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NOTES ON CARPENTERS' HALL

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PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

by Charles E. Peterson

Feb. 16 1948

Independence

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FOREWORD

Although Carpenters' Hall is widely famous as an historic building its physical fabric does not seem to be well understood.

In this essay the writer has attempted to trace structural evolution as completely as a limited amount of research would allow. To that end an effort was made to ascertain the nature of the building's occupancy in all periods. Notes and transcriptions were made at Philadelphia in the summer of 1947 from various published sources as well as the manuscript records of the Carpenters' Company. A brief summary was submitted to the Philadelphia National Shrines Park Commission on August 28.

Notes in abundance are supplied in order that the study may be carried forward in directions not herein explored. The writer would be pleased to have errors of statement and omission brought to his attention. One item of possible value, published in 1919, has not been available for study here. It is Charles J. Cohen, "The Origin of Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, with Incidents of the Neighborhood." Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia. Proceedings 28: 123-166.

Fifty copies of this essay are being mimeographed for administrative purposes.

Charles E. Peterson,
Landscape Architect.

National Park Service,
Old Courthouse,
St. Louis 2, Missouri.
(February 16, 1948)

I: BUILDING THE HALL

Probably the oldest builders' organization in the United States is the Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia.(1) The year of its founding was 1724. The town was then still young and Ben Franklin - also young - had just come down from Boston to try his fortune as a journeyman printer.

The association was formed "for the purpose of obtaining instruction in the science of architecture and assisting such of their members as should by accident be in need of support, or the widows and minor children of members....."(2) The names of the ten original associators have been preserved(3) but the record books of the first forty years were lost years ago. That founder James Porteus bequeathed the Company his architectural books in 1734, that the Company itself made an appropriation for this purpose in 1736 and that a second company of carpenters was assimilated in 1752 are the only facts which have been preserved for this early period.(4) Presumably meetings were held in the homes of members or in taverns like Franklin's Junto, organized about the same time.(5)

The oldest record book preserved among the manuscripts of the Company shows that by 1763 the erection of a meeting hall was being contemplated:

> ..... the following Members was appointed Jos. Fox Jno Thornhill Jno Goodwin, Benj^{n} Loxley & Guning Bedford to fix upon a Propper Lott of Ground to Build a Hall for the Use of the S^{d} Comp^{y}.....(6)

Five years later a site on the south side of Chestnut Street was acquired in the name of three members - Benjamin Loxley, Thomas Nevell

and Robert Smith.[7] This was a narrow lot with a sixty-six foot frontage on which there were already some buildings, and for which a ground rent of 176 Spanish milled pieces of eight were paid. The property ran back 255 feet to Howel's tanyard on the south branch of Dock Creek and behind the old public school on Fourth Street.[8]

Plans for development were soon under consideration and at the meeting of April 18, 1768 it was recorded that

takeing into Consideration the Improvement of their lott M^r Smith Exhibited Sketch for a Building to be thereon Erected & the Members Ware desired to Consider When Will be a proper time to Begin the Building &c.[9][10]

Whether or not Robert Smith, who was one of the most influential master carpenters of his period, drew these plans himself is not known. At any rate he was one of the moving spirits of the project.

Before the end of the year the Company began to improve the buildings already on their lot. At least one of these buildings was to be rented out for the benefit of the Company's treasury. The Hall itself was quite a financial venture and apparently did not really "pay off" for some years.

Two years later the Company was ready to build their new Hall. On January 20, 1770 title in the lot was transferred from Gunning Bedford et al[11] and at a meeting on the 30th it was voted to proceed.[12] Twenty two members subscribed nearly two hundred pounds[13] and a few days later -- February 5 -- construction was begun.[14]

The progress of construction may be roughly followed by entries in the account books of payments for materials and labor. These are samples:

1770

Sept.	18	Cellar excavation and furnishing bricks
Oct.	__	Cupola
Oct.	22	Shingling roof
Nov.	12	Cornice
Dec.	20	Vane and ball

1771

Oct.	24	Planing floor and fencing alley

1772

May	14	Gothic sashes for front windows
Dec.	30	Lath

1773

Jan.	14	Sash pulleys
Jan.	20	Stone Steps
Feb.	1	Doors
Dec.	21	Painting and glazing

1774

Apr.	8	Plastering
Aug.	7	Stairs

The fact that £ 300 was borrowed of Joseph Fox early in 1773 for the completion of the building provides a check on construction progress. (15)

When the building was nearly complete it was "surveyed" for two fire insurance policies totaling £ 750. The description by Gunning Bedford on December 22, 1773 reads as follows:

50 feet Square having a 10 ft Brake in each Corner thereof two Storys high 14 inch walls - two Rooms and pasage below - 3 Rooms & pasage, in Second Story plasterd pertisions - two Storys of open Newel Stairs- Rampd and Bracketed - Straight Joint floor in first Story the Rooms finishd very plain Glass 12 by 0 - a frett in Bedmold of Eaves Cornish. A Cupola on the Roof New

(16)

Gung Bedford

This description is of particular interest in reconstructing an imaginary picture of the Hall as it stood the following year when the Continental Congress met there. (17)

II: THE LIBRARY UPSTAIRS

The first recorded use of the Hall was for a meeting of the Carpenters' Company on Jan. 21, 1771.[18] This meeting, in the dead of winter -- with the glass not yet in the windows -- does not seem to have been repeated. Probably it was held as an inspection of progress, many of the members having their journeymen at work there. By January of 1774, however, completion was nearing and arrangements were made for furnishing chairs and tables for the ground floor.[19] In April it was proposed to appoint a caretaker to keep the Hall and its furniture in order and to tend the fires.[20]

When the building was probably no more than half complete the Library Company of Philadelphia was offered the opportunity of renting part of it.[21] The Library, then in the State House, was particularly short of space for its "philosophical apparatus".

> The Books are crowded together--the Rooms unable to contain any farther Additions--and the Philosophical Apparatus rendered in a great measure useless;--But, could the valuable Collection, even now possessed, be ranged in an order more exact and methodical-this Institution would undoubtedly rise into yet higher Reputation and the Public be enriched with a greater Stock of ornamental Knowledge and solid Literature. Many things likewise, both usefull and curious, might be expected from the Benevolence of private persons, when they can have an assurance of their being not only gratefully received, but, carefully preserved.[22]

The use of one room at Carpenters' Hall for £ 20 per year was at first considered.[23] By the time arrangements were completed the whole second floor had been leased for five years at £ 36 per year.

This agreement was reached on October 26, 1772 and the Carpenters' Company proceeded "to furnish the House ready for the Library Company

to move in.[24] The latter appointed a committee for fitting up the new quarters and Thomas Nevell was engaged to do the carpentry. The minute book shows that the new furnishings included carved cabinets and book shelves protected by wire lattice work.[25] The windows were fitted with inside shutters and the rooms heated by open fire.[26] A dozen windsor chairs,[27] six brass sconces[28] and two chandeliers[29] were also provided. The Library Company moved in on September 6, 1773.[30]

According to a contemporary letter "The books are kept in one large Room and in another handsome Appartment the Apparatus is deposited and the Directors meet."[31] In these quarters the Library remained for nearly a generation. The minutes of the Library Company relect the happenings of the Revolutionary War period. The Directors offered the Continental Congress "the use of such Books as they may have occasion for during their sitting, taking a receipt for them." The Secretary waited upon Peyton Randolph, Chairman of the Congress... with this offer and he was pleased to say he was much obliged."[32]

As the war got under way, the Directors were apprehensive for the safety of the Library and asked for authority to remove the books "in case any future Event should render that Measure necessary."[33] As it turned out, the Library stayed, although its operation was embarrassed by the use of the building as a hospital by both the American and British armies.[34] High wartime prices were added to the Library's problems and after the evacuation of the British in 1778 firewood and candles became so dear as to cause the shortening

of the hours of opening.[35]

As the years passed by, the book collection increased in size and value, and the Directors were not satisfied with the fire safety of the building, the lower floor and basement of which were used for a great variety of purposes.[36] By 1784, when the Carpenters' Company was asking more than double the original rent,[37] the Directors of the Library began to look around for a new location. Eventually they decided to build a new building, and on its completion in 1790 they moved out of Carpenters' Hall and turned in the keys which they had held for seventeen years.[38]

III: THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

The storm clouds of the American Revolution were gathering fast while the lower floor of the Hall was being readied for use. News of the closing of the Port of Boston reached Philadelphia in May of 1774 and fanned anti-British sentiment to a new pitch. When a general meeting of citizens was called for June 15, Master Carpenter Robert Smith, leading spirit in the building of the Hall, was one of those appointed to a political committee representing the mechanics of the city. On June 18 he was appointed to the general "Committee of Correspondence" of forty-three men representing Philadelphia - city and county. It was probably by his invitation that this group met at Carpenters' Hall.

There were already two well - defined factions in the city at this time. Joseph Galloway, Speaker of the Provincial Assembly decidedly pro-British, controlled the use of the State House. Charles Thomson, a leading revolutionary spirit and Galloway's political adversary, served as secretary to the Carpenters' Hall meeting. Resistance to Britain was being organized on as broad a basis as possible and there was a desire on the part of those marshalling public sentiment"..... to conciliate and court the favor of the tradespeople and mechanics..... the carpenters were the most influential and best organized of the industrial bodies....." The choice of Carpenters' Hall was thus an expression of the growing democratic spirit, for up until this time the mechanic had not been a man consulted about the affairs of government. (39)

At this June meeting resolutions were passed condemning the conduct of Parliament asserting the rights of the colonists, and

recommending the organization of a general congress representing all the provinces.(40) As other Committees of Correspondence met up and down the Atlantic Coast, arrangements for such a congress were soon developed. This was to sit at Philadelphia in less than three months.

As the delegates to the first Continental Congress began to gather early in September, two meeting places were advocated - Joseph Galloway offered the State House and the Carpenters' Company again offered their hall. Galloway represented the wealthy conservative element of the city whose investments councilled them to great caution. The delegates to the Congress of 1774 were not yet in favor of secession from England, but it is politically significant that when the matter of a meeting place came to a vote that Galloway and the State House were turned down and Carpenters' Hall was selected. Galloway subsequently collaborated with the British as General Howe occupied Philadelphia and had to flee to England when his American estates were confiscated. Thomson, on the other hand cast his lot with the revolt and was to serve nearly fifteen years as secretary to the Continental Congress.(41)

The process of selecting a meeting place was not without interest as described in letters of the period. John Adams, delegate from Massachusetts, who had arrived in Philadelphia on August 29, the next day took a stroll about the city and noted in his journal that he had seen Carpenters' Hall "where Congress is to sit."(42) But the matter had not been fully settled, for on September 5 he wrote:

> The members met at the City (or Smith's) Tavern, at ten o'clock, and walked to the Carpenter's Hall, where they took a view of the room, and of the chamber where is an excellent library; there is also a long entry where gentle-

men may walk, and a convenient chamber opposite to the library. The general cry was, that this was a good room, and the question was put, whether we were satisfied with this room? and it passed in the affirmative. A very few were for the negative, and they were chiefly from Pennsylvania and New York.(43)

On the first day forty-six delegates presented their credentials, elected a president, selected a secretary, a doorman and a messenger and then adjourned for the day.(44)

The Continental Congress sat at Carpenters Hall some seven weeks - until October 26, 1774. The work of this momentous session is summed up in the sober style of the Beards:

.....the delegates agreed upon a declaration of American rights setting forth the grievances and principles of the colonists in clear yet dignified language. This manifesto they supplemented by an address to the king and another to the people of England, disclaiming the idea of independence while vigorously criticizing the policies pursued by the British government.

Advancing beyond the language of declaration and petition, the Congress then approved the action of Massachusetts in resisting British measures and promised the United support of the sister colonies - an ominous gesture but platonic rather than a stroke of power. Aware that something more than rhetoric was required by the occasion, the radicals in the Congress who voted for this resolution demanded coercive measures of action competent to bring the British ministry to a surrender. After a heated debate, the Congress decided to paralyze British commerce until its demands were conceded; it resolved to stop the importation of British goods in America and to compel obedience to its decree by the establishment of committees of 'safety and inspection' elected at the polls.

While the political debates of this body have been carefully preserved, no account of the building in use seems to be available. On the ground floor at this time there were two similar rooms, approximately 18' x 28', on either side of the central hallway, each served by a fire place. It is not known which room was used for the meetings. Either one was large enough to comfortably accommodate fifty persons seated.(45a) Because the sessions were secret no audience had to be accommodated.

The next spring war broke out and the Congress transferred its sessions to the State House. Several important political bodies preoccupied with revolutionary matters used Carpenters' Hall in 1775. Various Pennsylvania groups organizing a new provincial government were among them.(46) The Congressional Committee of Safety(47) and the Committee on American Manufactures(48) used the building. Members of Congress met here at the time of the funeral of Peyton Randolph, their first President.(49) In 1776 the spotlight was again on the State House, but the Pennsylvania provincial delegates met at Carpenters' Hall to adopt the Declaration of Independence on June 24.(50)

As the fighting came closer the atmosphere became more military. In March of 1777 the lower floor was used as an infirmary for disabled American soldiers under the command of General Gates.(51) Part of the first floor and the cellar were used as an office and storehouse.(52) Philadelphia was occupied in the fall of the same year by the British army and the Hall was continued as a hospital.(53) The following June (1778) the city was reoccupied by the Americans and the Continental Army was back in the Hall. In October the lower floor and cellar were rented to Colonel Flower, the Commissary-General of Military Stores.(54) A brass-founder's and file-cutter's shop was built on part of the lot for some kind of an Army activity(55) by what was probably the Board of War and Ordnance of the Continental Congress.(56)

When "Fort Wilson" (the house of James Wilson in an adjoining block) was surrounded by a mob during the riot of 1779 General Nichols and Daniel Clymer of the defending party "proceeded hastily to the

Arsenal at Carpenters' Hall, and filled their pockets with cartridges: this constituted their whole supply."[57] The Commissary-General's operation continued here until 1792.[58]

IV: THE EARLY FEDERAL PERIOD

All through the 1780's - which saw the end of the Revolutionary War- the Commissary-General of the Continental Army was on the main floor and in the basement and the Library Company on the second floor. The American Philosophical Society was here, too. Just where they and the Carpenters' Company met is not clear.

The Philosophical Society, founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin, was one of the most distinguished organizations to use the building. On June 16, 1780 the Curators of the Society were requested to move its effects from University Hall (of the University of Pennsylvania) to Carpenters' Hall which they used until 1789, when the Society's new building in Independence Square was completed.(59)

The Continental Congress returned to Carpenters' Hall briefly on June 21, 1783 when their usual meeting place - the State House - was beseiged by mutinous veterans of the Continental Army. The body then adjourned to Princeton "grossly insulted by the disorderly and menacing appearance of armed soldiers."(60) There are conflicting statements as to whether or not this building was used for any part of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.(61)

Hall and Sellers of Philadelphia printed the first Carpenters' Company rule book in 1786. Copper plate engravings of the floor plan and front elevation of the Hall were included.(62) These were probably made from original working drawings which are now lost. They indicate that the front of the building is now as it was originally planned, except for some decorative urns on the roof.(63) The "frontispiece" or decorative doorway shown on the copper plate was not added until four years later.

The more important plate is that showing the first floor plan. The partitions indicated by the insurance survey of 1773 (making a central hallway through the building) are here shown as dotted. This would indicate that their removal had either been accomplished, or was planned. As will be seen later, they have been missing at least as far back as 1801. In other words, this major change in the first floor plan took place between 1773 and 1801. That it took place about 1786, when the plate was published, is suggested by two items in the Company's account books:

[October 23, 1787]
By Cash Paid Samuel Pancoast for Columns for the Hall as pr Receipt. 2:1:8.

[December 10, 1789.]
Received of Thom^{s} Shoemaker Esqr three pounds 3/9 for two Red Cedar Logs for Columns for the Carpenters Hall & hauling. Wm Williams 3:3:9 (64)

Partitions in the lower hallway would have been bearing partitions and their removal would have posed a major structural problem. Two trusses were worked into the upstairs partitions so that the second floor is suspended, rather than held up from below. The south ends of these trusses rest on two columns evidently added at the time and still in place. It is not unlikely that these are Shoemaker's "Red Cedar Logs" and the Pancoast columns noted above.

As the new building of the Library Company on Fifth Street neared completion in the summer of 1790, steps were taken to improve Carpenters' Hall which would soon have its upper floor vacant for the first time. The architectural completion of the exterior was undertaken at this period. (65) On July 19, 1790 a committee was appointed "to collect materials for the steps, frontispiece, and windows of Hall" (66) and on the following March 27 the "frontispiece," a decorative wooden doorway with arched head and pediment over engaged Doric columns, was installed on the north or principal entrance. (67)

Two or three years later the frontispiece of the south entrance was added.[68]

A new tenant was soon found in the Bank of the United States. This institution had been organized at the suggestion of Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, whose department was housed at old Clark Hall in the same block. It had capital limited to ten million dollars, and, besides the head bank at Philadelphia, there were branches in six other cities. Congress granted the charter February 25, 1791, subscriptions were opened July 4 and the bank commenced business in Carpenters' Hall the latter part of September with Thomas Willing as President.[69] Apparently they opened in the second story which the Library vacated. About the following February the rest of the building was taken over.[70]

Because the Bank required the two main floors the Carpenters' Company had to move out to accommodate it. The annual rental of £ 350[71] received by the Company made it possible for them to build a new building on the west side of the Court for their meetings. During the occupancy of the Bank a small addition at the north east corner of the building was made to accommodate a vault.[72] The windows were also rehung with "Iron frame puleys."[73] The Bank remained here until its new building on Third Street was completed, moving out on July 27, 1797.

The day after the bank moved out the United States Land Office under Francis Johnson, Receiver General, and John Hall, Secretary, moved in,[74] but it remained for less than a year.[75] In this decade (1790-1800) Philadelphia was the national capital and there were many government offices in the vicinity.

V: THE GREAT BANK ROBBERY

The morning of September 2, 1798 Philadelphia had something to talk about besides the yellow fever which was again raging in the city. The back door to the banking room in Carpenters' Hall had been found open and over one hundred and sixty thousand dollars in currency was missing from the vaults of the Bank of Pennsylvania.

Following its chartering in 1793 the Bank of Pennsylvania had occupied temporary quarters. In the summer of 1798 it was in the Free Masons' Lodge in Lodge Alley just west of Second Street. Arrangements had been made to rent Carpenters' Hall and for some weeks its refitting had been going ahead. Just before the move was to be made - on August 4 - an attempt was made to burglarize the vault in the lodge building. While unsuccessful, this threat hastened the transfer to the Hall, which was thought perfectly secure because of improvements made there earlier for the Bank of the United States. In addition a new lock had been placed on the cash vault.(76)

On August 11 the Bank's books were moved to Carpenters' Hall and on the fourteenth the work on the vault doors was completed. The two vaults - one for cash and one for books - were on the first floor in the northeast corner. Unusual precautions were taken in the new quarters after the cash was moved. Two watchmen with dogs guarded the outside of the building at night and the porters - of whom there were two - slept upstairs.(77)

During the excitement which followed the burglary one of the porters named Cunningham (who had kept a large key to the vault on a garter around his neck) died suddenly of the yellow fever.

Suspicion fell on Patrick Lyon the blacksmith who had worked on the locks[78] and who was thereupon thrown into jail for several months. Eventually it was discovered that one Isaac Davis and the porter Cunningham were the guilty parties and Lyon, released, was awarded nine thousand dollars damages in a suit against the directors of the bank.[79]

The bank moved to its new marble temple on Second Street when the latter was completed in 1801.[80]

Apparently seeking the Customs Service for a tenant, President George Ingels of the Carpenters' Company wrote to an unnamed official in 1801 describing the Hall:

> The Hall is 50 feet in front the depth the same. The principal story Comprises One large room, two fire proofs and the Stair-case. The Second Story is divided by a passage of eight feet wide into two large well lighted rooms and two Smaller (one the South side). The Cellar floor, well lighted and dry and of easy Access for Storeing goods.
>
> The Court front of the Hall is well paved and will be used in common by the Carpenters Company and their Tenants occupying the Several buildings.[81]

The offer was accepted and the building used until 1817 as a Customs House.[82] Philadelphia was a great port for foreign trade at that period.[83] Surveyors of the Customs at the Port of Philadelphia were Dr. William Bache (1803) and James Glentworth (1814-1829). The Collectors of the Customs were George Latimer (1799), Peter Muhlenberg (1802), John Shee (1807) and John Steele (1809).[84]

Another important institution to use Carpetners' Hall was the Second Bank of the United States. This bank, for which a plan had been submitted by Secretary of the Treasury Dallas in 1814, was meant to stablize finances of the country in chaos due to the War of 1812. It was established by Congress in 1816. William Jones was the President of the institution,

which was capitalized at 35 million dollars, and which opened for business in January of 1817.[85] Until 1821 it rented space here while waiting for the completion of its new Greek temple on Chestnut Street a block west.[86]

After the bank moved out the Hall was rented for many purposes. Such diverse groups as the Fuel Saving Society and the Society for the Education of Female Children were in the Hall in 1822.[87] The first floor had the Musical Society for over three years[88] followed by the Franklin Institute[89] and the Society of Friends.[90] For most of ten years Johnny Willetts "the peculiar and well-remembered schoolmaster" held his classes on the second floor.[91] The Apprentice's Library shared this space with him for over seven years.[92] The cellar was rented to Jedediah Allen[93] and then to Gillen and Hill.[94]

There were other users which probably took only a single room occasionally. The Company's account book[95] list the following between the years 1806-1839:

Captains' Society
Harmony Fire Company
Caledonian Company
Bricklayers' Company
Hatters Company
Coopers' Company
Pilots' Company
Philadelphia Hose Company
Magdalen Society
Cabinet Makers' Company
Prison Society
Philadelphia Beneficial Society
Master Mechanics' Society
Fame Fire Company
First Marine Bible Association
Vaccine Society
New England Society
Directors of the Athenaeum Society
Hibernian Society
Plasterers' Society

Fire Association — Board of Managers of the House of Refuge

Pennsylvania Peace Society — Directors of Public Schools

The longest tenancy of record was that of Charles J. and Frederick Wolbert who occupied a part of the building in 1828 as auction rooms - and all of it in 1838. The Wolberts, who also had a horse market, were finally evicted in 1857 with difficulty.(96) An insurance survey made in this period shows that the building had not suffered much change:

I have Surveyed the building known as Carpenters Hall, for the Carpenters Company, situate at the head of Carpenters Court, which runs south from Chestnut Street, East of & near Fourth Street, Being 50 feet square with a break of 10 feet in each corner, see plan below, two storys high. 14 inch walls.

The lower story in one room and passage for the stairs the floor of clean heart pine plain base, double architraves to the doors, knee'd and mouldings to the windows the Glass 9 x 12 outside shutters a large D. window in the south side, the break in North East corner built up, one story for fire proof.

The second Story in three rooms and passage, the floor of common heart pine, plain base, double architraves to the doors, & mouldings to the windows, inside shuttters to the East room, one wooden mantel, the Glass 9 x 12, the three front windows with circular heads & balisters below- Stairs open Newel & open string. Ramp'd rail & Turned balisters, & plain brackets, leading from the lower story to the loft above, which is partly floored with rough boards, & a step ladder up to the Cupola which is octagon shape 10 feet diameter & about 26 feet high, with a Ball & Vane &c. Wooden cornice to the four sides of the building, a pediment to each front & slate roof. Copper & tin pipes, a large frontice piece with columns in front, the lower story papered, a Furnace in the Cellar which appears safely constructed.

April 25th, 1851, D.R.Knight
Surveyor.(97)

VI: A NATIONAL SHRINE

From an early date the Hall was set apart from its contemporaries. The Columbian Magazine for January, 1790, in describing the leading Philadelphia structures of that day, thought that

> This edifice, though more humble in its architecture and less conspicuous in its situation, than some of the others, is, nevertheless, rendered famous, by being the place in which that august body,--the first general Congress of America, assembled and held their councils.

The Hall thus had a special status (to writers at least) because of its historic associations. An unnamed but eloquent visitor from Virginia evidently felt that its use for utilitarian purposes was improper. In 1829 he said

> I write this from the celebrated Carpenters' Hall, a structure that will ever be deemed sacred while national liberty is cherished on earth .....Above are the committee rooms, now occupied by a very polite schoolmaster, who kindly gave me permission to inspect them. Yes! These sublime apartments, which first resounded with the indignant murmur of our immortal ancestors, sitting in secret consultation upon the wrongs of their countrymen, now ring with the din of urchins conning over their tasks; and the hallowed hall below, in which the august assembly to which they belonged daily convened, is now devoted to the use of an auctioneer! Even now, while I am penning these lines at his desk, his voice stuns my ear and distracts my brain, crying ' how much for these rush-bottom chairs? I am offered $5 - nobody more? - going ! going !! gone!!! In fact the hall is lumbered up with beds, looking glasses, chairs, tables, pictures, ready made clothes, and all the trash and trumpery which usually grace the premises of a knight of the hammer. I must do him the justice, however, to say, that he very readily granted me the privilege I am now enjoying when he understood my purpose. The building, it is gratifying to add, still belongs to the Society of Carpenters, who will by no means part with it, or consent to any alteration.(98)

Benson J. Lossing, visiting the sites made famous by the Revolution also indulged in some fine mid-victorian eloquence.

On November 27, 1848 he wrote:

> On Monday morning I visited Carpenters' Hall, the building in which the first Continental Congress held its brief session. Having had no intimation concerning its appearance, condition, and present

use, and informed that it was situated in "Carpenters' Court," imagination had invested its exterior with dignity, its interior with solemn grandeur, and its location a spacious area, where nothing common or unclean" was permitted to dwell. How often the hoof of Pegasus touches the leafless tree-tops of sober prose when his rider supposes him to be at his highest altitude! How often the rainbow of imagination fades, and leaves to the eye nothing but the forbidding aspect of a cloud of plain reality! So at this time. The spacious court was but a short narrow alley; and the Hall, consecrated by the holiest associations which cluster around the birthtime of our republic, was a small two-story building, of somber aspect, with a short steeple, and all of a dingy hue. I tried hard to conceive the apparition upon its front to be a classic frieze, with rich historic triglyphs; but it would not do. Vision was too "lynx-eyed," and I could make nothing more poetic of it than an array of impudent letters spelling the words

C. J. WOLBERT & CO., AUCTIONEERS
FOR THE SALE OF
REAL ESTATE AND STOCKS,
FANCY GOODS,
HORSES, VEHICLES, AND HARNESS.

What a desecration! Covering the facade of the very Temple of Freedom, with the placards of groveling mammon! If sensibility is shocked with this outward pollution, it is overwhelmed with indignant shame on entering the hall where that august assembly of men - - the godfathers of our republic - - convened to stand as sponsors at the baptism of infant American Liberty, to find it filled with every species of merchandise, and the walls which once echoed the eloquent words of Henry, Lee and the Adamses, reverberating with the clatter of the auctioneer's voice and hammer. Is there not patriotism strong enough and bold enough in Philadelphia to enter this temple and "cast out all them that buy and sell, and overthrow the table of the money-changers?"

The hall in which Congress met is upon the lower floor, and comprehends the whole area of the building. It is about forty-five feet square, with a recess in the rear twenty-five feet wide and about twelve feet deep, at the entrance of which are two pillars, eighteen feet high. The second story contains smaller apartments which were used by Congress, and occupied by the society as committee rooms. In one of these, emptied of all merchandise except a wash-tub and a rush-bottomed chair, let us sit down and consider the events connected with the first great Continental Council.(99)

Within the Company there seems to have been a growing appreciation of the historical importance of the building and several attempts were made to get back into the Hall, which had been rented to others since 1791.(100) Action finally came at the meeting of

January 21, 1856, when it was

Resolved that the Managing Committee be directed to inquire into the expediency of removing to the Old Hall and of renting of the premises now occupied by the Company and the difference of the rental.....(101)

On March 26 a favorable report was made (102) and on April 28 the Company resolved to renovate the building, "especial care to be taken to preserve, as much as possible, every feature in said Hall as it now exists indicative of its original finish."(103)

On October 15 a special committee was appointed "to take Into Consideration the Best Mode of Fitting up the Old Hall."(104) After considerable negotiation possession of the building was gained from auctioneer Wolbert.

The workmen began the refurbishment on May 25, 1857. On the first floor a partition was run across the columns on the south side of the main room to provide space for the Warden's use. On the second floor several partitions were added to make living quarters for a custodian. These included three "chambers," a "parlour" and a kitchen. The west room was to remain undivided to serve as a committee room and library, and for the latter purpose was to be fitted up with shelves. A "gravel mortar" floor, a well, and a new furnace were planned for the basement. The stairway was to be repaired and the treads protected by cast iron plates, but the remainder was to be untouched "except such patches as may be positively necessary."(105)

On the exterior of the building gutters were added to the roof, the woodwork painted and sanded and gas"candelabras or lamps" placed at the entrance steps. The backyard was "laid out for garden & the walks paved." Work progressed quickly. By July 25

the caretaker's family had moved in and on the 29th the Managing Committee met in the building - the first Carpenters' Company meeting in the Hall for about sixty-six years.

Considerable pains were spent on furnishing the meeting rooms. The large downstairs room was papered and lighted with three pendant gaslight fixtures. A painted motto, executed by Collins West, recalled the historic meeting of the Continental Congress.

> "Within these walls, Henry, Hancock and Adams inspired the Delegates of the Colonies with nerve & sinew for the toils of War resulting in our National Independence."

Six new settees were ordered from William Sanderson and after agreeing to purchase two unbrella stands, an ice cooler and a dozen spittoons, the "subcommittee for refitting the Old Hall" requested to be discharged.(106) At a general meeting on September 5, 1857, the building " as restored and repaired" was delivered up to the Company and "an Elaborate Historical Reminiscence," specially prepared for the occasion, was read.(107)

The opening of Carpenters' Hall as an historic shrine seems to have attracted public attention and provoked the City into attempting to buy the building. The following exchange of letters indicates the feeling of the times.

Department of City Property
Office, Second Story, Girard
Bank north side
Phila Jan 17 1859

To the Carpenters Association
of the City of Philadelphia
Owning Carpenters Hall

Gentlemen

I have been instructed by the Committee on City Property through councils to ask of your body wether or no you would be willing to convey to the City your proud Monument of Revolutionary memory, or in other words Carpenters Hall, and, if so to state the price or remuneration you would require for the same. That it is now in worthy hands and while so will be held sacred to the memory of those who were so

signally instrumental in acheving American Independence none I presume would have the hardihood to question. Yet there are those who think Carpenters Like Independence Hall should be vested in the City, hence this communication. Be pleased therefor to foreward to this office at an early day Consistent with your convenience the information thus respectfully desired and oblige.

Verry truly & Respcty
Your Obedient Servant

Signed P.M Christopher

At the annual meeting of the Company, held the same day, the subject was brought up for discussion and the following resolution was passed:

That while this Company fully appreciate the patriotic motives that have induced the City Councils to make the enquiry presented in the communication just read, yet we cannot under any circumstances receive favourably any propositions involving the sale of Carpenters Hall. We in common with our fellow citizens venerate it not only for its associations with the stirring events of the Revolution " But we also hold it as a sacred trust committed to us by our predecessors, which nothing shall ever induce us to part with' Also that having fitted up the Room Occupied by the first Congress as near as possible as it was originally finished we intend as heretofore to keep it open for the inspection of all who may wish to visit it.

When on motion it was unanimously resolved that a coppy of the foregoing resolution signed by the President and Secretary be forwarded to the Commissioner of City property and the same adopted.

In its later years the Hall was the scene of several special occasions. Three days after Fort Sumter was fired on the Company resolved to erect a flag staff on the front pediment to display a Union Flag "so long as the present exciting times continue." At a special meeting April 24, 1861 the flag was unfurled and a chorus (108) of young ladies sang the "Star Spangled Banner" . A call for

volunteers was made, as the record shows:

Resolved, That those of us who are able and willing do form ourselves into a volunteer Company to be known as the "Carpenters Company" to be attached to the Home Guard of the City of Philadelphia, and to be used in such service, either mechanical or millitary as may be deemed we can be made the most useful, and that the names of such members be entered upon the minutes of the Company,
Resolved, That suitable persons of the trade (outside of this Company) be invited to join with us in a sufficient number to make not exceeding in all one hundred, and that the free use and privilege of this our venerated Hall be granted as an armory.(109)

On September 5, 1874 the 100th anniversary of the first Continental Congress was held. A ceremony attended by U. S. Vice-President Wilson, several members of Congress and other notables featured an eloquent address by a Henry A. Brown as "Orator of the Day". The Hall proved to be a great attraction to Philadelphia visitors during the Centennial Exposition of 1876. Seventy thousand copies of the booklet Carpenters' Hall and Its Historic Memories by Richard K. Betts were given away at that time.(110)

The two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Carpenters's Company and the one hundred and fiftieth of the first Continental Congress were the occasion of a two day celebration held at Philadelphia and Valley Forge on September 25-6, 1924.(111)

Thus for over ninety years the Hall has continued open to the public and maintained at the expense of the Carpenters' Company, a pioneer work of "preservationsim" in this country.

VII: CARPENTERS' COURT

The lot acquired by the Company had been patented by David Breintnall as early as 1688.(112) Of the "several buildings and other improvements" on it at the time of purchase(113) only a "front house" - probably a residence on the street built by the Breintnalls or the Emlens - and an old well(114) are identified. The house was immediately repaired and improved for the rent it would bring.

Soon after acquisition (1770) the Company voted to dispose of a third of the Chestnut Street frontage - a building site 26' x 140" on the east side of the lot.(115) This was finally accomplished by sale to Joseph Pemberton in 1775.(116) It would appear from this and subsequent developments that the Hall was always planned to head up a narrow court with flanking buildings as rent-payers. This seems to reflect a common practice in Philadelphia at the time. Alleys had not been included in the original layout of the city, and the size of the blocks or squares was so great that owners soon found that the only way they could exploit their lots fully was by opening small streets and "courts" and developing the interior areas. The practical Dr. Benjamin Franklin was doing this at the time just across Chestnut Street.

A number of structures were built on the lot at different times by the Carpenters' Company, but the writer has not been able to identify all of them. It will probably not be possible to untangle the matter until the Company manuscripts have been transcribed and the welter of detailed information rearranged systematically. The few notes included here will serve to provide a general idea. Some

buildings listed separately may later prove to be identical.

Building A ("The Front House") Remodeled 1768,9.

As mentioned above, this seems to have been built on the lot by a previous owner. Work of remodeling and repairing was begun on this building soon after purchase and before the Hall itself was started. The writer found two mentions of this building in some manuscript sheets entitled Carpenters' Company Accounts of Members.(117) There is no clue as to the appearance of the building except that 9 double-hung windows were installed at the time, probably replacing old fashioned casements.

The building was one of those rented out by the Company for income. A notice of a meeting in 1780 at "the front house" indicates that it was still standing.(118) Probably it was one of the old buildings which had been replaced by 1812.(119)

Building B. Storehouse.

In the year 1770, the Company was billed £ 6/4/0 for work by William Robinson "at the Storehouse."(120) This may have been a temporary building for the storage of tools and construction materials.

Building C(Second Meeting Hall). Built 1791.

When the Hall itself was rented to the United States Bank in 1791 the Company decided to put up a new headquarters on the west side of the court.(121) This structure was completed and occupied the same year. It was described in 1801 as " a.....convenient brick building 60 feet in front on the Court by 20 feet in depth. The first story is divided into three apartments with a fire-place in each....." and a cellar 18' x 35'.(122) Perhaps the meeting room was on the second floor.

Building D. Before 1801.

Described as " a Brick Tenement 22 feet in front by 13 feet deep Two stories high, a good Garret and Cellar, with a fire place therein."

Building E (A Necessary).

Abraham Carlile built a vaulted "necessary" and submitted a bill in January or February of 1771.(123)

Building F (A Kitchen).

On Feb. 11, 1771 there are two items from James Worrell's accounts that refer to a kitchen:

"to 8 Days work my Self at work in the Kechen 3:0:0"

"24 Sash Lights 9 by 11 painting & glasing the Seller windows in ye Kechen 1:4:2"(124)

Building G. Built 1811 or 1812.

In 1811-1812 an old building (Building B?) was taken down and a new one erected " at the Corner of Chestnut Street and Carpenters Court" at a total cost of $9,213.18½.(125) The new structure must have been completed before the accounts were examined on April 16, 1812.

Further search and analysis of data from various sources will probably make possible a complete picture of the development of this property. We know that it was fenced in 1771(126) and that there was still a fence there in 1796.(127) The court or alley was paved before 1793.(128) and used as a service driveway. The "back yard" was laid out with walks and shrubbery when the building became a shrine in 1857 and this landscape treatment is indicated in the views of the period.

It is evident that in the beginning the Carpenters' Company considered their land and buildings primarily a financial investment. Money was needed for the support of their aged members and the widows and orphans of the deceased. By developing their lot with buildings far beyond their own needs for a meeting place they were assured of a steady income for such purposes. That the Hall itself was never intended to be a conspicuous public monument is shown by its location in the middle of a block and by the readiness with which the Company itself put up buildings in front of it. Such locations in Philadelphia were not necessarily considered undesirable in those days.

VIII: NOTES

ABBREVIATIONS USED (A.) MANUSCRIPTS IN THE CARPENTERS' COMPANY LIBRARY

(All of these manuscripts are bound, but the arrangement of material in them is sometimes surprising.)

ACM Antiques, Curiosities and Memoranda. (MS scrapbook of 1856.)

AIBLCC The Act [of] Incorporation and By-Laws of the Carpenters Company.

CCAB Carpenters' Company Account Book.

CCAM Carpenters' Company Accounts of Members. (Bound in back of the Friendship Carpenters' Company minutes.)

CSM Committee of Seven's Minutes.

MMCCC Minutes of the Managing Committee of the Carpenters' Company.

MSC Minutes of the Sub Committee of the Managing Committee of the "Carpenters' Company of the City & County of Philadelphia" appointed October 15th, 1856 for the purpose of refitting the Old Hall for the use of the Company.

(B.) OTHER SOURCES

(Publications of the Carpenters' Company have been issued in many editions and printings over a period of ninety years. Their collation would be a problem in itself. The writer has used several editions as they were available in different places and the citations in these notes are therefore more complex than is desirable.)

AICC Act to Incorporate the Carpenters' Company, etc., n.a., Philadelphia, 1873. Edition.

CC The Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, etc., n.a., Philadelphia, 1887.

MLC Minutes of the Proceedings of the Directors of the Library Company of Philadelphia. MS, Philadelphia Free Library.

(1) At the time of incorporation - in 1790 - the founders were referred to as "House Carpenters." Beyond the maintenance of a library nothing seems to be known about the program of the Company for architectural training. The disbursement of relief funds for disabled members and families of the deceased is often detailed in the records. The exact nature of the association in the earliest years is likewise unknown. As the city grew in the eighteenth century the membership seems to have been tended towards master carpenters rather than journeymen. In this way it was more of a contractors' organization than a trades union in the modern sense. In 1818 the Company was described as a "rich & numerous Guild". Latrobe to Jefferson, Baltimore, March 7, 1818, Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital, Saul K. Padover, Ed., Washington, 1946, p. 493.

(2) The act of incorporation of 1790 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly states that"..... in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-four, a number of the House Carpenters of the City and County of Philadelphia formed themselves into a Company." Charter, By-laws, Rules and Regulations of the Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, Phila., 1916, p. 5.

(3) The ten original members with notes by Joseph Jackson were:

> Joseph (or John) Henmarsh, who died in 1741.
> James Porteus (or Portis), who died in 1737.
> Samuel Powell, referred to in Watson's Annals as "The Rich Carpenter," who died in 1756.
> Jacob Usher. There are no records of Usher's death in Philadelphia, and as there later was probated a will of another of the same family, who was reported as having been of this city, but later of Virginia, it is possible that this Usher spent the remainder of his life in the latter province.
> Edmund Woolley, who died in 1771, who was the original builder of the State House, now Independence Hall.
> Joseph Harrison, who died in 1734.

John Nichols (or Nicholas) who died in 1756.
John Harrison, who was one of the builders of Christ Church, and who died in 1760.
Benjamin Clark, who died in 1744.
Isaac Zane, of whose death there does not appear to be any record, but that he was living in 1749 is shown by his having been recorded as executor of an estate in that year."

Joseph Jackson, Early Philadelphia Architects and Engineers, Philadelphia, 1923, pp. 39, 40.

(4) The Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, n.a., Philadelphia, 1887 p. 57. It is also stated that Robert Smith was admitted to the Company in 1736. Ibid p. 86. How these facts were ascertained is not stated.

(5) Carl van Doren, Benjamin Franklin, London, 1939, p. 72. Until the building of Carpenters' Hall there seems to have been no meeting place in Philadelphia for hire.

(6) Meeting of April 18, 1763. AIBLCC.

(7) Philadelphia Deed Book 14:146. (Feb. 3, 1768).

(8) This was the first public school in Philadelphia, founded in 1689 under George Keith.

(9) The life of Robert Smith is not well known and many of its basic facts have been disputed. Because the name is common it seems to be hard to identify in the records. Jackson gives his date of birth as "about the year 1710," Scharf and Westcott as about 1722 in Glasgow, Scotland. Smith joined the Carpenters' Company in 1736 and became prominent in its affairs. Among the Philadelphia projects with which he was associated were a house for Mrs. Mary Maddox on Third St. (c.1764), Benjamin Franklin's house on Market Street (c.1766), and the Walnut Street Jail (1774-5). Other works are accredited to him, though some appear

to be controversial. They include the steeple of Christ Church (c.1771) and Zion Lutheran Church. He was the architect of Nassau Hall at Princeton (said to have been the largest building in the country when erected) and during the Revolution he built the chevaux-de-frise to obstruct the Delaware River aginst British ships. Smith died in 1777 and was buried February 12 in the Friends' Burial Ground on Arch Street.

The writer is not acquainted with the exact nature of Smith's practice. At the time of his death, Jacob Hiltzheimer (Feb. 12, 1777) called him a "carpenter," the Pennsylvania Evening Post (Feb. 13, 1777) an "architect." He was probably one of those eighteenth century practitioners now referred to as "carpenter-architects" who combined both occupations. Joseph Jackson, Early Philadelphia Architects and Engineers,pp.66-69, Scharf and Westcott, History of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, 1884, p. 1068, Extracts from the Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer, Philadelphia, 1893, Franklin Papers (MS, American Philosophical Society), Vol.47, No. 41. Robert Smith to Samuel Rhoades. Philadelphia, March 30, 1767.

(10) AIBLCC, p. 17. This statement seems to be the authority for the usual statement that Robert Smith was the architect of the building. It should be considered, however, that there is no proof that the Smith design was the one followed. Smith may not have drawn the design himself but had someone else prepare it, and, as in many other buildings, the first design is not always the one used.

(11) Philadelphia Deed Book L7, p. 48.

(12) AICC, pp. 39-41.

(13) The original list of subscribers was:

James Pearson	£ 16	William Lownes	£ 6
John Goodwin	16	James Graisbury	6
Robert Smith	20	James Potter	4
Joseph Rush	4/5/11	Isaac Coats	20
James Davis	10	George Wood	6
John Hitchcock	5	William Robinson	6
John Keen	4	Joseph Govett	4
Silas Engles	6	Samuel Powell	4
Levi Budd	3	Abraham Carlile	12
Guning Bedford	12	Ezekial Worrell	4
Mathew McGlathery	4	Joseph Fox	24
			£ 196/5/11

Committee report of July 18, 1814. ACM.

(14) AICC, p. 31.

(15) CC, p. 40

(16) Reproduced in facsimile in the pamphlet At the Sign of the Hand-In-Hand, n.a., Philadelphia, 1935 (Second Edition) p. 40. The survey, made for the Philadelphia Contributionship, is numbered 1772 and 1773.

(17) The nineteenth century artist showed the interior of the first floor as one large room in the well known print of the Reverend Duché's prayer.

(18) AICC, pp. 31, 42.

(19) Ibid.,p. 42.

(20) Meeting of April 26, 1774. CC, p. 40. On March 24, 1773 " a black woman" was paid four shillings "for cleaning the west chamber," CCAM. A regular custodial service was apparently not set up until 1776. At a meeting on January 26 it was decided to pay a Mrs. Lefever (who had already been working at the Hall) a stipend of ten pounds per year for tending to the building.

(21) AICC, p. 42, (Jan. 20, 1772).

(22) MLC, January 10, 1772.

(23) Ibid., June 29, 1772.

(24) Ibid., October 26, 1772.

(25) MLC, April 24, 1773

(26) Ibid., June 4, 1786. Changed to a stove in 1786. See also Ibid., March 5, 1789.

(27) Ibid., April 24, 1773

(28) Ibid., August 30, 1773

(29) Ibid., Nov. 15, 1773. The chandeliers, made by Gabriel Valois for £ 7/10, had carved and gilt roses.

(30) Pennsylvania Gazette, Sept. 8, 1773.

(31) MLC, II:93. Letter of Dec. 28, 1773.

(32) MLC, Aug. 31, Sept. 29, 1774.

(33) Ibid., May 7, 1776

(34) Ibid., March 11, 1777. AICC, pp. 32-45.

(35) MLC, Nov. 12, 1778.

(36) Ibid., Feb. 1, 1787.

(37) Ibid., Feb. 20, 1783.

(38) The moving seems to have taken place on or about October 1. Ibid., Sept. 23, Oct. 7, 1790. The improvements left behind were sold to the Carpenters' Company for £ 11:5:10½. Ibid., Nov. 4, 1790, March 3, 1791.

(39) Scharf and Westcott, I:289-291. Thomas Willing Balch, Ed., Willing Letters and Papers, Philadelphia, 1922, p. xiii.

(40) John F. Watson, Annals of Philadelphia, 1884 Ed., p.279

(41) Dictionary of American Biography, New York, 1931. Galloway served under Howe as "city administrator with the titles of superintendent of police and of the port."

(42) Charles Francis Adams, Ed., The Work's of John Adams, Boston, 1865, II:358.

(43) Ibid., II:365. The incident is described more particularly by James Duane:

> The Speaker of the Pensylvania Assembly having offered the Congress the use of the State house; and the Carpenters the use of their Hall. It was agreed to take a View of each.
>
> We proceeded to the Carpenter's Hall. Mr. Lynch proposed the Question whether that was in all respects suitable it ought not to be fixed upon without further Enquiry.
>
> I observed that if the State house was equally convenient it ought to be preferred being a provincial and the Carpenter's Hall a private House. And besides, as it was tendered by the Speaker it seemed to be a piece of respect which was due to him, at least to enquire whether the State House was not equally convenient. The Question was however called for; and a great Majority fixed upon the Carpenters hall." Edmund C. Burnett Ed., Letters of Members of the Continental Congress, Washington, 1921, I:8.

According to Silas Deane the choice was "....highly agreeable to the mechanics and citizens in general, but mortifying to the last degree to Mr. Galloway and his party,...." Ibid., I:11. Bancroft, without citing his source, wrote " from respect for the mechanics, it was accepted by a great majority." George Bancroft, History of the United States of America, Boston, 1879. IV:392.

(44) Ibid.,I:27.

(45) Charles A. Beard and Mary R. Beard, The Rise of American Civilization, New York, 1934 Ed., pp 229, 230.

(45a) Fifty persons would have had ten square feet per person. A rule of thumb in modern architectural planning is seven square feet per person.

(46) AICC, p. 61. Christoper Marshall, Passages from the Remembrancer, (William Duane, Ed.) Philadelphia, 1839, p. 14. At a meeting January 17, 1775 the Carpenters' Company decided to let the "Provincial Convention" meet in their hall for ten shillings per day. CC, p.41.

(47) Richard K. Betts, Carpenters' Hall and its Historic Memories, 1893, ed., p. 26.

(48) Jackson, Encyclopedia of Philadelphia, Harrisburg, 1931 II:376. Marshall, p. 16.

(49) AICC, p. 32.

(50) Ibid., p. 62. Marshall, Appendix D. Betts, pp. 23-25.

(51) MLC, entry for March 11, 1777.

(52) CC, p. 63. It was later decided (October 23, 1778) that the rent for Army use in this period would be £ 60 per annum. CC, p. 42.

(53) AICC, pp. 32-45. About June 1, 1777 one John Hanlon had rented a part of the building. His rent was substantially abated later because the British had interferred with his occupany. CC, p. 42.

(54) Ibid., p. 45. The rent was £ 110 per annum, later raised to £ 180 On January 1, 1779. CC, p. 43.

Jackson, Encyclopedia, II:376, gives the 1778 occupant as "U.S. B arrackmaster."

(55) Ibid., p. 46. A little later permission to erect a forge was denied.

Ibid., p. 48.

(56) Richard Peters of Philadelphia was Secretary of this board from 1778 to 1781. Benson J. Lossing, Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution, New York, 1851, II: 661,662.

(57) Watson, I:425.

(58) On Feb. 5, 1791 Silas Engles was paid £ 11:7:5 "for work and Materials in fiting up the Lower part of .....Carpenter Hall occupied by General Knox." Henry Knox was the first Secretary of War under President Washington. CCAB. The Commissary-General remained here until January 1, 1792. CC, p. 63. Jackson II:376.

(59) Dr. William E. Lingelbach, Librarian of the American Philosophical Society, reports that in the period of 1780-1789 that the smaller meetings of the Society were held at Carpenters' Hall and the larger ones at the University. Lingelbach to the writer, Philadelphia, January 20, 1948. The Society also met at the home of Benjamin Franklin after his return from France in 1785. Van Doren, p. 771.

(60) Frank Willing Leach, "When Our Revolutionary Troops Mutinied," The North American, May 30, 1915.

(61) AICC, p. 62. U. S. Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission History of the Formation of the Union under the Constitution, Washington, 1941, p. 18, states that the convention was held in the State House. The sessions lasted from May to September, 1787.

(62) Articles of the Carpenters Company of Philadelphia and their Rules for Measuring and Valuing House Carpenters Work, Philadelphia, MDCCLXXXVI. The plates were not numbered. On July 3, 1786 Thos. Bedwell, "Coper Plate Printer" was paid six pounds and on January 15, 1787, Hall and Sellers fifteen pounds "for printing the Books of the

rules for Measuring and Valueing house Carpenters work." CCAB.

(63) It is doubtful that the urns were ever in place. They are not mentioned in the rather detailed bills for work performed. If used originally, they were removed long ago. In the American climate such features on a shingle roof are likely to cause leaks.

(64) CCAB.

(65) The Columbian Magazine, January, 1790 (p.25) called the Hall "a roomy brick building; fronting on a small avenue or court, leading to it.....the City Library, before mentioned, is kept here at present, and some of the apartments are occupied for public stores and offices...."

(66) Ibid., p. 53. "FRONTISPIECE..... a subordinate feature as a porch, [or] a doorway treated more elaborately than the rest of the facade, and more or less as a separate composition applied to the front." Russell Sturgis, Ed., A Dictionary of Architecture and Building, New York, 1901.

(67) Ibid., p. 54. Five windows, location unknown, seem to have been installed at this time. Perhaps they were only a replacement of sash.

(68) On Nov. 14, 1792, William Linnard was ordered to complete the work and on Nov. 27, 1793 he was paid £ 12/2/10 for it. AICC, p. 55.

(69) Scharf and Westcott, pp. 464, 2093. - At a meeting of the Carpenters' Company on September 7, 1791 it was announced that the Hall had been rented to the Bank. CC, p. 51.

(70) CC, p. 63. From a list of occupants of Hall, "February 22d, 1792. George Eddy, part lately occupied by Commissary-General, and, by arrangement, given up to National Bank."

(71) AICC, p. 55. The rent had increased to £ 1000 by 1795. CSM, Nov. 1, 1795.

(72) This appears in the testimony concerning the bank robbery of 1798.

(73) Pursuant to a petition by the directors of the Bank and decided at the June 15, 1796 meeting of the Carpenters' Company. CSM.

(74) Ibid., August 2, 1797. By this time the rent was up to £ 1200 per annum. Ibid., July 13, 1797.

(75) CC., p. 63. The dates of occupancy stated here (October 3, 1797 - April 3, 1798) do not check with other sources.

(76) Robbery of the Bank of Pennsylvania in 1798. The Trial in the Supreme Court, etc., n.a., Philadelphia, 1808, p. 12.

(77) Ibid., pp. 25, 26, 33, 34. Among the porters' duties was to light the fires at day break. Ibid., p. 24.

(78) Lyon had performed work at the old quarters of the Bank in 1797. At Carpenters' Hall, in addition to the vault doors and locks he prepared mounts for lighting fixtures and a guard iron for a glass case.

Patrick Lyon, The Narrative of Patrick Lyon, Philadelphia, 1799, pp. 7, 10, 11.

(79) Robbery of the Bank of Pennsylvania, pp. 9, 184.

(80) Designed by B. H. Latrobe the English architect recently arrived in the United States.

(81) Antiques, Curiosities and Memoranda, Philadelphia, Sept. 18, 1801.

(82) AICC, p. 32. Mease wrote in 1811 "This society owns a hall

where the custom house is now kept, in a court south of Chestnut Street, between Third and Fourth streets, and a range of buildings in the same court." p. 268. The dates of the Customs House tenancy are given in CC, p. 63, April 1, 1802 - January 1, 1811 and April 1, 1811 - January 1, 1817.

A new Customs House was authorized in 1810 but was not built and occupied until July 12, 1819. This structure, designed by William Strickland, stood on Second Street below Dock. Scharf and Westcott (pp. 1803 - 1806) give the dates of occupancy at Carpenters' Hall as 1802 - 1819.

(83) In 1807, the year before the embargo, there were 699 arrivals and 712 clearances. Mease, The Picture of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, 1811, p. 53.

(84) Scharf and Westcott, p. 1805.

(85) Scharf and Westcott, p. 2094.

(86) AICC, pp. 32, 33. October 1, 1816 - February 9, 1821 are elsewhere given as the dates of occupancy. CC, p. 63. This building still standing at 420 Chestnut Street, is preserved as a federal historic monument under the care of the National Park Service.

(87) CC, p. 60.

(88) March 12, 1821 - December 12, 1824, Ibid., p. 63.

(89) December 12, 1824 - April 12, 1826. Ibid.

(90) June 1, 1827 - March 1, 1828. Ibid.

(91) December 26, 1822 - December 16, 1824 and March 16, 1826 - December 31, 1832. Ibid. Watson, I: 419, III: 280.

(92) March 12, 1821 - September 12, 1828. CC, p. 63

(93) November 15, 1824 - February 15, 1826. Ibid.

(94) November 9, 1825 - August 9, 1828. Ibid.

(95) Treasurer's Book, 1794-1839, MS, Carpenters' Company Library. The minutes of a meeting held Dec. 23, 1795 announce a rate of twenty shillings per night "except those who meet upon Charitable Causes such as Fire Compy, Sea Captains Club, Colodonian Society.....", CSM.

(96) AICC, p. 35. Watson, III:278, CC, p. 60. A Wolbert auction handbill of 1852 is reproduced in Jackson, Encyclopedia, p. 377.

(97) Philadelphia Contributionship Survey No. _____. This dates the present tile floor as after 1850.

(98) Watson, I: 419.

(99) Lossing, II: 57, 58.

(100) MSC, Preliminary statement.

(101) MCC.

(102) MMCCC.

(103) AICC, p. 35.

(104) MMCCC.

(105) MSC, May 21, 25, 1857. The well was abandoned before completion.

(106) The sub-committee consisted of L. R. Knight, James Hutchinson and Michael Errickson. The whole program is summed up in MSC

as follows:

'Amount of Expences in fitting up and Furnishing Carpenters Hall Sepr 1858

Fitting up		Furnishings	
Carpenter work	$ 400.00	Carpenter work	$78.13
Lumber	152.69	New Tables (Hall	67.81
Laboring work &c	88.26	Laboring work	29.42
Hardware	46.54	Painting Bookcases	8.50
Blacksmith work	6.00	" Banner	24.50
Painting inside & out	562.74	" Motto	16.60
Iron plates on stairs	44.04	Carpets & Matting	281.75
Repairs to Slate roof	35.98	putting down ditto	39.71
Plastering	104.00	Gas fixtures	261.25
Tin work	54.72	Iron safe	200.00
Papering	294.24	Settees & chairs	87.50
Repairing locks &c	17.31		$1095.17
Marble Mantel shelf	6.62		2887.92
Granite steps back door	46.00		
Plumbing Wright,Hunter & Co	418.78	Total	$3983.09
Furnace &c	180.00		
Brick & work	430.00		
	$2887.92		

(107) MCC, Sept. 5, 1857

(108) Scharf and Westcott, I: 762.

(109) Forty-four men volunteered at this meeting. pp 63, 64.

(110) Watson, III:281

(111) Recording the Celebration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Institution of the Carpenters' Company, etc., n.a., n.p., 1925.

(112) CC, p. 55.

(113) AICC, p. 6.

(114) On April 18, 1770 it was decided to have Evan Peters fit the well with a new pump with an iron chamber. CC, p. 39. This was apparently so successful that by August 1, 1774 it was in general use by the neighbors and the Company planned to charge six shillings

per year "water money" for each family able to pay. Ibid., p. 41.

(115) Ibid., p. 37.

(116) Ibid., p. 41.

(117)

William Anderson, Cr.

Nov. 21 1768	"By work done in the front House"	10:10:0

James Graisbury, Cr.

Jan. 1771	"By Carpenters work at the front House	4:12:0
	By 10 days work at the Hall"	2:10:0

Other items which probably refer to this building are:

Benjamin Randolph, Cr.

Feb. 22 1769	"By Boards Scantling &c"	12:10:1½

James Pearson, Cr.

April 6 1769	"To the remainder of his Acct for work and Materials at the Hall"	36:18:0

James Potter, Cr.

1769	"By hanging 9 Windows double with boxed pullies & parting Strips	4:12:3

These sheets (CCAM) are bound in the back of an old volume in the library.

(118) CC, p. 44.

(119) There was an accounting of funds for this on April 16, 1812.

ACM

(120) CCAM.

(121) AICC, pp. 55, 63.

(122) George Ingels, President, to _____, Philadelphia, Sept. 18, 1801. ACM. The letter, of which this is a copy, was evidently addressed to someone connected with the U. S. Customs Service. The original was accompanied by a plot plan of all these buildings.