

FURNISHING PLAN
FOR THE
FIRST FLOOR OF CONGRESS HALL

*

*

*

Prepared by

Staff

L Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*

*

*

March 1961

PLEASE RETURN TO:

TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ON MICROFILM

130
(11317-103)

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

May 9, 1961

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five
From: Superintendent, INHP
Subject: Furnishing Plan - First Floor of Congress Hall

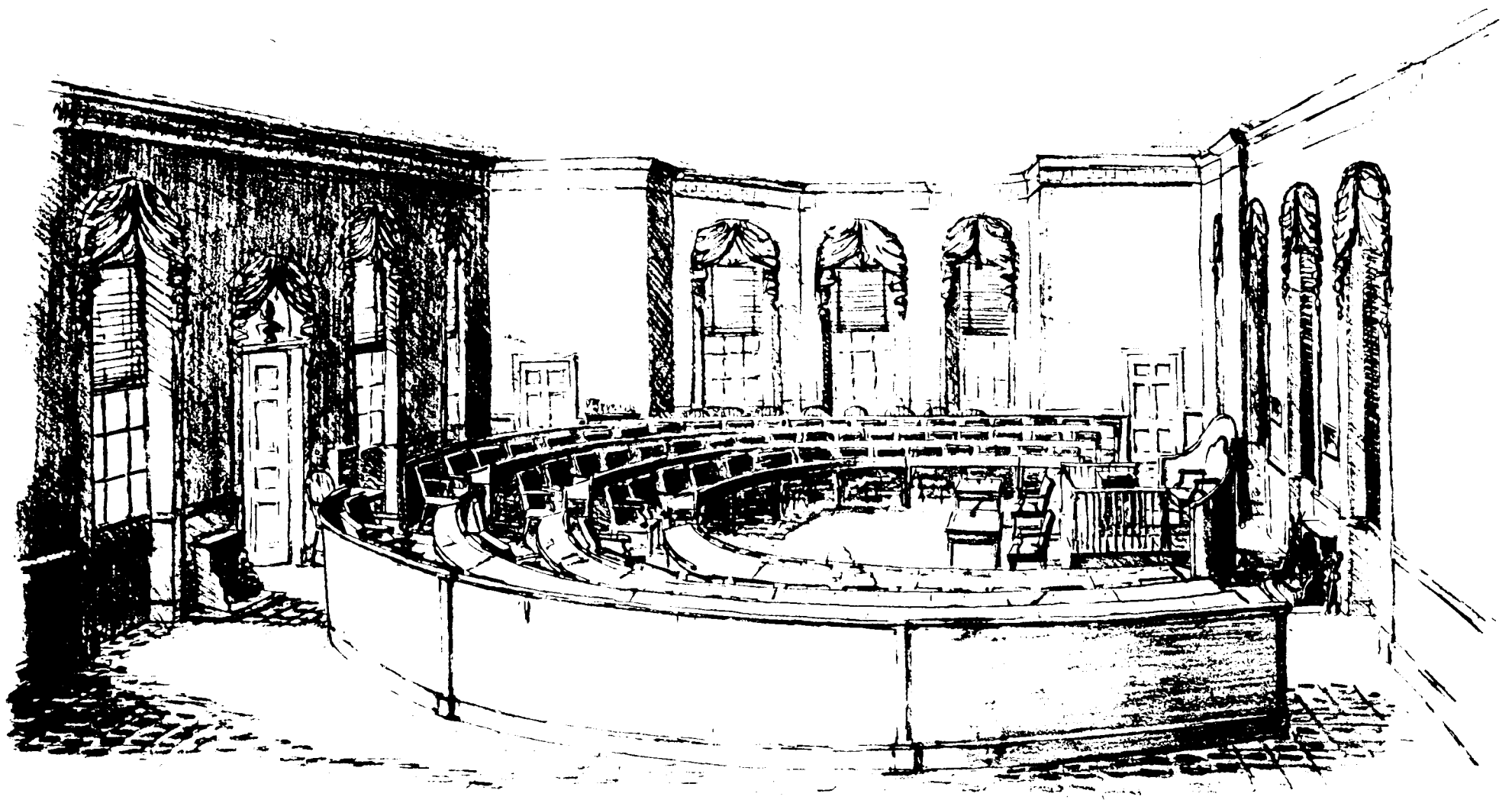
We transmit herewith two copies of the Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall for review and approval in accordance with FO-19-60 of September 2, 1960.

We have submitted an information copy of this plan to KOD as provided for in the above mentioned FO, Section C, for their comments under date of April 6 and requested a reply if possible by April 21. We have not yet received this reply; however, we understand informally from Mr. Peterson that they have no adverse comments to offer in respect to this report.

H. G. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures (2)

Copy to: KOD



PERSPECTIVE VIEW RESTORED HOUSE CHAMBER- FIRST FLOOR CONGRESS HALL • FREDERICK B. HANSON 1961

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART A. STATEMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PURPOSE

PART B. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

PART C. DOCUMENTED ACCOUNT OF HISTORIC FURNITURE

PART D. DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PROPOSED FURNISHINGS

PART E. PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

PART F. ESTIMATED COSTS AND SOURCES OF SUPPLY

PART A

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PURPOSE

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball

STATEMENT OF INTERPRETIVE PURPOSE

From December 6, 1790, until May 14, 1800, Congress Hall was the Capitol of the United States. In it, Congress met to debate and act upon legislation which shaped the destiny of the new nation. The proposed refurnishing of the first floor will recreate the setting in which the House of Representatives played its role and is essential to effective interpretation of this aspect of the Park story.



PART B

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Congress Hall was erected between 1787 and 1789 to serve as a courthouse and common hall for the County of Philadelphia. When completed, the first floor of the interior measured about 47 feet wide on Chestnut Street by 63 feet in length along Sixth Street exclusive of an 8 feet deep bay at the south end. This floor was divided into a vestibule 10 feet across the Chestnut Street front and a large room occupying the remainder of the ground floor.

In July 1790, the Congress of the United States voted to establish the temporary national capital in Philadelphia, and in September of that year a committee of city councilmen and county commissioners began to fit up and furnish the county courthouse for service as the meeting place of Congress; the second floor for the Senate, the first floor for the House of Representatives. This work had no effect on the first floor vestibule, but it did result in construction of a gallery and erection of a public loggia, or standing place, beneath it which occupied the northern 22 feet of the large south room, leaving the remaining 30 feet plus the space in the bay to accommodate the sixty-five members of the House. In 1793 the House Chamber was extended southward an additional 38 feet to accommodate an increase in the membership of the House.

When the Congress removed to Washington in 1800, Congress Hall reverted to its original use. Later, the first floor was altered to provide courtrooms, and it was not until the 1912-1913 restoration that the

House Chamber and vestibule were restored to their original dimensions and appearance.

The Vestibule

The vestibule across the front of Congress Hall contained the stairways to the second floor and provided an entrance to the House Chamber. When, in 1790, a public gallery was built at the northern end of the room, access to it was provided by way of the vestibule staircases; access to the loggia under it was, of course, by way of the door in the south wall of the vestibule. From 1790 until 1800, members of the United States Senate climbed the vestibule stairs on their way to attend the sessions of that body; Presidents Washington and Adams passed through the vestibule to attend their inaugurations and to deliver "State of the Union" messages; and the public passed through it into the loggia or up the stairs and into the gallery to listen to the debates in the House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives Chamber

In the 18 months between the completion of Congress Hall and the beginning of preparations to fit up and furnish it to accommodate Congress, the building was the meeting place of such bodies as the mayor and aldermen of the city, conventions of freeholders to nominate candidates for local office, the county commissioners, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Mayor's Court, and the United States Court for the District of Pennsylvania. Most of these organizations met on the second floor, but the meetings of freeholders may have been held in the large first floor room.

In September 1790, a joint committee began to prepare the building for the reception of Congress, and on December 6, 1790, the third session of the first House of Representatives convened in the large first floor room of Congress Hall. Perhaps the best indication of the importance of the House of Representatives at this time lies in the experience and capability of its sixty-five members. Included among them were four men who had signed the Declaration of Independence;¹ nine men who sat in the Constitutional Convention;² twenty-three who had served in the Continental Congress, including a former president of that body;³ two who had held key administrative posts under the Confederation;⁴ and two former general officers of the American Army.⁵ The committee in charge of furnishing the Chamber was fully conscious of the importance of the House, and did its best to provide accommodations commensurate with it. That they succeeded is shown by the comment of the gadabout Philadelphian Jacob Hiltzheimer who, on December 3, 1790, "Visited the 2 rooms fitted up for Congress... and think them unnecessarily fine."⁶

The enlargement of 1793 provided accommodations for forty-one additional members of the House without altering the style of the House Chamber or its furnishings.

The decade during which the House of Representatives met in the first floor room of Congress Hall was one of phenomenal legislative achievement and political maturation. Vermont, Kentucky and Tennessee were admitted to the Union, the nation's finances were placed on a firm footing,

coastal fortifications were undertaken, the Navy and Marine Corps were established, and many other important actions taken. In the course of these actions, proponents and opponents to the various measures coalesced into distinct and recognizable political parties.

When, on May 14, 1800, the first session of the Sixth Congress adjourned, the House Chamber reverted to use by the County of Philadelphia, and the furniture which had been provided for the House was put in storage.⁷ The room was then fitted up for service as a courtroom, a use which continued for most of the next century.

Part B
Notes

1. Roger Sherman, William Floyd, George Clymer and Elbridge Gerry -
A Biographical Congressional Directory 1774-1911, 61 Cong. 2 sess.
Sen. Doc. 654, hereafter cited as "Congressional Directory."
2. Roger Sherman, George Clymer, Elbridge Gerry, Abraham Baldwin,
Daniel Carroll, Nicholas Gilman, Hugh Williamson, Thomas Fitzsimons,
and James Madison - Congressional Directory.
3. Congressional Directory.
4. Jonathan Trumbull, a former comptroller of the treasury, and Commis-
sary General Jeremiah Wadsworth - Congressional Directory.
5. John P. G. Muhlenberg and Thomas Sumter - Congressional Directory.
6. Hiltzheimer diary.
7. "The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
To Church Culnan
To Expenses for removing the Furniture used by the Representatives of
the United States from the Upper Gallery and that of the U.S. Senate
from their chamber, to the Pennsylvania Senate Chamber in the State
House by Order of His Excellency Thomas McKean Esqr. Governor \$8
Philad. June 27, 1801" - "Cong. Hall - Phila., 1800" in Public
Records Office, Harrisburg.

PART C

DOCUMENTED ACCOUNT OF HISTORIC FURNITURE

Prepared by Historian David A. Kimball

DOCUMENTED ACCOUNT
OF HISTORIC FURNITURE

When, In July 1790, the Congress of the United States voted to establish Philadelphia as the temporary national capital, the city and county commissioners assumed the task of providing, fitting, and furnishing a building for use by Congress.¹ The Congress brought with it from New York little other than its books, papers, and the mace which the House of Representatives had purchased in September of 1790. When increases in the membership of both bodies necessitated additional furniture, most of it was also acquired by the commissioners. Thus, almost all of the furniture used by the House of Representatives during the ten years when it met on the first floor of Congress Hall had been purchased by the city and county of Philadelphia, with funds provided by the state government.

The Vestibule

The narrow vestibule across the Chestnut Street front of the building appears to have been devoid of furniture during the years when the House met in the room to the south. There is no record of the purchase of furniture for it, none of the contemporary descriptions of the building indicate that it contained furniture, and both its size and its function as a means of access to the stairs leading to the House gallery and second floor and to the loggia under the House gallery suggest that it was unfurnished.

The House of Representatives Chamber

The northernmost 22 feet of the House Chamber was taken up by a loggia, probably separated from the floor of the House by a low wooden

railing, and a gallery above. No seating was provided in the loggia, a fact attested to by Thomas Twining who visited Congress in 1795:

Two folding-doors, accessible to everybody, led me at once into the hall of the National Representatives,... I stood in the space reserved for strangers, between the entrance and the low partition which separates it from the part occupied by the members. This space was small, and without seats.²

The gallery above must have contained seats, but there is no specific documentation for this fact.³

The remainder of the south room, first floor, was set aside for the House of Representatives. From 1790 until the adjournment of the Second Congress on March 3, 1793, this area measured about 47 feet in width by 30 feet in length, with the bay at the south providing an additional 8 feet in length. Apparently the Speaker sat on a dais in the bay, with the members of the House sitting in rows facing him (see Illustration No. 1).⁴

In 1793, in consequence of the increase in membership of the House from 65 to 105, Congress Hall was extended southward some 28 feet. This enlarged the floor of the House to an area of 47 feet wide and 58 feet long plus the 8 feet of bay. At the same time, the city and county commissioners purchased additional furniture to accommodate the new members and rearranged the room. The resulting arrangement was described by a member of the House as follows:

Perhaps you have a curiosity to have a description of Congress Hall; it is a large, elegant brick building, the north end on Chestnut Street. The Representative's room is on the lower floor. The Speaker sits in a large

arm chair with a table before him like a toilette, covered with green cloth, fringed. The Speaker's seat is elevated about 2 feet and is on the west side of the hall. The members' seats are 3 rows of desks, rising one above another in the form of a semi-circle, opposite the Speaker; these are writing-desks with large armed chairs with leather bottoms. There is a lock and key to each desk and places on the desks for ink, pens, sand and a plentiful supply of paper. There are two fireplaces, on each side of the hall with stoves.

There is a good deal of room outside the semi-circle, or, as we speak, "without the bar," to which we introduce strangers to hear the debates, and where considerable numbers are always in attendance, as well as in the gallery which is at the north end. At the south end, without the bar, there is an area or half circle with three large windows looking into a large square or walk, the only mall in the city, and two doors from the hall open into it. There are holes for the Southern and Eastern mails into which we deposit our letters to be carried to the Post Office by the doorkeeper.⁵

Speaker's Dais

From 1790 until March 1793, the Speaker's dais seems to have stood in the bay at the south end of the room. No description of this dais has been found, but, if it corresponded with the dais shown on the plan proposed for Old City Hall (see Illustration No. 1), it consisted of a platform raised four steps from the floor and large enough to accommodate the chair and desk of the Speaker in the center and a desk and chair on either side for the clerk and, perhaps, the chaplain.

On May 22, 1793, the Boston Columbian Centinel announced that during the enlargement of the House chamber then in progress, "...the Speaker's chair is to be removed to the west side of the House...." That this was done is confirmed by Theophilus Bradbury's statement that "The

Speaker's seat is...on the west side of the hall." It stood near the center of the radii of the risers upon which the members sat,⁶ and was perhaps 8 or 10 feet out from the west wall of the room.⁷

Contemporary descriptions of the dais differ widely. It was variously described as "elevated a few steps above the floor,"⁸ "a kind of pulpit,"⁹ and "a platform raised some steps from the ground and railed in."¹⁰ The dais may well have consisted of more than one level; a French visitor writing of the ceremonies which took place on the opening of Congress in 1794 stated that the President "seats himself in the chair ordinarily occupied by the Speaker of the House; then, a moment later, he rises, steps forward to a position between the two presidents of the Senate and Chamber, but on a step above them."¹¹ If that was the case, the Clerk of the House had his table and chair on the lower step. Contemporary descriptions of the inauguration of John Adams as President indicate the dais may have been large enough to accommodate five or more chairs,¹² and the reference to the fact that notetakers were permitted to sit behind the Speaker indicates that the dais did not have a high back as does the one now in the room (see Illustration No. 3).¹³ During the 1912-1913 restoration of the structure the American Institute of Architects found marks on the original flooring of the House chamber which indicated the location of the dais, but no drawings of this evidence have been found.¹⁴ The architectural study of the building currently in progress has revealed a set of four joist holes between the second and third windows from the southern end of the west wall about 3 feet above floor level. The joist holes are

at the approximate center of the dais area. They suggest a T-shaped dais similar to the one shown in Illustration No. 1.

Stepped Platform

In February 1794, shortly after the enlargement of Congress Hall, had been completed, a visitor noted that the "seats of the members, are in three parallel semielliptick rows rising above each other leaving a small area between them and the Speaker's and Secretary's seats which are in the center of the semiellipse."¹⁵ Later visitors described a similar arrangement: "the seats in three rows formed semi-circles behind each other,"¹⁶ and the "members seats are 3 rows of desks, rising one above another in the form of a semi-circle, opposite the Speaker."¹⁷ Still another visitor, reminiscing many years later, recalled that "The House of Representatives in session, occupied the whole of the ground floor, upon a platform elevated three steps in ascent plainly carpeted, and covering nearly the whole of the area..."¹⁸ During the restoration of 1912-1913, the A.I.A. discovered that the sheathing of the north partition of the cross hall introduced in 1818-1820 was composed of wide boards, tongued and grooved, and some with nosings, which they felt were once either floor boards or part of the platform of the House.¹⁹ The A.I.A. also found "upon removing some modern flooring...the original floor of the House, of yellow pine planks six to ten inches wide,...bearing marks of attachments clearly indicating the location of the Speaker's platform and elsewhere of the bar of the House, which seems to have described a curve enclosing the last row of

seats."²⁰ Unfortunately, no record of the location of those markings has yet been found.

While this evidence establishes that a semicircular platform was present in the House in the years between 1793 and 1800, it leaves the appearance of the platform in doubt. Did the platform have three steps, or did the floor of the House constitute the first level? What were the precise dimensions of the platform? Was it divided into two or more sections with a passageway between them? How high was the railing behind it?

The platform probably had only two steps; the floor of the House accommodated the first row of desks and chairs.²¹ There is no documentary evidence as to the dimensions of the platform other than McKoy's recollection that it covered "nearly the whole of the area," but it must have been large enough to provide in three rows a total of at least 250 linear feet of space,²² and each step must have been wide enough to accommodate a desk and chair and still leave room for the members to pass back and forth to their seats. The platform may have been divided by a passage through the center leading from the entrance in the east wall to the Speaker's dais.

The railing around the rear of the platform, evidence of which was found by the A.I.A., separated the floor or working area of the House from a loggia or promenade where members could walk and refresh themselves, and to which they could introduce their friends for a close up view of the proceedings of the House.²³ This railing must have been no more than 5 feet high, for members standing outside the bar occasionally leaned on the railing while conversing with members seated within,²⁴ and on at least one

occasion visitors in the area without the bar pressed so tightly against the railing that the presiding officer counted some of them as voting on a question before the House.²⁵

Carpets

Included among the accounts of the city and county commissioners for furnishing Congress Hall in 1790 are payments for carpeting which indicate that about 630 yards was purchased (see Appendixes A and B). Of this total 132-1/2 yards was for the Senate Chamber, and about 100 yards more was for the House offices.²⁶ This left about 400 yards of carpet for the remaining 416 square yards, more or less, of floor space in the building. From this it is clear that the House chamber, and perhaps the loggia as well, was carpeted, and this fact is confirmed by contemporary descriptions of the room.²⁷

The enlargement of 1793 added some 144 square yards of floor space to the House Chamber. In November and December of 1793, the county commissioners bought a total of 380-3/4 yards of carpet, so that it is certain that all of the floor of the House and probably the loggia as well was carpeted.²⁸ This is confirmed by a bill for £12.7.6 submitted by Samuel Benge on November 22, 1793, for "To makeing the Carpet to fit the House 330 yds at 9d including Tacks &c."²⁹ Two years later, in the fall of 1795, Clerk of the House John Beckley purchased additional carpeting from Josiah Lusby and William Adcock. The total amount paid for this carpeting was \$371.65.³⁰

The only known contemporary reference to the material in the carpets is Bradbury's statement that "The floors of both halls are covered with woolen carpets." There is no indication as to the color of the carpeting.

Chairs

Among the furnishings purchased by the county commissioners in 1790 were ninety-two mahogany arm chairs, stuffed with horse hair, upholstered in black leather, and brass-nailed (see Appendix B, Items Nos. 51, 83, 84, 85, 89, 90, and 192; and Illustrations Nos. 5 and 6). Of these, twenty-seven were for the Senate Chamber; the remaining sixty-five for the House. During the enlargement of 1793, forty-five more chairs were procured,³¹ of which forty-four were for the House.³² The additional forty-four chairs brought the total number purchased for the House to 109, or one for each of the 106 members, including the Speaker, with three left over.³³

In addition to the chairs of the members, the Chamber contained chairs for the Clerk of the House, for newspapermen who recorded the debates,³⁴ and at least on occasion for members of the Senate and of the diplomatic corps.³⁵ Other than the observation of Moreau de St. Méry following attendance at the opening of Congress that "the members of the Senate occup[ied] armchairs," there is no evidence as to the appearance of the latter chairs, nor, although there must have been at least thirty for the Senate and ten or more for the diplomatic corps, is there any indication of their number.

Of the 137 members chairs known to have been purchased by the city and county commissioners, several are now in the Independence National Historical Park Collection, and at least two others have been located (see Appendix C for a comparative analysis of the chairs owned by the Park, and Appendix D for a short history of the movement of Congress Hall furniture after 1800).³⁶ The chairs in the collection are all upholstered in black leather.

Desks and Tables

The purchase of desks to accommodate the members of the House in 1790 must have been included in the £469.6.0 paid Thomas Affleck (see Appendix B, item 92). In 1791, a visitor to the House mentioned that he had seen "the writing desks of the most shining mahogany; the superb drawers for every Member to lock his brains, memory, and other documents in...."³⁷

On December 15, 1793, the commissioners in charge of enlarging Congress Hall paid Affleck £100 for "80 feet mahogany desks with drawers for [Congress] @ 25/" and £3 for "cutting and fitting up the old furniture."³⁸ On January 10, 1794, he was paid £3.2.6 for "an addition of 2 feet 6 Inches to a Table for Congress @ 25/."³⁹ Apparently, desks fitted together to form rows which followed the curve of the stepped platform upon which they rested. Each member had, not an individual desk, but rather a place at a long desk which contained a drawer for his personal

use (see Illustrations Nos. 7 and 8 for photographs of desks fitting this general description which were used by the House while it met in New York's Federal Hall). This conclusion is supported by several contemporary descriptions of the chamber⁴⁰ and by a letter in which Charles Willson Peale remarks that the "furniture left here [Philadelphia] consists of some long mahogany Tables of the form of a segment of a Circle,..."⁴¹ Unfortunately, no more detailed descriptions of the desks have been found, but they must have resembled those used by Congress while in New York rather closely.

In addition to the desks of the members, the furniture of the House included a desk for the Speaker, a desk for the clerk, a table on which water and perhaps somewhat stronger beverages were kept for the refreshment of the members, and tables or desks for the press stenographers. These items may have been included in the furniture purchased from Affleck in 1790, or in the "Tables and Desk" for which Matthew Armour was paid £8.2.3 (see Appendix B, entries 101 and 192).⁴²

The only contemporary description of the Speaker's desk as yet found said that "the speaker sits in a large arm chair with a table before him like a toilette, covered with green cloth, fringed."⁴³ The use of "toilette" in this connection seems to indicate a desk similar to the so-called "Delegates Desk" in the Independence National Historical Park Collection (see Illustration No. 9).⁴⁴

Contemporary descriptions of the clerk's desk, or clerks' desks, are even less detailed, and conflict as to numbers and location. In 1794, a visitor remarked that "In the middle but towards one side is the Speaker's

Chair,...in front of which but below are the Secretary's Desk of Beautiful Mahogany."⁴⁵ Four months later, another visitor remarked that the clerks sat below the Speaker, but did not describe their desks.⁴⁶ The question is further complicated by a description of the House Chamber during the observances of Washington's death which mentions that "The Speaker's Chair and table, and the tables on each side, are entirely shrouded in black."⁴⁷ McKoy remembered that there were "four narrow desks between the Sixth Street windows for the [press] stenographers,..." but did not mention the location of the Clerk's desk. On January 1, 1802, a committee of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania reported that among the furniture left behind in Philadelphia by the state and federal governments were "clerk's desks."⁴⁸

Conflicting though this evidence is, certain tentative conclusions can be drawn. The Clerk of the House had a desk of mahogany, possibly similar to the so-called "Declaration Desk" shown in Illustration No. 10⁴⁹ which was placed in front of but below the Speaker. The press stenographers had tables of unknown material and design which probably stood behind the Speaker's dais next to the Sixth Street wall. One or more of the assistants to the Clerk of the House may also have had tables in the chamber flanking that of the Clerk, although this seems improbable.

In addition to the desks and tables for members, Speaker, Clerk and stenographers, the Chamber contained a refreshment table located at the southern end, outside the bar:

...Colonel Parker left his bench and went to refresh himself at a table where there were earthen pots and bottles of Molasses liquor for the members....⁵⁰

None of the desks and tables used in the House Chamber between 1790 and 1800 are known to exist.

Stoves

In 1790 there were eight fireplaces in Congress Hall, two pair on the east and west walls of each story. Among the disbursements made in 1790 for fitting up Congress Hall for use by Congress were three for stoves: £8.16.6 "for 2 large Franklin Stoves," £4.5.0 "for a Stove," and £18.15.2 "for Stoves and Chimney backs" (see Appendix B, entries 74, 96 and 104). Assuming that the stoves mentioned in entry 104 cost approximately the same as those in the other two accounts, the £18.15.2 probably bought three stoves and two chimney backs, so that a total of six stoves and two chimney backs were purchased. The chimney backs probably were used in the Senate Chamber, so that from 1790 until 1793 the House contained four Franklin or "open" stoves, one in each of its fireplaces.

The enlargement of the building in 1793 added four fireplaces, one on each of the east and west walls of both floors of the addition. This made a total of six fireplaces in the House Chamber; two under the gallery, two at the south end (see Illustration No. 2), and two in the middle of the Chamber (these were not restored during the 1912-1913 restoration and are not shown in the illustration). One of the latter may have been bricked up, however.⁵¹

Soon after completion of the enlargement, more stoves were purchased for Congress Hall. On December 24, 1793, the city and county commissioners bought "2 large open stoves" for £10,⁵² at about the same time they bought two more "stoves" for £8.8.9,⁵³ and on January 18, 1794, they purchased "one ten plate Stove and Seven foot pipe" for £8.10.0.⁵⁴ When these purchases were complete, the commissioners had purchased eleven stoves, all but one of which were probably either Franklin or "open" stoves, and two chimney backs for a building which had only eleven or twelve fireplaces. Voucher references to "pulling down & Setting up 8 Stoves" indicate that at least eight stoves were in use in 1794.⁵⁵

At least four, and probably six, of these stoves were in use in the House. Bradbury stated that "There are two fireplaces, on each side of the hall with stoves." There is no indication as to whether by "hall" Bradbury meant the entire first floor chamber or just that part south of the loggia and gallery. If the latter was meant, then probably there were two more stoves in the fireplaces under the gallery. None of these stoves are known to exist.

In addition to stoves, the furnishings of the House Chamber included such accessories as "Copper Ashes Bucketts" (see Appendix B, entry 99), fenders,⁵⁶ shovels and tongs, and perhaps andirons.⁵⁷

Venetian Blinds

Among the items purchased for Congress Hall in 1790 were venetian blinds (see Appendix B, entry 86). Nine of these were for the round headed windows in the House of Representatives Chamber; the other two windows in

the House and those in the vestibule either were already equipped with blinds or went without them.⁵⁸

With the beginning of the enlargement in 1793, Samuel Bengé was paid for "taking down 15 Sets Venetian Blinds."⁵⁹ Bengé supplied "72 yds Green Cord" for repair of the blinds,⁶⁰ and David Evans repaired them⁶¹ and made four new blinds for the building, two of which must have been for the additional windows in the House Chamber.⁶² From December of 1793 until 1800 venetian blinds adapted to the arched windows hung in all of the windows of the House Chamber except perhaps for the two windows under the gallery. The use of "green cord" in these blinds indicates that the tapes and slats were green as well.

Curtains

The purchase, in 1790, of "101 yds. Pearnought," cloth, and the payment to William Bankson of £163.9.10 for "Upholsterers Work" (see Appendix B, entries 100, 102 and 103) indicate that curtains were provided for the House Chamber.⁶³ Certainly there were canopy curtains over the Speaker's Chair, for a newspaper satirist mentions them specifically.⁶⁴

On April 27, 1793, Samuel Bengé was paid 8s9d for "Taking down Large Curtin over Speaker Chair Door and other Curtins in the Sennet Chamber & Congress rooms & Cleansing Do."⁶⁵ On the twenty-second of November following he was paid 7s6d for "fixing up Curtin behind the Congress Speaker's Chair."⁶⁶ On December 21, he was paid an additional 9s6d for "fixing up 5 Green Stuff blinds at the back of the Venetian Blinds."⁶⁷ These items indicate the curtains purchased in 1790 were taken down when Congress Hall was

enlarged, and were cleaned and replaced when the work was finished. However, the canopy curtain over the Speaker's chair, if it was put back, did not long remain in place, for McKoy explicitly states that the Speaker's chair was "without canopy," and none of the other descriptions of the House Chamber after enlargement mention what would have been a rather distinctive feature.

Lighting Fixtures

The House of Representatives occasionally met well into the evening, and consequently required some sort of artificial light.⁶⁸ On at least two occasions the Clerk of the House purchased a considerable quantity of candles,⁶⁹ and John McAllister, writing to John W. Wallace in 1872, recollected being in the House when John Marshall was speaking on the case of Jonathan Robins and that the "speech occupied the whole afternoon; indeed, candles were lighted before the close of it." This evidence, plus the total absence of items for the purchase of oil in the surviving accounts of the Clerk of the House, prove that the Chamber was lighted by candles rather than some form of lamps during evening sessions. No description of the fixtures in which the candles were placed has yet been found. It is of interest, however, that none of the vouchers for fitting up the building in 1790 or for enlarging it in 1793 indicate that chandeliers were installed.

Art Objects

Among the few furnishings brought by Congress from New York were one or more busts or statues, and one or two of these were placed in the House Chamber. On January 27, 1792, Clerk Beckley "paid Martin Jugiez Acc^t

for bronzing statue...4.00,"⁷⁰ and on May 31 of the following year he paid "John Coburn for taking down the Statue in the House of Representatives... 12 [dollars]."⁷¹

In describing his visit to the House of Representatives in June 1794, Wansey mentioned that "over the door I observed a bust of Dr. Franklin, the great founder of their liberties, and the father of their present constitution."⁷² Moreover, the Library Company of Philadelphia has in their collection a large bust of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, which is supposed to have been placed over the Speaker's chair during the first sessions of the Congress of the United States.⁷³

On April 11, 1792, "A memorial was read, from Signor Guiseppe Cerrachi (the artist, who executed the bust that stands over Mr. Speaker's chair) setting forth that he is ready to enter upon the execution of a design...."⁷⁴ Whether this bust was that of Minerva is not known. Dr. Charles Coleman Sellers, who is now engaged in a study of all existing busts and statues of Franklin, states that Cerrachi did a bust of Franklin. It is possible, therefore, that the bust of Franklin noted by Wansey was the Cerrachi bust which had once been over the Speaker's chair but had been moved to a new location by the date of Wansey's visit. It is equally possible that both a bust of Minerva and a bust of Franklin had been in the Chamber from 1790 to 1793, although it is almost certain that the Minerva had in any case been removed during the latter year, since none of the later writers who describe the room mention it.

The only other works of art known to have been in the Chamber were prints of John Trumbull's paintings "Quebec" and "Bunker Hill." These prints were presented to the House by Trumbull in 1799, accepted by that body, and "suspended on the right and left of the Speaker's Chair,...."⁷⁵

Miscellany

In addition to the many pieces of furniture discussed above, the House of Representatives contained many small items which were in everyday use. Perhaps the most intriguing of these were the House's share of the "50 Spitting boxes for Congress, £6.5" purchased from David Evans in 1790.⁷⁶ At least as useful, however, were the water pitcher, cups or glasses, and "earthen pots and bottles of Molasses liquor" which graced the refreshment table;⁷⁷ the "ink, pens, wafers, &c." on each desk;⁷⁸ the ballot box on the clerk's table used in electing the Clerk, Speaker, and committees; the "holes for the Southern and Eastern mails" mentioned by Bradbury; and the letter box.⁷⁹

Special Events

On at least one occasion, that of the announcement of Washington's death, temporary additions to the decor of the House were made:

The House of Representatives of Congress exhibits a pleasing, though mournful evidence of the respect which is felt for the character of General Washington, and of the unfeigned regret which has been excited by the melancholy event of his death. The Speaker's Chair and table, and the tables on each side, are entirely shrouded in black. The casement in the rear of the Speaker's Chair, and the recess are also elegantly ornamented with mourning emblems. The prints presented to the House by Mr. Trumbull are overhung with curtains of black. Between these, and in the centre of the House, Mr. Peale

proprietor of the Museum, has added a very striking likeness of the illustrious Hero, which besides being highly ornamental to the house, acts as an intelligible and feeling index to the occasion of the mourning emblems which surround it.³⁰

The Portico

There is as yet no evidence as to whether the portico added to Congress Hall in 1793 functioned only as an antechamber to the House and a covered passageway between the House Chamber and the offices of that body in the West Wing of Independence Hall, or whether it also provided additional office space. In view of the fact that recent archeological investigations have shown that the portico measured about 23 feet 6 inches in length by 18 feet 6 inches in width, the latter is a strong possibility. If that was the case, the room or rooms in the portico may have been furnished as were the clerk's office and committee rooms (see Appendix E).

Conclusions

The House of Representatives Chamber as it now stands is, with certain exceptions, an accurate restoration architecturally of the room in which Congress met from 1793 until 1800. It is a room imposing in scale and in the taste and simplicity of its architectural features. It is almost completely lacking in the one ingredient most essential to recreating the scene in which Congress met: the furnishings which so transformed an almost austere room as to lead one discriminating observer of the contemporary scene to characterize it as "unnecessarily fine."

The furnishings, many of them made by men who had played a leading role in establishing Philadelphia's leadership in the field of fine furniture, consisted of the following items:

1. A Speaker's dais raised a few steps above the floor and railed in stood at or near the center of the west wall.
2. A stepped platform consisting of two levels and enclosed by a low railing at the rear, large enough to accommodate, together with one row on the floor, the desks and chairs of 105 members of the House.
3. A woollen carpet of an unknown color which covered all of the floor of the House including the stepped platform and probably the floor of the loggia as well.
4. One hundred six mahogany arm chairs, stuffed with horse hair and covered with black leather, brass-nailed. One of these was used by the Speaker, the others by the members.

5. A mahogany "toilette" desk covered with green baize for the Speaker, a mahogany desk of unknown design for the Clerk, three curved rows of mahogany table desks with a drawer and lock for each of the members, a refreshment table, and four tables for reporters.

6. Six Franklin or open stoves, one in each of the fireplaces in the Chamber and the loggia.

7. Venetian blinds with fan heads in each of the round headed windows of the Chamber, but not the loggia.

8. Curtains in the windows.

9. Enough candelsticks to provide illumination for the floor of the chamber.

10. Prints of the John Trumbull paintings "Bunker Hill" and "Quebec," and a bust of Benjamin Franklin.

11. Such miscellaneous items as spitting boxes, writing materials, stove accessories, and so forth.

Furthermore, on at least one occasion, black crepe draperies were added to transform the room from a comfortable working space to a suitable scene in which to conduct the observance of Washington's death.

1. Clerk of Common Council of Philadelphia to Miers Fisher, September 9, 1790, Miers Fisher Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The state legislature, in 1791, voted to reimburse the city and county for the monies spent for this purpose.
2. Thomas Twining, Travels in America 100 Years Ago (New York, 1884), 50. Hereafter cited as Twining, Travels.
3. The author, who is 6 feet 1 inch tall, found that if he sat on the steps of the gallery as restored by the A.I.A. in 1911-1913, he was unable to see any of the floor of the House except from the two top steps, and then only the southern portion. The portion which can be seen was not constructed until 1793. Even if the gallery front had been a railing, instead of solid panelling as the restoration is, it would have been impossible to see much of the floor of the House unless one were sitting on benches. The accounts of the city and county commissioners for preparing Congress Hall for the reception of Congress are complete (see Appendixes A and B). The account of the county commissioners specifies, in general terms, the type of work for which each payment was made, the account of the city commissioners was apparently for establishing the clerk's office and committee rooms in the West Wing of Independence Hall; neither contains an item which could be for the purchase of benches for the gallery. Perhaps the benches were relatively crude, and are accounted for in one of the large payments for "Carpenters Work."
4. It should be noted that the plan shown in Illustration No. 1 was a suggested seating arrangement, and was for Old City Hall rather than Congress Hall. There is no direct evidence as to the seating arrangement of the House of Representatives during these years; strangely enough, no description of the House for this period has been found. However, an article in the Boston Columbian Centinel for May 22, 1793, describing the alterations then being made to Congress Hall remarks that "The seats will preserve the oval form, but the Speaker's chair is to be removed to the west side of the House...." This would indicate that the Speaker's chair had been located elsewhere, and the bay would have been the most logical location for it.
5. "Letter from Theophilus Bradbury, M.C. from Essex County Mass., to his daughter Harriet," Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, VIII (1884), 226. Hereafter cited as Bradbury Letter.
6. "On entering the House of Representatives, I was struck with the convenient arrangement of the seats for the members: ...the seats in three rows formed semi-circles behind each other, facing the Speaker, who was

in kind of pulpit near the centre of the radii,..." - Henry Wansey, An Excursion to the United States of North America, In the Summer of 1799 (2nd Ed., Salisbury, 1798), 97. Hereafter cited as Wansey, An Excursion.

7. "There was, I believe, a moveable wooden rostrum for the Speaker and Clerks, which, I think, was at some time near the west end or side of the Chamber, probably eight or ten feet from the west wall,..." - John McAllister to John W. Wallace, February 19, 1872, quoted in "The Report of the Committee on Restoring Congress Hall," Papers of the American Institute of Architects, Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Hereafter cited as McAllister Letter. The letter contains the reminiscences of an elderly man, and are not necessarily accurate. However, the distance of the dais from the west wall is apparently substantiated by a description of a fight between Representatives Griswold and Lyon in Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, February 16, 1798, which states that "At length getting behind the Speaker's chair, Mr. L. snatched up the tongs from the fire...."
8. Nicholas King, "Journal of Observations and Occurences in a Voyage from England to America in the Year 1793" (Typescript, Huntington Library). Hereafter cited as King, "Journal."
9. Wansey, An Excursion, 97-99.
10. Perkins, Bradford, "A Diplomat's Wife in Philadelphia: Letters of Henrietta Liston, 1796-1800," The William and Mary Quarterly, XI, (October 1954), 606.
11. Anna M. and Kenneth Roberts, eds., Moreau de St. Mery's American Journey (Garden City, 1947), 349-350. Hereafter cited as Moreau, American Journey.
12. "...the President of the United States,...came into the Chamber of the House of Representatives, and took his seat in the chair usually occupied by the Speaker. The Vice-President and Secretary of the Senate were seated in advance, inclining to the right of the President, the late Speaker of the House of Representatives and Clerk on the left, and the Justices of the Supreme Court were seated round a table in front of the President of the United States." - [United States Senate], Executive Journal [title page missing], I, 231. Hereafter cited as U. S. Senate, Executive Journal.
13. "Accordingly, I have attended with other notetakers back of the Speaker's chair,..." - Philadelphia Aurora, February 17, 1798.

14. "...upon removing some modern flooring parts of the original floor of the House, of yellow pine planks six to ten inches wide, were disclosed, bearing marks of attachments clearly indicating the location at the western side of the hall of the Speaker's platform...." - Frank Miles Day, "The Restoration of Congress Hall," Old Penn Weekly Review (November 1, 1913). The proposed dais shown on the plan reproduced as Illustration No. 2 may incorporate these findings. The portion of original flooring adjacent to the dais was retained in place.
15. King, "Journal." Similar stepped platforms may have been in use prior to 1793; the proposed seating plan (see Illustration No. 1) seems to indicate this. They would not, however, have been large enough for use after the enlargement. The records of payments made during the enlargement contain no record of payments made specifically for the construction of platforms, but payments for materials and carpenters work were large enough to have included such construction.
16. Wansey, An Excursion.
17. Bradbury Letter.
18. Letter of Mr. McKoy to Poulson's American Daily Advertiser, quoted in "The Report of the Committee on Restoring Congress Hall," Papers of the American Institute of Architects, Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Hereafter cited as McKoy Letter.
19. Photo, Negative No. CN-5202 (taken February 13, 1912), in Independence National Historical Park Photo Files.
20. Frank Miles Day, "The Restoration of Congress Hall," Old Penn Weekly Review (November 1, 1913).
21. There would have been no need to elevate the first row of seats above the floor. Moreover, if the first level had been raised above the floor, the railing at the rear of the platform, which we have reason to believe was not more than 5 feet high measured from the floor, would have risen only at most about 2 feet 9 inches above the level of the last step of the riser.
22. Beginning with December of 1793, there were 105 members of the House to provide seating space for, and since each chair was 2 feet wide, each member would need about 2-1/2 feet at a minimum. Roger Griswold, a member of the House from Connecticut, in reporting his assault on Representative Lyon, wrote "that as soon as I saw him in his seat I took my

cane and walk'd across the floor in front of the speakers chair, which is more than forty feet in extent...." - Roger Griswold to "Dear Sir," February 25, 1798, Lane Collection, Yale University.

23. "Mr. BAYARD observed that the gentleman from Pennsylvania had told the House a number of things he did not know; amongst these was the ground upon which the Speaker had a right to turn out Strangers from the floor of the House. Mr. B. was surprized that gentleman who knew so much, should be ignorant of this. There was scarcely a member in the House, he thought, who did not know that the House was divided into different parts; one of which was for the members, and another for strangers. The part assigned to the members was the floor and the lobby; and the galleries for those who choose to attend their proceedings. With respect to the lobby, the Speaker, as the general conservator or peace and order in the House, had the same charge over it, as over other parts of the house.... But the gentleman said there was no rule upon the Subject. Nor could there be any; for though gentlemen sometimes introduced their friends into the lobby of the House, which was a thing of courtesy, they certainly had no right to do so." - Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, March 23, 1798.
24. Appearing before the Committee of Privileges considering the action of Representative Lyon, who had spat in the face of Representative Griswold, Speaker Dayton testified that he had been seated "in one of the members seats next to the bar" talking to Lyon, who "was standing without the bar of the house, leaning on the same, and holding a conversation with the speaker;..." - Porcupine's Gazette, February 3, 1798. Griswold, in describing his part in the affray, wrote that "As to my stepping out of the seat and standing by him [Lyon] it was nothing more than getting up and taking a single step to a spot where I could conveniently lean my arm on the bar..." - Roger Griswold to "Dear Sir," February 25, 1798, Lane Collection, Yale University.
25. "Mr. W. Smith enquired of the Chairman whether there was not an error in counting the votes on the question of yesterday.
"The Chairman replied that there was. It arose, he supposed, from the number of strangers in the House, and from their pressing to near the members...." - Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, May 31, 1797.
26. The carpet purchased from William P. Sprague (Entry 215, Appendix B) was for the Senate Chamber - Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser, June 6, 1791.

The \$38.17.10 paid John Harland on December 10, 1790 (Appendix A) was probably for the House committee rooms.

27. "The floor of that part of the hall in which the members sat is covered by a carpet" - King, "Journal." "The floors of both halls are covered with woolen carpets" - Bradbury Letter. "The House of Representatives, in session, occupied the whole of the ground floor, upon a platform elevated three steps in ascent plainly carpeted,..." - McKoy Letter.
28. On November 20, 1793, the county commissioners bought from Josiah Lusby "81 yds. In grain Carpeting" at 8/4 per yard, or a total of £13.15.0. On November 25, they bought from John Harland "2 ps. 4-1/4 Carpeting 102-1/4 yd 8/4," a total of £42.12.1. On December 14, the commissioners also purchased from Sarah Clark "1 Biece Carpeting 71 yds at 8/4," "1 [Piece Carpeting] 73 yds at 8/4," and "1 [Piece Carpeting] 53-1/2 yds at 6/3," or a total cost of £76.14.14-1/2. - Vouchers, "Congress Hall, Philadelphia, 1790's," State Records Office, Harrisburg. Hereafter cited as "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.
29. Voucher 165, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.
30. Account No. 7689, "The United States in Account with John Beckley," Miscellaneous Treasury Records of the General Accounting Office (R.G. 217), National Archives. Hereafter cited as Miscellaneous Treasury Records. The account does not indicate whether this carpet was for the House Chamber or for its offices and/or committee rooms.
31. "Philadelphia 7th November 1793
The Commissioners of the City and County of Philada.
To Thos. Affleck Dr.
To 45 Mahogany Arm Chairs for Congress
@ 35 / £78.15.0"
Voucher 193, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.
32. "1793 The City and County Commissioners for
Congress Hall
... [to Samuel Benge]
22d Nov.
44 Elbow Chairs stuffed & cov'd with)
black leather and brass nailed at) - 33.0.0
15/ pr Chair
1 Do Cov'd Red Leather for Sennet Chamber-15.0"

Voucher 165, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office. On March 22, 1793, Benge had been given \$69.72 for "Upholsterer's work" by Clerk of the House Beckley, but this was probably for reupholstering since the account contains nothing to indicate purchase of any new furniture. - Account No. 4200, "The United States in Account with John Beckley," Miscellaneous Treasury Records.

33. "He [each member] sits on an arm chair covered with leather." - King, "Journal." "The Speaker sits in a large arm chair.... The members' seats are 3 rows of desks,...with large armed chairs with leather bottoms." - Bradbury Letter. Moreau de St. Mery in his American Journey, 1793-1798, states that the members sat upon benches, but this is contravened by conclusive evidence that chairs were used.

34. "The House of Representatives, in session, occupied the whole of the ground floor,...and [there were] four narrow desks between the Sixth Street windows for the [press] stenographers, Lloyd, Sales, Callender and Duane." - McKoy Letter.

"The House have thought it of public utility, and right when their galleries are open, to admit notetakers to a more convenient situation for hearing and writing than their crowded gallery; that whatever was published respecting their public transactions might have the best chance of being correct. Accordingly, I have attended with other notetakers back of the Speakers chair,..." - Philadelphia Aurora, February 17, 1798.

35. "I shall say a word about the ceremony which takes place at the opening of the sessions of Congress.

...
"The Senate attends in a body, and it is then that the Chamber of Representatives becomes the Congress. The members of the Senate occupy armchairs in the center of the gathering." - Moreau, American Journey, 349-50.

"The late President of the United States, the great and good Washington, took a seat as a private citizen, a little in front of the seats assigned for the Senate, which were on the south side of the House; the foreign ministers and members of the House of Representatives took their usual seats: a great concourse of both sexes being present [for Adams' inauguration.]" - U. S. Senate, Executive Journal, 231.

36. "What is of greater import to us of a later day, is the tracing and verification of the pedigrees of a varied group of admirable pieces (deduced through descriptive data in the original manuscript accounts and a receipt book) which were expertly constructed by Thomas Affleck. To

chronicle them all here would be an unnecessary task, but is enough to mention: ...the Delegate's chairs supplied for Congress Hall (yet now [1935] displayed in Independence Hall);..." - William M. Hornor, Blue Book Philadelphia Furniture (Philadelphia, 1935), 73-74. The provenance of two of the twenty-three similar chairs in the Independence National Historical Park Collection tends to establish them as chairs used by Congress.

37. Independent Gazetteer, March 5, 1791.
38. Voucher 193, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.
39. Voucher 194, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.
40. "Before each row of members is a Mahogany Desk with a drawer for papers and a place for ink, pens, wafers, &c for each member."-King, "Journal."

"...every member was accommodated for writing by their being a circular writing desk to each of the circular seats:..." - Wamsey, An Excursion.

"The members' seats are three rows of desks, rising one above another in the form of a semi-circle,...these are writing desks... There is a lock and key to each desk and places on the desks for ink, pens, and a plentiful supply of paper." - Bradbury Letter.
41. C. W. Peale to Charles Biddle, March 3, 1812, C. W. Peale Letterbook, III, 54-55, American Philosophical Society.
42. Matthew Armour is not among the Philadelphia cabinetmakers mentioned in Hornor's definitive Blue Book, and he is listed in the 1793 city directory as "house carpenter." This should not be taken, however, as conclusive evidence that he was incapable of executing skilled cabinet work such as the Speaker's desk must have been.
43. Bradbury Letter.
44. The "Delegate's Desk" is attributed by Hornor to John Folwell, who is known to have made desks for the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1778-1779. Whether this attribution is based on historical data, stylistic peculiarities, or tradition is not known. This desk and the "Declaration Desk," and "Secretary's Desk" as well, should be carefully studied and their attribution checked, since, if the attribution is not correct, they might be the desks of the Speaker and/or Clerk of the House of Representatives.
45. King, "Journal."

46. Wansey, An Excursion.
47. Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, December 26, 1799.
48. Pennsylvania, Journal of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, 1801, ([Lancaster], [1801]), 89.
49. This desk is attributed to Folwell, an attribution which should be very carefully checked.
50. Moreau, American Journey, 90. Writing to an unknown correspondent, Representative Griswold, in describing his affray with Lyon, remarked that Lyon renewed the combat while Griswold "was standing at the South end of the Hall." - Griswold to "Dear Sir," February 25, 1798, Lane Collection, Yale University. The Philadelphia Aurora of February 6, 1798, noted that the incident occurred while "Mr. G. was standing at that part of the house where water is placed for the use of members."

Moreau's reference to molasses liquor is confirmed by records of the purchase on March 7, 1798, of \$110 worth of "Sugarhouse syrup" followed by the purchase on March 9 of \$45.50 worth of "lime juice." Account No. 10,460, "The United States in Account with Jonathan W. Condy,..." Miscellaneous Treasury Records.

51. Independence National Historical Park, Historic Structures Report Part I on Congress Hall (typescript, May 1959), Chapter II, Section 1, 17-22. Samuel Edgerton, student architect in the Historic Structures Section, Architectural Branch, E.O.D.C., is now engaged in an architectural investigation of the fireplaces of Congress Hall and an historical study of the means by which the building was heated. A report of his findings is now being prepared, and should add greatly to our knowledge on this subject.
52. Voucher 201, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.
53. Voucher 202, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.
54. Voucher 185, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.
55. Unnumbered Voucher, September 26, 1794, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office. Also, there is a reference to "Setting 8 Stoves" in Voucher 176, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.

56. "January 18th 1794

To the Commissioners of the City and County of
Philadelphia

To John Mitten Dr.

For Iron Work delivered to Congress	£	5d	----
To Two Fenders weight 35 pounds...	2	12	6
To Do for Do weight 30 pound	2	5	0"

Voucher 199, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.

57. "County and City Commissioners
For Congress Hall

1793 To William Kane Dr.

12 month 23^{...} To 2 Pair Kitchen and Irons 1.15.0
To 2 Pair ditto Shovel & Tongs 1.17.6"

Voucher 200, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.

58. "Dec. 9. Philadelphia County Commissioners -

6 Venetian Blinds for Congress, with plain fronts
in Senate Chamber and Committee Rooms in County
Court House at £4.10 each -

9 do for Arch windows down stairs in the House of
Representatives of U.S. at £6 each. Lengthening
5 Blinds, 3 tassils, etc., £2."

"Excerpts from the Day-Books of David Evans," The Pennsylvania Magazine
of History and Biography, XXVII (1903), 51.

59. Voucher 165, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.

60. Ibid.

61. Voucher 149, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office.

62. Unnumbered Voucher, January 2, 1794, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records
Office.

63. The chairs made by Affleck were upholstered by Thomas Jacquette and John David, the tables which constituted a large part of Affleck's bill needed no upholstering, and the work of laying the carpets is accounted for. The payment to Bankson indicates that he did a lot of work; it is exceeded in amount only by the payments to Affleck for furniture and to Sadler and Govett for carpentry, and it is difficult to imagine what the work could have involved other than preparing and installing curtains.
64. "Uncle Gwynn. Pray, for what purposes are those canopy curtians intended, which are in the upper and lower Rouse [sic].
- "Morgan. They are intended to ornament the heads of the President, Vice-President, and Speaker, and to give elegant sanction to whatever they may say or do." - Independent Gazetteer, March 5, 1791.
65. Voucher 165, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records ~~15~~ Office.
66. Ibid.
67. Voucher 204, "Vouchers, 1793-94," State Records Office. Perhaps these "Green Stuff binds" were curtain ties, although more probably they had something to do with the blinds themselves.
68. "Congress did not break up till midnight,..." - James Hillhouse to Rebecca Hillhouse, March 2, 1793, Hillhouse Family Papers, Yale University. Similar references to late sessions occasionally occur in newspaper accounts of the proceedings of the House.
69. On November 19, 1795, Clerk Beckley purchased candles from Garret Cottinger for \$48.80 - Account No. 7689, "The United States in Account with John Beckley," Miscellaneous Treasury Records. Again on March 12, 1799, Clerk Condry bought \$39.66 worth of candles from Charles Minifie - Account No. 10,460, "The United States in Account with Jonathan Condry," Miscellaneous Treasury Records. At this time tallow candles purchased for the various Federal executive offices cost about 20¢ per pound.
70. Account No. 2039, Miscellaneous Treasury Records.
71. Account No. 4200, Miscellaneous Treasury Records.
72. Wansey, An Excursion.
73. "In regard to the Bust of Minerva I can find no reference to it in the minutes, but I have always understood that it was made to stand behind

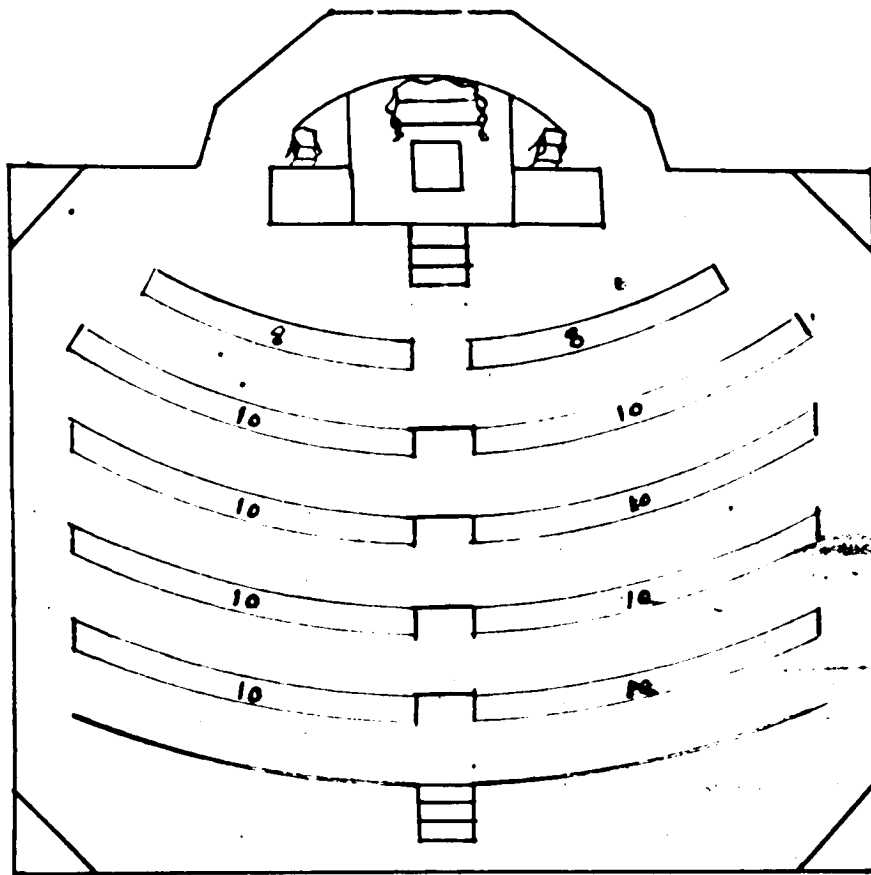
the Speaker's Chair in the first Congress that sat in Philadelphia and upon removal of Congress to Washington, it was presented to the Library." - Note by George M. Abbot, December 4, 1890, "The Library Company Philadelphia [notebook]," Library Company of Philadelphia.

74. Dunlap and Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, April 13, 1792. A phone call to Mr. Barney Chesnick of the Library Company elicited the information that the Minerva is unsigned and has not been attributed. Its size would seem to eliminate it as the bust over the Speaker's chair unless it can be attributed to Cerrachi.
75. Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, December 3, 1799.
76. "Excerpts from the Day-Books of David Evans," The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, XXVII (1903), 51.
77. Moreau, American Journey, 90.
78. King, "Journal." The only evidence of the purchase of inkstands is an item in Account No. 3819, Miscellaneous Treasury Records, for \$19.80 "paid Joseph Stansbury for inkstands," and in view of the sum paid these were probably for the offices. Members were in the habit of writing at their desks, however, as is shown by the following:

"Brother Hillhouse is this moment proving the propriety of the article [in Jay's Treaty] prohibiting Sesquetrating or confiscation,... He once in a while speaks so loud as to interrupt me for a moment but on reflecting that he is on the right side I compose myself again & go to writing." - Nathaniel Smith to D. Daggett, April 1796, D. Dagget Letterbook, Rare Book Room, Yale University.
79. "When the house was balloting he [Samuel Smith of Maryland] left his seat to take his letters from the letter box:..." - Porcupine's Gazette, February 7, 1798.
80. Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, December 26, 1799. Also, Elizur Goodrich to [D. Davenport], December 26, 1799, Davenport Letterbooks, Rare Book Room, Yale University.

ILLUSTRATIONS

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



46f

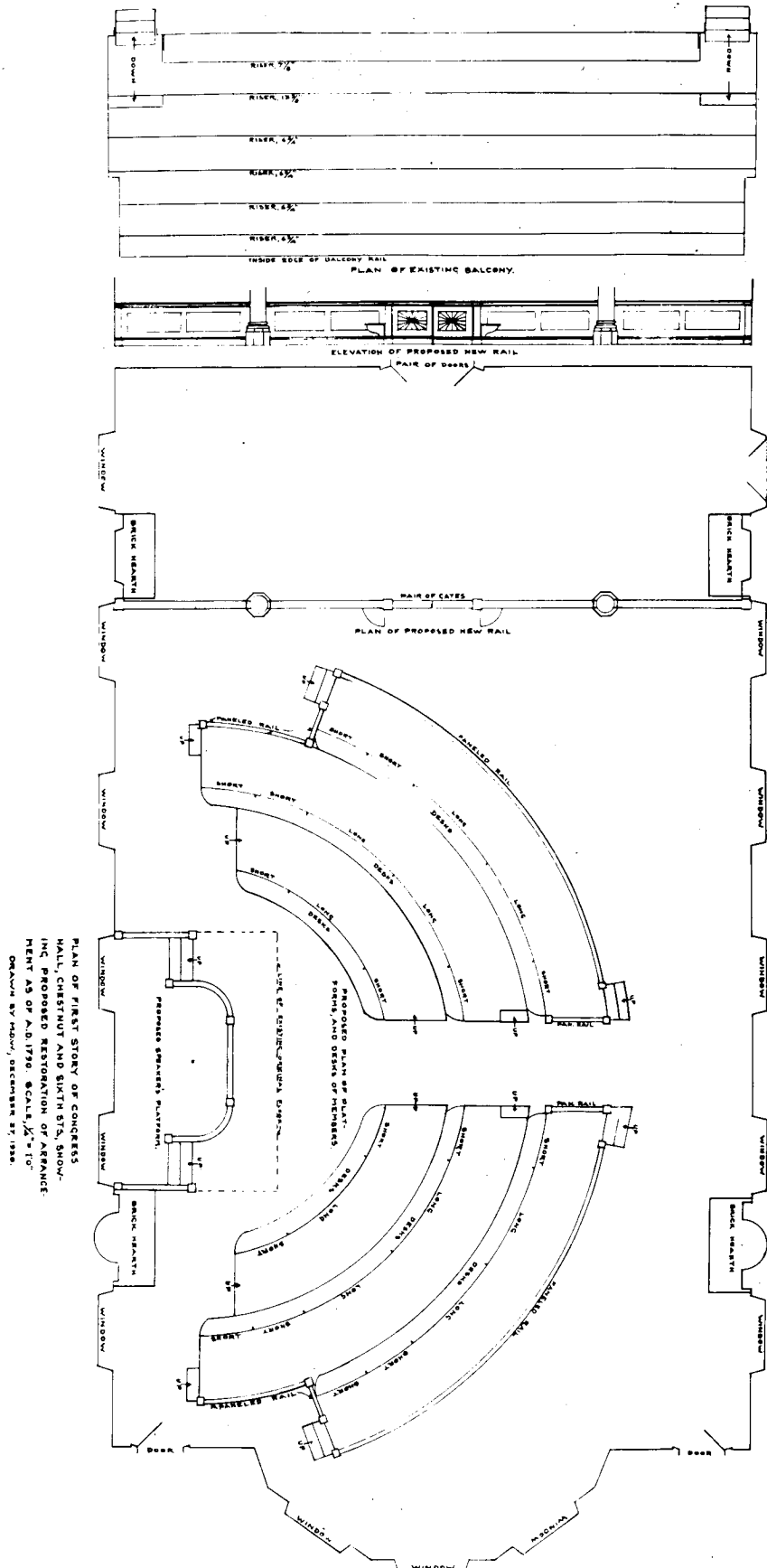
NB - A chimney is proposed for each corner & sufficient space is left to sit round them

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

A Passage is left of 3 f between the Desks for
the North Door to the Chancel —

A Passage of 3 f. 3 in. between each Row of
for the Members to Sit & pass round each other w-
out disturbance—

Part C
Illustration No. 2



See title on plan. The stepped platform shown on the plan would seat only 72 members, and, therefore, must be inaccurate. Compare with Illustration No. 4, and note that the one step of the platform shown on the plan was omitted from the restored platform.

Part C
Illustration No. 3

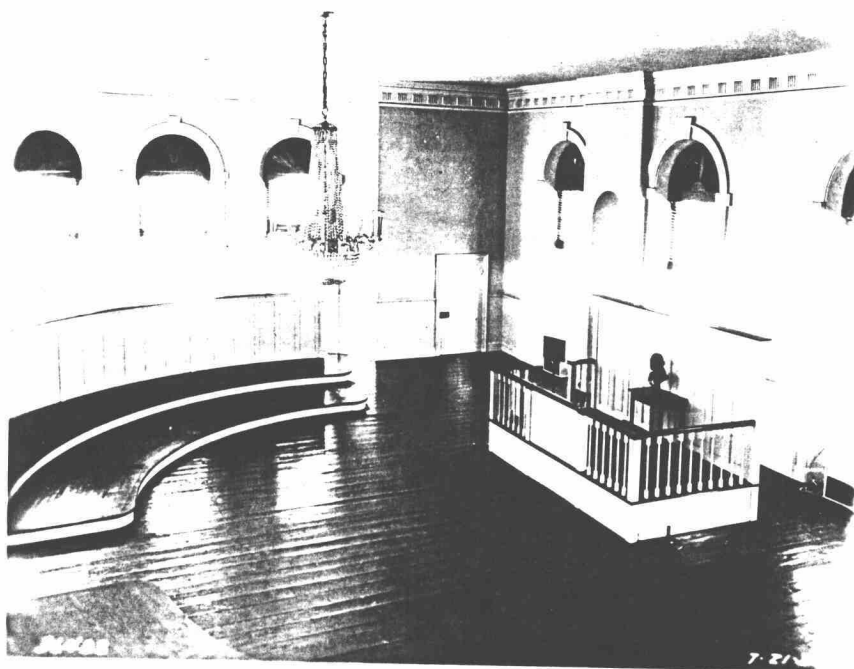


Photo of the House of Representatives
Chamber taken in 1937 showing the re-
stored Speaker's dais.

Part C
Illustration No. 4

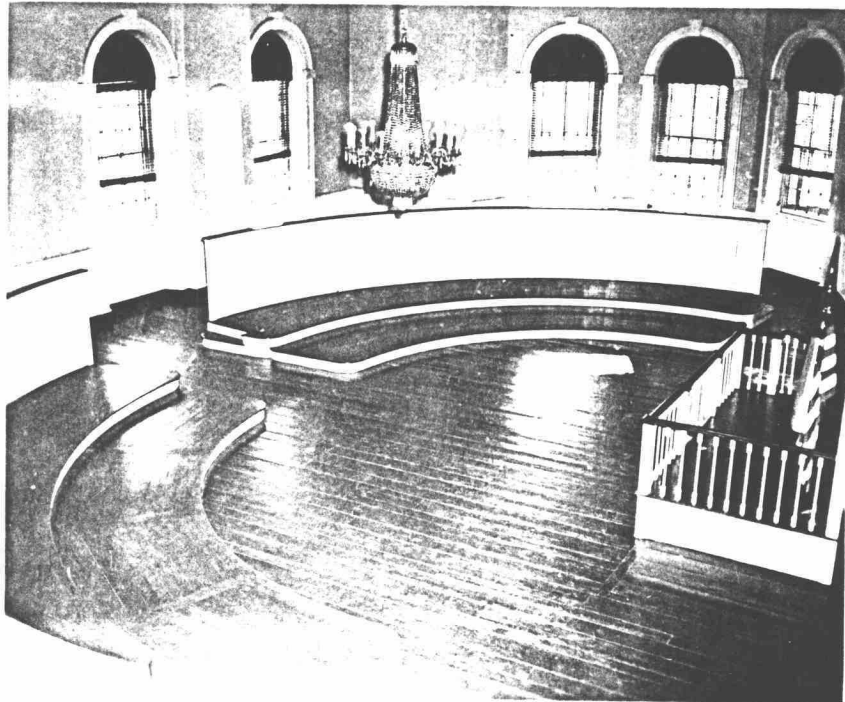
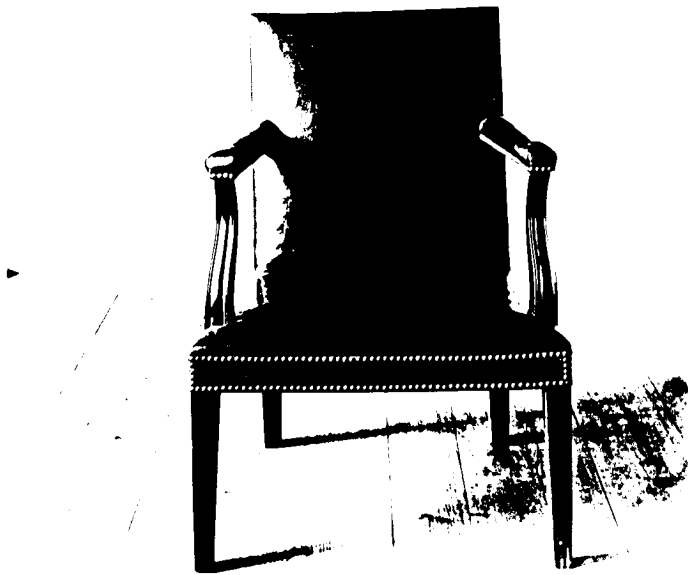


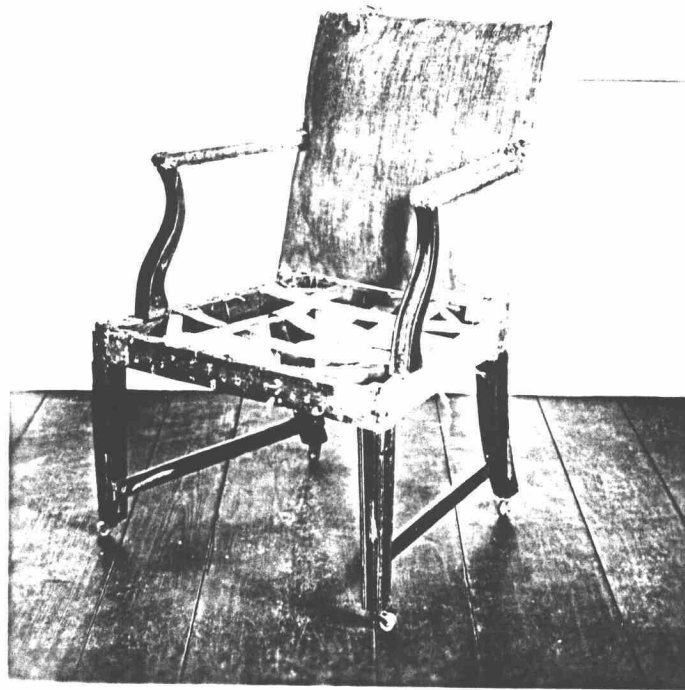
Photo of the partially refurnished House of Representatives Chamber taken in 1951 and showing the stepped platforms built and installed in 1934. Note outline in lower right corner of floor area covered by original Speaker's dais.

Part C
Illustration No. 5



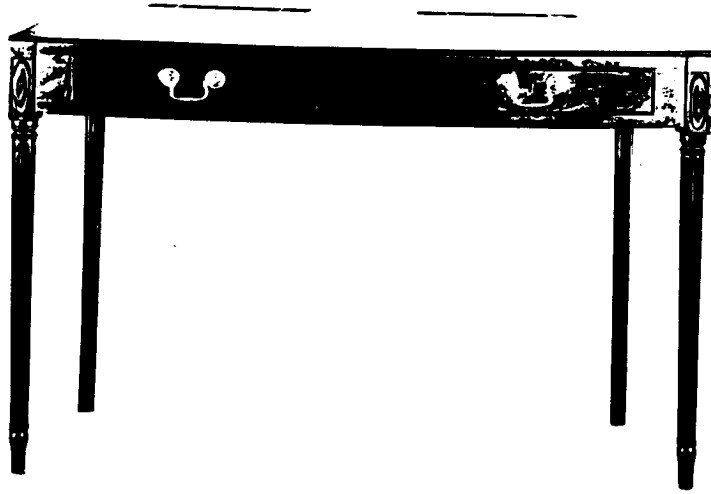
Leather upholstered elbow chair made
by Thomas Affleck for the Congress of
the United States, and now in the
Independence National Historical Park
Collection.

Part C
Illustration No. 6



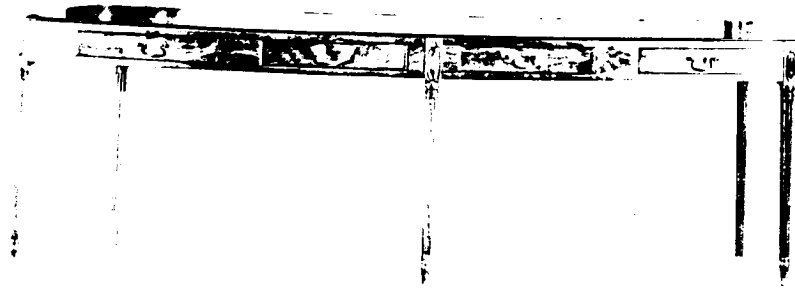
Frame of a leather upholstered elbow chair made by Affleck for Congress Hall, and now in the Independence National Historical Park Collection. This photo was taken in 1921; the chair has since been reupholstered and stretchers removed.

Part C
Illustration No. 7



"Short Table" from the Federal Hall,
New York, Collection. Note the cur-
vature of this table.

Part C
Illustration No. 8



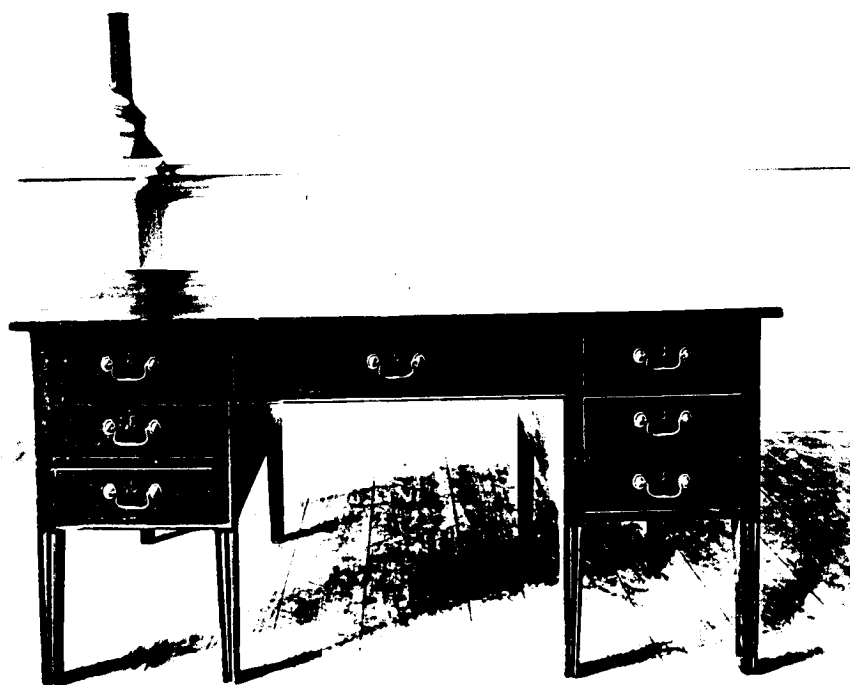
"Long Table" from the Federal Hall
Collection. Again note that the
table is curved.

Part C
Illustration No. 9



So-called "Delegate's Desk" from the Independence National Historical Park Collection. The desk of the Speaker may have resembled this desk.

Part C
Illustration No. 10



So-called "Declaration Desk" in the Independence National Historical Park Collection. This desk possesses stylistic characteristics which indicate that it is of a period later than 1776. The desk of the Clerk may have resembled this desk.



PART D

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PROPOSED FURNISHINGS

Prepared by Museum Curators Frederick B. Hanson and Ruth Matzkin

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF
PROPOSED FURNISHINGS

For the sake of clarity, this Part of the Furnishing Plan has been divided into three sections:

Section I: Interpretive Functions of Each Room

Section II: Summary List of Proposed Furnishings

Section III: Descriptive List of Proposed Furnishings

Section I: INTERPRETIVE FUNCTION OF EACH ROOM

A. House of Representatives Chamber: Historic House Museum.

In this room, where the U.S. House of Representatives sat from December 1790 to May 1800, the visitor will be told the important story of the lower house of the Federal Congress during its formative first decade. The room will be refurnished to look as it did during the latter half of that decade, after it had been enlarged to its present size in 1793. Since the idea behind the refurnishing is to give the visitor the feeling that he has momentarily stepped back into the past, the plan is designed to reflect the scene as a visitor might have seen it on any normal day between 1794 and 1800, just before or just after the daily session. It is suggested, however, that temporary changes be made in the furnishings from time to time, as they were historically, on such occasions as the inauguration of John Adams in 1797 and the "mock funeral" of Washington in December 1799. Seasonal changes, also, should be reflected in the furnishings. Stoves, for instance, should be removed in late spring and reinstalled in early fall, while any clothing displayed should be in keeping with the season too. These

small variations will help to keep both the visitor and the interpreter aware of the human element in the history of the room.

Although the furnishing plan presented in this Part provides for a total refurnishing of the room as it was between 1794 and 1800, it will be necessary to delay portions of it pending further information. It may be necessary also to omit some of the furnishings, particularly small items normally found on a desk, if visitors are to be permitted to sit in certain sections of the Members' area, as has been suggested. Since patterns of interpretation will change from time to time, it is recommended that all recommended furnishings be acquired as soon as possible. This will give maximum flexibility to the furnishing program.

B. Visitors' Gallery: Historic House Museum. The gallery overlooking the House Chamber will serve the same purpose ~~as~~ did between 1790 and 1800, to accommodate visitors. Its simple furnishings will be historically correct and at the same time useful for seating modern visitors while they listen to the Congress Hall story and look down on the restored House Chamber.

C. Vestibule: Historic House Museum. The vestibule will serve its historical purpose as a passageway and public assembly point. Whatever furniture it contains will be for public use, ~~if needed~~ after the ~~second~~ floor is opened.

D. Closet under Stairs: Historic House Museum. This little room on the east side of the Vestibule, under the stairs, will be refurnished as a room for storage of period housekeeping equipment.

Section II: SUMMARY LIST OF PROPOSED FURNISHINGS

Key No.	Description	Period or Reproduction	Estimated Cost
1	Platforms for Members' desks and chairs (2)	R	\$ 3,000
2	Speaker's Dais (1)	R	1,500
3	Speaker's Table (1)	P or R	200
4	Speaker's Chair (1)	R	1,200
5	Clerks' Desks (2)	P(1)R(1)	P: INHA R: 300
6	Clerks' Chairs (2)	R	600
7	Sergeant-at-Arms' Chair (1)	R	300
8	Members' Desks (105) in sections	R	21,000
9	Members' Chairs (105)	R	31,500
10	Reporters' Desks (not needed)	-	none
11	Visitors' Seats (at least 40)	R	6,000
12	Stoves (6)	P or R	3,000
13	Fenders (4)	P or R	400
14	Andirons (4 pr)	R	INHP Coll.
15	Shovels and Tongs (2 pr)	P	200
16	Fuel; 1/8 cord Hickory		20
17	Ash Buckets (2)	P	150
18	Fireboards (none needed)		None
19	Candlesticks (25 pr) and candles (1 gross)	P and R	655
20	Mace (1)	R	3,000
21	Venetian Blinds (14)	R	2,800
22	Window Curtains (30)	R	12,000

Part D
Section II
Page 2

Key No.	Description	Period or Reproduction	Estimated Cost
23	Table Covers (2)	R	120
24	Mourning Drapes (1 set)	R	1,500
25	Carpet; wall-to-wall	R	15,000
26	Bust of Franklin (1)	P	INHP Coll.
27	Doorkeepers' pedestals (2)	R	60
28	Doorkeepers' Chairs (2)	P	300
29	Pigeon hole Mail rack (1)	P or R	300
30	Mail Bags (2)	P or R	70
30a	Washington Portrait (1)	R	INHP Coll.
31	Trumbull Print: Bunker Hill (1)	P	INHP Coll.
32	Trumbull Print: Quebec (1)	P	150
33	Inkwell: Speaker's (1)	P	50
34	Inkwells: Clerks' (2)	P	150
35	Inkwells: Members' (105)	R	675
36	Inkwells: Reporters' (4)	P	100
37	Spitting Boxes (12)	R	120
38	Stationery	P or R	200
39	Books, Newspapers, Pamphlets, and Manuscripts	P	750
40	Refreshment Table (1)	P	1,200
41	Lounging Chairs (10)	P	1,500
41a	Ballot Box (1)	P or R	250
42	Water Pitcher (1)	P	400
43	Glasses (12)	P	120
44	Earthen Liquor Bottles (2)	P	100

Part D
Section II
Page 3

Key No.	Description	Period or Reproduction	Estimated Cost
45	Glass Liquor Bottles (4)	P	140
46	Wash Tub (1)	P	800
47	Towel (1)	P	20
48	Clothing (10 pieces)	P	750
49	Canes (6)	P	150
50	Timepieces (1)	P	INHP Coll.
51	Tobacco Accessories	P	700
52	Benches (12)	R	1,200
53	Windsor Settees (4)	R	1,000
54	Lantern (1)	P or R	300
55	Janitor's Room	P or R	500
			\$116,500

Section III: DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF RECOMMENDED FURNISHINGS

A. House of Representatives Chamber

1. Platforms for Members' Desks and Chairs

No physical evidence of the platforms remains and drawings made in 1912 by the Philadelphia Charter, American Institute of Architects, from the markings on the original flooring have not been located.

Contemporary pictorial evidence is limited to two 1798 cartoons of the Lyon-Griswold encounter on the House floor. "The First Battle in Congress" (Illustration No. 1) shows no platforms. "Cudgeling as by Late Act in Congress" (Illustration No. 2) shows three curved rows of desks rising one above the other, with a curved, railed barrier behind the last row. No details of handrail or siding are shown. The only evidence of the scale is the fact that two members standing behind the barrier are resting their elbows on it.

Although an eyewitness described the Members as sitting upon "a platform elevated three steps" (Part C, p.3), there is strong presumptive evidence that there were actually only two steps, the first row being on the floor. The plan suggested in 1790 for the accommodation of Congress in City Hall (Illustration No. 3) offers valuable evidence on this point. It shows the first row of desks resting on the floor and the third row two steps up. The cartoon "Cudgeling" shows the same arrangement.

All that is known of the backboard, referred to usually as "the bar," which rose behind the third tier of seats, is that it was of a height suitable for a man standing on the floor behind it to lean on (Part C, note 24). In the absence of more precise evidence, it is assumed that the backboard rail was at the same height from the floor as the dado of the room, 4'4". This would provide a logical visual unity between two similar decorative elements and at the same time meet the practical requirements of the bar.

That the platform was bisected by an aisle leading through from the Members' entrance on the east wall to the wall of the House directly below the Speaker is clearly indicated by the statement of Congressman Haven in 1798 that Lyon's seat was on "the left side of the passage leading up to the speaker's chair" (Carey's United States Recorder, Feb. 22, 1798).

Recommendation

In designing the platforms, consideration was first given to the space available, with the Speaker's dais taken as the center of the radii. The arrangement proposed allows chair space for each member, as well as space for steps at each end of the platforms, for a 4' center aisle, and for 3' clearance on all sides. In order to accommodate 105 of the Affleck chairs (average width 24"), all schemes considered necessitated use of some of the space under the gallery. On this point there is no direct evidence. Use of this space barely fulfills minimal circulation and comfort requirements.

Each platform consists basically of two continuously curved steps, one on top of the other backed with a curved plain-railed backboard. The side steps at either end of the upper level fall within the

backboard, this detail being based on collateral evidence found in the Speaker's stand as depicted in the cartoon "Cudgeling." This detail also simplifies the outline of the backboard, provides clear-cut passageways, and serves as a safety feature to minimize the danger of stumbling over a protruding step. The backboard is equal in height to the dado, totaling 4'4". The steps conform in height to those of the late 18th century. If necessary, additional vertical supporting members resembling the terminal supports should be included in the backboard. The floor, treads, and the risers of the platform are to be carpeted to match the remainder of the room. The exposed areas are to be painted the same color as the dado, and the hand-rail is to be painted in imitation mahogany graining (a common 18th century practice for stair rails and the caps of church pews). Provision is to be made for housing audio speakers unobtrusively in the risers, as well as electrical outlets for cleaning equipment.

2. Speaker's Dais

As indicated in part C of this plan, the Speaker's chair was situated on a raised platform in the House of Representatives Chamber. When Congress Hall was originally outfitted to serve the Congress, the dais was located in the southern bay. Presumably it was designed to fit the bay and was similar, if not identical to that indicated in the plan for City Hall (Illustration No. 3). This representation shows an almost square platform raised four steps from the floor (entered from the front), shielded from drafts by a curved backboard, which extends about 3 feet on either side beyond the platform. Upon the dais are shown the Speaker's table and chair, and enough space for 2 extra chairs, and on either side of the dais is a table or desk, each with a chair. In addition, a 3 1/2

foot clearance is provided around the dais in order to gain access to the door (in the middle of the bay) leading to Philosophical Hall.

When the Hall was enlarged, the dais was removed to the west wall (Part C, p.3). Since this removal was primarily for the accommodation of additional members of the House, there is no reason to believe that the dais was then altered, except perhaps in minor ways, for the needs of the Speaker remained the same. Fortunately for historians, the Lyon-Griswold fight of 1798 encouraged at least two cartoons to be drawn depicting it. In one of these, "Cudgeling," the Speaker's dais is shown on the west side of the room, perhaps centered on a window. The dais is shown as having a high backboard (about 7'6" from the floor), curved at least in elevation, and perhaps in plan as well, and three or four steps on its northern side leading up to a platform. Around the front of the platform there is a rail with a newel post immediately to the left of the stairway. Since much of the dais is in shadow and is obscured by the figure of Mr. Lyon, the width and depth of it are not clearly indicated.

Several details indicated in this illustration are substantiated by the casual comments of members and visitors. The dais is referred to as being "...raised some steps from the ground and railed in," and again as "...a kind of pulpit" (Part C, p. 4). Another account states that the Speaker's Chair was "without canopy" in 1795 (Scharf and Westcott, I, 489). It was "elevated about 2 feet" (Part C, p. 3). Still another describes the Speaker as "standing on the steps of his desk" (Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798).

The location of the Speaker's dais was supposedly found by the A. I. A. in 1913 from marks left on the floor, but the records indicating their reasoning have not yet come to light. The marks still to be seen

on the surviving patch of original flooring are more suggestive of 19th century architectural intrusions than of the 18th century Speaker's platform (Appendix A). The most likely location for the dais would seem to be one centered visually on the western wall, logically in front of the third, and most prominent, window rather than placing it in front of a wall section. A 1798 account verifies this fact for it states that a member "was in the passage leading from the eastern door of the hall to the Speaker's table" (Annals of Congress, 5th Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 1013-24). Another account locates the principle door "to the East and immediately opposite the Speaker's seat" (Columbian Centinel, Boston, May 22, 1793). Remembering that the dais had originally been designed for, and used in front of a window, it is logical that in moving it, no objection would be made to its use again in front of another window. Other testimony further clarifies the position of the dais in reference to a stove which was "to the left of the Speaker's chair" (Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798).

Several accounts indicate that the dais was located out from the wall; for example the recollections of a visitor to the House Chamber included that the Speaker sat on a "moveable wooden rostrum 8 to 10 feet from the west wall" (Part C, p. 4). Congressman Haven stated that there was a "narrow passageway between the wall of the House and the Speaker's chair" (Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798). An additional comment about the Lyon-Grissold fight verifies that the dais had a high solid backboard: "...they were for a moment out of my sight which was intercepted by the partition..." (S. Sitgraves, in Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798).

It appears that in both its old and new locations, the rear of the dais served a useful function as a place to hang coats and canes, for in

Peleg Sprague's testimony given on February 17, 1798, he stated that a Member went "behind the Speaker's chair, hung up his cloak, and I think, set his stick by it" (Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798). It is possible that there was a place for additional canes in the recess in the next northernmost window, for J. H. Imlay stated (Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798) that Griswold "walked to the recess under the window on the north side of the Speaker's Chair, where he had placed his cane."

Verbal accounts can be interpreted to suggest that the dais was almost any size. Chief reliance must therefore be placed upon the illustrative matter (i.e. the cartoon "Cudgelino" and the City Hall plan), and any verbal accounts should be considered relative to these documents.

It is believed that the cartoon and the City Hall plan indicate the same dais, slightly altered. In order to correlate the two, a mechanical perspective was drawn from the northern portion of the House floor, using the dimensions in length and width from the plan and the vertical dimensions from the cartoon and collateral evidence. There are few differences in the two versions of the dais, allowing for artistic license. One of these is in the location of the stairways and the number of steps. By splitting the steps in the plan, and placing them at either end of the dais within the curved backboard, one arrives at the cartoon rendering. In addition, this arrangement displaces the positions of the clerk's desk as shown in the City Hall plan.

The number of steps in the plan is clearly four and in the cartoon either three or four. Another difference is in the plan of the dais floor. One visitor's comment may be interpreted as indicating that a raised platform existed upon the floor of the dais. In describing the

ceremonies which took place upon the opening of Congress in 1794, Moreau de St. Mery stated that the President "seats himself in the chair ordinarily occupied by the Speaker..., then,...he rises, steps forward to a position between the two presidents of the Senate and Chamber, but on a step above them" (Anna M. and Kenneth Roberts, eds. Moreau de St. Mery's Journey [Garden City, 1947], pp. 349-50). Although an extra step is not indicated in the plan of City Hall, it is implied by the cartoon. In the cartoon, the height of the Speaker's table appears to be about 30 inches. The height of the railing around the dais, if similar to stairway railing heights elsewhere in Congress Hall, is about 33 inches, yet is shown below the top surface of the Speaker's table. Therefore, by the above account, the table and chair must rest upon a platform of a higher level than the remainder of the dais floor, (The other alternative is that the railing is not related in height to existing handrails in Congress Hall).

Moreau de St. Mery is the only writer who clearly indicates that two additional persons were ever seated on the dais (at the opening of Congress in 1794; see preceding paragraph). Both the cartoon and the City Hall plan indicate that the dais is relatively small, and could not reasonably hold more than two people in addition to the Speaker. The clerks certainly were not on the dais. One visitor commented that "there is in the room a great chair for the Speaker and a place for two clerks beside him" (Robert C. Smith, "A Portuguese in Philadelphia, 1799," PMHB, Jan. 1954, p. 79), and the City Hall plan shows the clerk's desk in just these positions, on the floor of the House. With the steps at either end of the dais rather than in the front, however, perhaps another quotation is more accurate. It states that "...the Speaker's chair is elevated a

few steps above the floor, in the front of which but below are the Secretary's Desks of Beautiful Mahogany" (Nicholas King, "Journal...1793," typescript, Huntington Library). With the steps at either end of the dais rather than at the front, it would not only be logical, but necessary to push the clerks' desks forward, and perhaps together in order to gain access to the platform.

Some suggestion of the depth of the platform is indicated by the objects usually on it. The Speaker sat in a "large armchair with a table before him, like a toilette, covered with green cloth, fringed" (Part C. pp. 2-3). There had to be room for the Speaker to pass between the chair and the table.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the dais conform to the dimensions indicated in the plan for City Hall, altered in accordance with the cartoon "Cudgeling." It will seat 3 people. The platform is to be constructed of pine, using conventional measurements found elsewhere in the building for details such as the railing, risers, and treads, nosing, baseboard, etc. The backboard is to be constructed of unbeaded vertical sheathing, and capped with the dado molding. Pegs for coats are to be provided on the rear of the backboard. The floor and steps are to be carpeted in conformity with the rest of the room, and the exposed flooring is to be finished naturally. The remainder of the dais is to be painted to match the surrounding woodwork, except for the hand-rail which should be of mahogany, or grained to imitate mahogany. Provision is to be made for audio speakers and electrical outlets in the area directly beneath the Speaker's table. The platform is to be

placed 3 1/2 feet from the western wall, centered upon the window, opposite the Portico door.

3. Speaker's Table

The Speaker, reported Theophilus Bradbury in 1795 (Part C, p.3) sat "with a table before him like a toilette, covered with green cloth, fringed." This description accords well with the flat-topped, covered tables, about 30 inches high, shown on the dais in both the 1798 cartoons. It also fits the suggested plan for City Hall, which shows a table about 2'3" by 2'3" on the dais. English presiding officers (Rowlandson, Microcosm of London) used small, high tables, some with and some without slant tops and fabric covers. The so-called Speaker's stand from Federal Hall (at New-York Historical Society) seems to be only a cut-down Member's desk, as it is curved, and its eagle-type lectern appears to be a later addition.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the table be of mahogany, about 2'3" square and 30" high, flat-topped, with straight tapered legs, three stretchers, and no drawer. Its covering of green baize, fringed, should hang to the floor. If an antique table of the correct dimensions can not be found, a reproduction should be obtained.

4. Speaker's Chair

Information on the chair occupied by the Speaker of the House is scanty and inconclusive. Theophilus Bradbury, a Congressman from Massachusetts, referred to it as a "large arm chair" but used the same words to describe the Members' chairs (Part C, pp. 2-3). A Portuguese visitor in 1799 spoke of it as "a great chair" (PMHB, Jan. 1954, p. 79). The extant vouchers for the furnishing of Congress Hall are silent on this point, the

Speaker's chair presumably being covered by Thomas Affleck's unitemized bill of £469.6.0 for "furniture" (Voucher 192, 1790).

The cartoons of the Lyon-Griswold fight present two versions of the Speaker's chair so widely different as to be of little help. "The First Battle in Congress" shows the Speaker engulfed in a huge, upholstered, round-backed arm chair; "Cudgeling" shows him standing before a backless stool.

The City Hall plan of 1790 indicates an unusually wide (about 4 feet) chair with cabriole legs, curved arms, and a serpentine back. The clerks' chairs are, in contrast, square-backed, much smaller, and plain in detail.

This is very much in keeping with contemporary practice. The Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, then meeting in the State House, occupied the famous "Rising Sun Chair," made in 1779. In 1790 the presiding officer of the State Senate was provided with a "large Mahogany elbow chair...with castors" which cost £10.10.0, including upholstery (Register of Accounts, Dec. 20, 1790, Div. of Pub. Rec. Hbg.). Rowlandson and Hogarth prints provide evidence for similar practice in 18th-century England.

The evidence cited points, in our opinion, to the conclusion that the chair of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives would have been larger and more elaborate than those used by the ~~Members~~.

There are still extant four large mahogany elbow arm chairs attributed to Affleck which have traditional associations with the Independence group of buildings. Three of these, in the INHP collection, are

so close in detail and workmanship to one another that there is good reason to believe that they were made for use on a judicial bench, possibly the State Supreme Court in Independence Hall. This is the tradition attached to them since the 1870's and accepted by William Horner in his Blue Book of Philadelphia Furniture (1935). The fourth chair, though generally similar to the others in its decorative detail and scale, is a much more carefully carved chair, beside which the others appear rather clumsy. This chair is said to have been acquired before 1835 by a Philadelphian (Dr. Thomas Chalkly James) "as a Speaker's chair from the State House group" (Horner, Blue Book, p. 179, plate 263; Parke-Bernet Cat. 2026, March 24-25, 1961).

The Affleck attribution, the tradition that the chair was a Speaker's chair from the State House group, and its superior quality lead us to believe that the James chair may have been either the U. S. House Speaker's, or the U.S. Senate President's chair. The chair made for the Speaker of the State Senate at the same time (1790) could also have been of this type, but that chair was taken to Lancaster in 1799, while the Congress furniture remained in Philadelphia until 1803, when some was sold and some taken to Lancaster. In the circumstances, it seems likely that the Speakers' chairs from Congress Hall were sold as surplus, since the two Speakers in Lancaster were already supplied with their own special chairs.

Recommendation

We recommend that the James chair be acquired, if possible, for use as the chair of the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. Failing acquisition of the original chair, we recommend that a reproduction of it be made. The chair should be upholstered in black morocco and moreen, with brass nails, as recommended for the Member's chairs.

5. Clerk's Desks

In front of the Speaker's dais, on the floor of the House, there were desks and chairs for two clerks. One account, however, assigns one of these to the Clerk (to the right of the Speaker) and one to the Chaplain (to the left of the Speaker) (Part C. p. 11). The only other specific descriptive evidence we have concerning the clerks' desks is that they were of "...Beautiful Mahogany" (Part C, p. 11) and that they had at least one drawer each (Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser, Jan. 25, 1791, p. 3).

The craftsman who fashioned these desks is unknown, for specific accounts of their purchase have not been found. There is one account, however, "to making an End to the clerk of Congress's Desk... 4'-10," from David Evans, which may indicate that he produced the original desk as well (David Evans, Daybook, Jan. 16, 1796, H. S. P.). Another bill from Affleck accounts for "...an addition of 2 feet 6 Inches for Table for Congress 25/" (Congress Hall vouchers, Jan. 10, 1794). This addition could refer to a clerk's desk, suggesting that Affleck made it, but refers more likely to one of the Member's desks, known to have been made by Affleck. One other account, to one Matthew Armour,

is for "Tables and Desk" (Part C. App. B, p. I). The cartoon "Cudgeling," shows what may represent a clerk's desk on the floor, to the north of the Speaker. The scale is so out of character with the remainder of the cartoon, however, that this illustration cannot be considered as concrete evidence.

The City Hall plan shows two desks on either side of the Speaker's dais, presumably for clerks, which are approximately 2'9" by 3'10". The size of these desks is of special interest since there is an extant desk of the same period in the INHP collection (Part C, Illustration No. 9) which measures 2'7" by 3'7". The history of this desk (S.N. 6014) is unclear, although it is said to have been removed from Independence Hall in 1854 and returned in 1896. It is interesting to note that the donors (Mr. & Mrs. Henry Darrach) also presented a Congress chair in the same year. The desk is finished on all sides, indicating that it was intended to be seen from any side. It has two drawers, and seems intended to seat one person, although two could use it. Stylistically the desk dates from the 1790's. The plain detailing and unusual treatment of the writing surface suggests that it was intended for use in a public building, possibly even in Congress Hall. The top is made of pine, and molded strips of mahogany are screwed around its perimeter fastening a piece of modern felt in place. It is clear that the top was originally intended to be covered with stretched fabric, probably green baize, a common covering material for tables and desks during this period. David Evans, for example, recorded an order for "making a Pine table covered with green cloth," as well as several orders for green baize, in his daybooks now at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Desks shown in the public buildings of early nineteenth century England as depicted by Rowlandson (Microcosm of London) frequently show tables and desks with green tops.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the desk (S.N. 6014) in the INHP Collection be used as one clerk's desk, and that it be duplicated for the second desk. The existing desk should be repaired and polished, and new baize stretched across its writing surface.

6. Clerks' Chairs

There are no vouchers or descriptions relating specifically to the chairs occupied by the Clerk of the House and his assistant or assistants. The plan for City Hall, however, indicates upholstered open-arm chairs with straight legs, similar to those of the Members. The cartoon "First Battle in Congress" shows an armless upholstered square-backed chair which may be for a clerk (perhaps showing a break between the moreen and leather upholstering). The cartoon "Cudgeling" does not show clerks' chairs, but does show what may be a simple stool for a clerk to the north of the Speaker's dais. The representation in both cartoons is so vague that the validity of this evidence is highly questionable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that two chairs similar to those of the Members, covered in black leather and moreen, be placed at the Clerks' desks as in the City Hall plan.

7. Sergeant-at-Arms' Chair

Contemporary accounts and cartoons tell us nothing about the Sergeant-at-Arms, except that he was stationed somewhere to the left or north of the Speaker's dais (Aurora, Feb. 22 and Dec. 13, 1798). As an agent of the Speaker, it seems likely that he occupied a chair close to the dais, perhaps at one of the clerks' tables, close to the mace, of which he was the custodian.

Recommendation

Since nothing is known about the Sergeant-of-Arms' chair and little about his functions, it is recommended that no such chair be provided pending the results of additional research.

8. Members' Desks

None of the original Members' desks have been found. A cellar-to-attic search of the old County buildings in Lancaster and the State buildings in Harrisburg revealed not a single section of curved desk, and inquiries to antique dealers have been equally barren of result. Pending the unlikely discovery of surviving originals clearly traceable to Congress Hall, it is, therefore, necessary to furnish the House Chamber with conjectural reproductions. These reproductions must be based upon: (1) contemporary documents cited in Part C of this plan, (2) cartoon representations of the House Chamber, (3) surviving desks of the same general type and period, (4) the seating plan proposed for City Hall in 1790, and (5) other tables and desks attributed to the workshop of Thomas Affleck where the Congress furniture was made.

(1) From the documents cited in Part C we know that the Members sat at long curved mahogany desks arranged in three roughly concentric rows.

Each Member was provided with a drawer (with lock) and had a place on the desk for his ink, pens and papers. The desks were made by Thomas Affleck in 1790 and 1793.

(2) The two cartoons of 1798 purport to show the Lyon-Griswold fight on the floor of the House Chamber.

"The First Battle in Congress" (Illustration No. I) sheds no light on the actual appearance of the Members' desks. Just as the architectural and human representations are handled with much artistic license, so have the desks been handled with little regard for the facts. The Members' desks appear to be of standard height (about 30 inches) and flat-topped. Since they are represented with fabric covers reaching to the floor, the artist implies that there were no built-in wells for ink, quills, etc., and this is borne out by the presence of a few quills lying at random among books, papers and other objects on the desks. There is no suggestion of a curved desk nor of multiple rows; in fact the Members appear to be seated at one perfectly ordinary long, rectangular table. Since this is manifestly wrong, according to all other evidence, it is suggested that this cartoon can be totally disregarded as a guide to the appearance of the desks.

The second cartoon, "Cudgeling as by late Act in Congress, USA..." (Illustration No. 2) seems to have been more realistically rendered by an artist familiar with the House Chamber. Although exaggerated, the proportions of the room and the objects in it, both as to their details and their relationships with one another, are handled, for the most part, in accordance with the known facts. The three curved rows of desks, south of the passage, are shown rising one above the other, the last row backed

by a curved and capped barrier (the bar). Since the desks serve merely as a back-drop to the Lyon-Griswold encounter in the foreground, they are rendered with little detail. The front row appears to be composed of about twelve individual desks with open space (perhaps half a desk-width) between each. Other contemporary evidence suggests strongly that this was not the case, however, for Congressman Haven referred to "the long desk that was before him" as making it difficult for Lyon to get onto the floor from his front row seat to defend himself from Griswold's blows (Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798, pp. 2-3). The cartoon shows the front row desks with projecting tops and with either solid fronts or floor length coverings, since a Member's leg is shown projecting beyond the left side of one desk while the other is hidden behind the desk. The desks seem quite shallow. The second and third rows are rendered as very narrow, long, continuous bands of curved desks with solid fronts, standard height. It is not possible to tell whether the tops are slanted or not, nor whether there are recessed ink wells.

It must be stressed that in both these cartoons the architecture and furnishings serve only as backgrounds for the event being satirized. Their reliability is questionable, except where confirmed by other evidence.

(3) Extant American curved desks from this period are few, but those found have many similarities to what we know of the desks used by Congress in Philadelphia.

Most interesting are the two surviving sections from the curved desks used by Congress in Federal Hall in 1787-90 (now at the New-York Historical Society). These are of particular interest to us

since they were actually used by some of the very men who later sat in Congress Hall, Philadelphia. Allowances must be made, however, for differences due to changed space requirements and stylistic differences between L'Enfant and Affleck, while the newer set of desks may also have included new features suggested by the Members themselves, such as more or less leg and elbow room, larger or smaller drawers, etc.

The two extant Federal Hall desks (Part C. Illustrations 7 and 8) date from c. 1789 and suggest several things about the seating arrangement there. The desks were probably all curved (one section of desk showed the end of a row, and was entirely curved, which would have been the logical place to have a straight run of desks, if any straight runs were used). Desks in separate rows were of different radii, and therefore interchangeable only with other desks in their own rows.

In addition, there are certain features about the New York desks which indicate how they looked in position. Each Member had his own drawer with lock and three-compartment ink socket. The writing surface, which was 14 inches deep, was slanted and uncovered. Where desks joined one another (evidently bolted together through their side aprons), they were aligned by pairs of tenons and mortises, and where two desks met there were two sets of legs adjacent to one another. The ends of the rows were rounded off in such a way as to allow members in the row immediately in front easy access around the end desk. Individual desks held at least from 2 to 4 Members each, and legs were located on either side of every 2 members. Front and rear legs varied in shape, the front legs (those on the drawer-opening side) being more elaborately finished than the rear. The desk legs followed stylistically the leg

details used in the Members' chairs. There is no indication of the desks having been bolted to the floor, but only to one another at their aprons. The wood used was mahogany.

A third desk, also at the New-York Historical Society, is said to be the original Speaker's stand, and is a short version of the desks just mentioned, with the additional device of a wooden eagle supporting a slanted lectern. This desk appears to be, however, a cut-off section of a longer curved desk such as those just described, and not a Speaker's desk at all, for this example is slightly curved (~~unneces-~~sary, and undesirable except in a longer desk), has sawn-off tenons and a fitted bolt hole (similar to the other desks, indicating that at one time this was one of several desks bolted together, and not used by itself as a Speaker's stand). It also obviously is missing the carved rosettes on one of its back legs which would have faced the House Chamber (suggesting that this leg is a replacement and therefore that the piece has been extensively re-worked. In addition, the piece had been heavily refinished recently, which tends to obscure the original appearance of its various members.

In the Historical Society of Delaware, in Wilmington, there is a long curved desk attributed to John White, of Wilmington, c. 1800, and made for the Burgesses of the city. This is not one of a series of desks, and therefore is less directly connected with the desks used in Congress Hall than are the examples from Federal Hall. The desk is of pine, stained in imitation of mahogany, and seats five members. The rear portion of the top is flat and the writing surface slanted (depth 23 1/4 inches), and the whole is covered in stretched green fabric held in place

by bands of wood screwed around the perimeter of the desk. There are 5 drawers, without locks, and with simple bail handles. The end drawers are spaced apart from the three center drawers. As in the Federal Hall desks, the legs span a space no wider than that required to seat two members. The ends are finished straight as if they were the radii of a circle (the ends are finished and would be perpendicular to a chord drawn through the arc formed by the curvature of the desk) as opposed to the specially finished end on the Federal Hall long desk. The rear side of the desk (facing the room) is finished with three applied molded panels, differing from the plainly finished backs of the Federal Hall desks. This desk, stylistically later than the chairs used with it, has few if any details similar to those chairs.

An extant clerk's desk made in the 1780's for the Senate Chamber in Annapolis, Maryland (Antiques, Dec. 1960, p. 555) is curved on one side and is simply designed, with straight, tapered legs and flat panels formed by string inlay on the rear apron. The writing surfaces are slanted and have lift-tops for paper and supplies.

In the same article are shown desks and an arm chair made for the Maryland Senate Chamber. The desks seat one member each, and are designed to be placed apart from one another, for they have finished ends and overhanging tops. They have straight tapered legs which match, stylistically, the legs of the arm chair, and slanted lift-tops with locks. The flat rear portions of the tops have scalloped wooden galleries, presumably to prevent the knocking off of ink wells, quills, etc. In addition, the desks have a drawer for each member, with locks and simple brass bail handles. An important feature is that the

chair legs are farther apart than the desk legs; therefore, the chairs could be pushed up to the desk but could not be pushed beneath them.

(4) The proposed floor plan intended to seat the Congress in City Hall (Illustration No. 3) is drawn roughly to scale, and shows an interesting desk arrangement. In this plan, the ends of the desk are parallel to the aisles and are thus different from the canted ends of the Federal Hall desks. The plan indicated that each row was to be of a different radius, which may, however, have been done as a convenience to the delineator. In addition 3'3" was left between the rows of desks, which were 16 inches deep. A three-foot center aisle was also included in this plan.

It is clear that this same plan could not have worked in Congress Hall, even before the addition of 1793, for several reasons. Congress Hall had, in its earliest form, four columns supporting the floor above, placed in the center of the room. The spacing of these columns would determine to a certain extent the placement of the members' desks, so as to conserve space, and to give clear visibility between every member and the Speaker. The placement of fireplaces also is different in each building. And, in the City Hall plan, a space of two feet is allowed for each Member although the planners noted that "20 Inches is sufficient." Since the extant Congress Hall chairs average 24 inches in width, at least 24 inches must have been allowed for each Member. The City Hall plan is important, however, for its connection with Independence Square during this period. As it was designed to seat Congress, and was drawn up by the same committee which planned Congress Hall, it must be carefully considered.

(5) Much Philadelphia furniture attributed to the shop of Thomas Affleck is extant, although little of it can be proved to have been produced in his shop. In the case of Congress Hall, we have the vouchers for the desks but not the objects themselves. Horner (Blue-book: Philadelphia Furniture) gives the best recorded account of Affleck furniture. As a general rule, Affleck tables with molded and slightly tapering Marlborough legs (like those on the Congress chairs) have the molded detail continuing to the top through the apron, broken only by the applied apron mold (usually gadrooned), which continues to the corners.

Recommendation

Based upon the above information it seems logical that the desks used in Congress Hall should include the following details. They should all be curved, conforming to the platforms upon which they stand. They should be made of Honduras mahogany, with the secondary wood of pine or oak. Since the desks are to be used in a public building it is suggested that they be handled in a conservative, restrained fashion, and in accordance with descriptions and extant desks from the other locations previously cited. Legs should have moldings similar to those used on the Congress Hall chairs (on the outside edges only, as seen when in position), and should continue through the apron as in attributed Affleck furniture. The tops should be fixed, slanted, and uncovered, and they should include depressions for ink wells and quills. There should be a single drawer for each Member (105 in all) with simple bail handles and locks with applied escutcheons. The desks should be 16 inches deep and long enough to seat up to four

persons each with the legs spanning no more than two Members. They should be keyed and bolted together, like the Federal Hall desks, and screwed to the risers (Aurora, Feb. 22, 1798). The front surface of the back legs should fall about an inch and a half behind the nosing of the risers. The ends should conform to the City Hall plan (first row) rather than to the Federal Hall plan. There should be no break indicating old and new desks.

In attached drawings, a space of 2'1" is allowed for each Member. In line with the precedent in the Annapolis Senate furniture, and to meet the severe space limitations in Congress Hall, the desk leg placement does not allow for chairs to be pushed beneath them. Each row of desks will have a different radius and each individual section will seat two or, more frequently, four Members. There are a few desks for particular locations which seat one or three Members each.

The desks and drawers, separately, should be branded in several locations "Independence National Historical Park" with the year of manufacture. Desks should be finished in the eighteenth century manner, stained, varnished, and rubbed down every six months with museum finish and 0000 steel wool.

See Illustration No. 4 for sketches of desk details.

9. Members' Chairs

In 1935, William Hornor identified the chairs then in the Assembly Room of the State House, known as "Signers' Chairs," as the chairs made by Thomas Affleck for the Federal Congress (Part C. Illustration No. 5-6). Close study of the best authenticated of these chairs, given to the American Philosophical Society in 1837 by Francis Hopkinson (S.N. 6005, INHP Coll.) substantiates Hornor's attribution, because of the close correspondence between remaining fragments of original upholstery and accounts for the manufacture and upholstery of the Congress Hall chairs (A special report of this study by Frederick B. Hanson and Willman Spawn will be submitted as a supplement to this Furnishing Plan).

Since this particular chair is the only one of the 25 Congress Hall type chairs, in the INHP Collection, which bears evidence of the original upholstery, we propose to use it as a model for the upholstery of the chairs to be reproduced for the House Chamber. For the design of the reproduction chair frames, we propose to use as a model S.N. 6004 (INHP Coll.) because ~~its dimensions~~ are close to the average of the whole collection and it has suffered relatively little alteration from its original condition.

It is recommended that 108 chairs be reproduced, providing seats for all the members, clerks and sergeant-at-arms. It is proposed to display the original chairs in the collection in the restored Senate Chamber. Use of reproductions in the House Chamber is necessary if visitors are to be permitted to sit in the Members' chairs as proposed.

10. Reporters' Desks

Although reporters from several newspapers regularly attended Congressional sessions to record and comment upon the debates which took place, no special provision was made for their accommodation, as the following quotations from the Aurora indicate:

[Feb. 7, 1798]... with other printers, I [P.F. Bache] have hitherto attended, and the speaker has allowed us (in common with many other persons, who assist merely to gratify curiosity) the indulgence of coming out of the crowded gallery.

[Feb. 14, 1798] A small alteration took place on the removal of the government to this city occasioned by the want of room in the present building to accommodate them [i.e., the reporters]; instead of seats at the foot of the Speaker's chair, they now have to stand in the recess of the windows.

[Feb. 17, 1798] I returned to my accustomed place, back of the Speaker's chair.... I have attended with other note takers back of the Speaker's chair....

In view of this contemporary testimony, we believe that McKoy's memory (Part C, p. 11) of "four long desks" for the reporters along the west wall was in error and that the reporters' area should be indicated by placing quills, pencils, and inkwells on the windowsills.

11. Visitors' Seats

Visitors were admitted within the bar from time to time, including the Senate, officers of the Executive and Judicial branches, and the diplomatic corps. They were provided with seats in the well of the House, the Senate apparently occupying the area to the Speaker's right (Part C, note 35).

Evidence as to the type of seating provided for these guests of the House is scant. The Senate, attending the opening of Congress, sat in armchairs, according to Moreau de St. Mery, a French visitor. A Portuguese visitor in 1798 spoke of long, curved benches in front of the first row of Members as being reserved for diplomats and other foreign visitors (PMHB, Jan. 1954, p. 79). Unfortunately, there are no vouchers for chairs or benches other than the 137 provided for the Members and officers of the House and Senate and 36 Windsor chairs for the committee rooms and clerk's office (bill of William Coxe, in "Congress Hall, Phila., 1790, Misc. Items, Pub. Improve. Bldgs. at Phila.," Pa. Hist. and Mus. Comm.).

Recommendation

In view of the conflicting and incomplete evidence, it is recommended that no provision be made for visitor seating on the House floor until further research can be carried out.

12. Stoves

The problem of heating in Congress Hall will be taken up in detail in a forthcoming report by Architect Samuel Y. Edgerton, HABS, but a brief discussion of this problem is necessary in order to show what fireplace accessories were needed and how they were used.

During the period 1790-1800, all the fireplaces in the House Chamber had stoves installed in them, and Mr. Edgerton, as a result of his study, has been able to postulate the location, supplier, and source of manufacture of each stove.

The widespread use of stoves in the eighteenth century, as well as interest in the heating problem among the scientifically educated man of affairs in Philadelphia, is demonstrated concretely by the stoves bought for use in Congress Hall. By judicious use of open stoves, the fire could be projected almost three feet into the room instead of being recessed in the wall: and by the use of a ten-plate stove with long pipe, areas such as the first floor visitors' gallery and the area next to the Portico entrance could be heated effectively. Moreau de St. Mery (pp.326-27) thus described Philadelphia stoves of the 1790's:

...Ordinarily rooms are heated by cast-iron stoves, or stoves of sheet iron called Prussian. This sort grows fewer every day, however, and is being replaced by the stoves perfected by Franklin, because of which they are called Franklin stoves.

They stand on the floor of a room in front of the fireplace opening. The back of the stove is a piece of iron which slants forward to make an acute angle at the top of the fireplace. The smoke escapes by way of this angle. The wood is placed on and-iron in the open stove. It can thus be placed far out in the room. On the bottom of the stove is placed a layer of four or five large sticks; above them as many layers, each with one less piece of wood than the last, as the stoves can hold. Since the sticks are rounded and touch only at spots, the fire can pass between them and they all burn together.

This instantly makes a hot fire which can be kept up by adding a small amount of wood at long intervals. Thus the heat remains strong and constant until bedtime, and at least six or eight persons can sit around the fire, since it protrudes into the room.

Good carpeting tends to concentrate the heat, which is an advantage in a country where, as I have said, rooms are drafty.

It is Mr. Edgerton's opinion that Potts and Hobart supplied the "2 large Franklin Stoves," probably cast at Cornwall Furnace, for the middle fireplaces in the House Chamber in 1790. Colebrooke Furnace, in the present Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, was the probable source for the "2 large open stoves Bot of Morgan & Price" for £ in January 1794. These were probably installed in the two fireplaces of the newly-extended southern portion of the Chamber. Finally, the two remaining fireplaces, at the north end of the Chamber probably were fitted with the two ten-plate stoves purchased from Hilary Baker (possibly made at Cornwall) and from John Miller (this stove from Cornwall or Berkshire furnace). The basis of Mr. Edgerton's attribution of stoves from the various furnaces to specific locations in the House Chamber, as cited above, is discussed more fully in his report on "Heating in 18th Century Philadelphia."

Open stoves used in the eighteenth century varied slightly in size; however, extant examples are rarely taller than 30"-33" and of approximately the same depth (Edgerton, p. 46). The size of ten-plate stoves (in 1771/72) was measured by pound weight rather than inches; a large stove weighed 626 pounds; a small, 560 pounds (Edgerton, p. 46, n.21). Not having to correspond to the size of a fireplace opening, the ten-plate stove was only limited in size by contemporary technology, and was generally larger than an open stove. As yet, no extant stoves of the right period from the above-mentioned furnaces have come to light. Until they do, the stoves themselves and fireplace accessories (especially fenders)

can be recommended only in terms of general, rather than specific, stylistic types.

It is recommended that original stoves of the right period and from the correct furnaces be obtained, if possible, for the House Chamber. If this is not possible, the stoves should be reproduced from correct originals. Stoves should be removed during the warm months, in line with 18th century practice.

13. Fenders

John Mitten (or Miller), ironmonger, was paid by Congress on January 18, 1794 for four fenders (Voucher #185, "Vouchers 1793-94", S. R. O., Harrisburg, Pa.). Under the heading of "Iron work Delivered to Congress," these were described as "Two Fenders weight 35 pounds at 1/6 per pound 2.12.6" and "Two Do for Do weight 30 pound 2.5.0." If the customary practice of halving the newly acquired fireplace accessories was followed in this instance (half to enlarged Senate, the other half to the House), only two new fenders were placed in the House. However, Moreau de St. Mery's contemporary account of heating procedures (see below, section 16) indicates the necessity of fenders for fireplaces burning hickory, and other fenders may very well have been included in the unitemized purchases of ironmongery dating from 1789-90.

Recommendation

It is recommended that a fire fender be used in each of the four open stoves in the House Chamber. However, the final choice of fenders for this room should be postponed until after the stoves themselves have been chosen, in order to prevent any errors in the size and style of the fenders used.

14. Andirons

On the basis of andirons in the IMHP Collection reproduced from an original found in the 1890's in a closed-up fireplace in Independence Hall (now unlocated) and a set installed in an eighteenth century kitchen at the Winterthur Museum, we are of the opinion that the "kitchen And Irons" noted in the Voucher for William Zane (Voucher 200, 1794) refer not just to plain andirons of unornamented wrought iron, but more specifically, to andirons equipped with hooks on their shafts (attached either to front or back), across which firebars could be laid, allowing a larger fire to be built with safety, while at the same time providing additional supports from which to suspend cooking utensils, pots, jacks, spits, etc. In Samuel Y. Edgerton's report on heating stoves in 18th century Philadelphia (ch. II, n. 10) is a quotation concerning firebars which has been taken from among the uncatalogued vouchers of the Library Company of Philadelphia (MS), dated November 6, 1797: "To 3 bars to lay across the andirons to keep the wood from rolling...." The Winterthur exhibit is set up to include a jack and spit.

At the same time that care and deep consideration were given to the choice of specific items such as andirons, etc., caution was also exercised in the expenditures for Congress Hall. Extant vouchers and furnishings indicate that while objects ordered for the House Chamber were of adequate quality, they were generally restrained both in style and material, and can in no way be considered of the very "best sort." As Isaac Weld, an Englishman who visited in Philadelphia in November 1795, noted, "the room allotted to the representatives of the lower house is...fitted up in the plainest manner (Weld, Travels, pp. 9-10)."

Recommendation

Because all 18th century fireplaces required andirons to function properly, we recommend the use in the restored House of Representatives' Chamber of wrought iron "kitchen" andirons in all the open stoves.

15. Shovels and Tongs

As the andirons were plain and unornamented, it was only natural that other fireplace accessories also be simple. Two pairs of kitchen shovels and tongs were sold to the Congress by William Zane at the same time he sold it the kitchen andirons. We know that at least one pair was used in the House Chamber, next to the fireplace at the Speaker's left. This is substantiated by the "Cudgeling" print which illustrated the Lyon-Griswold fight of January 1798, and shows Lyon with the tongs in hand. Testimony given by various representatives concerning the fight corroborates the accuracy of this detail of the cartoon. The somewhat less accurate "First Battle" also shows Lyon with tongs in hand; although these, too, are simple enough to be considered "kitchen" tongs, they differ slightly from those shown in the "Cudgeling" print. In the INHP archaeological collection is a fragment of a pair of wrought iron tongs which is identical with that shown in the "First Battle" print. It is recommended that in view of the greater accuracy of the "Cudgeling" print, the restored House of Representatives Chamber use shovel and tongs which match those in that cartoon; if, however, it is not possible to secure shovel and tongs of this type, it is recommended that sets like the one shown in the "First Battle" be obtained.

Recommendation

Because vouchers for the original furnishing of Congress Hall are not itemized, we do not have absolute documentation for all the individual fireplace accessories which must have been in use in the House Chamber. We recommend, however, the use of at least 2, and possibly 4, sets of shovels and tongs, based on: 1) the size of the room, 2) the evident division of fireplace accessories purchased in 1793 between the House and the Senate.

16. Fuel

Wood was the fuel employed to heat Congress Hall during the historic period. Vouchers during the period 1791-1800 list numerous large purchases of wood. Most frequently these are listed under the name of the individual supplier, though the door-keeper was evidently charged with the responsibility of procuring fuel also, a duty which he had discharged while the Congress was meeting in New York at Federal Hall.

The only kind of wood specifically cited in the Congress Hall vouchers was hickory. A comparison of the cost of hickory and other varieties of wood does not yield enough information for conclusions to be drawn as to what other woods, if any, were used in the House Chamber. However, an account of fuel used in Philadelphia during the 1790's from Moreau de St. Mery's American Journey (pp. 326-27) is very revealing as to current practice in this regard:

In Philadelphia they burn black spruce logs, which shoot out sparks like chestnut; chestnut, which is bad; large acacia logs, which are good for back logs because they burn slowly.

But the best woods are sugar maple, birch, live oak, white oak and, best of all, Northern walnut or hickory.

Nothing can be compared to hickory. It costs half as much again as the next best wood; but even at that price it is preferable to the others. It gives out great heat, its coals are compact and lasting, and it burns a long time. Hickory logs keep their shape until wholly consumed. Like Chestnut, it burns with loud crackling noises and shoots out burning splinters, which necessitates the use of fire screens.

The wood was stored in the basement of Congress Hall (Voucher 17, September 1791) and presumably brought up by the doorkeepers as needed. There is no evidence that wood boxes or wood carriers were purchased. In the absence of such evidence it is suggested that the wood for the day may have been stored in the closet under the stairs in the vestibule.

We recommend that half-burned hickory logs with ashes be placed in the stoves and that a day's supply of extra logs be stored in the vestibule closet.

17. Ash Buckets

Two copper "Ashes Bucketts" were purchased from Andrew Eisenhoot for £ 4.13.0 in 1790 (Voucher 99, Congress Hall). No other information is available. The price suggests that the buckets were large and the fact that there were two suggests that one was for the first floor and one for the second. It is recommended that the ash bucket for the first floor be placed in the closet under the stairs in the vestibule in summer and beside one of the ten-plate stoves during the normal heating season.

18. Fireboards

Although fireboards were sometimes used in Philadelphia and elsewhere to cover fireplace openings during the summer, there is no

direct evidence for their use in Congress Hall. Further study should be made of contemporary practice before a decision is made as to the use and possible design of fireboards for Congress Hall.

19. Candlesticks and Candles

From time to time during the Federal occupancy of Congress, legislative sessions were held at night. This necessitated the use of some sort of artificial illumination,.

Among the vouchers for Congressional expenditures between 1790-1800, there are no recorded purchases of chandeliers and architectural evidence supports the presumption that there were no chandeliers on the first floor of Congress Hall. There is a corresponding lack of evidence for the presence of sconces or lanterns of any kind in the House Chamber, nor are there purchases of lamps or oil for lamps.

Contemporary accounts of Congressional meetings at night and reminiscences of the House Chamber in the 19th century refer to the presence of candles, specially brought in for the evening sessions (Part C). Corroboration for these accounts exists in the vouchers which record purchases of large numbers of candles for the use of Congress. Both molded and dipped candles were sold in Philadelphia during this period; no reference to the type purchased was noted, but molded candles burn more evenly and drip less than dipped candles. In spite of the many notations of candles purchased, there are no corresponding entries for the purchase of candleholders. It is however, most unlikely that the candles were used without them, and they may have been borrowed from the County, City, or State buildings.

For the restored House Chamber, we propose that during the months when daylight does not afford sufficient illumination during visiting hours, brass candlesticks (the most common sort of 18th century candleholder) in the classical taste, be used with molded candles in sufficient numbers to give each member enough light to read and write. For this purpose we believe at least fifty candlesticks will be required, approximately one to every two Members, and one each for the two clerks and Speaker.

20. The Mace

One of the first Rules of the House of Representatives, adopted in 1789, provided for a mace to be used as a symbol of the authority of the House. It was to be in the charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms (Annals of Congress, I, pp. 127-128). The first mace was made in 1790 by John D. Germon, a Philadelphia silversmith (active 1782-1816), for \$200 (Misc. Treas. accts, #1215, Sept. 1790). David Evans, Philadelphia cabinetmaker, provided Germon with the wooden rods which formed the shaft of the mace; the wood used is not known (David Evans, daybook, Dec. 31, 1790). Germon's mace was taken to Washington, D. C., in 1800 and lost in the Capitol fire in 1814.

Information concerning the appearance of the original mace is quite scanty. At present, only three contemporary descriptions are known. The earliest of these descriptions is contained in a letter written in Philadelphia, March 5, 1793, by a young Englishman, Edward Thornton (Wm. & Mary Quarterly, 3d Ser., XVIII, Jan. 1961, p. 121):

...in the course of the last month a motion was made in the house of Representatives in the very spirit of Cromwell and democracy, that the

mace of that house should be broken up as an useless bauble and the silver, of which part of it is composed, sent to the public mint. The mace is somewhat in the form of the ancient Roman Fasces; it consists of thirteen arrows bound together and an eagle at the top...

The second account came from a disgruntled member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, forcibly evicted from the House Chamber for failure to remove his hat and was published in the anti-Federalist newspaper Aurora for March 13, 1798:

"...Inflated as is they [thy] Sergeant at arms, with being the bearer of a bauble with an eagle upon it, he could not have dared thus to treat a peaceable citizen, and one who is a representative of the people as well as thyself, without thy instructions [that is, those of Speaker Jonathan Dayton]."

Hipolito Jose da Costa Pereira Furtado de Mendonca, a young Portuguese naturalist, left in his diary (FMHB, Jan. 1954, pp. 75-79) the most detailed contemporary record of the original mace.

"December 18, 1798. Today I went to see the House of Representatives. A message arrived from the Senate and the porter [doorkeeper] announced this to the Speaker. Then the messenger entered and stopped before the President but outside the rows of benches. The porter cried "A message from the Senate." The sergeant at arms took up a wand, which was resting on one of the benches, which had a silver surface and a golden eagle on top and is about 6 or 7 palms in length. This he kept in his hand while the messenger announced his business. Afterward he gave a paper to the sergeant at arms, who went and handed it to the Speaker and returned to put the wand back in its place.

The official government publication on the history of the mace, The Mace of the United States House of Representatives (compiled 1930 by Kenneth Romney, Sergeant-at-Arms, later revised by Joseph H. Callahan, Sergeant-at-Arms, 4th ed., 1950, G.P.O.), does not mention,

except fleetingly, the physical appearance of the first mace. A somewhat fuller description of the Philadelphia mace has been found in a letter of October 27, 1928, from William Tyler Page, Clerk of the House of Representatives, to Wilfred Jordan, Curator of Independence Hall (INHP files).

The first mace, a representation of the Roman Fasces, was made of ebony rods bound transversely with silver bands, and each tipped with a silver spearhead. From the center of the bundle of rods a silver stem supported a globe of silver, upon which was an eagle of massive silver. The height was about 3 feet. This mace was destroyed at the burning of the Capitol on August 24, 1814. For twenty-five years a hastily constructed mace of common pine wood, painted, did service; but in 1842 the mace now in use was procured. It is of about the size and nearly the design of the old mace.

There is a discrepancy of approximately ten inches between Page's estimate of the original mace (36 inches) and the size of the present one: 46 inches. If da Costa's description can be trusted (and the size of the "palm" mentioned is equal to ~~about eight~~ inches), the original mace may have been as ~~large~~ as 48 to 56 inches.

The 1842 mace differs in enough details to make it unreliable as a guide to the appearance of the earlier one. It has no suggestion of the silver-tipped arrows which formed the shaft of the original. The rocaille ornament at the top and bottom bands would hardly have been found on a classically-inspired mace of the late eighteenth century. The eagle surmounting the globe also is executed in a manner more characteristic of the nineteenth century than of the eighteenth century. Again, with reference to da Costa's description, the present mace is of silver without gold or silver-gilt ornamentations. Finally,

the 1842 mace, in addition to being made at a time when the original had been destroyed for almost thirty years, was produced in New York, a provenance somewhat different stylistically from Philadelphia.

The manner of displaying the mace accurately is still a problem basically unsolved. The English Parliamentary practice of having the mace lie upon the Clerk's table during regular sessions and under it when the House sat as the Committee of the Whole, was not adopted by the Representatives (Annals of Congress I, pp. 127-128). The current mode of display for the mace is a vertical position on a green marble pedestal to the right of the Speaker's desk during regular sessions. It is also displayed vertically, but on a lower pedestal next to the desk of the Sergeant-at-Arms, when the House sits as the Committee of the Whole (Callahan, pp. 5-6). Callahan fails to note the date when the current practice was adopted and more research must be done to determine the location of the mace in the House Chamber between 1790-1800.

Recommendation

Although we have a fair general idea of the appearance of the 1790 mace, our information is not sufficient to justify reproducing it at this time. Further research is needed.

21. Venetian Blinds

Evidence for the use of venetian blinds in the House Chamber exists in two places: in the official vouchers for Congress Hall expenditures (see Part C), and in the daybooks of David Evans, the Philadelphia cabinetmaker who produced them (Historical Society of Pennsylvania).

Little is known about the design of eighteenth century venetian blinds in America, no blind having been yet discovered that is clearly datable to that period. The earliest blind we have discovered hangs in the Arch Street Friends Meeting (4th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia), still bearing its original coat of green paint, apparently unchanged since it was put there in 1811, possibly by David Evans, whose Daybooks show that he made blinds for that building at about that time. In certain details, such as the tapering of the slats in cross-section and the shape of the holes for the cords, these blinds differ from later ones. These differences we propose to reproduce in the blinds for Congress Hall.

The following description of the Arch Street Meeting blind is our recommendation for the blinds to be made for Congress Hall:

Color:	green painted pine - Munsell 2.5G/ 3/4
Cornice:	6" high, 1/4" bead along bottom edge
Brackets:	12" long, simply shaped, screwed to window reveal
Pullies:	cedar, 1/2" X 1" diameter
Slats:	3" wide, tapered 1/8-3/16" - 1/8" thick
Cloakpins:	4" long, curved, pine: 2 per blind painted to match woodwork (not green)

The following items were not found on the 1811 blind, but are based on other early nineteenth century blinds in storage at the Arch Street Meeting and elsewhere:

Tapes	(herringbone twill) inner and outer tapes
	Inner or utility tapes: natural linen 1" wide
	Outer or decorative tapes: green worsted, 1 1/2" wide

Cords and Tassels: simple green worsted

For a fuller discussion of the venetian blinds problem see:

Research report on venetian blinds by Ruth Matzkin,
December, 1960

22. Window Curtains

The print "Cudgeling in Congress" gives us our only contemporary view of the curtains in the House Chamber. These curtains appear to be at the same time elegant, as befits the Hall of the Federal Congress, and restrained, in keeping with the other decoration of the room. The design employed, a simple drape or swag around the top of the window, was not unusual for the late eighteenth century; the tassel depending from the center was also the normal finish for such a curtain arrangement, as may be seen in contemporary prints. Full-length curtains were not necessary with the venetian blinds which we know were used at each window.

The curtains were almost certainly of moreen, the woolen fabric used to upholster the backs of the Members' chairs. Not only would use of the same fabric at window and seats serve to unite the room design-wise, but purchases of extra moreen in 1793, which can be accounted for in no other way than for use in window curtains, appear in the vouchers of Congress Hall expenditures (28 1/2 yds were billed to Congress by Samuel Benge on November 22, 1793; very possibly this expense was for curtains for the 4 new windows of the Congress Hall enlargement; c. 7 yds per curtain). There is no evidence that the curtains were lined. Although no color has been specifically noted for the curtains, they were probably of a green to harmonize with that used in the ingrain carpet and the venetian blinds (Munsell 2.5G/ 3/4). The cord and tassels were probably

of the simpler sort used in the late eighteenth century and made of wool (worsted).

For the restored House of Representatives Chamber, we therefore recommend swag curtains of unlined green moreen with worsted line and tassel decoration, as shown in the 1798 print "Cudgeling in Congress." Two sets of identical curtains should be made up to permit periodic changes which will prolong the life of the curtains.

23. Table covers

Theophilus Bradbury described the Speaker's table as "covered with green cloth, fringed" (Part C. p. 3) and the "Cudgeling" print shows the Speaker's table with a floor-length fabric cover. As green baize was widely used to cover tables in public buildings at the time, including the State House, it is recommended that the same fabric, of the type specially made for the restored Assembly Room of the State House in 1955 and 1960, be used for the Speaker's table. It should be floor-length, with a worsted fringe.

Members' desks were not covered, judging from all contemporary accounts of the Chamber. The tops of the clerks' desks were covered in green baize which was stretched across the top, tacked around the outer edges, and secured on top by a strip of finish molding along the outer edge.

24. Mourning Drapes

It is recommended that black drapes, of broadcloth and bombazine, fringed and tasseled, be used to cover the furniture, pictures, dais backboard, and windows, as indicated above, for one month each year from the date of the announcement to Congress of

Washington's death (Dec. 20 - Jan. 20). It is also recommended that on December 26, the anniversary of the mock funeral held in Philadelphia in honor of Washington, the coffin which was placed in the center of the Chamber, before the Speaker's chair, be reproduced and covered with a "black pall, bearing a military hat and sword" ("Letter, H.G. Otis to his wife, Dec. 26, 1799, Phila").

On receipt of the news that Washington had died in the latter part of December 1799, the Speaker's chair and table and the tables on each side were "entirely shrouded in black," as were the two prints after Trumbulls' paintings of Bunker Hill and Quebec, the back of the dais and the window recess behind the dais (Part C. p. 17). Although the material used was not specified, contemporary practice appears to have been to reserve black crepe for personal badges of mourning (Letter, H.G. Otis to wife, Dec. 26, 1799), and to use festooned broad-cloth and bombazine, both fringed and tasseled, for walls and windows and doors, respectively (Letter, Uriah Tracy to Susan Tracy, January 15, 1800, MSS, Yale U.).

25. Carpet

Contemporary documents and cartoons indicate that the floor, platforms and Speaker's dais were carpeted. Tack holes in surviving original flooring indicate that carpets were laid in an east-west direction and probably covered the floor from wall to wall.

Carpets purchased for Congress Hall included "black ground," "green ground" and "ingrain." The first two were bought in relatively small quantities from Sprague of Philadelphia, who made Turkey and Axminster carpets; these are believed to have been used either in the

Senate or in offices. Since the major portion of the carpeting was described as ingrain or was bought at prices usual for ingrain, it is our belief that the floor of the House was carpeted with ingrain.

Two types of ingrain were available in the 1790's. The simpler type, "two ply in warp and weft," was limited to two colors. The more advanced type, "two ply warp and weft," also known as "4/4 ingrain," was capable of using up to four colors. It was also thicker and, therefore, more effective in holding heat and absorbing sound. Since over 100 yards of 4/4 ingrain were supplied to Congress Hall by John Harland in 1793, it is probable that this was the type used generally in this building.

As far as pattern is concerned, English and American pictorial evidence points to the use of relatively simple geometric patterns in public buildings and more elaborate, floral patterns in dwellings. That the same held true for Congress Hall is indicated by a contemporary reference (1798) to a "checkard" floor covering in the House. The most common colors appear to have been black, green, red and beige. Such carpeting was apparently used also at Pennsylvania Hospital in 1812 (see Sully's portrait of Thomas Coates) and in many English public buildings (see The Microcosm of London, Vol. III, pp. 73,97,201).

In summary, it is recommended that the House Chamber be carpeted wall-to-wall with custom-made 4/4 ingrain carpet in a three or four color geometric pattern.

Further study will be required before final decisions can be made on colors, patterns, and materials. Because of very heavy visitation and consequent hard wear on carpets, special consideration should

be given to the possibility of reproducing ingrain carpeting in a long-lasting synthetic fiber, such as nylon.

26. Bust of Franklin

Of the three or four pieces of sculpture in the House Chamber mentioned in Part C (pp. 15-16) of this report, only one can definitely be shown to have been there after the enlargement of the room in 1793. This was a bust of Franklin "over the door," seen by Henry Wansey in June 1794. Although Wansey failed to mention which door he was referring to, it seems most likely to have been the east door leading to the Portico, where it would have been visible from all parts of the room. Wansey also fails to note whether it was of plaster, bronze, or marble.

The only busts of Franklin known to have been made during his life are those of Jean Antoine Houdon and Jean Jacques Caffieri, both done in France in the 1770's. Copies of both were owned by Philadelphians in the early nineteenth century and there is a tradition that Senator William Bingham presented a marble copy of the Caffieri bust to the Rev. Dr. Ely in 1794, the very year of Wansey's visit (No. 58 a leaf from an unidentified auction catalogue, c. 1920-30, INHP files).

Since there is a precedent for the early appearance in Philadelphia of copies of the Caffieri bust, it is recommended that an early copy of this bust be used, over the Portico door, in the Congress Hall restoration.

27. Doorkeepers' Pedestals

In the accounts of the then recently renovated Congress Hall in January of 1794, reference is made to "Tacking on Carpet...to Mr.

Claxton's Pedestal 0/1/6" (Voucher 204, Jan. 7, 1794). Thomas Claxton was doorkeeper for the House of Representatives, and Gifford Dalley his assistant. The specific use of the pedestals has not been determined, it is thought that it was to raise the doorkeeper's chair high enough above the floor of the House to allow a reasonably unobstructed view of the Chamber. Since one of the doorkeeper's duties was to announce visitors to the Hall (PHB, Jan. 1954, p. 79), he probably sat near the main (eastern) entrance to the House, just inside the door to the Portico. The exact location of the assistant doorkeeper is unclear, but presumably he was stationed near the second most important entrance to the House floor, beside the gate in the low partition which separated the members from the public beneath the gallery. There is no record of carpeting a pedestal for the assistant, but if his location was outside the bar it would not have needed carpeting.

In the County Court House in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (a mid-nineteenth century structure), there are several carpet-covered tipstaff's pedestals in the Court Rooms which are slid beneath the tipstaff's chair. There are no accounts of their date of manufacture, however, and present-day County Commissioners believe them to have "always been there." These pedestals, regardless of their actual age, are without style and therefore could have been made at any time. Similar ones might have been used in Congress Hall.

It is recommended that two pedestals be constructed of pine, conforming to the general shape and size of those in Lancaster which are scaled to fit chairs with which they are to be used. The pedestals should be carpeted.

28. Doorkeepers' Chairs

No information has been found covering doorkeepers' chairs in Congress Hall. Presumably the doorkeepers sat upon a simple armchair placed upon the doorkeepers' pedestals (#27), raising the sitter high enough to see conveniently over the bar.

It seems unlikely that the doorkeepers would have had upholstered chairs and it is recommended that Philadelphia-made Windsor armchairs be obtained for this purpose. Since William Coxe supplied the windsors for the Clerk's office and committee rooms (Part C, App.E), it would be appropriate to use Coxe chairs.

29. Pigeon Hole Mail Rack

Several references to the "alphabet" (Aurora, Feb. 15, 1798), the letter box (Aurora, Feb. 5, 1798), and a letter case (H.G. Otis to his wife, March 22, 1798) probably refer to the bank of pigeon holes David Evans sold to Congress in December 1793 (Daybook, II). The rack probably was simple in design, with a labeled rectangular slot for each letter of the alphabet (XXZ in one) and possibly special ones for the Speaker and Clerk of the House.

There is no documentary evidence for the location of the mail rack, but it is reasonable to assume that it was close to the mail bags beside the east (Portico) door.

It is recommended that a bank of pigeon holes (26 slots) be placed to the south of the east door above the mail bags. It should be of stained pine, labelled with the alphabet. If a period example can not be procured, a reproduction should be made, based on the rack used by the postmaster of Bennington, Vt., 1784-91 (Vermont Life, XV, No. 2, p. 34).

30. Mail Bags

In 1795 Theophilus Bradbury spoke of the "holes for the Southern and Eastern mails into which we deposit our letters to be carried to the Post Office by the doorkeeper" (Part C. p. 3). This reference helps explain a later reference to a special rack which held one of the letter bags mentioned by James Gillespie in the Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798. The bags probably were of canvas or leather, suspended from a shelf or table with two holes.

In the absence of more precise information we feel that no attempt should be made at this time to reproduce the mail bags and rack. Further research needed.

30a. Washington Portrait

Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser, Dec. 26, 1799, recorded that Charles Willson Peale had lent "a very striking likeness" of the late General Washington for display in the Congress Chamber during the period of mourning for the General's death. This painting was placed between the Trumbull prints (#31-32) "and in the centre of the House," possibly in front of the Speaker's dais.

The painting referred to was undoubtedly the life-size, full-length "Princeton" portrait painted by Peale in 1780. It was in the Peale Museum (Philosophical Hall) in 1799 and is now owned by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. The 1960 copy procured for Independence Hall should be used in Congress Hall annually during the mourning period (Dec. 20 - Jan. 20).

31-32. Trumbull Prints

Two large and impressive prints engraved from John Trumbull's paintings "The Battle of Bunker's Hill" (31) and "The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec(32) by J. G. Muller and J. T. Clemens, were among the decorative objects ornamenting the House Chamber, a gift of Trumbull himself in 1799 and 1800. As noted in Part C (p. 17) of the furnishing plan, they were located on the west wall, flanking the window behind the Speaker's Dais. The American Daily Advertiser for Tuesday, December 3, 1799, p. 3, noted that:

A representation of the Battle of Quebeck...[and] the Battle of Bunker's Hill... are suspended on the right and left of the Speaker's Chair...."

This is the only recorded reference which suggest the relative position of the prints [i.e., which print was on the right, and which on the left side of the speaker]. This arrangement appears to be most pleasing esthetically, and is therefore recommended for the restoration.

As the engravings were to be gifts to the new government, Trumbull himself had them framed and glazed (Trumbull to Geo. Harrison, July 30, 1798, Trumbull Collection, Dana Loan, Yale Univ.)

Original impressions of these prints should be used in the restored House Chamber, and they should be glazed and framed identically in the so-called "Hogarth" frame of the period (simple narrow black and gold moulding). They should be located in the center of the piers flanking the speaker.

33-36. Inkwells

There is no evidence whatever, of which we now know, to indicate the nature of the inkstand used by the Speaker. However, on the basis of contemporary usage and pictorial sources (Hartford print; Gillray, Rowlandson prints; York Co. Court House interior) it appears that pewter was the material commonly used for ink holders. As the Speaker would not have needed elaborate writing materials, a simple inkstand would suffice.

We therefore recommend that a simple late 18th century circular flat-bottomed pewter ink holder (with holes for quills) be procured for the Speaker's table (#33)

Evidence for the inkwells used by the Clerks of the House survives, in a collateral sense, in "An Inventory of Furnishings by J. Beckley, Clerk, House Of Representatives, 17 November 1790" (Miers Fisher Papers, H.S.P.), in which mention is made of "3 pewter ink pieces" for the Clerk's office. The most common kind of pewter inkstand was a low circular inkholder, with holes about the edge of the top to receive quills, and as the office would have afforded ample space for supplies of wafers, seals, etc., there would really have been little need for a more elaborate inkstand. The House chamber, however, presents a somewhat different picture, for the clerks would have less room to keep extra stationery supplies, and an inkstand with built-in storage space would have a distinct advantage. Surviving examples of compartmented oblong pewter inkstands indicate that they could hold a supply of quills, ink, sand, and wafers or seals.

It is recommended, therefore, that two late 18th century compartmented oblong pewter inkstands (of the type now used in the restored Assembly Room) should be obtained for use on the Clerks' tables (#34).

Throughout the period of Federal occupancy, visitors to Congress Hall (King, 1793; Bradbury, 1795; Aurora, December 13, 1798) noted that each member of the Legislature had his own ink supply at his desk. These comments suggest that individual inkwells were set in depressions in the tops of long desks; this had been the practice in New York, as can be seen in the surviving desks from Federal Hall.

One of two surviving pieces of evidence relating to the inkwells provided for Congress is a voucher (March 9, 1793) for \$19.80 paid to Joseph Stansbury, Philadelphia dealer in glass and earthenwares (Prime, Arts and Crafts in Philadelphia..., pp. 128-31). The small sum involved in this transaction indicates (if one accepts the premise that the inkwells purchased were for the House Chamber) that the inkwells purchased were of the simplest sort. As Stansbury advertised ceramic and glass wares, the logical assumption is that the inkwells were either ceramic, probably stoneware (as porcelain would have been too expensive, and soft-paste wares not sufficiently durable), or glass. Glass inkstands were noted specifically in a Stansbury advertisement for July 11, 1776 (Pa. Evening Post, July 11, 1776). Contemporary prices are not known. Possibly this voucher relates to the extra inkwells needed as a result of the 1793 enlargement of Congress.

The inset receptable for writing materials in the desks for the proposed restoration limits the size of the inkwell to a maximum of 2" x 2" x 7/8" (Federal Hall desks). This does not absolutely limit the height of the inkwell, but a height of 1" is both convenient and esthetically pleasing.

As the recessed square hole in the desk top takes the place of the square compartment of a standard 18th century pewter inkstand (the type adopted for use in the restored Assembly Room, Independence Hall), we propose to use square glass inkwells such as are used in those pewter instands. 105 of these will have to be reproduced (#35).

Newspaper reporters, although admitted to legislative sessions, were given no special accommodations by the Congress. They were usually allowed to use the space behind the Speaker's stand, and stood in the window recesses on the west side of the Chamber to take notes (Aurora, February 14, 1798). Presumably (on the basis of standard contemporary usage), they wrote with quills and ink from personally-owned, portable ink-horns, which would have been placed on the window sills. These portable inkwells may have resembled closely those shown in the Hartford print of the "1787 Constitutional Convention" (1825) and that in one of the larger oblong pewter inkstands of the restored Assembly Room of Independence Hall. This form has advantages of being extremely durable and easily portable, and it is stable and unlikely to tip over under normal conditions.

It is recommended that four circular pewter inkwells (like the one now in the Assembly Room) be placed on the window sills on either side of, and behind, the Speaker's dais. More are not being recommended because of the possibility that some reporters may have used pencils.

37. Spitting Boxes

In 1790 David Evans, cabinetmaker, furnished Congress with fifty "Spitting boxes" at a total cost of £ 6.5.0 (Part C, p. 17). Although it is safe to assume that these were at least partly of wood, nothing else is known about this early type of spittoon. Further research is needed before a recommendation can be made as to design of these items.

38. Stationery

As noted in part C of the furnishing plan, members had ample supplies of ink, paper, quills, and other writing accoutrements at their disposal, and made use of these not only on legislative matters but also for personal business, such as letter writing. Vouchers for congressional expenditures provide a wealth of material concerning the types of stationery supplies actually purchased for use by the government. These vouchers are the prime source for guiding the House chamber restoration.

Before beginning the actual proposals for items to be included in the refurnished chamber, however, a consideration of some practical problems involved in interpretation is in order. At the present time, plans are to allow a rather free access by the general public to the area within the bar. Because of this, subtle distinctions such as having papers of various qualities displayed in casual arrangement about the room, may very well have to be foregone here, although they may be introduced upstairs, either in the clerk's office, or Senate chamber, or both, where a more directed approach to interpretation and understanding of individual, smaller, miscellaneous objects will be possible. Writing materials and allied objects of

considerable interpretive impact may be displayed to excellent advantage in the area of the Speaker's Dais and Clerk's Table, however. It is of great importance that the visitor carry away with him the impression of a chamber characterized by a vital spirit, where important legislation which affected the entire new nation and its future was enacted. Representative items supplied by the stationer to Congress can do much to further this purpose.

One of the most distinctive of the stationery supplies employed in the eighteenth century was the goose quill used for writing. These were used in the historic period both cut (i.e., with the top clipped off, leaving the upper edge in the shape of a V) and uncut. Uncut quills were probably the more common (Rowlandson shows only uncut quills in his prints of public institutions; Gillray shows both), but for purposes of interpretation and because personal preferences probably varied both cut and uncut quills should be used.

Paper of good quality and large size, of the type used for official documents can be shown on the Clerk's Table, or elsewhere at the front of the room, possibly tied with red tape; also include some used paper (House Documents on Clerk's Table). Other, smaller papers placed upon the desk of the clerk can be used to show some of the other sizes available, although this could be done more thoroughly upstairs.

Red tape is another item which has considerable impact as an interpretive device. In view of the fact that a spool, or other sizable length of eighteenth century red tape will be difficult to obtain, and present-day red tape is practically identical in size and

color, modern tape may be used. This, too, should be on the desk of the Clerk.

A voucher of Thomas Dobson (see below) serves as a source of documentation for the foregoing as well as for the inclusion of blotting paper in the restored House chamber. Sand was also used by the Congress, but paper blotters might have been more efficient where rapid transcription was required.. Wafers and sealing wax, and a pen knife for trimming quills should also be placed in that part of the chamber not physically accessible to the general public. Admittedly, such a disposition of objects as noted above does not give the most desirable effect in terms of interpretation. However, this may be ameliorated somewhat by the use of expendable quills and reproduction laid paper throughout the chamber, at the Representatives' seats. (In view of the large numbers of visitors anticipated, cost will be a consideration in keeping the "casually placed" stocks replenished.)

Itemized account of supplies bought from Thomas Dobson, 1799

8 Jan	Blank Books	1.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 Feb	2 Sheet Almanacks	.25
5 "	100 Wafers. 75.100 D ^o 50	1.25
12 "	Letter Book C	5.
2 Mar	Quire Bank Post	.50
5 "	Ream best Foolscap	6.
5 "	Ream Post	4.
5 "	Ream Small D ^o	3.50
8 "	30 Sheets Small Pasteboards	.90
12 May	Sand	.75
June 27	Ream Foolscap	4.50

June 27	Ream Wove Post	4.50
July 7	Ream Small Post	3.50
" "	5 Quires Blotting	1.25
" 25	1/2 Ream Royal	11.
" 28	Bottle Ink	.40
Aug 9	1b Wafers	2.50
" 14	Ream Paper best	6.
" "	Ream best Post	4.50
" "	100 Quills	3.00
Nov 12	Ink	.40
" 13	Bottle Red Ink	1.10
" 27	Check Book	3.67
Dec 3	1b Sealing Wax	2.50
"	Ream Post	4.50
"	20 Sheets Pasteboard	.60
Dec 26	Note Book	3.00

Received full payment
Feby 9 1799
Thomas Dobson

39. Books, Newspapers, Pamphlets and Manuscripts

Among the articles on the desks of Members, clerks, and Speaker undoubtedly were books from the library of the House. An almost complete listing of books in this library (housed probably in the Clerk's office) before 1802 is to be found in the 10-page printed Catalogue of Books, Maps, and Charts, Belonging to the Library of the Two Houses of Congress, April 1802 (Washington City, 1802), folios #168-212, quartos #97-164, octavos #455-581, duodecimo #7, maps and charts #4, 7-9. It is suggested that about a dozen books from this list be scattered about the room, including if possible The Federalist [duodecimo #7], Guthrie's Geography [quarto #161], one volume of Dobson's Encyclopedia [quarto #97], one volume of Carey's American Museum [octavo 517], Adams' Defence of the Constitutions [octavo #537], Blackstone's Commentaries [octavo #543], and several volumes of the Acts of Congress between 1789 and 1800 [not listed in the Library catalogue].

Since Philadelphia newspapers were supplied to the Members, in addition to those they received from home, it would be appropriate to display several at the Clerk's desk and at scattered Members' desks. If the seating arrangement by States can be determined, it would be a very useful interpretive device to identify the various state areas by the use of out-of-town newspapers of the period.

A few pamphlets relating to current politics and especially House and Senate documents would serve to relate the room to some of the live issues of the day and significant acts passed by the House.

Since Members occasionally wrote personal letters at their desks in the House Chamber, even though the practice was discouraged (Uriah

Tracy to Chas. Chauncey, Dec. 6, 1793, Yale Univ.), a few original manuscript letters which actually emanated from the Chamber would also have a good effect in personalizing the story of the room.

40. Refreshment Table

Several testimonies resulting from the Lyon-Griswold fight of 1798 indicated that there was a refreshment table or stand in the "south east end of the hall" (Aurora, Feb. 17, 1798). Although there are accounts for the ~~accessories~~ placed on and under the table, cited elsewhere, there are no descriptions of the table itself, nor vouchers for its purchase. Perhaps it was made by Thomas Affleck and accounted for in his unitemized bill of 1790 for "furniture" (Voucher 192).

Because of its specific function as a kind of self-service bar, the table probably resembled a "hunt table" having high legs, and perhaps a dished rim to protect the glasses and bottles from disturbance.

It is recommended that a relatively simple eighteenth century hunt-type mahogany marborough-legged table be procured for this purpose (see Miller, American Antique Furniture, #1307, and Nutting, Furniture Treasury, #772, 773).

41. Lounging Chairs

During breaks in the sessions of Congress the members refreshed themselves and relaxed in the lobby "without the bar" at the south end of the House Chamber. They were provided with seats in this area as well, for Mr. Shepard testified that Lyon "took a chair, and sat by the water and washed himself," (Aurora, Feb. 15, 1798) after his bout with Griswold. There is no account for these chairs, but it is presumed that they were simple, inexpensive and durable, and thus unlike those of the members.

It is recommended that ten late eighteenth century windsor armchairs, similar to those produced by William Coxo of Philadelphia be procured (or reproduced), and placed at random in the lobby of the House Chamber as shown on the plan.

41a. Ballot Box

The Lyon-Griswold fight in 1798 occurred during a time when ballots were being counted (Porcupine's Gazette, Feb. 3, and Feb. 6, 1798), but no mention was made of the ballot-box or boxes involved. A reference, however, to voting in the Senate in 1792 (Annals of Congress, III, Col. 613) notes that ballots were "rolled up and put into the ballot-box." This is interpreted to mean that there was only one ballot-box, and that the opening for the ballot was circular.

There are no references to materials used for the House ballot box, but it was probably made of wood. An entry in the daybooks of David Evans, a cabinetmaker in Philadelphia, refers to "a Red Ceader Box with 2 Draws for to Ballot in," made for a Hugh Smith in April 1790, at a cost of £1. (Daybook, II, 42a, HSP).

Other Evans entries for Lottery boxes may prove helpful, but further research is required. Until further research can indicate more clearly and accurately appearance of the ballot box, we recommend that no attempt should be made to reproduce it.

42-47. Refreshment Table, Accessories

Numerous references to the refreshment table in Congress Hall indicate that this was a favorite gathering place for House Members, as well as visitors. Several accounts have already been noted in Part C of the Furnishing Plan, and subsequently noted testimony which followed the Griswold-Lyon fight gives added insight into what this area looked like.

Aside from the table, or stand, described above, one of the most notable features of the area was a tub of water kept under the table, or next to it, in which glasses used by the members were washed. This tub probably resembled a rather simple cellarette. Although not mentioned specifically, there was probably a towel, (or towels) kept here also, to dry the newly washed glasses and to keep the table clean.

Moreau de St. Mery mentioned the presence of "earthen pots and bottles of mcllasses liquor" (Part C, p. 17) kept at the refreshment area for the use of members. These were probably of the simplest design, since contemporary prints, notably those by Gillray, Rowlandson, and Hogarth show that relatively simple and crude bottles were used in more elaborate surroundings, even when drinking glasses of sophisticated form and material were used. There were also frequent references to the presence, in Congress Hall, of a water pitcher at the refreshment table ("House of Wisdom in a Bustle;" Lyon-Griswold fight depositions). No actual descriptions of this pitcher are extant; probably it would have been of middling quality, like most other accessories in the room, very possibly of one quart capacity, made of creamware, in the "Liverpool" shape. English print sources indicate that glasses of the sturdy "runner"

type, low-footed with a round, blown bowl, were used in public rooms.

Recommendation

As accessories to the refreshment table the following objects are recommended: A simple cellarette, or tub, in which glasses were washed (#46); a towel or napkin of simple cloth for drying glasses (#47); an earthen liquor bottle (#44) and a free-blown glass liquor bottle (#45); a creamware Liverpool pitcher of one quart capacity (#42; and 12 drinking glasses of "turkey" type (#43).

48. Clothing

European visitors to the Congress were often shocked by what seemed to them the laxity of allowing members to wear their hats during sessions. For some, especially the Pennsylvania Quakers, this was in accordance with religious principles; for others, it was, perhaps, a practice dictated by a desire for warmth in the winter months, or perhaps simple indifference to the proprieties. For those who wished to hang up their outer garments, pegs were provided to hold the members' cloaks and hats at the rear of the Speaker's dais.

Here again, as in other aspects of this report, the testimony attendant upon the Griswold-Lyon fight has proved to be of great value for the restoration. The testimony of Peleg Sprague noted the presence of the coat rack, and the account given by William Shepard intimates that the window recesses in the wall behind the Speaker also were used to hold canes, etc. Jonathan Havens was careful to include the fact that he saw "Mr. Lyon come in, with his cloak on, and go to his seat... and pull off his cloak and take his seat..."

We therefore recommend that during the cool seasons a few late eighteenth century coats and hats be hung upon the pegs behind the Speaker's dais. A few coats should also be draped over chairs among the Members' seats. Hats, in addition to being placed on the coat pegs, should also be placed at random among the desks and tables throughout the year, as they formed a permanent rather than merely a seasonal part of male attire.

49. Canes

Among the numerous accessories to male attire of the eighteenth century was the walking stick, or cane. This was most usually made of malacca, with a decorative, often carved head of another material such as clouded amber, silver, etc. Ribbon streamers, customarily of black, were affixed to the top of the walking stick and were frequently the means by which the cane was carried (Cunnington, Handbook of English Costume in the 18th century).

For the restoration of the House Chamber, we have definite information concerning the appearance of at least one cane carried during the 1793-1800 period. This was the cane used by Representative Griswold in his fight with Representative Lyon in 1798. It was noted in the published testimony of almost everyone who made a deposition concerning the fracas, and was described as being large, made of nickory, and yellow in color (Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798). Lyon's walking stick was also noted, but not described. The cartoon "Cudgeling" shows ribbons attached to the head of Griswold's cane, following contemporary English practice. The "First Battle" cartoon indicates a cane ridged like bamboo, probably malacca; although inaccurate in terms

of pictorial representation of Griswold's cane, it serves to illustrate another type of walking stick used in Philadelphia during the later years of the eighteenth century.

Apparently, there was no standard place where members checked their canes; (Testimony varied as to whether it was behind, under, or next to his chair, or under his desk); Lyon kept his at his desk; Griswold placed his in "the recess under the window on the north side of the Speaker's chair," near the coat pegs behind the dais.

Judging from the tenor of the members' testimony, the carrying of canes was a quite standard practice; hence, for the restoration of the House Chamber, at least four or six canes, and possibly more, should be used. One should be at Lyon's seat (South section, front row, fourth seat from the aisle), one should be in the window recess, as noted above; of the others, some should also be in the window recess, some hanging from the coat pegs, and some placed at random among the members' seats.

50. Timepieces

The pocket watch was an object which may perhaps not have been found among many of the general population. However, the Representatives in Congress did not represent a general cross-section of the general population, but on the whole, the upper stratum of Federal Society. As a result, they would have been more likely to carry timepieces. This supposition gains some support from circumstantial evidence in relation to Congress Hall.

There appears not to have been a wall clock in Congress Hall, nor any other kind of clock for general use of the members. No purchase

of a clock is recorded in vouchers, nor are there any records pertaining to the doorkeepers (or anyone else) maintaining a clock.

In spite of this, the testimony after the Lyon-Griswold fight indicates that several of the Representatives must have carried or had access to watches in order to have made such precise mention of the passage of time (Aurora, Feb. 23, 1798). We therefore recommend that for the restoration at least four watches be displayed in the Chamber - two on the Members' desks, one on the desk of the Speaker, and one on the Clerk's desk. If watch keys of the period are available, they should be attached to the watch chain or ribbon along with the seals which were worn as a complement to the watch (Cunnington, English Costume - 18th century).

51. Tobacco Accessories

In the eighteenth century, as in the twentieth, tobacco occupied an important place in the lives of many people. Moreau de St. Mery, who commented so pungently on the American scene in the 1790's, had this to say about the use of tobacco:

Americans are not only smokers, but they chew too. Sometimes they indulge in both, that custom so dear to sailors. But an American of either sex who uses snuff is a sort of phenomenon... (Moreau, P. 279)

The fact that Congress purchased 50 spitting boxes indicates that the chewing of tobacco was not unknown among the members.

Although use of spitting in the House Chamber may perhaps be an indication that certain of the members chewed and/or took snuff, there is no evidence one way or the other as to whether smoking was permitted in the Hall. If smoking was permitted, it entirely escaped

the notice (and writings) of visitors and Members. It seems likely, however, that members might smoke in the area outside the bar ("the lobby"), around the refreshment area. In view of Moreau's comment, the taking of snuff was an uncommon practice in eighteenth century Philadelphia, and we should not include snuffboxes in the House Chamber unless it can be determined that particular members of Congress indulged.

We suggest, therefore, that a few clay pipes, tobacco boxes, tinder boxes, and cigars be placed on the table, window sills, and chair seats about the refreshment area, in the south end of the House Chamber.

B. Upper Gallery

52. Gallery Benches

Extant records contain little information on the lower and upper galleries. The lower gallery, under the balcony, we know contained no seats (Part C. p. 2). The upper gallery (balcony) did contain seats, since William Cobbett, in his Prospect from the Congress - Gallery (1796) refers to his customary post "in the west corner of the front seat." From this reference we infer that the balcony was furnished with benches.

Contemporary English prints, especially those of Rowlandson, show stepped galleries furnished with simple backless benches or bleachers. "The Debating Society" (Microcosm of London, I, opp.23) shows the benches covered in green, while "India House" (Microcosm, II, opp. 139) shows uncovered benches. "Exhibition of Water Colored Drawings" (Microcosm, II, opp. 25) shows benches covered with fabric but unpadded, while "Society of Agriculture" (Microcosm, III, opp. 73) shows loosely filled pads on the benches. The coverings were almost always green.

In the attic of the Court House at Mount Holly, New Jersey (1796), almost a twin of Congress Hall in exterior design, we have found several long, plain, backless, pine benches which appear to be original to the building. It is recommended that benches for the Congress Hall gallery be copied from these. A total of twelve benches are recommended, each 16'6" long with three leg sections. They should be of pine,

painted but uncovered. The paint colors should conform with the original color of the Mount Holly benches, paint samples from which should be obtained for microscopic analysis. The benches will be placed at the rear of each step and screwed to the floor. If supplemental lighting is required in the gallery for the safety of visitors, small low-wattage fixtures should be installed as unobtrusively as possible under the end overhangs of the benches, to cast light on the steps.

C. Vestibule

53. Settees

Although there is no direct evidence for furnishings of any kind in the vestibule, the present plan includes four window settees, in the style of the late eighteenth century. These should be used only if it is found necessary to provide seating for those visitors who may be unable to visit the second floor due to age or illness. These should be reproduced from a known Philadelphia-owned late eighteenth century settee, having bamboo turnings, perhaps similar to Nutting #1644: (Furniture Treasury).

54. Lanterns

Provision of a hanging lantern in the vestibule, while unsupported by documentary evidence for Congress Hall, is in accordance with contemporary usage in other public buildings of Philadelphia. It also provides the necessary lighting for the lower part of the stairs, for late afternoons and evenings, in a manner consistent with eighteenth century practice.

It is recommended that this lantern be similar to the datable example owned by the Library Company of Philadelphia (purchased in 1791 from Poultney and Wilson for £25.0, Historic Philadelphia, p. 142). If an eighteenth century example should prove to be unavailable, a reproduction should be made based on the Library Company example.

D. Closet under Stairs

55. Janitorial Supplies

The area under the stairs in the northeast corner of Congress Hall has interesting potentials for interpretation as a utility or janitor's room. Concrete evidence for the location of a utility area has not yet come to light; however, Congress Hall had to be kept clean, and cleaning supplies had to be stored at hand.

Presently, there are stairs leading to the basement under the main stairways in the northeast and northwest corners of Congress Hall. However, although there is evidence that a winding stair existed in the eighteenth century under the west stairs, no such evidence exists for the east corner (Statement of Penelope Hartshorne, HABS), indicating that the present enclosed stair landing was a small room during the historic period.

Contemporary prints furnish pictorial evidence for the physical appearance of several eighteenth century cleaning utensils, such as brooms of varying sorts, buckets, etc.

The following list is a tentative enumeration of possible furnishings for the janitor's room:

- (1) push broom
- (2) regular broom
- (3) Whisk broom
- (4) cleaning cloths
- (5) apron
- (6) mops
- (7) buckets

- (8) soap
- (9) turkey-feather dusters
- (10) extra candles
- (11) candlesticks when not being used in Chamber
- (12) extra filler (sand or sawdust) for spitting boxes
- (13) extra hickory wood (in winter)
- (14) copper ash bucket (in summer)

Display of these objects should be arranged to look casual (though fairly neat), and to avoid a pre-ordered "museum" appearance.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Part D
Illustration No. 1



"First Battle in Congress"

Inspired by the Lyon-Griswold fight on the House floor, February 1798, this cartoon was published in William Cobbett's House of Wisdom in a Bustle (1798).

CUDGLING as by late Act in CONGRESS. U.S.A. or

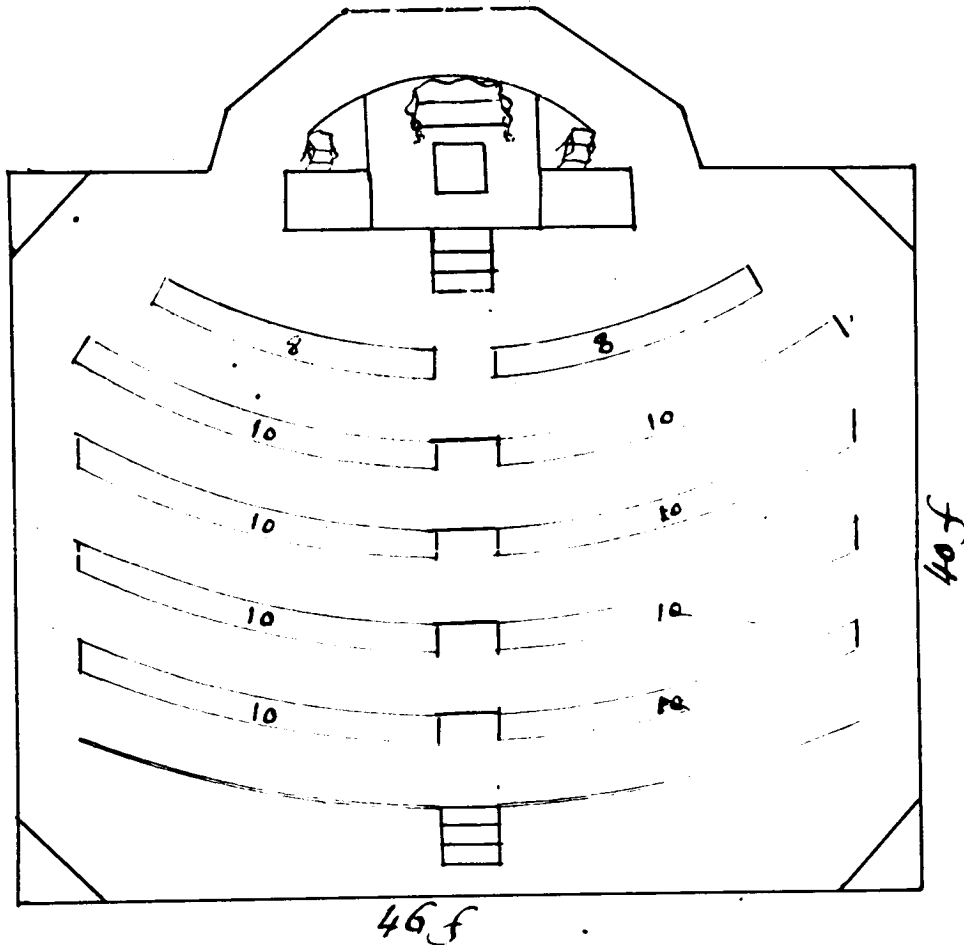


"Cudgeling as by late Act in Congress...."

Another cartoon representation of the Lyon-Griswold encounter in February 1798.
The artist is not known.

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

Part D, Illustration No. 3



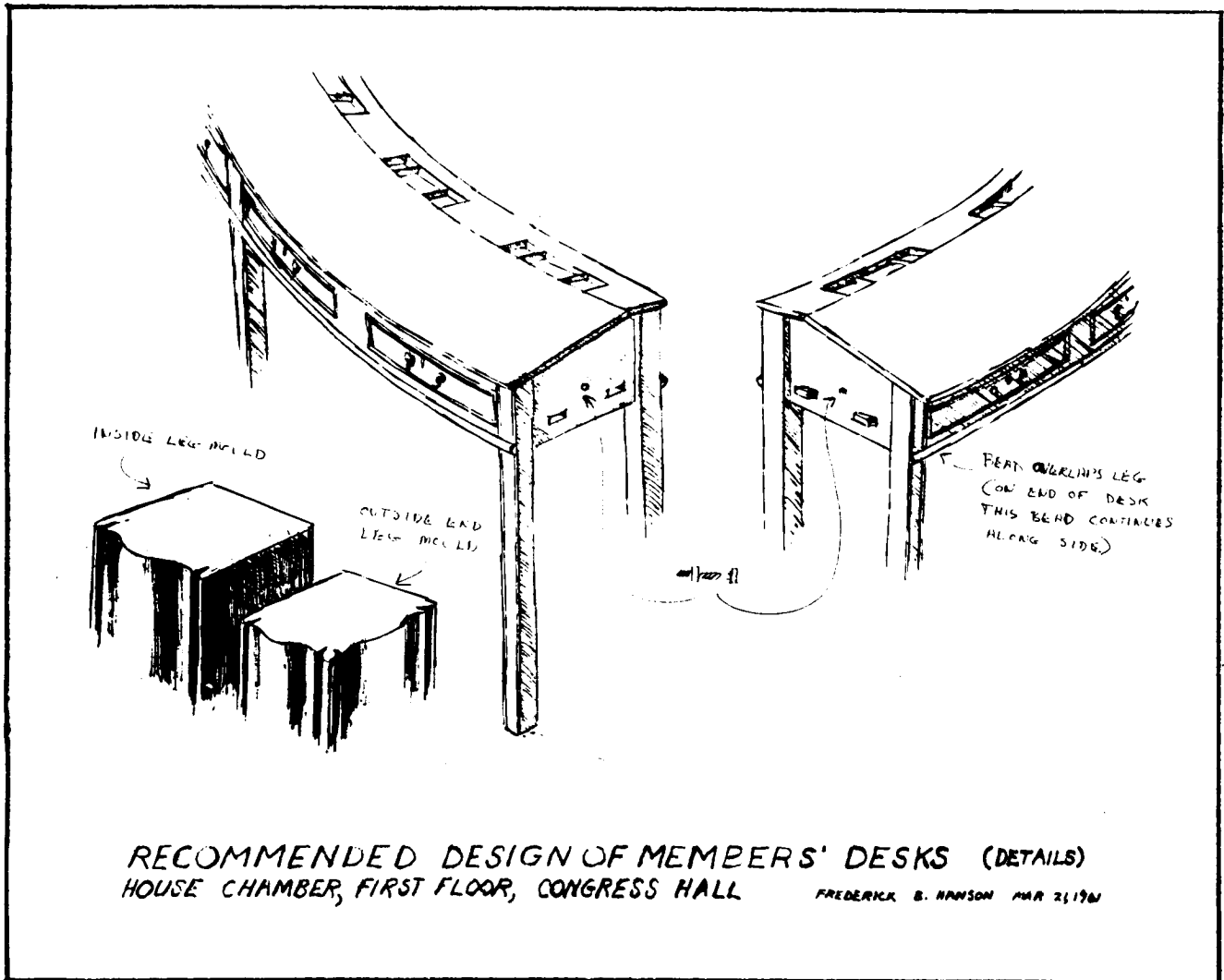
NB - A Chimney is proposed for each corner & sufficient space is left to sit round them

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

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

A Passage of 3 f. 3 In. between each Row of Desks for the Members to sit & pass round each other with

Part D
Illustration No. 4





Congress Chair

One of the chairs made by Thomas Affleck in 1790-93 for the use of Congress, twenty-five of which are now in the Independence National Historical Park Collection.

PART E

PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

PREPARED BY MUSEUM CURATOR FREDERICK B. HANSON



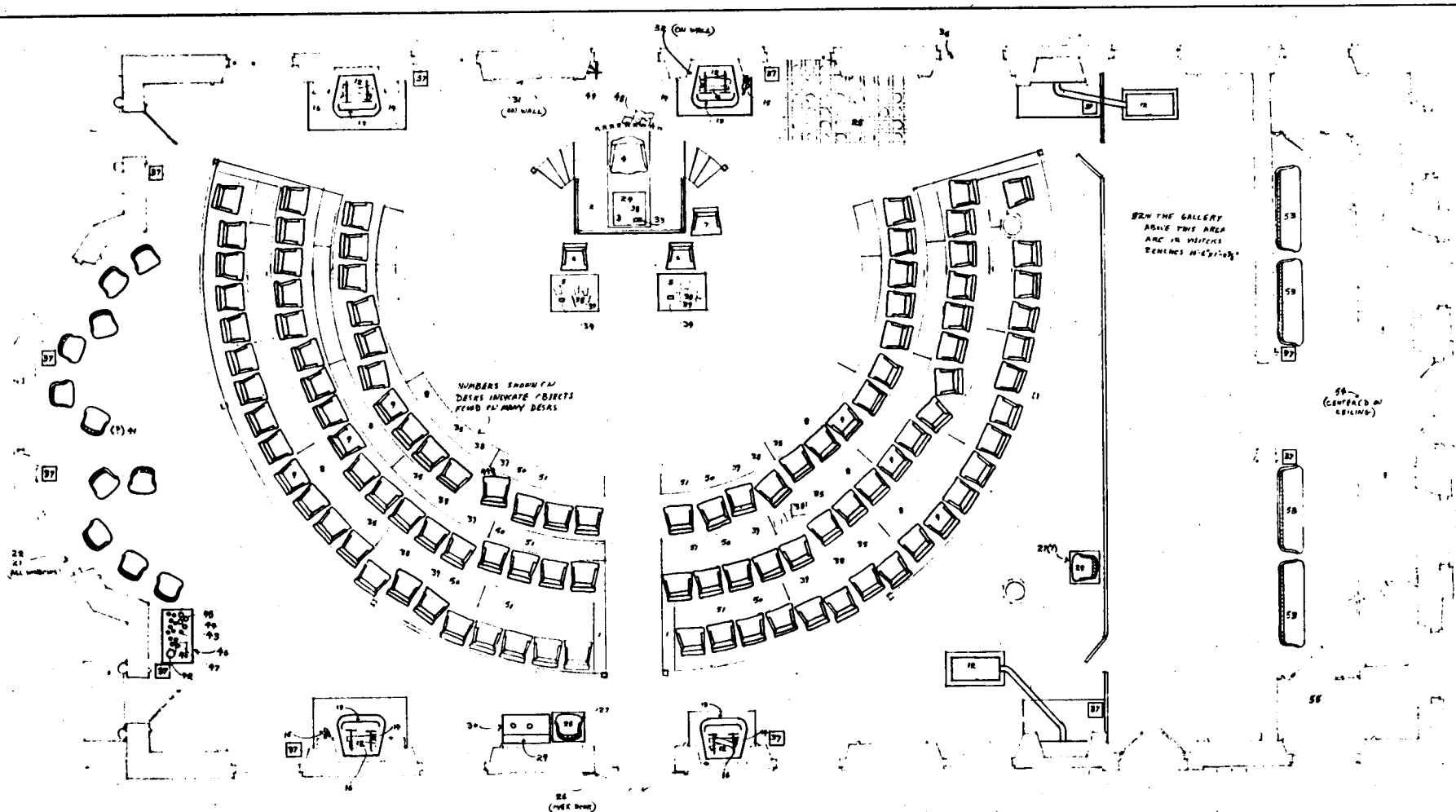
PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

Figure No. I is a floor plan for the first floor of Congress Hall, showing proposed placement of furnishings recommended in Part D of this Furnishing Plan. Numbers on this plan refer to the numbered division in Part D, Sections II and III.

The perspective view of the House Chamber (Frontispiece) represents the planners' interpretation of how the room will look when fully restored and refurnished along the lines suggested in Part D. The view is taken from the north end of the room and does not take into account the gallery which passes above the Members' area in the foreground.

Figure No. 2 is a conjectural rendering of the Members' area as seen from the center aisle looking north.

The final plan will include wall elevations and detail drawings of furniture to be reproduced (c.g., Part D, Illustration 4).

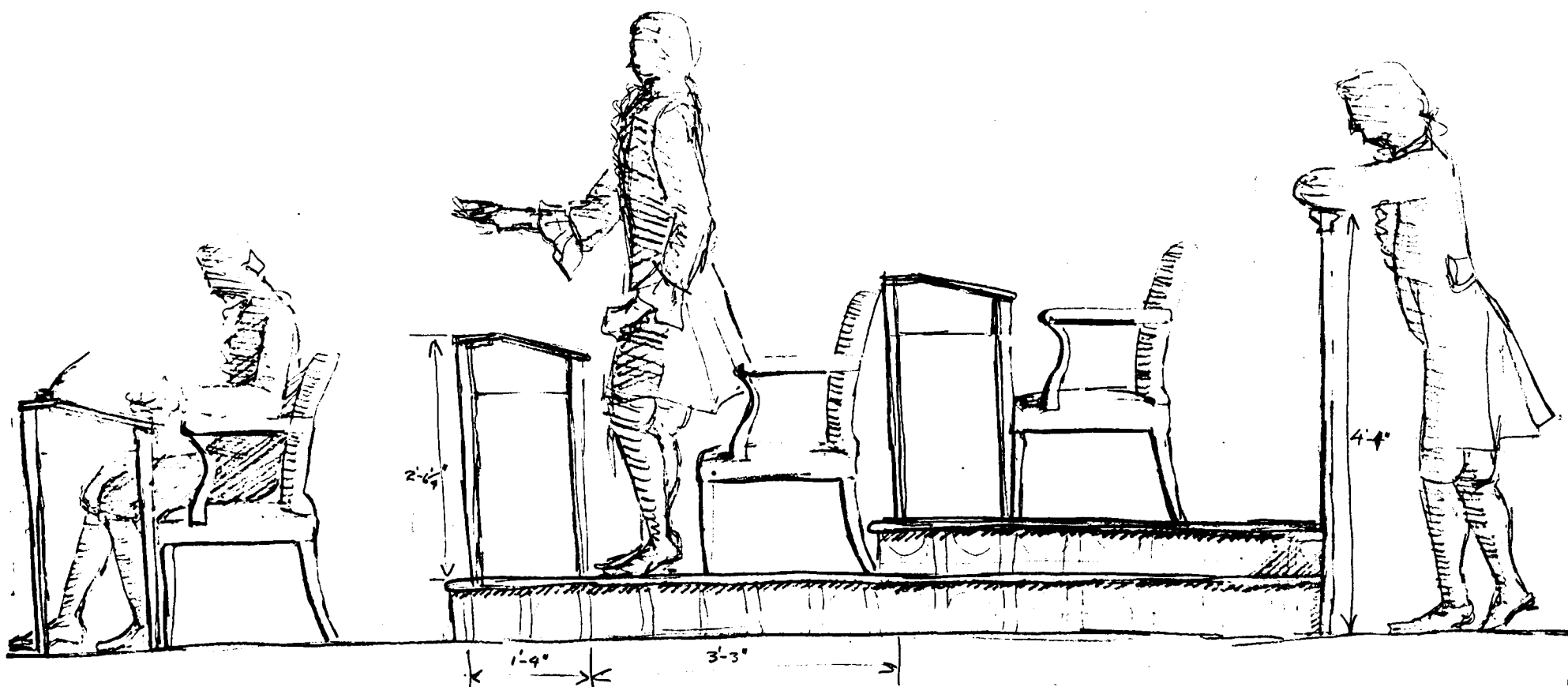


Part E, Fig. No. 1

FLOOR PLAN REFURNISHED HOUSE CHAMBER, CONGRESS HALL

N.B. NUMBERS REFER TO FURNISHINGS LIST, PART D, SECTION III

FREDERICK B. HANSON, MARCH 22, 1961



SECTION THROUGH MEMBERS' PLATFORMS, CONGRESS HALL FREDERICK L. HANSON

PART F

ESTIMATED COSTS
AND
SOURCES OF SUPPLY



ESTIMATED COSTS AND
SOURCES OF SUPPLY

Cost estimates for each type of furnishing recommended are included in Part D, Section II, of this Furnishing Plan.

Except for original pieces in the Park collection, original and period furnishings will have to be acquired as opportunity offers through reputable dealers, auction galleries, and private collectors. Reproductions should be made only by highly skilled craftsmen, under close supervision by the Park.

A P P E N D I X A

Statement of Expenditures by the Corporation of Philadelphia for the
Accommodation of Congress, 1790

[from manuscript at the Pennsylvania Historical and
Museum Commission, Harrisburg]

Dr Accommodations for the Congress of the United States
To the Corporation of the City of Philadelphia

1790

Nov. 24	To Cash paid the Committees order to Govett & Co.	37.10--
Dec. 4	To ditto ... ditto .. John Ashmead ...	2. --
7	To ditto ... ditto .. John Harland ...	38.17.10
13	To ditto ... ditto .. Benj. Morgan ...	15. 3. 9
17	To ditto ... ditto .. Moses Rowan ...	40. 6. 9
21	To ditto ... ditto .. Wm Bankson ...	9. 1. -
23	To ditto ... ditto .. Sadler & Govett...	37.10. -
30	To ditto ... ditto .. Richard Sermon ...	7.17. 8
31	To ditto ... ditto .. John Harland ...	5.17. 0
	To ditto ... ditto .. B & Ed Carnes ...	3.13. 0
1791		
Feb. 14	To ditto ... ditto .. Tobias Cummings ..	-- 2. 6
Apr. 11	To ditto ... ditto .. Poulthney & Wistar ..	4.14. 3
June 10	To ditto Mayor's order to Govett & Sadler ...	179. 9. 6-1/2
July 25	To ditto Committee ord-- Wm. Coxie ...	18.15. -
		<u>£ 400.18. 3-1/2</u>

To the Tr. of the Corporation

A P P E N D I X B

Disbursements Paid for Fitting Up Congress Hall in 1790
/from manuscript at the Pennsylvania Historical
and Museum Commission, Harrisburg/

Amount of Disbursements paid by the Commissioners of the City and
County of Philadelphia, for fitting the New County Court House, for
the accommodation of Congress. (1791)

Nº	14	To Matthew Armour, for 4 setts of Pillaster Ornaments	3. 0. 0
	51	To Corney & Smith, for 51 Morroco Skins	21.13. 6
	52	To John Harland, for 132-1/2 Yds. Carpeting	51.16. 6
	66	To Thomas Armat, for Carpetg. thread & binding	9.17. 0
	69	To Caleb Emlen, for a Pine Log & Carting	2.10. 0
	70	To William Adcock, for 21 Yds. Carpeting	7.17. 6
	74	To Potts & Hobart, for 2 large Franklin Stoves	8.16. 6
	77	To Edward Jones, for 3-1/2 days labour	0.14. 0
	78	To James Tully, for blacking Stoves	0.18. 9
	80	To Joseph Fry, for Work done	7.13. 9
	81	To Samuel Shoemaker, for Flatstg. & Whitewashing	19.18. 6
	83	To Thomas Affleck, for Magogany	10.12.10
	84	To Thomas Jaquetts, for Stuffing, Covering &) Brassnailing 43 Elbow Chairs	82. 2. 0
	85	To Elisha Gordon, for Goat Skins	22.11. 0
	86	To David Evans, for Venetian Blinds	91. 5. 0
	87	To William Zane, for Brass Nails	20.10. 0
	88	To Andrew Geyer, paid for Washing, &c.	1. 7. 0
	89	To Jonathan Meredith, for Goat & Morocco Skins	34. 0. 0
	90	To John Davis, for Stuffing, Covering & Brassnailing) 49 Elbow Chairs	98. 2. 3
	93	To Joseph Skerrett, for Smith Work	13. 8.11
	94	To Richard Sermon, for ditto	21.19. 8
	96	To John Kaighn, for a Stove	4. 5. 0
	97	To Solomon White & Co. for Quality binding	1.14. 6
	99	To And ^w Eisenhoot, for 2 Copper Ashes Bucketts	4.13. 0
	100	To John Harland, for Capetg. & Cloth	120. 7. 1-1/2
	101	To Matthew Armour, for Tables & Desk	8. 2. 3
	102	To William Bankson, for Upholsterers Work	163. 9.10
	103	To Jonathan Carmatt, for 101 Yds. Fearnought	17.13. 6
	104	To Hilary Baker, for Stoves & Chimney backs	18.15. 2
	106	To Wayne & Sheppard, for Lath	1.13. 0
	107	To Samuel Fletcher, for Columns & Bannisters	8. 5. 3
	109	To Tho ^s Poultney & Sons, for Iron Mongery	40. 4. 5
	112	To Harrison & M ^c Gee, for Boards, Plank & Scantling	50.10. 5
	116	To Wetherill & Truman, for Plank & Scantling	13. 1. 5
	117	To Jacob Eckfelatt, for 4 Shoe Scrapers	4.10. 0
	119	To Israel Jones, for Rum	6.15. 7
	120	To Robert Haydock, for Pluming	74.15. -1/4

Appendix B
Page 2

122	To Joseph Rakestraw, for Neasg. Carpenters Work	4. 4. 0
124	To Souder & Robins, for Bricklayers Work & Materials	24. 6. 4
128	To William Stiles, for Stone Cutters Work	22.18.11
129	To Anthony Cuthbert, for a pr. Mast	1.18. 0
135	To Jones, Clerk & Cresson, for Boards	25.17.11
146	To Joseph Skerrett, for Smiths Work	2.11. 6
149	To John West, for Boards, Plank & Lath	13. 3. 8
156	To Jacob Eckfelatt, for Iron Work	4.10. 0
192	To Thomas Affleck, for Furniture	469. 6. 0
215	To William P. Sprague, for 132-1/2 Yds. Carpetting, &	156.12. 6
216	To Sadler & Govett, for Carpenters Work	366.14. 2
217	To William Bankson, for makg. a large Carpet &) 50 Yds. Green Cord	4. 0. 0
218	To Robert Haydock, for Painting	26. 1. 6
230	To Caleb Emlen, for Plank	4. 5. 0
		£ 2201. 6.11
deduct for Sundries charged in Poultney & Son's		.15.10-1/2
Acct. No 109		
		£ 2200.11. -1/2

Philadelphia, October 5th 1791.

Errors Excepted

Evan Thomas

Andrew Geyer

Sam^l Church

APPENDIX C

MEASUREMENTS OF THE "DELEGATES' " CHAIRS, Prepared by Museum Curator
Vernon Tancil

The twenty-eight "Delegates' " chairs were examined and measured to determine whether there are any significant differences. The chairs may be termed Sheraton-style in feeling. They are armchairs and have upholstered backs and seats. The high back and straight front seat are rectangular. The open arms are upholstered and, with one exception, rest on arm supports of double curvature with molded fronts, enlarging from top to bottom. The exception has arm supports of only one curve, being straight from top to mid-center then curving outward to the bottom. The tapering front legs are molded on the outward two sides. This molding differs slightly in some chairs; these variations are not obvious, the design intending to be the same. The rear legs are quadrangular, plain, and canted. The chairs do not have stretchers.

The measurements of the chairs differ most in the height of the legs, the range being from 11-1/2 inches to 15-1/2 inches. This is reflected in the differences of the overall heights of the chairs, the range being from 34-1/2 inches to 38-3/8 inches. The variations which occur in the other measurements are much less and may be noted in the following list of comparative measurements. It is felt that most of the differences result from the chairs being hand produced and/or from the difficulty of obtaining accurate measurements because of the poor condition of the chairs.

Comparative list showing range of measurements:

Height ranges from 34-1/2 inches to 38-3/8 inches

14 chairs measure between 36-37 inches
5 " " " 35-36 inches
3 " " below 35 inches
1 chair measures above 37 inches

Width of seats range from 23-8/16 inches to 24-5/16 inches

6 between 23-1/2 - 24 inches
17 between 24 - 24-5/16 inches

Width of back at the arms: all range between 9-4/16 inches and 9-10/16 inches

Height of arm supports: all range between 10-1/4 inches and 11 inches.

Height of front legs range between 11-1/2 inches and 15-1/2 inches

3 chairs measure between 11-1/2 - 12 inches
5 " " " 12 - 13 inches
12 " " " 13 - 14 inches
2 " " " 14 - 15 inches
1 chair measures 15 inches

Front legs taper from

range of top of leg 1-9/16 - 2 inches
range of foot of leg 4/16 - 8/16 of an inch

Range of taper from top to bottom is from 10/16 of an inch to 5/16 of an inch

2 differ from top of leg to foot by 10/16 of an inch
2 " " " " " " " by 9/16 of an inch
9 " " " " " " " by 8/16 of an inch
3 " " " " " " " by 7/16 of an inch
3 " " " " " " " by 6/16 of an inch
4 " " " " " " " by 5/16 of an inch

Arm supports taper from

range at top from 1-4/16 - 1-7/16 inches
range at bottom from 1-8/16 to 2 inches

Range of increase from top to bottom is from 2/16 to 10/16 of an inch

1 differs from top to bottom of arm support by 2/16 of an inch
10 differ " " " " " " " by 4/16 of an inch
5 " " " " " " " by 5/16 of an inch
4 " " " " " " " by 6/16 of an inch
1 differs " " " " " " " by 7/16 of an inch
1 " " " " " " " by 8/16 of an inch
1 " " " " " " " by 10/16 of an inch

The range that arm supports are set from front of seat is from 3 to 4-1/2 inches

6	chairs	have	arm	supports	set	from	front	between	3	-	3-8/16	inches
11	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3-9/16	- 4 inches
6	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	4-1/16	- 4-1/2 inches

APPENDIX D

Congress Hall Furniture 1800-1812, prepared by Historian Mary Ann Hagan

In 1799, the state government moved from Philadelphia to Lancaster, taking its furniture with it. In 1800, the Federal government moved to Washington, leaving behind the furniture purchased for the accommodation of Congress by the state. The disposition of this furniture soon became a subject of consideration by the state legislature.

The first action taken with regard to the Congress Hall furniture was to remove it to the Senate Chamber in the State House; an action for which one Charles Culvan was paid eight dollars in July 1801. In December of that year the loan of a portion of this furniture was requested by the Marshall of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania "for the accommodation of the Federal Courts," and on December 21, a committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives was appointed to "enquire and report to the House in what manner the said furniture may be disposed of." The request of the Marshall was denied, and in 1803 the "desks, chairs, etc." or a substantial portion of them, were removed to Lancaster and put into use by the state Senate. The old furniture of the state Senate was then sold.

It is possible that some of the Congress Hall furniture came under the provision for sale of furniture according to an 1812 amendment to the 1812 bill for removing the state capital to Harrisburg. This amendment stated that "the respective officers of government shall pay the money arising from the sale of certain furniture into the state treasury." However, since there are frequent references to payments made by the state for repairs to chairs in the

period after the removal to Harrisburg, it seems possible that only the chairs in very poor condition were sold in 1812; for example, one of the few vouchers to mention the purchase of new chairs, that of December 12, 1812, shows that fifteen dollars was paid for new chairs while at the same time thirty dollars was paid for the repair of chairs. It is possible, therefore, that some of the chairs used by Congress from 1790 to 1800 were made use of by the Pennsylvania legislature until they were beyond repair and were then discarded.

In 1814 small sums were paid by the state for mending chairs and twenty-one dollars was paid for chairs. In 1817 J. Emerson covered chairs at the cost of \$28.25 and in 1820 he charged roughly twenty dollars for covering desks. In the latter year two different accounts were paid six dollars each for chairs. In January of 1826, the state assembly considered a resolution for the repair of the chairs which had been "occupied by the sages of '76," presumably referring to the Congress Hall chairs. This resolution would have provided for the preservation of the chairs "in some safe place" because of their historic associations. Action on the resolution was postponed until February but it failed to be again considered at that time. The following December, \$77.26 was paid for repairing chairs and varnishing desks. In February of 1839 an account to the amount of \$85.94 for the repair of desks, including repair of leather, was reported as settled by the Senate committee on accounts. In 1840, \$144.12 was paid for floor cloth and furniture.

In preparing for the centennial of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Colonel Frank M. Etting began to assemble the "Congress Hall chairs," which had become scattered in the years between 1812 and 1870, under

the assumption that they were the "Signers' Chairs." One was obtained from the United States Supreme Court, two from the State Capitol building at Harrisburg, and one from the American Philosophical Society. The others came from private owners. A few were added after the Centennial. The collection at Independence Hall now includes twenty-three chairs of the type Affleck made for Congress in the 1790's.

A P P E N D I X E

MS Inventory of Furnishings by J. Beckley, Clerk, House of Representatives,
17 November 1790, in Miers Fisher Papers, [1775-1814], Historical Society
of Pennsylvania

Articles of Furniture necessary to be provided for the Committee-rooms
and Clerk's Office of the House of Representatives.

Each Committee room	1 dozen Chairs Wm Coxe
Moses Rowan	1 pine table covered with green baise, 8 feet long by 3-1/2 feet in width, with drawers, locks, keys, &c
D ^o	1 double Book press (pine) with sliding divisions; each part of the press to be 3-1/2 feet high, 1-1/2 feet deep, and 3 feet 4 inches wide; with locks and keys
	1 complete wooden inkstand, with drawer, glasses, &c
Clerks Office	1 dozen Chairs; one half of which will be necessary for the small Lobby room adjoining it. Wm Coxe
Moses Rowan	1 pine table 6 feet long & 3 feet wide, covered with green baise, with drawers, locks, &c
D ^o	2 ditto, each 3 feet long and 2 feet 8 inches wide; covered with green baise, and finished in like manner.
D ^o	2 double presses of same dimensions as for the Com- mittee rooms.
	3 pewter Ink pieces

Note. It is requisite that the furniture for the Clerks' office should be
first provided, in order that the papers of Congress may be immediately
moved into it and arranged.

John Beckley, Clk; H:R:^s
17th November 1790

A P P E N D I X F

Notes on Original Flooring, West Side, House of Representatives
Chamber, Congress Hall

[Compiled by Architect Penelope Hartshorne, HABS, and
Curator Frederick B. Hanson, INHP, Spring 1960]

Floor boards

Eight boards were removed and this section of flooring appears to be original. Some boards had been removed before and had been replaced in original locations, for lathing marks on unplanned undersides continue through the old section. Some shorter boards are either replacements, or are new. The newer section (1793) shows planed undersides and joists that have whitewashed tops, and whose lower halves are whitewashed. There is no evidence of lath ever having been used in the 1793 area; perhaps in the hurry to complete the building it was neglected.

Since the cellar ceiling has been replaced several times, and is now plastered over metal lath, in among other debris that may have fallen through the floor, no fragments of carpeting, old nails, etc., would have remained collected on the upper side dating from the historic period. No fragments of fabric indicating carpeting were found between the floorboards.

Nails

Rose headed lath nails (specimen 9) and fragments of split lath were found in the 1787 portion of the building. Handwrought L-headed flooring nails were found in both the old (specimen 7) and new (specimen 8) sections. The square patches filling the mortises in the 1913 dais area are held in place by cut nails, suggesting that the mortises themselves are post 1800 (specimen 10 is from patch C). Several cut nails, in addition

to the original handwrought nails, now fasten down the boards which had been previously removed.

The Floor Surfacing and Evidence Thereupon

The floor surface has been worn for about 175 years under various conditions of traffic and mechanical wearing, therefore we felt that wear marks were not sufficiently clear to pinpoint possible traffic patterns for a 10-year period (1790-1800). There are, however, a few points to be noted.

The tack patterns seem to make little sense except that they indicate that carpeting was laid from east to west in the room. Tack patterns vary in width from about 2'-6" - 3' -6" and in some areas there are double rows and in others, single rows.

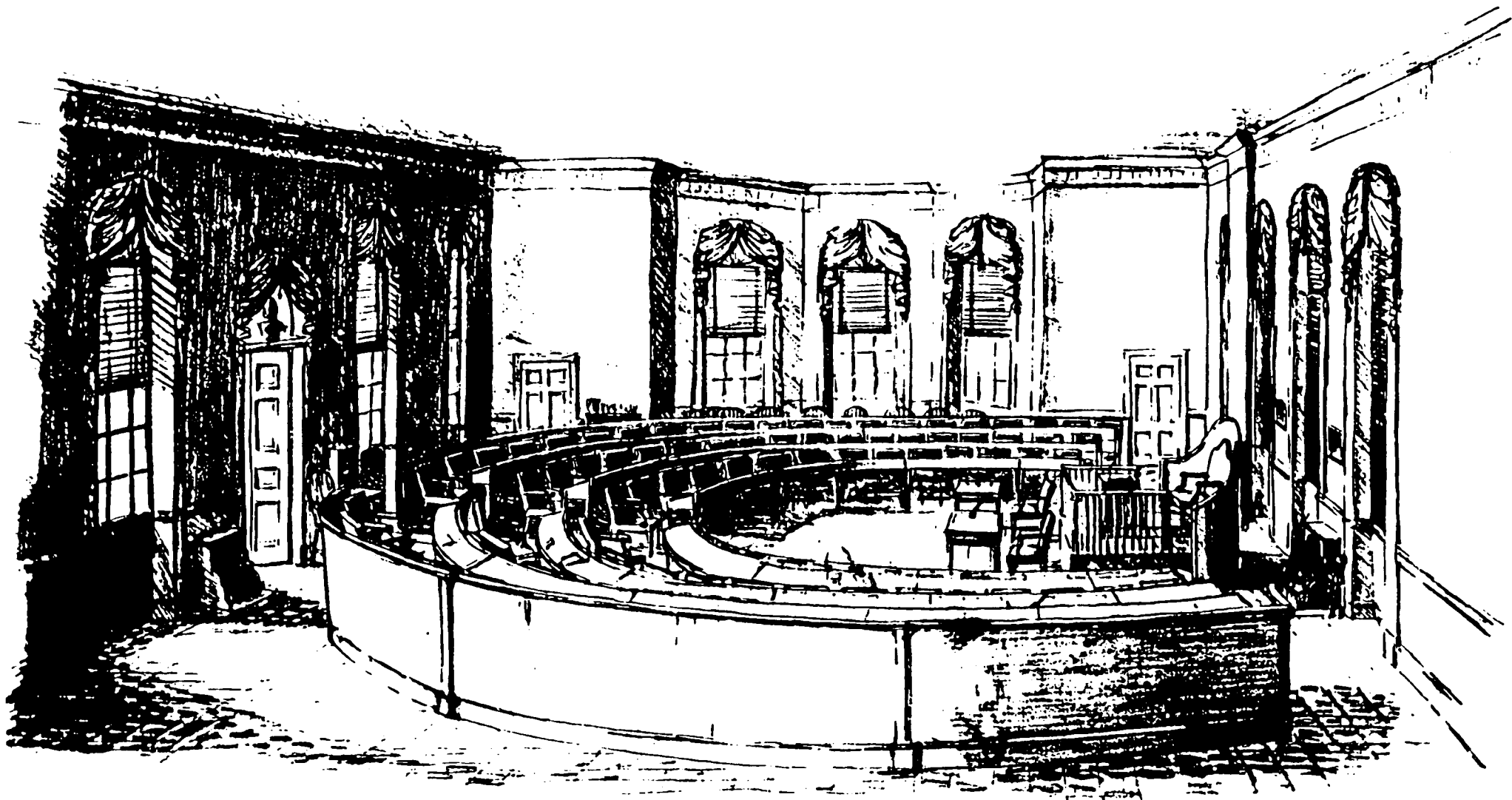
Tack holes and specimens (see specimen #4) have been located along the west wall adjoining the baseboard indicating that a carpet was used to that baseboard. Tacks were not found in the area of the window reveal areas, but the flooring in these areas has been replaced and obscured by heating registers.

The most distinctive evidence of any area is that within the 1913 Speaker's dais; it appears that mechanical sanding and filling of cracks outside that area has successfully obliterated most early evidence.

Lack of specific knowledge about what devices were attached to the floor during the nineteenth century has confused the issue concerning the interpretation of plugs, scars, tack holes, etc.

All boards that were removed (numbered 2A, 3, 3A, 4, 5, 6, 20, 24, 25) were marked in ink or pencil: "Removed for inspection 5/3/1960 INHP," and encircled with a chalk ring.

Illustration 1 "Perspective View, Restored House Chamber- First Floor Congress Hall" by Frederick Hanson, 1961. Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall, (Independence National Historical Park, March 1961).



PERSPECTIVE 'VIEW' RESTORED HOUSE CHAMBER- FIRST FLOOR CONGRESS HALL • FREDERICK B. HANSON 1961

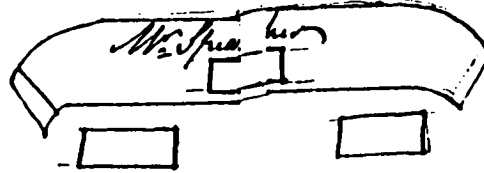
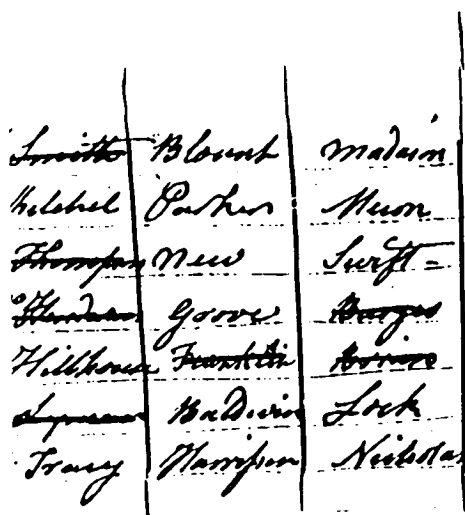


Illustration 2 "Congressional Pugilists . . . Congress Hall in Philada. Feb. 15. 1798" in William Cobbett, House of Wisdom in a Bustle, 1798. Independence National Historical Park, catalog number 6078.

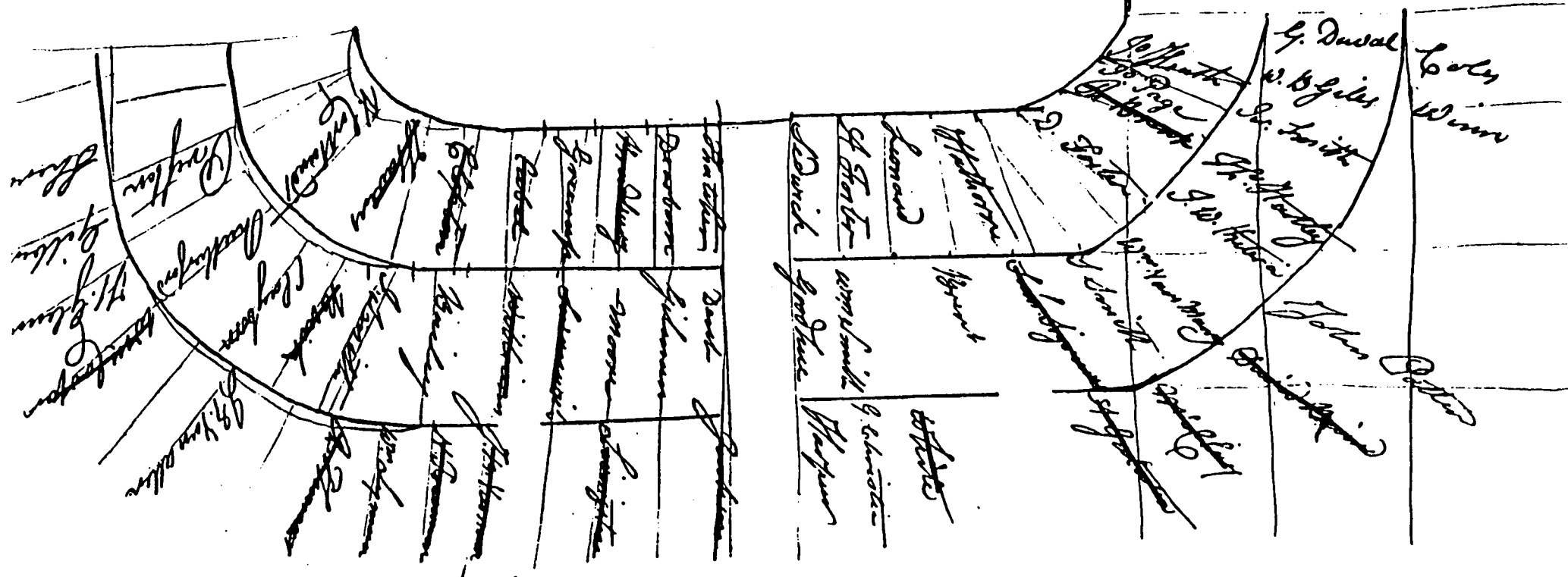
CUDGELING as by late ACT in CONGRESS. USA. or



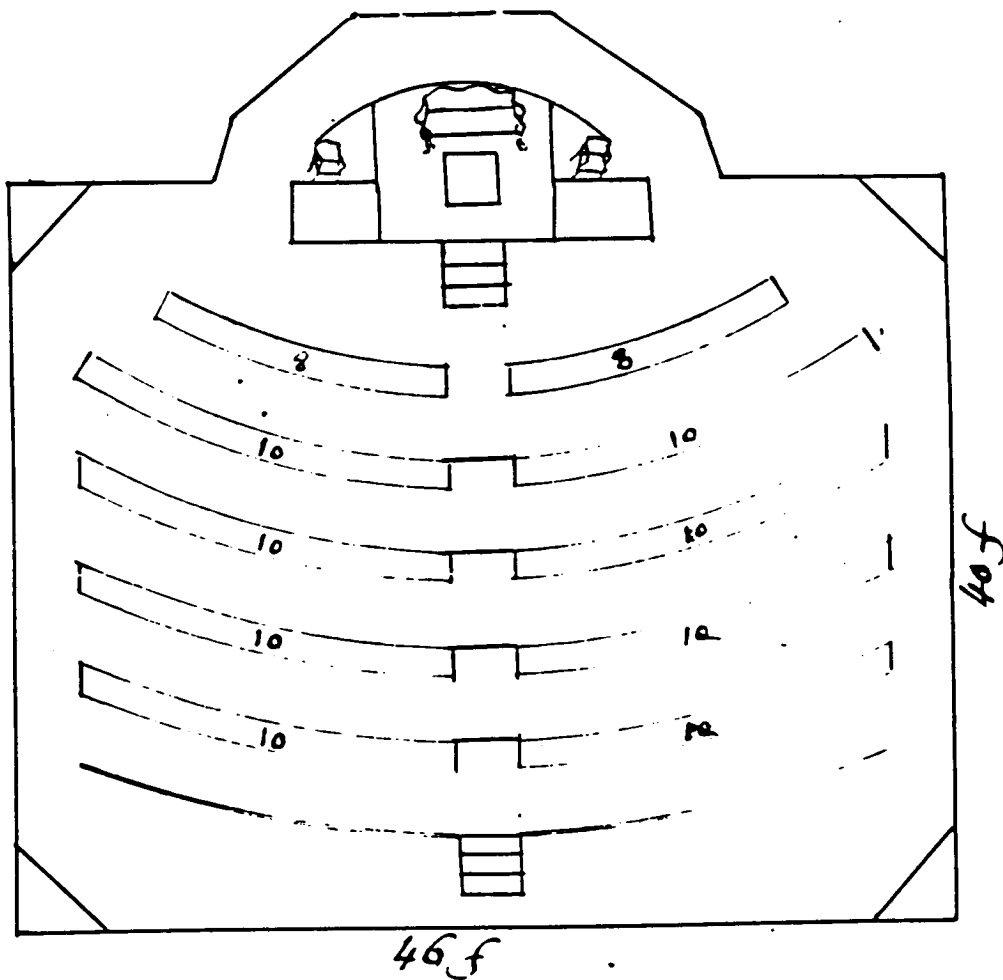
Illustration 3 "Cudgeling as by late Act in Congress, USA"
1798.



31	35	32
W. Hindman	Wister	
Scott Smith	Murphy	Sam Benton
St. Paul	Lyons	
P. Wadsworth	Malbone	W. H. H. H.
J. G. Laffin	Spencer	Chambers
Wm. Fendley	J. Coit	
Harmon		W. H. H. H.
Variable	P. Wadsworth	W. H. H. H.



can of the very same of arrangement as it may
be laid out to contain 96 Chairs for the Repre-
sentatives of the United States, or in case of need
by putting the Chairs nearer together 106 - as
2 f. are allowed for each Chair whereas 20 Inches
is sufficient.)



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

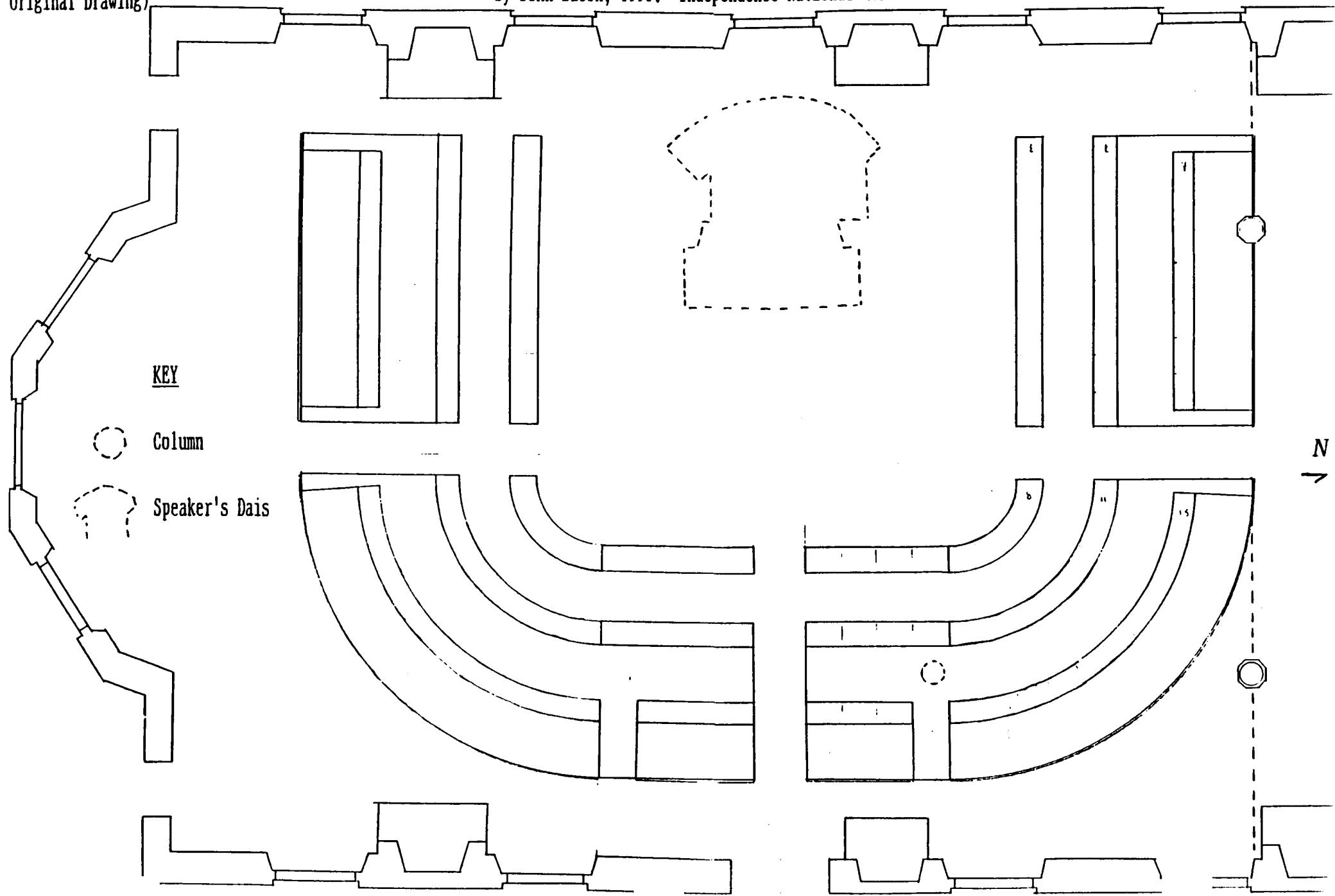
A Passage $3\frac{1}{2}$ f wide is left on the sides & behind
the Speakers Chair to communicate with the Offices in
the Philosophical Hall by a Door thro the Middle of the
Bow -

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

A Passage of 3 f. 3 In. between each Row of Desks
for the Members to sit & pass round each other with-
out disturbance -

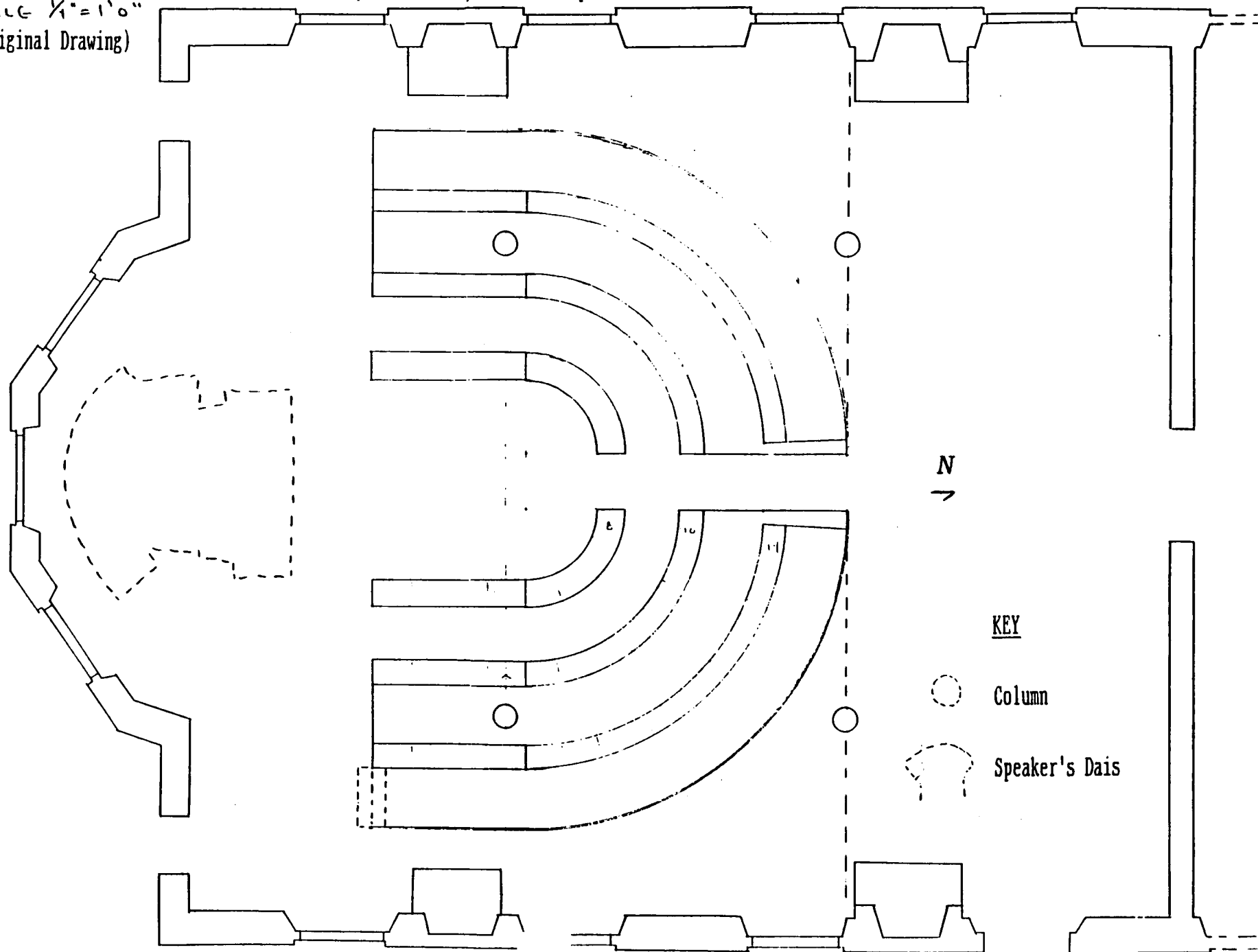
DRAWING A
J. BACON - INHP - 9/90
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'0"
Original Drawing)

Illustration 6 Scaled Drawing of the Van Corlandt Plan
Within the Outlines of the 1793 House Chamber, Congress Hall
by John Bacon, 1990. Independence National Historical Park



DRAWING C (related to A)
J. Bacon - INHP - 7/10
SCALE $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'0"$
(Original Drawing)

Illustration 7 Scaled Drawing of the Pre-Van Corltandt Plan
Within the Outlines of the 1790 House Chamber, Congress Hall
by John Bacon, 1990. Independence National Historical Park



SEATING ARRANGEMENT OF MEMBERS OF FOURTH U. S. CONGRESS, 1795

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1.) ISAAC SMITH, <i>New Jersey</i> | (27.) ROBERT RUTHERFORD, <i>Virginia</i> |
| (2.) AARON KITCHELL, <i>New Jersey</i> | (28.) THOMAS CLAIBORNE, <i>Virginia</i> |
| (3.) MARK THOMSON, <i>New Jersey</i> | (29.) DANIEL BUCK, <i>Vermont</i> |
| (4.) THOMAS HENDERSON, <i>New Jersey</i> | (30.) JEREMIAH SMITH, <i>New Hampshire</i> |
| (5.) JAMES HILLHOUSE, <i>Connecticut</i> | (31.) THEODORE BAILEY, <i>New York</i> |
| (6.) SAMUEL LYMAN, <i>Massachusetts</i> | (32.) JOHN WILLIAMS, <i>New York</i> |
| (7.) URIAH TRACY, <i>Connecticut</i> | (33.) JOHN SWANWICK, <i>Pennsylvania</i> |
| (8.) JOHN S. SHERBURNE, <i>New Hampshire</i> | (34.) ANDREW MOORE, <i>Virginia</i> |
| (9.) EZEKIEL GILBERT, <i>New York</i> | (35.) NICHOLAS GILMAN, <i>New Hampshire</i> |
| (10.) HENRY GLEN, <i>New York</i> | (36.) GEORGE DENT, <i>Maryland</i> |
| (11.) WILLIAM COOPER, <i>New York</i> | (37.) JAMES MADISON, <i>Virginia</i> |
| (12.) JOHN E. VAN ALLEN, <i>New York</i> | (38.) NATHANIEL MACON, <i>North Carolina</i> |
| (13.) RICHARD THOMAS, <i>Pennsylvania</i> | (39.) ZEPHANIAH SWIFT, <i>Connecticut</i> |
| (14.) WILLIAM LYMAN, <i>Massachusetts</i> | (40.) DEMPSEY BURGESS, <i>North Carolina</i> |
| (15.) NATHANIEL FREEMAN, JR., <i>Massachusetts</i> | (41.) NATHAN BRYAN, <i>North Carolina</i> |
| (16.) JOSEPH B. VARNUM, <i>Massachusetts</i> | (42.) MATTHEW LOCKE, <i>North Carolina</i> |
| (17.) EDWARD LIVINGSTON, <i>New York</i> | (43.) JOHN NICHOLAS, <i>Virginia</i> |
| (18.) GEORGE JACKSON, <i>Virginia</i> | (44.) PHILIP VAN CORTLANDT, <i>New York</i> |
| (19.) THOMAS BLOUNT, <i>North Carolina</i> | (45.) JONATHAN HAVENS, <i>New York</i> |
| (20.) JOSIAH PARKER, <i>Virginia</i> | (46.) JOHN CLOPTON, <i>Virginia</i> |
| (21.) ANTHONY NEW, <i>Virginia</i> | (47.) SAMUEL CABELL, <i>Virginia</i> |
| (22.) WILLIAM B. GROVE, <i>North Carolina</i> | (48.) CHRISTOPHER GREENUP, <i>Kentucky</i> |
| (23.) JESSE FRANKLIN, <i>North Carolina</i> | (49.) THEOPHILUS BRADBURY, <i>Massachusetts</i> |
| (24.) ABRAHAM BALDWIN, <i>Georgia</i> | (50.) HENRY DEARBORN, <i>Massachusetts</i> |
| (25.) CARTER B. HARRISON, <i>Virginia</i> | (51.) GEORGE THACHER, <i>Massachusetts</i> |
| (26.) FRANCIS PRESTON, <i>Virginia</i> | |

Seating Arrangement

- | | |
|---|--|
| (52.) WILLIAM HINDMAN, <i>Maryland</i> | (80.) WILLIAM VANS MURRAY, <i>Maryland</i> |
| (53.) NATHANIEL SMITH, <i>Connecticut</i> | (81.) SAMUEL SMITH, <i>Maryland</i> |
| (54.) JOHN REED, <i>Massachusetts</i> | (82.) SAMUEL SITGREAVES, <i>Pennsylvania</i> |
| (55.) PELEG WADSWORTH, <i>Massachusetts</i> | (83.) <i>see below</i> |
| (56.) JAMES GILLESPIE, <i>North Carolina</i> | (84.) WILLIAM L. SMITH, <i>South Carolina</i> |
| (57.) WILLIAM FINDLEY, <i>Pennsylvania</i> | (85.) BENJAMIN GOODHUE, <i>Massachusetts</i> |
| (58.) GEORGE HANCOCK, <i>Virginia</i> | (86.) LEMUEL BENTON, <i>South Carolina</i> |
| (59.) ABRAHAM VENABLE, <i>Virginia</i> | (87.) JAMES HOLLAND, <i>North Carolina</i> |
| (60.) JOHN HEATH, <i>Virginia</i> | (88.) SAMUEL EARLE, <i>South Carolina</i> |
| (61.) JOHN PAGE, <i>Virginia</i> | (89.) JOHN MILLEDGE, <i>Georgia</i> |
| (62.) RICHARD BRENT, <i>Virginia</i> | (90.) WADE HAMPTON, <i>South Carolina</i> |
| (63.) DWIGHT FOSTER, <i>Massachusetts</i> | (91.) ISSAC COLES, <i>Virginia</i> |
| (64.) JOHN HATHORN, <i>New York</i> | (92.) RICHARD WINN, <i>South Carolina</i> |
| (65.) GEORGE LEONARD, <i>Massachusetts</i> | (93.) JOHN PATTEN, <i>Delaware</i> |
| (66.) ABIEL FOSTER, <i>New Hampshire</i> | (94.) DAVID BAIRD, <i>Pennsylvania</i> |
| (67.) THEODORE SEDWICK, <i>Massachusetts</i> | (95.) SAMUEL MACLAY, <i>Pennsylvania</i> |
| (68.) DANIEL HIESTER, <i>Pennsylvania</i> | (96.) ALBERT GALLATIN, <i>Pennsylvania</i> |
| (69.) FREDERICK MUHLENBERG, <i>Pennsylvania</i> | (97.) JAMES WHITE, <i>Territory South of the Ohio</i> |
| (70.) CHAUNCEY GOODRICH, <i>Connecticut</i> | (98.) GABRIEL CHRISTIE, <i>Maryland</i> |
| (71.) FRANCIS MALBONE, <i>Rhode Island</i> | (99.) ROBERT G. HARPER, <i>South Carolina</i> |
| (72.) ROGER GRISWOLD, <i>Connecticut</i> | JONATHAN DAYTON, <i>New Jersey</i> :
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE |
| (73.) JOSHUA COIT, <i>Connecticut</i> | |
| (74.) BENJAMIN BOURN, <i>Rhode Island</i> | |
| (75.) GABRIEL DUVAL, <i>Maryland</i> | |
| (76.) WILLIAM B. GILES, <i>Virginia</i> | |
| (77.) ISRAEL SMITH, <i>Vermont</i> | |
| (78.) THOMAS HARTLEY, <i>Pennsylvania</i> | |
| (79.) JOHN W. KITTERA, <i>Pennsylvania</i> | |

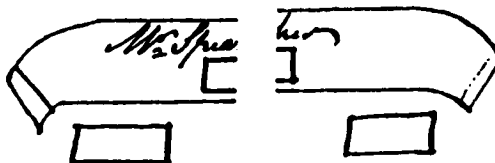
Philip omitted:

- FISHER AMES, *Massachusetts*
ALEXANDER D. ORR, *Kentucky*
JEREMIAH CRABB, *Maryland*
THOMAS SPRIGG, *Maryland*
ABSALOM TATOM, *North Carolina*
ANDREW GREGG, *Pennsylvania*

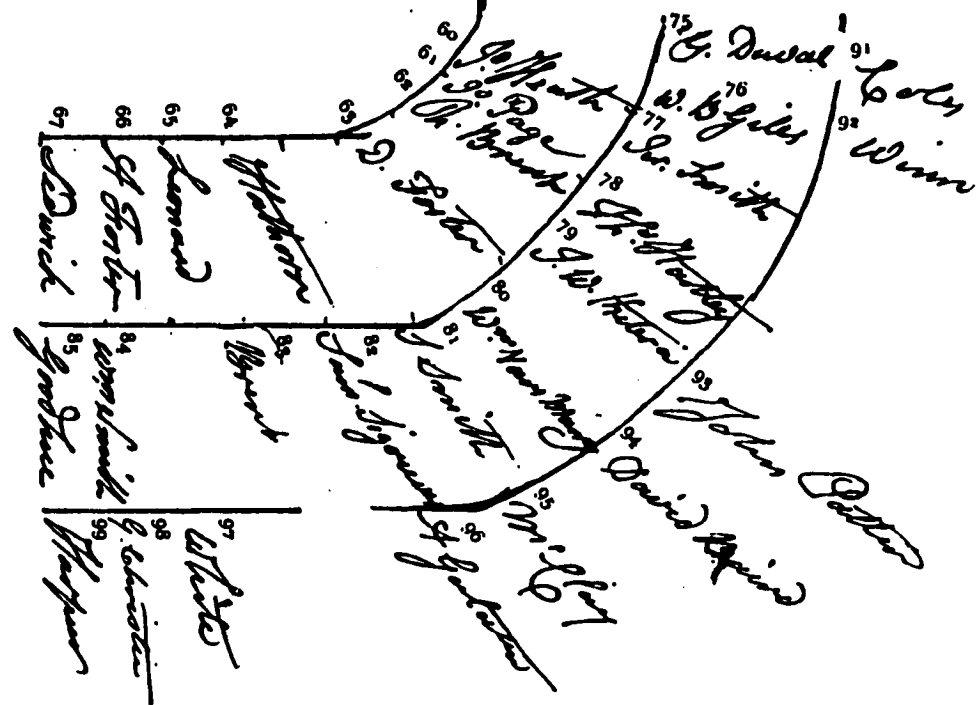
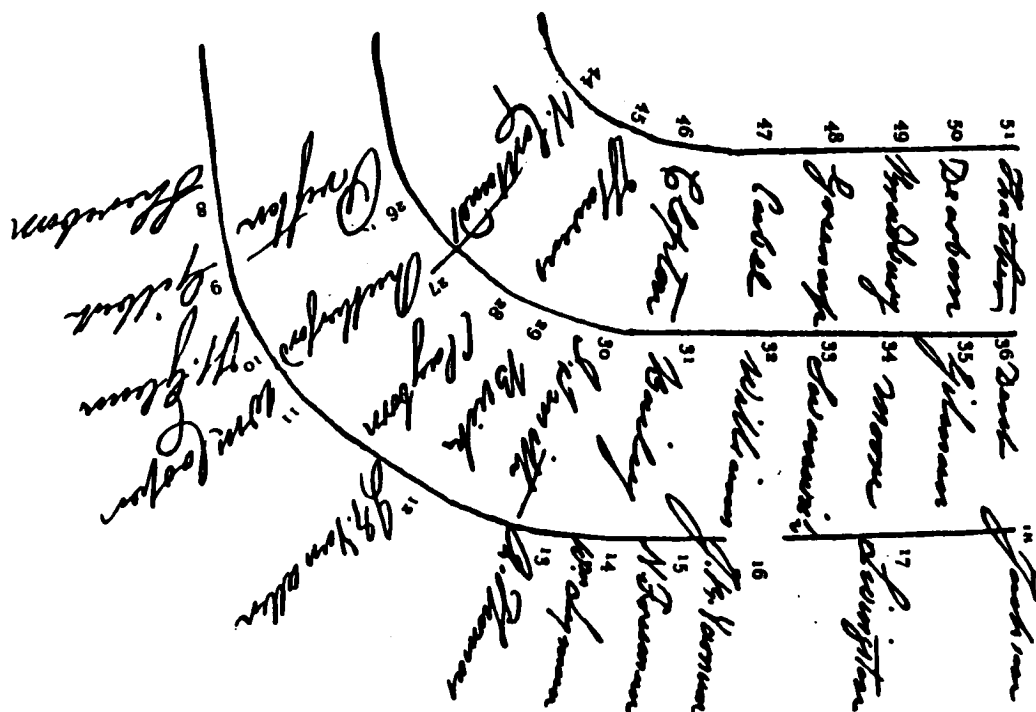
#83 "Brent" is unidentified. Richard Brent (#62) was the only man of this name in this session of Congress.

Philip Van Cortlandt's Sketch

1 J. Smith	19 Blount	37 Madam
2 A. Kelsch	20 Parker	38 Munn
3 M. Thompson	21 New	39 Swift
4 H. Henderson	22 Goove	40 Burges
5 J. Hillhouse	23 Franklin	41 Borian
6 J. Lynam	24 Baldwin	42 Lock
7 W. Tracy	25 Harrison	43 Nicholas



52 W. Hindman	68 Huston	
53 Nathl Smith	69 Munklingby	86 Lam. Bee
54 P. Reed	70 Goodrich	87 J. H. Hols.
55 P. Wadsworth	71 Malbone	88 Samuel
56 J. Galphin	72 Gayward	89 J. M. Hols.
57 Wm. Findley	73 J. Coit	Wm. H. Hols.
58 Hannah	74 B. B. Hols.	
59 Vanables		



Numbers have been added for identification purposes.

FURNISHING PLAN
FOR THE
FIRST FLOOR OF CONGRESS HALL
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

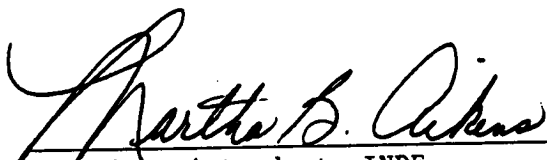
Supplement 1

A Study of the
Historic Philip Van Cortlandt Seating Plan

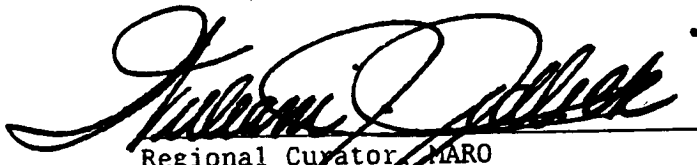
PLEASE RETURN TO:

TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

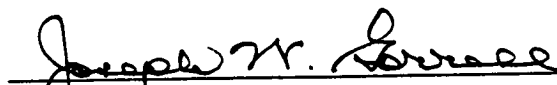
Approved


Park Superintendent, INDE

9/22/92
Date


Regional Curator, MARO

9/22/92
Date


Regional Director, MARO

9/23/92
Date

**FURNISHING PLAN
FOR THE
FIRST FLOOR OF CONGRESS HALL
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

Supplement 1

**A Study of the
Historic Philip Van Cortlandt Seating Plan
and its Impact on the
Refurnishing of the
House of Representatives Chamber**

**Karie Diethorn, Associate Curator
Architectural Analysis by John Bacon, FINHP Museum Intern
Independence National Historical Park
September, 1992**

The search for physical and documentary evidence of the past and its use to interpret history provide a variety of opportunities for scholars. For each historic room, documentation combines many ideas generated over time. As a result, the meaning of any furnished historic room changes in response to the reassessment of existing data, as well as to the discovery of new information. Central to this process is the idea that all historic evidence must be considered, and that the study of this evidence should propose theories about that evidence and its interrelatedness.

In this way, the National Park Service's evaluation of the restored House of Representatives chamber in Philadelphia's Congress Hall presents several conclusions about the historic evidence pertaining to the eighteenth-century appearance of the members' desks. The current House furnishings plan, prepared in 1961, recommends that the reconstructed desks form three concentric semicircles bisected by a single, central aisle (see Illustration 1).¹ This theory was based on the absence of any known original Congress Hall desks and on a small collection of surviving contemporary descriptions of the seating arrangement.

Subsequent to the implementation of the 1961 furnishing plan for the House chamber, additional evidence bearing directly on the configuration of the members' desks came to light. This material, a diagram drawn by Philip Van Cortlandt (who served in Congress from 1793 to 1809), shows the chamber as a seating chart and identifies each member's desk with his name. The members' desks in the Van Cortlandt plan, like those currently in place in the restored chamber, are arranged in three concentric rows with a central aisle separating

¹Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall (INDE, March 1961), Part D, Section III, pp. 15-23. Hereafter cited as 1961 Furnishing Plan.

one half of the room from the other (see Illustration 4). However, the shape of Van Cortlandt's seating arrangement and the additional division of it by side aisles differ markedly from the reconstructed arrangement now exhibited in Congress Hall.

These differences define the impact of the Van Cortlandt plan upon the National Park Service's presentation of the historic House chamber. In order to evaluate the Van Cortlandt plan's significance for the interpretation of this room, it was compared to the historic evidence used to formulate the 1961 reconstruction of the members' seating. Secondly, the relationship of Van Cortlandt's plan to the physical realities of Congress Hall, as well as the nature of its own context (i.e. date and purpose), was studied as a means of determining the plan's plausibility.

The historic evidence used in the 1961 Furnishing Plan to reconstruct the House chamber contains no clear picture of the room's appearance during the 1790s. Period accounts of the chamber loosely describe the nature of the House seating arrangement as semicircular.² Typical of the ambiguity in eyewitness accounts of the chamber is the following, written by Englishman Henry Wansey in 1794: "The seats in three rows formed semi-circles behind each other, facing the Speaker, who was in a kind of pulpit near the centre of the radii" In

² The contemporary descriptions are: "oval form" in Columbian Centinel 23 May 1793; "three parallel semielliptick rows" in Nicholas King, "Journal of Observations & Occurrences in a Voyage from England to America in the Year 1793," typescript in the Huntington Library; "3 rows of desks, rising one above the other in the form of a semi-circle" in Theophilus Bradbury to Harriet Bradbury, 26 December 1795 reprinted in Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography 8 (1884): 226; "Four rows of chairs placed in a semi-circle" in Metchie J.E. Budka, ed., Under Their Vine and Fig Tree: Travels through America in 1797-1799 . . . by Julian Niemcewicz (Elizabeth, NJ: The Grassman Publishing Company, Inc., 1965), p.42 hereafter listed as Budka, Niemcewicz.

³David John Jeremy, ed., Henry Wansey and His American Journal, 1794 (Philadelphia, PA: American Philosophical Society, 1970), p. 96.

addition, unlike the Van Cortlandt plan, these rather generalized descriptions of the seating's shape lacks any mention of aisles in the members' seating.

Pictorial evidence of the House chamber's appearance, also discovered during the 1961 restoration, presents problems in its depiction of the room. Two contemporary cartoons, which illustrate the 1798 fist fight between Representatives Matthew Lyon and Roger Griswold in the House chamber, show the House desks in semicircular, continuous rows (see Illustrations 2 and 3). Used in conjunction with the contemporary accounts of the House chamber, the cartoons provided some broad direction for the 1961 restoration (e.g. the nature of the ingrain carpeting used in the room, window hangings, tiered arrangements of desks, and elevation of the Speaker's dais).⁴ However, both cartoons are highly suspect in their accuracy as some details contradict established fact (e.g. the orientation of the members' seating compared to the windows that is known through surviving architectural evidence, and the type of chairs used in the chamber, several of which have survived to the present day).

Research for the 1961 restoration also included a study of the limited evidence pertaining to the House seating in Congress' previous home, New York City's Federal Hall. Congress convened there from March of 1789 (its initial session) until the summer of 1790.⁵ Two of the desks used by Congress in Federal Hall, survive at the New-York Historical Society. In 1961, former INDE Curator Frederick Hanson prepared measured drawings of these desks and extrapolated from them plausible dimensions and a conjectural shape for the three

⁴See 1961 Furnishing Plan, Part D, Section III, pp. 1, 4, 10, 16-17, 40.

⁵Philadelphia then became the capital for the next decade while the new federal city (later, Washington) on the Potomac River was under development. Philadelphia had been selected as the interim capital because it was located halfway between the northern and southern sections of the country.

rows mentioned in 1794 by Wansey as being in Philadelphia's Congress Hall.⁶ However, it is not known how the original desks were arranged in the Federal Hall chamber, except that they formed two semicircular rows.⁷ Period descriptions of this chamber mention no aisles, and there are no known contemporary illustrations of the room.⁸

Together, the elements of written, pictorial, and artifactual evidence used to restore Congress Hall in 1961 form a loose framework upon which to reconstruct the members' seating arrangement. The discovery of the Van Cortlandt plan, however, requires a reevaluation of that 1961 reconstruction and a reinterpretation of the evidence used to develop it. That reinterpretation is based upon the image created by Van Cortlandt's careful observation and precise delineation of detail.

In his preparation of the plan, Van Cortlandt paid considerable attention

⁶1961 Furnishing Plan, Part D, Section III, pp. 17-19.

⁷"'at the north end is the President's [i.e. Speaker's] chair, with a very large table, projecting into the center of the room, around which are the seats for the 59 Representatives'" in The New-York Journal, 26 March 1789 and "'the chairs for the members are ranged semicircularly in two rows'" in Massachusetts Magazine, June 1789 both quoted in Louis Torres, "Federal Hall Revisited," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, 29 (December 1970): 329.

⁸Torres, p. 328. In addition, Gilbert Vincent states that "In Federal Hall, both the Senate and the House of Representatives were laid out with semi-circular rows of desks," see his "'Bold, Simple and Regular': French-inspired Neoclassicism in Federal Hall", Art & Auction 11 (April 1989): 124. Vincent advised the National Park Service on the content of its recent exhibit which illustrates the early history of Federal Hall. Former INDE Associate Curator Anne Verplanck also discussed the structure of the desks with Wendy Kaplan, author of the 1988 National Endowment for the Humanities grant proposed to develop the Federal Hall Project (an exhibit of objects associated with Federal Hall, not a refurnishing of the building), who had no further data to add to Vincent's conclusions.

to the technique of drawing.' The recto of the paper shows a pencilled grid drawn with a straight edge prior to sketching in or measuring the lines of the plan in ink (see Illustration 4). The plan's upper left and upper right corners contain precise blocks delineated by pencil lines; in those corners, the columns of desks (where a column equals three desks placed one behind the other, e.g. "I. Smith", "Blount", and "Madison" in the upper left) are all the same size. In the lower corners and middle of the drawing, the rows of desks are curved, giving the overall seating arrangement a U shape.

In addition to the precisely drawn U-shaped rows of desks, Van Cortlandt's plan depicts side aisles, an element not included in previous descriptions of the House chamber. On the plan's left, the bottom column of desks (that marked "U. Tracy", Harrison", and "Nicholas") is bordered by a pencil line and then by an empty column of desks not traced in ink. There follows an unmarked space of the same width and length as a column of desks, and then a pencil line indicating the outer edge of the center left section of desks. This structure is repeated on the right side of the drawing, except that Van Cortlandt extended the ink line denoting the front of the first row of desks down through the unmarked space, thereby joining the upper and center right seating sections. Most significantly, he crossed out this ink line that links the upper and center right sections, presumably to indicate that he had mistakenly closed off that end of the space. There are no pencil lines underneath this cross-out ink line, confirming that Van

*During his youth, Van Cortlandt trained as a surveyor with an employee on his father's estate near Croton, New York. Van Cortlandt's sepia ink drawing of the House is on laid paper that measures 18 1/16 inches wide by 14 5/16 inches long from which there is a 4 inch square fragment missing from the bottom left corner. No marks appear on the lower third of the paper, therefore it is assumed that the missing fragment has no significant value. On the reverse of the paper, Van Cortlandt wrote only "Congress Hall" and "Philadelphia". The plan is part of the Van Cortlandt family papers in the collections of the New York Public Library.

Cortlandt fully intended the area to remain blank when he first drew in the pencil grid that guided his subsequent ink lines.

The exactness of Van Cortlandt's drawing method strongly suggests that his plan was intended to be an accurate depiction of the room, and not a fanciful sketch. Therefore, its presentation of a U-shaped seating arrangement in which the left and right sections are separated from the center by unmarked, open-ended spaces that resemble side aisles must be intentional.

A U-shaped configuration with side aisles was not considered during the 1961 reconstruction because, at that time, the Van Cortlandt plan was not known and none of the surviving evidence suggested such an arrangement. National Park Service staff interpreted literally the known period references to the room and, as a result, installed a semicircular seating arrangement. Now, with the Van Cortlandt plan in mind, contemporary terms like "semi-circular", "semieliptik", and "oval" (as used to describe the House seating) project a different meaning. Though inexact, these descriptions apply well to a U-shaped plan such as that depicted by Van Cortlandt. Certainly, Wansey's 1794 account of "radii" may refer (in accordance with the true definition of radii as those lines extending from the center of a circle to its outer edge) to center and side aisles like those on the Van Cortlandt plan. Here, the two bodies of evidence complement, rather than contradict, one another as they contain varying views of the same reality.

The applicability of Van Cortlandt's plan to other eighteenth-century accounts of the House chamber is reinforced by additional historical evidence pertaining to the room. The physical characteristics of Congress Hall, itself, present a valuable source of data for checking the plausibility of Van Cortlandt's work.

When Philadelphia's Congress Hall was finished in 1790, the House chamber

sat sixty-four members (excluding the Speaker). Local cabinetmaker Thomas Affleck designed the furnishings for the House after he returned from New York, where he studied the desks previously used by the Congressmen in Federal Hall.¹⁰ By 1793, House membership (one-hundred and six, excluding the Speaker) had surpassed the capacity of the Congress Hall chamber. To meet this need, carpenters expanded the building to the south by twenty-six feet, and Affleck redesigned the House seating arrangement.¹¹ He moved the Speaker's dais from the chamber's south end to its west side, and reoriented the members' desks to face the dais.¹² The historical records of these construction projects and the surviving eighteenth-century furniture and building evidence in Congress Hall

¹⁰In 1961, Frederick Hanson studied the Affleck receipts and the surviving Federal Hall desks, but was unaware that Affleck had visited Federal Hall and examined the desks there. Since then, former INDE Associate Curator Anne Verplanck discovered the documentation for Affleck's September 1790 trip to Federal Hall and firmly established the immediate connection between the Federal Hall furniture and that made by Affleck for Congress Hall.

For documentation of Affleck's New York trip, see: Miers Fisher to Tench Coxe, 4 September 1790 ("hearing that Thomas Affleck . . . was going to New York on private Business I have advised him to view the Federal Hall & take drafts of all the Seats, Desks, & other Furniture & Accommodations, to enable him to furnish Plans with more Accuracy") and Thomas Affleck to Tench Coxe, 16 September 1790 ("Engaged me to make the Furniture nearly on the same plan with that at N York City"), Tench Coxe Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania; see also Tench Coxe to Richard Varick [Mayor of New York], 7 September 1790 ("Affleck . . . to make a similar arrangement of seats, tables, and other accommodations for the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Representatives & the Members of the two bodies"), Pierpont Morgan Library. Complete transcripts of these letters are on file in the Museum Office of Independence Park.

¹¹Historic Structures Report on Congress Hall, Part I (INDE, May 1959), Chapter II, Section 1, p. 7.

¹²A window on the east wall of the building was replaced by a door to provide this reorientation with passage to the outdoors directly from the Speaker's dais.

provide the basis for an architectural evaluation of the Van Cortlandt plan.¹³

That sufficient floor space existed in the House chamber to accommodate the seating configuration shown in Van Cortlandt's plan is confirmed by historical documentation. Although Van Cortlandt's plan contains no linear measurements, supplemental information is available from other sources. A 1790 preliminary plan of a room for Congress by Miers Fisher (a member of the city committee assigned to furnish Congress' Philadelphia home) recommends a specific row depth, individual desk width, and central aisle width for a proposed House seating arrangement (see Illustration 5).¹⁴ The Fisher plan suggests that two feet be allotted to each member for the width of his chair. The plan also recommends three feet and three inches for the area between the rows of desks in which the members could sit and/or move around. Surviving Congress Hall arm chairs (in the Independence collection) measure two feet in width and the Federal Hall desks (at the New-York Historical Society) are fourteen inches deep. Therefore, four feet and approximately six inches were required for the depth of each row of Congress Hall desks. Based on these computations, there exists enough room in the House chamber (which is forty-seven feet wide and fifty-eight feet long excluding the eight foot bay) for all the desks, the central and the side aisles included in Van Cortlandt's drawing (provided that the width of each side aisle was no

¹³The following architectural analysis was performed by John Bacon during his 1990-1 Friends of Independence National Historical Park curatorial internship.

¹⁴ "Plan of the City Hall of Philadelphia" [September 1790], Miers Fisher Papers 1775-1814, folder labeled "Philadelphia Council 1789-1790 (In regard to Securing Philadelphia as the U.S. Capital)", Historical Society of Pennsylvania. There is another copy of this plan, in the Etting Collection, Box 19, Folder 1, HSP (thanks to INDE Acting Chief of Museum Operations Doris Fanelli for this Etting reference). Fisher drew his plan as an alternate to one, now unknown, presented by his committee to the Philadelphia City Council. For a discussion of Fisher's plan, see Lee Nelson, Historic Structures Report Part 1, Supplement 1 on Old City Hall: Architectural Data Section (INDE, May 1961), pp. 5-7.

greater than that of the central aisle).

When the scaled (in the sense that it is based on the measurements discussed above) Van Cortlandt drawing is superimposed onto the floor plan of Congress Hall, the proposed elements of the drawing can be compared with the actual features of the restored chamber. Both the drawing and the architectural evidence place the Speaker's dais on the room's west side with a central aisle leading from the dais to the east entrance. Thus, the side aisles shown on Van Cortlandt's plan run from north to south. This places the side aisles on or near the pre-1793 central aisle (when the Speaker's dais stood at the south end of the original building).

It is further evident that, although he used no compass, Van Cortlandt clearly depicted curved sections in his seating plan. The carefully marked spaces near and on the curved portion of the innermost row on the lower right side of the drawing (from the point marked as "D. Foster" to that just beyond "J^r Heath") indicate that this portion of seating formed a quarter circle (see Illustration 4). When this arced bank of desks is drawn to scale (according to the measurements specified above) and placed in the chamber's northeast quadrant (formed by the intersection of the east-west central and the north-south side aisles), it may be used as a reference point for positioning the remaining desks of the Van Cortlandt plan within Congress Hall's House chamber (see Illustration 6).

As a scaled drawing, the Van Cortlandt seating plan accommodates the architectural components of the restored chamber. The plan's U-shaped seating arrangement clears the fireplace hearths located on the chamber's east wall and

leaves sufficient space for the Speaker's dais on the west side.¹⁵ Seats for at least one-hundred and ten members fit within the area bounded by the original columns that now support the mezzanine's public gallery. These columns are particularly significant in defining the architectural feasibility of the Van Cortlandt plan.

In 1790, two pairs of columns stood in the first floor House chamber. They were located in the northern and southern ends of the chamber where they supported two east-west second floor girders. The southern pair of columns stood in the midst of the area designated for members' seating, forcing Thomas Affleck to build his desks around them (see Illustration 7). When the public gallery was added to the chamber during the 1793 Congress Hall renovation, the northern pair of columns was incorporated into it. The southern pair, however, was eliminated because the system of second floor girders had changed. This removal left gaps in the banks of desks that had surrounded the southern columns.

These gaps provide a point of comparison with the Van Cortlandt plan and help to establish the plan's accuracy as a depiction of the true conditions in the House chamber. On the plan (see Illustration 4), the line that represents the back of the outermost row of desks is broken in five places. Three of these are clearly intended as aisle openings. The other two may be the gaps left by the removal of the pair of 1790 columns. A reconstructed scenario of the renovation, then, features Thomas Affleck simply refitting the 1790 desks for use in 1793. Plausibly, he left untouched the section of 1790 desks in the northeast corner of the chamber (Illustration 7, lower right), and simply moved the section

¹⁵A contemporary reported that there was a "narrow passageway between the wall of the House and the Speaker's chair [i.e. dais]," in the Philadelphia Aurora, 23 February 1798. Within this space, at various times during the 1790s, there was also seating for the press. See contemporary accounts quoted in 1961 Furnishing Plan, Part D, Section III, p. 25.

of 1790 desks from the northwest corner (Illustration 7. upper right) counterclockwise to the southeast corner. The gaps left by the now-removed 1790 columns remained, possibly as a means of access to the back rows of the 1793 members' seats.

This theory of reuse is supported by the lack of vouchers for the building of enough new desks to seat the entire 1793 House membership (i.e. one-hundred and six, excluding the Speaker). Affleck, instead, charged for only eighty feet of mahogany desks with drawers.¹⁶ Based on the 1790 Miers Fisher plan's recommended measurement of around two feet per desk, this bill suggests that Affleck built at least forty new desks in 1793. These may be the very forty-one desks depicted by Van Cortlandt in the upper right and left corners of his drawing. On Van Cortlandt's plan, these desks appear to be assembled in straight rows, without any curved sections. In addition to new desks, Affleck constructed forty-four new arm chairs for the House in 1793. There were forty-one more members of the House in 1793 than there were in 1790.

The compatibility of the Van Cortlandt plan with the process and results of the 1793 renovation in Congress Hall (like the plan's precision of execution) lends significant credibility to the drawing itself. To augment this material evidence, the context of Van Cortlandt's plan also bears directly on its applicability to the restoration of the House chamber. Although not stated literally on the plan itself, an approximate date for the plan is evident in the

¹⁶On 15 December 1793, £100 was paid to Thomas Affleck for "80 feet mahogany desks with drawers for [Congress] @ 25/". Voucher 193, "Vouchers 1793-4", State Records Office, Pennsylvania State Archives. Affleck also charged a small price for cutting and fitting the old House furniture and for adding to a table. See Ibid, £3 for "cutting and fitting up the old furniture" and Ibid, Voucher 194, for 10 January 1794 when Affleck received a payment of £3.2.6 for "an addition of 2 feet 6 Inches to a Table for Congress @ 25/". Neither of these latter charges may be specifically attached to the arrangements reflected on the Van Cortlandt plan, nor are they inconsistent with them.

aggregate of members whose names are listed there.¹⁷

Van Cortlandt (#44 on the plan, see Illustration 8) first entered the House in March, 1793 and remained there until after Congress left Philadelphia for Washington in the summer of 1800. This seven-year period serves as the earliest potential date span for the plan. The presence of certain other members on the plan's seating chart, however, permit the determination of a narrower time frame for the drawing. During Van Cortlandt's Congressional service in Philadelphia, Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg and Jonathan Dayton alternately served as Speaker. On the plan, Muhlenberg sits as #69. As a result, the Speaker (whose name is not listed on the dais) at the time of the drawing must have been Jonathan Dayton. As a result, the plan could not have been drawn any earlier than 7 December 1795, the opening date of the first session of the Fourth Congress when Dayton was first elected during Van Cortlandt's tenure. All the members of that Congress who first took their seats during the second session of the Fourth Congress (which began on 5 December 1796) are absent from the plan. Therefore, the plan must illustrate those members present during the Fourth Congress' first session which lasted from 7 December 1795 until 1 June 1796.¹⁸

During that first session, all the Representatives were seated by 24 March 1796.¹⁹ Furthermore, because the plan includes Gabriel Duvall as #75, it was

¹⁷All information on members of the Fourth Congress was taken from the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989 (Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1989), pp. 57-59.

¹⁸The plan is associated with the Fourth Congress by the editor of the Van Cortlandt family papers, but no specific date (or purpose) for the plan is suggested by him. See Jacob Judd, ed., Correspondence of the Van Cortlandt Family of Van Cortlandt Manor, 1748-1800 (Tarrytown, NY: Sleepy Hollow Restorations, 1977), pp. 555-558.

¹⁹Joseph Gales' and William Seaton's, Annals of Congress, the Debates and Proceedings of the Congress of the United States, 1789-1824 (Washington, DC: 1834-56) records the daily business of the House, including the date that each

probably drawn before or shortly after his resignation on 28 March. In addition, Duvall's replacement Richard Sprigg, Jr. (who did not take his seat until 6 May) is not listed on the plan. A third indication that the plan probably reflects the House in late winter or early spring is Van Cortlandt's inclusion of James White as #97. White was absent from Congress from mid January to mid February, when he attended the Tennessee state constitutional convention, but afterwards returned to Philadelphia and resumed his Congressional seat.

Specific absences by members after they were sworn into the House are not recorded in the Annals of Congress for this era. Therefore, Van Cortlandt's omission of six First Session, Fourth Congress members (Fisher Ames, Jeremiah Crabb, Andrew Gregg, Alexander D. Orr, Thomas Sprigg, and Absalom Tatom) from his plan cannot be pinpointed to a day when those men alone were absent.²⁰ The only other member seated during the first session who is not listed on the plan was John Richards (1st term, Pennsylvania) who took his seat on 18 January. Possibly, Richards was seated as #83 where Van Cortlandt listed "Brent", for Richard Brent who was already listed as #62. Number 83 sat next to Samuel

member arrived and was sworn into Congress. During the first session of the Fourth Congress, the last recorded arrival was that of Alexander D. Orr on February 21st. The arrival of only two members, James Gillespie and Thomas Sprigg, is not specifically noted. However, both of these men recorded their votes during a March 24th roll call. Gales and Seaton created the Annals from contemporary newspaper accounts and other sources because no official transcripts of Congressional debates existed at the time. The manuscript "Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States" documents all floor actions (bills introduced, committee work, roll call votes), but not speeches or debates. House administrative business (e.g. member absences) as recorded in the Annals is identical to that recorded in the "Journal".

²⁰According to the Annals, Fisher Ames took his seat on 9 February 1796, Jeremiah Crabb on 8 January, Andrew Gregg on 28 December 1795, Alexander D. Orr on 24 February 1796, Thomas Sprigg before 24 March, and Absalom Tatom on 7 December 1795. Sprigg may have arrived as early as 5 January; his swearing-in could have been part of the activities recorded on that day as "After disposing of the morning business" see Annals, 4th Congress, column 210.

Sitgreaves #82 (1st term, Pennsylvania) who presented John Richards' petition requesting that the seat (won by Richards' opponent, James Morris, who then died suddenly) be confirmed as Richards'. This fact and the similarity between the names "John Richards" and "Richard Brent" probably explain the reason for Van Cortlandt's two errors in identifying seats.

Based on the service records of the House members listed on it, late winter or early spring of 1796 appears to be the probable time for the creation of the Van Cortlandt plan. But, the purpose for the plan still remains unclear.

In terms of the plan's use to Van Cortlandt, the overall arrangement of the membership included in it reflects no obvious political (Federalist/anti-Federalist) or personal (family/geographic/religious/lodging) associations among the Representatives. On this point, a visitor to the House remarked in 1797 that, "They do not sit according to states but pell-mell" Furthermore, until 1845, the members drew lots for their seat assignments at the beginning of each session.²¹ However, although the order of the seats was not readily

²¹For the 1797 observation, see Budka, Niemcewicz, p. 42. By way of contrast to the House's method of seating, William Maclay proposed in 1789 that his fellow Senators, "shall immediately take their seats in circular order, those from New Hampshire occupying the right of the [Vice President's] chair, and those of Georgia the left." "William Maclay's Proposed Senate Rules" in Kenneth R. Bowling and Helen E. Veit, eds., The Diary of William Maclay and Other Notes on Senate Debates, March 4, 1789-March 3, 1791 (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), p. 403. On the drawing of lots, see George B. Galloway, History of the House of Representatives (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1961), p.48.

Despite their custom of drawing lots for seat assignments (a procedure designed to equalize the process of seating), there appears in the Van Cortlandt plan the suggestion that deference to a colleague's length of Congressional service may have played some part in the selection of members' seats. On the plan, thirteen of the nineteen 4th term (i.e. most senior) members are seated in the center and in the right sections of the first and second rows. These center seats are directly in front of the Speaker; the seats on the right, while within the Speaker's direct line of vision, are not as advantageous unless their proximity to the visitors' area outside the bar was considered important. Other senior members apparently chose their seats based on personal preference. Perhaps, for example, 4th term Representative James Madison sat on the far left

apparent to outsiders and the members' seats were randomly chosen by lot, the seating arrangement remained constant throughout each session.²² Ultimately, however, the seating pattern in the chamber changed with each election.

Without an obvious method of arrangement for the House seating, the regular turnover in membership caused by elections and substitutions due to death or resignation presented a potential source of confusion for even the most experienced Congressman. One way to keep track of the members' roster would be to sketch the room arrangement in some detail. During early 1796, apparently, Van Cortlandt found himself in need of a ready reference guide to his colleagues. His plan may represent a means for understanding the personal dynamics in the chamber at that time. The substance of the House's business, then, may hold the key to the plan's purpose.

A search through the Annals of Congress reveals the subjects of debate during the first session of the Fourth Congress. From 2 March until 29 April 1796, the House debated the appropriation of funds for the implementation of Jay's Treaty with Great Britain. These debates focused on the question of the

end of the first row because it was a natural focal point (near the Speaker) in the room that made him conspicuous when he rose to speak. The 3rd (twelve in number) and 2nd (thirty-three in number) term members are distributed throughout the chamber. Both groups are evenly split between the left and right sides of the chamber, with the majority of the former seated in the flank sections and the majority of the latter in the center. The 1st term members (thirty-four in number) are also evenly distributed, but more than half of them sit in the third row. This placement may accord with the 1st termers relative lack of status due to their unproven abilities.

²²For example, the eyewitness testimony to Matthew Lyon's fist fight with Roger Griswold on the floor of the House in early 1798 contains descriptions of the different views each Representative who testified had from his individual seat. Many witnesses named the location of their seats during the fracas as those they "usually occupied" or as "my usual seat". See "Report of Committee of Privileges on the Lyon-Griswold Affair, February 2, 1798 (INDE Catalog Number 2117); The Merchants' Daily Advertiser, 16 February 1798, p. 3; The Aurora, or, General Advertiser, 23 February 1798, pp. 2-3. Thanks to INDE Historian Anna Coxé Toogood for the references to these accounts.

House's Constitutional right to assess a treaty already ratified by the Senate and accepted by the President. This issue was the most controversial political one of that spring; in reference to it Thomas Jefferson remarked that, "All America is a tip-toe to see what the House of Representatives will decide on it."²³ At several times during the debates, supporters and detractors of the Treaty (Federalists and anti-Federalists, respectively) reached nearly equal proportions in the House.²⁴ Van Cortlandt, who favored the Treaty as "the general wish of the people of the northern and eastern states", possibly drew his plan during these debates as a means of keeping track of his colleagues and their opinions on the Treaty.²⁵

In its details, Van Cortlandt's seating plan for the House of Representatives accommodates the wide range of written, oral, artifactual, and architectural evidence associated with the Congress Hall of the 1790s. Prior to the discovery of this plan, the National Park Service concluded from the

²³Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, 21 March 1796 in Thomas Jefferson Randolph, ed., Memoir, Correspondence, and Miscellanies, From the Papers of Thomas Jefferson (Boston: Gray and Bowen, 1830), 3:323.

²⁴At one point, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg broke a forty-nine to forty-nine tie by the Committee in favor of granting the appropriation. A close vote of fifty-one in favor and forty-nine against finally passed the House at the end of April. Roll call votes pertaining to the Treaty were taken on: 24 March (Annals of Congress, columns 759-60), 31 March (columns 768-9), 6 April (column 771), 7 April (columns 782-3), 14 April (columns 974-5), and 29 April (columns 1280, 1289, 1291-2). Other roll call votes recorded during this session pertained to seamen's rights (28 March), a federal loan to the city of Washington (29 March), and naval armaments (3 April).

²⁵Philip Van Cortlandt "to the Citizens of the District, Consisting of West-Chester and Richmond Counties", 20 May 1796. Jacob Judd, ed., Correspondence of the Van Cortlandt Family of Van Cortlandt Manor, 1748-1800 (Tarrytown, NY: Sleepy Hollow Restorations, 1977), p. 569. Van Cortlandt put forth his opinion of the Treaty in this broadside when he campaigned for reelection to the House.

available historical evidence that the seating arrangement in the House of Representatives chamber formed a semicircular block. The reinterpretation of this evidence in the context of the Van Cortlandt plan, however, presents a much more detailed picture of the chamber: one in which a U-shaped seating configuration was clearly divided by side and central aisles. Although such features initially appear to contradict the shape suggested by the other eighteenth-century documentary and material evidence, they actually serve as a refinement of the broad generalizations posed by that other contemporary evidence.

Furthermore, elements of the Van Cortlandt plan suggest aspects of the House not thoroughly addressed by the current installation. The application of the Van Cortlandt plan to a specific time in House history, that of the 1796 debates regarding appropriations for Jay's Treaty, illustrates the close relationship between events and their settings. The process of discussion, argument, and consensus that took place at that pivotal time appears in the Van Cortlandt plan's three-dimensional context as the proponents of each side in the debate take their places in the chamber. As such, the significance of Philip Van Cortlandt's seating plan for the House of Representatives has acquired new meaning over time. Once a probable mnemonic device to assist its creator during a complex political debate, the plan now represents a detailed source of information for the physical restoration of the House chamber in Congress Hall. Ultimately, that revised restoration provides a deeper understanding of the events which occurred there.

FURNISHING PLAN
FOR THE
FIRST FLOOR OF CONGRESS HALL
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Supplement 2

Architectural Analysis
of the
Historic Philip Van Cortlandt Seating Plan

Prepared by

Thomas Clinton McGimsey
Associate Historical Architect

Independence National Historical Park
March 31, 1995

PLEASE RETURN TO:

TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Table of Contents:

List of Illustrations.....	iii
Acknowledgements.....	v
Introduction.....	1

Chapter 1:

General Chronology of Construction Activity in the House Chamber in Congress Hall

a. Late 18th-century Construction and Modification.....	4
1. Construction of the Building, 1787-1789.....	4
2. Renovations for Federal Congress, 1790.....	5
3. Enlargement of 1793.....	6
b. Return to County Court Use After 1800.....	7
1. Major Interior Alterations of 1818.....	8
c. Restoration Activities.....	8
1. Investigations and Restoration, 1900-1913.....	8
2. Restoration of Platforms and Dais, 1934.....	10
3. Investigations and Restoration by National Park Service, 1959-1961.....	11
4. Evaluation of the Van Cortlandt Drawing, 1992.....	13

Chapter 2:

Specific Evidence Relating to the Design of the House Seating

a. Architectural Features of the House Chamber.....	15
b. Preparations for Congress, 1790.....	16
1. Miers Fisher Drawing of Old City Hall, September 1790.....	22
2. Evolution of House Membership.....	24
c. Descriptive Evidence.....	25
1. Written Descriptions of the House Chamber, 1790-1800.....	25
2. Graphic Evidence.....	27
3. Physical Evidence.....	29
d. Summary of Pertinent Historical Data.....	32

Chapter 3:

Architectural Analysis of the
Van Cortlandt Drawing

a.	Strategy for Analysis.....	33
1.	Graphic Analysis.....	33
2.	Diagrammatic Representation of the Van Cortlandt Drawing.....	35
b.	Review of Pertinent Historical Data.....	37
1.	Written Descriptions.....	37
2.	Dimensions of Desks and Platforms.....	39
c.	Synthesis of Evidence.....	40
1.	Reconstructing the House Chamber of 1790-1793.....	41
2.	Reconstructing the House Chamber of 1793-1800.....	43

Appendix I:

Design of the United States Capitol.....	46
Illustrations.....	49
Bibliography.....	65

List of Illustrations

1. "Perspective View, Restored House Chamber-
First Floor Congress Hall" by Frederick Hanson,
1961. Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of
Congress Hall, (Independence National Historical
Park, March 1961).....49
2. Congress Hall, Plan of First Floor as Restored
in 1961, drawn by Tom McGimsey, 1995.....50
3. "Congressional Pugilists...Congress Hall in
Philada Feb.15.1798" in William Cobbett,
House of Wisdom in a Bustle, 1798. Independence
National Historical Park, Catalog #6078.....51
4. "Cudgeling as by late Act in Congress,
USA..." 1798.....52
5. "Plan of the City Hall of Philadelphia
as it may be laid out...for the Representatives
of the United States", September 1790. Miers Fisher
Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.....53
6. Photograph of "Long Table", used by Congress
in Federal Hall in New York City, 1789-1790.
New York Historical Society.....54
7. Congress Hall, Plan of First Floor 1790-1793,
drawn by Tom McGimsey, 1995.....55
8. Congress Hall, Plan of First Floor 1793-1800,
drawn by Tom McGimsey, 1995.....56
9. Congress Hall, Plan of First Floor 1934-1959,
drawn by Tom McGimsey, 1995.....57
10. Plan for the House of Representatives, 1796,
drawn by Philip Van Cortlandt. Van Cortlandt Papers,
New York Public Library.....58
11. Interpretation of Graphic Evidence in Van
Cortlandt Drawing, drawn by Tom McGimsey, 1995.....59
12. Laying Out Desks in Congress Hall 1790-1793 Period,
drawn by Tom McGimsey, 1995.....60
13. Proposed Plan of House Seating 1790-1793,
drawn by Tom McGimsey, 1995.....61
14. Proposed Plan of House Seating 1793-1800,

	drawn by Tom McGimsey, 1995.....	62
15.	Competition Entry for the United States Capitol, July 1792, Stephen Hallet. (Library of Congress).....	63
16.	Design for the United States Capitol, October 1792, Stephen Hallet. (Library of Congress).....	63
17.	Plan Showing Design of House of Representatives Chamber in the United States Capitol, 1804, Benjamin Henry Latrobe. (Library of Congress).....	64
18.	Plan of the Principal Story of the United States Capitol, 1806, Benjamin Henry Latrobe. (Library of Congress).....	64

Acknowledgements

The restoration of Congress Hall, the earliest surviving home of the United States Congress, will probably never be complete. Devoted historical architects, historians and curators will undoubtedly continue to discover previously unknown or unrecognized sources of additional historical information that will refine or redefine the prevailing interpretation of the building. There is a perceptible tradition at Independence National Historical Park which encourages among its staff a profound curiosity about the resources under their care. Occasionally, enough significant new information is assembled to warrant a reinterpretation of a building's history or to change some aspect of its restoration.

Such has been the case with the interpretation of the House of Representatives Chamber in Congress Hall. The space was last restored in 1961 after extensive research produced a wealth of clues but no hard evidence describing the actual architectural shape of the House members' seating arrangement. Subsequent to that restoration, additional information has surfaced, most notably a drawing by Federal period Congressman Philip Van Cortlandt showing a seating plan in the House Chamber. An examination of this document in 1992 by Associate Curator Karie Diethorn resulted in an effort by herself and Museum Intern John Bacon to factor its features into the interpretation of the House Chamber. Their work in turn led to the analysis of the architectural aspects of the drawing contained in this report.

The following analysis of Van Cortlandt's drawing was assisted by virtually the entire staff of the Cultural Resources Management Division at Independence National Historical Park. Chief Historical Architect William D. Brookover provided critical support and encouragement. Historian Anna Cox Toogood was always available with her deep knowledge of Philadelphia's history and its archival resources. Karie Diethorn, now Chief Curator, gave her continuous support and attention to the development of this report. Doris Fanelli, Chief of the Division Cultural Resources Management, provided support and resources to pursue the required research and to fully document the findings in this report.

In addition to the current staff of the park, many former staff members offered guidance and insight into the dynamic of the 1961 restoration project. Former INDE Historical Architect Penelope Hartshorne Batcheler, intimately involved in that previous restoration, provided inspiration as well as insight into interpreting the historical evidence.

This will not be the last report written about the House of Representatives Chamber in Congress Hall. Later researchers will locate historical evidence that will either refine, corroborate or refute the findings of this report. This writer has endeavored to construct this report in a clear and concise manner to aid those future researchers in their efforts.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of an intensive architectural analysis of the Van Cortlandt drawing and to document the methods by which the information contained in this unique document were combined with data from numerous other sources to more accurately portray the interior design of the House of Representatives chamber of Congress Hall.

When the architects, curators and historians at Independence National Historical Park labored to restore Congress Hall during the late 1950s, a tremendous amount of information was assembled from a combination of sources. Intensive archival research uncovered official records covering the construction and renovation of the building and its interior appointments. Letters, diaries and newspaper accounts were located which described the building and the events which transpired there. The building itself revealed detailed information as its fabric was carefully studied and documented. In addition, the photos, notes and drawings of Congress Hall's 1900-1912 restoration were studied.

The product of that team's efforts was the total restoration of the building including the refurnishing of the chambers of both houses of Congress and their adjacent support spaces. The many discoveries and decisions which supported the restoration were documented in historic structure reports and historic furnishings plans. The thoroughness with which these documents were prepared have inspired great confidence in the accuracy of

Congress Hall's restoration. In addition, these reports carefully document the degree to which the physical realization of some features of the restoration were based on educated conjecture and interpolation. This has allowed for incremental improvement to the building's interpretation as new information has been found.

It was in this spirit of improvement that the interpretation of the Van Cortlandt drawing was pursued. In 1992, Associate Curator Karie Diethorn and Museum Intern John Bacon focused their attention on the existing interpretation of the House of Representatives Chamber. They examined a number of archival documents that had come to light subsequent to the completion of the 1961 restoration, in particular a drawing by Philip Van Cortlandt, a Federal period Congressman, depicting a seating plan for the House Chamber. This drawing was unknown to the 1961 restoration team until most of the work was complete, including the platforms and desks in the House Chamber. Other than a pair of 18th century cartoons, no graphic representation of the House chamber had been located to guide the restoration. Van Cortlandt's drawing, while somewhat crude and diagrammatic, represents the only graphically descriptive evidence about the plan of the Representatives' desks.

In the course of their research, Diethorn and Bacon developed a strong case for revising the existing layout of the House members' desks.¹ To their credit, they recognized that the

¹Karie Diethorn, Associate Curator and John Bacon, Friends of Independence National Historical Park Museum Intern, Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall, Supplement

drawing contained clues describing the plan of the House desks prior to the building's enlargement in 1793. In the following report, the author has attempted to carefully refine the architectural implications of the premise established by Diethorn and Bacon and to make a strong clear case for a reinterpretation of the House Chamber that encompasses the information distilled from the Van Cortlandt drawing.

1, A Study of the Historic Philip Van Cortlandt Seating Plan and its Impact on the Refurnishing of the House of Representatives Chamber, Independence National Historical Park, September 1992. Hereafter cited as 1992 Furnishing Plan, Supplement 1.

Chapter 1

General Chronology of Construction Activity in the House Chamber in Congress Hall

a. Late 18th-century Construction and Modification:

The construction history of Congress Hall is fully explained and documented in the historic structure report of 1960.²

a.1. Construction of the Building, 1787-1789:

Occupying a site on the southeast corner of Sixth and Chestnut Street, the building referred to as Congress Hall was constructed from 1787 to 1789 to house the courts and offices of the County of Philadelphia. The intention to locate such a structure next to the Pennsylvania State House was demonstrated as early as 1736 when properties on either side of the new State House were acquired by Andrew Hamilton.³ Hamilton envisioned a monumental range of governmental buildings, symmetrically arranged with the Pennsylvania State House at its center. (This scheme was not fully realized until the completion of Old City Hall in 1791).

Described as "lately finished" on March 27, 1789,⁴ the new county court house was deemed to be a great asset to the city.

²Historic Structure Report on Congress Hall, Part I (INDE, May 1959).

³His plan was that "two public Buildings are to be erected, of like outward Form (sic), Structure and Dimensions, the one for the Use of the County, and the other for the Use of the City of Philadelphia and are to be for the Holding of Courts, or Common Halls, and not for Private Dwellings." Pa. Archives, Ser. VIII, v. III, 1736, 2355-56.

⁴Stat. at Large of Pa., XIII, 277.

Very little documentation has been found to describe the interior appointments of the building prior to its subsequent use by Congress, however it is likely that the first floor consisted of a stair hall and a single large court room. Within the court room stood four large wood columns which supported the second floor structure above.

a.2. Renovations for Federal Congress, 1790:

When preparations were being made to accommodate the Federal Government in Philadelphia in 1790, the new court house was selected as the structure most suitable as the venue for both houses of Congress. Other structures considered for this use included the new City Hall, then under construction on the opposite side of the State House from the county court house, and the State House itself. There was also some interest in the construction of a new building for Congress, a proposal which got little support from the thrifty local legislators.

Once the decision was made to house Congress in the new court house, the building was quickly refitted in time for the start of the Third Session of the First Congress on December 6, 1790. Over a period of less than three months, the court furnishings were removed and the interior of the building was modified and refurnished. In the House Chamber, a new raised gallery was constructed for visitors. Raised platforms were built for the Speaker of the House and for the members' seating. Fine mahogany desks and upholstered arm chairs were provided for the

members in addition to the tables and chairs made for the Speaker and for the clerks.

a.3. Enlargement of 1793:

In 1793, in order to accommodate the increase in the membership of the House of Representatives, Congress Hall was enlarged. The south wall of the original structure was removed and the overall building was lengthened 27'-7" to the south. As in the original construction, a large roughly octagonal bay was built in the new southern wall. On the inside, the House of Representatives Chamber was likewise lengthened by the same 27'-7". The use of trussed walls and iron hangers in the structure of the roof and second floor made possible the removal of the southern pair of wood columns of the House Chamber and the creation of a nearly column-free space in which to arrange the enlarge group of members' desks and chairs.⁵ The Speaker's platform was moved to the west wall and a new doorway directly opposite in the east wall led into the portico, a vestibule space reserved for House members.⁶ As in 1790, a tremendous amount of work seems to have been accomplished in a relatively short amount

⁵The location of the southern pair of columns and the timing of their removal is well established. A photo taken in 1961 during the last restoration shows the underside of the 1787 girder initially supported on these columns. Based on strong physical evidence, the restoration architects concluded that the columns were in place from 1787 until their removal in 1793. INHP photo #157.1178.

⁶Columbian Centinel, (Boston), May 22, 1793. This reference will be discussed more fully in Chapter 2.

of time.⁷

b. Return to County Use After 1800:

There were no other major alterations to the ground floor of Congress Hall until after the Federal Government moved to Washington, D.C. in 1800. At that time, the building returned to court use. The interior furnishings of the House of Representatives had been commissioned and paid for by the State of Pennsylvania and so were not taken to Washington. Instead, many of these furnishings were taken to Lancaster to be used in the Temporary quarters of the state government. It appears that many, if not all, of the Representatives' desks were left in Philadelphia.⁸ It is likely that the raised platforms for the Speaker's chair and House members' desks were removed as soon as Congress left. Their shape and orientation would have rendered them useless for the county court's purposes.

⁷This renovation was begun after the close of the Second Session of the Second Congress on March 2, 1793 and was largely completed by the opening of the First Session of the Third Congress on December 6, 1793.

⁸As late as 1812, Charles Willson Peale described seeing remnants of these desks still in storage. "...furniture left here consists of some long mahogany Tables of the form of a segment of a Circle, & some chairs, all of which I see packed with care in the East wing up stairs..." C.W. Peale, MSS, Letter-Books, XII, 54-55 (March 3, 1812), American Philosophical Society. For a detailed discussion of the fate of the Congress Hall furniture, see Furnishing Plan for the Second Floor of Congress Hall, Parts A-D (Independence National Historical Park, 1965).

At some point between 1800 and 1818, the interior space of the former House Chamber was further altered. The raised gallery was removed and a pair of offices were carved out of the northern end of the former legislative chamber.⁹

b.1. Major Interior Alteration of 1818:

In 1818, a major interior alteration was carried out on Congress Hall. The stairways were removed from the north vestibule. An east-west hallway was inserted across the center of the first floor and a new entrance was cut into the western wall along Sixth Street. A stairway was inserted into the new cross hall and two large court rooms were created to the north and south of the new hallway. These changes obliterated the space that had comprised the House of Representatives Chamber. However, much of the original building fabric was left in place or reused during these alterations, allowing for the room's eventual restoration.

c. Restoration Activities:

c.1. Investigation and Restoration 1900-1913:

By the end of the 19th-century, Congress Hall was in very poor condition. The Committee of Thirteen of the Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America had led efforts to restore the old Senate Chamber in the second floor in 1895.¹⁰

⁹See Historic Structure Report, Part II, Architectural Data Section on Congress Hall, Independence National Historical Park, April 1960. Chapter II, Section II, p. 83.

¹⁰Pa. Mag. Hist. and Bioq., Vol. XXII, p. 252.

No restoration work was performed on the first floor of the building at that time.

In 1900 a committee was formed of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects to study Congress Hall's condition and its history and to plan for its restoration. The members of this committee undertook an extensive analysis of the building's architectural fabric and concluded that there was sufficient information left on which to base an accurate restoration.¹¹ These investigations uncovered evidence for the restoration of the northern stair vestibule with its twin stairways, the visitors' gallery for the House Chamber and the 18th-century locations for the wood columns in the House Chamber. The building was substantially restored in 1912-1913 under the guidance of the A.I.A. Committee.

The restoration of the raised platforms for the members' desks was not attempted at that time, although the original 18th-century flooring had been found to survive and showed the shape and location of the platforms and the outer bar.¹² The A.I.A.

¹¹"Committee Report of the Philadelphia Chapter A.I.A., in re: The Restoration of Congress Hall", March 1, 1901, Independence National Historical Park Archives, Records of the Architectural Office, late 1940s-1950s.

¹²"...upon removing some modern flooring, parts of the original floor of the house...were disclosed, clearly indicating the location at the western side of the hall of the Speaker's platform and elsewhere of the bar of the house, which seems to have described a curve enclosing the last row of seats...Feeling that except as their shape in plan, a restoration of the platforms and the bar would be merely conjectural, the Committee decided not to attempt it." Taken from "An Address Upon the Occasion of the Reopening of Congress Hall after its Restoration", delivered October 25, 1913 by Frank Miles Day,

committee members decided that there was insufficient information about the appearance of the desks and railings upon which to base their restoration.¹³ One small section of the original flooring was left in place along the west wall. The A.I.A. members believed that this was the location of the Speaker's platform.¹⁴ Unfortunately, the A.I.A. members failed to detect the location of the 1793 doorway to the portico. This doorway had been filled in and replaced with a window, presumably when the portico was demolished.

c.2. Restoration of Platforms and Dais, 1934:

After its 1912-1913 restoration, Congress Hall was used to house various historical artifacts and the House Chamber was used to exhibit a collection of paintings depicting historical scenes. In 1928 Independence Hall Curator Wilfred Jordan began to research the design and construction of the furnishings used by Congress during the 1790's. Jordan was aware of the Federal Hall desks which survived in New York City and attempted to trace

A.I.A. in charge of the restoration. Independence National Historical Park Manuscript Collection, E.M.Yardley Papers, Cat. #4568.

¹³The physical evidence found on the 18th-century flooring was documented in photos and drawings by the A.I.A. committee, however this documentation cannot be found. Without the benefit of examining the physical evidence, it is impossible to know what the members of the A.I.A. actually saw. They may have misinterpreted evidence from courtroom furnishings which existed before 1790 or after 1800.

¹⁴The evidence on this flooring is documented in INHP photo #6288.

their connection to the desks used in Congress Hall.¹⁵

Jordan's efforts culminated in the construction, in 1934, of a raised platform for the Speaker of the House and raised platforms for the House members' seating. The drawings for this restoration were prepared under the guidance of the Philadelphia Chapter of the A.I.A. Horace Wells Sellers, longtime chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments of the Philadelphia Chapter of the A.I.A. was actively involved in the design of this restoration.¹⁶ The platforms and the curving bar were finally constructed in 1934 but the desks and chairs were never constructed. The House Chamber remained in this condition until the National Park Service began to study the building in the late 1950s and reached different conclusions about the size, shape and position of the House seating.

c.3. Investigations and Restoration
by the National Park Service, 1959-1961:

In 1959, the staff of Independence National Historical Park undertook an extensive study and analysis of Congress Hall. Additional archival documentation was located enabling the park's staff to refine many aspects of the building's restoration. In

¹⁵The correspondence files from Wilfred Jordan's tenure as Independence Hall Curator contain many letters tracing his research into this subject. These files are housed in the offices of the Cultural Resources Management Division at Independence National Historical Park.

¹⁶Ibid. The correspondence files of Wilfred Jordan also contain many letters from Horace Wells Sellers which, when combined with the drawings from the 1934 restoration, confirm the source of the design for this restoration attempt.

particular, a much clearer picture emerged about the layout of the House Chamber. It was found that when the portico had been built in 1793, a new door had been cut through the east wall of Congress Hall. The center aisle through the House members' seating led directly from this door to the Speaker's platform at the western wall. These facts make it clear that the 1934 reconstruction of the platforms and Speaker's dais were incorrect. Unfortunately, other than a pair of cartoons, no specific graphic or physical evidence was located describing the plan of the House seating.¹⁷

In 1961, INDE Curator Fred Hanson designed a detailed restoration plan for the House Chamber. Hanson relied heavily on the written descriptions of the House from the 18th-century that consistently referred to three concentric rows of desks in the shape of a semi-circle or semi-ellipse.¹⁸ All of the desks in Hanson's scheme are curved and there are no side aisles. In detailing the House desks, Hanson synthesized information from the surviving Federal Hall desks, surviving examples of Federal

¹⁷Great effort was made to locate surviving Congress Hall furnishings however none of the House or Senate members' desks were found. In 1978, an interesting desk was purchased by INDE through an auction house in New York. Curator Charles Dorman believed that this desk could have come from the Congress Hall House Chamber. While it is stylistically related to the "Declaration Desk" and it appears to have been a part of a larger curving ensemble, its provenance could not be established and so its origins remain a mystery. Nevertheless, this desk contains many intriguing features and deserves further study. It is INDE Cat. # 11,687 and it is currently stored in the Second Bank Storage Area A.

¹⁸The 18th-century references to the House seating will be more fully described in Chapter 2.

period Philadelphia writing desks and the detailing of the so-called "Declaration Desk".¹⁹ The design of the curved bar around the back of the platforms combined information drawn from the detailing of the House Chamber's wainscoting and other interior joinery.

c.4. Evaluation of the Van Cortlandt Drawing, 1992:

When the 1961 restoration was nearly complete, a drawing by Philip Van Cortlandt was brought to the attention of the restoration team at Congress Hall. This drawing, available too late to impact the design of the 1961 installation, appeared to show a seating design with both curved and straight desks and side aisles. For unknown reasons, the architectural implications of the Van Cortlandt drawing were not explored until 1992 when Associate Curator Karie Diethorn and Museum Intern John Bacon attempted to date the drawing and to discern its architectural implications.²⁰

In the course of their investigations, Diethorn and Bacon were able to carefully establish that Van Cortlandt made the

¹⁹The "Declaration Desk" (INDE Cat. # 11827) is one of the few pieces of Federal period furniture that had survived many decades of use by the state government in Lancaster and Harrisburg. By the middle of the 19th-century it was erroneously believed to have been in use during the signing of the Declaration of Independence, hence its moniker "Declaration Desk". In 1867, it was sent to Philadelphia and exhibited in Independence Hall.

²⁰1992 Furnishing Plan, Supplement 1.

drawing between late winter and early spring of 1796.²¹ In addition, they noticed that the two sections of desks in the drawing that were mostly curved contained approximately the same number of seats as were required prior to the enlargement of 1793. They also knew that only a small number of desks were purchased during the 1793 renovation. From this realization, Diethorn and Bacon established the likelihood that large portions of the seating plan from 1790-93 were repositioned in 1793 and augmented with additional straight desks. The investigations described in this report have sought to more fully explore the architectural implications of their initial findings.

²¹Ibid, p. 14.

Chapter 2: Specific Evidence Relating to the Design of the House Seating

In order to assess the architectural impact of the Van Cortlandt drawing on the interpretation of the House of Representatives Chamber, the author reexamined all of the available information. After studying the history of Congress Hall and the voluminous records relating to its construction and renovations, it became apparent that there were very few direct references to the design or construction of the members' desks in the House Chamber. The following chapter describes the pieces of the historical record found by the author to provide pertinent information on which to base a plausible design for the seating plan.

a. Architectural Features of the House Chamber:

Most of the interior features of the House Chamber in Congress Hall are well documented and can be used to create an architectural backdrop for the seating plan. The current configuration of the room represents the period 1793-1800. Since Van Cortlandt apparently drew the sketch in 1796, it should be compatible with the existing space.

It is well established that the speaker's dais was located on the west side of the chamber. A major aisle ran through the member's seating directly from the dais to a doorway in the east wall. This was an important doorway, leading into the Portico, or Lobby room. There were two wood columns at the northern end of

the room supporting the raised gallery. Somewhere to the north of these columns stood the railing that separated the visitors' lower gallery from the floor area reserved for House business. Considering the location of the western column of the pair, it would undoubtedly have impacted any arrangement of the desks and platforms placed in the room.

Other features of the space that may have impacted the design of the seating include the numerous fireplaces with open stove inserts, the southern bay and its flanking pair of doorways (See Illustration # 8).

While considering the design of the room during the period 1793-1800, it is valuable to reflect on its design prior to the building's enlargement in 1793 (See Illustration #7). During this period there were two additional columns in the room supporting the Senate chamber above. The seating plan of 1790-1793 would have been carefully fitted within these columns.

b. Preparations for Congress, 1790

Numerous letters survive which portray the political dealings that brought the national government to Philadelphia in 1790. Among these letters are a few that describe the activities which culminated in Congress Hall being ready to receive Congress on December 6, 1790. The decision to refit the new court house was not made until the beginning of September of that year. This left less than three months in which to plan and carry out the work necessary for accommodating the Senate, House of

Representatives and their various support spaces. Once this decision was made, however, there was little time wasted.

The most challenging aspect of the renovations to the new court house that faced the Philadelphia commissioners was undoubtedly the creation of a suitable chamber of the House of Representatives. Within the existing architectural envelope of the first floor courtroom, they were required to devise a seating arrangement that contained enough desks and chairs for each Representative. When the federal government moved to Philadelphia in 1790, for the second term of the First Congress, the House of Representatives contained sixty-five.²² Since one member occupied the Speaker's chair, there had to be desks for sixty-four members in the original 1790 plan. By the end of the Second Congress in March 1793, the House contained two additional members. These two seats were either added during the Second Congress or were included when Congress Hall was initially fitted for Congress.

From a related series of letters, it is possible to piece together the development of the project. On September 4, 1790, Miers Fisher, a member of the committee formed by the Philadelphia city corporation to prepare Congress' accommodations, wrote a letter to Tench Coxe, another Philadelphian who was assistant to the Secretary of the

²²All information on the size of the Federal Congress was taken from the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989 (Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office, 1989), pp. 51-56.

U.S.Treasury serving in New York. This letter provides invaluable insight into the history of the House Chamber.

Philada Sept 4 1790

My dear Friend

Yesterday a Committee of the Corporation, (Quorum unus ego) waited on the Members of Congress for Pennsylvania to view the public Buildings in this City to determine which of these should be fitted up for the accommodation of that Body, & they chose the County Court House as in their Opinion perfectly adequate to the necessary Purposes for both Houses--The Committee ordered to lay a Run & Estimates of the necessary Alterations & Furniture before the board. I have in my Head a tolerable Recollection of the Plan of both Houses at New York from whence I have sketched out Plans for our Buildings, but when one comes to lay down so complex a thing on Paper mostly from the Memory one will find many things that we have not accurately attended to; this is my Case & I intended to have supplied the Deficient Parts with the help of the Committee from our own Inventions; but hearing that Thomas Affleck (whom thou must know to be one of the finest[?] Cabinet Makers here) was going to New York on private Business I have advised him to view the Federal Hall & take drafts of all the Seats, Desks, & other Furniture & Accomdations, to enable him to furnish Plans with more Accuracy; as he will stand as fair a Chance for the Job as any other Person he agrees to take his Instruments & bring Away Drafts of what he shall think necessary...

I recommend him to thy best Advice & I am
thy affectionate Friend
Miers Fisher²³

A few days later, Tench Coxe wrote a letter to the mayor of New York requesting permission for Affleck's visit.

Sir.

The Bearer, Mr. Thomas Affleck, a citizen of Philadelphia, being here on his present business is desirous

²³Letter of September 4, 1790, Miers Fisher, Philadelphia to Tench Coxe, New York. Tench Coxe Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

of taking a sketch of the Halls of the Senate and House of Representatives for the use of some of his friends in our Corporation. The purpose for which it may be wanted is to make a similar arrangement of seats, tables, and other accommodations for the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Representatives and the Members of the two bodies-if it is agreeable to you I request the favor of your permission for Mr. Affleck's viewing the Apartments.

I am, sir
very respectfully
your obedt & hum Serv t
Tench Coxe²⁴

Later that same month, Thomas Affleck wrote a letter to Tench Coxe in which he further describes the events in Philadelphia:

Felidae 16 Sept 1790

Sir

...I have presented the Drafts of the Federal hall for which I took at New York; to the Corporation of this City and mentioned to them your Friendly assistance in procuring me Liberty from the Mayor to take so minute a measurement of Each apartment and furniture with which they are much pleased they have already pulled down all the Inside of the new Court house and are going on with great spirit to fit it up in the best and most Comodious manner and have Engaged me to make the Furniture nearly on the same plan with that at N York City-the new City Hall goes on Rapidly and by the time you Remove this will make a handsome figure and I hope will meet your Aprobation

I am with Esteem Yours

Thos Affleck²⁵

A record of expenses incurred during the 1790 renovations of Congress Hall survive and show that Affleck was indeed paid for

²⁴Letter of September 7, 1790. Tench Coxe, Treasury Office, to Richard Varick, Mayor of New York. Pierpont Morgan Library.

²⁵Letter of September 16, 1790. Thomas Affleck, Philadelphia, to Tench Coxe, New York. Tench Coxe Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

providing a significant amount of furniture.²⁶ Out of a total expenditure of slightly over 2,200 pounds, Affleck was paid 469 pounds, 6 shillings. It is generally assumed that this amount covered the construction of all of the desks and chairs for the members of both houses of Congress in addition to several desks and chairs for the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and their respective secretaries. Considering the sheer quantity of furniture produced and installed in less than three months, it is likely that Affleck engaged the help of other cabinet shops in addition to relying on the craftsmen from his own shop. It is also likely that, in hurrying to design and build this furniture, the craftsmen minimized the complexity of form and ornamentation.

Payment vouchers also survive which document the expansion of Congress Hall in 1793. On December 15, 1793, Affleck was paid 100 pounds for "80 feet of mahogany desks with drawers for [Congress] @ 25/."²⁷ On January 10, 1794, an additional payment went to Affleck for "an addition of 2 feet 6 inches to a Table for Congress @ 25."²⁸ The lack of payments for any additional desks strongly suggests that the House furniture from 1790 was

²⁶Disbursements Paid for Fitting Up Congress Hall in 1790, from manuscript at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg. A complete transcript of this document can be found in Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall (INDE, March 1961), Appendix B, pp. 1-2.

²⁷Voucher 193, "Vouchers 1793-94", State Records Office, Pennsylvania State Archives.

²⁸Ibid, Voucher 194.

not replaced during the 1793 expansion, rather it was reused and augmented with new desks.²⁹

Of the furniture supplied by Affleck, the only known survivors are a few of the secretaries' desks and approximately fifty of the members' upholstered arm chairs. The so-called "Declaration Desk" was brought back to Philadelphia from Harrisburg in 1867, having been thought to date from the pre-Revolutionary period.³⁰ A similar desk, known as the "Secretary's Desk", is also attributed to Affleck.³¹ A portion of a third desk was found in York, Pennsylvania and brought to INDE in 1964.³² Together with the arm chairs, these desks help to describe the design and detailing that was used in the original construction of the House of Representatives desks in 1790.³³

²⁹The case for this interpretation of the archival evidence was well stated in the 1992 Furnishing Report, Supplement 1.

³⁰INDE Cat. No. 11827. This desk is now exhibited in the Senate Chamber on the second floor of Congress Hall.

³¹INDE Cat. No. 11829. The "Secretary's Desk" is currently exhibited in the Secretary's Office on the second floor of Congress Hall.

³²INHP Cat. No. 4184. This is the "Rupp Desk", purchased from an elderly woman in York, Pennsylvania. It had been in use in use in the State Capitol in Harrisburg until the mid-19th-century. It consists of one bank of drawers from a desk that was identical to the "Declaration Desk". On the bottom of one of its drawers was found a chalk sketch which is believed to represent the design of the Senate Chamber dais railing. The "Rupp Desk" is currently stored in the Second Bank Storage Room A.

³³For a thorough analysis of the history and construction of the surviving Congress Hall furnishings, see Furnishing Plan for the Second Floor of Congress Hall, Part D (Independence National Historical Park, 1965).

b.1. Miers Fisher Drawing of Old City Hall:

Another source of information about the dimensions required for the design of the House desks is a document produced during the period of debate about a suitable site for Congress. One drawing has survived dating from the same period as the letters described above (See Illustration # 5).³⁴ This drawing shows a proposal for housing the House of Representatives in the City Hall building, now known as Old City Hall. It was drawn during September 1790, and probably predates Miers Fisher's letter of September 4, since it appears that the decision had not yet been made to use the new county court building for Congress. In this drawing, there are curved rows of desks for the members on raised platforms. There are a few steps up to the rear curved bar leading to a center aisle.

The Speaker's platform in Fisher's drawing is located in the southern octagonal bay and there are corner fireplaces inserted into each corner of the room. The text of the drawing gave appropriate dimensions for the widths of the aisles and desks and the necessary clearances between the desks. Fisher stated that a width of 20-24" for each desk was sufficient. In fact, the surviving Congress Hall armchairs measure approximately 24" in width.³⁵ Fisher further stated that he had left a passage of 3'

³⁴"Plan of the City Hall of Philadelphia as it may be laid out...for the Representatives of the United States", September 1790. Miers Fisher Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

³⁵In 1959 Museum Curator Vernon Tancil measured all of the Congress Hall chairs then in the INHP collection. He found that the widths of the seats varied from 23-1/2" to 24-5/16". See

for the center aisle and a clearance of 3'-3" between the rows of desks. The corner fireplaces may have been intended to make the room resemble the House of Representatives Chamber in Federal Hall, described as having a roughly octagonal shape.³⁶

Another aspect of Fisher's drawing that deserves discussion concerns the seating capacity specified for the room. As drawn the room accommodates, "96 Chairs for the Representatives of the United States, or in the Case of need by putting the Chairs nearer together 106- as 2f are allowed for each Chair whereas 20 Inches is sufficient."³⁷ It is significant that in 1790 there were only sixty-five members in the House of Representatives. The First Federal Census, taken in 1790, was expected to increase the House membership significantly for the Third Federal Congress in 1793. The fact that Miers Fisher made the claim that this 1790 plan could seat 106 members is noteworthy since the Third Federal Congress actually had 106 members.³⁸

Miers Fisher's drawing of 1790 offers two important types of information. The dimensions given for the desks and aisles

Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall, Independence National Historical Park, 1959. Appendix C, pp. 1-2.

³⁶For descriptions of the House of Representatives in Federal Hall, see Louis Torres, "Federal Hall Revisited," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, 29 (December 1970):329.

³⁷"Plan of the City Hall of Philadelphia as it may be laid out...for the Representatives of the United States", September 1790. Miers Fisher Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

³⁸Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-1989, Bicentennial Edition (United States Government Printing Office, 1989), pp. 55-56.

provide crucial data on which to base a reconstruction. The fact that Fisher was looking ahead to the inevitable increase in the number of House members in 1793 may also suggest that the expansion of the House Chamber in 1793 was methodically planned and executed. It could be argued that the interior renovations to Congress Hall in 1790 were simply the first phase of a plan which was not fully carried out until 1793. In other words, in 1790 the designers of the House Chamber and its furnishings anticipated the building's eventual enlargement of 1793.

b.2. Evolution of House Membership

One of the key pieces of information concerning the design of the House Chamber is the number of Congressmen who were accommodated in the chamber. When the Third Session of the First Congress convened in Congress Hall on December 6, 1790, there were sixty-five members.³⁹ Since one House member served as the Speaker, there should have been desks for sixty-four members. By the end of the Second Session of the Second Federal Congress on March 2, 1793, there were sixty-seven members requiring at least sixty-six desks. At the start of the First Session of the Third Congress on December 2, 1793, after the expansion of Congress Hall, there were 105 members and one delegate from the territory that eventually became the state of Tennessee.

At the time of Van Cortlandt's drawing, in 1796, there should have been desks and chairs for at least 105 members. Of

³⁹Ibid, pp. 51-56.

these 105 desks, at least sixty-six were in existence prior to the 1793 enlargement and thirty-nine were added in 1793. The sixty-six earlier desks would therefore have been installed in the House Chamber when it was much smaller and contained the four columns described in Chapter 1. It should be possible to distill from Van Cortlandt's drawing the desks from the earlier period.

c. Descriptive Evidence

The archival evidence referenced above generally describes the planning and construction of the House furnishings. Other pieces of evidence have been examined that describe the appearance of the House Chamber after its construction.

c.1. Written Descriptions of the House Chamber, 1790-1800:

A number of historical references have been located that contain descriptions of the House of Representatives in Congress Hall. On the eve of the enlargement of the building in 1793, the following statement appeared in a newspaper:

"Preparations are in forwardness for enlarging the County Court-House to accommodate the next Federal Legislature. The southern side of the building is to be pulled down and rebuilt 24 feet south from its present situation. The seats will preserve the oval form, but the Speaker's chair is to be removed to the west side of the House and the principal entrance to the hall of the House of Representatives will be to the east and immediately opposite the speaker's seat."⁴⁰

One of the more thorough descriptions was given by Henry Wansey who visited the building in 1794.

⁴⁰Columbian Centinel (Boston), May 22, 1793.

"...On entering the House of Representatives, I was struck with the convenient arrangement of the seats of the members. The size of the chamber was about one hundred feet by sixty. The seats in three rows formed semi-circles behind each other, facing the Speaker, who was in a kind of pulpit near the centre of the radii, and the clerks below him. Every member was accommodated for writing, by there being likewise a circular writing desk to each of the circular seats..."⁴¹

In a letter to his daughter in 1796, Congressman Theophilus Bradbury wrote the following description of the House of Representatives Chamber:

"...The Members' seats are 3 rows of desks, rising one above another in the form of a semi-circle, opposite the Speaker; these are writing-desks with large armed chairs with leather bottoms. There is a lock and key to each desk and places on the desks for ink, pens, sand, and a plentiful supply of paper..."⁴²

Nicholas King wrote a journal describing his travels in America in which he described the members' seats as follows:

"...in three parallel semielliptic rows rising above each other leaving a small area between them and the Speaker's and Secretary's seats which are in the center of the semiellipse."⁴³

In 1798 a fist fight erupted on the floor of the House between two members of Congress, Matthew Lyon of Connecticut and Roger Griswold of Rhode Island. Other members of the House who witnessed the fight later described the event in detailed

⁴¹David John Jeremy, ed., Henry Wansey and His American Journal, 1794 (Philadelphia, PA: American Philosophical Society, 1970), p. 96.

⁴²Letter, Theophilus Bradbury to Harriet Bradbury, December 26, 1795. Reprinted in Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography 8(1884):226.

⁴³Nicholas King, "Journal of Observations and Occurrences in a Voyage from England to America in the Year 1793" (Typescript, Huntington Library).

depositions. The written transcripts of their testimonies contain many references to features of the room. Typical the these is the following: "...Mr. Lyons, when assaulted, was sitting in his place, having a long circular desk, which is screwed to the floor, before him, and a similar one behind."⁴⁴ Mr Haven, another Congressman, testified that "I was walking in the south end of the hall without the bar, and saw My. Lyon come in , with his cloak on, and go to his seat, which is the fourth from the end of that front row of seats which is on the left side of the passage leading up to the Speaker's chair."⁴⁵

c.2. Graphic Evidence:

There are three known pieces of evidence for the House Chamber providing graphic information. There are two cartoons drawn to depict the Lyon-Griswold fight. These images are shown in Illustration #3 and Illustration #4. "Congressional Pugilists" drawn by William Cobbett shows the raised Speaker's platform and connected members' desks described in written records. Otherwise the House Chamber in Cobbett's cartoon is very inaccurately rendered. For instance, the windows are shown with square heads instead of the arches that still survive.

⁴⁴This account was contained in a newspaper article about the fight. Aurora: General Advertiser February 22, 1798, p. 3, col. 2.

⁴⁵Mr. Haven's Testimony, Carey's U.S. Recorder, February 22, 1798. Written transcripts of these testimonies are contained in the History Note Card File, Independence National Historical Park.

The other cartoon, "Cudgeling as by late Act in Congress, USA," appears to be quite deftly drawn and is compatible with the known evidence about the room. The proximity of the fireplace to the rear of the Speaker's platform appears to be correct. The arched top of the window behind the Speaker's platform is well rendered with its curtains and in the background can be detected the three arched windows in the south bay. The members' desks are shown as three rows of continuous desks with a solid railing behind. The front row of desks, however, appears as individual desks with fabric draped over their fronts. The depositions from the 1798 fight clearly described the difficulty with which Matthew Lyon extricated himself from his seat behind the interconnected desks on the front row.⁴⁶ While the overall appearance of the desks is curving, the desks to the left appear to be generally straight, while the desks in the background appear to bend sharply around a corner. There are no aisles shown on this cartoon.

The third piece of graphic evidence is the Van Cortlandt drawing of 1796 (See Illustration # 10). This drawing may have been drawn as a reference tool by Philip Van Cortlandt to keep track of the names of the House members during the controversial debates concerning the Jay Treaty.⁴⁷ Although this drawing is

⁴⁶"Mr. Lyon, when assaulted, was sitting in his place, having a long circular desk, which is screwed to the floor, before him, and a similar one behind." Newspaper account of the fight, Aurora: General Advertiser February 22, 1798, p. 3, col. 2.

⁴⁷See 1992 Furnishing Plan, Supplement 1, pp. 15-16.

crudely rendered, it appears to show the House members arranged in a broad U-shaped plan around the Speaker's platform and clerks' desks. There appear to be both straight and curving desks, divided by a central aisle opposite from the Speaker's platform as well as by two minor side aisles.

c.3. Physical Evidence:

Another useful source of information are the surviving desks from Federal Hall in New York. These desks, preserved at the New York Historical Society, were used by the House of Representatives of the First Congress during its stay in New York from 1789 to 1790. They were part of a larger group arranged in curving rows in front of the Speaker's chair.⁴⁸ As was discussed above, these desks were examined and documented by Thomas Affleck in September, 1790, while still in use by the First Federal Congress. Affleck had been instructed to survey the furnishings and fittings of the two houses of Congress by Miers Fisher. It can be comfortably argued that Affleck finally produced desks of similar configuration and grouped in similar fashion. The Federal Hall desks allow approximately 20-23 inches per person. One of

⁴⁸Torres, pp. 329-330. Of the two lengthy descriptions of the Federal Hall interiors reproduced in "Federal Hall Revisited", only one mentions the number of rows of desks in the House Chamber and their shape: "...the chairs for the members are ranged semicircularly in two rows in front of the speaker." (The Massachusetts Magazine June 1789). It is believed, by the author of the present report, that there were more likely three rows of desks in Federal Hall. The author attempted to lay out the Federal Hall desks in the space described by Torres and concluded that, given the curvature of the surviving desks, a third row was necessary to accommodate the full number of seats.

the desk seats four persons and the other seats only two. Close examination of the shorter desk reveals anomalies which suggest that it was originally longer, perhaps also seating four. Both desks are fourteen inches deep and thirty inches tall.

Other information which belongs in the category of physical evidence was uncovered during the restoration of Congress Hall in 1912. During the interior renovations, it was discovered that 18th-century flooring remained in place beneath later flooring layers. As Frank Miles Day recalled,

"...upon removing some modern flooring, parts of the original floor of the house...were disclosed, clearly indicating the location at the western side of the hall of the Speaker's platform and elsewhere of the bar of the house, which seems to have described a curve enclosing the last row of seats...Feeling that except as to their shape in plan, a restoration of the platforms and the bar would be merely conjectural, the Committee decided not to attempt it."⁴⁹

In another reference to this discovery, Horace Wells Sellers wrote:

"...The removal of the modern flooring disclosed the original floor of the House of Representatives with indications of the exact position of the railings, platforms, etc. which had originally existed, but this floor was so badly decayed by dampness and time as to render it unfit for use with the exception, fortunately, of a small area on the Sixth Street side on which is clearly indicated the position of the Speaker's platform, and its enclosing rail, which section of floor has been preserved intact. Before removing the flooring elsewhere a careful survey was made of the surfaces to locate the mortise holes so that a record might be kept of the original plan showing the lines

⁴⁹"An Address Upon the Occasion of the Reopening of Congress Hall After its Restoration," delivered October 25, 1913, by Frank Miles Day, Chairman of the Committee of the Philadelphia Chapter, A.I.A. in charge of the Restoration. A copy of this address was found in the E.M. Yardley Collection, Independence National Historical Park Manuscript Collection.

of a railing which separated the space occupied by the members of the House from that set apart for visitors."⁵⁰

It is important to remember that while the A.I.A. restoration team appears to have seen actual evidence for the platforms, bar and Speaker's platform, they seem to have interpreted this evidence inaccurately. Instead of locating the Speaker's platform, they probably found the imprint of a later jury box or other post-1800 piece of courtroom furniture. The A.I.A. members also neglected to discover the existence of the door in the east wall which led to the Portico and which established the correct location for the center aisle and Speaker's platform. The drawings for the 1934 restoration of the House platforms were prepared by the A.I.A. chapter under the guidance of Horace Wells Sellers. This design was found to be totally inaccurate by the N.P.S. restoration team in 1961 because it didn't accommodate enough seats and the center aisle was too far south.

d. Summary of Pertinent Historical Data:

In summary, there are numerous clues to the design of the House seating during its stay in Congress Hall. The architectural characteristics of the room itself are well established. The location of columns, doors and heating stoves all would have had an impact on the design of the House seating plan. There are fairly specific parameters concerning the width of each desk, its

⁵⁰Philadelphia Press, September 29, 1913. Clipping in Sellers Papers, American Philosophical Society.

height and the spacing between each row of desks. The numbers of desks required before and after 1793 are known and provide key elements of the design for each period.

Chapter 3

Architectural Analysis of the Van Cortlandt Drawing

a. Strategy for Analysis:

When viewed as an isolated document, the Van Cortlandt drawing does not appear to provide sufficient graphic information from which to comfortably recreate an architectural plan for the House seating. The drawing is not drawn to scale and there are no clear references to the interior architectural features of Congress Hall. There is little apparent consistency in the grouping and spacing of the names behind the various segments of desks. However, the evidence that Van Cortlandt constructed the drawing in pencil before inking in the names and desks suggests that the document may contain subtle graphic information which could help to guide a reconstruction of the House Chamber.⁵² One effective way to distill out these subtle clues is to attempt to lay out a viable floor plan for the House Chamber, combining information from all of the available sources. If the Van Cortlandt drawing contains any reliable architectural information, then it should provide additional useful clues which corroborate and expand the body of historical evidence.

a.1. Graphic Analysis:

⁵²Associate Museum Curator Karie Diethorn examined the original drawing and noticed that Van Cortlandt had laid out the plan with a pencil before inking in the names and desks. See 1992 Furnishing Plan, Supplement 1, pp. 4-6.

In examining the sketch, it is important to recognize what Van Cortlandt actually drew (See Illustration # 10). In his drawing, Van Cortlandt depicted the House members seated in a broad U-shaped plan around the platform for the Speaker. There are dark ink lines which appear to represent the desks. Perpendicular to these lines are the names of the Representatives. In some areas, these names are regularly spaced, while in other areas there are spaces between the names. When examining a clear photograph of the drawing, it is evident that Van Cortlandt used a pencil to sketch in a grid for the names. He then added the members' names and the heavy lines in ink. There are consistent gaps in the ink lines which presumably represent either aisles or some other type of space between segments of the desks. At the front of one of the side aisles, Van Cortlandt appears to have inadvertently drawn the ink line across the aisle's opening. The fact that he then scribbled out this line shows that he intended to leave the aisle open.

It is valuable to recognize as well that Van Cortlandt neglected to draw this scene with any architectural definition. He did not draw the outer railing or bar. He did not show the steps up the platforms or the members' chairs. Other than a single inked line, he did not fully represent the desks, and finally, he did not include the large wood columns of the chamber, one of which stood somewhere within the group of straight desks to the north of the Speaker's platform.

Another thought-provoking aspect of Van Cortlandt's drawing

is the irregularity in the grouping of the members' names. Some sections of the plan show the names grouped in an orderly grid. Other sections contain irregular spacings of names and many gaps. One might assume that the House's overall seating plan was symmetrical and that each separate row of seats was of the same number as the corresponding row across the center aisle. This is not the case in Van Cortlandt's drawing. Some of the discrepancy can be explained by the fact that six members' names are absent from the plan and the omission of their names has left gaps in the rows.⁵³ As will be discussed below, these missing names can be fit neatly into gaps in the two large sections of desks with curving rows. There remains, however, a lack of symmetry between the two sets of straight desks at the bottom of the drawing, a condition which is more challenging to explain.

a.2. Diagrammatic Representation of the Van Cortlandt Drawing:

The basic information contained in the drawing has been drawn in Illustration # 11. A heavy line shows the location of the desks, aisle are dotted in where Van Cortlandt indicated and a capsule-shaped symbol has been drawn to represent the name of each present member. For reference, the blocks of names have been labelled Section A to Section D, indicating the sections of seats separated by the three aisles. Each section contains a front, middle and outer row of seats.

⁵³See the 1992 Furnishing Plan, Supplement 1 for a discussion of the missing members.

The next step in the analysis was an attempt to logically discern which of the numerous spaces between members' names represented the seats of the six missing members. There appear to be 15-20 gaps in the names, however there are only six members missing. Most of the gaps must therefore reflect the imprecision with which the plan was drawn. The author assumed that the overall seating plan would have been more or less symmetrical on either side of the central aisle. A simple count of the names behind each segment of desks revealed that the only sections of the plan which contain symmetrical numbers of names are the first two rows of Section B and Section C. Even though there are some gaps in these rows, it is proposed by the author that all of their seats are full. It logically follows that the outer rows of these two sections should also contain equal numbers of names.

The outer rows of Sections B and C are each broken into a curved segment and a short straight segment by a gap in the dark line. There are nine names present in the outer curved segment of Section C, but only six in the corresponding curved outer segment of Section B. Therefore three of the members are probably missing from the curving outer segment of Section B. These place are marked on Illustration # 11 by a hexagonal symbol. The other three missing members were probably located behind the short straight segments of desks in the outer rows adjacent to the center aisle. A count of names requires that one of these three members be located in the short straight segment of Section C. The other two names were placed on the same short segments of

Sections B and C because of the obvious gaps left in the otherwise regular groups of names.

The two section of straight desks, Sections A and D, while being more neatly drawn, are in fact much more irregular in number than the sections with the curved desks. The names in these sections were written into regular grids of boxes drawn in pencil. The regularity of these grids belies the fact that there is distinct asymmetry between the two sections. Section D contains three rows of seven names each. Section A contains eight names evenly spaced across the front row, seven names on the second row with a possible empty seat and the back row contains only five names, irregularly spaced. When some of the important architectural features of the room, such as heating stoves and wood columns, are located on Illustration # 11, it appears that the irregularity of Sections A and D could have been caused by conflicts with features in the building.

b. Review of Pertinent Historical Data:

A considerable amount of information about Congress Hall and the House Chamber has been gleaned from primary sources of the late 18th-century. The following paragraphs will summarize the pertinent pieces of information which have bearing on the design of the seating plan.

b.1. Written Descriptions:

There are numerous written descriptions of the House Chamber

surviving from the Federal period. All of these descriptions of the room describe the arrangement of the desks as being curved, semi-circular or semi-elliptical. This fact deserves some discussion, since a major distinction of the Van Cortlandt drawing is its inclusion of straight desks in a U-shaped plan. While none of the 19th-century references mention straight desks, the inclusion of some sections of straight desks could give an elliptical appearance to a plan which otherwise contained regular curves. That may explain why some of the viewers described the plan as oval or semielliptical. If the Van Cortlandt drawing accurately portrays a U-shaped plan with straight and curved desks, then the written descriptions must be viewed as terse generalizations which reflect the viewers' overall impression of the plan. It is the aim of this report to establish the validity of Van Cortlandt's U-shaped plan.

It is possible to detect a certain level of inaccuracy in some of the written descriptions. For instance, the descriptions of the House Chamber contained in Chapter 2, from Henry Wansey and Theophilus Bradbury, each contain numerous details and are generally credited as portraying clear depictions of the room. However, both accounts contain generalities and inaccuracies. For example, Bradbury stated that the desks were "...in the form of a semi-circle."⁵⁴ While describing other features of the room, he said that "...At the south end, without the bar, there is an area

⁵⁴Letter from Theophilus Bradbury to Harriet Bradbury, December 26, 1795. Reprinted in Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography 8(1884):226.

or half circle with three large windows,"⁵⁵ obviously a reference to the southern octagonal bay, a feature which survives, more or less intact from the 18th-century. There is no curvature to any part of the bay other than the arched windows. It is quite plausible that Bradbury was equally imprecise in his description of the seating plan.

Likewise, Henry Wansey presented a clearly worded description of the House Chamber, carefully documenting many of the room's features. However, he claimed that there was a "...circular writing desk to each of the circular seats."⁵⁶ Many of the original members' chairs have survived and are not at all circular. Again, it appears that the description was written with some degree of generality. The inexactness of these descriptions argue for some degree of caution in appreciating the other references attesting to the desks' shape in plan.

It could be argued that Van Cortlandt's drawing is the only piece of evidence out of many that shows the U-shaped plan and should therefore be discounted. However, while the written descriptions all tersely characterize the shape of the seating as a semi-circle of semi-ellipse, Van Cortlandt's drawing is the only graphically descriptive piece of evidence focusing more or less solely on the seating plan. It should therefore be treated as a strong piece of evidence that brings further clarity and

⁵⁵Ibid.

⁵⁶David John Jeremy, ed., Henry Wansey and His American Journal, 1794 (Philadelphia, PA: American Philosophical Society, 1970), p.96.

definition to the curved grouping suggested by the written records and not viewed as standing in lone opposition.

b.2. Dimensions of Desks and Platforms:

Van Cortlandt's drawing does not give any indication of the actual size of any of the features represented. There are, however, several sources of information from which to assemble a plausible specification for the seating. Miers Fisher's drawing of September, 1790, showing a scheme for housing the House of Representatives in the new City Hall building, provides a range of dimensions for the seats. As discussed in Chapter 2, Fisher stated that "...2f. are allowed for each Chair whereas 20 inches is sufficient."⁵⁷ The surviving Congress Hall chairs in the park's collection measure approximately twenty-four inches across the width of the seat.

In addition to the width of each seat, Fisher provided guidance for the size of other elements as well. "A passage 3f between the Desks from the North Door to the Chair- A passage of 3f. 3In. between each Row of Desks for the Members to sit & pass round each other without disturbance."⁵⁸ These dimensions should be considered minimum tolerances since it was finally decided to house Congress in the new county court house, a building which could be more readily expanded.

⁵⁷"Plan of the City Hall of Philadelphia" [September 1790], Miers Fisher Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

⁵⁸Ibid.

c. Synthesis of Evidence:

In order to test the validity of the information contained in the Van Cortlandt drawing, the author attempted to construct an architectural plan of the House seating by assembling all of the known evidence. During this exercise, the author looked to the Van Cortlandt drawing for subtle guidance in the disposition of straight and curved desks and for the appropriate number of seats in each continuous segment of desks.

c.1. Reconstructing the House Chamber of 1790-1793:

Beginning with the floor plan of Congress Hall as it existed from 1790-1793, the author attempted to lay out a seating plan that would have accommodated the appropriate number of members and would reflect all of the known evidence. No documentation has been found to confirm that the Speaker's dais was originally in the south bay, however, that feature's location and the corresponding orientation of the seating were extrapolated from the Miers Fisher plan for City Hall and from descriptions of the Federal Hall House Chamber. In laying out the rows of desks, a dimension of 24"-26" was assumed to be necessary for the width of an individual desk. The desks should be approximately 14" in depth and at least 3'-3" was necessary for clearance between rows and behind the last row. Similar standards were used in the design of the seating which was installed in 1961.

Taking a cue from the theory put forth by Diethorn and

Bacon,⁵⁹ it was believed that Section B and Section C of the Van Cortlandt drawing were in fact the reused halves of the 1790-1793 seating plan. The author then attempted to construct a similar arrangement in the building, reflecting the general form and disposition of seats shown in Sections B and C. The most challenging aspect of laying out a plan for the 1790-1793 period is the accommodation of the four structural columns which then stood in the room. As can be seen in Illustration #12, it was found that the southern pair of columns would have been least obtrusive if north-south rows of desk were placed in line the them. When arranged this way, the columns do not hamper the movement of the members to their seats and there are no desks directly behind a column. If this premise is accepted, then the location of the columns established the placement of a row of desks and also provides a logical point at which to separate the straight desks from the curved section. By positioning a row of desks in line with the columns, only two rows of straight desks are possible because a third outer row would leave no clearance around the iron heating stoves located in the southern pair of fireplaces.

The curved sections of desks were generated by drawing three concentric rows of desks using the same spacing as was used with the straight sections. When the center point is carefully manipulated, it is possible to produce a plan where the first row contains four desks of 24", the second row contains seven desks

⁵⁹1992 Furnishing Plan, Supplement 1, pp. 10-11.

of 26" and the outer contains ten desks of 27" or eleven desks of 24.5". When a block of these desks is positioned next to the straight desks, it fits neatly within the space bounded by the northern columns, however the last desk on the outer row must be omitted to leave clearance at the southern fireplaces. This missing desk appears to correspond to the gap in Van Cortlandt's drawing in the outer row of Sections B and C, providing an important link between the 1790 seating plan and the 1793 plan.

Using the basic plan generated by this straightforward process, the seating plan can be further developed by filling in the appropriate number of desks for the 1790-1793 period, arranged with a central north-south aisle with room at the south end for a passage to the doors. As can be seen in Illustration # 13, there are sixty-six desks provided in this plan. The desks are arranged snugly around the columns and there is ample space on the floor in front of the Speaker's platform for the secretaries' desks.

c.2. Reconstructing the House Chamber of 1793-1800:

When the Third Congress convened in December of 1793, the House of Representatives required 105 desks. As was discussed above, there is strong evidence that while the House Chamber was almost doubled in size and capacity, the desks and chairs were reused and augmented, although in a different arrangement. Payment for the new desks was limited to eighty feet of new mahogany desks. Assuming this to be a precise measurement, this

figure could represent forty new desks of 24" each. It is more likely that there were only thirty-nine new desks purchased, measuring slightly over 24-1/2". That would have provided exactly the right number of seats for the House from 1793 until 1800.

As Diethorn and Bacon surmised,⁶⁰ the fact that so few desks were purchased in 1793 provides strong evidence that the desks from 1790 were retained and reused, although in an enlarged arrangement. Given the modular quality of the design of the seating as proposed above for the 1790-1793 period, it is very simple to rearrange the furniture in such a way that it conforms to Van Cortlandt's depiction.

The two major features of the House Chamber after its enlargement were the disappearance of the southern columns and the reorientation of the seating group to face the west wall. The desks from 1790 were repositioned on either side of the new east-west center aisle. The group of desks east of the 1790 center aisle were moved slightly west, allowing space for a full outer row along the east wall. The group of desks west of the 1790 center aisle were rotated and relocated to the southeast corner of the newly enlarged chamber.

Some of the desks which sat along the 1790 center aisle were moved into position behind the straight rows of 1790 desks, filling out the outer row. Two new groups of straight desks, Sections A and D, were then positioned running from the ends of the curved desks toward the west wall. When this was done, it

⁶⁰Ibid.

became apparent why there were different numbers of desks in Sections A and D. As can be seen in Illustration # 14, there were open iron stoves located on the west wall which required some degree of clearance. These stoves limited the number of desks in each row to seven across, except in the first two rows immediately north of the Speaker's platform. The peculiar number of seats in the northernmost row of straight desks can be explained by the location of one of the surviving structural columns, a feature which had to be accommodated and which interrupted the outer row of desks. When these features are factored into the architectural requirements of the room and the disposition of desks represented by Van Cortlandt can be accounted for.

In summary, while Van Cortlandt's drawing does not in itself provide sufficiently accurate architectural information from which to recreate the seating plan, it does provide a vital key to guide a careful interpretation of all of the available evidence. Van Cortlandt's suggestion that there were many straight sections of desks provided a very useful strategy from which to approach an architectural design of the room. When this strategy was implemented, Van Cortlandt's drawing offered other subtle clues which seem to confirm the validity of the drawing's architectural evidence.

Appendix I:
Design of the United States Capitol

A few early design studies for the United States Capitol were found to include seating plans for the House of Representatives that closely resemble the House seating as portrayed in the Van Cortlandt Drawing.

The competition for the design of the national Capitol building, held in 1792 while the Federal Government met in Philadelphia, produced a number of architectural drawings. Many of these drawings are whimsical at best, drawn by builders or amateur architects. Very few of the designers portrayed any type of interior seating. However, a series of drawings by Stephen Hallet survive and show the efforts of a trained architect in the design of a suitable Capitol. At least two of his drawings include fully developed seating arrangements for the House and Senate Chambers. The character of Hallet's seating designs bears a strong resemblance to the Congress Hall seating as portrayed by Philip Van Cortlandt. It is likely that Hallet saw the interior of the Congress Hall House Chamber since the competition was judged in Philadelphia. As early as 1791 he had proposed a design for a Federal Capitol to Thomas Jefferson when they were both in Philadelphia.¹ This was a grand tripartite scheme with a dome at its center and was dubbed his "fancy piece" by the Federal City

¹An elevation of this scheme is shown in "Stephen Hallet's Designs for the United States Capitol" by Pamela Scott, Winterthur Portfolio 27:2/3, p. 147.

commissioners who deemed it too extravagant.²

Hallet's entry in the Capitol competition of 1792 was a very different design from his earlier scheme. It was a more modest design in the form of a peripteral temple. On its ground floor were the chambers for the House and Senate, each shown with a seating plan. In the House Chamber, the seating was arranged in a rectilinear horseshoe with slightly rounded corners (See Illustration # 15). This design did not win the competition but Hallet was invited by the commissioners to refine his plans.³ His revised plan of October 1792 showed a U-shaped seating plan for the House of Representatives, remarkably similar to Van Cortlandt's plan (See Illustration # 16). Dr. William Thornton's entry was finally selected as the winning design. Thornton selected an oval form for the plan of the House Chamber, a design that was thoroughly disliked by most of the architects and superintendents eventually involved in its construction. It is unclear whether Thornton included, in his original drawings, any design for the seating in the House Chamber.

In 1804, while attempting to convince President Jefferson to accept a revision to Thornton's oval House Chamber, Benjamin Henry Latrobe devised a plan for the space consisting of a rectangular center with two semi-circular ends. This space was to be covered by a large glazed vault. In a drawing from 1804, Latrobe indicated a seating plan for this redesigned room,

²Ibid, pp. 147-150.

³Ibid, pp. 147-150.

including both straight and curved rows of seats separated by numerous aisles (See Illustration # 17). In another drawing, from 1806, Latrobe depicted the principal floor of the entire Capitol and included a different layout for the seating in the House of Representatives (See Illustration # 18). This version closely resembles the Congress Hall plan with a combination of straight and curved desks. In this plan there are also numerous minor aisles cut through the desks.

It is not known whether the seating arrangements of the House Chamber shown in any of these designs for the National Capitol were modelled after the House Chamber in Philadelphia's Congress Hall. However, the repeated use of U-shaped plans with a combination of straight and curved desks indicates that this shape was consistently considered on many occasions and therefore lends credibility to the veracity of Van Cortlandt's drawing. When placed in this context, Van Cortlandt's U-shaped plan does not stand out as an anomalous oddity. To the contrary, it appears to represent a common approach to arranging the seating in a legislative chamber.

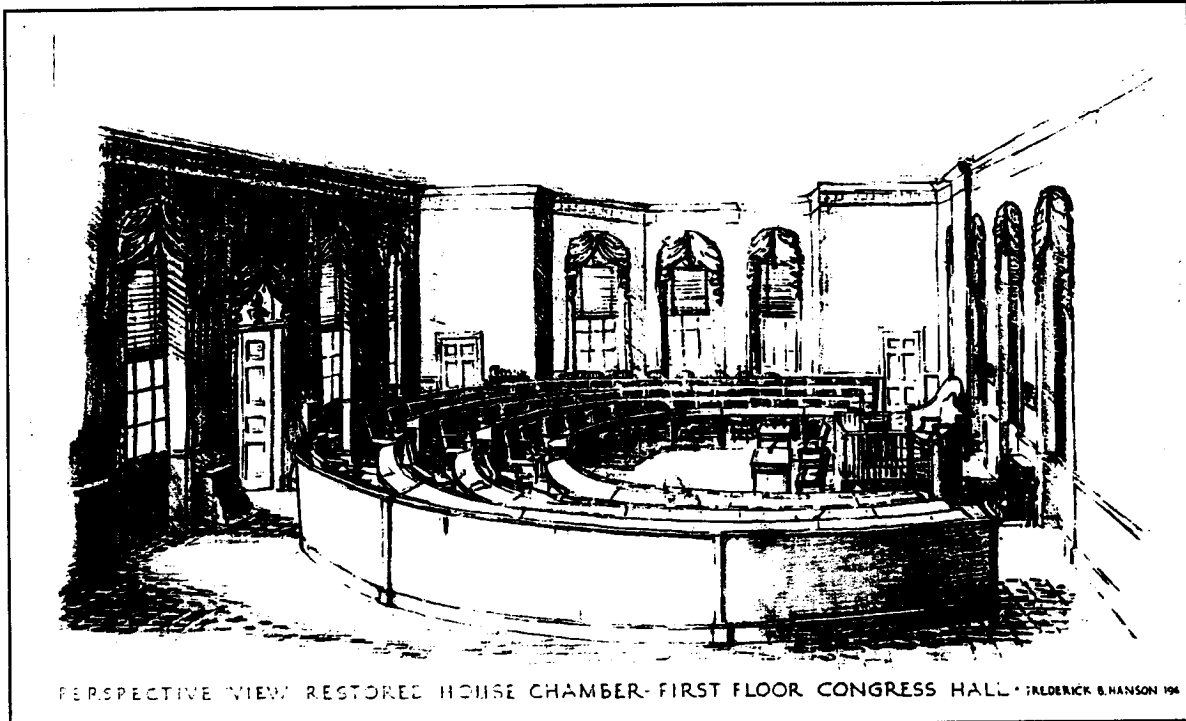
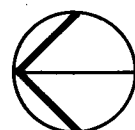
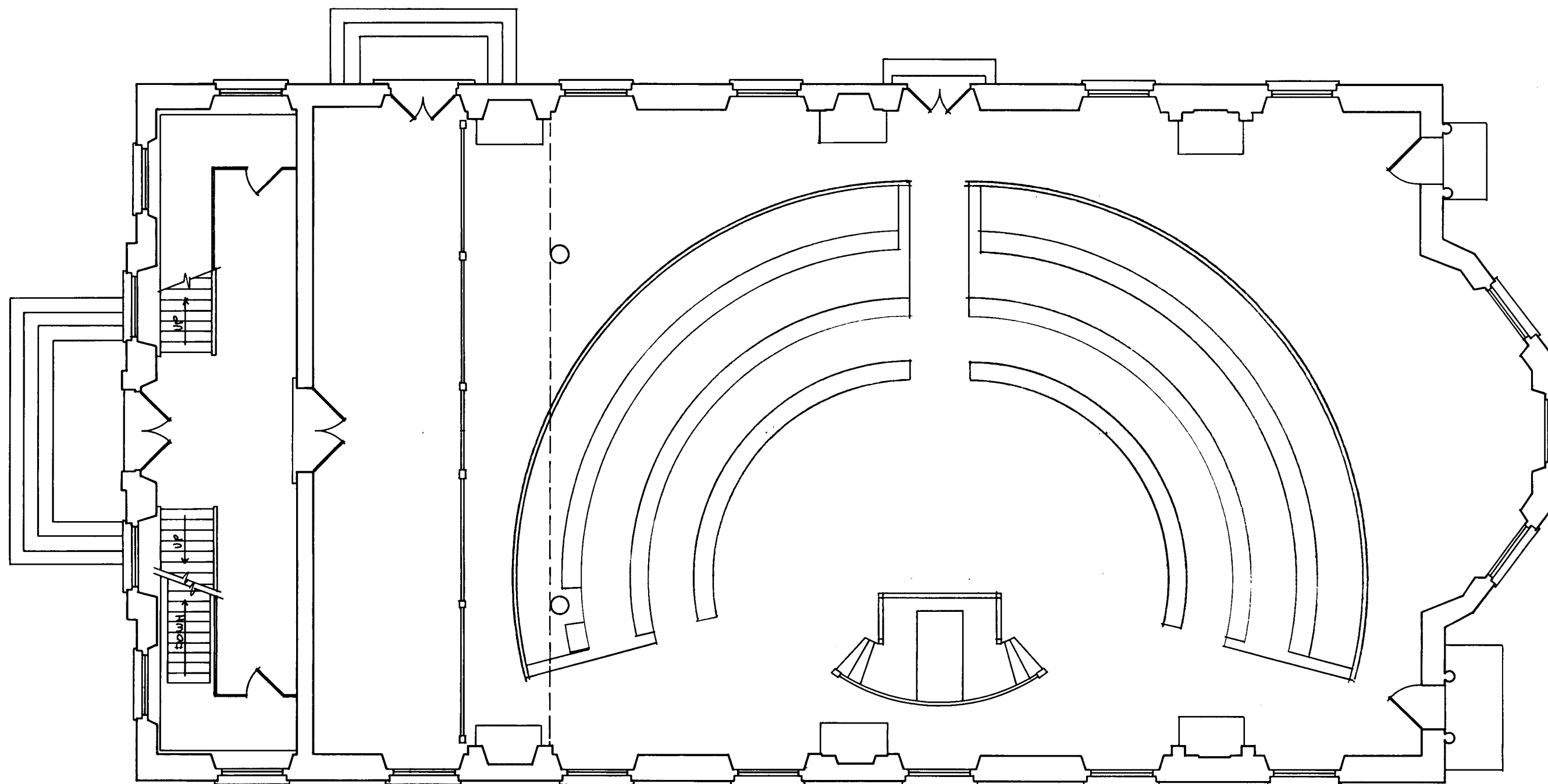


Illustration # 1: "Perspective View, Restored House Chamber-First Floor Congress Hall" by Frederick Hanson, 1961.



CONGRESS HALL · PLAN OF 1ST FLOOR
(AS RESTORED BY N.P.S. IN 1961)



Illustration # 3: "Congressional Pugilists...Congress Hall in Philada Feb.15.1798" in William Cobbett, House of Wisdom in a Bustle, 1798. INDE, Catalog #6078.

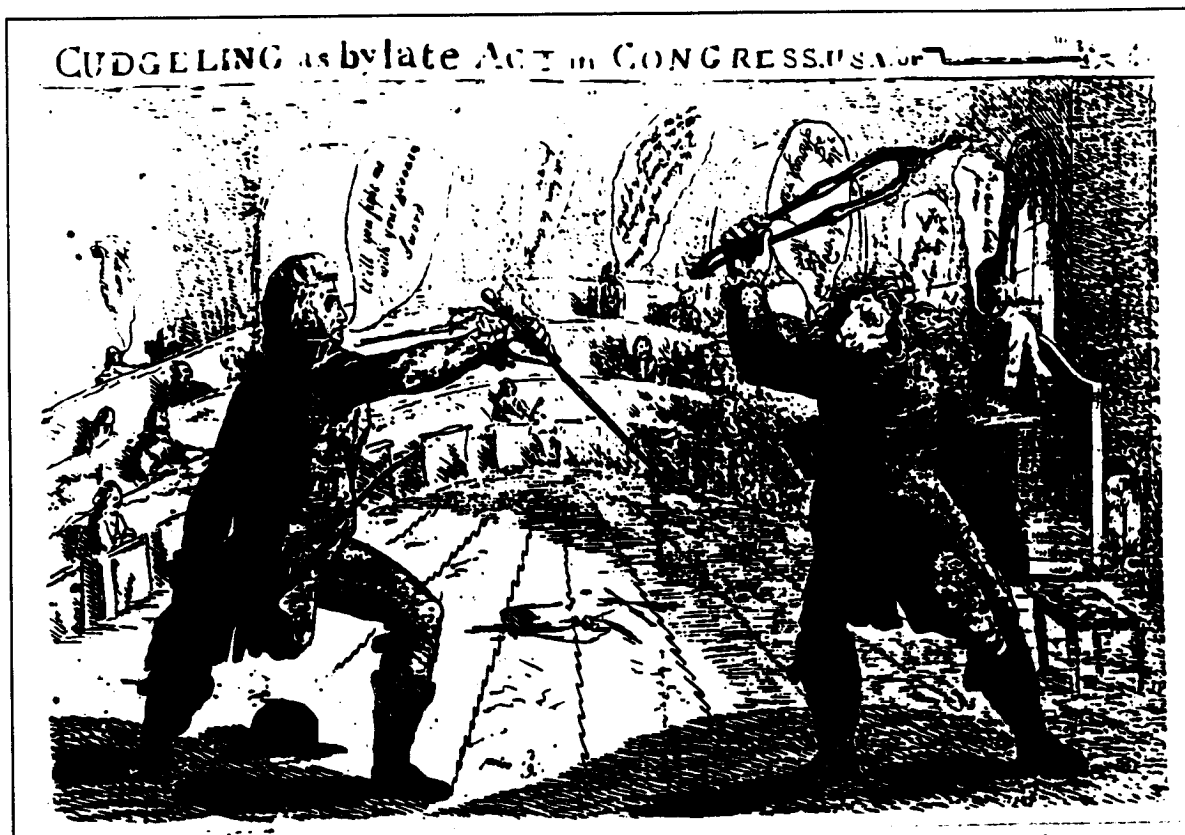
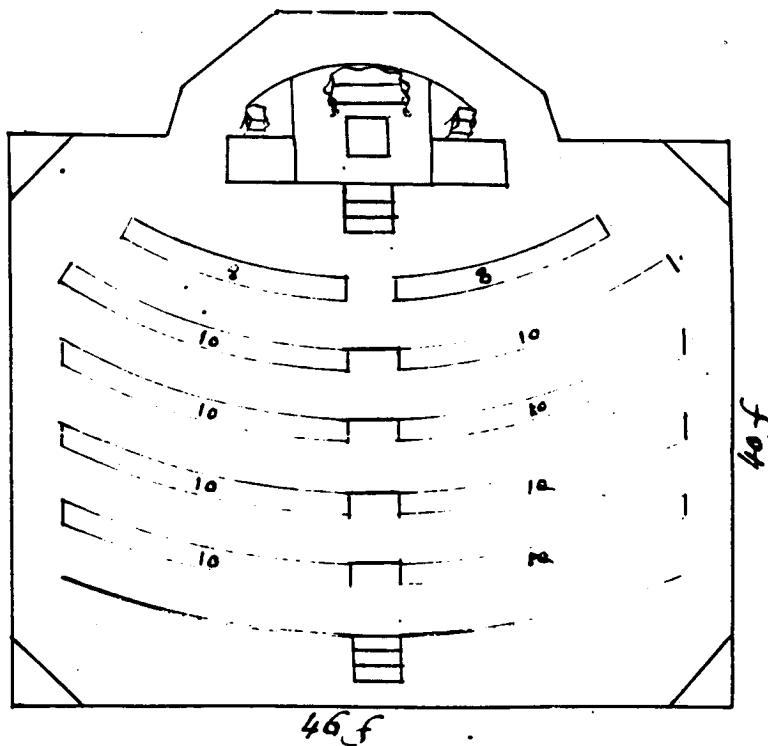


Illustration # 4: "Cudgeling as by late Act in Congress, USA..." 1798.

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



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

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

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

A Passage of 3 f. 3 In. between each Row of 2 for the Members to sit & pass round each other w- out disturbance -

Illustration # 5: "Plan of the City Hall of Philadelphia as it may be laid out...for the Representatives of the United States", 1790. Miers Fisher Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

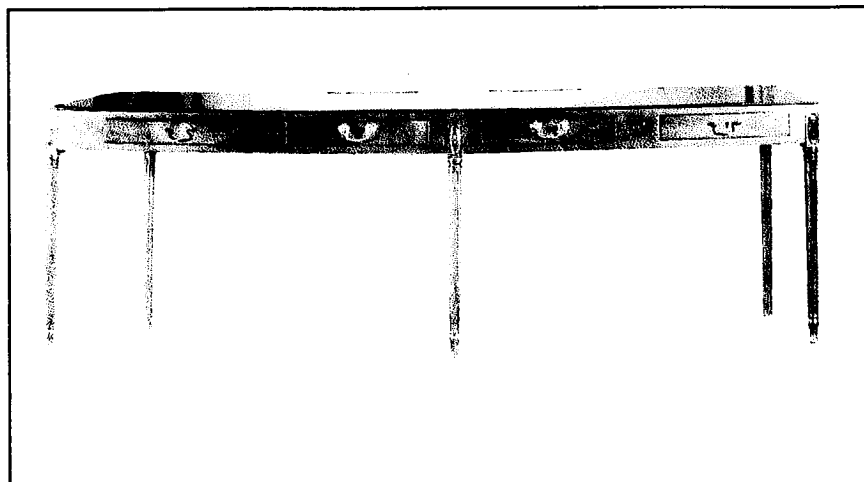
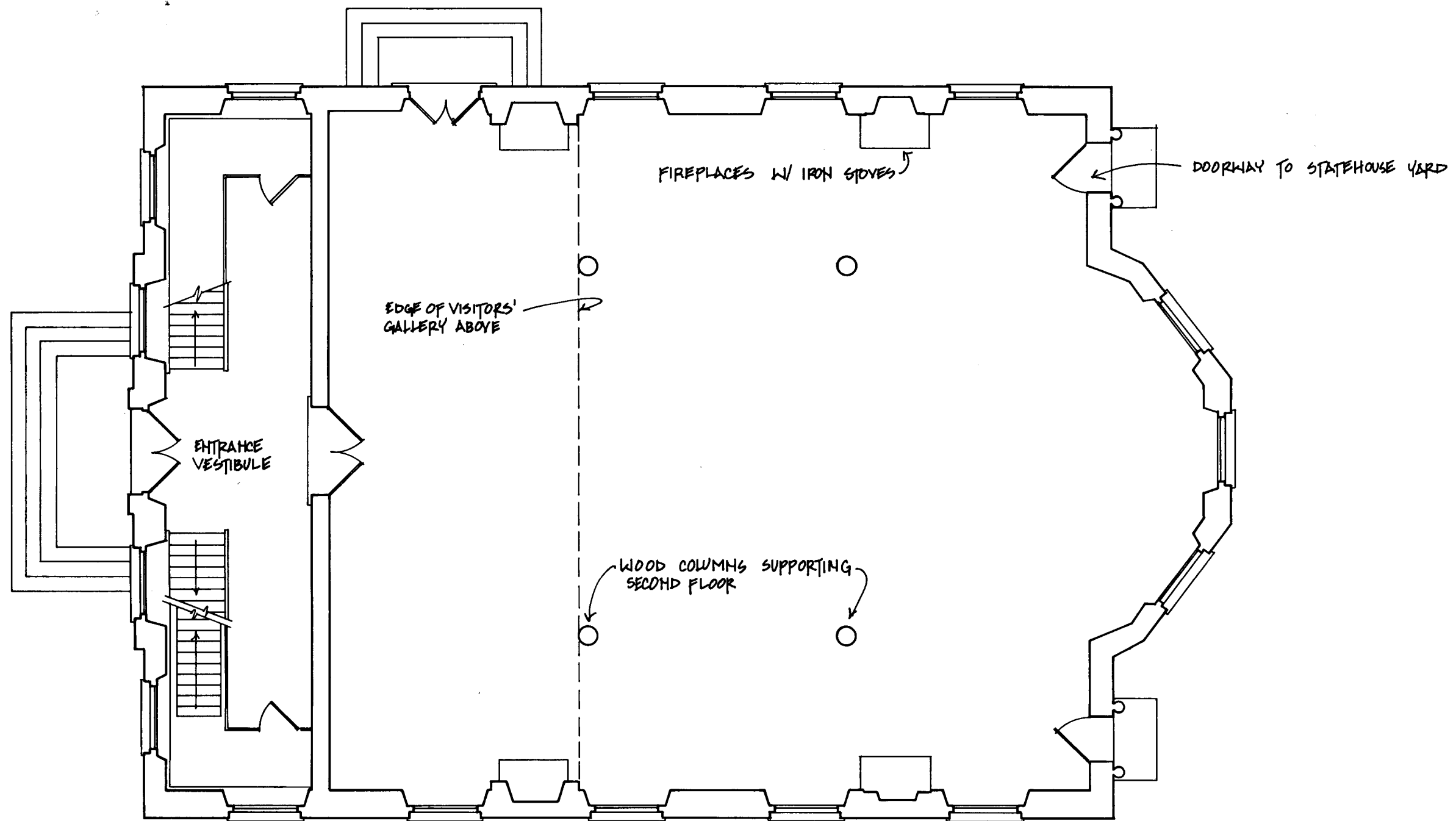
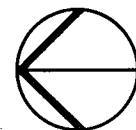
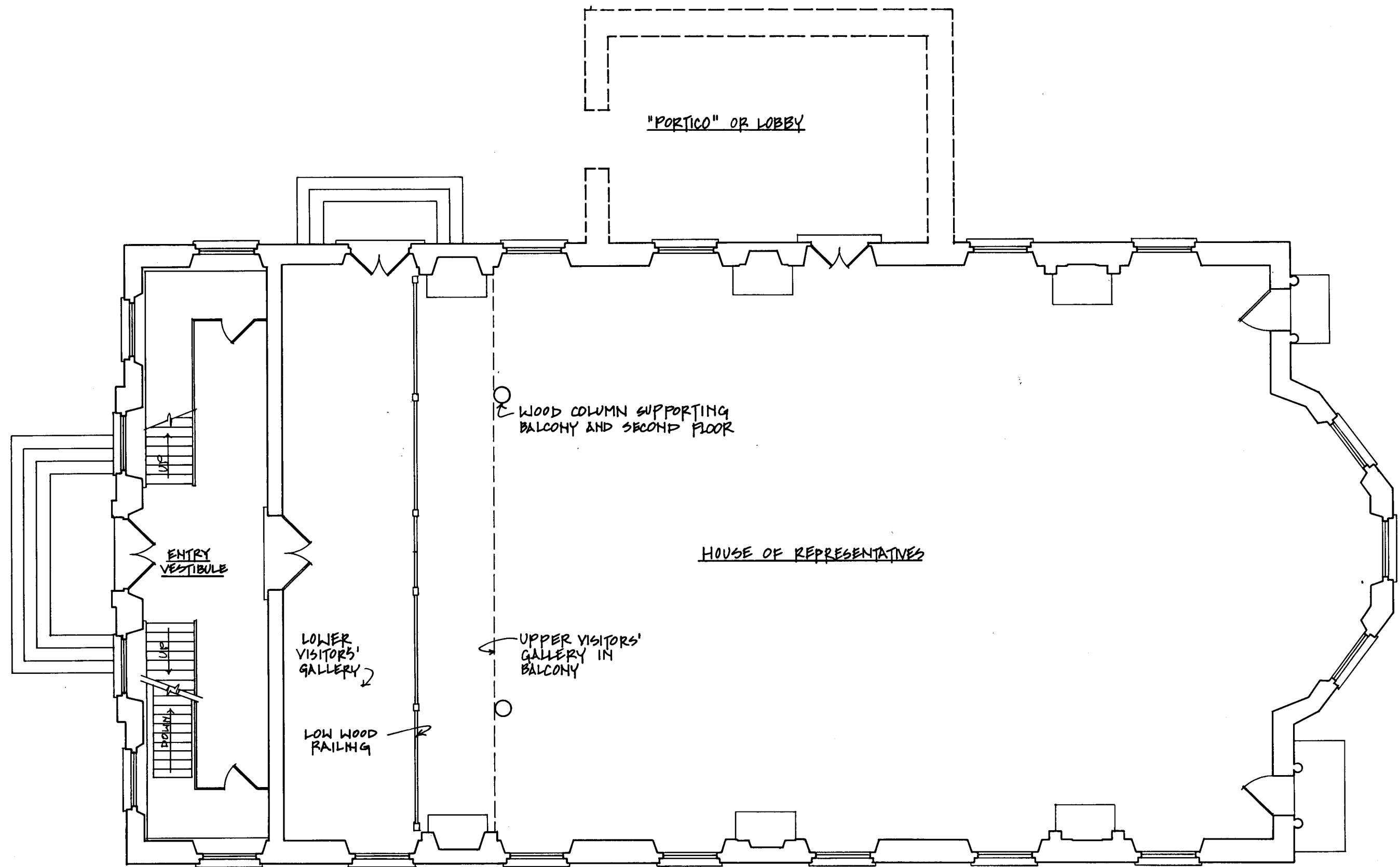


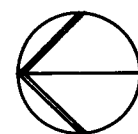
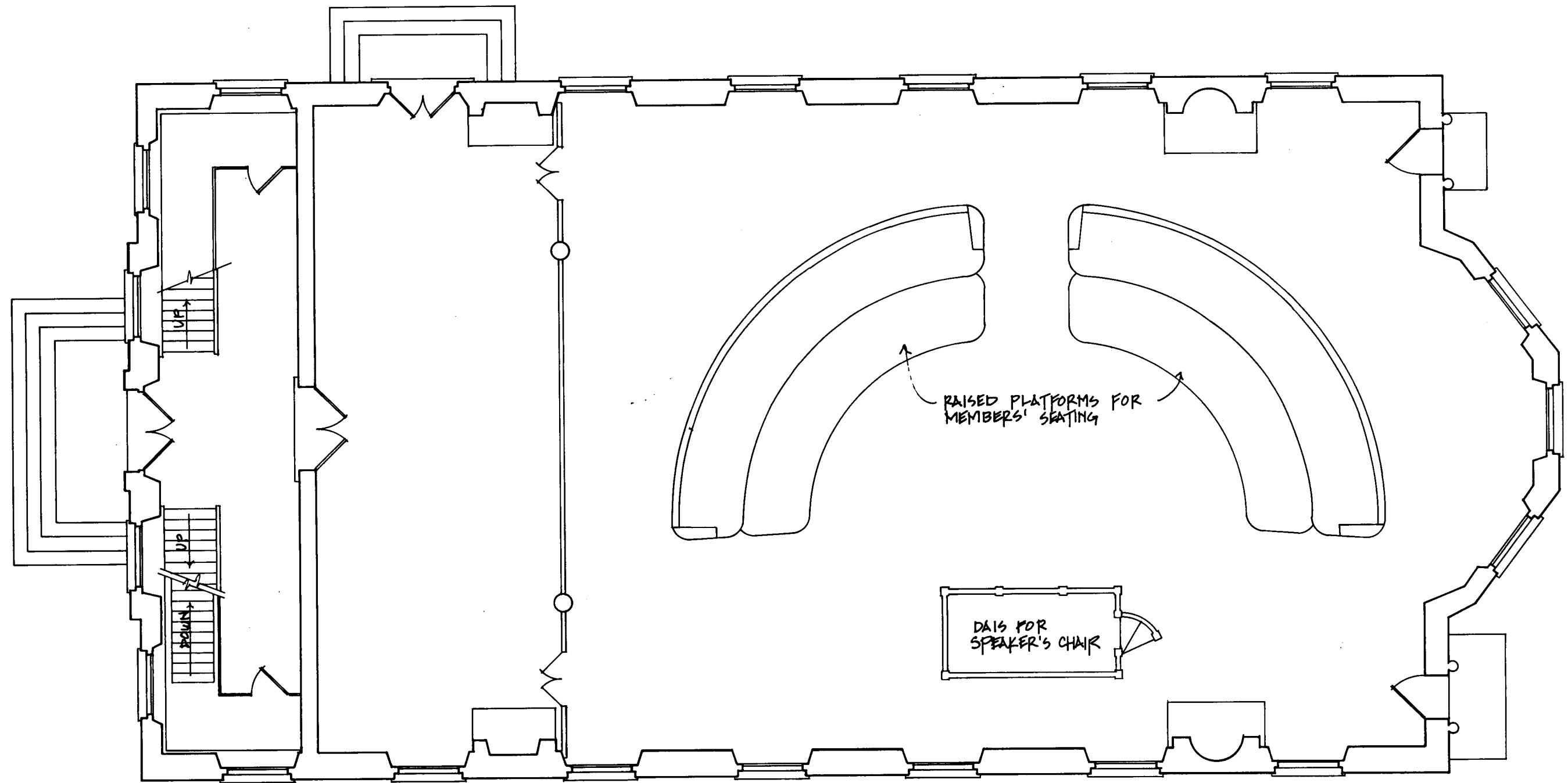
Illustration # 6: Photograph of "Long Table", used by Congress in Federal Hall in New York City, 1789-1790. New York Historical Society.



CONGRESS HALL · PLAN OF 1ST FLOOR 1790-1793



CONGRESS HALL · PLAN OF 1ST FLOOR AFTER 1793

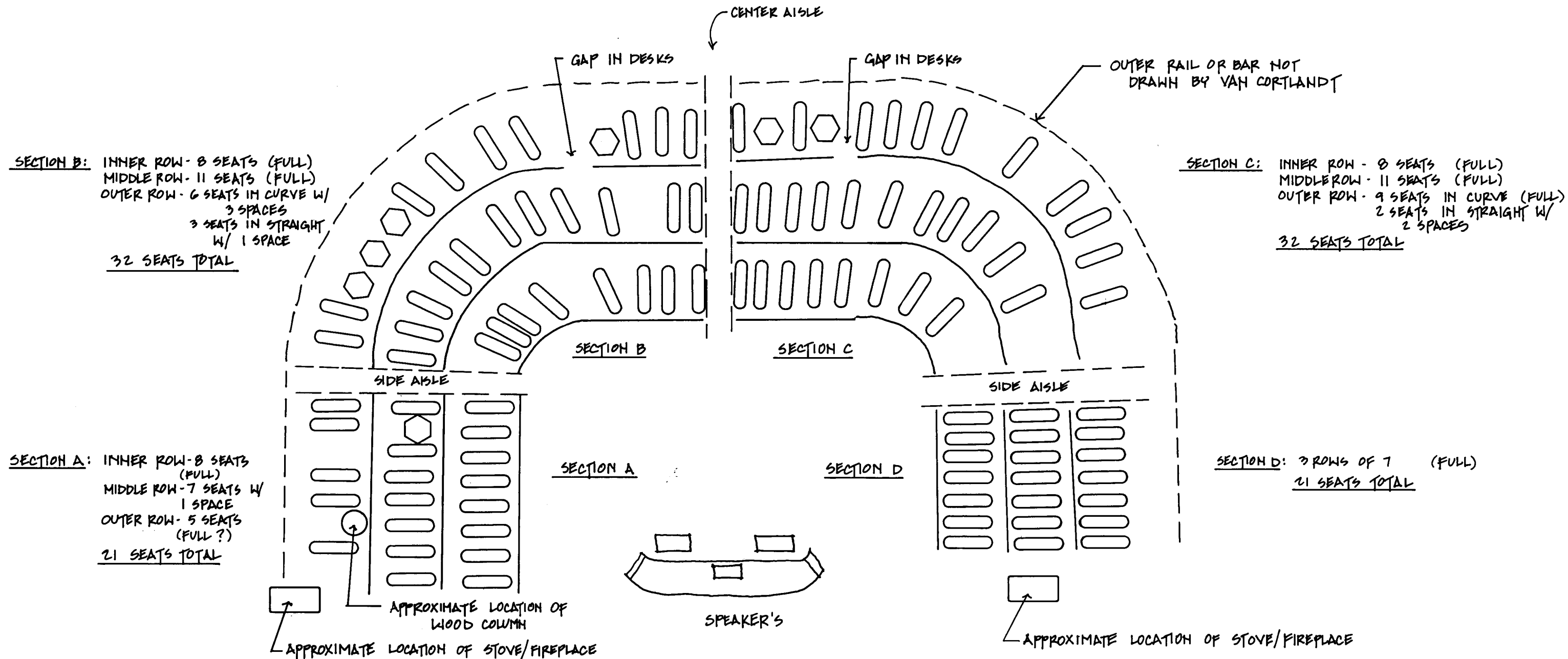


CONGRESS HALL - 1ST FLOOR PLAN IN 1959 SHOWING BUILDING AS RESTORED
IN 1912. DAIS & SEATING PLATFORMS INSTALLED IN 1934.

(Illustration # 9)

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSE MEMBERS IN 1796: 100
 NUMBER OF MEMBERS SHOWN IN DRAWING: 99 SEATED + SPEAKER = 100
 NUMBER OF ABSENT MEMBERS: 6

MEMBERS IN FIRST CONGRESS 1789-1791: 65
 MEMBERS IN SECOND CONGRESS 1791-1793: 67
 MEMBERS IN THIRD CONGRESS 1793-1795: 105 + 1 DELEGATE

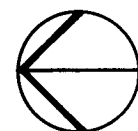
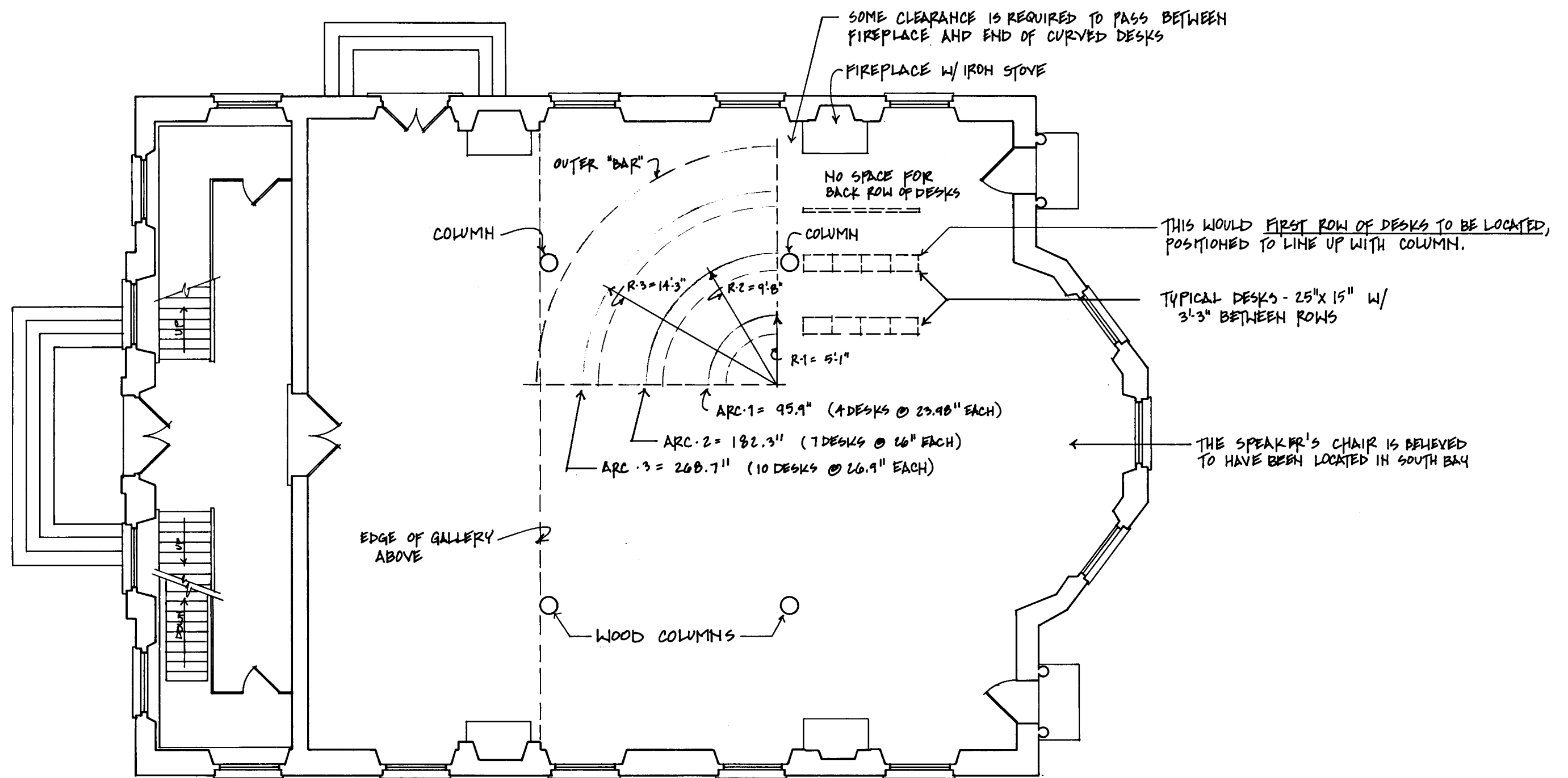


KEY TO SYMBOLS:

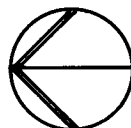
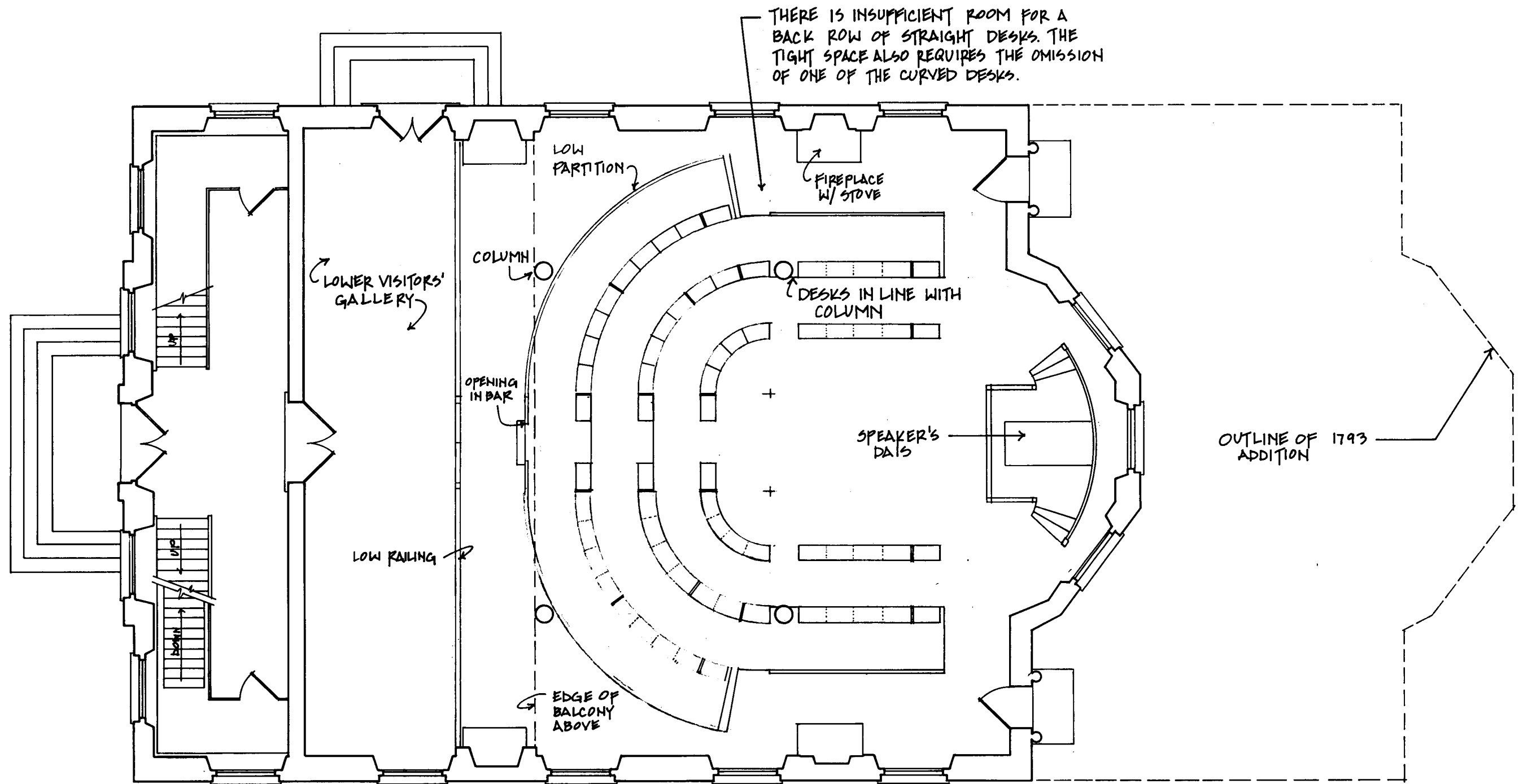
- MEMBERS' NAMES AS DRAW
- EMPTY DESKS AS DETERMINED BY AUTHOR
- WOOD COLUMN
- STOVE/FIREPLACE

INTERPRETATION OF GRAPHIC EVIDENCE IN VAN CORTLANDT DRAWING (NO SCALE)

(Illustration # 11)



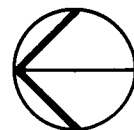
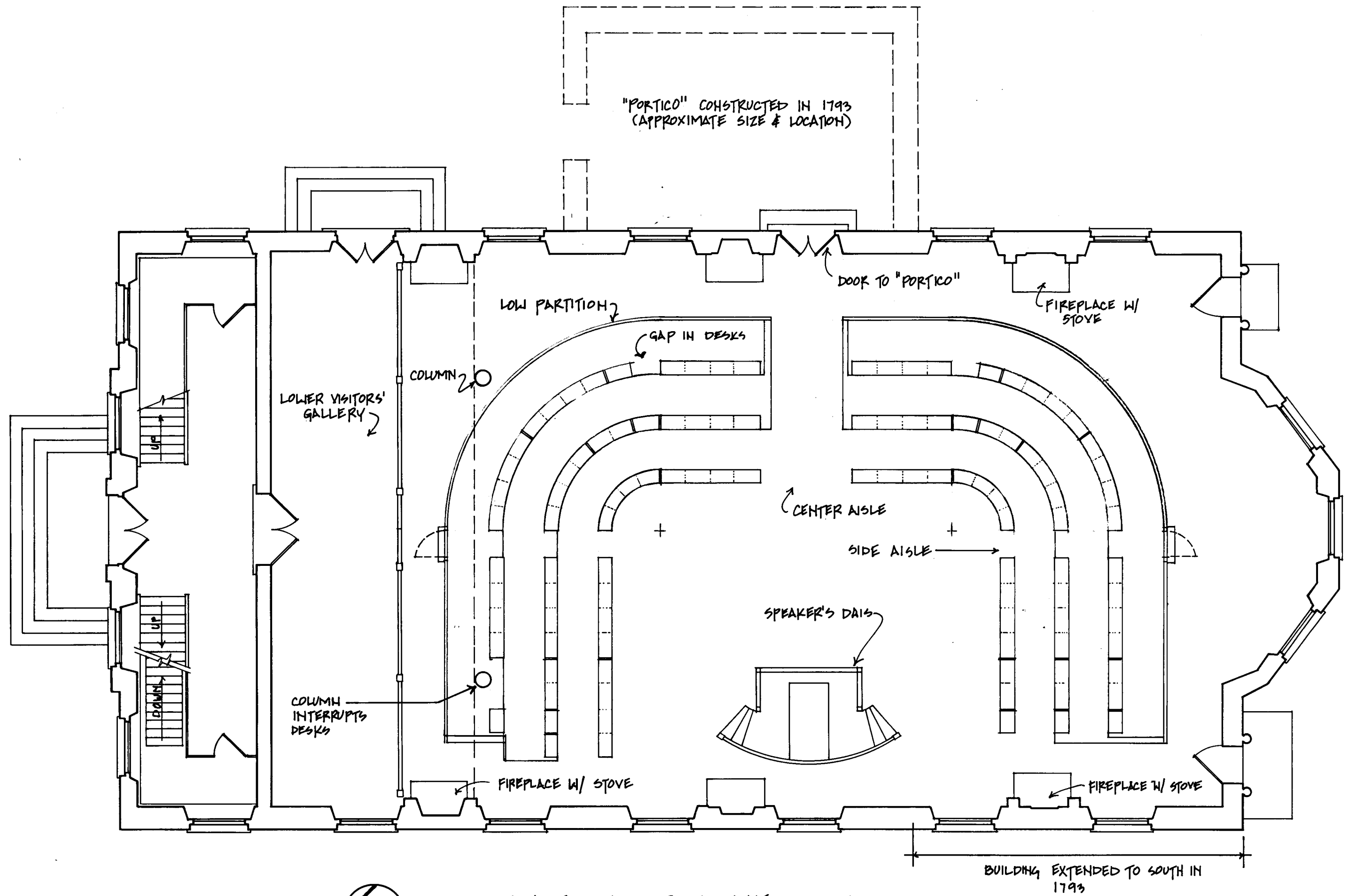
LAYING OUT DESKS IN CONGRESS HALL
(PLAN SHOWS 1790-1793 PERIOD)



CONGRESS HALL · PLAN OF 1ST FLOOR 1790-1793

PLAN CONTAINS 66 DESKS

(Illustration # 13)



CONGRESS HALL · PLAN OF 1ST FLOOR 1793-1800

PLAN CONTAINS 106 DESKS.

(Illustration # 14)

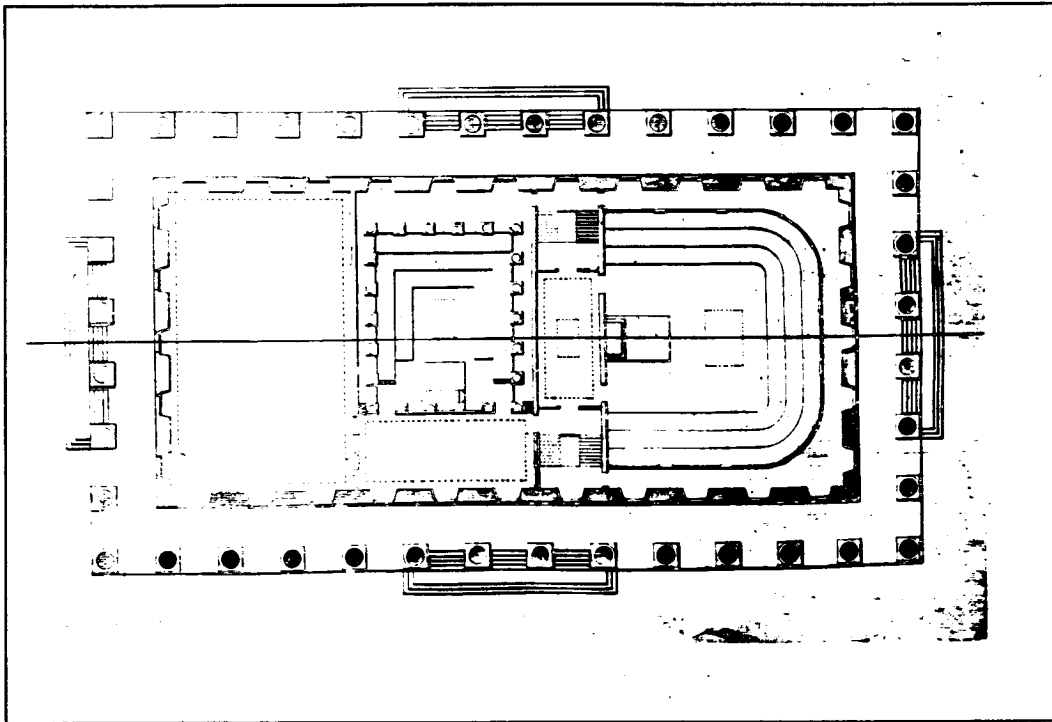


Illustration # 15: Competition entry for the United States Capitol, July 1792, Stephen Hallet. (Library of Congress).

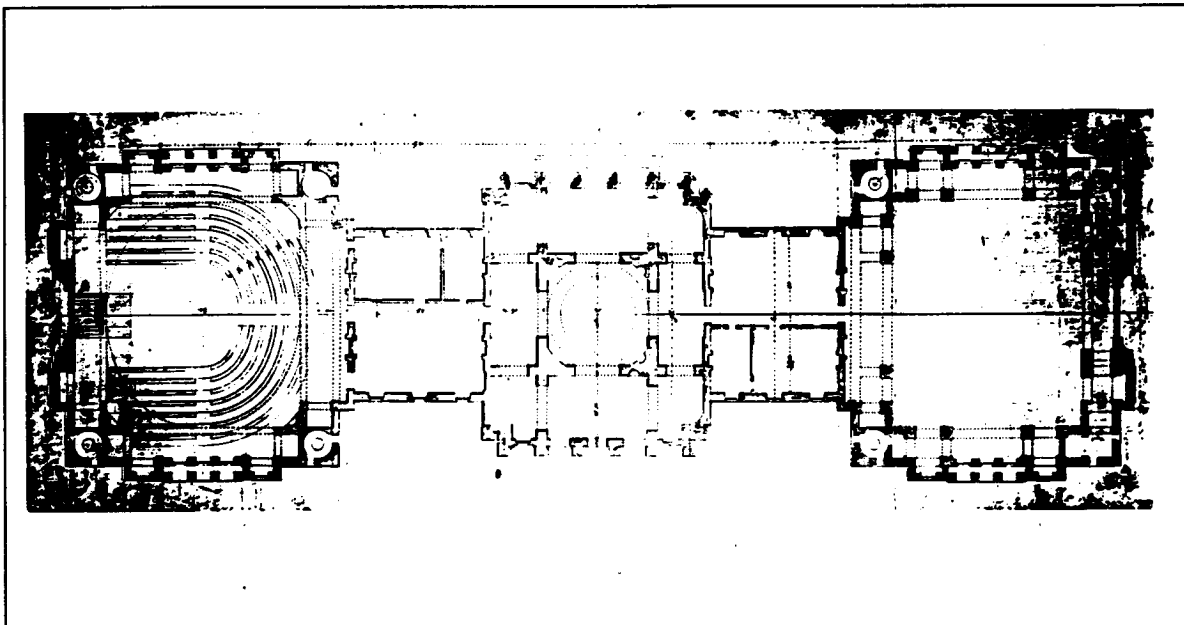


Illustration # 16: Design for United States Capitol, October 1792, Stephen Hallet. (Library of Congress).

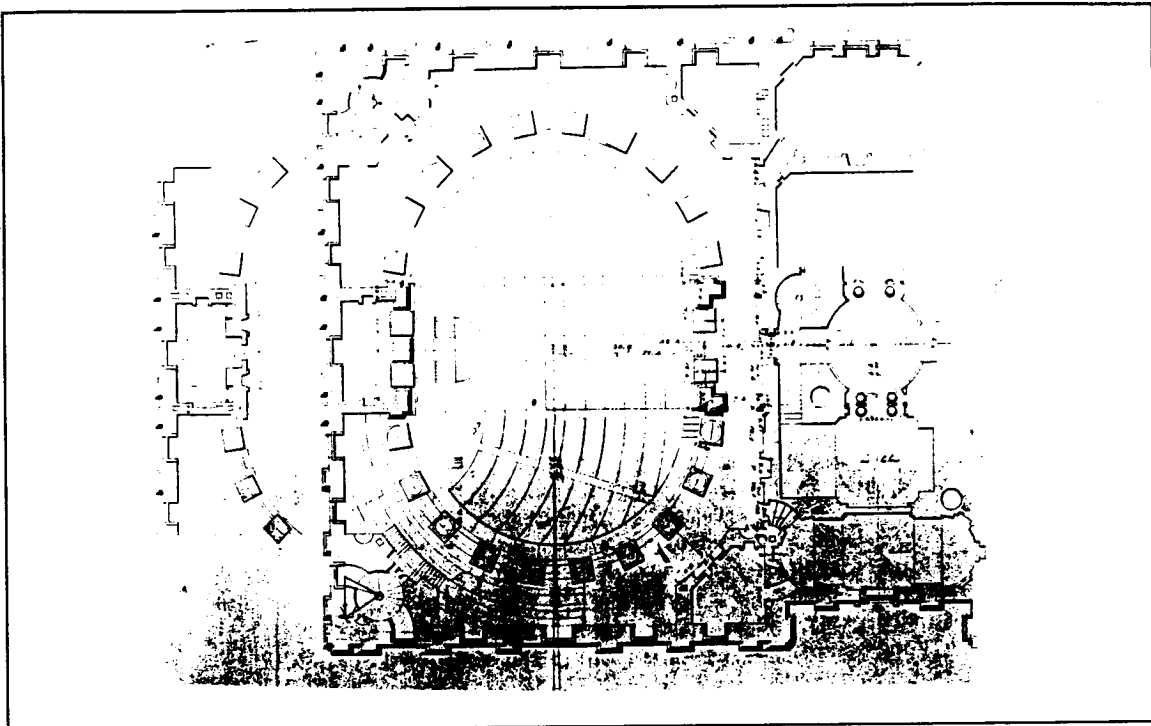


Illustration # 17: Plan showing the design of the House of Representatives Chamber in the United States Capitol, 1804, Benjamin Henry Latrobe. (Library of Congress).

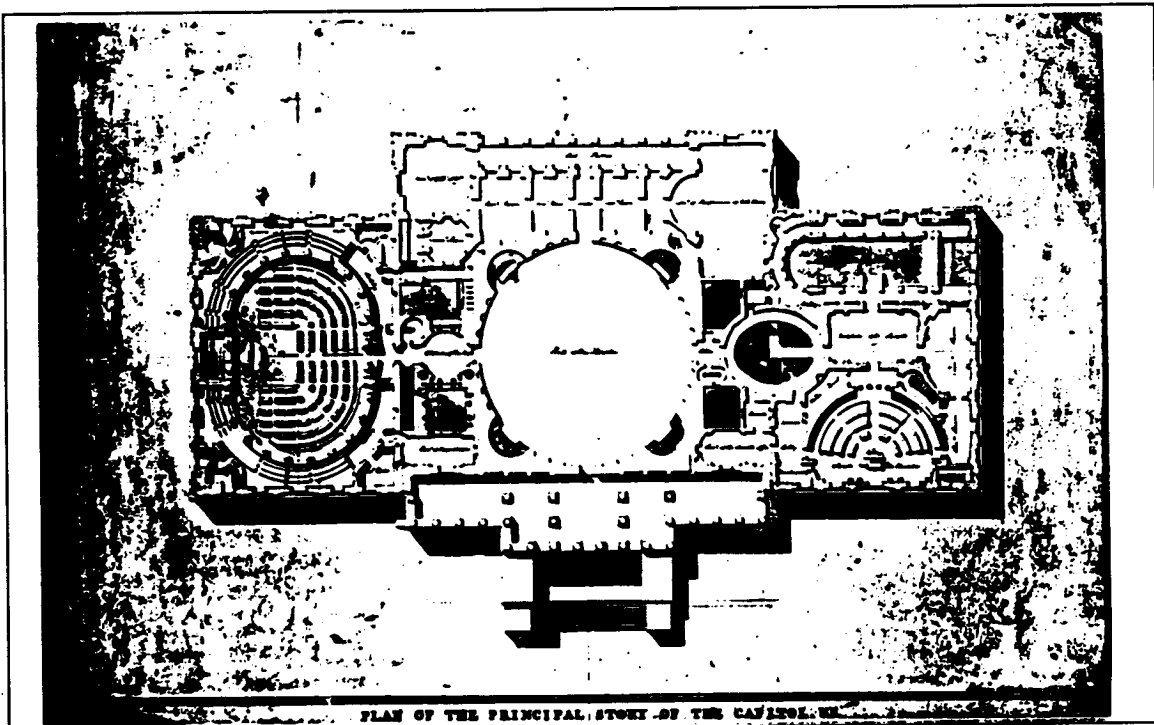


Illustration # 18: Principal story of the United States Capitol, 1806, Benjamin Henry Latrobe. (Library of Congress).

Selected Bibliography

A. Primary Sources

New York City, New York. Pierpont Morgan Library. Richard Varick Papers.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Athenaeum of Philadelphia. Records of the Philadelphia Chapter of the A.I.A., Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments, Congress Hall Restoration, 1900-1912.

Philadelphia. Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Tench Coxe Papers.

_____. Miers Fisher Papers.

Philadelphia. Independence National Historical Park. E.M. Yardley Collection of Notes, Photos and Newspaper Clippings Relating to Restoration of Congress Hall.

_____. Accessions Files Relating to the Acquisition of Historic Furnishings.

_____. City Collection, Correspondence Files Relating to the Restoration, Maintenance and Furnishing of Congress Hall.

_____. History Note Card File.

_____. Horace Wells Sellers Collection of Notes, Letters, Photos, Drawings and Newspaper Clippings Relating to Restoration of Buildings on Independence Square.

B. Secondary Sources

1. Unpublished (National Park Service Papers)

Diethorn, Karie, Associate Curator and John Bacon, Friends of Independence National Historical Park Museum Intern. Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall, Supplement 1, a Study of the Historic Philip Van Cortlandt Seating Plan and its Impact on the Refurnishing of the House of Representatives Chamber. Independence National Historical Park, September 1992.

Edgerton, Samuel Y. Historical Structures Report, Part II, on Congress Hall, Chapter III, Architectural Data Section, Supplement No.1, Restoration of Heating Apparatus. Independence National Historical Park, October 1961.

Hartshorne, Penelope, Architect. Historical Structures Report,

Part II, Architectural Data Section on Congress Hall.
Independence National Historical Park, April 1960.

Platt, John. An Institutional Study, the United States House of Representatives, 1790-1800, Congress Hall. Historic Preservation Team, Denver Service Center of the National Park Service, 1972.

Staff, INHP. Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall. Independence National Historical Park, July 1959.

Staff, INHP. Furnishing Plan for the First Floor of Congress Hall. Independence National Historical Park, March 1961.

Staff, INHP. Furnishing Plan for the Second Floor of Congress Hall. Independence National Historical Park, 1965.

2. Published

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-1989,
Bicentennial Edition. Washington: Government Printing
Office, 1989.

Brainard, Newton C. The Hartford State House. The Connecticut
Historical Society, 1964.

Brown, Glenn. History of the United States Capitol. 2 Vols.
Washington: Government Printing Office, 1900.

Carson, Marion S. "Thomas Affleck: A London Cabinetmaker in
Colonial Philadelphia". The Connoisseur, March 1968,
pp,187-191.

Frary, I.T. Thomas Jefferson Architect and Builder. Richmond:
Garrett and Massie, 1931.

Heritage Studies, Inc. The Pennsylvania Capitol, A Documentary
History. Harrisburg: Capitol Preservation Committee, 1992.

Horner, William MacPherson, Jr. Blue Book, Philadelphia
Furniture. Philadelphia: 1935.

Norton, Paul F. Latrobe, Jefferson and the National Capitol. New
York and London: Garland Publishing Inc., 1977.

Torres, Louis. "Federal Hall Revisited", Journal of the Society
of Architectural Historians, v. 29, n.4, December 1970, pp.
327-338.