CRBIB#002062
391/134813

RESTORATION OF THE
BISHOP WHITE HOUSE

Independence National Historical Park

Architectural Data Section

PART II, SUPPLEMENT I, ILLUSTRATIONS

Prepared by

Architects Norman M. Souder and George L. Wrenn

March 1961

RECOMMENDED

Supervising Architect, Historic Structures — Date Mar 9. 61

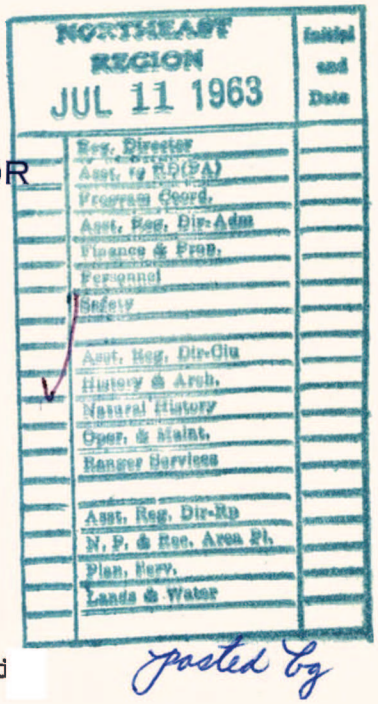
Chief, EODC — Date 3-9-61

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

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-DCA

JUL 9 - 1963



Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Assistant Director, Design and Constructi

Subject: Change in Historic Structures Report, Yard Wall, Bishop White House Restoration

This is in response to Mr. Palmer's memorandum of July 1, above subject, recommending that the previously approved yard wall be built without the gateway on the east side.

On the basis of his recommendation, Superintendent Anderson's and EODC's concurring opinions that the needs of interpretation require no entrance or exit gate in this wall, I hereby approve the recommended change.

It is noted that the doorway in the north side of the wall is not affected by this change.

A. Clark Stratton

cc:
Chief, EODC (2)
Superintendent, Independence

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

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

June 20, 1961

REGION FIVE
JUN 27 961
INITIAL AND DATE
REG. DIRECTOR
ASST. REG. DIR.
OPERATIONS
INTERPRETATION
ADM.
REC. RES. PLAN
RANGER ACT'S

Posted
CP
6/28

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Supplement 1, Bishop White House, Independence NHP

By memorandum of March 9, 1961, a set of illustrations for the report supplement, title as above, was received in this office. As they expand and to some extent support interpretations of the Bishop White House with which the staff of this Park were unable to agree (see memorandum of January 30, 1961), the review which follows considers narrative supplement and illustrations in relation to each other. As is also noted in the review, the supplement and its illustrations fail to take into consideration important data included in the architectural section of the Historic Structures Report, Parts I and II, on the Bishop White House.

It is desired that these comments be given full consideration before those "new features" of the working drawings remaining in question are approved and incorporated into the restoration.

Page iii of the supplement, "earlier reports include no written architectural justification for the conclusions shown in preliminary drawings":

In Part II, chapter III, of the Bishop White House report issued March 1959 there are ten sheets of eighteenth century architectural evidence drawings showing what of the original building remains.

In section 1, page 4, there is a list of ten missing interior details and the sources of their reconstruction, all taken from existing like parts of the house. In the same way, twenty some missing interior details are listed, doors, chair rails, baseboards, etc., with the sources of their reconstruction given in an opposite column.

On pages 5 and 6 are listed twenty-five missing details and in the opposite column the sources for the development of the restoration, with the numbers of the photographs in the INHP iconographic file which illustrate them. These show more the inspiration rather than exact copies.

On pages 8 and 9 is a short descriptive bibliography of helpful books.

Page iv of the supplement, "the fittings of the front parlor remain a mystery. Many details will of necessity be conjectural":

This same condition existed at the time of making the preliminary drawings and writing the previous reports. Decisions were reached with the weighing of such evidence as was possessed at the time. These decisions, if further evidence is forthcoming, may prove correct or incorrect.

Page iv of the supplement, "very little is now known about eighteenth century two-story necessaries. [How true.] We know of no survivals":

In chapter III, section 1, page 5 under "Necessaries," are listed 210 Spruce Street, INHP photograph 4252, and 113 Pemberton Street, photograph 4671. We did not get access to the interior of either but they still are worth a try.

Page 1, A5, of the supplement, Frontispiece:

With two exceptions, none of the examples or precedents cited was in existence at the time of the building of the Bishop White House and, therefore, could have had no influence on the design of the frontispiece, if one existed. The two given examples predating the building of the Bishop White House are an isolated Doric column which, standing alone, has little significance and a 1786 illustration of a Doric frontispiece with triglyphs and metopes, more suitable it would seem for a more pretentious building than a residence such as the Bishop's. Even here, the lack of entasis would indicate pilasters rather than the engaged columns implied by use of the illustrations. The picture of the Willing House in the Pennsylvania Magazine, vol. 46, p. 8, shows a frontispiece of the type in a much wider facade. Also note the house next to the U.S. Mint in illustration No. 2 which from its location, story heights, marble base, bands and venetian shutters is later than the Bishop White House.

Page 2, A2, Facing of Basement Wall:

If definite evidence is lacking as to brick or stone, even without the water table brick found, the weight of numbers of precedents would be in favor of brick.

Page 3, A3, Window Sash: Fine.

Page 4, A4, Dormer Consoles:

Philadelphia dormer consoles exist at the Powel House, Cliveden, and Mount Pleasant. Whether any here or elsewhere are original is questionable as their position on the roof is one that encourages rot. They may, however, be considered typical of Philadelphia dormer consoles.

The illustration from the Articles of the Carpenters' Company, 1786, while contemporary with the building of the Bishop White House, does not conform in profile to those of the 1859 photograph of the house. A console more closely resembling the Bishop's was on the first United States Mint, built in 1792 and now destroyed, Seventh Street north of Market Street near Sugar Alley, the first building ever owned by the U.S. Government. Two good photographs of this are enclosed. It is considered imperative to conform to the shape of those in the 1859 Sachse photograph of the Bishop White House, using an eighteenth century spirit and technique indigenous to this city.

Page 5, A5, Vestibule:

Probably the vestibule shown in the 1858 insurance survey was in the house during the Bishop's occupancy but not at the building of the house. If the plaster on the ceiling was original, it is a pity so much of it had to be removed for purposes of investigation. Would not a narrow longitudinal strip have sufficed?

Page 5, A6, Doorway Between Parlors:

This is good reasoning and probably quite correct; however, it would be well to investigate the double doors at 239 Pine Street (1795) and the Wharton House (prior to 1796).

Page 6, A7, Cupboard in Piazza:

As both walls into which the corner cupboard would have been placed are missing, the only evidence possible would be on the floor or ceiling if original. Both the 1858 and 1876-80 insurance surveys show a curve in this corner of the piazza, quite different it is true, but that of 1858 shows a curve in the survey similar to that of the closet at 239 Pine Street (1795). While the curve in the survey runs into the parlor, I think this is probably inaccurate draughtsmanship on the part of the surveyor.

Page 7, A8, First Floor Mantels: Good.

Page 8, B1, Removal of Steel Beams, etc.: Good

Page 9, Bishop White House...supported by the adjoining Yoh Building:

The Bishop White House east and west walls are 60 feet high, 9 inches thick throughout which would not be considered safe by the present building code of Philadelphia, even with new work. The Bishop White and Yoh buildings have been in juxtaposition for many years with no apparent damage to either. The Yoh Building would at least offer support to the westward.

Illustrations

1. Nosing)
2. Lintel)
3. Under side of hearth) -- All good and interesting
4. Back and jamb plates)
5. Front wall)
6. Front wall, cellar arch)

7. See comment above, under "A1--Frontispiece."

8. " " " " "

9. " " " " "

10. " " " " "

11. Water table brick. Good and interesting.

12. 1873 photograph. Locates the first band course. If the horse had only taken two more steps westward!

13. Good and interesting.

14. See comments on dormer, under A4.

15. Ceiling of hallway; see comments under A5.

16. Doors between parlors; see comments under A6.

17. Cellar wall. Good and interesting.

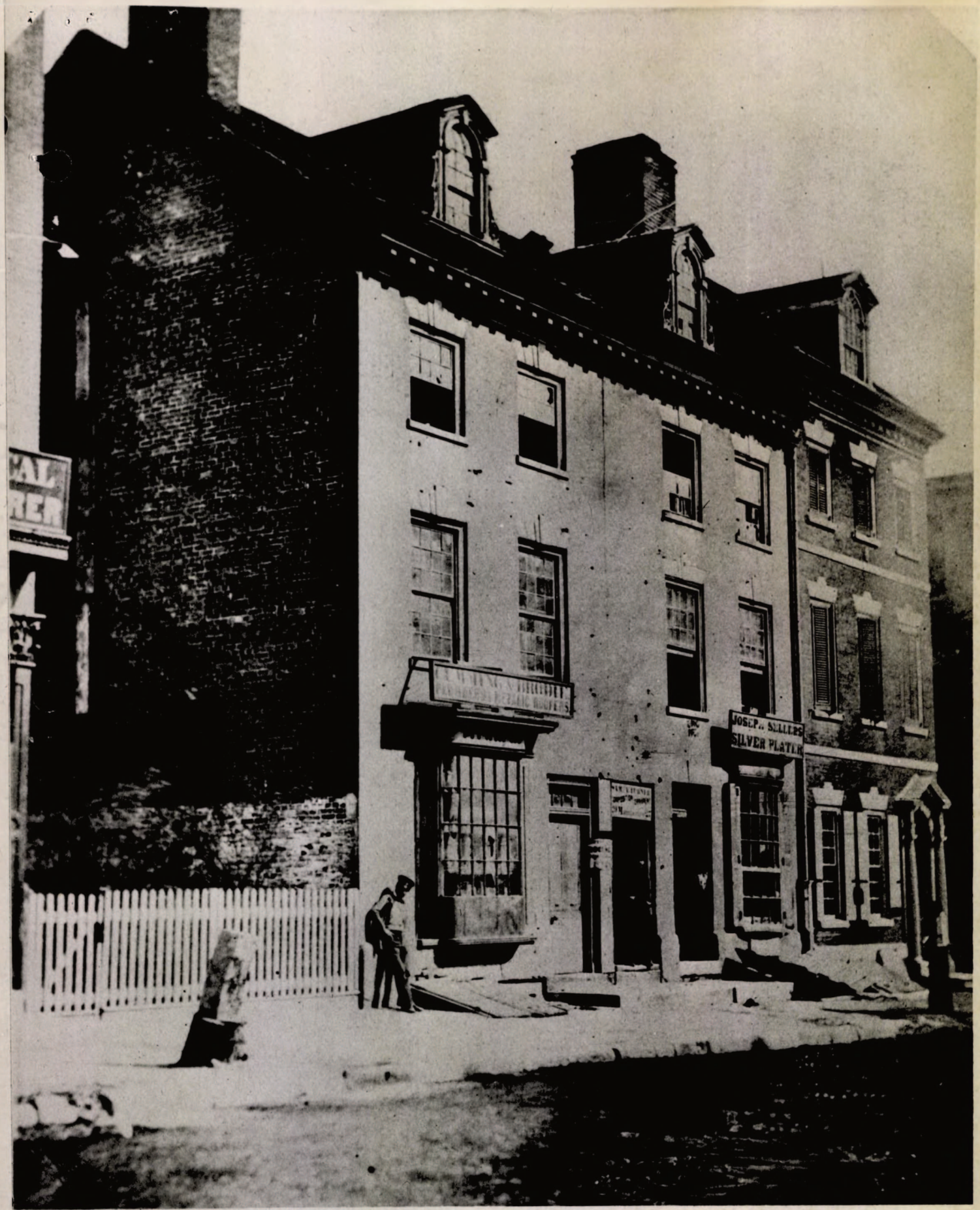
18. Rear wall. Good and interesting.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Enclosures

Copy to: Chief, EODC





Mid-19th century photograph of the Old United States Mint building, after the new mint, designed by Strickland, had been built at Juniper and Chestnut Streets. The structure shown here is the first building ever owned by the United States Government.

Passarelli 3/13/61

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30

March 13, 1961

Kelly 3/13
Comer 3/13/61

Memorandum

To: Director
From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Supplement I, Architectural Data Section, Bishop White House, Independence

Attached are two sets of illustrations to accompany Part II, Supplement I, Architectural Data Section of the Bishop White House Historic Structures Report. This material should be bound with Supplement I.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachments 2

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

CPassarelli

General
Daily
Area

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-H

March 9, 1961

REGION FIVE
MAR 10 1961
INITIAL AND DATE
REG. DIRECTOR
ASST. REG DIR
OPERATIONS
ADM.
REC RES. PLAN
RANGER ACT'S

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Architectural Data, Supplement I, Illustrations, Restoration of the Bishop White House, Independence

Attached for your review and distribution are four copies of the subject report. One copy has been retained by this office.

This report has been prepared to illustrate Supplement I dated January, 1961 and approved February 10, 1961. We recommend that this report be approved and bound with Supplement I.

Edward S. Zimmer
Chief

Attachment

Copy to: Supt., Independence
Chief of Design and Construction, Attn: Chief Architect (2)

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 10, 1961

H30-DCA

REGION FIVE FEB 13 1961	INITIAL AND DATE
REG. DIRECTOR	2/14
ASST. REG. DIR.	
OPERATIONS	2/15
INTERPRETATION	3/16
ADM.	
RFC RES. PLAN	
RANGER ACT'S	

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief Architect, Division of Design and Construction

Subject: Drawing No. NHP-IND-3147, Bishop White House Restoration and Historic Structures Report, Part II, Supplement No. 1 on Restoration of the Bishop White House, Architectural Data Section, Independence

The subject working drawings for the Bishop White House Restoration and Supplement No. 1 of the Historic Structures Report, Part II on the Restoration of the Bishop White House, Architectural Data Section, submitted with your memorandum of February 2, were approved by the Director on February 10.

Robert E. Smith
Chief Architect

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

P. S. The subject drawings were recommended for approval by Mr. Vint on February 6.

R.E.S.

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Engineer		
✓	Architect		2/16
✓	Land Archt.		2/16
	Programs		2/15/61

Chris
2/2/61
Cooke
2/2/61

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

N30 February 2, 1961

Memorandum

To: Chief, EODC

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Supplement I, Bishop White House, Independence National Historical Park

The subject report has been received and we want to thank you for your prompt action in submitting it. We are recommending it and the working drawings to the Director for his approval.

We share Superintendent Anderson's views as expressed in his memorandum of January 30, that obscure points with respect to certain architectural features should be clarified in future submissions and study made of other points on which disagreements exist. The further Supplements to Part II of the Historic Structures Report will be appreciated. As mentioned by Superintendent Anderson, we feel it would be very helpful for members of your staff to avail themselves of the knowledge and observations he and his staff can offer.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Supt., Independence NHP

Dr. Kelligan

General
Daily
Area
Programs

CHRISTENSON:emh

Chris 2/2/61
Bame 2/2
Crowell 2/2/61

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

H30

February 2, 1961

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Supplement I, Bishop White House, Independence National Historical Park

We want to express our appreciation for the prompt action you have taken in reviewing the Supplement to Part II of the Bishop White House Historic Structures Report, and in assisting us to work out the problems raised in the Working Drawings. The Drawings and the Supplement to the Historic Structures Report, Part II, have been recommended to the Director for his approval.

(Sgd.) Ronald F. Lee

Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Chief, HODC

General
Daily
Area
Programs

CHRISTENSON:emh

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30

January 30, 1961

REGION FIVE
JAN 30 1961

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

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region V

From: Superintendent, Independence

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Supplement I, Bishop White House, Independence NHP

We have reviewed the subject report and recommend it for approval. We do so with the understanding, as indicated in the Foreword by Supervising Architect Peterson, that obscure points with respect to certain architectural features of the building will be clarified and points on which there is still some significant disagreement will receive continued study and will be resolved before the restoration begins. In this connection we will anticipate the further supplements referred to in the last paragraph of EODC Chief Zimmer's memorandum of January 24.

In resolving technical questions and refining present knowledge of architectural details, we think it would be helpful to the EODC architects engaged in preparing the working drawings if they were to consult with members of the Park staff who were extensively involved with the original research as well as comparative studies on the Bishop White house. This involved systematically charting every Bishop White type of house between 10th Street and the river in the old section of Philadelphia, including access for study purposes to practically all of the interiors. Hundreds of photographs were taken which should prove useful at this time. We would be happy to facilitate the use of this photographic data and to have appropriate members of your staff continue to share whatever knowledge and observations they might have gained from this experience.

M. O. Anderson
Superintendent

Copy to: Chief, EODC

H30

Region Five
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

Nelligan
1/26

January 26, 1961

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Independence

From: Regional Chief of Interpretation

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Supplement 1, Bishop White House, Independence NHP

Attached for your review is one copy of the subject report.

Murray H. Nelligan

Murray H. Nelligan
Regional Chief of Interpretation

In duplicate

Attachment

cp
General
Daily
Area

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
~~H2623-H~~
H-30

January 24, 1961

REGION FIVE
JAN 24 961
INITIAL AND DATE
REG. DIRECTOR
ASST. REG. DIR.
OPERATIONS
INTERPRETATION
ADM.
REC. RES. PLAN
RANGER ACT'S

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Chief, EODC

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Supplement 1, Restoration of the Bishop White House, Independence

Attached for your review and distribution are four copies of the subject report. One copy has been retained by this office.

This report is prepared as a justification for the changes made in Drawing No. NHP-IND 3147 over the earlier drawings included as a section of the Part II Historic Structures Report. As the study of this building continues, further supplements to the report will be prepared to explain new findings.

We recommend this report for approval. Approval of this report and Drawing No. NHP-IND 3147 will permit work on the front unit of the house to proceed with the craftsmen now employed.

As further supplements to the report and detailed drawings are prepared, they will be submitted for approvals.

Edward S. Zimmer
Chief

Attachment

Copy to: Supt., Independence
Chief of Design and Construction, Attention: Chief Architect (2)

FOREWORD

Herewith is submitted the illustrative material to accompany the textual part of Supplement I. The latter was dated January, 1961 and approved February 10, 1961. Commentaries accompany each item.

Further physical evidence is continually coming to light and will be the subject of further supplements.

Charles E. Peterson
March 1961

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

This silica schist step nosing, found in the walls of the nineteenth century addition (ca. 1880) in the rear of the house, is typical of the eighteenth century. See Part II, Supplement I, page iii.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January, 1961
Neg. No. HODC 1148



ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

Front wall (Walnut Street): brick arch over exterior basement entrance. The brick side walls are original. The line of the exterior wall face can be noted along the front edge of the arch. At upper right are bricks at corner of house that may be part of original brick wall facing below the water table.

See page iv, 2.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, February, 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1392



ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

Front wall: remains after removal of Walnut Street sidewalk. Original stone window sill remaining in the front of the building at the basement level. The holes in the sill formerly held iron bars. The rough area in the stonework below the sill indicates the area of the wall formerly below grade (masonry laid up from inside of basement excavation). At the top right can be seen the base of the basement entrance bulkhead. See page iv.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, February, 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1395



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

Back and jamb plates removed from the base of the fireplace at the second floor level. See Illustration No. 3 for location of plates prior to removal. These plates are very similar to those found in Old City Hall which date from 1791. See page iii.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, February, 1961
Neg. No. HODC 1151



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

First floor front parlor ceiling at east wall. The chimney breast and fireplace were removed in this room and the structure above supported on fireplace back and jamb plates seen from below in the darkened area in the center of the photograph. See page iii.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, February, 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1150

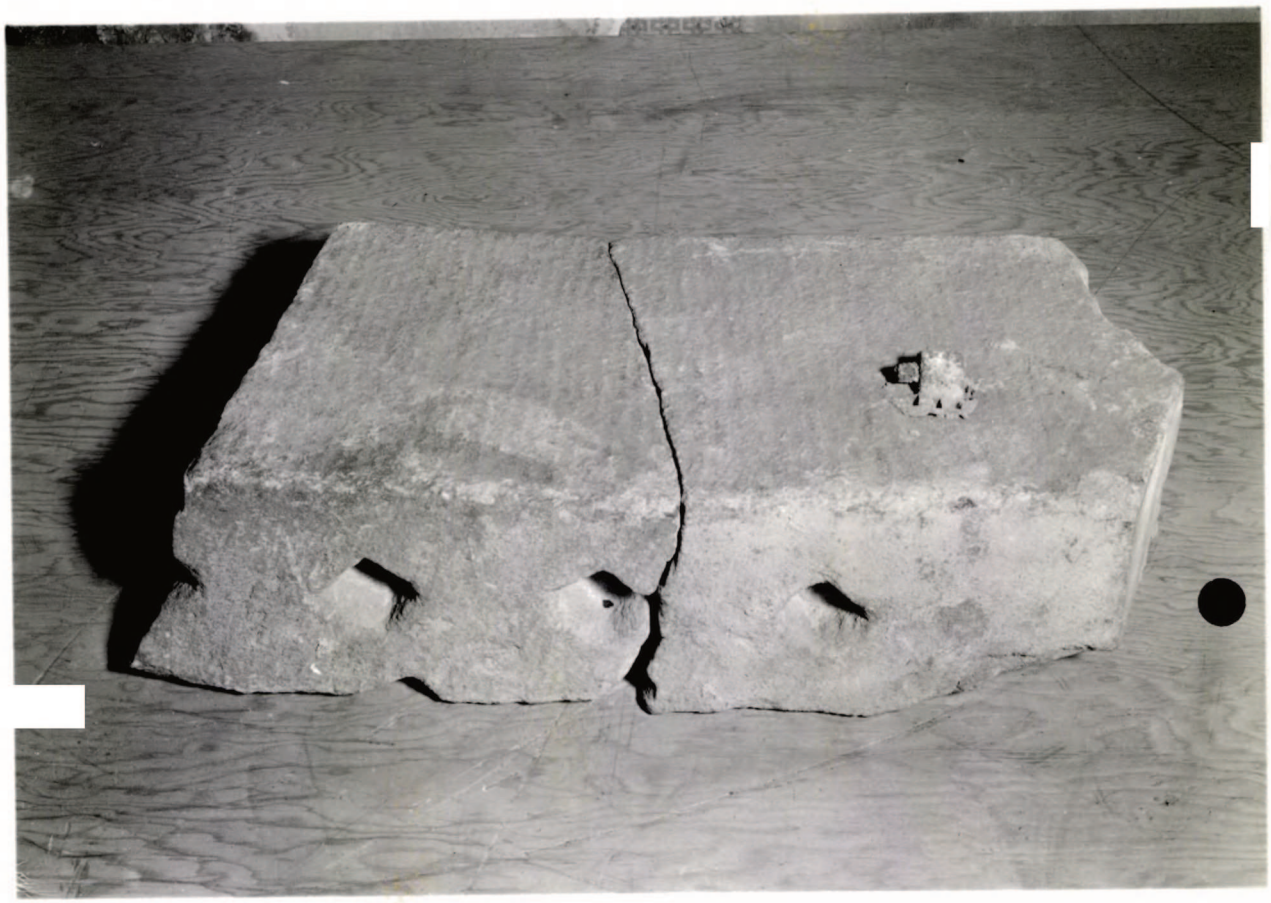


ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

Silica schist lintel for basement window found in walls of nineteenth century addition. Note the splay on the right side and the holes for square iron bars. The pintle probably was used to hold the wood areaway cover. See page iii.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January, 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1149



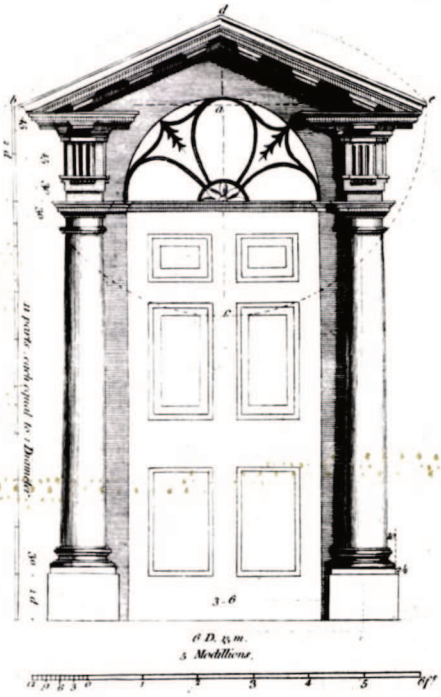
ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

The original frontispiece of the house has been missing for over a century and we have only one poor watercolor to describe it. We are showing herewith some of the source material used as the basis for our new design. The photostat contains four illustrations from two contemporary pattern books as follows:

1. William Pain, Practical [redacted] Carpenter, London, 1789, plate 29, courtesy of Free Library.
2. ibid., legend for plate 29.
3. ibid., plate 22.
4. William Pain, The Builder's Companion, London, 1789, p.59, courtesy of Free Library.

See page 2.

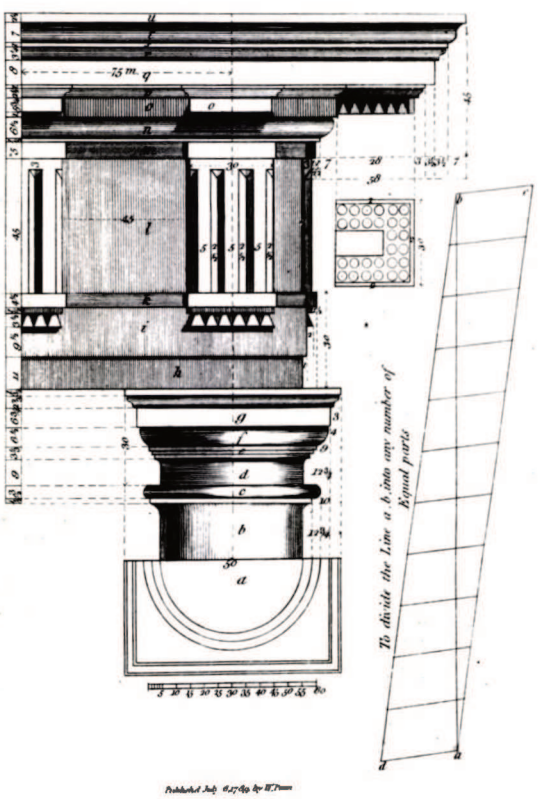
Plate 29



To face Plate XXIX.

DORIC front drawn half an inch to a foot; the clear paſſage 3 feet 6 inches, the height 7 feet 2 inches, the height of the column 7 feet 4 inches, to be divided into 9 equal parts, one of which parts will be the diameter of the column at bottom; give one of them to the ſub-plinth, half a one to the baſe, half a one to the cap of the column, and two to the entablature, that will be 30 minutes to the architrave, 45 minutes to the frize, and 45 minutes to the cornices; the diſtance from center to center of the columns is 6 diameters, 15 minutes, which will take 5 modillions; to find the pitch of the pediment ſet the compaſſes at *a* in the tympan of the pediment, and draw the circle *b c e*, then ſet the compaſſes at *c*, and draw the arch *b d e*, which gives the height of the pediment at *d*; this method will give the pitch of any pediment.

Plate 27



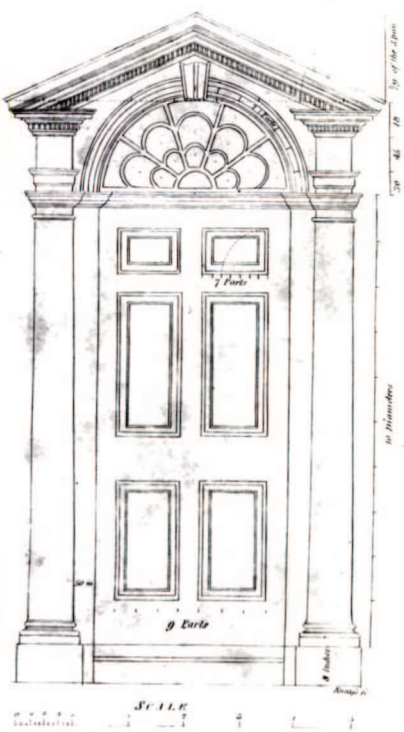
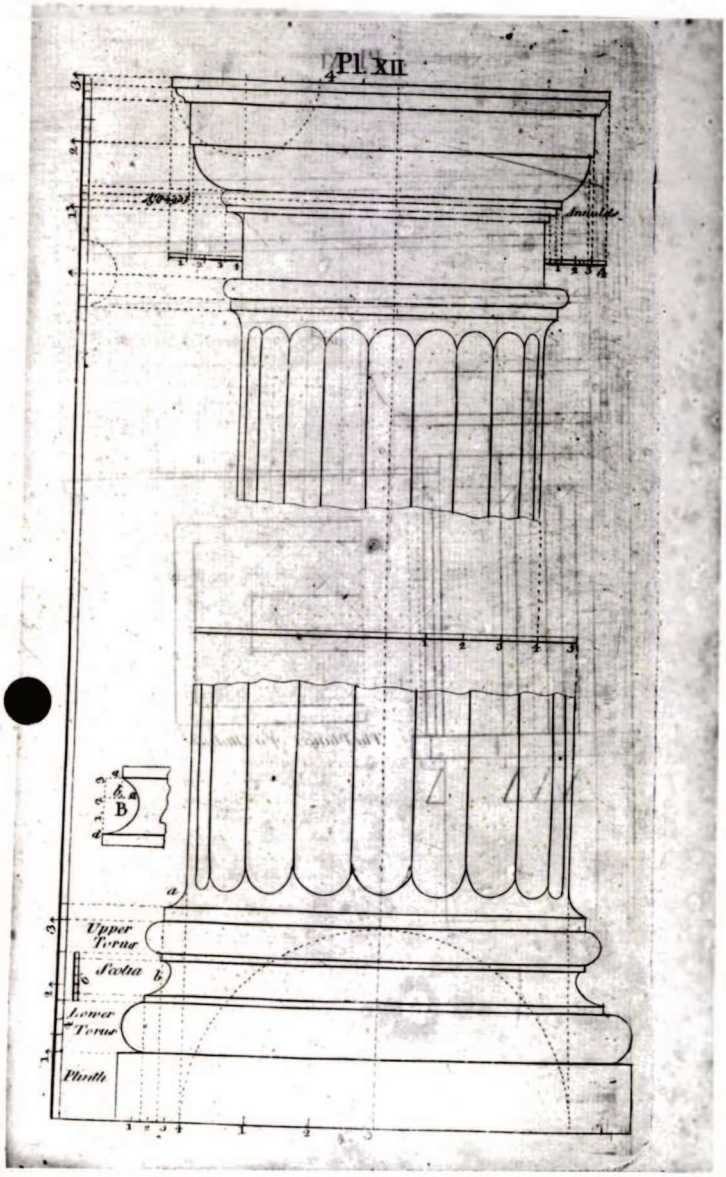


ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

Illustration from two pattern books used in designing the proportions of the Bishop White house frontispiece.

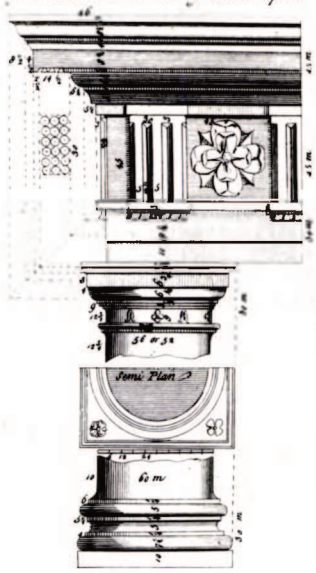
1. John Norman, The Town and Country Builder's Assistant, Boston, 1786, plate XII, courtesy of Henry Judd.
2. Owen Biddle, The Young Carpenter's Assistant, Philadelphia, 1805, plate 15, courtesy of Free Library.

See page 2.

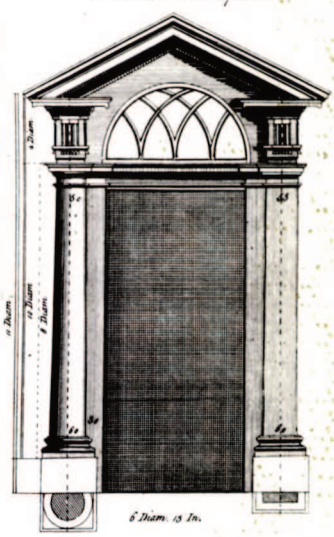


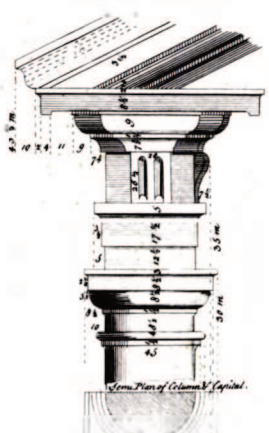
Page 39

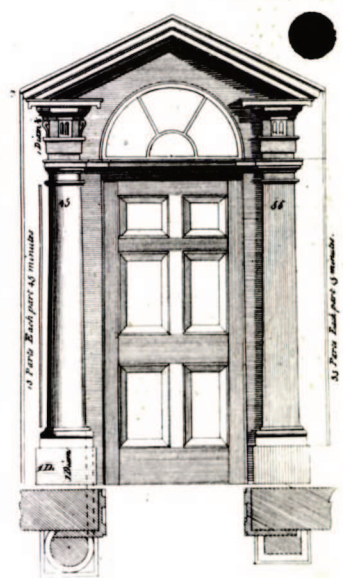
Dorick Entablature with its Base & Capital



Dorick Frontispieces







The Tuscan Base Capital & Entablature at Large

Divide the Column Bottom into be minutes and give them to the Mouldings in height and projection as they are figured.

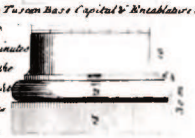


ILLUSTRATION NO. 9

Frontispiece shown in Articles of the Carpenters Company... Philadelphia, 1786, unpaged, courtesy of the Carpenters' Company Library. See page 2.

Copy Neg. HABS



ILLUSTRATION NO. 10

Old photograph of the John Clement Stocker house, 402 South Front Street, from the Shoemaker Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The wide frontage (27'-2") of the house is close to that of the Bishop White house (26') and the two houses are similar in design. The frontispiece on the Stocker house (now missing) was included among the prototypes for the design of the frontispiece of the Bishop White house. Note similarities in the third floor window glazing using the same unusually large size glass as specified in the early insurance records of the Bishop White house. See page 1.

Copy Neg. HABS



ILLUSTRATION NO. 11

Moulded water table brick found incorporated in the wall of the nineteenth century back building. The brick indicates the possibility of a brick water table on the Walnut Street facade of the building.

See page 2.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, January 1961
Neg. No. HODC 1152



ILLUSTRATION NO. 12

1873 photograph in the Penrose Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, showing the Bishop White house (with awning) at that period. In this photo what may be a brick water table is shown adjacent to the east (not original) door. The portions above the first floor were then in almost their original condition. See page 2.

Copy Neg. No. EODC 1157


PATENT OFFICE
CARPENTER
&
WILSON.
IRON
BOILER PLATE.
BOILER TUBES.
PATENTS

ILLUSTRATION NO. 13

The upper sash of the front garret windows, repaired in the 1950's, is original, demonstrating the use of the 12-1/2" x 22-1/2" glass as specified in the early insurance records. See page 3.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1390



ILLUSTRATION NO. 14

Dormer consoles shown in Articles of the Carpenters Company... Philadelphia, 1786, unpaged, courtesy of the Carpenters' Company Library. See page 4.

Copy Neg. HABS

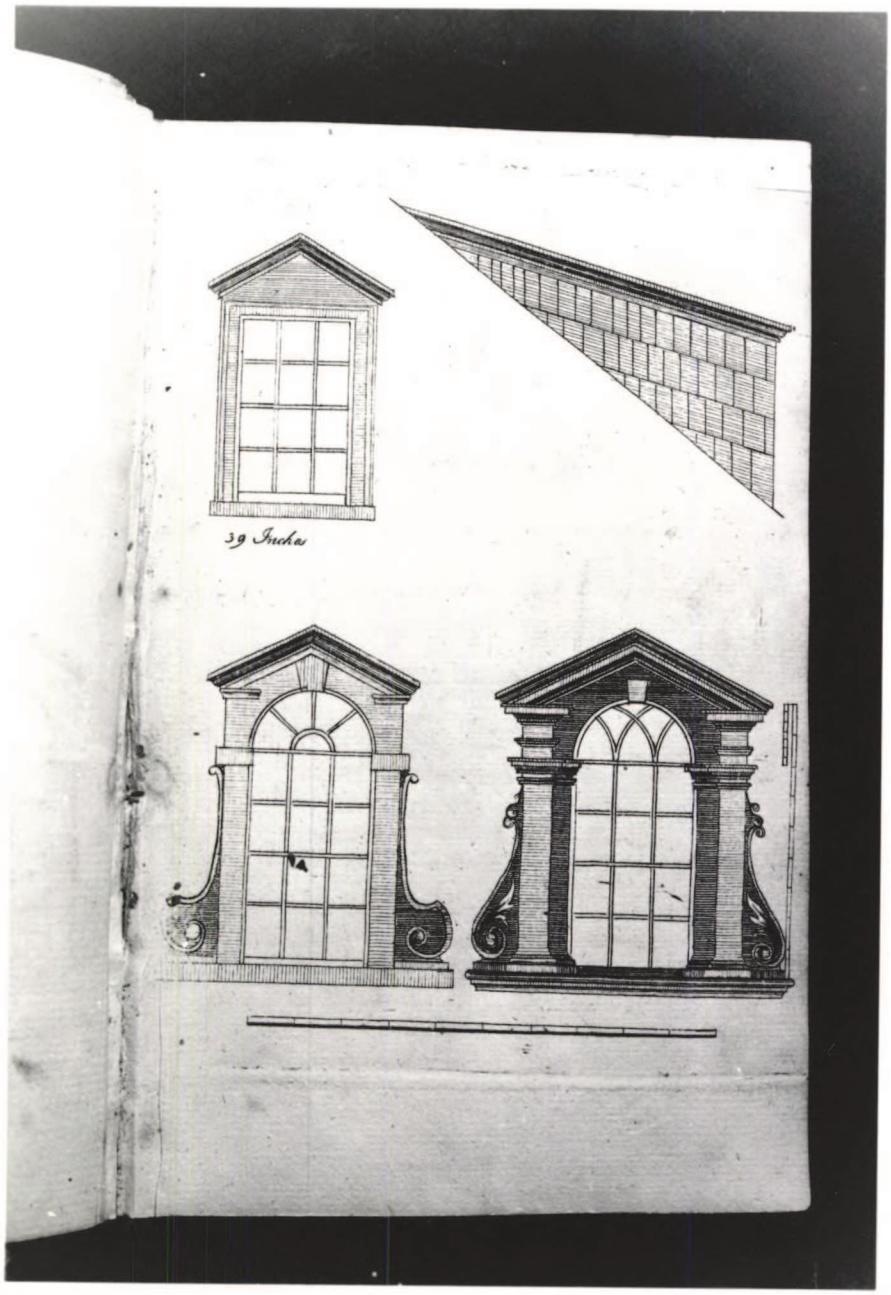

39 Inches



ILLUSTRATION NO. 18

The remains of the rear wall of the front building. Here, the two stone basement window sills are intact with holes for iron bars. The face of brick nearest the rule marks the face of the exterior wall.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1156

ILLUSTRATION NO. 17

The rough area in the wall at the left and the footings below the present basement floor level indicate the location of the wall between the front section of the house and the piazza--a continuation of the rear wall of the house.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1155



ILLUSTRATION NO. 16

Basement interior window opening. One horizontal bar is still in place. A vertical 2" x 4" was placed in the photograph to indicate the point on the floor above where the masonry jamb to a double door between parlors would occur.

See page 6.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, February 1961
Neg. No. EODC 1154



ILLUSTRATION NO. 15

The ceiling of the first floor entrance hall. The split lath is original and shows no break; indicating the absence of a vestibule when the house was built. A later vestibule was added--shown by the light line across the lath to the right of the light bulb. See page 5.

Photo: Jack E. Boucher, February 1961
Neg. No. HODC 1153

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART II, SUPPLEMENT 1

ON

RESTORATION OF THE BISHOP WHITE HOUSE

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

Prepared by

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January 1961

RECOMMENDED

Supervising Architect, Historic Structures — Date Jan 24-61

Chief, EODC — Date 1.24.61

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

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I FOREWORD

Architectural study of the Bishop White house began in the summer of 1951 when our first student measuring team produced a set of measured drawings under the direction of part-time supervisor William M. Campbell. At that time insurance surveys were collected and a query placed in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography (October, 1951, p.448) requesting documentary material which, incidentally, was never forthcoming. The Bishop's papers have been scattered far.

The first architectural data section by the Park's Resident Architect is dated April, 1958, and the second March, 1959. Neither was studied or commented on by EODC before the report was approved in Washington.

The present work at the Bishop White house started under the direction of EODC when Buildings Restoration Specialist William A. Ernst was transferred from the General Schuyler house restoration at Schuylerville, N. Y. in September, 1960. Four carpenters were employed in October and one mason in December. Their work has been the removal of modern parts enabling us to study the old fabric. A great number of objects has been found, some of them contributing important details.

This report was prepared to justify the new features shown in the working drawings transmitted to the Regional Director on December 28, 1960, for approvals. Admittedly, it

would have been well to have sent this report along with it.

SUPPLEMENT NO. TWO

A pictorial supplement illustrating this report is being worked on. It will be completed and forwarded in a few days. Other supplements may well follow before long; there are many mysteries yet to be solved.

There is still very little documentary knowledge information available; the recent breakthrough by Curator Dorman in finding correspondence between the Bishop and his wife during construction encourages us to expect more. We are hoping from day to day that documents will show up to explain some of the mysteries of this remarkable house.

Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect
Historic Structures
January 1961

II. GENERAL STATEMENT

Many modern features have been removed in the last four months. The concurrent investigation brought to light some features previously unknown and pointed up a need for additional study before the working drawings can be completed. Further study of the rear portions of the house is necessary and will be covered in an additional supplement or supplements.

Earlier reports include no written architectural justification for the conclusions shown in preliminary drawings.

New Discoveries

Many pieces of reused stone and marble were found (and are still being found) in the walls of the nineteenth century (ca. 1880) additions in the rear of the house. These included such items as stone step nosings, heads and sills of cellar windows with the square holes for iron bars, splash blocks, and what appear to be fragments from a front door stoop, a well cover and jambs to the cellar bulkhead. An effort is now being made to analyze the architectural fragments found and to determine their relationship to the original fabric of the building.

When the modern ceiling of the first floor was removed we found back and jamb plates from a fireplace reused as supporting members to the southern-most chimney at the second floor level. These are not yet accessible for examination. The fireplace and

chimney at the first floor had been removed, probably in the mid-nineteenth century.

A portion of the modern front sidewalk was removed exposing the areaway to the basement and the sill to the original basement window.

Some Items Requiring Further Study

The fittings of the front parlor remain a mystery. Many details will of necessity be conjectural.

The kitchen and necessary at the rear of the building should be given further study. The area previously designated as an oven in the basement of the kitchen wing is in need of further study. It is possible that the kitchen was on the floor above. A careful analysis of these features will be made and explained in an additional supplement to this report. Very little is now known about eighteenth century two story necessaries. We know of no survivals. This feature is also receiving further study so that this unique feature may be as authentic as we can make it.

A1. FRONTISPIECE

We redesigned the frontispiece of the Bishop White house so that it would be more in harmony with the wide frontage (26') of the building. Semi-engaged columns were introduced into the design in place of pilasters in order to accomplish this. The evidence for these columns came from the following sources.

The Evans drawing (Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Illustration No. 4) shows a frontispiece with semi-engaged columns.[1]

The John Clement Stocker house on South Front Street, which is very close in many details to the Bishop White house had, according to two early photographs,[2] a frontispiece with semi-engaged columns. The outline of the frontispiece still shows clearly on the brickwork.

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1 The Kennedy watercolor (Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Illustration No. 5) shows no frontispiece at all but for a house as large as the Bishop's it seems more likely that a frontispiece was used and the drawing can be taken as some evidence that it had semi-engaged columns.

2 "Robert Stocker House and Bishop William White House," [ca. 1790], Shoemaker Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania. See also photo in Hubert C. Wise and H. Ferdinand Beidleman, Colonial Architecture for those about to build (Phila: 1913), 80

The frontispiece we are recommending was adapted from pattern books[3] of the period and from the above mentioned Stocker house photos.

A 2. FACING OF BASEMENT WALL

The material facing the front wall below the water table can only be conjectured as no positive evidence has come to light which would tell us whether it was brick or stone. Comparable Philadelphia buildings use both brick and stone facings.[4]

The 1859 Sachse photograph (Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Illustration No. 3) shows a water table which appears to be stone though the evidence is not conclusive because the front had been modified by that time. Pieces of dressed stone have been found (which had been salvaged and reused in later walls) that could have been used for the facing.

One moulded water table brick has also been found among rubble in the cellar, but this also is inconclusive evidence.

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[3] Pain, William, The Builder's Companion, 1789 and Practical House Carpenter, 1789.

Biddle, Owen, The Young Carpenters Assistant, Philadelphia 1805.

Benjamin, Asher, Rudiments of Architecture, 1814.

[4] Cf Hertzog Mansion, NW Cor. Race and Crown Streets and Hopkinson House, 338 Spruce Street.

When our working drawings were made the weight of the evidence seemed to favor a stone water table. Further intensive examination of the facade at ground level has revealed bricks that may have formed part of the facing of the basement wall. We will continue to search for evidence and will change the drawings to conform with that evidence as we evaluate.

A 3. WINDOW SASH

The panes of glass in the front building of the Bishop White house shown in the earlier proposals to be 11" x 16" were based on the old painting by John Sartain, ca. 1836. Since the building is being restored to an earlier period our drawings show glass panes of 12-1/2" x 22-1/2" which we believe to have been the original size for the following reasons.

The Minutes of the Mutual Assurance Company, August 8, 1787 (Extract in Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Section 1, page 1) note that

> "If any damage be done to the windows in case of Fire, it shall be estimated at the same rate as if the Glass had been of the size of 8 by 10 inches."

Policy No. 191, Mutual Assurance Company, renewal dated November 20, 1795, (Extract in Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Section 1, page 2) refers to

> "window Glass of the dimensions of twelve & half inches, by twenty two & half inches, but if any damage shall be done to the windows in case of fire, it shall be estimated at the same rate as if the Glass had been of the size of eight by ten inches."

These references quite clearly indicate that the glass was 12-1/2" x 22-1/2", and they are further supported by later insurance documents.

The evidence of the insurance documents is reinforced by the existence of panes of the larger size on the apparently original sash of the fourth floor dormers.

As the technology of glass manufacture developed through the years the public was able to satisfy its taste for larger panes of glass. This continued until a single piece occupied a whole sash. The Colonial Revival has brought back a new interest in the smaller sizes so common in the eighteenth century. Though harder to wash, they are more in scale with the architecture and now admired for a different reason than that which caused them to be used in the eighteenth century.

The Stocker house still has large dormer glass panes like those on the Bishop White house.

A 4. DORMER CONSOLES

No dormer consoles were shown on the INHP drawings. Those shown on our drawings were taken from an illustration in the Carpenters' Company Rulebook of 1786 (contemporary with the house) and from a study of a few existing examples on other houses.[5] Further study will be made of the 1859 Sachse

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5 Better known houses with these dormer brackets are the Powel House, 244 South Third Street (1765) and Hampton Mansion, Baltimore County, Maryland (1783-90).

photograph (Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Illustration No. 3) and other examples. Details of the consoles will be drawn and submitted for approval at a later date.

A 5. VESTIBULE

The vestibule shown in the Independence National Historical Park drawings was removed in the working drawings for the following reason.

The original split lath on the first floor hall ceiling are intact running from the front of the building beyond the point where the vestibule would have been. There is no break line in the lath which would indicate that there had been a partition in the area originally. Standard construction procedure at the time would have been to frame in the partition and lath up to it thereby leaving a break line in the lath where the partition had been.

Vestibules are rare if not unknown in houses of the period.

The insurance survey of 1858 (Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Section I, page 3) mentions a vestibule in the hall but by that time the building had been much altered. (There were then two front doors and two vestibules). Vestibules were common in nineteenth century houses in the area after the introduction of central heating when hallways were heated for the first time.

A 6. DOORWAY BETWEEN PARLORS

Double doors between the front and rear parlors on the first floor are shown on the earlier drawings. This has been changed to a single door because investigation of the basement wall indicates that the brick jamb of the double door would rest directly on the lintel of the basement window below, whereas the jamb of a single door would miss the window lintel and thereby avoid cantilevering the brick partition.

Use of the double door in this location was not common until the turn of the century, and in view of the physical evidence it is likely that the earlier custom of the single door was followed in the Bishop White house. The double door shown in the 1858 insurance survey probably was the result of later alterations, perhaps even as late as the Victorian period.

A 7. CUPBOARD IN PIAZZA

The corner cupboard in the piazza shown in the Independence National Historical Park drawings was omitted in the working drawings for lack of positive evidence of its existence. The insurance survey plan of 1858 (Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Illustration No. 2) shows a curve taken out of the back parlor rather than inserted in the piazza where the cupboard might have been. The later survey of 1876 (Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Illustration No. 7) shows a different curved wall as part of a fireproof safe in the back

parlor. No physical evidence remains of a corner cupboard and very few examples from the period have been found. Until more evidence is found it seems better to delay installation of the cupboard which could easily be put in later rather than have to remove it as an intrusion later if it should prove to be incorrect.

A 8. FIRST FLOOR MANTELS

Marble mantels are shown in the working drawings in place of the wooden ones used in the INHP drawings. This change was made in accordance with a letter found by Charles Dorman, museum curator, from Mrs. White to the Bishop when he was in England requesting him to find marble mantels for the first floor of his house the construction of which was being supervised during his absence by his friends Mayor Powel and Judge Peters.[6] The insurance survey of 1858 (Historic Structures Report, Part I, Chapter II, Section I, page 3) refers to a "white marble mantel" on the first floor and this may have been the original. The actual design of the mantels in question and the exact material to be used is to be decided after further research is done. This was noted on the drawings.

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6 On November 27 [1786], Mrs. White wrote to the Bishop, "...it is his [Samuel Powel] opinion I should have some of the chimneys measured and the dimensions sent you for marble, which I shall inclose..." Account of the Meeting of the Descendants of Colonel Thomas White of Maryland (Phila: 1879) 165.

B. STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL

B 1. Removal of Steel Beams and Stabilization of Walls

During modern alterations the interior brick masonry cross walls were removed on the first floor level and large steel I-beams were inserted to support the walls above. Earlier Park Service reports advocated leaving the steel in place and building new brick wall under. By so doing the following problems are encountered:

1. There is no physical bond between the lower and upper masonry structure.
2. No utilities, electrical or heating can be carried in the walls.
3. A complicated set of blocking must be installed to attach the finish surface.
4. The flanges on the steel I beams must be cut directly under original joist by a cutting torch introducing a fire hazard.

We recommend that the modern steel intrusions be removed and the walls be rebuilt as in the original structure.

As work progresses we will be able to examine the existing floor structure and determine what steps, if any, are necessary to assure safe use of the building as a house museum. We must first know what the intended visitor use will be. It seems likely that the original joists, reinforced where necessary, will do the job.

Recommendations have been made that the Bishop White should be physically tied to and be supported by the adjoining Yoh building. Further study indicates that this support is unnecessary and probably inadvisable. At least we have found no justification for these measures. The Bishop White House, an old structure of brick masonry and wood, will surely react differently to climatic conditions than the Yoh building constructed of reenforced concrete and steel. It might even suffer damage from the connection.

B 2. Heating

Part II of the Historic Structures Report recommends the installation of some form of radiant heat but shows, instead, an elaborate system of ductwork rising in the Yoh building and entering the Bishop White building by puncturing the party wall in numerous places and running ducts through joist bays. By so doing the following problems are encountered:

1. The joist bays are not large enough for the required duct sizes therefore a double puncture must be made for each duct.
2. In every bay used for a duct the bridging and structural reenforcing must be removed.

3. The continued marriage of the old and historic Bishop White House to a modern adjacent building would be enforced even though the plans for the use of these buildings will undoubtedly change through the years.

Because of the request that air conditioning and humidification control be provided we recommend the preliminary layout as shown in our drawing NHP-IND 3147.

In this system the historic walls are punctured in only two places, once in the attic and once in the basement. The source or mechanical units will be in the basement of the Yoh building but could be reinstalled within the Bishop White basement at any time this might be desired. Ducts would rise in the new masonry walls. Duct chases can be built as the walls are erected. Durawall or similar reenforcing will be installed to assure the lateral stability of the walls is maintained. Heating on the third floor will be brought down from above, thereby making it unnecessary to disturb the remaining original walls.

This scheme of ducts has the architectural advantage of sparing the old walls of the second and third floors--a major advantage in the conservation of the old fabric.

While the ducts would be visible in the basement it is not believed that they will conceal anything of great interest or that they will spoil the specialists' appreciation of the interesting features of this house.

B 3. Electrical

The recommended location of electrical outlets and lights as shown in drawing No. NHP-INd 3147 are in accordance with the requests of museum branch personnel. No recommendations on fixtures are made at this time. This requires further study by the architects and the Museum Branch.