annually until 1800 when the Federal Government moved to Washington.

Although White kept clear of involvement in politics, his position as Chaplain of Congress and rector of a church attended by many legislators and government officials brought him into close contact with many leading men of the day. It is only natural to assume, therefore, that some of them enjoyed the Bishop's hospitality in his house on Walnut Street. George Washington, for one, did so on November 19, 1798.

Far more significant than his chaplaincy, however, was White's contribution to American religious life. His role in the establishment of an independent Episcopal Church in America and in giving it a constitution reflecting the political ideas of the Revolution, closely paralleled in the religious sphere that of the "Founding Fathers" in the political.

One of the legacies of the political separation from Great Britain was the disruption of the Anglican Church in America. Before the Revolution, the Church had been subject to the Bishop of London;

the war left it with no central authority to give it direction. More important, there were no American bishops to ordain candidates for holy orders and, by British law, no bishops or priests could be consecrated in England without taking the oath of allegiance to the King as head of the Church. American Episcopalians were thus faced with a challenge affecting the very life of their church: how to establish an American episcopate which would carry on the apostolic succession and yet be free of subservience to a foreign power.

One way to meet the challenge was to by-pass the English Church entirely. This was the expedient adopted by Samuel Seabury, Bishop-elect of Connecticut, who in 1734 was consecrated by the bishops of the independent Episcopal Church of Scotland. The validity of this procedure was, however, challenged by most American churchmen, who felt that the apostolic succession resided only in the Church of England.

At a General Convention in Philadelphia in October 1785, over which the Rev. William White presided, lay and clerical representatives of the church from seven states drew up an address to the archbishops and bishops of England proposing a plan for the consecration of American bishops. The presentation of this address was entrusted to the American Minister in London, John Adams, to whom White wrote, in explanation, as follows:

> ...it is the wish of all the well-informed members of our church, to be independent and self-governed, principally from a conviction of the unhappy influences which a foreign spiritual jurisdiction has always maintained

> in civil matters wherever it has been acknowledged. This we have severally felt in the late war; and, if persevered in, it must at last be fatal either to our church or to the commonwealth, in those States, at least, where the members of our communion are a majority of the people. There is nothing wanting to the establishment of our constitution, but the obtaining the episcopal succession in the first instance from the English bishops, which, we trust, will fix our church on such a footing as must be desired by all who wish well to the present civil system of confederate America. Should any political objection arise from the British ministry, on the point of delicacy, as to intermeddling with the concerns of this country, I cannot doubt of your Excellency's endeavors to remove it.

White's appeal to Adams for his good offices was seconded by the President of Congress, Richard Henry Lee, and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, John Jay, both acting in their official capacities. In a letter to Adams on October 24, 1785, Lee requested the Minister's attention to the affair which, he wrote, was "of very great importance to...a considerable portion of the citizens of these States." There was some fear, he explained, that the British ministry might hesitate to act lest their action be considered an "officious intermeddling" with American domestic affairs.

> Should this be the case [Lee went on] the church of England members in congress have the greatest reliance on your liberal regard for the religious rights of all men, that you will remove mistaken scruples from the mind of administration, by representing how perfectly consonant it is with our revolution principles professed throughout all the States, that every denomination of Christians has a right to pursue its own religious modes,

> interfering not with others; that, instead of giving offence, it must give content, by evidencing a friendly disposition to accommodate the people here who are members of the church in question.

Secretary Jay, himself an active lay leader in the Episcopal Church, gave a political twist to the question in his letter to Adams of November 1, 1785:

> The convention are not inclined to acknowledge or have anything to do with Mr. Seabury. His own high church principles and the high church principles of those who ordained him, do not quadrate either with the political principles of our Episcopalians in general, or with those on which our revolution and constitutions are founded. They wish, therefore, to have a bishop to whom no objections of that kind can be made, and this is the object of their present measures. It will be much in your power to aid them in the attainment of it; and, for my part, I think your friendly interposition will neither disserve your country nor yourself.
>
> To me, personally, bishops are of little importance; but, as our civil affairs are now circumstanced, I have no objections to gratifying those who wish to have them. I confess I do not like the principles of the non-jurors [the Seabury party]; and, I think, the less patronage such opinions meet with among us, the better.

Negotiations between the English and American churches, seconded by the good offices of Minister John Adams, resulted in passage of an Act of Parliament authorizing the consecration of foreign bishops not subject to the Church of England. The final act which freed the American Episcopal Church took place on February 4, 1787, when William White and Samuel Provoost were consecrated at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, White as Bishop of Pennsylvania

and Provoost as Bishop of New York. The significance of the event was appreciated by no one more than by John Adams, who, despite his own Congregational principles, later wrote: "There was no part of my life in which I look back with more satisfaction than the part I took, bold, daring and hazardous, as it was to me and mine, in the introduction of the Episcopacy in America."

Its independence established, the American Episcopal Church set about the task of welding together its separate parts into one unified organization. Again Bishop White played a leading part. It was he who introduced into the constitution of the Church the democratic principle that the laity as well as clergy should participate in the government of the Church. And it was he who was largely responsible for mediating the differences between Bishops Seabury and Provoost which, until 1789, threatened the unity of the American Church.

To sum up, from 1777 until his death in 1836 Bishop William White was one of the most widely known and respected religious leaders in the United States. Through his long connection with the national government as a chaplain of the Continental and the Federal Congress and his rectorship of Christ Church, he had a personal acquaintance with many of the Founding Fathers. Through his work in establishing the American Episcopal Church he helped to further the emancipation of America from British domination and to unify divergent elements within the former colonies. His services benefitted the nation as well as his own denomination, as was recognized by John Adams and other

contemporaries, and they merit recognition today. The Bishop White House, his home during the greater part of his long career, is the appropriate place for a memorial to Bishop White and, perhaps, to other American religious leaders of the period, 1775 to 1800.

Recommendations

In view of Bishop White's key role in the religious life of the Revolutionary and Federal periods, it is recommended that his home be restored and used as a historic house museum.

Sufficient information is available to carry out an almost complete restoration of the exterior of the house to its appearance during the 1790's (see Architects' Report).

Our knowledge of the interior is less complete, but documentary and architectural evidence gives us a reasonably clear picture of room plans and such details as mouldings, doors, windows, and fireplaces. It should be possible, therefore, to carry out a satisfactory structural restoration of the interior (see Architects' Report).

Information on furnishings during Bishop White's lifetime is limited principally to two rooms. One, fortunately, is the Bishop's study, the center of his intellectual life, and the other is his dining room, where he entertained his often distinguished guests, including Washington.

The Bishop's study is pictured in detail in an oil painting by John Sartain, probably painted about the time of White's death in 1836 (see Chapter II Illustration No. 1). This painting gives invaluable precise

information on the furnishings of the room and their arrangement. Restoration of the room would be comparatively easy. Sartain's painting also gives some information on the Bishop's bedroom.

For the dining room there is no record comparable to Sartain's painting. Archaeological investigation has, however, revealed quite a bit about the Bishop's tableware, especially in regard to glass and china. Of the furniture and silver he used there seems to be no documentary record, though a few pieces are still owned by his descendants.

The following is a list of extant furnishings believed to have been in use in the house during the Bishop's lifetime. It has been compiled with the help of Mr. George Robins of Philadelphia, a direct descendant of Bishop White, and Mr. William M. Campbell, Architect, Independence National Historical Park.

At Christ Church

Desk pictured in Sartain's painting, two chairs, oil painting of "The Last Supper" sent to Bishop White from France by Gouverneur Morris c. 1792, a number of books from White's library, his manuscript sermons, various personal articles such as his spectacles, cane, cape, gloves, penknife, and quill pens, and three pendants with miniatures of the Bishop after Sully's portrait.

At the Church Historical Society (Philadelphia Divinity School):

Many of the Bishop's books and part of the bookcase-cupboards pictured in Sartain's painting of the study.

Owned by Descendants of Bishop White:

George P. Robins, 20 N. American St., Philadelphia — one chair, a blue and white pierced Canton fruit dish and plate, and a silver gravy ladle.

Mrs. Elmer E. Bailey, No. 6, The Strand, New Castle, Del. — a cut glass decanter.

Mrs. Arthur Starin, School Lane House, Schoolhouse Lane and Wissahickon Ave., Germantown — bureau from Bishop White's bedroom, engraving "Evening" by Boydell after Lorraine.

Mr. Arthur de Berdt Robins, 761 Vose Ave., Orange, N. J. — one chair.

Mrs. Vincent Vermooten, 4404 Fairfax Ave., Dallas 5, Texas — 4 Hepplewhite Shield-back dining room chairs, one silver spoon, fire tools, and a miniature of Bishop White after Sully's portrait.

Mr. William White, Jr., 560 Glenview Road, Bryn Mawr, Pa. — six silver teaspoons. His father, the late Mr. William White, Sr., owned Inman's portrait of Bishop White.

If the Bishop White House is established as a memorial to the Bishop, it is possible that the owners of furnishings originally in the house might be willing to give or loan some of the items listed above to help recreate the Bishop's study, dining room, and bedroom.

Since practically nothing is known about the furnishings in use in other rooms of the house, it is suggested that the refurnishing program be limited to these three rooms and, possibly, the kitchen.

The remaining first floor room, at the front of the house, would be a suitable place for an integrated exhibit of pictorial and documentary material relating to Bishop White and other religious leaders and philanthropists of the period 1774 to 1800. Such an exhibit would complement the general Park theme, reflect the tolerance and varied interests of Bishop White himself, and avoid the danger of appearing to favor a single denomination.

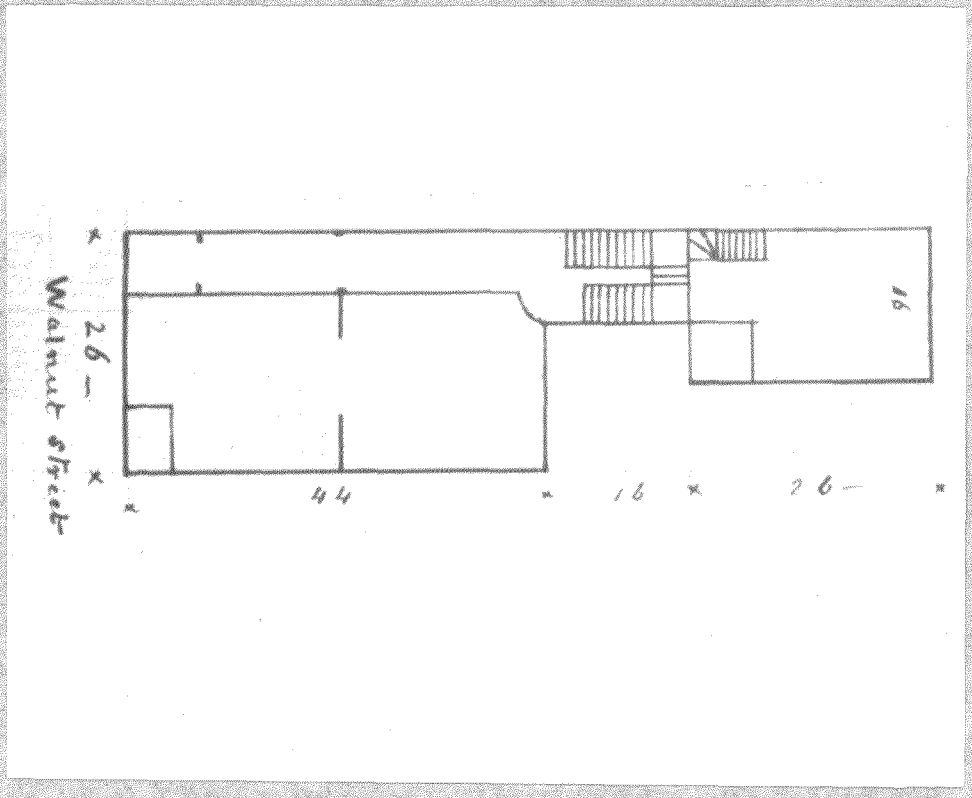
ILLUSTRATIONS

Chapter II
Illustration No. 1



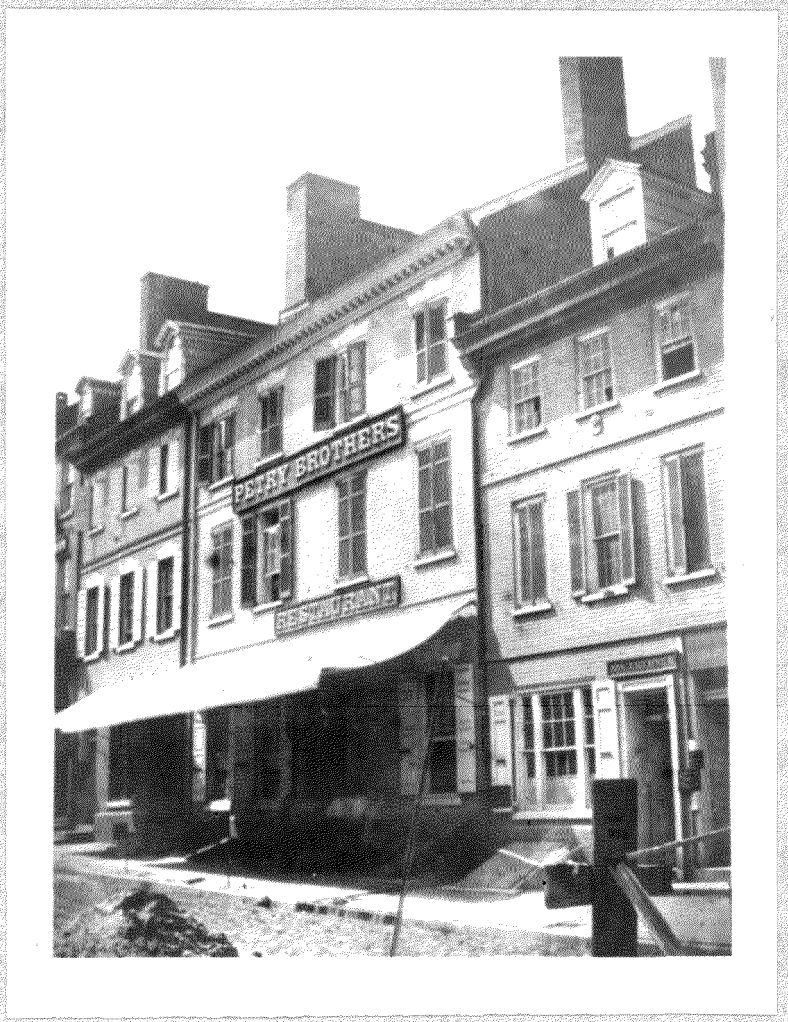
Back Room, Second Floor, 309 Walnut Street
Oil Painting by John Sartain, ca. 1836
Owned by Mrs. Arthur Starin, School Lane House
School House Lane and Wissahickon Ave., Germantown

This painting probably was done about the time of the Bishop's death. From it Sartain engraved a print which appeared in a biography of Bishop White published many years later. The view is from the north wall looking south into the front bedroom. A replica of this painting is in Christ Church, Philadelphia.



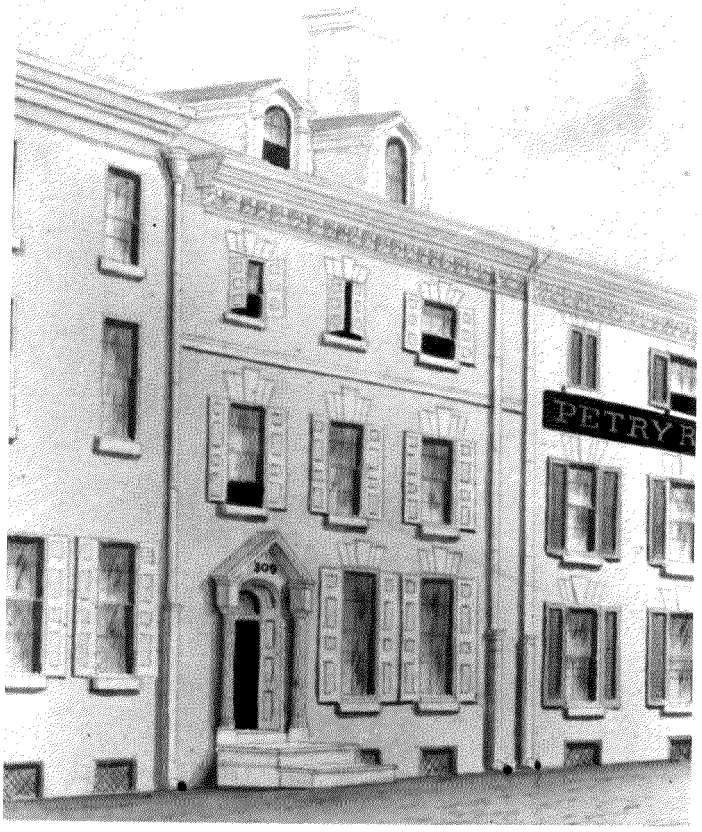
No. 309 Walnut Street
Plan of first floor, March 1858

This plan is taken from D. K. Knight's survey of 309 Walnut for insurance Policy No. 10,024, Philadelphia Contributionship (see above, Section 1, pages 3-4).



Nos. 305-309 Walnut Street
Photograph by Julius F. Sachse, May 1859
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Boies Penrose Pictorial Philadelphia Collection, Box 23

This is the earliest known view showing the exterior of the Bishop White House, third building from the right. Unfortunately, it was taken a year or so after the first floor front was altered. Petry Brothers' Restaurant occupied the former Peters-Chauncey House, No. 307, in 1859. The name was changed to Petry's Restaurant the following year.



307-311 Walnut Street
Ink drawing by B. R. Evans, ca. 1859-1869
Original at Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Cat. No. ARP.03/No. 60

Although the Bishop White House occupies the center of this drawing, the artist labelled it "Petry's Restaurant/ North Side of Walnut St. above 3rd St./1852". The date, apparently added later in pencil, must be incorrect, since the Bishop's house (old No. 89) was renumbered 309 only in 1856. Petry's Restaurant occupied No. 307 between 1859 and 1869, and the drawing presumably dates from the same period. Since No. 309 acquired a shop-front in 1858, the front on this drawing must be a reconstruction as the artist remembered it. The artist, Benjamin Ridgway Evans, was a minor Philadelphia architect and draftsman who between the 1830's and 1890's made many Philadelphia views, of which the Historical Society of Pennsylvania owns about 250.

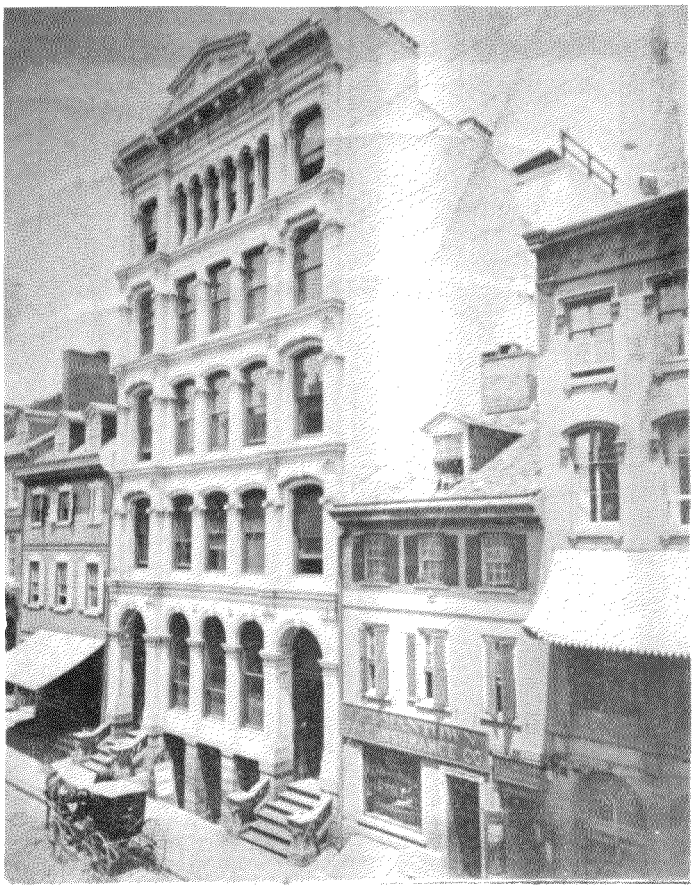


Nos. 305-317 Walnut Street
Watercolor by David J. Kennedy, probably after 1860
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Kennedy Collection

The original bears the following inscription in the artist's hand:

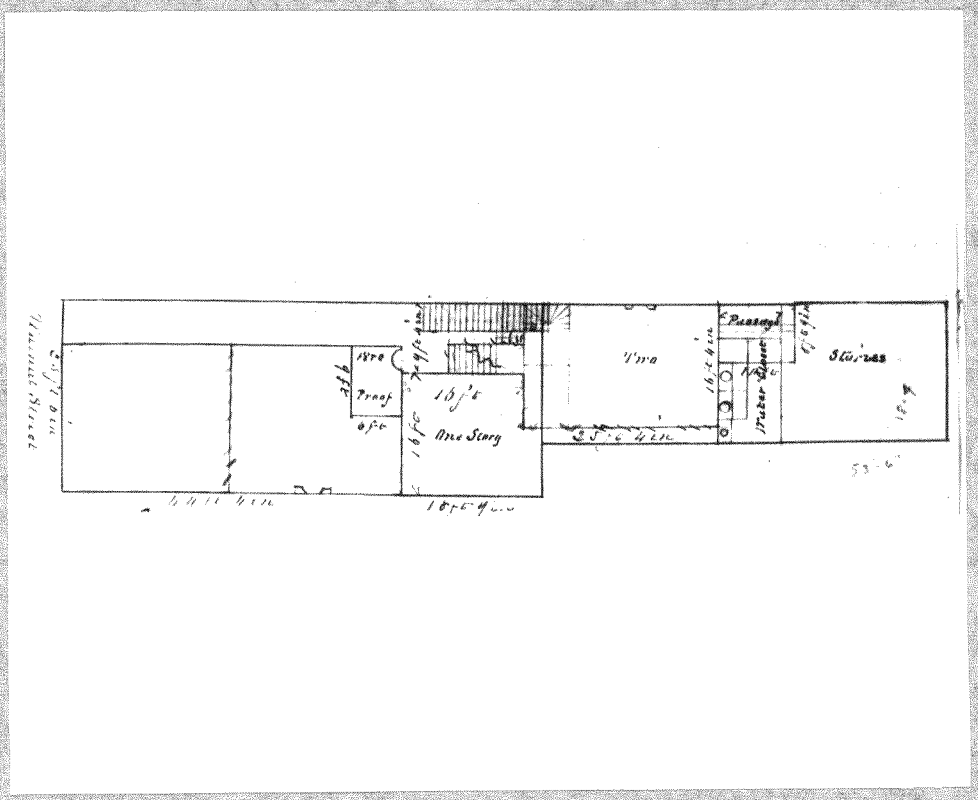
> "Residence of Judge Peters, Walnut Street above 3rd, north side. Adjoining it on the West, a red brick with blue curtains, is the Residence of Bishop White. The Judge's residence was one of the finest of its time, built in 1793. Chas. Chauncey succeeded the Judge & was succeeded by Elihu Chauncey."

There seems to be no way of dating this picture precisely. It must have been done after 1849 when Charles Chauncey died, and it probably was done considerably later. So far as is known Elihu Chauncey never lived in 307, which was the home of Sarah Chester from 1849 to 1859 and Petry's Restaurant from 1859 to 1869. Kennedy probably did it from memory, perhaps aided by Sachse's 1859 photograph (See Appendix B, No. 2). His rendering of architectural details is not very reliable (cf. the roof line of No. 311 in his watercolor and in the attached photographs). Kennedy was an amateur artist who painted hundreds of Philadelphia scenes between the 1830's and 1890's, many of which are now at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



Nos. 303-311 Walnut Street
Photograph by Gutekunst, ca. 1874-1879
INHP Collection

This photograph must have been taken during the late 1870's. The Germantown Fire Insurance Company, whose sign is prominently displayed on the front of No. 305, was at that address from 1874 to 1881. The Bishop White House, No. 309, appears still to retain the 1858 front, which was replaced about the end of 1879 or early in 1880.



309 Walnut Street
First floor plan, 1876-1880
Survey, Policy No. 12,128, Philadelphia Contributionship

This plan, drawn by I. L. Moore, surveyor for the Philadelphia Contributionship, was originally done to illustrate Moore's 1876 survey of the house. When he re-surveyed the property in 1880, however, Moore indicated the alterations on the same drawing. This drawing, therefore, incorporates both the 1876 and 1880 floor plans (see above, section 1, pages 5-9).



Nos. 307-311 Walnut Street
Photograph, ca. 1907-1911
Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Edward Brown & Son, dealers in "pyrometers," Charles E. Heath, insurance agent, and J. W. Donahue, resident manager of the Maryland Casualty Company, whose names appear on the front of No. 311, had offices in that building for varying periods but all three were there at the same time only from 1907 to 1911. No. 309 at this time was still occupied in part by Townsend Whelen & Co., stock and exchange brokers.



Nos. 301-311 Walnut Street
Photograph by Charles E. Peterson, 1947
HABS Collection

The Bishop White House, No. 309, shows the 1946 alterations to the street front.

CHAPTER III

ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Prepared by Resident Architect G. S. Grossman

HISTORICAL AND STRUCTURAL DESIGN
INCLUDING COMPARISON WITH SIMILAR BUILDINGS

The Bishop White House, built in 1787, was a typical row house of the period, of the type and style built by prosperous merchants and other well-to-do citizens. Like most houses in Old Philadelphia it was built on a narrow, deep lot, 26 feet wide and 120 feet deep. The plan of the house was divided into four functional units: the front house or family quarters, the stair-hall, the kitchen wing, and the necessary.

The front portion of the house occupied the full width of the lot, rising three stories to the cornice, with a garret and loft contained within the gabled roof. (See Plates Nos. 7 & 8.) The distinguishing features of the street facade were the entrance doorway with its frontispiece, brick base at grade, brick band courses at the second and third floor levels, two dormer windows in the roof, and the Flemish bond brick pattern of the wall. (See Plate No. 8.)

The front portion of the house was the center of the family and social life of the Bishop. Each floor, except the loft, contained two rooms and a hallway. (See Plates Nos. 1, 2, and 3.)

Joining the family portion of the house to the kitchen or domestic wing, was a stairhall, referred to as a piazza in the insurance records. (See Plates Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 5.) The

stairhall, which contained an open newel stairway (see plate No. 7) provided communication among the three lower floors of the front house. Minor stairways in the front house led to the garret and loft. (See Plate No. 3.) Interior access to the cellar was from the kitchen wing only. (See Plates Nos. 1 and 2.)

The kitchen wing, three stories in height including the exposed basement, housed the domestic activities of the household. (See Plates Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7.) The kitchen occupied the basement level and opened into the cellars which extended under the stairhall and front house. A brick vaulted room, used for food storage, was located at a lower level under the north end of the kitchen. (See Plates Nos. 1 and 7.) A shallow cooling well occupied the center of the floor of this room. (See Plates Nos. 1 & 9.) Access to this lower room was by means of a trap door in the kitchen floor and a ship's ladder. (See Plates Nos. 1, 7, 10, & 11.)

In the northwest corner of the kitchen wing a servants' stairway extended from the kitchen level to the loft. (See Plate No. 7.) The only opening between the living quarters and the kitchen wing was by a doorway on the first floor. (See Plates Nos. 1 & 2.)

A two-story necessary was attached to the kitchen wing. (See Plates Nos. 1, 4, & 5.) An 18-inch brick sewer connected the necessary to one of the branches of Dock Creek. (See Plate No. 12.)

While the 1795 survey (see (4) Chapter II, Section 1, Page 2) refers to this portion of the house as a necessary, the physical evidence indicates this probably was in error. Similar additions were sometimes used as sculleries on the floor adjacent to the kitchen with a wash or bathing room on the floor above. Both a well and a cistern were located outside the walls of the original kitchen wing. (See Plates Nos. 1, 13, & 14.)

Our knowledge of the Bishop's house as it existed at the time he occupied it, is the result of exhaustive research of the physical evidence which remains, a study of all known documents relating to the building, and a street by street survey in Old Philadelphia of existing houses similar to the Bishop's house. Approximately 30 houses similar to the Bishop's house were found, and of these 12 have interior features similar to those which evidence indicates existed in the Bishop White House.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FABRIC

The Bishop White House has suffered all the vicissitudes of a house in a neighborhood which has changed from one of the best residential areas of the City to that of a rapidly deteriorating business district. Chapter II, Section 1, of this report records the changed uses to which the building was put during the years. Plates Nos. 1 to 7 record the original construction of the house and the original portions which remain.

The plates record the results of a thorough---almost an inch by inch---physical investigation of those portions of the original building which remain, as well as an archeological excavation in the basement of the existing rear wing, a street by street survey of Old Philadelphia for buildings similar to the Bishop White House, and a careful study of those examples which are still standing, a study of all documentary data available, and a careful evaluation of all sources of evidence relating to the original appearance of the house.

The physical evidence has literally been "dug out" from the earth of the basement (see Plates Nos. 9 through 14), from under furred walls, and from under layers of paint and plaster. (See Plate No. 15.) The result is an extremely accurate and complete record of the house as the Bishop built it.

Superimposed on the plates are cross-hatched areas which indicate those portions of the original house no longer existing.

FRONT HOUSE

Basement (See Plates Nos. 1 & 7.)

The basement, constructed of stone masonry, is in good condition, and complete except for the missing cellar window, cellar steps, and the sidewall bulkhead on Walnut Street.

Superstructure - Original Construction

(See Plates Nos. 1, 2, 3, & 7.)

There were three wall systems, each having its own structural function:

1. The east and west party walls extending from the first floor to the ridge of the gabled roof were 8 inches thick. The joists of the second and third floors were supported by these 8-inch party walls which carried the entire load of these two floors except where an 8-inch brick wall to the east of the hallways carried portions of these floor loads. All joist construction was in an east-west direction.

2. The front and rear, or north and south walls, were 13 inches thick and supported the garret and loft and roof construction. All joists and rafters ran north and south.

3. There were two systems of interior walls. One 8-inch brick wall was located midway between the front and rear walls and

extended from the cellar foundations to the garret floor which it helped to support. Between the garret and loft floors this wall was reduced to a 4-inch brick wall. One of the essential functions of this wall was to stabilize the extremely high and thin party walls. A second 8-inch brick wall separated the hallways from the rooms to the east. On the first floor this wall extended from the front entrance to the stairhall. On the second and third floors the wall was omitted from the front half of the house and extended only from the east-west crosswall to the stairhall. Between the garret and loft floors this wall was also reduced to a 4-inch brick wall.

Superstructure - Existing Conditions

(See Plates Nos. 1 to 7, and 15.)

All original construction has been removed from the first floor except the 8-inch east and west party walls. (See Plates Nos. 16 & 17.) The upper walls and floors are supported on a series of steel columns and beams which have been inserted from time to time. (See Plates Nos. 1 & 7.) The intermediate 8-inch wall which provided lateral stability has been removed (see plate No. 1), and it is doubtful that the steel construction which replaces it was designed to provide lateral stability. One of the fireplaces has been removed from the first floor, not only eliminating the buttressing effect of such construction but by its removal creating an eccentric loading on the east party wall. (See Plate No. 1.)

The sound appearance of the exterior of the east party wall (see Plate No. 18) is deceiving. When the building to the east was demolished this wall was cut with pipe chases and flues. (See Plates Nos. 19 & 20.) Expert craftsmanship has obliterated these scars and also conceals the fact that in places the wall structurally is only 4 inches thick. The condition of this wall where the brickwork meets the masonry foundations is unstable. (See Plate No. 21.)

The Yoh Building, a 5-story reinforced concrete building adjacent to the Bishop White House on the west, has prevented a complete investigation of the west party wall. A thorough investigation of this wall is necessary to determine the condition of the wall and the methods to be used in demolishing the Yoh Building so as not to damage the Bishop White House and to insure its stability.

Above the second floor level the Front house has remained structurally undisturbed.

Stairhall or Piazza

(See Plates Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, & 18.)

Nothing remains of the stairhall on the first floor except the west party wall. Above the second floor level the walls and roof are intact, except in the east wall where window openings have been moved and altered.

Kitchen Wing

The west party wall, the foundations of the kitchen and necessary, the food cellar and well, and the cistern in the yard, are all that remain of the original kitchen wing.

Interiors

The only original woodwork remaining on the first floor are the shelves of the breast closets in the north fireplace. (See Plate No. 22.) On the second floor the north room, the Bishop's Study (see Plate No. 28), except for very minor changes, remains in its original condition. This is confirmed by the contemporary painting Illustration No. 1 of Chapter II of this report. While in the remainder of the front house extensive areas of woodwork have been removed, enough remains to permit the reproduction of all the missing parts. (See Plates Nos. 23, 24, & 25.)

In the stairhall one of the third floor windows and a few pieces of original trim remain.

ADDITIONAL WORK NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH

All architectural research is completed except the preparation of the narrative report. The work completed includes a complete set of drawings documenting all existing evidence of original construction, a set of drawings for the reconstruction of the Bishop White House to its original appearance, together with photographs and other material documenting the portions of the house which are missing, and giving the locations of existing contemporary examples of the missing parts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It will be ascertained from an analysis of Section 2 of Chapter III of this report, that the most pressing and difficult problem involved in the preservation of the Bishop White House is stabilizing the building structurally.

It will also be noted that because of the excessive alterations made over the years, including the removal of the original stabilizing crosswalls, the removing of the adjacent Yoh Building to the west would have an adverse effect on the stability of the Bishop White House. The McIlvaine House which abuts the Yoh Building on the west and which is programmed for restoration and rehabilitation, (see separate building survey report) also would be adversely affected by its removal. Plate No. 26 shows the relationship of these buildings to each other. The fenestration of the three buildings on the first three floors align horizontally and the floor elevations are approximately the same.

To insure the continued stability of the Bishop White and the McIlvaine houses, it is suggested that the Yoh Building, which is constructed of reinforced concrete, be demolished only to the third floor level, and that the existing front be removed and replaced with a period facade. (See Plate No. 27.) The use of a series of wall ties at the second and third floor levels extending from the east wall of the Bishop White House and the

west wall of the McIlvaine House through these buildings and anchored to the reinforced concrete frame of the Yoh Building, would permanently insure the stability of the Bishop White and McIlvaine houses.

It is proposed to restore only the exterior of the McIlvaine House to the historic period. The interior rehabilitation will be such as to permit the use of the building for non-historic functions. (See separate Building Survey Report.) It would be possible to place the new floor levels of the McIlvaine House at the same elevation as the Yoh Building. This would permit the maximum flexibility of use. The buildings could be occupied by two separate organizations; or, by means of openings between the two buildings, occupied by one organization requiring more floor space.

In the event the Yoh Building is retained as described above, the rear of the building would have to be modified to conform to the architecture of the historic period. Historically, both the Bishop White and McIlvaine houses were Philadelphia row house units. Plate No. 27 shows them restored in such a setting. In our historic period, not all lots along Walnut Street were occupied by buildings. Therefore, the vacant lots adjacent to the Bishop White and McIlvaine houses would conform to that period.

It is recommended that:

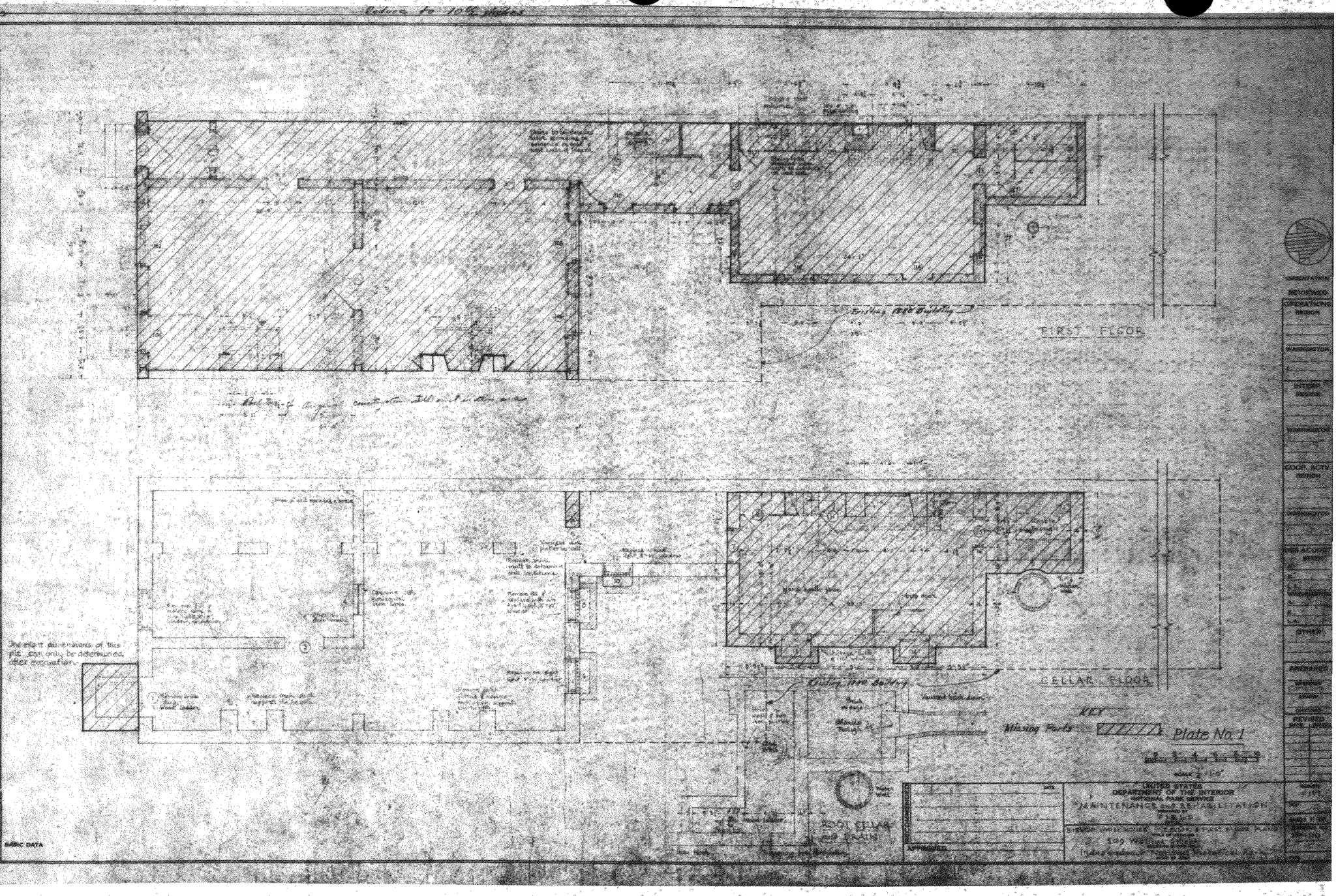
1. The Bishop White House be fully restored and used as a house museum.

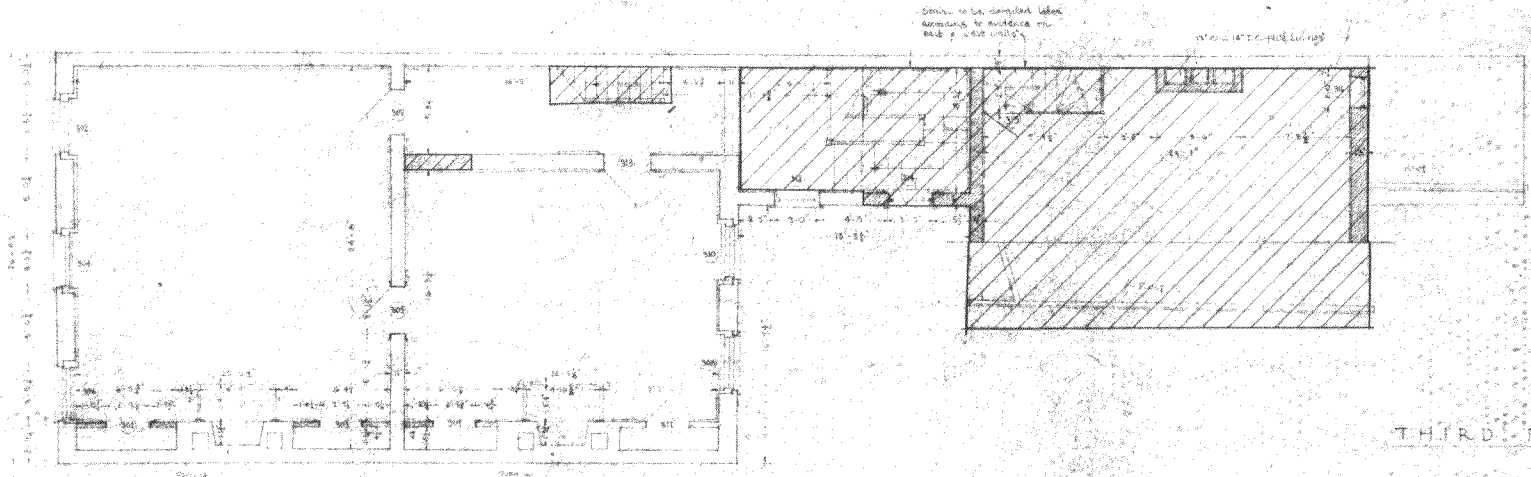
2. That a portion of the Yoh Building be retained to provide structural stability for the Bishop White and McIlvaine Houses.

3. That a new facade and roof be designed for the Walnut Street portion of the Yoh Building and that the rear of the building be modified as necessary to be in harmony and character with the period and the adjacent buildings.

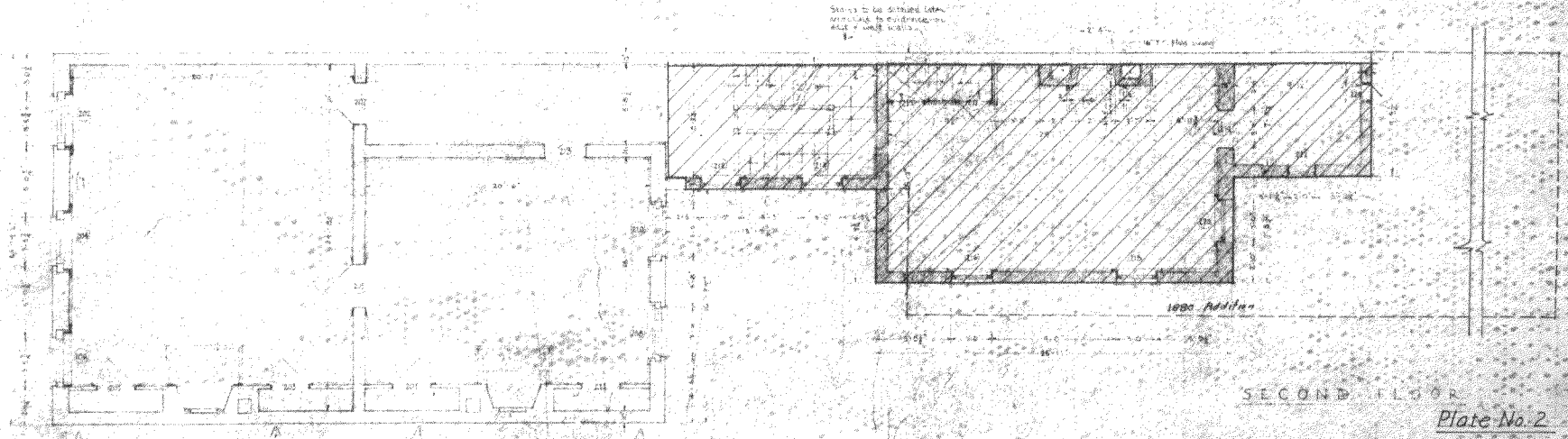
Recommendations concerning the McIlvaine House are covered by the Historic Building Report for that building.

Reduce to 10" width





THIRD FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

Plate No. 2

0 2 4 6 8 10

SCALE

RECOMMENDED

APPROVED

DATE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ORIENTATION REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION

WASHINGTON

INTERP. REGION

WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTIV. REGION

WASHINGTON

DES. & CONST. SUPV.

WASHINGTON

OTHER

PREPARED

CHECKED

REVISED DATE | INITIAL

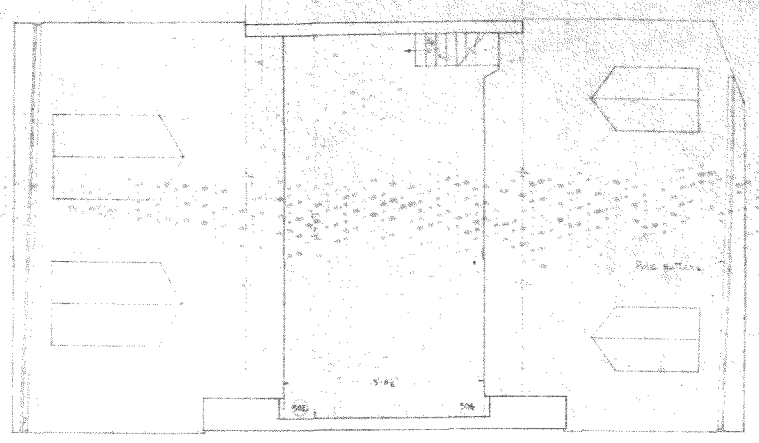
REGION

PLAT

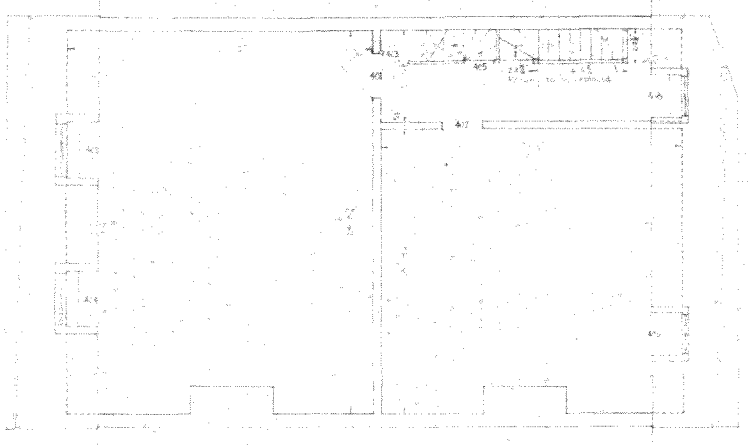
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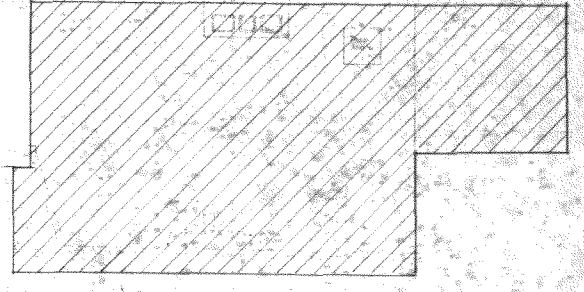
DRAWING NO.

BASIC DATA



LOFT FLOOR





BASIC DATA

Plate No 3

0 2 4 6 8 10

SCALE

RECOMMENDED

DATE

APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PREPARED BY

OFFICE

TITLE OF DRAWING

LOCATION WITHIN AREA

NAME OF AREA

ORIENTATION REVIEWED

OPERATIONS
REGION
WASHINGTON

INTERP.
REGION
WASHINGTON

COOP. ACTV.
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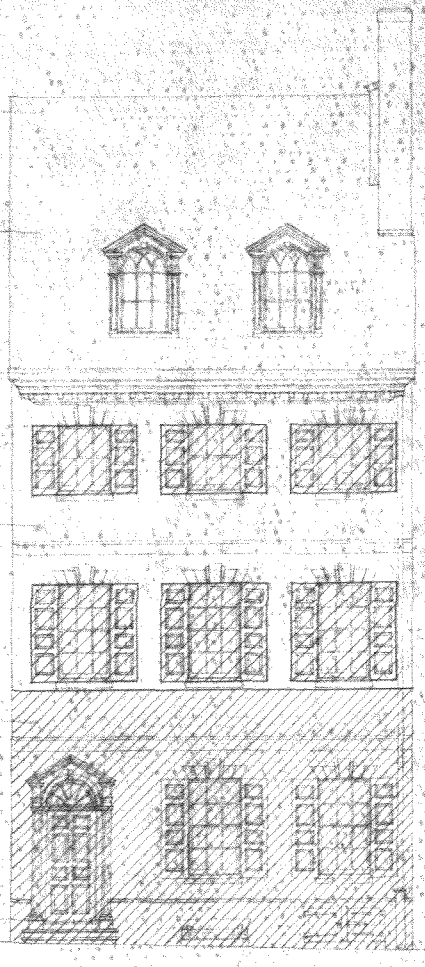
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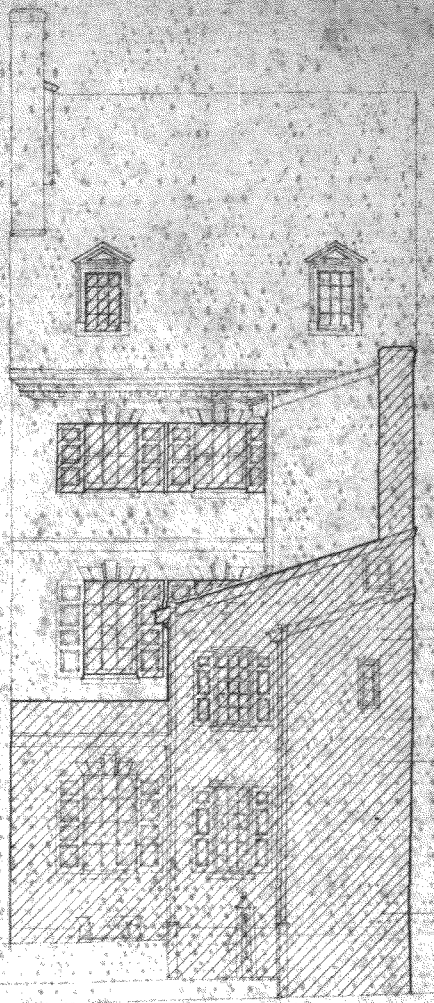
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DATE | INITIAL

REGION
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SHEET 6 OF
DRAWING NO.

DATE



SOUTH ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

Plate No 4.

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

0 2 4 6 8 10

RECOMMENDED

DATE

APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PREPARED BY

TITLE OF DRAWING

LOCATION WITHIN AREA

NAME OF AREA

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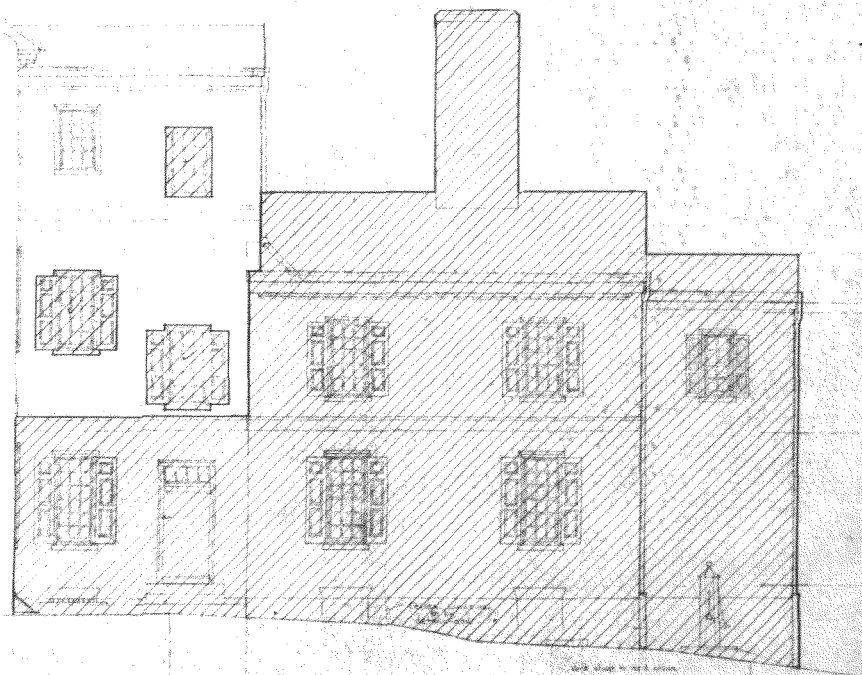
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EAST ELEVATION

Plate No 5

SCALE 1" = 5'

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

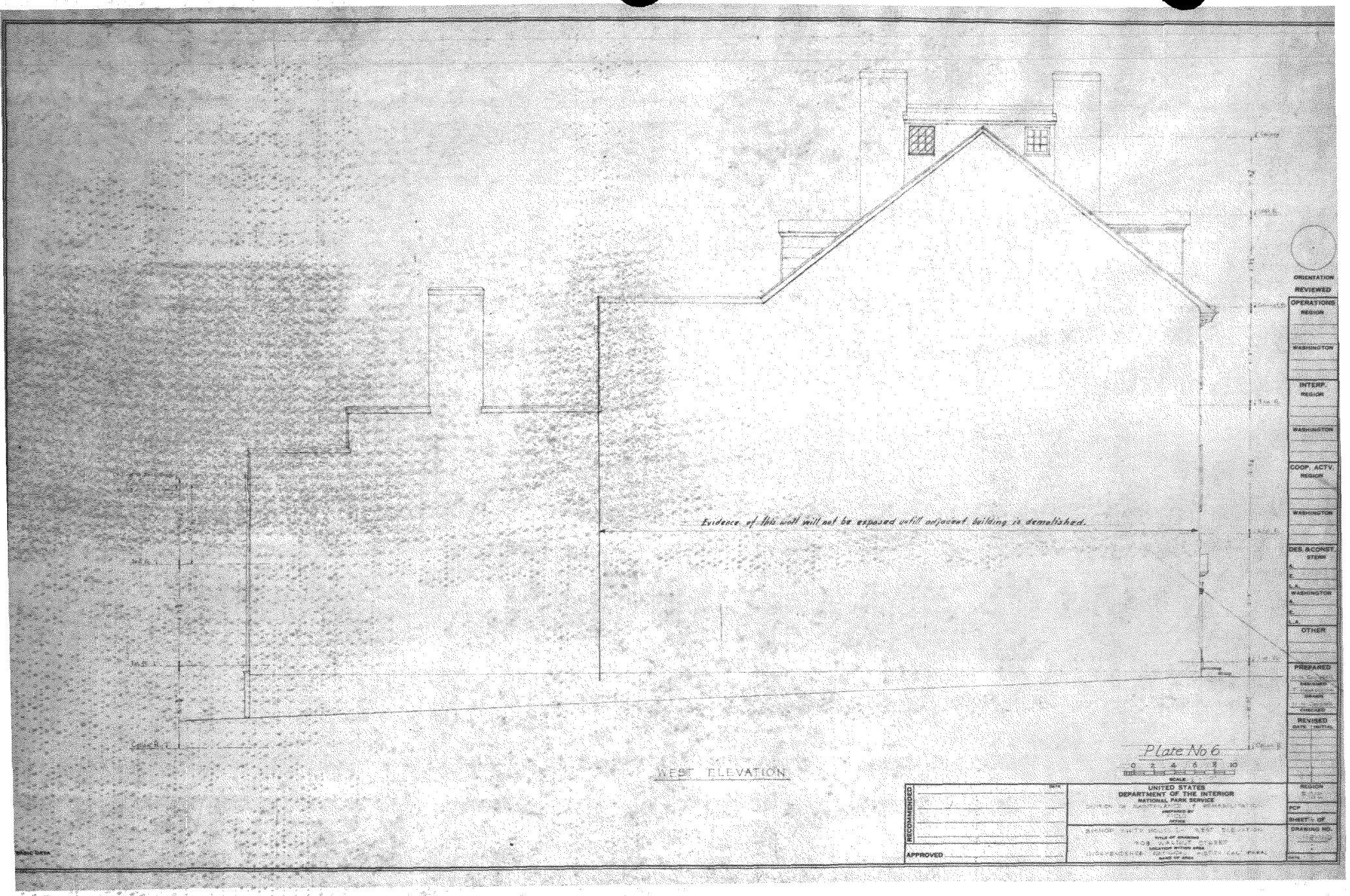
PREPARED BY
OFFICE

TYPE OF DIVISION
LOCATION WITHIN AREA
NAME OF AREA

RECOMMENDED
DATE
APPROVED
DATE

ORIENTATION REVIEWED
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DRAWING NO.
DATE

BASIC DATA



WEST ELEVATION

Plate No 6

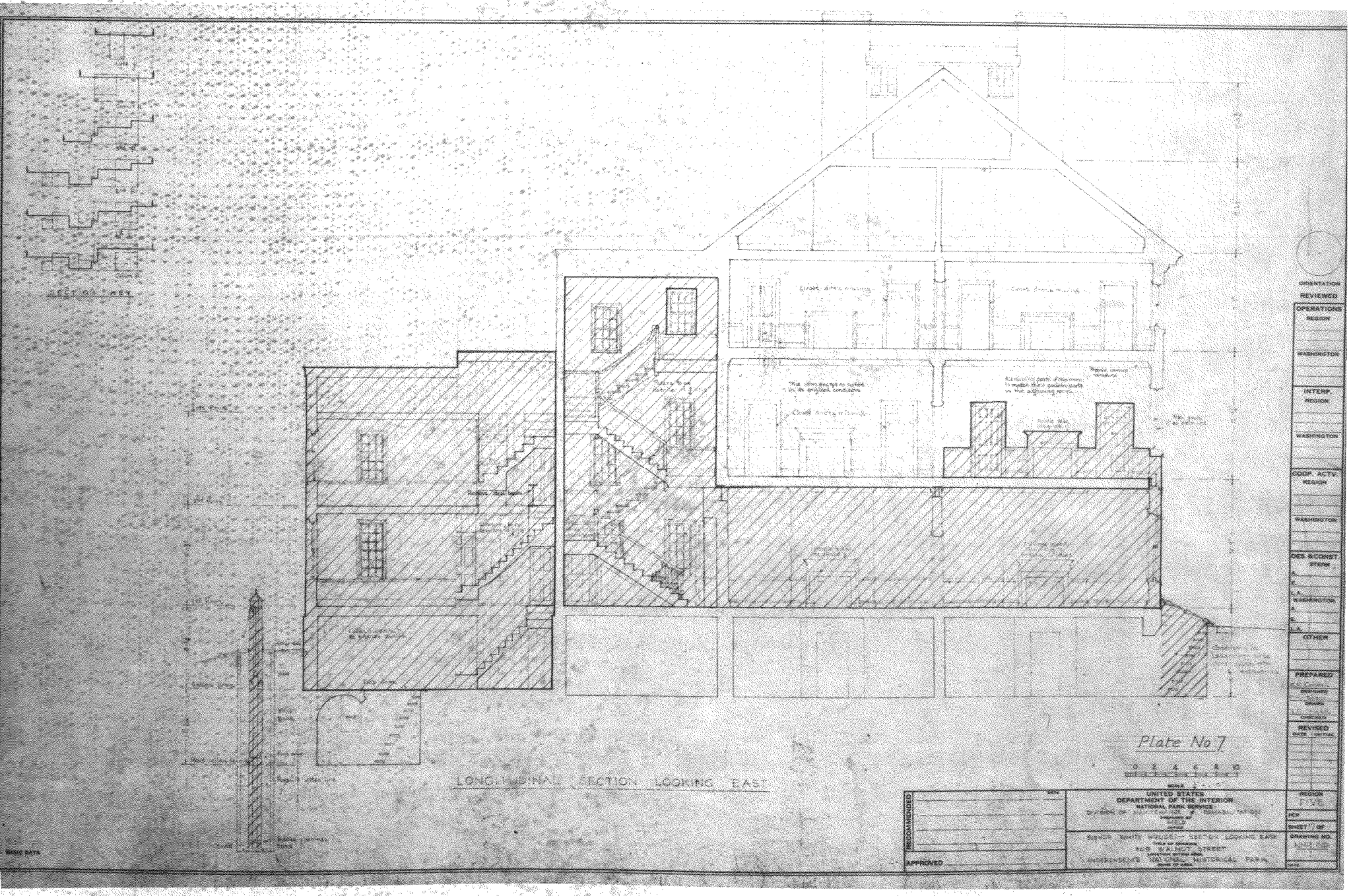
SCALE 0 2 4 6 8 10

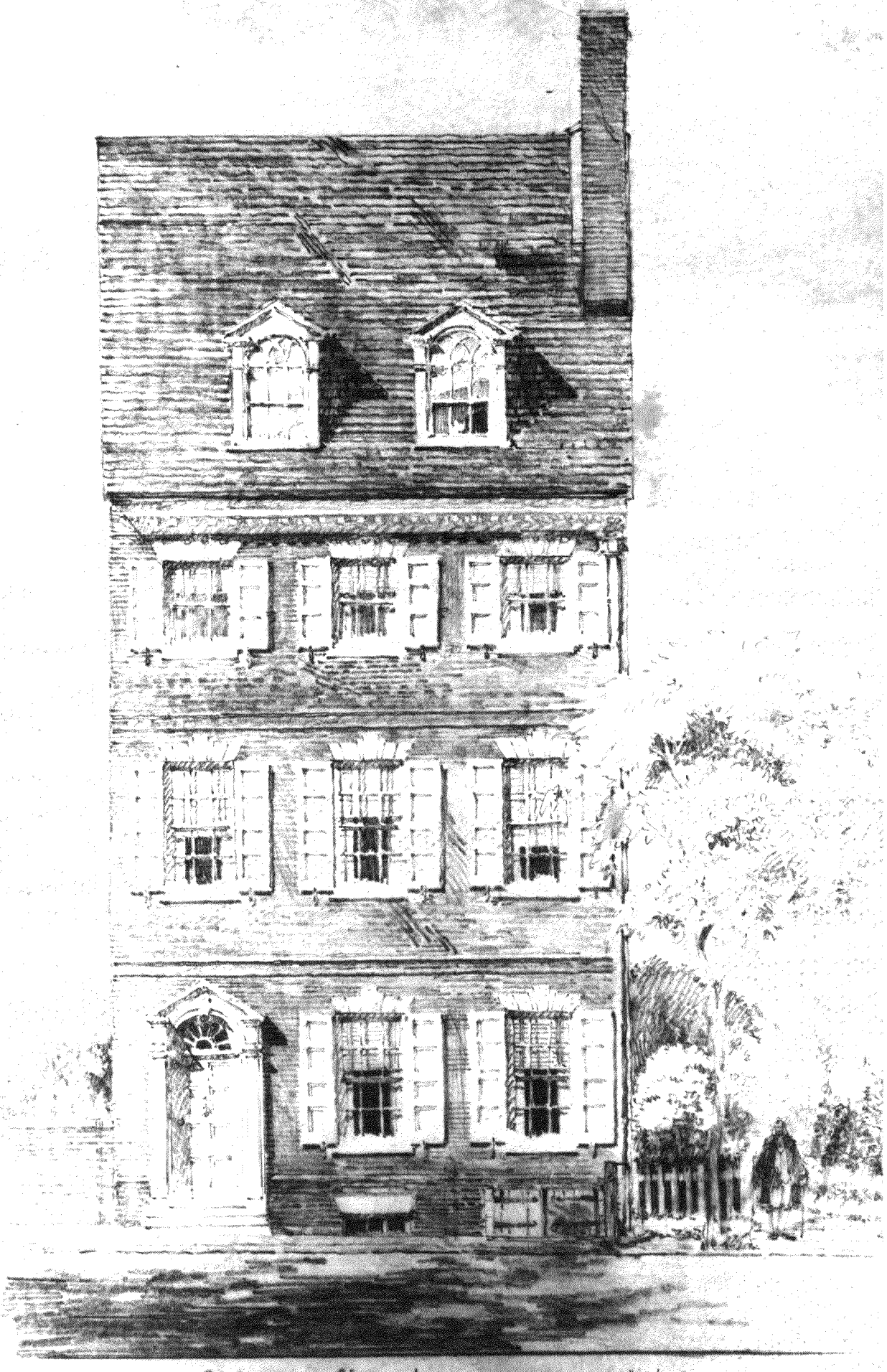
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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COOP. ACTV. REGION
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SHEET 1 OF
DRAWING NO.


SEE SHEET
LONGITUDINAL SECTION LOOKING EAST
Plate No 7
0 2 4 6 8 10
ORIENTATION REVIEWED
OPERATIONS REGION
WASHINGTON
INTERP. REGION
WASHINGTON
COOP. ACTV. REGION
WASHINGTON
DES. & CONST. STERN
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PREPARED
REVISED
RECOMMENDED
APPROVED
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BISHOP WHITE HOUSE - SECTION LOOKING EAST
609 WALNUT STREET
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
REGION FIVE
DRAWING NO. NHP-BD



Bishop White House - Scale $\frac{1}{4}$"=1'-0"



Food cellar under kitchen wing showing cooling well in lower right hand corner and the brick barrel vault ceiling. Note pintels on wall to the left.



Looking from the kitchen, down the slot which contained the ship's ladder into the food cellar.



Food cellar looking east. Note the cooling well in the foreground, the ventilator shaft in the far wall and the opening to the ships ladder and trap door in the right wall.



Foundation of "necessary" and sewer view looking north. The concave section in the center is a marble slab with pitched brick paved sections. Note that the crown of the brick sewer has been removed for a considerable distance due to later construction.



The well in the foreground and the cistern beyond which were found under the present basement floor. The cistern was probably built either because it became polluted or because of a failure of water due to the area building up, streets being paved and the inclosing of the branch of Dock Creek immediately to the rear of the Bishop White property.



View looking into the well. The brick walls are laid up without mortar.

A composite photograph of the west wall of the necessary, kitchen & stair hall wing showing existing evidence of the original construction after furring, paint and plaster was removed from the wall.

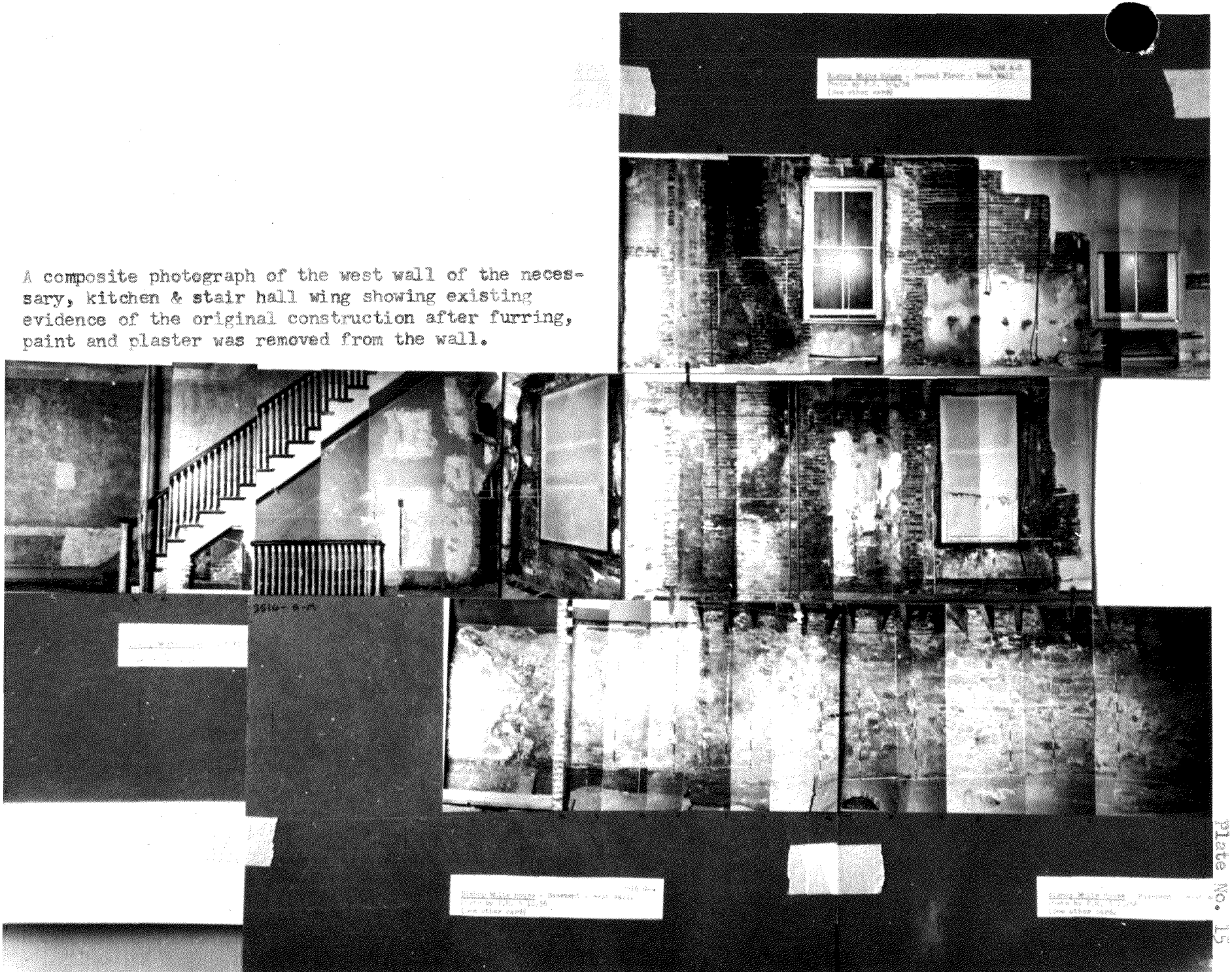


Plate No. 15



First floor looking south through back room into front room.



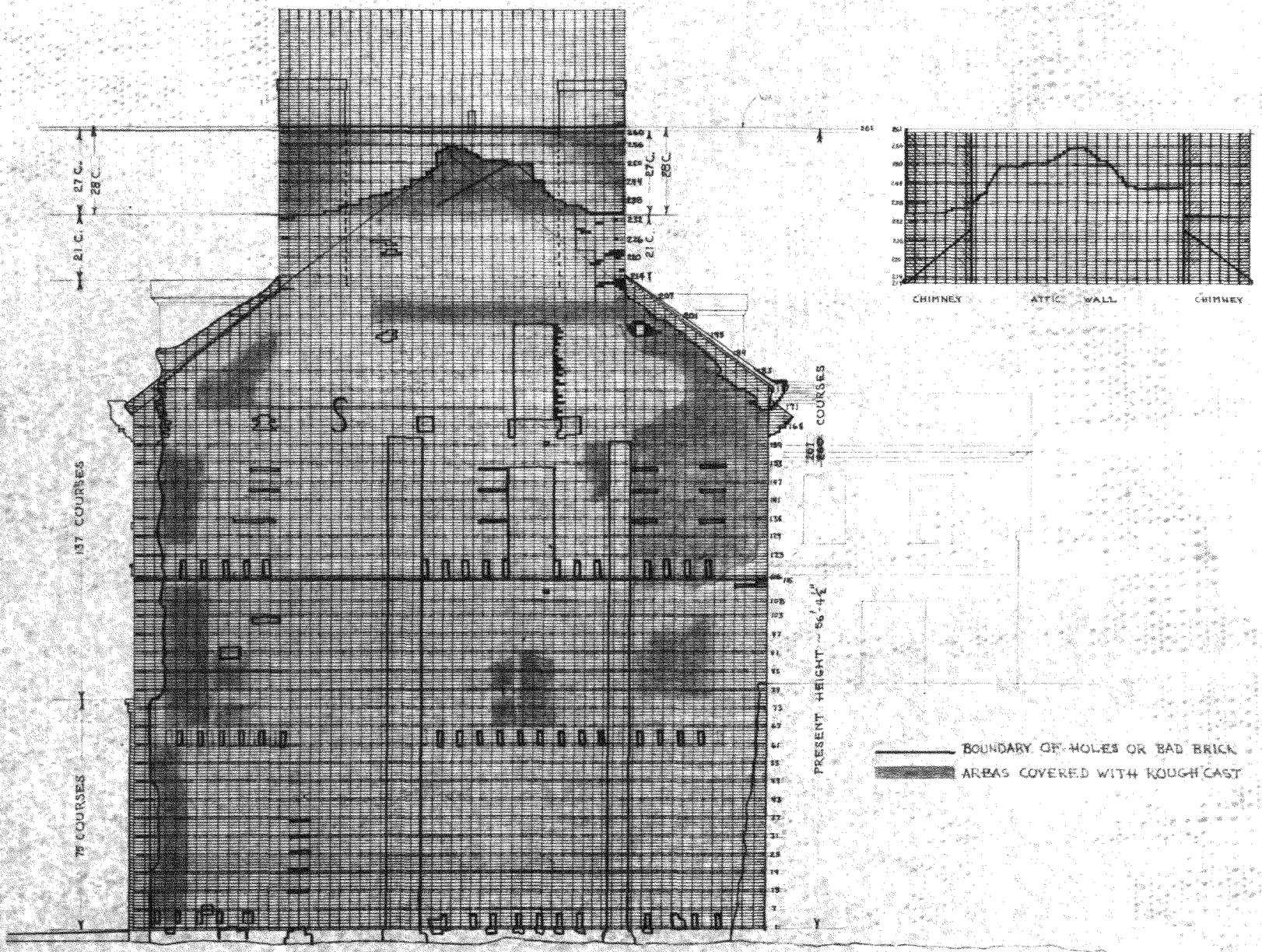
First floor looking north into the back room area and beyond into the 1680 extension of the building.



East elevation showing the restored east wall of the front house, then the stair hall or "piazza" and the 1880 construction at the rear.



East elevation showing the wall before it was restored.



EAST ELEVATION
BISHOP WHITE HOUSE
SCALE: 3/16 = 1'-0"

Plate No. 20



Detail of the east wall showing its unstable condition where it meets the stone basement wall.



First floor, north room, east wall showing closet shelves in chimney breast and existing condition of fireplace and evidence of original mantel, and chair rail.



Second floor front room east wall showing closets, existing fireplace and outline of original mantle.



Third floor, north room, east wall showing scars of fireplace opening and hearth.



Third floor, south room S.W. corner showing evidence of fireplace, closet walls and shelves.



Showing the relationship of floor heights of the McIlvaine House on the left and the Bishop White House on the right to the Yoh Building in the center.



SCHEME for RETAINING the LOWER PORTION of the YOH BUILDING for the PURPOSE of STABILIZING the MC ILVAINE HOUSE and the BISHOP WHITE HOUSE.

Scale ¼" - 1'-0"
Date - March - [illegible]
DR. BY Campbell

Plate No. 27



The Bishop's Study, second floor, north room looking northeast, showing original woodwork and plaster cornice. Compare with painting. (Illustration No. 1 of Chapter II)

CHAPTER IV

ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA

Prepared by Archeologist E. B. Powell

STUDY OF STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

Archeological excavations began at the Bishop White House in December 1955, at the request of the architectural staff when portions of a vaulted brick subcellar beneath the modern basement floor were exposed during architectural investigations.

Archeological work in the basement during December and in August, 1956, resulted in the exposure of several structural features. Occasional work at the site in April, June, and July, 1957, located one more feature in the basement and clarified soil zones and grade levels outside of the house.

The 1955-1956 excavations, under the direction of Archeologist Paul J. F. Schumacher, uncovered the subcellar, a water well, a privy-sewer complex extending from the basement area northward at least forty-five feet, and various foundation walls of Bishop White's house. An amazingly fine collection of artifacts was recovered from the sewer.

The 1957 basement excavation exposed a large cement lined brick cistern (8.3 feet in inside diameter and 6.3 feet deep) just northeast of the previously discovered water well. The cistern pre-dates the construction of the present rear building, erected in 1880, and artifacts recovered from the pit are of nineteenth century origin. The cistern was probably constructed after the water well a few feet away ceased to function, and very likely post-dates the Bishop's period (See Illustration No. 1).

A test trench excavated in the courtyard east of the present rear building exposed a soil section in which the following zones were visible:

a) brick paving

b) a sand bed for the brick

c) a prepared mortar layer

d) a fill of light yellow clay

e) a fill of dark clay

f) a fill of red gravel

g) original top soil

h) sterile water laid sand and gravel

The original top soil zone varied from 7 inches to 3-1/2 feet below the brick courtyard. The old surface showed a decided slope from south to north, and ranged from approximately present street level at the rear of the property to a level four feet higher some 50 feet to the south.

One trash and garbage filled pit, with what appeared to be a prepared hard clay floor, yielded many artifacts of the period around the turn of the nineteenth century. Moreover, the old dark top soil zone in general was very productive artifact material (See Illustration No. 2).

STUDY OF ARTIFACTS

A valuable and extensive collection of artifacts of all types was recovered from the excavations in and around the home of Bishop White. The most valuable single group, perhaps, was found in the vaulted brick sewer running north from the privy. This collection, certainly Bishop White's personal property, consists of ceramic, glass, metal, and bone articles of all descriptions.

Oriental, European, and American pottery and porcelain is represented in abundance. It ranges in value from fine Chinese porcelain to inexpensive American-made kitchen wares. The collection of glass includes common bottle types of the period as well as fine stem wares and other drinking vessels. Hardware, table utensils, and buttons are among the metal items salvaged; and bone implements include knife or fork handles, combs, and even toothbrushes.

Artifacts from other areas at the site complement the above collection and, while not as extensive, are equally as valuable in illustrating the household equipment of the period.

The material unearthed at the Bishop White House would prove invaluable in a refurnishing program and, in fact, constitutes a strong reason in itself for recommendation that the house be rehabilitated and refurnished as a historic house museum.

It is rare to recover such a large and fine collection which can be definitely attributed to an historic personage. The relics, from toothbrush and razor to porcelain pitcher and earthen flower pot,

can impart an authenticity to the restoration which just cannot be obtained in any other way. Whether used themselves (although few pieces are complete), carefully copied, or replaced by the purchase of exact duplicates, the Bishop's belongings will enable the visitor to identify himself with the era of 150 years ago and to see that distant past as peoples by persons much like himself. The Bishop's social position and his obvious good taste combined to leave us a picture, in this case an exceptionally complete one, of the articles of daily living among the leaders of the period from the age of the Confederation to the age of Jackson.

The artifacts from the site will be especially valuable in refurnishing the kitchen and dining room, although some will provide valuable information in other parts of the home as well.

PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORTS
RELATING TO THE PROJECT

The only other archeological report relating to the project is titled Archeological Field Notes, Archeological Project, Bishop White House Basement - 309 Walnut Street, Independence National Historical Park by Paul J. F. Schumacher, Archeologist, October 12, 1956.

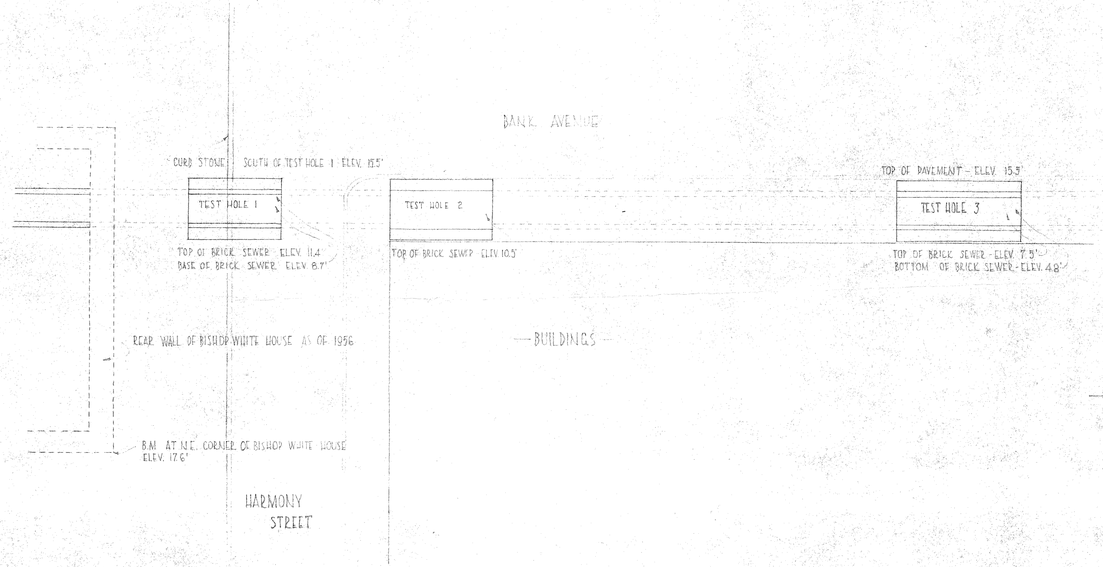
FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDED

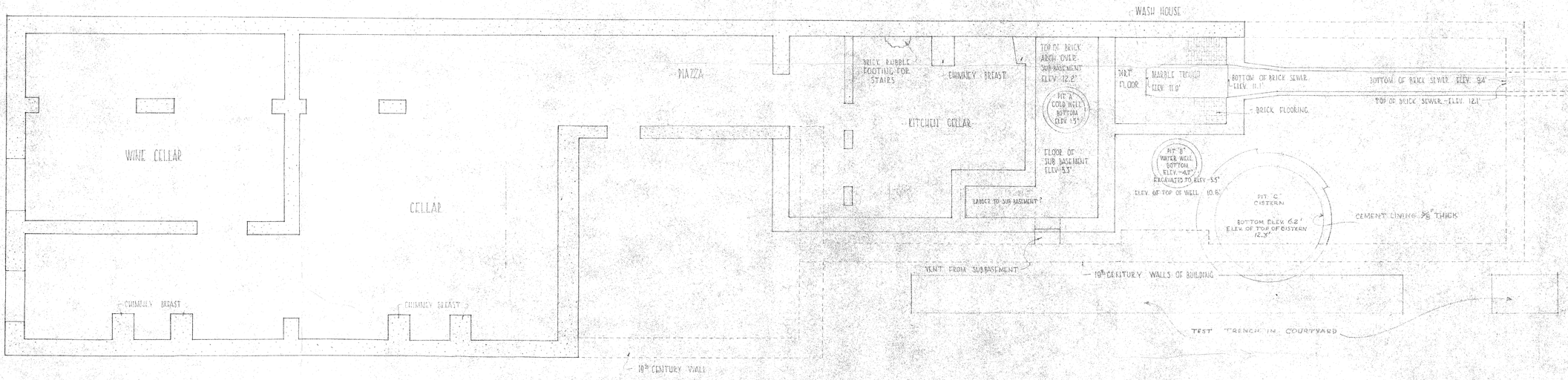
No further archeological excavation is required at the Bishop White House site.

An intensive and detailed study of the artifact collection is necessary, however, and should be completed well in advance of any refurnishing plan. The size of this collection, its amazing variety, the excellent provenience data available, and the historic interest of its former owner combine to make this one of the more important archeological collections of historic material presently available.

Its study will not only promote an understanding of this site and past life in this Park, but will also be valuable in other areas for comparative study.

ILLUSTRATIONS





ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF BISHOP WHITE CELLAR

ILLUSTRATION 1

1" = 4' SCALE

1. ALL ELEVATIONS FROM MEAN SEA DATUM
2. DRAWING MADE FROM NOTES OF PAUL SCHUMACHER (ARCHEOLOGIST - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)

BASIC DATA

RECOMMENDED
Chief, E. & C. Division — DATE 12-8-58
Chief, Branch of Architecture
APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
OFFICE OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION - EDP HISTORY
PREPARED BY
FIELD OFFICE

ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
TITLE OF DRAWING
BISHOP WHITE HOUSE
LOCATION WITHIN AREA
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK PROJECT
NAME OF AREA

ORIENTATION
REVIEWED
OPERATIONS REGION
WASHINGTON
INTERP. REGION
WASHINGTON
COOP. ACTV. REGION
WASHINGTON
DES. & CONST. STERN
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WASHINGTON
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L.A.
OTHER

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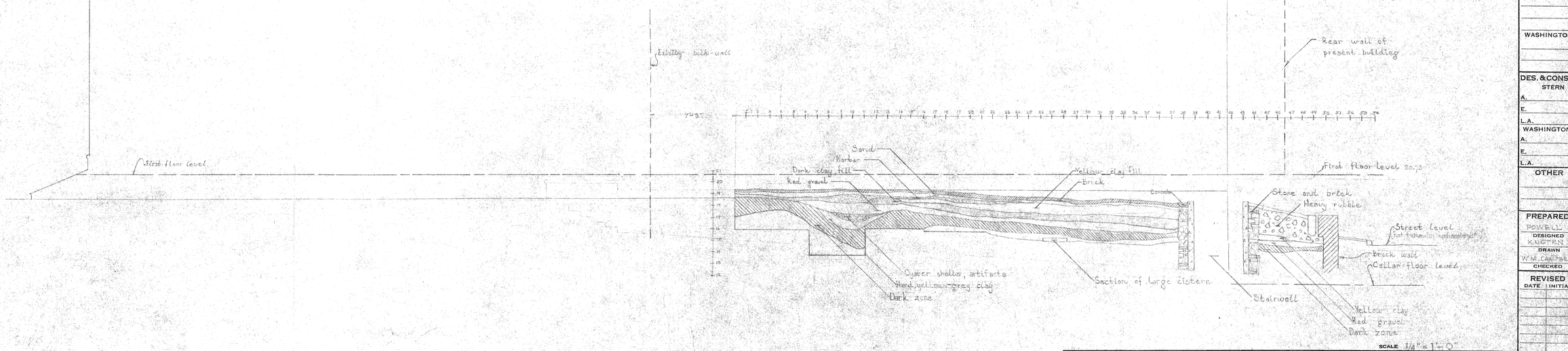
DATE	INITIAL
2-14-58	B.B.P.

REGION
PCP
SHEET 1 OF 1
DRAWING NO.
NHP-INDE
3427
DATE OCT 8, 58

Chapter IV
Illustration No. 1

TRUE LINE

ILLUSTRATION 2



SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

Note: Strata data taken by Archeologist, Bruce Powell

BASIC DATA

RECOMMENDED _____ DATE

APPROVED _____

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE & REHABILITATION
PREPARED BY FIELD OFFICE

BISHOP WHITEHOUSE GRADES and EAST ELEVATION
TITLE OF DRAWING

500 WALNUT STREET
LOCATION WITHIN AREA

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
NAME OF AREA

ORIENTATION REVIEWED

OPERATIONS REGION	
WASHINGTON	
INTERP. REGION	
WASHINGTON	
COOP. ACTV. REGION	
WASHINGTON	
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DATE	2-5-51

Chapter IV
Illustration No. 2

CHAPTER V

FURNISHINGS AND EXHIBITION DATA

Prepared by Museum Specialist James M. Mulcahy

EXTENT OF HISTORIC FURNISHINGS
IN THE HOUSE

There are no historic furnishings now in the Bishop White House.

For a listing of extant furnishings in private hands believed to have been in use in the house during Bishop White's lifetime, see pages 8 and 9 of Chapter II of this report.

PROVISION FOR DRAFTING A
FURNISHINGS PLAN

Information on furnishings during Bishop White's lifetime is limited principally to two rooms. One, fortunately, is the Bishop's study and the other is his dining room, where he entertained many distinguished guests, including George Washington. Fragmentary information is also available on the Bishop's bedroom and kitchen.

The Bishop's study is pictured in detail in an oil painting by John Sartain, probably painted about the time of White's death in 1836 (See Chapter II, Illustration No. 1). This painting gives an unusually precise picture of the furnishings of the room and their arrangement. Sartain's painting also shows part of the Bishop's bedroom.

The dining room and kitchen furnishings are less fully documented. Archaeological investigation has, however, given us a fairly complete picture of the sort of glass and china used by the White household, and a few pieces of furniture and silver are still owned by descendents.

Before a furnishings plan can be prepared, further research will be necessary to establish, if possible, more complete inventories of furnishings in the house during Bishop White's lifetime and of furnishings still extant.

Every effort should be made to secure by gift, loan or purchase as many as possible of the original furnishings. In the event

that some of these original pieces will not be made available for use by the National Park Service, careful study should be given to the manner of treating rooms where important original pieces may be missing. Recommendations for a variety of such treatments should be made in the refurnishing plan.

Some of the rooms of the Bishop White House do not lend themselves to either refurnishing or restoration. Consideration should be given to their development as a branch museum, housing the more important of the Bishop White House archaeological material and explaining to visitors the methods by which this important old building was restored and refurnished. Experience at Independence and elsewhere has shown a high degree of visitor interest in the techiques of restoration and refurnishing.

Museum research should be undertaken to provide exhibits and refurnishings plans for this building -- some consideration should be given to the use of audio techniques in this museum.

PROPOSED FINANCING OF REFURNISHINGS

No funds have yet been programmed for refurnishing the Bishop White House or for setting up a branch museum.