Original is located
in the Historic
Architects Office.

Brief Outline of the
Physical History of the State House
(Independence Hall)

by Penelope Hartshorne, N.P.S.

1732 - August 11, Andrew Hamilton submitted drawings for the State House which were approved by the Assembly. (Votes 3:2154)

1732 - August (and after) construction of the building must have begun (Votes 3:2213)

1735-6 - The structure of the main building (including a turret on the roof, a stairway at the south end of the central hallway, windows on each side of the south entrance and a balcony at the second floor in front of a central door and a window on each side) and the wing buildings was reported almost done (Votes3:2245)

1741 - An order was given to plaster the Assembly Room except for the ceiling and "upper Work" by the next Meeting of the Assembly. (Votes 3:2682-2683)

1743 - Nov. 29 - Plans were approved for the completion of the S.C.R. and the arcades between the wing buildings and the State House (Pa. Archives, 8th Ser. v.IV, p. 2909)

1750 - January - The Assembly ordered the Superintendents of the State House "to carry up a Building on the South-side of the said House to contain the staircase, with a suitable Place thereon for hanging a Bell". (Votes 4:3316) This involved removing the stairway from the central hallway, removing the balcony at the second floor level, closing up the door which lead to itand closing up the windows to the south on either side of the central doorways.

1752 - February - A "suitable Room, adjoining to the South-East corner of said Building, for the Accomodation of the Committee of this House" (Votes 4:3491) was authorized to be built.

1753 - March 10 - The committee room was almost complete (Norris Letterbook 1719-1756, Hist. Soc. of Penna.)

1753 - Jan 29 - April 17 - The wooden steeple was under construction Samuel Harding submitted a bill for woodcarving done for the steeple on January 29, 1753 (Norris Papers, Hist. Soc. of Penna.) and Edmond Woolley, the master carpenter, submitted a bill "for raising the Bell Frame and putting up the Bell." on April 17, 1753 (Hazard's Register 2:376.)

1753 - Jan. 29 - Samuel Harding submitted a bill for carved work for the paneling of the east wall of the Assembly Room (Norris papers, Hist. Soc. of Penna.)

1754-5 - Samuel Harding submitted a bill for carved work within the tower stairhall - (Norris papers, Hist. Soc. of Penna.)

1755 - Jan. 1 - 1756 - Samuel Harding submitted a bill for carved work within the central Hallway. (Norris papers, Hist. Soc. of Penna.) ~~Because the paneling of the central hallway and the Supreme Court Room are one continuous system, we can say that they were undoubtedly paneled at the same time, finished in 1756.~~

1756 - Jan. 7th - Samuel Harding submitted a bill for the carved work done on the clock faces and cases on the east and west ends of the State-House (Norris Papers, Hist. Soc. of Penna.)

1774 - October - The Assembly ordered the decayed wood steeple removed (Votes 8:7084, 7154)

1778 - The Assembly, meeting on the second floor since 1775, recommended that the east end of the second floor be made into one room to accommodate their increased numbers (Journal of H of R of Pa. 1776-81, p. 231, p. 408, p. 478-9) This was done throughout 1779, and involved the removal of a truss system, encased in the central partition, which supported the second floor. A set of columns may have been placed in the Assembly Room below to support the second floor, however, this is yet to be verified. /

1778-9 - The State House as a whole was under repair due to the "filthy" condition of the building as left by the British after their occupation from Sept. 1777 to June 1778. (Josiah Bartlett to William Whipple, July 20, 1778, P.M.H.B. 22:115, 1899.)

1779 - 7 to 8 men worked 15 weeks on the repairs in the Supreme Court Room "finishing it" (Independence Square, State House, Work Rolls, 1779, Jan. - Apr. Div. of Public Records, Harrisburg.)

1781 - April - The Supreme Executive Council authorized the removal of the decayed steeple (Journal of the House of Representatives of Pa., 1776-81, 604) A new smaller steeple, was erected to hold the bell and sounding boards were set in the windows of the brick tower. (Journals of Ass. of Pa. 1783 /Minutes of 2nd Session, 9th Assembly), 152.

1784 - "Oct. 26th water table breaks
" 27 copper trunks at the Front
Nov. 25 Stones under trunks."

(Account of James Pearson Repairing State House, Pa. Hist. Mus. Comm. MSS, Harrisburg/)

1784 - "To turning & Bowring 4 Drops for Trunks for the State House..10.."

Oct. 27 - "To 4 Stacks Copper Spouts (for the State House)

wt. 308^{lb} 4/6		£69..6..0
To 20^{lb} Sheet Copper	---- 2/	2..0..0
		£71..6..0"

(H. Ind. Sq. State House, Main. Vouchers, 1785 - Jan - Dec. Nos. 26 - 75, State Archives)

1784 - 6 The Judges of the S.C.R. requested alterations to the furnishings in the court room. (Journal of H. of R. of Pa., 1781-84, p. 90, 174,) and for the partitioning off of the court room from the hallway and erecting a stove in the room. (Minutes of 1st Session of 11th General Assembly of the Comm. of Pa., p. 47)

1789 - Joseph Rakestraw submitted a bill for partitioning off the S.C.R., and changing the fixtures of the room - (Ind. Sq. State House, Main, Vouchers, 1789 Jan. - Oct., State Archives)

1796 - 1817 - Edward Savage painted "Congress Voting Independence" - a view of the Assembly Room

1802,- Nov. 3, C.W. Peale in establishing his Museum on the second floor removed the alterations made in 1778-9 and restored the Long Room. He talked of having a "Bust of Linneus which is to ornament ... one of my stoves at the end of the Long Room," (Letter to Rembrandt & Rubens Peale in London, C.W. Peale Letter-Books, III, 174) At this time, Peale may or may not have replaced the structural truss within the EW partition dividing the eastern half of the second floor, and if columns had been placed in the Assembly Room in 1778 to support the 2nd floor, C.W. Peale probably removed them at this time. These points have yet to be verified.

1802 - C.W. Peale, Letter-Books, IV, 22-23, Letter of C.W.Peale to Rembrandt & Rubens, In London:

"My dear Children

.. ..

I shall extend my lodge over the Stair case to the south wall, which will make me a good room from which we can see all the

Visitors to the museum, this is an important duty we to my [Pursestring?].

... ..."

This document has yet to be verified by physical research.

1812 - March 24, The State government of Penna. authorized that the wing buildings, the committee room and the arcade be torn down to make room for new office buildings designed by the architect Robert Mills. (Laws of Commonwealth of Penna. [1812-13], 340-341.)

?

How about 1815-16? When Assembly Room changed

1812 - When the Mills office buildings were erected, the east wall of the Assembly room was probably considerably changed -- the paneling removed, fireplaces blocked up and the door to the committee room closed up. Attesting to this Trumbull wrote to J. Adams about his painting "the Declaration of Independence" saying "....I studiously avoid all that can be called poetical license and adhere to fact in whatever can be accurately ascertained, I preserve faithfully the costume of the day and the architecture of the Room, which I very much regret to find as lately been destroyed by that restless spirit of change which so much prevails in this country; The Ancients would have regarded as sacred an apartment in which scenes of such deep interest had passed ...The Philadelphians have **modernized** [sic] it. ....." (Letter 1817, Dec. 26, J. Trumbull to J. Adams, N. Y. MSS Trumbull Letterbook, John Trumbull Coll. Yale, Roll 7, #4-6, INHP files)

1821 - Letter from C.W. Peale to Raphaelle - C.W. Peal, Letter Books, XVII, 16

"Dear Raphaelle Belfield March 19th -21

.... The Corporation has not yet lowered the rent but [now?] I hope it will be done, as we have complied with the wishes of some members, by pulling [down] the Room over the Stair way, also the chimney in the Steeple ....

C. W. Peale "

1824 - Sept. 28 - For the reception of Lafayette at the State House the Assembly Room was decorated in a lavish manner. (National Gazette, Sept. 25, 1824)

1828 - Feb. 7, A committee of the City Councils ~~prepared~~ PROPOSED to restore the steeple atop the original tower - and on March 15 they chose William Strickland as the architect - The tower was completed the following summer. (Hazard's Register 1: 152, 154, 176)

1829 - Before this 1816 time the Chestnut Street door had been changed to one of the Corinthian order. (The Saturday Evening Post, May 16, 1829)

1829-30 - The second floor, for the accommodation of the U.S. Circuit and District courts was renovated. The long room was obliterated - The west end of the building made into one room, the eastern end had two rooms on the Chestnut St. side and two on the south side of the central partition. In removing the central partition at the west end, the architect John Haviland had to remove the truss within the partition which had been supporting the second floor. To compensate - he said he would place "two cast iron columns ... resting on a solid foundation of masonry..." in the S.C.R. below. He may have eventually used four such columns as all subsequent views of the S.C.R. show four. (Haviland MSS, concerning the State House, vol. 2, U. of P.)

1830 - Dec. - Consideration was given by the City Councils to restore the so-called Hall of Independence "to its ancient form". (Poulson's Daily Advertiser, Dec. 9, 1830)

1831 - March 29 - The architect John Haviland was chosen by a committee on the State House to investigate the problem of restoration of the Hall of Independence. Haviland reported - "From the best information I can obtain of its former style of finish, it appears to have been similar to the Mayor's Court room in its general features: ----"Thus Haviland undertook the "restoration" and paneled the North, South and West walls copying the details of the Supreme Court Room paneling. (Hazard's Register 7: 264-265)

1832 - The work could not have been finished by this date as it was proposed to "fill a vacant niche," as the central motif of the east wall, "with a brass plate bearing the Declaration of Independence as an inscription." (Loke, E. T., A subaltern's furlough, p. 37) ..."and to cause the plate prepared to be inserted as a frame or otherwise in the most appropriate part of the Hall of Independence." (Minutes of Select Council, Bk. 6, Oct. 15, 1830 - June 8 1832, pp. 120-1). From physical investigation all of the present tabernacle frame on the east wall was composed at or around this time, except the cockle shell freize which, because of the appearance of a cockle shell motif in the Savage painting (done between 1796 & 1817), we believe could have been an original panel incorporated from what was left of the original east wall finish. Physical research shows that this panel has had a previous use as a freize of a pedimented tabernacle frame of smaller proportion than the present one - thus Haviland approached the original decorative features of the room, but did not have available enough evidence for an accurate restoration.

1846 - Oct. 3 - Dec. 15 - "Scraping walls, ceiling, and staircase of State-house, and painting same,"
(Approp. #177, Journal of City Councils)

1854 - The second floor, to accommodate the Select Council of the city government, was opened up into one room at the east end. The central partition which C.W. Peale had replaced in 1802 was again removed, as well as subsequent other partitions. The floor structure of the east end was now supported by 4 iron hangers which extended from the roof trusses above down to the main girders under the floor. The vestibule to the north of the tower was replaced with a combination of a smaller vestibule, closets and galleries for the council chambers at the east and west ends, and "The stairs leading to the steeple have been replaced by another flight within the tower." on the landing in the NE corner. (Public Ledger Aug. 29, 1854)

1869 - March 15 - "A handsome floor of tile has been laid, the walls and ceilings painted, ..."in the Assembly Room. (Public Ledger, March 15, 1869)

1869 - The alterations of 1854 in the second floor were changed again. The eastern room was enlarged slightly, changing its gallery and reducing the size of the vestibule under. (Public Ledger, Aug. 18, 1869)

1872 - A committee was appointed for the restoration of Independence Hall Frank M. Etting, Morton McMichael, W.E. Littleton, Jus.? L. Shoemaker, A. Wilson Henszey, J. H. Pugh.

1872 - Dec. 12 Exterior brickwork was painted and the mortar joints penciled (1873 Appropriations Journal of Common Council) The south side of the building done in 1874. Item #46 - Journal of Common Council, Dec. 17.

1873 - First Report of the Committee on the Restoration explained that Pillars were placed in the Assembly Room on the basis of the memory of one man, "whose description is confirmed by a fragment of the original stile preserved as a relic." (Etting Coll., Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

1873 - The Committee reported - "The western room having been finally yielded to us, we proceeded to initiate the plan for a National Museum. The chamber was thoroughly renovated, and the decayed floor replaced by a filed pavement similar in style to that laid some years since in Independence Chamber. ....; while appropriate platforms are reserved to display furniture once in use by the patriots of that day."

(Second Annual Report of the Comm. on Restoration of I. H.)

The mass of the portraits & furnishings that once beladened the walls of the Assembly Room were now installed in the National Museum in the S.C.R -- The Assembly Room was ready for the Inauguration of the Centennial.

1873 - "....The President Judge, coming to hold court one morning, to his surprise found the workmen tearing out the judicial bench, and taking other liberties of which he had not been advised ....". (Ind. Hall Rest., small vol. /unlabled Scrapbook/, p. 82, Sunday Times July 6, 1873; The Age, n. d., Etting Coll. H.S.P.)

1875 - Woodwork on the first floor was repaired and the paint was removed ---"purified by fire and acid" and two coats of paint were applied. (Bills, vouchers, etc., in Box labeled "Restoration of Ind. Hall (Bills etc.) Manuscripts " in Etting Papers, H.S.P.)

1896 - April 25 - The Long Room of the 2nd floor was restored, involving the removal of the suspension rods supporting the 2nd floor and replacing them with a longitudinal truss within East-West partition. (Letter to A.S. Eisenhower from Wilson Bros. Co., INHP, MSS)

Requirement of oak timbers to be used in trusses. (Letter from Eisenhower to Wilson Bros. INHP, MSS)

1897 - Restoration of Assembly Room east wall - under the direction of T. Mellon Rogers, Architect, Bureau of City Properties of Department of Public Safety. The fireplaces were to have new mantles with handcarved brackets and the doors in NE & SE corners were to be trimmed. (Specifications contract #14259, 12732, Stacey Reeves & Sons, Novem. 8.)

1897 - Second floor: discovery - that the original floor had sunk some 11" "now covered with knotless pine boards of varying thickness." (Philadelphia Press, INHP Scrapbook #2)

1897 - The arches to the Supreme Court Room were to be opened (Philadelphia Press, Oct. 19)

1897 - Joist holes in the Supreme Court Room were discovered, determining level of judge's bench, and the windows were opened in west wall. (Public Ledger, Dec. 4)

1898 - Supreme Court Room - trim and paneling on west wall erected, stairs changed at Judge's bench, arches opened to Hallway.

Tower Stairhall - old clock weight cases removed, door to closet under first stair run removed.

Assembly Room - new flooring put in over new girders which rest on four new brick piers - cellar windows along the south wall were closed up and the south fireplace flue was changed someway (?) (Stacey Reeves & Sons, bill for Restoration, INHP photostat #1058) May 25

1898 - Parafin was applied to exterior stove and brickwork for protection (Public Ledger, June 23)

1898 - A new front door on Chestnut St. was made - "modeled after an old door found under the stairway ----" First Floor Hall floor bricks were found at points where they must have rested originally - so a new floor was laid like the old. The Tower Stairhall was replastered and new treads and risers were put in the stairway. A tin roof was laid over the old shingle one, and where brickwork or paneling needed repairs, this was done. In the second floor, the Long Room was restored, fireplaces opened, and a flat colonnaded arch put between the vestibule and the Long Room - copied from the Chew mansion in Germantown. A section of the 2nd floor original flooring was left uncovered - The original floor having gaffed, iron trusses were inserted for it support. All under the direction of T. Mellon Rogers. (Public Ledger, July 1)

1899 - The west exterior wall clock case was restored and the plan was proposed to restore the faces on both the east and west elevations. (Philadelphia Times, March 7)

1899 - Admission was printed that the original cornices were removed in 1898 from the Supreme Court Room and the Assembly Room. [as well as the Tabernacle frame on the West wall of the Supreme Court Room.] (Philadelphia North American, March 8, p. 2. col. 3)

1899 - Proposal was made to alter the restored 2nd floor. Everyone, including T. Mellon Rogers (architect for 1st restoration) recognized the mistakes made in the 1st restoration. (Philadelphia North American, March 8)

1916 - A new floor was laid in the Assembly Room and the S.C.R. (Annual Report, Bureau of City Prop., Philadelphia p. 13)

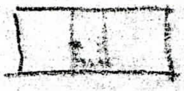
1918 - A new shingle roof was put on, old roofing removed and repairs made to the rafters under the roof. (Specification, sec. 73, INHP, MSS)

1922 - Restoration of 2nd floor - under direction of Horace Wells Sellers - Suggestion that all old flooring plus that above it on sleepers "be removed from the building as quickly as possible to lessen the fire risk." (Letter from Horace Wells Sellers to J. P. B. Sinkler)

1923 - "....103. The present old flooring is to be carefully taken up; certain parts of it are to be relaid as hereinafter specified. Sleepers or filling pieces 3" wide and of the required depth shall be nailed to top of each of the present joists to receive the flooring. The new flooring and portions of old floorings relaid will not be exactly level. Around the outside walls the floor line will be about 1½" above the tops of the joists and in the center of the building the floor boards will pass over the iron tie rods in the bottom of the longitudinal trusses at threshold of doorways to Long Gallery." (Specification - 2nd Story of Independence Hall Work #497 Department of Public Works, Bureau of City Property)

1924 - "Removal of the present brick from the floors of the entrance hall and tower stairhall" - laying a concrete base, reinforced under the Liberty bell, and laying a new brick floor of harder bricks. (Specification - INHP - MSS)

1924 - March 28 - The panels in the south door were removed and replaced with glass to allow visitros to see the Liberty Bell after the building~~s~~ is closed in the evening. /Physical research has shown that these double doors are not original - the original door was single, hung on two strap hinges attached to pintles on the east jamb./ (Independence Hall Curator's Daily Record, 1917-46, INHP, MSS)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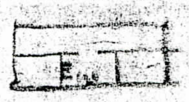
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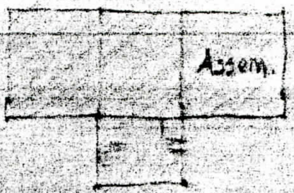
1730 - 1750's



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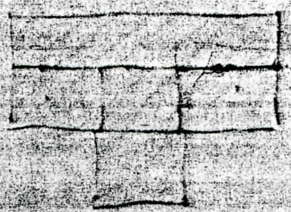
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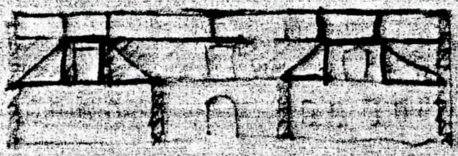
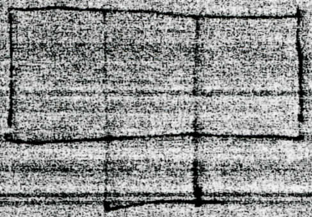
1~~735~~55 - 1775



Work done between
Nov. 1778 + March 1780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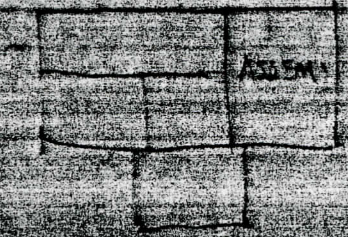

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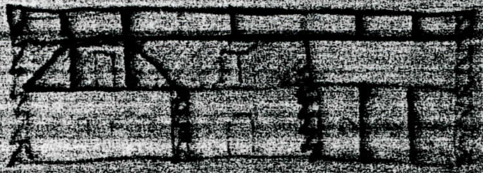

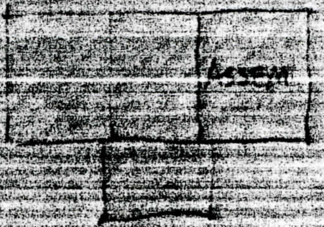

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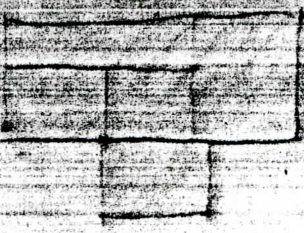
1783

(construction
same as above)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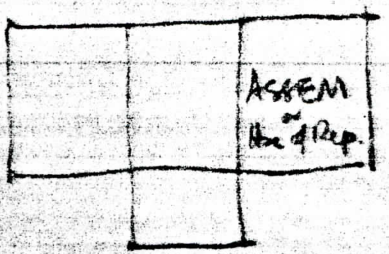
1790



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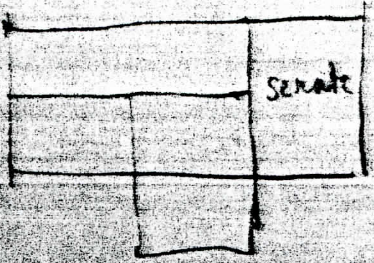

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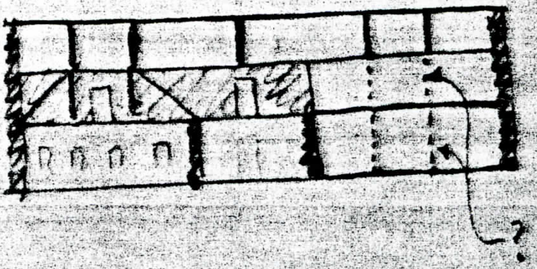
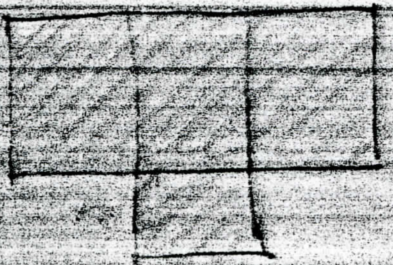
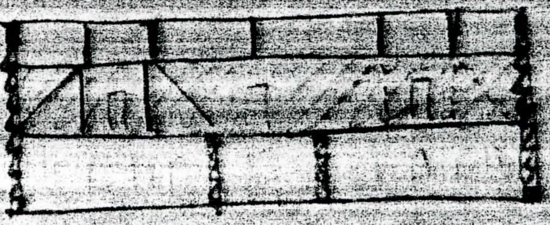
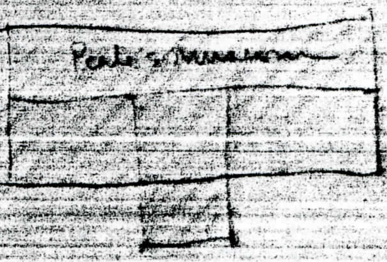


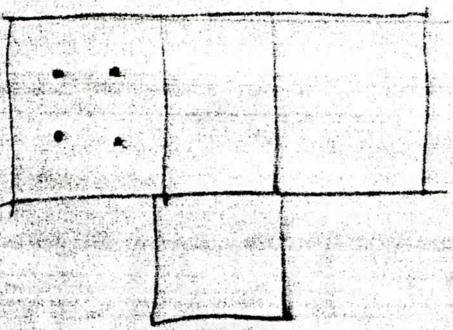
1789 or 1802

Joseph Rakestraw "To taking down a partition, Repairing it and putting it up in the Second Story of the Statehouse £ . 15. 6





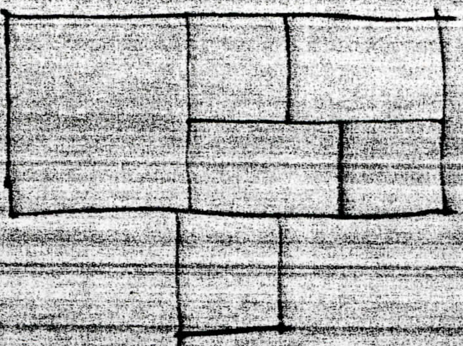




1.

1829-30

Haviland changed structure to allow one room in west + added 2 columns [?]
[Four columns shown in all photographs + prints]
in Supreme Ct. Rm. to hold up 2nd floor?.



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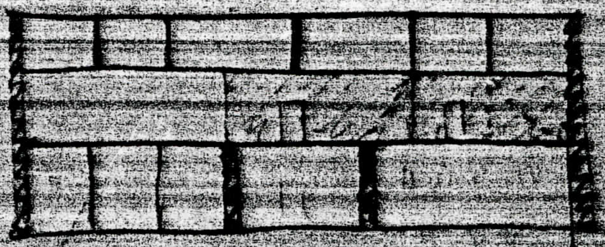
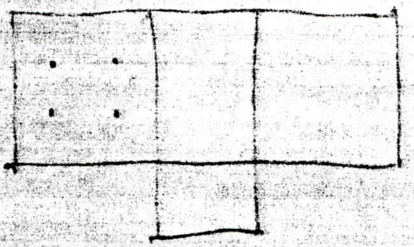
[Haviland may have put two columns in after inspecting the structural system]



2 or 4 columns?

1854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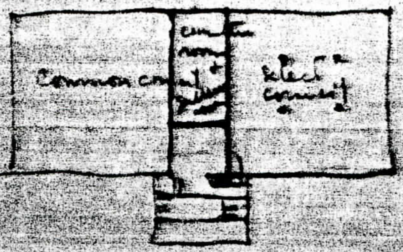

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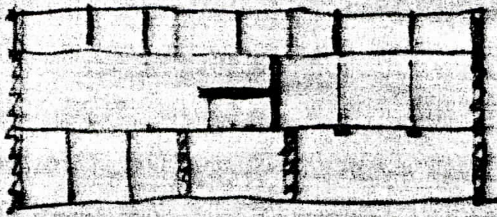
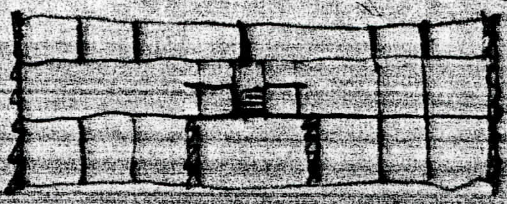
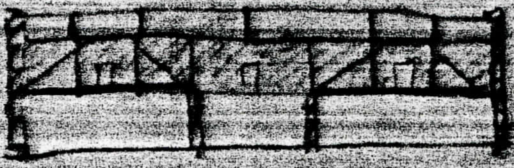

1864 -

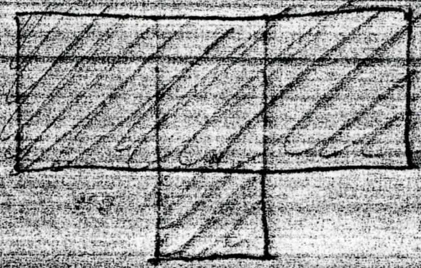
1869 - see plans on next page

1876 - 1895




1896

1898 ?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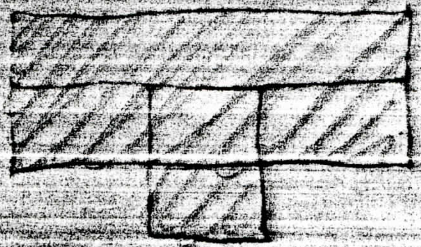
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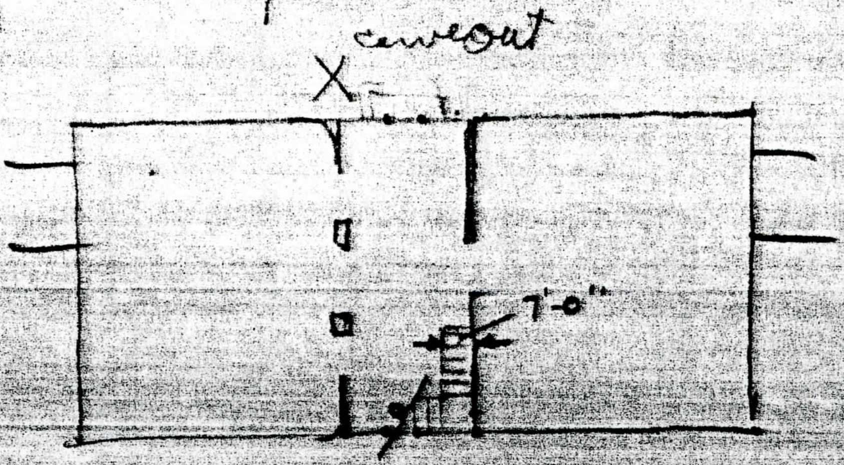
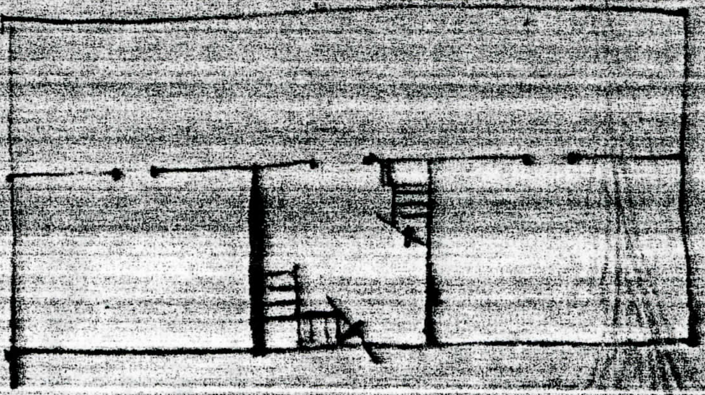
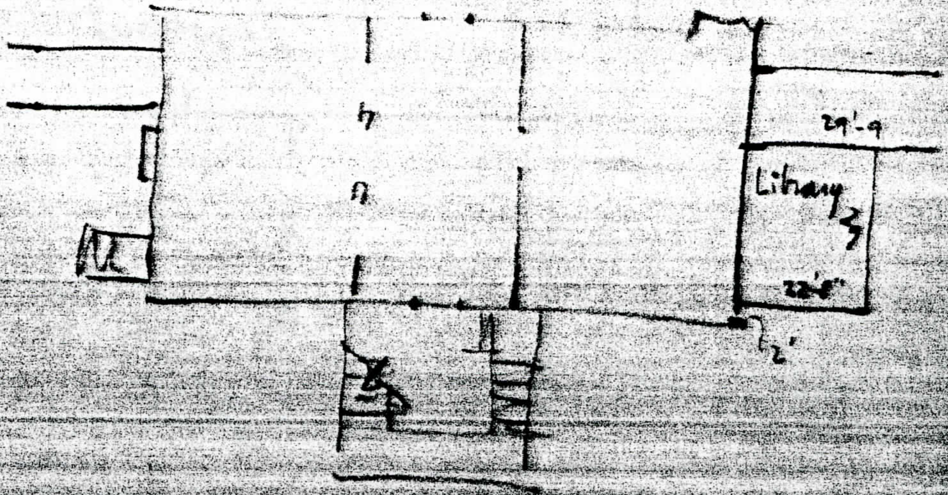
1732 - 1750



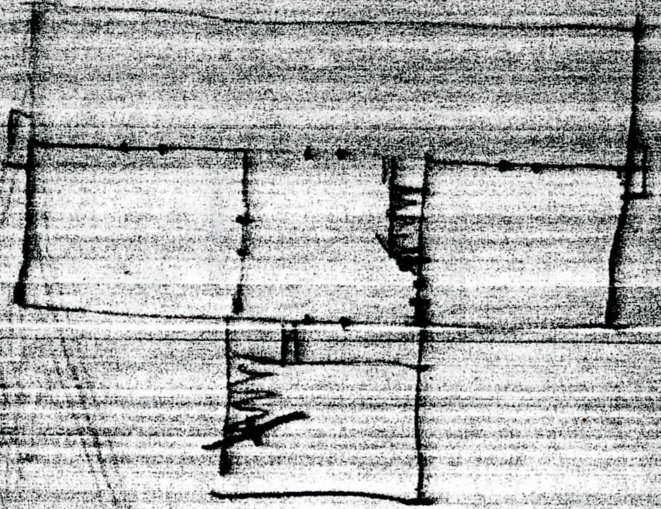


1750 - 1778

Curve in SCR only



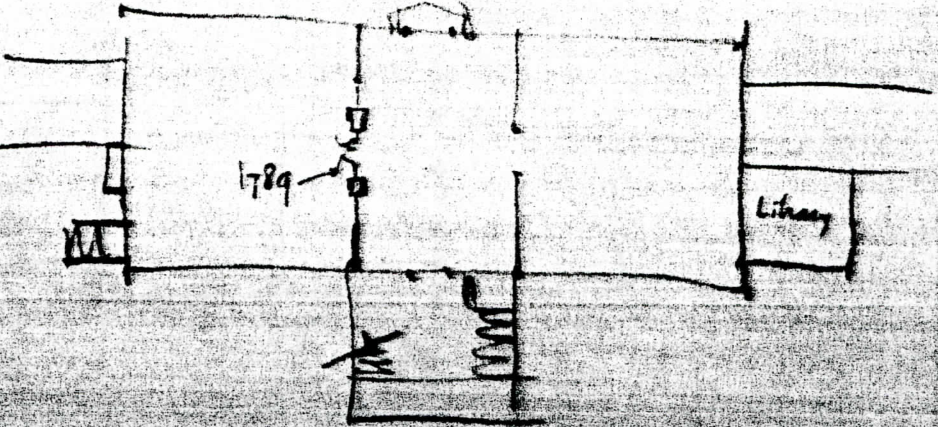
1



2

1778 - 1802

1



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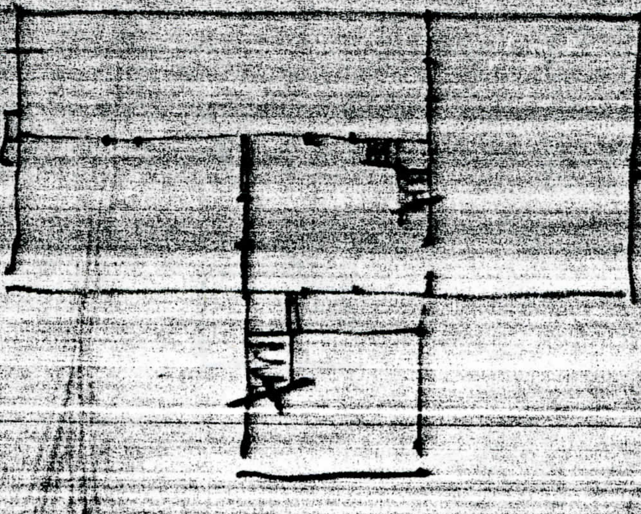
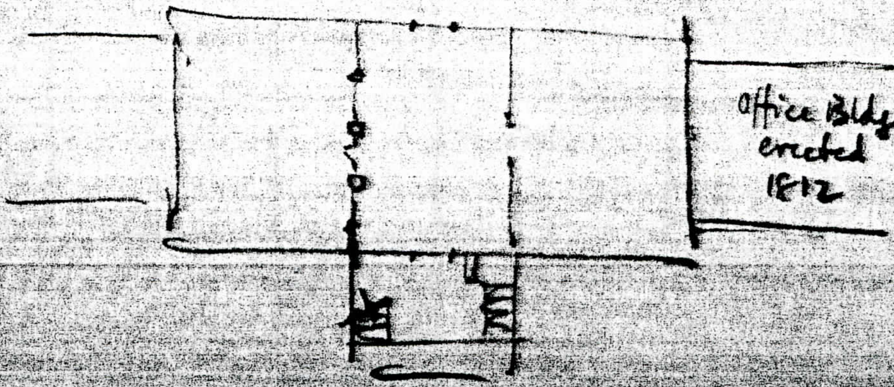
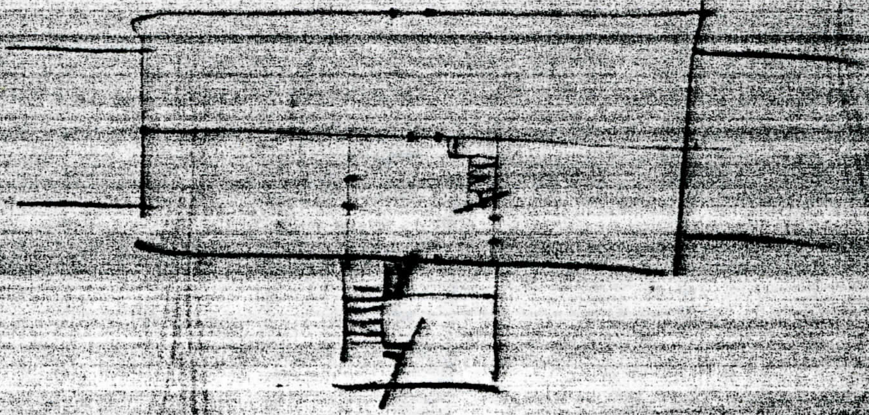


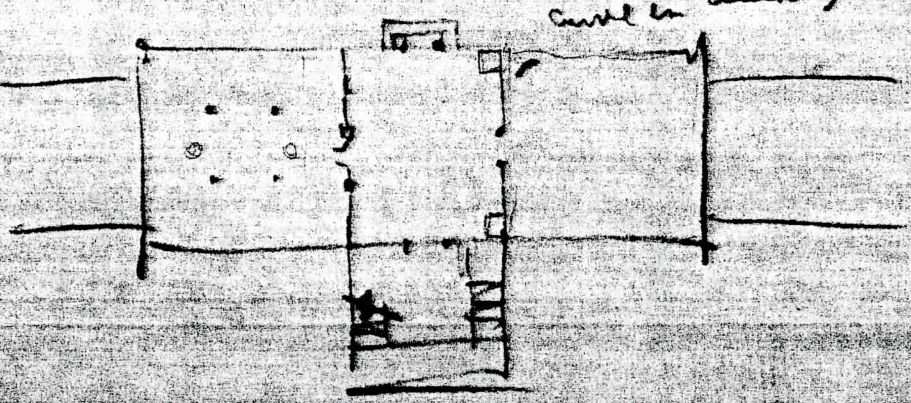
1802 - 1829

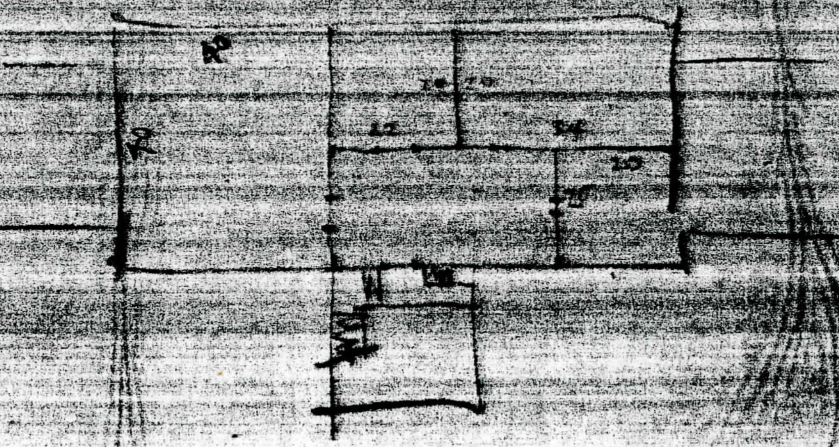


Office Bldgs.
erected
1812



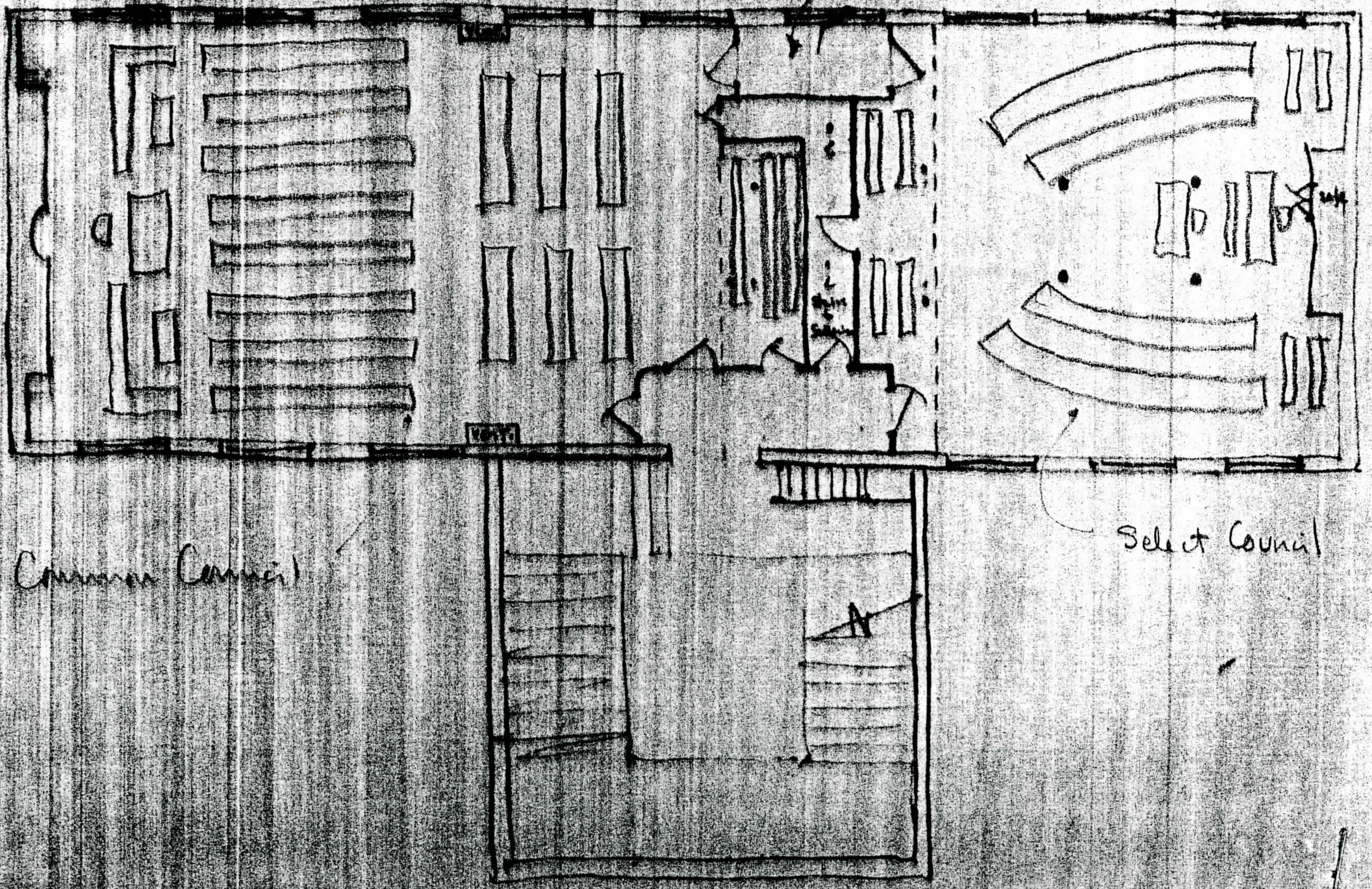
1829 - 1854



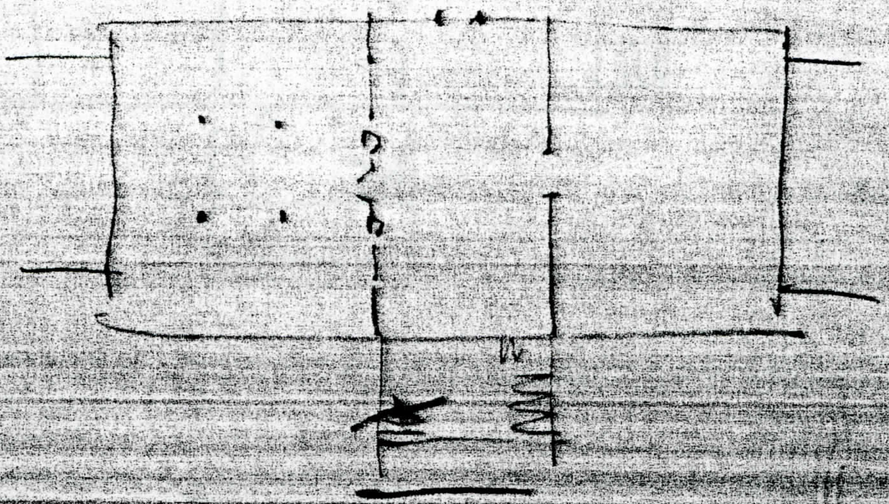


STATE HOUSE, 2nd floor - 1869 - 1896

see model of 2nd. Hall at Newport R. I Historical Society

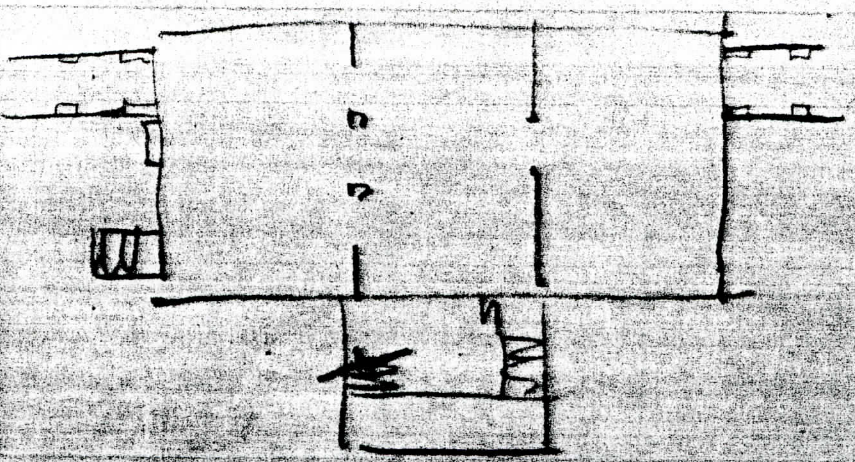


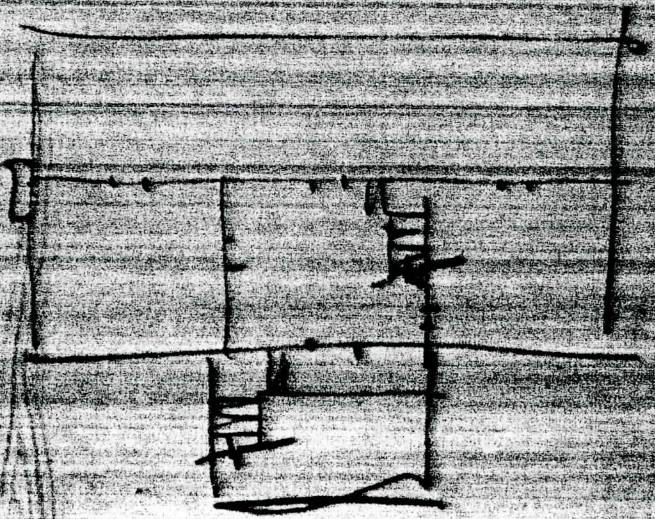
1854 - 1896



2nd floor -
see extra sheet

1896 - 1959





First Draft

Architectural Report on the 2nd Floor Construction as it has Effected the Assembly Room and Supreme Court ~~Select Council~~ Rooms, below -

by Penelope Hartshorne, 1958

Independence National Historical Park, Maintenance Division

When the State House was first built, the framing of the second floor was of heavy timbers (11" x 11") and joists mortised into these (see fig.   for framing plan). As well, within the center east-west wall, probably were iron hangers connecting the floor framing to the trusses of the roof construction.

In the year 1775, the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania removed its meeting place from the so-called Assembly Room on the first floor in the east end, to the second floor room in the southeast corner. (footnote   ) The number of members of the Assembly increased to the point where it was necessary that they enlarge this second floor room to equal the size of their old room on the first floor (footnote - Penna. Gazette, March 18, 1789) and on Nov. 2, 1778, it was recommended that this work be done as soon as possible and they in the meantime would "meet at the college." (footnote - Journal of H of R of Pa. 1776-81, p. 231). This was done between 1779-1780,

If we are right in assuming that the original structural system incorporated the center east-west wall to conceal structural members to hold up the second floor, then we must assume that this work of removing this wall necessitated ~~[illegible]~~ another structural system be adopted to replace the one removed ~~[illegible]~~. Of course, if there were just two iron hangars coming down from the trusses in the attic, they may have just left these exposed, feeling that they did not interfere with the transaction of business.

We have, however, notes of "cash paid by order of assembly" which read as follows:

	"Nov. 16	To Jeremiah Williamson, for work done at the state house	57-4-6
	18	To Jacob Streinbeck for Benjamin Crofts, for work done at the state house	5-2-6
1779	Feb. 11	To Britton and Allibon for boards used in the assembly room	17-10-0
	13	To Charles Staltz for iron work for the Assembly room	60-2-6
	Mar. 6	To Jacob Eckfield, for stove pipes and iron work for the assembly room	107-14-0"

[Journal of H. of R. of Pa. 1776-81, p.478 & 479 (Lib.Co. of Pa)]

The work done and paid for on Feb. 13 and Mar. 6 was for iron work and despite the fact that this period of years suffered from inflation and probably inordinately high costs for iron, these sums of 60 and 107 £'s imply a large job. Jacob Eckfield is listed in the City Directory of Phila. (p. 13) for the year 1797 as "Eckfeldt, Jacob, blacksmith, 30 north fifth st.", which shows that he was first of all near to the job and second of all that he could have handled Smithywork - ie. he couldn't have caste any pieces or forged them, rather he would have worked on such pieces after they had been turned out by a foundry or forge. It is quite probable that he made hinges for the doors in the room, but I doubt that such a small ~~number~~ amount of iron mongery would have cost ~~all of these~~ this sums.

Can we then assume that the first step in making the structural changes in the system was to put in place the new system before removing the old, and that this was done between the dates Nov. 2, 1778 (footnote on page 1) and Mar. 6, 1779 (footnote of bills paid). This system could have taken several different forms, two of which are most obvious - either hangers from above or supports from below. If the above blacksmith did work on this structural system, it may be that he either fitted up the ends of hangers or columns, or perhaps he strapped the ends of wood columns? There is one documentary note which may or may not be authentic. In a parody written on the proceedings of the General Assembly, someone in 1782 wrote — "Mr. Bluster had no sooner sat down in his usual seat near the Pillar, than Mrs. Gallypost arose and...." (Nov. 27, 1782, Freeman's Journal vol. 1, p.2).

So far, we are unable to pinpoint what did happen - as no positive evidence has shown up in our physical investigations in the State House. We are still in pursuit, however,--In direct influence upon the subject of whether columns were used in the Assembly Room, we must unravel the sequence of changes in the second floor.

We have established that in 1778-March 1780 the east end of the second floor was made into one room and the structural system changed to either columns supporting from below or hangers from above - This system remained until 1802 or shortly thereafter.

Charles Wilson Peale was given the State House to house his museum, and in a letter to his sons shopping for him in Paris, he mentioned alterations he proposed to make; "which will be making the Long Room 260 feet & give 2 other rooms of 80 f[illegible] each" [the rooms along the yard wall]. (C.W. Peale Letter Books, III, 174).

Peale never did extend the rooms to this length, which would have meant adding wings to the building.

~~As well~~, the self-portrait Peale made "The Artist in His Museum", painted in , shows the Long Room ~~in place and~~ as he finally arranged it with only two doors emanating from it to the rooms in the south (no center door to South)*. Thus, we can say that substantially the original 2nd floor plan was reinstated in the first few years of the 19th century. In 1829-30, the United States Court leased the west end of the 2nd story, and the architect, John Haviland, was given the job of changing this end into one large court room. He as well, in the east end, made four smaller rooms (see plan, fig. #). Haviland ~~wrote~~ proposed – "to enable one to do this [create one room at the west end], I have introduced two cast iron columns of sufficient thickness, cast in one entire [blk] resting on a solid foundation of masonry—" (Extracts taken from the Haviland MSS, concerning the State House, vol. 2 [U. of P.] 1929-30)

original plan

Haviland, I imagine, upon inspection of the structural system, found that he had to supply four rather than just two such caste iron columns, for all the pictorial evidence we have of the S.C.R. below the west end, where the columns were installed, show the presence of four caste iron columns. (see figs.). Upon inspection, the trusses at present in the attic in the west end of the building appear to be newer than those in the east end. Could Haviland have put in these trusses when he changed the structural system of the west end of the building? In the east end of the 2nd floor, Haviland ? kept the wall running down the center line, so that any structural members reinstalled in this wall in the 1802 period could remain untouched through the 1830 period. In 1854, however, the second floor was taken over by Council Rooms, the Common Council in the west end, a room 60 feet x 40 feet, and the Select Council in the east in a room 40 x 40 (footnote #)

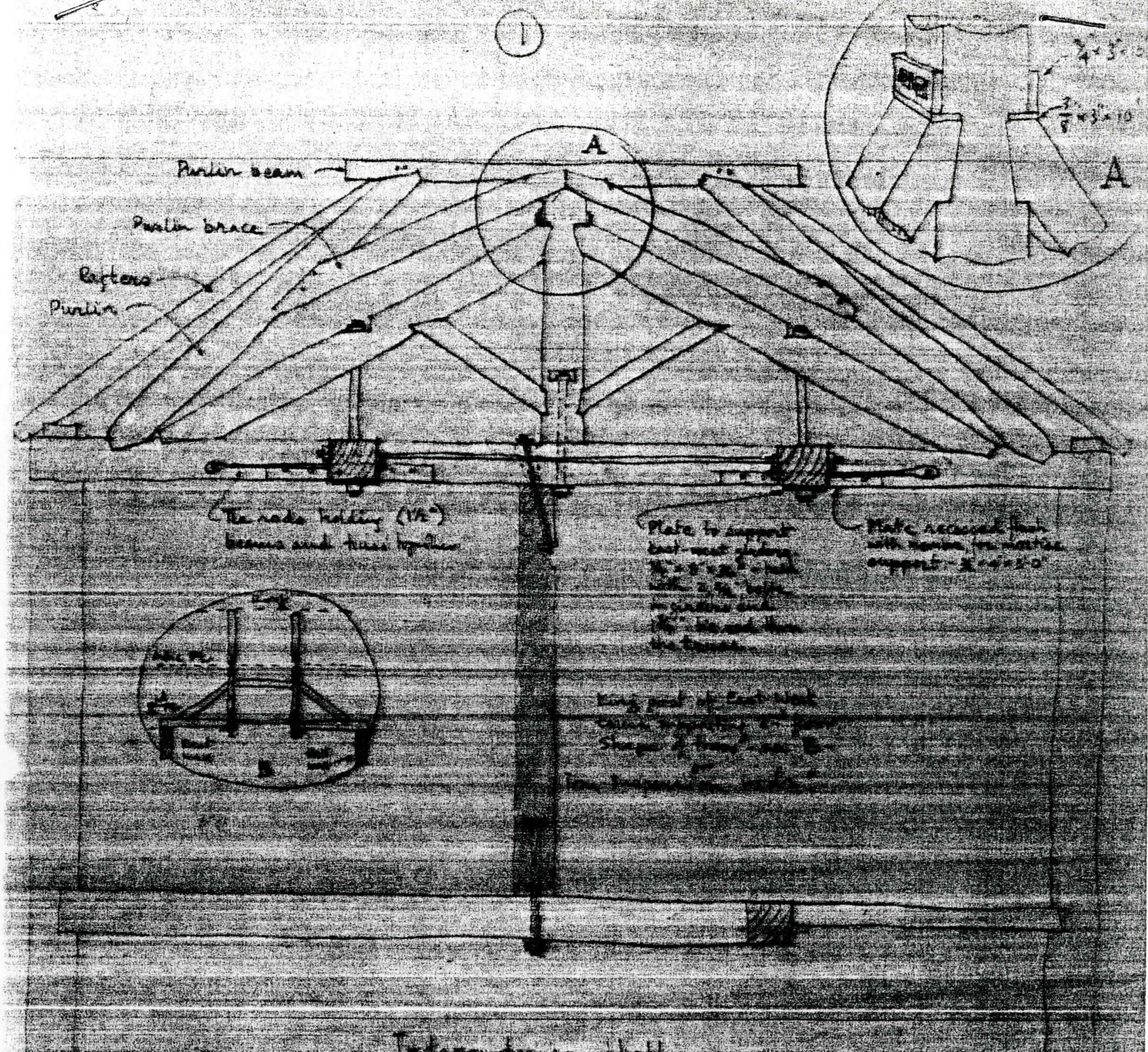
* refer to the water colour of the museum done by Peale's s

No structural change was necessary for th~~is~~e enlargement of the west end, as the Haviland columns remained in the ~~Select Council~~ Supreme Court Room in the floor below. /it may be that Haviland did put in only two columns in 1829-30 - but when the Councils enlarged the west end in 1854, they felt it necessary to install two more or four new ones7. But in the east end the central partition running east-west was again removed and these structural members were replaced by four "suspension rods." These rods came from the trusses in the attic (two rods to each truss) down through the girders of the 2nd floor, where holes can still be seen, through plat countersunk on the under-sides of the girders and then fastened with large nuts. These nuts were embellished and protruded decoratively through the ceiling of the "Independence Hall" as shown in a ~~drawing~~ lithograph made in 1856. (neg. #175)

In 1872, when there was a great effort to restore the Assembly Room, Mr. Frank M. Etting reported for the committee in charge "We have replaced the pillars which formerly sustained the ceiling of the chamber & which has been accurately described by our venerable & esteemed representative of the last century, Horace Binney, the only living man who positively remembers them & whose description is confirmed by a fragment of the original stile preserved as a relic." (Rough Draft of Report, /First Report7 on Restoration of Independence Hall in Box /bills, etc.7, Etting Collection, H.S.P.) It is because of this note that we are undergoing this search - for this is the only lead we have that columns may have been put in the Assembly Room in 1778-80, and then taken down in 1802. Unfortunately Horace Binney was "the only living man" who could remember these columns. Otherwise, we might have had more evidence or else we could at least have attached more weight to the above document. As it is, until we can either see or read a description of the "fragment of the original stile preserved as a relic " mentioned above, or until we find some physical evidence in the structure itself, I shall recommend treating the above evidence as suspect. Horace Binney, after all could have mistaken a memory of the Supreme Court Room for a memory of the Assembly Room - (see lithograph of room in 1876, neg. #2121).

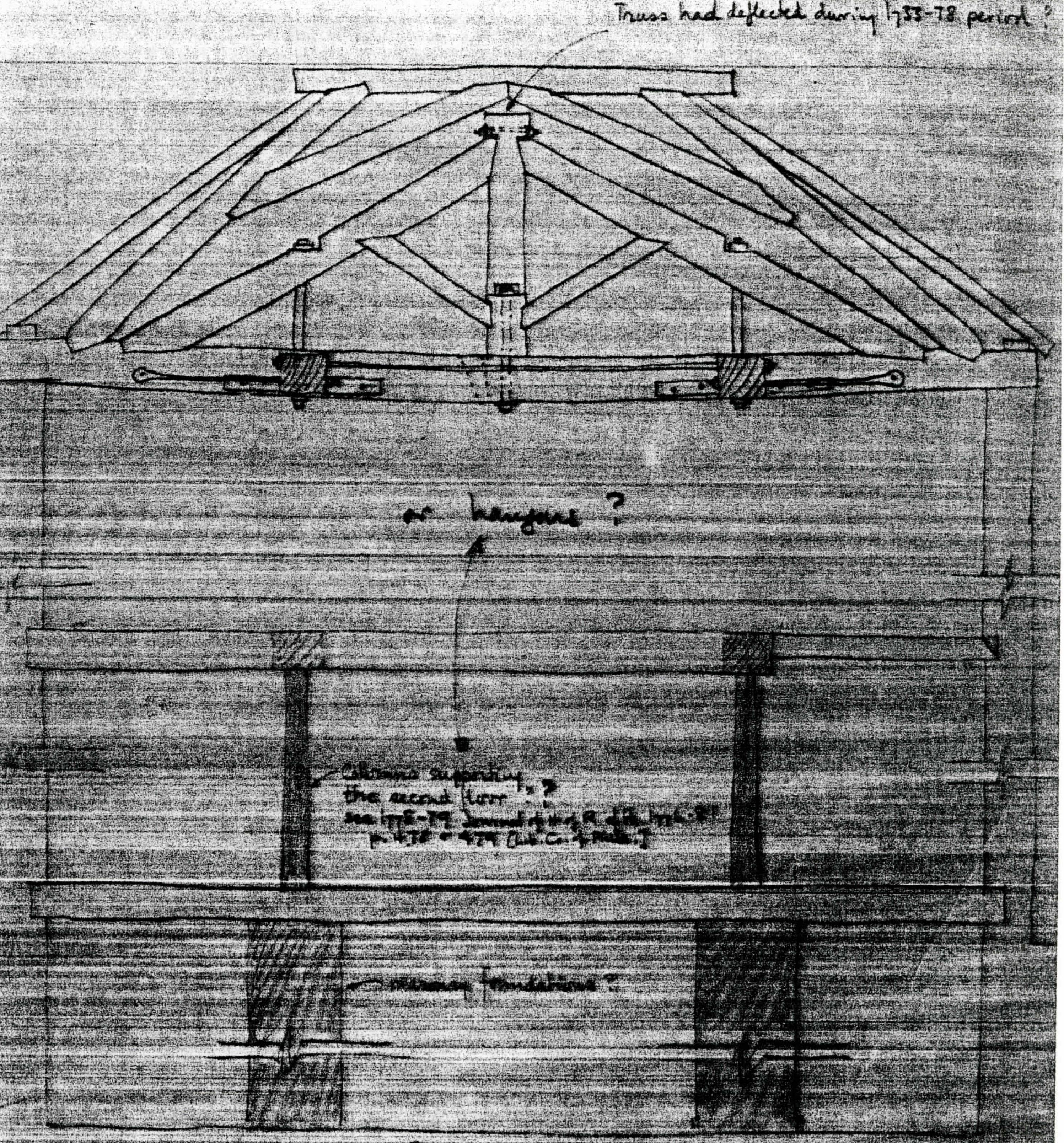
With minor changes of the rearrangement of balconies for the public use in the second floor chambers, the rooms remained in this state from 1856 until 1896, (see fig. & Neg. #1043-6) when it was decided to restore the rooms to their original appearance. At this time, the whole second floor was gutted at once, the structural system of the flooring partially exposed (see fig. neg. of 2nd floor being restored) and a system of support for the second floor worked out. As well, the walls were replaced in their original positions. We have notes from the contracted firm of engineers to the city architects explaining what they did: "Our specification calls for the oak timbers of the trusses to be of thoroughly seasoned stuff. The material which Mssrs. Reeves & Sons put in is very wet" (Oct. 28, 1896 - Wilson Bros. to Eisenhower) and, "As per your instructions of the 22nd, we are now preparing drawings and specifications for removing the present suspension rods and posts and replacing them with longitudinal trusses in the second story; also for removing the partitions, gallery, etc., in the middle part of the building." (April 25, 1896 - Wilson Bros. to Eisenhower). During subsequent changes of the architectural embellishment of this 1896-8 restoration of the second floor, items have come to light which further describe the form of these trusses installed - "and in the center of the building the floor boards will pass over the iron tie rods in the bottom of the longitudinal trusses at threshold of doorways to Long Gallery." (Specification 1923 - work #497 Department of Public Works, Bureau of City Property).

①

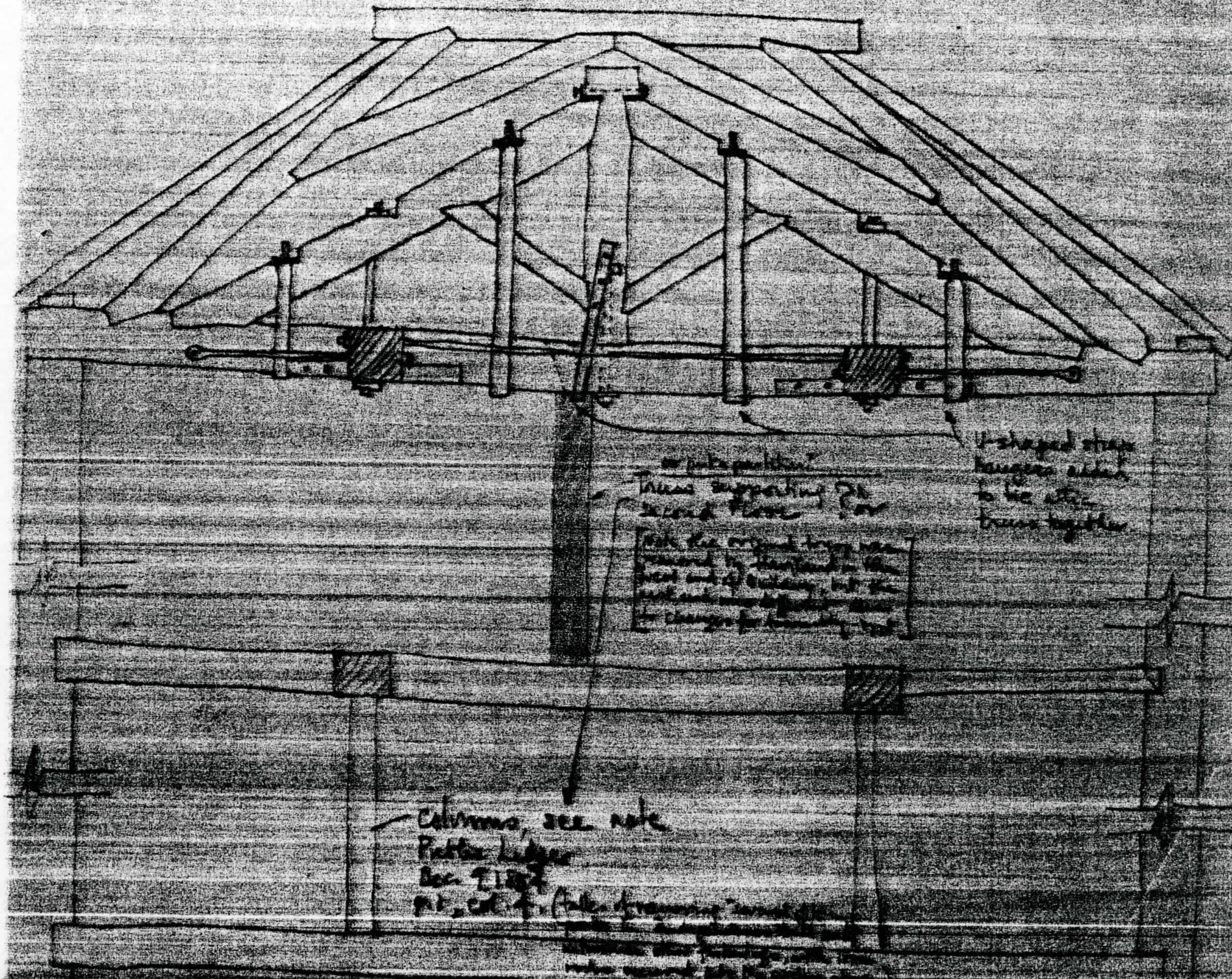

A
Purlin beam
Purlin brace
Rafters
Purlin
3/4"×3"×1[illegible]
3/8×3"×10
A
Tie rods holding (1½") beams and ties together
Plate to support east-west girders [illegible] with 2 [illegible] bolts [illegible] girders and [illegible] ties and [illegible] the trusses.
Plate recessed flush with tenon for mortise support - 3"×4"×5'0"
King post of East Wall [illegible] [illegible] Shape of [illegible]
[illegible] Independence [illegible]

Independence Hall
(Truss of East End of Attic)
Possible Framing Plan of 1732-1778
▇ - conjecture

②

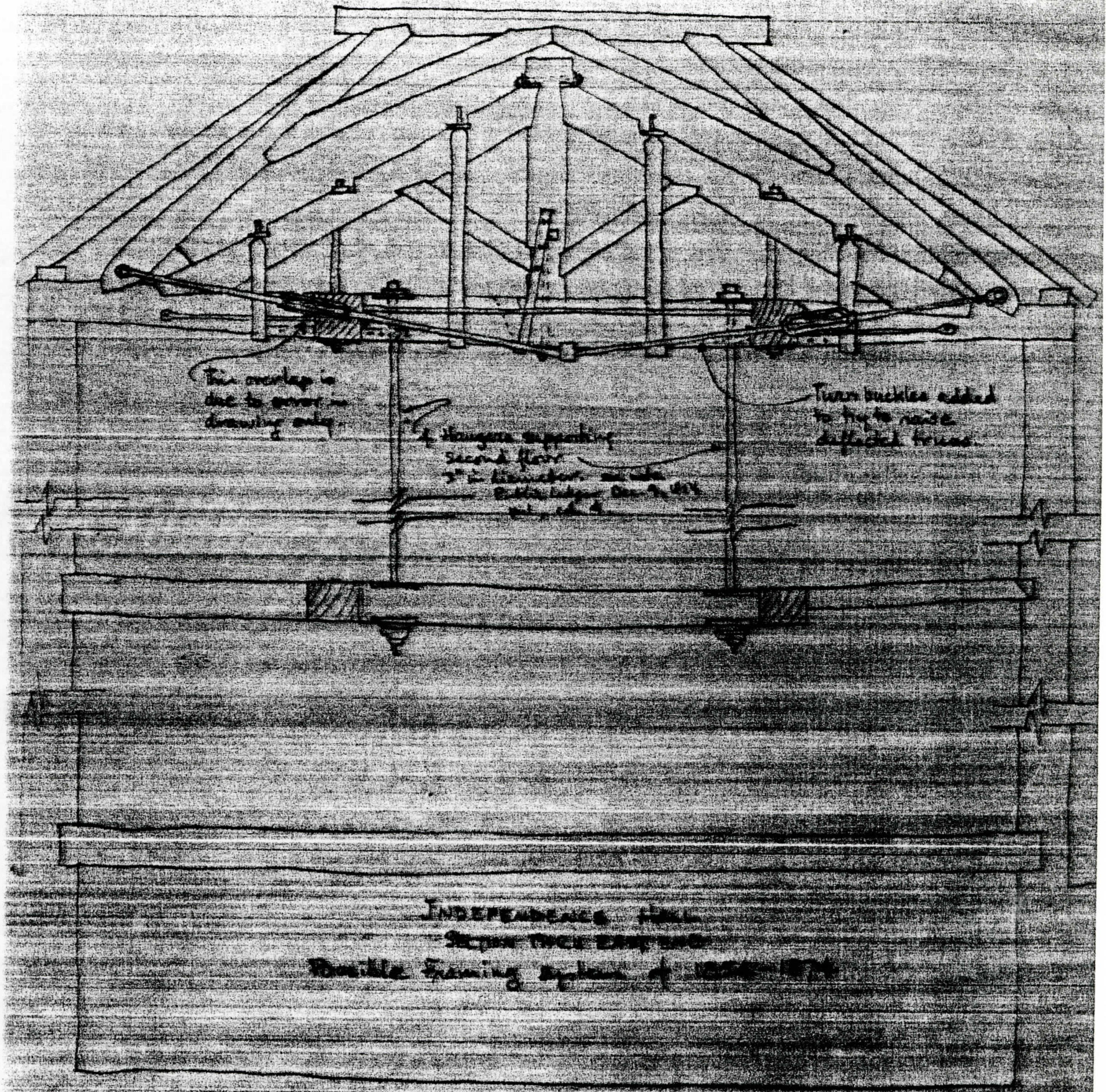

Truss had deflected during 1753-78 period ?
or hangers ?
Columns supporting the second floor ?
see 1778-79 Journal of the H. of R. of the [illegible]
p. 478 – 479 [Lib. Co. of Phila.]
Masonry foundations ?

INDEPENDENCE HALL
SECTION THRU EAST END
Possible Framing system of 1770-[illegible]
[redacted] - Conjectural

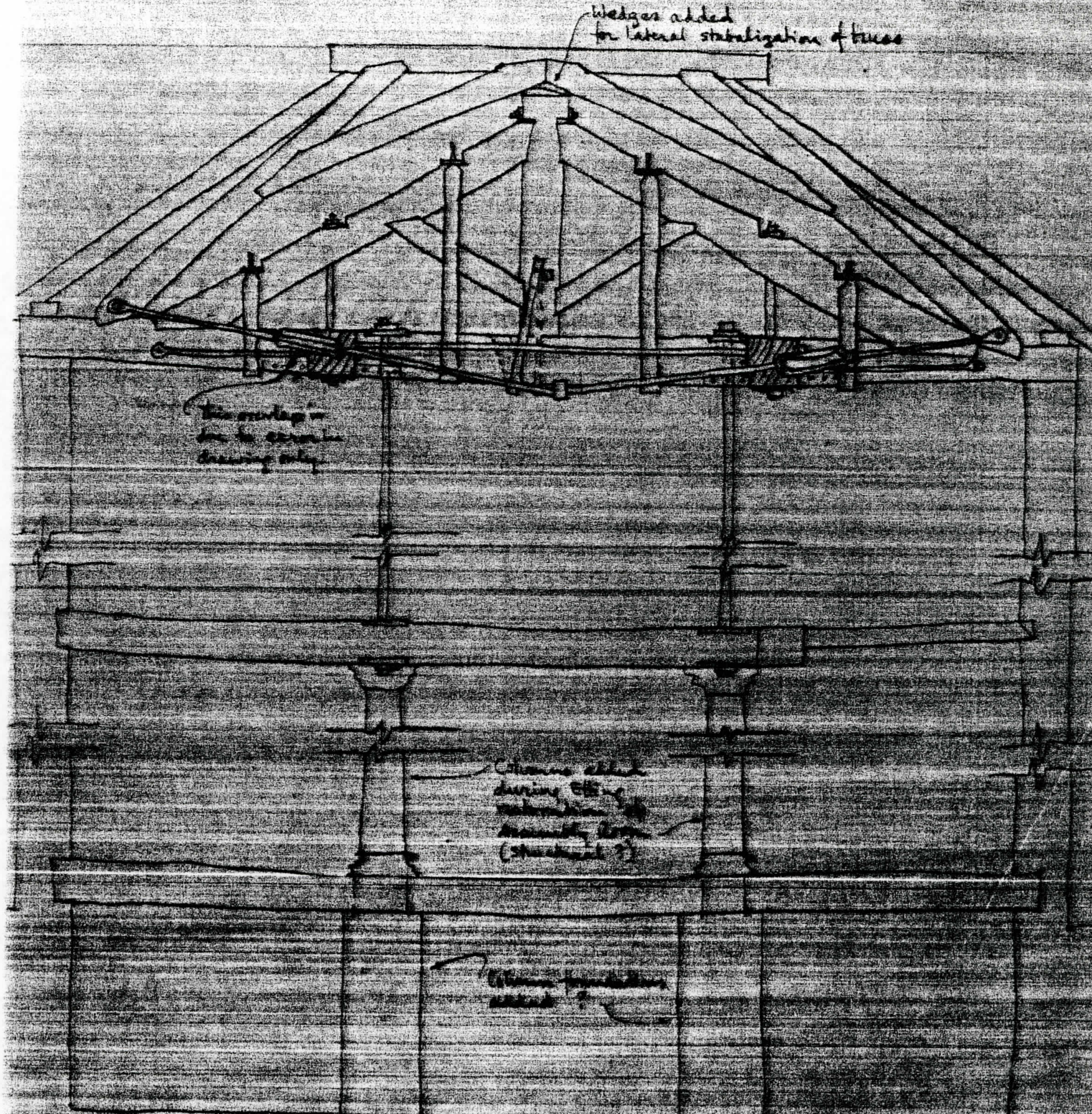

U-shaped strap hangers added to tie attic truss together
or pole partition?
Truss supporting 2nd floor
Note the original truss was removed by Strickland in the east end of building, but the west end [illegible] changes for [illegible]
Columns, see note
Public Ledger
Dec. 7 1854
p1, col 4. "Alterations [illegible]" [illegible]

INDEPENDENCE HALL
SECTION THRU EAST END
Possible Framing system of 1802-1854

▨ - Conjectural


This overlap is due to error in drawing only.
4 Hangers supporting Second floor 3" in diameter. see also Public Ledger Dec 9, 18[illegible] [illegible]
Turnbuckles added to try to raise deflected truss.

INDEPENDENCE HALL
SECTION THRU EAST END
Possible Framing System of [illegible]



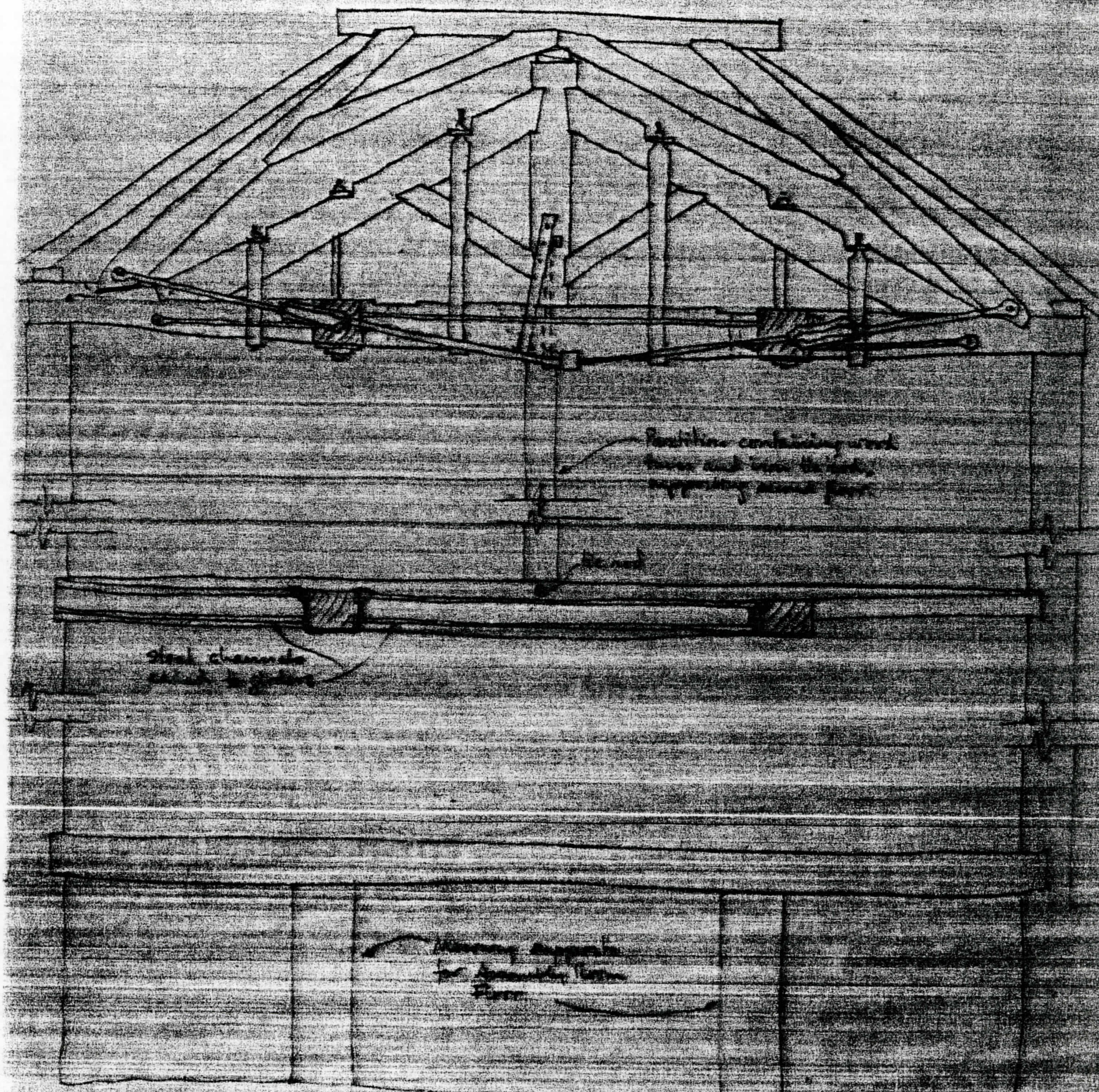
Wedges added for lateral stabilization of truss

This overlap is due to error in drawing only

Columns added during Ettling restoration of Assembly Room (Strickland ?)

Stone foundation added ?

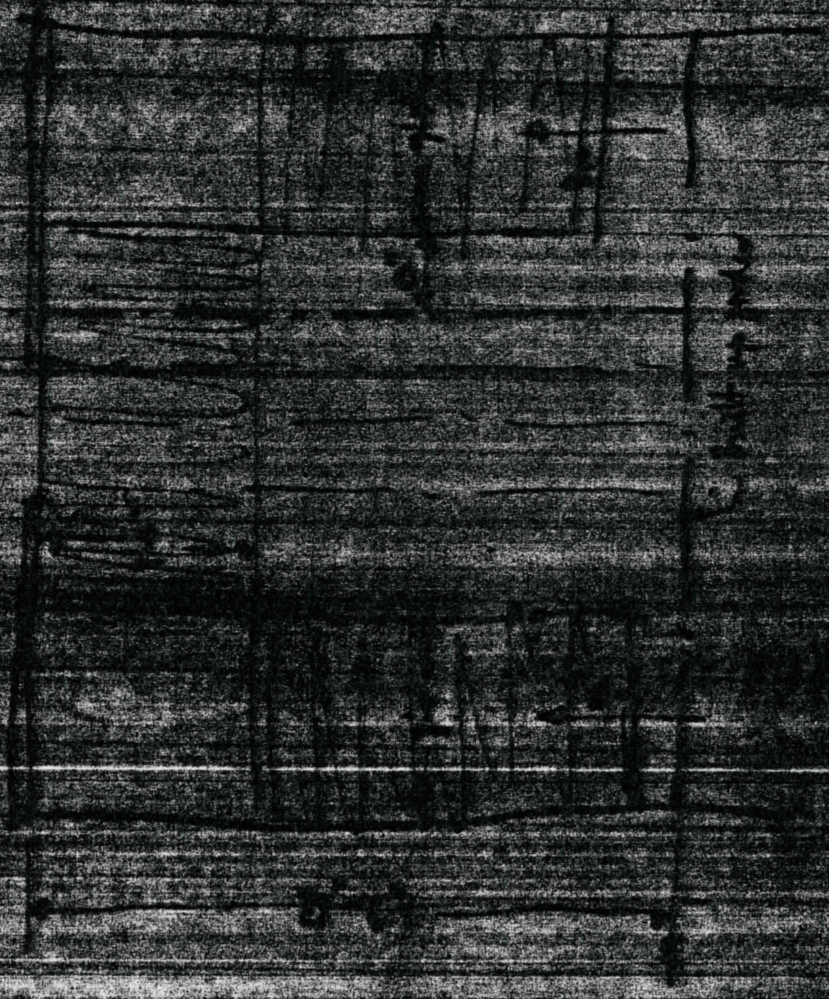
INDEPENDENCE HALL
Section thru East End
Possible Framing Plan of 1774-1835


Partition containing wood braces and iron tie rods supporting second floor
tie rod
Steel channels attach to girders
Masonry supports for Assembly Room floor

Independence Hall
(Section from East End)
From the drawings/plans of 1896-1898

1730 - 1750 2nd fl. Stairhall

If gone thru then new as of 1750's
Tower built then –



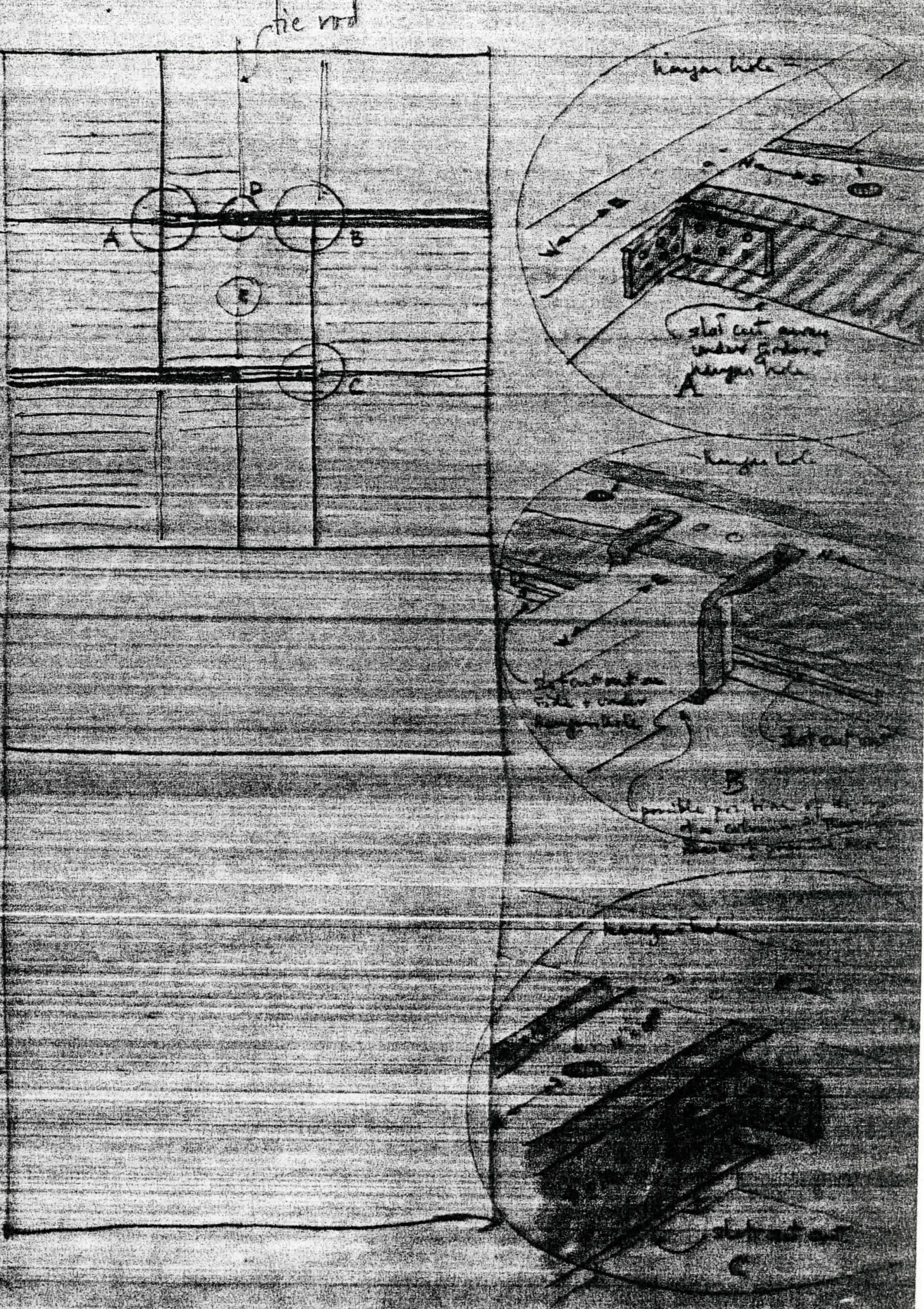
2nd floor construction as found March, 1958

D = iron strap hangers which extend down from trusses in attic. Also one iron bar which has been cut off & which once served the same purpose as the above straps.

E = original plate resting on original [illegible].

Note – all girders and joists & plates have marks of plaster on the upper edges – left from the original plastering [illegible] of the original floor [illegible] as well the under side of the joists [illegible] have marks of plaster [illegible] still in place.

C = slot [illegible] where the girder was cut away to receive the plate [illegible] with the hanger bolt, a piece of [illegible] to make this cut, [illegible]


tie rod
A
B
C
D
E
hanger hole
slot cut away under girder & hanger hole
A
hanger hole
slot cut out on side & under hanger hole
slot cut out
B
possible position of the [illegible] of an extension of [illegible]
hanger hole
slot cut out
C

The present floor is held on additional joists which are supported on top of the sagging (9" at ℄ span) original girder & joist system. The ceiling below is furred down to a level below the sagging girders & joists, and is held in this position by some members which are attached to & run along the original joists extending below them.