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IN
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HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT
ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION
(VOLUME I - PHYSICAL HISTORY)

DRAFT

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OLD STATE HOUSE
BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service

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Acknowledgements

The report contained here is volume I (PHYSICAL HISTORY) of a two volume Historic Structure Report, Architectural Data Section for the Old State House, Boston National Historical Park. It complements volume II (SYSTEMS ANALYSIS), by focusing solely on the building's history, rather than precisely analyzing and evaluating the building's existing architectural, engineering, or construction systems outlined in volume II. Nonetheless, both volumes should be read if the building's development is to be totally understood.

This report was prepared by the Consulting Services Group of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, under contract no. 1600-6-0023, for the North Atlantic Region, National Park Service. It consists only of the "Architectural History" section of the original 1977 Old State House Historic Structure Report written by Sara Chase. Morgan Phillip's "Extant Conditions" section of the original report is absorbed into volume II.

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Old State House
Statement of Historical Significance

The Old State House (Second Boston Town House) was built in 1712-13 to house the governmental offices of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, the town of Boston, and Suffolk County. The structure is most significant because of its direct association with American resistance to British colonial policies in the 1760's and 1770's.

The House of Representatives (General Court) for the Province of Massachusetts Bay met in the representative's room on the second floor of the State House; there representatives protested Parliamentary hegemony on issues of taxation and self-government. Patriot leaders elected to the House included Samuel Adams and James Otis.

Actions taken at the State House that furthered the patriot cause included Otis's call for a colonies wide meeting to protest the Stamp Act (1765) and the House's issuance of the Circular Letter of 1768 addressed to the speakers of all the other colonial assemblies.

In the instance of the Circular Letter, Boston took the lead in the colonies in protesting Parliamentary taxation and in asserting the principle that the British constitution guaranteed all subjects the right to be taxed only with their own consent. The House, contrary to the requirements of George III's ministers, subsequently voted against rescinding the Circular Letter. Passage of the Circular Letter and refusal to rescind occurred in an atmosphere furthering violent hostility to the customs commissioners, who collected the disputed taxes levied by Parliament; the violence in turn led to the stationing of British troops in Boston.

The State House was also the seat of royal authority. The provincial Council, appointed by the governor acting for the king, from nominees chosen by the House, met in the Council Chamber on the second floor. The Council figured significantly in the aftermath of the Boston Massacre.

On March 6, 1770, the day following the Massacre, Boston's selectmen met Lieutenant Governor Thomas Hutchinson in the Council Chamber to demand the removal of the troops that had occupied Boston since October 1768. In the negotiation that followed, the town, in the person of Samuel Adams, succeeded in having both regiments then stationed in Boston removed. The town rejected the Council's compromise offer of removing only the regiment responsible for the shooting. The outcome was a clear victory for the patriot cause; the Massacre itself escalated the conflict with Britain.

The east balcony of the Old State House is significant for its association with the Boston Massacre - from here Lieutenant Governor Hutchinson, immediately following the event, urged the milling crowd to disperse - and for its ceremonial use. From the east balcony were first publicly read in Boston the Declaration of Independence (July 18, 1776) and the proclamation ending the war with England (July 18, 1776); and on October 24, 1789, from the east balcony President George Washington reviewed a procession honoring him as the newly elected President.

The Old State House has additional significance as a governmental building. Called Boston's Second Town House, it was the site of town meetings between 1712 and 1743. This period saw the development of the Caucus - a political machine that acted as a countervailing force to the royal establishment - which in the Revolutionary era facilitated the rise of an ideologically motivated opposition. The representatives' room was also the first meeting place (and the only extant) for the state convention that in 1788 ratified the United States Constitution; upon ratification, the convention adjourned to the State House to publicly declare that the Constitution had been ratified.

The Old State House is the oldest extant building of Georgian design in the United States and it is an early instance (1881-82) of the preservation of a structure for historical reasons.

Sources

Research into the history of the Old State House was aided greatly by a careful compilation of documents from primary sources that was made under the supervision of Harold F. Nutzhorn in 1935-38. The 517-page report — entitled "The Old State House in Boston, Massachusetts" — was prepared under "the sponsorship of the Massachusetts State Library through the Works Progress Administration." Four researchers worked more than two and a half years to assemble it. Part I of the WPA report consists of what Nutzhorn accurately describes as

unequivocal documentary evidence arranged chronologically to show various alterations...which took place within and without this historic building from the time of its erection in 1713 to the present.

In every instance of double-checking the items in the WPA report, the citations were found to be accurate. Thus the WPA report is cited frequently, especially in the first four sections of this report. Although it has not been published, copies of the WPA report are available at the Massachusetts State Library in the State House and at SPNEA headquarters.

The other frequently cited sources are Boston Prints and Printmakers, in the early chapters of the report, and the Re-dedication of the Old State House, in the later chapters. References to these two sources are abbreviated as BPP and Re-dedication, respectively. The Bostonian Society Annual Proceedings up to 1962 have been bound and are referred to as Proceedings. Pagination of the Proceedings is not consecutive in the hardbound volumes. It is only consecutive in each year's report. Therefore, citations from the Proceedings include volume number, year, and page number. The volume number refers only to the set of Proceedings at the Bostonian Society.

Moreover, the meetings were held in January, so that a Proceedings reference dated 1910, for example, will contain reports on work done in the Old State House during the year 1909.

In the notes at the end of each section, source citations consist of author, title, and page number. Photographs and clippings are cited by location and date. Full citation is available in the bibliography and in the list of illustrations.

The Boston Public Library, a source of much of the material used in this report, is referred to as BPL.

Finally, all dates given throughout the report are in New-Style format.

Introduction

The building known today as the Old State House has remained on the same site, exhibiting the same exterior dimensions, throughout its 265-year history (Ill. 1). It has always been a freestanding building, extending east-west down the middle of State (formerly King) Street. Its west end has always abutted Washington (formerly Cornhill) Street; its east end once looked out upon Long Wharf, only a quarter-mile away in the 18th century.(1)

This site was occupied originally by the First Boston Town House, probably a medieval-looking timber building, from 1658 to 1711. Then as now, it was necessary for east-west traffic to divide around the Old State House.(2) As traffic on State (King) Street increased, the siting proved to be a real problem. After the First Town House burned in 1711, the need to widen the street was acknowledged. The Records of the Boston Selectmen for March 3, 1712, mention street widening.(3) And when the present building was erected later that year, the strictures of the site determined its dimensions. The committee "for rebuilding a house for public meetings on civil occasions for the use of the Province, County, and Town" specified that the breadth of the structure was not to exceed 36 feet.(4) The length of the new building, too, was established by the House of Representatives, which appointed a building committee and instructed the committee that the length "be not more than 112 or less than 110 feet."(5)

The persistence of these tight conditions over the years has held the Old State House to its original size; there has never been any thought of expansion. Even so, the building has been threatened three times with demolition or removal because it obstructed traffic -- in the mid-18th century, in the late 19th century, and in the mid-20th century.

If the site of the building and its exterior dimensions have not changed, its occupants have. Numerous different uses prompted changes in its name, now rather confusing. Since it was the second Town House to be built in Boston -- the first one having burned -- it was called the Town House during most of the preRevolutionary period. It was also known as the Court House, and even occasionally, the Province House. The building was used by the merchants of Boston as an exchange. It also was occupied by the Town's Selectmen until 1742; by the royal governor and his council; by the representatives of the towns of the Province; and by the Suffolk County courts. In late 1776 the building became the seat of government for the state of Massachusetts, and until 1798 was called the State House. After the state government moved to the new State House on Beacon Hill, the building was called the Old State House. Despite one decade of use as the Boston City Hall (1830-40), the building has been called the Old State House continually since 1798, and this report will refer to it (except in some quoted material) as the Old State House.

Because of these changes in use, the Old State House has undergone significant alterations in appearance and interior plan. The visual and documentary evidence relating to the history of the Old State House suggests that the most important revisions tended to occur in clusters at a given time. Therefore, the architectural history of the building is presented chronologically, divided into eight periods. At the conclusion of the historical portion of this report is a summary of the entire chronology of the Old State House -- an overview that focuses on the major developments in the life of the building.

NOTES

- (1) WPA, p. 38.
- (2) Whitehill, Boston: A Topographical History, p. 10.
- (3) Selectmen's Records, 1701-15, p. 158.
- (4) WPA, p. 17.
- (5) WPA, p. 14.

1712-1747: THE FIRST PERIOD

Boston's first, wooden, Town House was destroyed by fire on October 2, 1711, leaving the Town, the Province, and the County without a public building. Within three weeks after the fire, both the General Assembly and the freeholders of the Town of Boston concurred on the proposal to build "a house in or near the place where the old Town House stood."⁽¹⁾

Because the building was intended for use by the Town of Boston and by Suffolk County as well as by the Province, the General Assembly (often called the House of Representatives or the General Court) directed that the construction costs be apportioned as follows: the Province to pay one-half; the Town of Boston and County of Suffolk together to provide the other half.⁽²⁾ The proportions roughly reflected the building's use -- by governing bodies of the Colony and the Town; by the courts; by the County for offices; and by merchants of Boston. The Court of General Sessions of Peace ordered on November 11, 1712, that Boston and Suffolk County split their share of the costs equally; each was to pay one-quarter of "the Charge in building the said house." The County raised its share by assessing the 14 towns in Suffolk County. By February 1712 "the whole cost of the House" was computed from an audit of the accounts, and was found to be £ 5142/18/10.⁽³⁾ Although the architect or designer is not known, the man who was paid "for building the Province & Court House now erected in Boston..." was William Payne.⁽⁴⁾

In May 1712 Samuel Sewall laid a stone at the corner of the new building. This is known because Sewall recorded the event in his Diary, and also carved his initials and the date in the stone. Within a year the building was in use. The first court session was held there in April 1713, and all the Councillors were sworn in at the end of May 1713. Sewall commented that as they were in new quarters, they "ought to reform."⁽⁵⁾

No outstanding illustrations have been discovered of the Old State House as it looked between 1712 and 1747. Neither have any representations of the Old State House alone, before 1747, been found. The views and maps of Boston in which it appears are crowded. Therefore, details of its appearance must be inferred from a relatively small number of small-scale representations.

A 1722 map of Boston by John Bonner (Ill. 1), for example, clearly indicates the location and east-west orientation of the long axis of the Old State House, but shows virtually no detail. Only the south elevation appears. A large, dark area in the center of the first or street level suggests a single entrance there. In the middle of the roof there appears to be a tower of some sort.

A central tower is prominent in other representations of the Old State House from the 1712-47 period. It appears in more detail in the views engraved by William Burgis. (A list of the Burgis views and maps that show the Old State House constitutes Appendix A.) Samuel Sewall related that a friend of his observed an eclipse of the sun from the "turret" of the Old State House in 1713.⁽⁶⁾ A bill for mending the "Lock of Territ door" was submitted to the Town of Boston in 1713.⁽⁷⁾ The earliest Burgis view, 1723 (Ill. 2), shows a tower, but in too small a size to be very informative. However, the Burgis view of 1743 (Ill. 3) clearly shows the tower to be octagonal, with a flared roof, surmounted by a swallow-tailed banner weathervane.⁽⁸⁾ Myrna Kaye, who wrote Yankee Weathervanes, notes that the weathervane was "made in 1714, probably in America but possibly in England, for the Old State House, Boston, Mass." and that it is "still atop the Old State House."

Like Harvard Hall, the Province House, and the First Church, the 1712 build of the Old State House probably had a gambrel roof. The Burgis views of 1723 (Pl. 2), 1725, and 1743 (Pl. 3) show the roof slopes with dormers. Above them is a balustrade, which would indicate a gambrel- rather than a pitched-roof outline. Although no chimneys appear in the early views of the Old State House, records show that the Boston Selectmen paid bills for "a plate for ye Townhouse chimney" in 1713,(9) and for chimney repair in 1744.(10)

The earliest Burgis view (Pl. 2) and the later, somewhat clearer Burgis/Price view of 1743 (Pl. 3) show the familiar stepped gable, with scrolls in the steps, at the east end of the building. Given the classical symmetry of the Old State House, one can infer a similar gable treatment at the west end. Two ox-eye windows are visible high in the east-end gable, on either side of a dark square area that may represent a sundial. A bill for "casing ye Ox-Eyes," submitted to the Town of Boston in 1735 by William Young, confirms the existence of oculus windows at this time.(11) Both of these Burgis views show scrolls in the steps of the east gable. It appears, therefore, that the lion and unicorn were not original to the building, but were added as emblems of British rule sometime between 1743 and 1751 (the date of an engraving in which they do appear).

In 1717 a bill for "Laying the Lead- over the Balconey Doors in the Council Chamber" was paid to William Young.(12) The 1743 Burgis view suggests a large segmental pediment over a balcony, with what looks like pilasters on either side under the ends of the pediment. This is the same treatment that exists today; it seems to have remained basically unchanged in appearance throughout the history of the building.

* * *

One of the most important uses to which the "new House" was put was a continuation of an earlier use. The marketplace tradition of the site of the Old State House was established almost as early as the Town of Boston itself.(13) It was continued in the 1657 Town House,(14) and present in the 1712 build of the Old State House as well. Namely, the entire first floor of the latter served primarily as an "Exchange," that is, a "Walk for the Merchants."(15) In 1744 one writer described "The lower chamber of this House, called the Change," as "all one apartment, the roof of which is supported all along the middle with a row of wooden pillars...."(16) The 1712 building committee was ordered to construct on the first floor, in addition to the merchants' exchange, "(only) two offices below the stairs in the Province & Court House now building in Boston, one for the Secretary of the Province, the other for the Register of Deeds in the County of Suffolk."(17) The Boston Gazette or Weekly Journal noted that there were "County Records under the Western Staircase" and a portion of "the Province Records under the Eastern Staircase," probably in the two offices.(18) A portion of the first floor, according to one source, also was used as a post office, at least in 1727.(19)

The second floor of the Old State House, as early documents clearly indicate, was divided into three chambers, with stairway lobbies between them.

Ordered that it be an instruction to the committee appointed to build the Province and Court House that they fit the East Chamber for the uses of his Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Council, the middle Chamber for this House (the General Assembly), and the West Chamber for the Superior and Inferior Courts.(20)

Documentary evidence from a number of later sources states that the chamber on the eastern end of the second floor was used by the Governor -- who was appointed by the Crown -- and the Council -- 28 men appointed by the General Court.

The Council Chamber had window seats; Samuel Sewall mentions them in his Diary.(21) From the Chamber a door in the east wall opened onto a balcony, as the 1717 bill for "Laying the Lead- over the Balconey Doors in the Council Chamber" indicates.(22)

The balcony that opened from the Council Chamber provided a prominent place for public announcements. One significant announcement was that of the War of the Spanish Succession (1740). "His Majesty's declaration of war was read in the balcony of the Council Chamber...and then his Excellency's proclamation for encouraging the enlisting of volunteers was published out of the balcony."(23)

The volunteers, who made up a large portion of the forces that won a decisive military victory at the fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia in 1745, were colonials. The military experience gained by these Massachusetts men was to prove useful 30 years later, when they took up arms on their own behalf.

Under the balcony were steps that served a different public purpose. In The Judicial History of Massachusetts, Emory Washburn related the following anecdote.

As the penal code of a state is often regarded as a kind of criterion by which to determine the degree of refinement of public feeling there, it may be proper to mention the following as a mode of punishment adapted in 1735. The defendant was indicted for forging a bond, but the evidence not proving the fact fully, he was convicted of being a cheat, and the punishment inflicted was to wear the forged bond and a square paper fixed to his breast with the word CHEAT written in capital letters and to stand on the steps of the Court House for half an hour between twelve and one o'clock. And this sentence was accordingly executed.(24)

Usage of the Council Chamber was not limited to business and politics; celebration and commemoration also took place in this room. The demise of Queen Anne occasioned "the solemnity of publishing the proclamation of Queen Anne's death," an event which all of the Councillors were asked to attend in the Council Chamber. Five days later the Council ordered that wine, brandy, biscuit, and other necessary items be laid in

at the Council Chamber for the entertainment of the Governor, Council and other gentlemen that shall attend the solemnity of proclaiming his Majesty King George on Wednesday next, the 22nd courant to be performed at 12 o'clock. And

a dinner for the Governor and Council and candles for illuminating the Town House in the evening.(25)

Also to provide bread and wine for the troops that are commanded to attend the said solemnity.(26)

Sewall drew the line, however, at theatrical uses.

There is a rumor as if some designed to have a play acted in the Council Chamber next Monday, which much surprises me. And as much as in me lies I do forbid it. The Romans were very fond of their plays, but I never heard they went so far as to turn their Senate House into a playhouse. Our Town House was built at so great cost and charge, for the sake of serious and important business; the three rooms above, and the Exchange below, business of the Province, County and Town. Let it not be abused with dances or other scenic divertisements.(27)

The Court Chamber was at the west end of the second floor.(28) The first court session was opened in April 1713 — according to Samuel Sewall — with the aid of Mr. Coleman, who "prayed excellently."(29) Sewall called the room a "convenient" and "august chamber" and may have been referring to 12/12 sash when he expressed the hope that "this large transparent, costly glass (would) serve to oblige the attorneys always to set things in a true light...."(30)

Although no records or views of the Old State House in its first period describe the windows in detail, bills for glazing and for putting candles in the Old State House windows imply that fenestration in the first period was virtually the same as it was in the second period (for which views do exist).

The earliest bill that specifies a number of windows is dated 1728, for "work aputting up the strips to putt the candles in of 54 winders."(31) The total, 54, could be the sum of six windows each on the west and east elevations, and 21 windows each on the south and north elevations (11 on the second floor, 10 on the first floor). This total does not include smaller windows in the dormers, the ox-eye windows, or possible sash in the east balcony door. It is, however, the total of all possible 12/12 sash, and is a figure that occurs frequently in window cleaning and repair bills in the years 1712-47 and 1747-c. 1800.(32)

Bills for window repairs at the Old State House were large after 1730, as the colonists reacted with violence against royal edicts that infringed upon their rights. William Young was paid over £ 38 for glazing in 1731.(33) In October 1739 the Province paid some constables £ 10 "to Suppress the Mob and hinder their breaking ye publick as wells privat windows," particularly "the Winders at (the) Councle Chamber."(34)

"Difficult Circumstances of the Province, especially the Town of Boston" prompted the Selectmen to forego the expense of "cleaning the Glass at the Town House" in 1744. The Selectmen were meeting at that time in Faneuil Hall.(35) In May 1745, however, all of the windows were cleaned, at four shillings each.(36)

Two years later, in November 1747, a group of colonists that Governor William Shirley called "an outrageous mob" protested the British practice of impressing colonists to serve on English ships, by hurling "volleys of stones and brick-bats...through the windows into the Council Chamber." (37)

Between the Council Chamber and the Courtroom was a middle hall, the Representatives' Chamber, in which two delegates from each town in the Province met for legislative purposes.

Information concerning the attic and basement of the Old State House between 1712-47 is not extensive. At least some of the basement was rented. As early as 1714 there is a record of cellar rental at the Old State House by John Sale, a scavenger. (38) John Buttolph, a cooper, rented "the middle cellar under the Town House" for one year at £ 14 in 1716. (39) In 1722 and 1739 the Selectmen's Minutes record cellar rentals, specifying in 1739 that Joseph Savell, a "wine cooper," is to occupy "Two Cellars under the Town House" at the southwest and northwest corners. (40) The attic is first mentioned as the "Upper Story" in the Boston Weekly News Letter account of the 1747 fire. (41) This account notes that the fire destroyed "a great Quantity of Wines and other Liquors" in the cellars, and "Books and Papers in the Offices of the Upper Story," that is, in the story above the Council Chamber and the chamber of the House of Representatives.

NOTES

- (1) WPA, p. 12.
- (2) Ibid., p. 13.
- (3) Ibid., p. 19.
- (4) Ibid., p. 21.
- (5) Sewall, Samuel: Diary, Vol. II, p. 688.
- (6) Ibid., p. 734.
- (7) WPA, p. 20.
- (8) Kaye, Myrna: Yankee Weathervanes, p. 7.
- (9) WPA, p. 20.
- (10) Ibid., p. 42.
- (11) Ibid., p. 34.
- (12) Ibid., p. 25.
- (13) Whitehill, Walter M.: Boston: A Topographical History, pp. 9, 10.
- (14) Benton, Josiah H.: Story of the Old Boston State House.
- (15) WPA, p. 26.
- (16) Ibid., p. 43.
- (17) Ibid., p. 16.
- (18) Ibid., p. 50.
- (19) Ibid., p. 29.
- (20) Ibid., p. 16.
- (21) Sewall, Diary, p. 741.
- (22) WPA, p. 32.
- (23) Ibid., p. 38.
- (24) Ibid., p. 34.
- (25) Council Minutes, Sept. 17, 1714.
- (26) WPA, p. 22.
- (27) Letter of Samuel Sewall, WPA, p. 21.
- (28) WPA, p. 16.
- (29) Sewall, Diary, p. 711.
- (30) Ibid., p. 713.
- (31) WPA, p. 29.
- (32) Ibid., pp. 29, 43, 81, 92, 114, 136.
- (33) Ibid., p. 31.
- (34) Ibid., p. 37.
- (35) Ibid., p. 41.
- (36) Ibid., p. 43.
- (37) Ibid., p. 45.
- (38) Ibid., p. 23.
- (39) Ibid., p. 24.
- (40) Ibid., pp. 27, 37.
- (41) Ibid., p. 47.

1748-c. 1800: THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

Less than one month after the "mob" assaulted the Council Chamber with brickbats, the Old State House was almost entirely devastated by one of Boston's extensive fires. This occurred on the night of December 9, 1747, after a day of severe cold and roaring fires in the fireplaces. Having started under the hearths of the back-to-back fireplaces between the Council and the Representatives' Chambers, "it first broke out in the Deal or Cedar Wainscot passage between the Doors of those Chambers, which were of Deal or Cedar Wainscot also." (1) Because it quickly ran up and out through the roof, it consumed the interior of the Old State House entirely. According to The Boston Weekly News-Letter, "...that spacious and Beautiful building, except the bare outside Walls, was entirely destroyed...." (2) Not only the building, but also books, records, pictures, and "a great Quantity of Wines and other Liquors were lost, to the amount of several Thousand Pounds" in the cellar. (3)

Two days after the fire, the House of Representatives ordered that the Selectmen of Boston "be...impoverished to secure the walls of the late Court House from the inconvenience of the weather by causing them to be covered with boards in the best & cheapest manner." (4) By the following March the Representatives had decided to neither relocate nor construct a new building, but rather to repair "the late Court house in the Town of Boston...as soon as conveniently may be, and that one-half the charge thereof be borne by the Province, the other half by the County of Suffolk and the Town of Boston." (5) The total cost for the rebuilding was £3705/11/4. (6)

In January 1750 the Town Clerk, writing on behalf of the residents of Boston, petitioned the General Court to exempt the Town from paying its share of the costs of the 1748 reconstruction and repair of the Old State House. (7) The petition is a long recitation of the history of the Town's participation in the building programs of the 1657 and 1712 Town Houses, in both cases "thought reasonable" because the Town did in fact use space in the building for "publick meeting and other publick uses...." But in 1742 "all the Papers & Records of the Town..." and "all publick Meetings" were moved to Faneuil Hall. The "Rooms in the Town house" that had been appropriated "to the immediate Use and Service of the Town were then Improv'd for the Service of the General Court..." that is, the attic rooms over the Council Chamber. (8) Consequently, the Town "have (sic) ever since been Excluded from any Benefit thereof (from the Old State House), except by the rents of the Cellars only...." From 1742 forward, the Town had felt that "their proportion of the charge...paid toward constant repairs" of the Old State House was particularly onerous. And the idea of paying one-quarter of the cost of rebuilding a structure they did not plan to use was not at all agreeable. Again, in June 1751 the Town complained of "unequal Assessment," and petitioned to be relieved of the burden of paying a fourth of the Old State House costs. (9) These petitions were not granted, however, and fortunately so: Town activities did return to the attic of the rebuilt Old State House for a time, after a fire in 1761 forced them out of Faneuil Hall. (10)

The earliest known detailed view of the 1748 rebuild of the Old State House is an engraved view of the south elevation that was printed in 1751 (Ill. 4). Thomas Dawes, Jr., was the artist, and Nathaniel Hurd the engraver. The Old State House as shown in this and other views of the 1747-c. 1800 period is a very good provincial example of the rather Baroque style still common in the English-speaking world in the early 18th century. In some respects Illustration 4 appears to be slightly inaccurate. There is a belt course between the second and attic floors, across the east and west gable ends, and another between the first and second floors, on the north and south elevations; this latter is shown as a cornice. The cornice itself, at the eave line, projects improbably far beyond the corners of the building. The roof appears to be slightly concave, but the present rafters — probably of 1748 vintage — are straight, ruling out the idea that the roof was actually curved. The volutes on the capitals of the pilasters flanking the doorway are indicated in a very sketchy fashion, quite small in relation to the size of the pilasters.

Otherwise, however, this highly detailed "portrait" of the south elevation of the Old State House furnishes ample and probably accurate architectural information. Above a rusticated stone foundation (shown also in later views) is a water table. Openings along the foundation are symmetrically arranged on either side of the steps of a central doorway. The types of openings occur in the following order from west to east: two small, round-headed windows with solid shutters; a bulkhead; another round-headed shuttered window; the doorway and steps; another small, shuttered window; another bulkhead; and two more similar windows. Since the street descends to the east, the windows at the eastern end of the cellar are somewhat taller than those at the western end. Fenestration in this view consists of 10 windows on the first floor and 11 windows on the second, each with 12/12 sash, and five dormers with 8/8 sash. The windows at both first and second stories have brick jack arches.

Four downspouts with decorative box leader heads divide the windows on the north and south elevations into the following rhythmic grouping: 1/3/3/3/1. On the first floor, the central element of the middle cluster of three is the doorway rather than a window.

The doorway, central to the design of the south elevation, has five curved steps down to the street (Ill. 5). The door itself is a paneled double door, each half having ten panels. Over the door there appears to be a jack-arch motif in either brick or wood. Flanking the door are pilasters; these look to be engaged columns, but are probably the rectangular-plan pilasters seen in all later views until 1830. These pilasters have strangely flattened, possibly Ionic, capitals that support a full entablature with narrow pulvinated frieze and triangular pediment. Modillions appear under the pediment and the cornice, and echo those under the eave cornice.

The roof is broken by five dormers. At the east and west end of the roof, approximately on the ridge, are two small chimneys; to the east of the tower is a larger chimney, located on the ridge in the area between the Council Chamber and the Representatives' Chamber. (It will be remembered that the 1747 fire broke out here.) This area corresponds to the theorized location of the 1748, long-absent west partition of the Council Chamber, as will be explained shortly. In the visible step of the stepped gables at the west end is a scroll motif; a lion rampant occupies the corresponding location at the east end.

A three-stage tower is located in the center of the roof. In the Dawes/Hurd view, the south prospect of the tower is shown having a rusticated-wood first stage, with quoins and two ox-eye windows. The south face of the second stage of the tower has a balustrade with scrolls and urns topped by finials at its corners, and a large window flanked by pilasters, the capitals of which may be Ionic. The roof of the tower is shown with an ogee profile. A swallow-tail banner weathervane, which appears in nearly all later views down to the present, is shown at the top of the tower.

Illustration 6 (1768) shows the Old State House with two ox-eye windows and a pedimented balcony on the east. The decorative elements in the steps of the east parapet do not appear clearly, however; there is a remote possibility that they might be scrolls, rather than a lion and unicorn.

In April 1748 the Committee that was formed to see to the "repairs of the Court House" presented

a plan of the inside Work which they apprehend will be the most commodious and best answer the design of the building....

The original plan of the rebuilt interior has not come to light, but three sources furnish information that is plausible, given the framing of the building. The first of these is Hugh Morrison, who in Early American Architecture (1952) stated the plan and dimensions of the second-floor rooms of the 1748 build of the Old State House:

Access to the second floor was by two staircases leading to hallways between the three main rooms. Of these, the easternmost, a room 32 feet square serving as the Council Chamber, was the most ornately furnished and decorated. In the middle of the building was the Representatives' Chamber, measuring about 32 by 38 feet, with small lobbies in the stair hall at either side....The westernmost room, measuring about 22 by 32 feet, was the Court Chamber. This housed the superior and inferior courts until a new courthouse building was erected in 1769. The third floor, under the roof, was occupied in colonial times by a number of offices and committee rooms.(12)

The second source is a plan for a proposed restoration of the Old State House (Ill. 7), drawn for the Boston National Historic Sites Commission in 1956 by Consulting Architect Edgar T.P. Walker. It shows the second floor with three chambers and two stair lobbies between them, corresponding to Morrison's description. The third source is the earliest contemporary description of the Old State House that mentions specific dimensions — contained in an issue of Massachusetts Magazine from 1791.(13)

The State House is an elegant brick building, standing at the head of State Street, one mile and 297 yards from the fortification. It is 110 feet in length and 38 in breadth. The foundations of the present walls were laid A.D. 1712, the former State House having been reduced to ashes in the great fire of the preceding year. The internal part of this building again experienced the desolating flame in 1747, when a vast number of ancient books and early records, together with a

collection of valuable papers, were destroyed, and to the ravages of this calamity we may attribute the imperfect accounts that are to be obtained of the first and second building. The ascent to the lower floor, as fronting Long Wharf, is by an elevated flight of large stone steps, railed round with neat iron balustrades. There are three other entrances: one at the opposite end, facing to Cornhill, and the other two in the opposite centres of the length. The Clerks of the Supreme Judicial Court and Court of Common Pleas hold their offices upon the first floor, which also serves in bad weather as an exchange for the mercantile part of the community. A range of Doric pillars support the floors of the second story, which is destined for the accommodation of the General Legislature. The Senate Chamber is 32 feet square and 15 feet in height, furnished with a convenient lobby for committees to transact business in. The Representatives' Chamber is 57½ feet in length, 32 in breadth, and the same height as the former, with a well-constructed lobby. The third or upper story is improved by different committees during the session, and has an East, West and South lobby; beside several apartments for publick papers and records. On the center of the roof is a tower, consisting of three stories, finished according to the Tuscan, Dorick and Ionic orders complete, and from thence is a fine prospect of the Harbor and adjacent Country.(14)

The length of the Representatives' Chamber, 57 feet six inches, reflects an enlargement that occurred in 1776.(15) The "range of Doric pillars" mentioned above was specified more clearly as "ten pillars of the Dorick order, which support the chambers occupied by the legislature."(16)

While no other documentary sources that absolutely confirm Morrison's and Walker's dimensions and plans have been found, the structural system of the Old State House gives credence to their belief in the existence of a 32-foot square Council Chamber, a 38-by-32-foot Representatives' Chamber, a 22-by-32-foot Court Chamber, and two stairways with lobbies, one on either end of the Representatives' Chamber. As will be discussed in the section entitled "Original Wooden Structural System," the building is framed internally with 10 lateral (north-south) wooden structural planes, each consisting of first- and second-floor girders below a king-post roof truss (of which the tie beam serves as a third-floor girder). In local 18th-century construction, major partitions are apt to be located along girders that define structural planes. This is particularly true of partitions that define the sides of stair halls: the partition often passes up between stories just beside a girder so as to present an uninterrupted plaster surface throughout the height of the stair.

Some attic floorboards were pried up to look for signs on the 1748 roof-truss tie beams (third-floor girders) for marks where original partitions might have been attached. No such marks were found. However, only limited inspection of these beams was possible. What may be significant is that the tie beams (and first- and second-floor girders directly beneath them) are so spaced that the second-floor rooms, as described in the sources mentioned, would have ended very nearly at several of the structural planes.

Plane 8 (counting from the west) is approximately in the right location to coincide with a partition that would have formed the west wall of the Council Chamber, at a distance of 32 feet from the east wall of the building — a figure mentioned in several sources already discussed. Allowing one bay for stairs (between planes 7 and 8), the space between planes 3 and 7 is such as to accommodate rather nicely a Representatives' Chamber measuring 38 feet from east to west. This would correspond with Hugh Morrison's statement about the length of this room. Presumably the stair to the west of the Representatives' Chamber occupied the bay between planes 2 and 3, with the Court Chamber still further west. If, as Morrison states, the Court Chamber measured 22 feet from east to west, its eastern partition would more or less line up with plane 2.

In 1776 the stairs in the bay between planes 2 and 3 were removed, and new stairs were installed in the extreme northwest corner of the building. The documentary evidence for this is described in a later portion of this chapter. The purpose of this change was to enlarge the Representatives' Chamber by moving its west-end partition to "within 11 feet of the West End of the Court-House." This would place the new partition in line with structural plane 1, and would lengthen the Representatives' Chamber to approximately the 57 feet six inches cited in the 1791 Massachusetts Magazine description.

Thus, although no explicit traces of partitions were found in the building, and although the measurements do not work out precisely, the locations of structural planes seem to corroborate the original dimensions of the major second-story rooms as mentioned in documents.

* * *

Few descriptions of the first floor of the Old State House in the Revolutionary period have been found, but it was mentioned in a 1750-51 diary. James Birket noted as first among Boston's

publick buildings...the State or Province House where the Governor his Councile and the Assembly or House of Representatives meet to make laws and so forth, and a large room for the Courts of Justice to be held in. And the ground room as before is made use of as a Change at times (*italics added*).(17)

In 1765, according to Raikes' History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, a company "mustered on the lower floor of the Old State House"; when the weather was bad, members "went through their exercises there which was called 'training in the Town House.'"(18) The space must have been reasonably open and unobstructed for such an activity.

Still later, the first floor was the scene of less organized activities. An order was issued by the House of Representatives in 1784 that the Suffolk County Sheriff or one of his deputies "attend at the State House" because

the General Court have been much interrupted by the disorderly Conduct of a number of persons who dayley assemble on the lower floor of the State House which not only impedes the publick Business, but is an Indignity offered to Government.(19)

From 1787 to 1792 the office of the State Treasurer was in a "room under the Council Chamber."(20) The first floor of the Old State House was described most fully in the 1791 article, when it mentions the tenancy of the Clerks of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Court of Common Pleas, the presence of merchants during bad weather, and the range of Doric pillars.(21)

As for the cellar space, it continued to be rented as before.(22) A "copper engine" first mentioned in 1733 occupied some of the space in the basement of the Old State House.(23) Perhaps this engine held water for putting out fires, which would mean that the basement of the Old State House in the 18th century served as a fire station as well as a wine cellar.

The second-floor chambers of the Old State House were the setting for a number of significant historical events between 1748 and c. 1800, and the major physical modifications of these rooms during that time reflected the political changes taking place.

The decade immediately following the rebuilding of 1748 was relatively calm. Maps of London, New England, the eastern shore of America, and all of America were hung in the Chambers of the Council and Representatives.(24) Portraits, too, decorated the interior of the Old State House.

The Council Chamber, according to one writer, was "an imposing and elegant apartment, ornamented with two splendid full-length portraits of James II and Charles II."(25) Portraits of George I and George II were added to the Council Chamber in 1780.(26) One tantalizing item appears among the bills paid for work on the Old State House in 1761: the rather large sum of £ 11/12/ was "paid John S. Copley for work done at the Court."(27) He may have done some work relating to the portraits. Smaller portraits of some important men of early Boston, "Endicott, Winthrop, Bradstreet, and Belcher," also were hung in the Council Chamber. John Adams, writing reminiscently of the Council Chamber as it appeared in 1761, described it as a room that was "as respectable an apartment as the House of Commons or the House of Lords in Great Britain, in proportion, or that in the State House in Philadelphia...."(28)

The Council Chamber became a scene of hot argument in 1761 when five judges convened for a hearing on the Writs of Assistance. Greatly hated by the Americans, these writs were, in effect, blanket search warrants. John Adams described the hearing vividly and concluded, "Then & there was the first scene of the first act of opposition to the arbitrary claims of Great Britain. Then and there the child Independence was born."(29) After 1776 the Council Chamber became the Senate Chamber, occupied by the State Senate. Apparently no changes were made in the dimensions or plan of the room.

The middle chamber on the second floor housed the General Assembly before 1776, and the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1777 to 1798. A 1748 bill submitted by Thomas Crafts to the Province of Massachusetts Bay includes the following items of "Work Done in the Representatives' Chamber": To 3 Eight Pannell

Doors,...To Box Casing 8 Windows,...To 101 yards Wenscutt,...To 139 Foot Double Cornish...."(30) Between 1748 and 1798 the Representatives' Chamber underwent two important changes. The first was the construction in 1766 of a gallery from which the public might observe the debates of the assembly. The significance of the gallery is well expressed in Thomas Hutchinson's 1767 History of Massachusetts, Vol. III:

they (the Representatives) had caused a gallery to be built, and opened, that all persons who inclined to it, might hear their debates; and a speech, well adapted to the gallery, was often times of more service to the cause of liberty than if its purport had been confined to the members of the house.(31)

The gallery was built "at the West End of the Representatives' Room."(32) Its creator was Thomas Crafts, who was paid £ 15/6/5.(33)

Only two years later, in September 1768, the Old State House was closed to governmental use by British troops who "took possession of the Common, the State House,...and Faneuil Hall. The main guard with two pieces of artillery was stationed at the State House, with their guns pointed to it."(34) One diarist expressed the depth of disgust felt by Bostonians when he stated that "the Townhouse" — "even the Representatives' Chamber" — was opened for the troops.(35) Noting that "the stench occasioned by the troops in the Representatives' Chamber may prove infectious," James Otis made a motion for adjournment of the Court to Faneuil Hall in 1768. He added that "it was derogatory to the honor of the Court to administer justice at the mouths of cannon and the points of bayonets."(36)

The second significant change in the Representatives' Chamber in the period between 1748 and 1800 occurred in October 1776. More space was needed to accommodate the increased number of Representatives of the new State of Massachusetts. At this time, the west chamber formerly used by the Court was empty, since the Court Sessions had been moved to a new Court House built in 1767. (No descriptions of the Court Chamber at the west end of the second floor of the Old State House as it appeared during this period have been found.) A committee appointed "to report what is necessary to be done in order to accommodate the House of Representatives" recommended expansion of the Representatives' Chamber to the west.

The Committee find that the present chamber will accommodate 150 members, by shutting up the west door, and erecting a few seats; but as the present House of Representatives consist of more than 200 members, your Committee think it best that the partition betwixt the Representatives' Chamber and the County-Chamber, would be removed within 11 feet of the West End of the Court House; and that the Stairs go up in the North-West corner of said House; and that the said 11 feet be improved for a lobby and entry way; and that over the same be a gallery, to accommodate spectators, agreeable to the plan herewith exhibited; the whole of which your committee think may be completed for about £ 40.(37)

In October 1776 the State of Massachusetts purchased the Court Chamber at the west end of the Old State House from Suffolk County for £ 1000.(38) The remodeling work was undertaken by William Moore, to whom £ 103/17/4 was paid in December

1776.(39) A seating plan for the Representatives' Chamber (Ill. 8), dating probably to the 1780's, clearly specifies the dimensions of the chamber: 32 feet "within walls" by 57 feet.

The third story had been partitioned at least by 1756, if not earlier, as the House of Representatives issued a directive in that year "that the Chamber of the third floor at the West End of the Court House, shall be appropriated to the use of the Committees of the General Court."(40) There also was a room on the east end of the third floor, over the Council Chamber. This is the chamber that "was the location of a Selectmen's meeting in 1761, after Faneuil Hall had burned."(41)

The balcony at the east end of the Old State House served as a political focal point in the 18th century, since it was from the balcony that important notices and announcements were read to the public. On the night of the Boston Massacre — March 5, 1770 — Lieutenant-Governor Thomas Hutchinson came to the Old State House and addressed the soldiers and people from the balcony, attempting to calm them.(42) This was ironic, since the shooting had occurred on King Street, just under this balcony. Shortly thereafter, both the Massacre and the Old State House were depicted by Paul Revere, who engraved and printed the well-known scene, "The Bloody Massacre" (Ill. 9). Basically a piece of propaganda, the Revere view of the Old State House in 1770 shows only the east elevation above first-floor level: smoke from British rifles obscures the cellar and first floor. At the second-floor level there is a balcony between two windows; what appears to be a large window must function as a door to the balcony. On each side are pilasters with capitals having Ionic volutes, supporting a segmental pediment. A belt course runs below the balcony and the two windows. Another belt course extends across the east end at third-floor level. Two ox-eye windows in the attic story flank a central window that is directly over the balcony pediment. Above that central window is a rectangular sundial, which also appears to be capped by a segmental pediment. Some type of belt course runs from one side of the parapet to the other, creating the visual effect of a triangular pediment on the east end of the building. The figures of a lion and a unicorn stand in the gable steps. The east elevation of the tower looks substantially the same as the "South Prospect" of the tower in the Dawes/Hurd view, although there is no apparent rustication and no scrolls are shown at the corners of the balustrade.

Three months after the Boston Massacre, the balcony of the Old State House evidently needed repair, since a recommendation as to the manner in which "the Balcony of the Town House in Boston should be rebuilt" is recorded in the records of the Council as follows: "it was advised that it be done in the old Form."(43) A bill from Thomas Hubbard for £ 58/12/10 six months later may relate to that work.(44)

More extensive work, including work on the east wall, was undertaken in 1773. At the beginning of the year the House of Representatives ordered that the Old State House be inspected and a report of necessary repairs be made.(45) Bills show that Thomas Dawes, a mason, and Thomas Crafts, Jr., a painter, did much work on the building. Dawes and his workmen whitewashed the interior walls of the first- and second-floor rooms and of two stairways; they also lathed and plastered in the "Upper Chambers" (probably the third floor). On the exterior, they performed the following repairs:

taking down the East End of the State House and rebuilding ditto: Altering the Chimney in the Hon. Reps. Room, Pointing (sic) all the windows and Doors, Repairing the Arches, Cutting out defective Bricks and Water Tables, and repairing ditto.

Plastering the Gable Ends, Repairing the Tops of the Chimneys, Coulering ditto. Pointing the Joints of Brick and Stone work etc. etc.(46)

Shortly thereafter, the building underwent an even greater transformation in exterior appearance: "The Town House is fitted up in the most elegant manner with the whole of the outside painted of a stone color which gives it a fine appearance."(47) The building well may have been painted earlier, and most likely remained painted on the exterior until 1909.

The Crafts bill for painting in 1773 includes, among many other items, the painting of "Belcony & Pedement over it"; "54 Window frames, very dry"; "Rails down from front Steps"; "4 Ox-Eye Window frames"; "Lyon & Unicorn"; and both painting and "Gilding Dial, East End." This is the first mention of a sundial on the Old State House.(48)

The lion and unicorn, symbols of royal authority, did not remain on the building for more than a few decades of the 18th century. Installed sometime between 1743 and 1751, they were pulled down and burned along with other insignia of British rule, according to later accounts, on the night of July 18, 1776. On that date, the balcony of the Old State House was the setting for a most important historic event: the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time to the people of Boston, and America's separation from England was proclaimed.(49) Although no documents mention it, later 18th-century views show that the original treatment of scrolls was reused, in place of the lion and unicorn, on the east parapet.

More work was done on the east end in 1788, including cutting and fitting new stone steps at the Old State House and erecting a new iron balustrade.(50) In 1779 the downspouts had been "(cleaned) out round the State House," and in 1794 new wooden gutters replaced the old.(51)

The windows were altered somewhat in 1782, when Thomas Dawes was "directed to make such alterations in the Windows...of the State House as will be for the comfort and Health of the Members of the General Court...."(52) He was provided with "a Sufficient Quantity of Lead and Lines for said Purpose," and the bill shows that he used "Barr Lead."(53) Evidently the windows, at least on the second story, were fixed so as to stay up when opened.

* * *

Illustration 10 -- a view of the "Triumphal Arch" built for George Washington's visit to Boston in 1789 and removed shortly afterward -- is the earliest view found to date of the west elevation of the Old State House. Then as now, very little foundation is seen: this is the "high side" of the sloping ground on which the building sits. A water table demarcates the scant amount of foundation that is exposed. A central doorway is partially obscured by a "colonnade" (actually a curved portico and balcony), designed by Thomas Dawes as part of the structure built to celebrate Washington's visit. Fenestration on the west elevation consists of two windows on the first floor, one on each side of the doorway; three windows on the second floor; and a single window similar to the others between two ox-eye windows on the third floor. The windows are shown as having the usual 12/12 sash and jack arches. Over the

gable window is a small rectangular area that may have been intended as a decorative motif. Belt courses define the division between all stories. The gable end has scrolls in the gable steps. These turn in the opposite direction from the way the west-end scrolls turn in the Dawes/Hurd view, but since all other 18th-century views show the scrolls turning in the same manner as they do in this view, one assumes the Dawes/Hurd view is incorrect. A belt course traverses the gable in a manner similar to that shown in earlier views of the east elevation, suggesting a triangular pediment. Behind the peak of the gable appears a small chimney.

Several southwest views of the Old State House were made in the late 1700's. Illustration 11 (1793) is essentially the same as an engraved view of the Old State House by Hill that was printed in Massachusetts Magazine in 1791. It probably is not a copy of the 1791 view, however: the roof of the third stage of the tower has a simple, rather than an ogee-shaped, outline; the first stage of the tower has two ox-eye windows on the south face; the visible scroll on the east gable is more fully drawn; the brickwork over the west-end gable window is arranged differently; sash on the west end are shown 12/12; and no chimneys appear at all.

By the time of the 1793 view, the temporary colonnade and balcony built for Washington were gone, and the large first-floor doorway in the center of the west end shows clearly. Over the doorway is a triangular pediment supported by rather large, S-curve consoles atop slender, engaged columns or pilasters. A row of dentils may be indicated under the sloping sides of the pediment. The rest of the west elevation as it is represented in this view does not deviate markedly from the appearance portrayed in Hill's 1789 view, except in two details. There appears to be a projecting soldier course of bricks, as a lintel, over the gable window; and, for the first time, four keystones are shown around each of the ox-eye windows.

Most of what Illustration 11 shows on the south elevation is consistent with the Dawes/Hurd view, including fenestration, dormers, tower, downspouts, and cornice. The elements on each side of the doorway, however, are now clearly square pilasters. Other differences -- which may be actual changes in the building or merely differences in artists' styles -- include fewer cellar openings, differently shaped bulkheads, and a flatter belt course. The one visible portion of the east gable now has a scroll, not a lion, on the stepped portion.

A picture of the Old State House and the buildings around it (Ill. 12) was painted sometime around 1800. It shows all of the east elevation and a very foreshortened view of the north elevation. Except for the stone foundation, the walls appear to be a dull ochre color. Most of the trim is white, except for the balcony and first-floor doors, which are brown or dark red. The gable scrolls and stair rail appear to be iron work painted black. The roof of the third stage of the tower and the weathervane may be gilded. This view tends to confirm the earlier Dawes/Hurd view that shows the foundation as rusticated stone. It is possible that the foundation was painted red or brown, with mortar lines picked out in white.

It is difficult to assess the accuracy of Illustration 12, but the painting does show some portions of the north elevation not visible in earlier representations of the Old State House. For example, the doorway on this elevation is partly visible for the first time. It clearly has at least two elements that match the south doorway: a triangular pediment and curved projecting steps. A belt course painted white and a cornice with modillions at the eave line (also painted white) extend the length of the building.

Illustration 12 also presents a wealth of detail concerning the east elevation. Two small wooden doors with circular windows are set in the rusticated foundation, and appear to give access to the cellar on either side of a large stone stairway. The water table along the top of the foundation is painted white. The large east entrance stairway is shown with seven steps up to a landing in front of the large center doorway. The landing appears to be a platform built on stone walls that project a few feet in front of the building. Along the sides of the landing and down the stairs is an iron railing that curves outward, following the curve of the last three steps. One leaf of the double door appears to be open. This door may be similar to the double door shown on the south elevation in the Dawes/Hurd engraving. One of the first-floor windows is open at the bottom, giving clear indication of hung 12/12 sash. The jack arches do not adjoin the belt courses, however, as they do in every other view before this one. The belt courses are different, too, running discontinuously across the east wall only over the windows; they stop slightly beyond the ends of the jack arches.

The columns flanking the balcony doorway appear to be fluted, with Ionic capitals. A row of dentils appears under the curved and flat moldings of the segmental pediment. A similar dentil motif appears again on the smaller segmental pediment over the sundial. The sundial, center window on the third floor, and balcony pediment are shown here without spaces to separate them vertically. Two earlier views also show the same configuration — Revere's of 1770 (Pl. 9), and Boston Magazine's of 1785 (Pl. 13). Each ox-eye window in the gable clearly has its four keystones in the surrounding stonework.

Illustration 12 is the first to show street lights. A lantern is affixed to the first-floor facade at both southeast and northeast corners of the Old State House. These lights do not occur in any later illustrations, however. Street lights on posts appear at all four corners of the building c. 1836 (Pl. 23). It is possible that the corner-mounted fixtures had to be removed when the east and west porticos were built c. 1830, and were replaced by freestanding lights. It is also possible that these fixtures never existed, and that the creator of Illustration 12 included them erroneously.

On the roof, a small chimney sits behind the gable, a little south of the ridge. Despite this off-center position, the chimney is probably the one seen in the 1751 Dawes/Hurd view (Pl. 4). Concerning the tower, a single ox-eye window appears on the north face of the first stage. The quoins of the first stage are painted white; the Marston painting is unique and almost certainly inaccurate in showing quoins instead of pilasters on the corners of the second and third stages of the tower.

NOTES

- (1) WPA, p. 49.
- (2) Ibid.
- (3) Ibid., p. 50.
- (4) Ibid., p. 47.
- (5) Ibid., p. 58.
- (6) Ibid., p. 68.
- (7) Ibid., pp. 70-71.
- (8) Ibid., p. 70.
- (9) Ibid., p. 73.
- (10) Ibid., pp. 71, 85, 92.
- (11) Ibid., p. 60.
- (12) Morrison, Hugh: Early American Architecture, p. 437.
- (13) Massachusetts Magazine, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1791.
- (14) WPA, p. 202.
- (15) Ibid., p. 153.
- (16) Pemberton, Thomas: "A Topographical...Description of Boston"; iii, p. 241.
- (17) WPA, p. 69.
- (18) Ibid., p. 108.
- (19) Ibid., p. 185.
- (20) Ibid., p. 190.
- (21) Ibid., p. 202.
- (22) Ibid., pp. 88, 110, 188, 193, 197.
- (23) Ibid., pp. 33, 50, 66, 220.
- (24) Ibid., pp. 72, 83, 85, 90.
- (25) Ibid., p. 93.
- (26) Ibid., p. 91.
- (27) Ibid., p. 94.
- (28) Ibid., p. 317.
- (29) Ibid., p. 318.
- (30) Bill at Massachusetts Historical Society.
- (31) WPA, p. 116.
- (32) Ibid., p. 112.
- (33) Ibid., p. 113.
- (34) Ibid., p. 121.
- (35) Ibid., p. 122.
- (36) Ibid.
- (37) Ibid., p. 154.
- (38) Ibid., pp. 150, 153.
- (39) Ibid., pp. 156, 158.
- (40) Ibid., p. 85.
- (41) Ibid., p. 93.
- (42) Ibid., p. 129.
- (43) Ibid., p. 128.
- (44) Ibid.

- (45) Ibid., p. 133.
- (46) Ibid.
- (47) Ibid., p. 134.
- (48) Ibid., pp. 135-36.
- (49) Ibid., p. 150.
- (50) Ibid., p. 197.
- (51) Ibid., pp. 165, 207.
- (52) Ibid., p. 184.
- (53) Ibid., p. 185.

c. 1801-1829: THE EARLY COMMERCIAL PERIOD

After the Massachusetts state government moved to the Bulfinch State House in 1798, the fate of the Old State House remained uncertain for several years. The Selectmen of Boston, on behalf of the town, began negotiations with the State in 1799, and in 1803 bought the Old State House for \$6,000.(1)

The Boston Selectmen did not intend to resell the Old State House to one or more individuals, since "the purpose for which it might and probably would be occupied would tend greatly to encumber the most frequented street in the Town, which is in its present state not of sufficient width for public accommodation."(2) The obstruction of traffic by the Old State House is an accusation that recurs frequently from this point on.

Instead, the Town decided to lease the Old State House. The terms of the lease most directly relevant to the fabric of the building include what might be considered an early form of preservation restriction:

...it would be for the interest of the Town to lease the Old State House for a term of time not less than ten nor to exceed fifty years, and the rent to be paid quarterly or annually; and that it be a condition of the Lease that the house be put into good repair and kept so during the term for which it may be leased by and at the expense of the Lessee and shall be occupied for public or private offices and such other purposes only as the Selectmen for the time being shall approve of, and that no alteration be made in the external form of the building without their approbation....(3)

Between 1800 and 1820 commercial use of the Old State House increased. The Old State House is listed in the Boston Directory for 1798 as the departure point for stage coaches to Cambridge, Watertown, Roxbury, and Brookline. This usage continued until 1809.(4) In 1800 the Clerk of the Supreme Court still had his office on the first floor of the Old State House. The easternmost chamber on the second floor (formerly occupied by the State Senate) became the Office of the Board of Health, with Paul Revere as President.(5) The former Representatives' Chamber, scene of many verbal duels, was used — according to an advertisement in the Independent Chronicle of 1802 — by "one R. Hewes who offers to teach fencing and the use of the sabre...."(6) In the cellar, wine merchants continued the tradition begun in the first period of the Old State House.(7)

Most of the interior space on the first floor of the Old State House was subdivided for shops and offices during the period 1800-29. Mrs. Charles Bulfinch wrote in a letter in 1804, "The Old Town House is neatly fitted up and divided into shops and stores, where are all the varieties of manufactures from different parts of the world, to draw attention of the young and gay."(8) A year later, in 1805, the Boston Directory lists two lawyers and eight shopkeepers in the Old State House.(9) By 1810 the number of occupants of the Old State House listed in the Directory increased to 19.(10)

This commercialism seems to have brought about significant changes to at least the first-floor exterior of the Old State House. William Barry occupied a space in the west end of the building, according to the Boston Directories, from 1807 to 1829. This tradesman distributed a card advertising his business (Ill. 14) that shows the entire west elevation and an oblique view of the south elevation during his tenancy. It indicates that on the west elevation, the original central door and pair of flanking windows had been replaced by two doors and two windows. The two doors are at either end, with the two windows grouped between them. The southernmost door features a semicircular fanlight transom; the window next to it is shown as round-headed. The tops of the northern window and door are hidden by an awning, but were probably the same.

On the first floor of the south elevation, the curved steps of the south central doorway appear to be cut down and nearly flush with the side of the building. It also appears that two more round-headed doorways have been added here, one on each side of the central doorway.

Above the first floor, both elevations appear to have remained unchanged, i.e., consistent with earlier views. Some details have been omitted (the jack arches over the second-story windows, the belt courses, and the water table); others have been simplified (the scrolls in the gable steps of the east wall are simple "C" curves rather than the "S" curves shown on earlier views). This seems attributable, however, to the crudeness of the sketch.

As in some other views, the roof of the tower is shown as a simple convex curve, although the majority of views throughout the building's history indicate an ogee roof.

Illustration 14 is one of the earliest views showing signs on the building -- two plain signs on the west elevation and another at the west corner of the south elevation. A contemporaneous view of the east elevation of the Old State House (Ill. 15) includes an oblique view of the north elevation. The fact that it is a rather simplified portrayal of the building may explain why it does not show details that were surely still extant. It shows, for example, no jack arches, no water table, no keystones around the ox-eye windows, strangely small and flattened scrolls, 6/6 sash in five of the windows, very plain pilasters on the balcony doorway, a peculiar treatment (not quoins) of the corners of the first stage of the tower, and no scrolls at the corners of the balustrade of the first stage of the tower.

On the other hand, this view shows major modifications of the first-floor level that probably did occur, since changes were made to the west and south elevations at about the same time. The modifications include the removal of the first-floor doorway, stone platform, and steps from the east elevation; and the removal of the curved steps of the doorway on the north elevation. The removal of the first-mentioned stairs opened up the east basement wall for better access to the cellars. The two original cellar doors here were given segmentally arched heads, and a pair of similarly shaped windows was interposed between them, where the steps had been.

Illustration 16 represents the Old State House from the same angle as Illustration 15, but approximately eight years later. J.P. Penniman was the artist; Abel Bowen was the engraver as well as the publisher of the book. Fenestration on the east elevation in this view appears substantially the same as it does in the 1817 Bowen view. The basement doors here seem to have been converted to windows, however, bringing the latter's number to four. On the north elevation, a doorway seems to have been added since 1817, near the east end of the building.

This view, though smaller than Illustration 15, shows much more detail. Between basement and first-floor levels is a water table, and pilasters flank the first-floor center window on the east elevation, where the doorway had been. In the peak of the east gable, where a sundial appeared in earlier views, sits a round clock face. The clock shown in this view must have been installed between 1817 and 1825, as the 1817 view still shows a sundial. The clock mechanism in the attic now is signed by Simon Willard and dated 1830. There must have been earlier works for the clock shown in this 1825 view. It is not known whether the face shown in this view was replaced in 1830. The decorative scroll work that is shown around the clock face in views postdating Isaiah Rogers' 1830 remodeling has not yet appeared.

On the roof, at the east end of the ridge, is a short chimney that may be the same one appearing in Illustration 4 (1751). In addition, three tall chimneys sit at the eave line of the north slope.

From 1820 to 1829, the Grand Masonic Lodge of Massachusetts occupied "all of the rooms above the lower story in the Old State House except the two rooms on Cornhill...."(11) The Masonic Hall is described in Abel Bowen's Picture of Boston:

The lower story of this building (the Old State House) is now rented by the city for stores and offices, the second and third stories, except one room at the west of the second story (which is occupied for the city Treasurer's office), are occupied by the Masonic Lodges in Boston. The Masonic Hall is elegantly embellished; the decorations and furniture are very rich and appropriate, and the room is sufficiently capacious for most masonic purposes. It measures 43 by 32 feet and is 16 feet high. The following is a list of the lodges that hold their meetings here....(12)

The City of Boston built a reservoir in State Street in 1826, on "the spot where Attucks, Gray, Caldwell, Maverick, and Carr fell on the memorable 5th of March, 1770, (in) the Boston Massacre," just in front of the east elevation of the Old State House.(13) It was discovered during excavation that State Street had been raised two to three feet "above its original surface."(14) It appears that the "Old State House was painted white in August, 1825, by the city...."(15)

Illustration 17 shows the Old State House in 1829. Only a portion of the third-floor level of the west elevation appears, but nearly all of the north elevation is visible. The rendering of the Old State House is not highly detailed, as it is only one building among many in the panorama depicted in Salmon's painting. Like the 1825 view (Ill. 16), this representation of the Old State House shows three chimneys on the north roof-slope eave line, and an additional door at the east end of the north side wall. There is some indication of a corresponding doorway having been added at the west end — Illustration 16 hints at this as well — but the representation is unclear.

One feature shown in this view but not in any others is the elaborate scrolls on the west gable end; they must have been creations of the artist's imagination.

The year 1829 marked the end of this commercial third period. William Barry, whose term of occupancy had been as long and as continuous as any other Old State House renter of the early 19th century, was ousted. The building was to be remodeled for use by the Town of Boston. In the spring of 1830 alterations and repairs were begun to "fit up" second- and third-floor interiors for the city government.(16) Barry was to receive "reasonable compensation" if he vacated by June 1.(17) He later petitioned for damages caused by early commencement of these alterations.(18)

NOTES

- (1) WPA, p. 218.
- (2) Ibid., p. 213.
- (3) Ibid., p. 218.
- (4) Ibid., p. 222.
- (5) Ibid., p. 216.
- (6) Ibid., p. 217.
- (7) Ibid., pp. 220, 227-28, 231, 233-34.
- (8) Ibid., p. 220.
- (9) Ibid.
- (10) Boston Directory, WPA, p. 223.
- (11) WPA, p. 231.
- (12) Ibid., p. 232.
- (13) Ibid., p. 235.
- (14) Ibid.
- (15) Bostonian Society Publications, Vol. I, First Series, p. 42.
- (16) WPA, p. 236.
- (17) Ibid.
- (18) Ibid., p. 241.

1830-1840: THE CITY HALL DECADE

The first period of commercial use of the Old State House closed in May 1830, when William Barry -- whose hat store had been in the west end of the building for 22 years -- moved out.(1) The Common Council of the City of Boston decided to adapt the Old State House for use as a City Hall, and in July 1830 the Joint Committee on Repairs of the Old State House was ordered by the Council to put the building into good condition for use by the City of Boston. The building was to be treated "in a manner suitable to the edifice and creditable to the City...."(2)

According to William H. Whitmore, Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings in 1893, "The work of restoration, in 1830, was confided to Isaiah Rogers, and he entrusted part of the details to...William Washburn...."(3) Rogers' first noteworthy Classical Revival building, the Tremont House, had been completed only a year earlier.)

A "fac-simile of a plan made by Isaiah Rogers" (Ill. 18) is printed in the Rededication. Whitmore calls this "the only evidence known to exist of the state of the building in 1830...."(4) Although no other version of Rogers' drawings for the 1830 remodeling of the Old State House have been found, there is a good chance that this "facsimile" indeed shows Rogers' work. George Clough -- Boston's City Architect in the 1880's -- billed the City of Boston \$73 for a trip to Cincinnati in 1881, presumably to see "the original plans of the building, they having been found by Mr. Whitmore at Cincinnati...."(5) Moreover, a number of extant elements of the building conform to those in the Rogers drawings.

Rogers' work probably included the addition of Classical Revival porticos on the east and west elevations. The "Rogers' Plan" (Ill. 18) shows front and side elevations for the east portico. Views from 1830 to c. 1880, including photographs, show that the portico was built largely as it is shown in the drawing. It abutted the basement and first-floor levels, and incorporated or replaced the old balcony.

Also shown in the "Rogers' Plan" is the south elevation of the basement area, in a form that is confirmed by later views up to about 1850. Rogers probably had found the pre-1830 basement elevations a confused pattern of late-18th and early 19th-century openings. Those of the late 1700's (see Ill. 4, 5 and 11) seem to have been changed during the first period of commercial use of the Old State House, 1801-29.

The "Rogers' Plan" includes a plan and elevation for a doorway and steps, too. Again, later views correspond to these drawings; they indicate that the Rogers work did include new rectangular steps and piers for the doorways on the north and south facades of the Old State House. Interestingly, the doorway drawings do not show either the triangular pediments over the north and south doorways, or the segmental pediment on the east balcony, all of which must have been in place from an earlier period, probably 1748.

The first and second floors are shown in the "Rogers' Plan" in plan only. The first-floor plan indicates that the rotunda around the circular stair extended only around the east side of the stair well. To the west, the rotunda was open. Eyewitness descriptions of these areas, such as that by Abel Bowen, confirm the drawings.(6)

A handwritten bill (Ill. 19) specifies items that could very well be part of the Rogers renovation. Most significantly, the bill mentions a "West Portico with Copper roof, East ditto and floor," and "1 door Post Office." The "10 columns" of the bill could be those shown on the first-floor plan.

Probably the earliest representation of the Old State House in its Classical Revival phase is an engraving (Ill. 20) in Snow's Geography of Boston, published in 1830. (Admittedly, some features in this view are questionable, including the shape of the roof of the tower, the crudely shaped and oddly turned scrolls, and the locations of the chimneys on the north slope of the roof.)

Some elements appear in this view that have been seen more or less consistently in previous views back to 1748. These include fenestration above cellar level; the water table; the belt courses; and the general appearance of the tower. On the north elevation, four downspouts are shown in locations that correspond to the positions of the downspouts on the south elevation in the 1751 Dawes/Hurd view.

However, Illustration 20 also shows quite a few changes probably attributable to Rogers. The aforementioned portico across the east end is seen clearly. The basement level beneath this porch appears to be of stonework — possibly rusticated — with three symmetrically placed openings. The north elevation, which gained one and perhaps two additional doorways during the period 1800-29, has been returned to its earlier, single central-door configuration. This old doorway was not left untouched, however: Illustration 20 shows that it received squared pilasters and rectangular steps that conform approximately to the Rogers drawing. Finally, Illustration 20 shows four chimneys on the north roof slope at eave line, not the three seen in earlier views (Ill. 16, 17). It also indicates that the pair of small chimneys on the ridge at either gable end — seen as early as 1751 — were widened considerably.

Billowing smoke conceals part of the Old State House in Illustration 21; apparently a small fire c. 1832 damaged the third floor and blackened the interior of the tower. This view of the east and north elevations does offer some additional information about the Rogers remodeling, however. It confirms the return to a single central doorway on the north elevation, as well as the four chimneys on the north roof slope. It also shows the clock in the east gable end as it appeared after Simon Willard's clockworks were installed c. 1831.(7) The fine decorative relief work beneath the clock — still on the building as late as 1957 — seems to date from the time of Willard's work. The applied scrollwork apparent on the east gable above the clock may have been added as part of this ornamentation. Rogers also might have supplied new scrolls for the east-gable steps. Photographs from about 1866 show scrolls that seem to be in the character of Rogers' work. (It will be remembered that the scrolls were changed in the 18th century, early 19th century, and early 20th century.)

Both Illustrations 20 and 21 show a more refined, delicate, almost semicircular pediment over the old second-floor balcony door on the east elevation, instead of the heavy, modillioned, segmental pediment seen in earlier views. Perhaps Rogers did remodel this feature along Classical Revival lines, but since all later illustrations depict the earlier, segmental pediment, it seems more likely that the version seen in Illustrations 20 and 21 represents artistic license.

Illustration 22 (c. 1836) is one of the views that depicts the balcony door on the east elevation of the Old State House with a more imposing segmental pediment with dentils and pilasters, as it appeared in earlier views. Moreover, as in the 1751 Dawes/Hurd view (Pl. 4), the south elevation features four downspouts and a rather heavy cornice with modillions. The center doorway resembles the doorway shown on the north elevation in the view in Snow's Geography (Pl. 20), and appears to follow Rogers' plan. Instead of lamps attached to the corners of the building, as shown by Marston (Pl. 12, c. 1800), the lamps are on posts. This view is the earliest found that shows four chimneys on the south side of the roof. They are placed in roughly the same locations as are the four chimneys on the north side, between the dormers and out near the eave line. (Illustration 22 also shows clearly the easternmost of the two end chimneys that apparently were widened by Rogers.) Just beyond the southwest corner of the building a small portion of the west portico is visible.

Since the first-floor door in the center of the east elevation had been closed up between 1785 and 1817, it seems probable that Rogers' work included reopening this doorway to provide access to the first level of his east portico. Illustration 23 shows a door with sidelights. However, later views depict both the sidelights and a rectangular transom. It is known that Illustration 23 contains many inaccuracies, despite the fact that it has been reproduced frequently over the past 140 years, most recently on Brigham's candy boxes. (For example, it also shows the presence of sidelights on the second-floor, central door, which never existed.) It thus seems likely that Rogers created a central first-floor doorway with sidelights and a rectangular transom.

Illustration 24 is the earliest one to date that shows the Classical Revival remodeling of the west elevation. The portico on the west differs from the one on the east, in having coupled columns only at the corners. Three single columns support the middle part of the portico. This view is also the first to depict clearly the widened chimney at the west end of the building.

Two other noteworthy features appear in Illustration 24: a street sign labeled "State Street," affixed to the southwest corner of the building at the height of the second-floor window sills; and a doorway into the south-elevation cellar. The doorway, just under the westernmost first-floor window, bears the sign "Orra Goss." A fruiterer, Goss occupied space in the Old State House from 1831 to 1835.(8) Under the roof of the portico, some letters of a "Post Office" sign are visible over an opening that may have two doorways. This tends to add credence to "Rogers' Plan"; the entrance at the west end of the first floor may have been executed as shown in that plan.

Abel Bowen, in the 1838 edition of his Picture of Boston, describes the disposition of interior space in the Old State House at that time:

Being in the very focus of business and nearly in the centre of the city, the use to which this venerable pile is now devoted appears to give universal satisfaction.

On the first floor are three large rooms; that facing Washington street is the Post-Office. At the other extremity, looking down State Street, is Topliff's News Room, one of the best conducted establishments, for the accommodation of merchants, in the United States. The middle room, a lofty apartment, supported by pillars, is the Merchants' Exchange, and common thoroughfare to the public offices.

From this central room is a flight of winding stairs, leading to a suite of apartments in the second story. Directly over the Post-Office is the Hall of the Common Council, in which they ordinarily meet on public business. In the opposite end of the building is the Hall of the Mayor and Aldermen. In this room the chief Magistrate of the city, together with the City Clerk, remain through the day, in the discharge of their ordinary duties.

The Board of Aldermen hold their meetings, also, on Monday evenings. Around the circular area of the stairs are a series of Offices, viz., the Auditor's, Treasurer's, Assistant City Clerk's, Clerk of Common Council, and the Health Office, which later accommodated the City Marshall, Superintendent of Burial Grounds, Physician of the Port, Captain of the Port, Captain of the Watch, Superintendent of Lamps, and the Commissioner of Streets. (These men occupied only four rooms but kept office hours on different days of the week.)

Another flight of stairs leads to the third story, in which is the Office of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, City Land Commissioner, Messenger, a Committee Room, and a large Hall, in which is a recently organized public Vaccine Institution, for the gratuitous inoculation of the poor.

The whole is lighted with gas, as well as the lamps at the four corners of the building. Besides being ornamental to the city, the concentration of so many important offices under one roof renders the City Hall an object of peculiar interest.(9)

Bowen's description of the seating arrangements in the Mayor and Aldermen's Room and the Common Council Room fits the "Rogers' Plan" exactly:

The Mayor and Aldermen's room is a convenient apartment in the east end of the City Hall, in the second story. A mahogany railing divides the floor in such a manner that visitants cannot obtrude. The chairs and tables are arranged in a crescent over a rich carpet. In the centre of the room, the Mayor's seat is raised about one foot, on either side of which the Aldermen are seated according to seigniority — the eldest in office being nearest to the Mayor's right hand.

COMMON COUNCIL.

The Common Council hold their sessions in the same building and on the same floor with the board of Aldermen. For beauty and convenience of fixtures, this hall is not surpassed by any in New England. The President's seat is elevated at one side of the room, and the seats for the members are very conveniently arranged in a semicircular form (see Ill. 18).(10)

The gas lighting, another modern improvement introduced at this time, is described in several contemporary accounts of the interior as "brilliant," "elegant," and "extravagant."(11)

Documentation of the Classical Revival remodeling includes strongly critical comments in contemporary newspapers and journals. Objections were raised on both financial and aesthetic grounds. The cost ran to \$25,000.(12) As one writer pointed out, the expense was compounded by the loss of most of the building's former rental income.(13) In the New England Palladium of August 24, 1830, the new architectural features of the Old State House were criticized: "In point of appearance, the Old State House will not be improved by the change...mutations brought about for show are the means of losing as much as they gain for the edifice. It is like plastering and painting a matron very far in years."(14)

Some rental income continued, as Boston city documents for 1838 show. The Post Office and Topliff's News Room, and the storage cellars and offices in the basement, yielded more than \$5,000 in one year.(15)

The end of the City Hall decade came in March 1841.(16) The old County Court House on School Street was converted to use as the City Hall, and the Old State House was rented out. The Post Office and the News Room remained, and an architect, some lawyers, and a telegraph office took new leases.(17)

NOTES

- (1) WPA, p. 236.
- (2) Ibid., p. 237.
- (3) Re-dedication of the Old State House (Sixth edition, 1893), p. 112.
- (4) Ibid., p. 205.
- (5) Ibid., p. 153.
- (6) Bowen, Abel: Bowen's Picture of Boston, 1838, pp. 25-29.
- (7) Inscription on the clock still in the space over the east end of the attic of the Old State House: "Made by Simon Willard Roxbury in his 78th year, for the City Hall, Boston, commenced Sept. 1830 and finished 1831."
- (8) Boston Directories.
- (9) Bowen, Picture of Boston, pp. 16-19.
- (10) Ibid., p. 20.
- (11) WPA, pp. 238-39.
- (12) Ibid., p. 244.
- (13) Ibid., p. 239.
- (14) Ibid., p. 237.
- (15) Ibid., p. 244.
- (16) Ibid., p. 245.
- (17) Ibid., p. 244.

1841-1881: THE VICTORIAN ERA

The office of the government of the City of Boston moved out in March 1841.(1) During the following four decades, the Old State House became increasingly commercial. Physical changes occurred in three general phases.

A. 1841-1849

East Facade

Changes made to the east facade during this period were fairly minor, as can be seen in Illustration 25. This is an engraved view on a Brown, Lawrence & Stickney receipt dated 1848; Illustration 26 is a detail of that view. It should be noted that Illustration 25 is the first to depict properly the center opening at first-floor level, showing a doorway with sidelights and a rectangular transom as installed by Rogers in 1830. Illustration 25 also shows that, of the three cellar openings seen in City Hall period views, the outer two were converted in the 1840's into multi-paned windows. The masonry in this area appears to have remained intact. Finally, the 1848 receipt shows a sign above the cellar openings on the east end of the Old State House. This sign, which conceals the first-floor balustrade of the portico from end to end, reads "City Hall Cloth & Clothes Warehouse." The receipt gives the address of the company as "No. 6.7.9.11 & 12 Old State House." (Evidently the earlier identity of the building as "Old State House" coexisted with its more recent title of "City Hall.") The rest of the east facade looks essentially the same as it did in the 1830-40 views.

The only other change to the east facade during this time period can be seen in Illustration 27. This engraving is part of the Brown, Lawrence & Stickney advertisement in the 1849 edition of the Boston Directory. The change consisted of the addition of another line to the sign on the portico. Above "City Hall Cloth & Clothes Warehouse" was added "Brown, Lawrence & Stickney." The address is still "Nos. 6, 7, 9, 11 & 12 Old State House," as seen on the 1848 receipt.

West Facade

Illustration 28 documents the years c. 1835-50. It indicates that during this period, Rogers' portico on this facade had been removed. An iron balcony was installed across the facade at second-floor level, and the center window at this level appears to have been converted into a doorway. At first-floor level, two doorways and two shop windows alternate. The four openings correspond roughly to the four openings seen in the last clear view of this area, Illustration 14, except that the earlier arrangement had two doorways flanking two windows.

South and North Facades

Illustration 28 is somewhat vague, but it does help to date changes made to the cellar story on the south and north facades. Rogers' 1830 windows below the water table were small, and the brick of the foundation walls was exposed. Sometime before 1850, the windows here were lengthened and given projecting granite surrounds; the rest of the foundation was surfaced with granite. Illustration 28 also shows that the center dormer on the south roof slope was removed during this period.

B. 1850-1855

A group of illustrations from c. 1850 and shortly thereafter document that a large number of important changes were made during this period. These alterations were the beginning of the remodeling of the Old State House into a fully commercial building -- a Victorian shopping center.

East Facade

Between 1849 and 1850 some important changes seem to have occurred. City expense records show that the building was repaired and given exterior painting in 1843.(2) It was painted again -- inside and out -- in 1849.(3) In 1850 "general repairs and extra expenses for Gas and for Water" amounted to more than \$1,200.(4) Shedding some light on this is an 1850 Boston Directory advertisement for "Brown and Lawrence,...Clothing Warehouse, In the entire Basement of the Old State House" (Ill. 29). Not only did the company drop a partner, change its name, and apparently add more space, but it also had its storefront rebuilt. Whereas in 1849 the cellar-level masonry and openings looked much the same as they had looked through the 1830's, in 1850 the piers under the two inner pairs of coupled columns were removed. Two slender columns, probably of iron, were substituted as structural support. Two large shop windows were installed on either side of the doorway -- extending from ground level up to the sign on the portico balustrade and from the doorway out to the masonry piers under the corner columns.

West Facade

Two receipts from "Charles A. Smith & Co., Merchant Tailors," dated June 7, 1850 (Ill. 30), and June 22, 1859, as well as an undated piece of Smith's letterhead (Ill. 31), show that by 1850 the west doorway had changed again. Significantly, the change in the appearance of the shop entrance of the tailoring firm on the west end of the Old State House corresponds exactly to the change that occurred on the east end. While the rest of the view is substantially the same as the earlier trade-card view, most of the masonry of the first floor of the west facade has been removed to create a recessed center doorway flanked by two big shop windows. Two iron columns on either side of the door take the place of the missing supporting masonry -- the same arrangement used at the base of the east-elevation portico at the same time (Ill. 29). The parallel is striking, and strongly suggests an 1849-50 date for the start of the remodeling of the Old State House into a fully commercial building.

A problem arises when Smith's receipt (Ill. 30) is compared to his stationery (Ill. 31), however: only the latter shows single Tuscan corner pilasters rising from the water table. (Discussion of Illustration 39 indicates that these were actually pairs of pilasters.) Although the letterhead is undated, it does show the large shop windows and iron columns, and must date from after c. 1850. Illustration 32, which is even more certainly a near-contemporary of Illustration 30, also shows the pilasters. It therefore seems likely that the pilasters were introduced as part of the large shop window/iron column remodeling of c. 1850. It is also possible that the pilasters were added independently a few years later.

Poster-size format makes Illustration 32 one of the largest early views of the Old State House, as well as one of the most detailed. This lighograph gives a view of the west and north facades; it also features a smaller panel showing a portion of the interior of Smith's shop, on the first floor of the west end of the building. (The shop

occupies the area that was formerly the Post Office.) According to Charles E. Mason, Honorary Curator of Prints at the Boston Athenaeum, large lithographs of this type were used for advertising purposes, and were posted in railway stations and other public buildings.

Although the lithograph is undated, it contains details that appear on the dated receipts of Charles A. Smith & Co. This indicates that the lithograph was made in, or shortly after, 1850. The west facade features the iron balcony, large shop windows, and a center entrance as shown on the 1850 receipt, along with an awning that appears on many subsequent views up to 1880. There has been a return to lamps attached to the building, at the northwest and southwest corners, somewhere in the vicinity of the corner pilasters. (At the northeast corner a freestanding street light also remains.) The center window on the second floor does not have the mullions shown in the views on both Smith receipts; it does, however, extend down to floor level.

The view of the interior of Smith's shop shows eight slender supporting posts -- probably of iron -- with four on each side of the room. The posts create a wide center aisle, leading to what appears to be a sales desk at the rear. A large, two-tiered gas chandelier attests to the presence of gas lighting in the building; it hangs in the center near the back of the room.(5) The windows are shown with wooden blinds, folded back against the jambs. Between the windows and the central aisle are tables holding bolts of cloth.

In 1853, a large sum was spent on "sundry alterations and repairs," including masonry and whitewashing, plumbing, work on "warming and ventilating apparatus," and carpentry.(6) During the following year, "remodeling the lower store on Washington Street [probably Charles A. Smith's tailor shop], putting in Waterworks, Gas fixtures, and other improvements in the building" cost nearly \$1,600.(7)

South and North Facades

The south facade is seen in Illustrations 30 and 31. No changes are apparent. The north facade is seen in Illustration 32. By c. 1855, two new cellar doorways appear to have been created to the west of the large center doorway. The two new doorways evidently were created by lengthening two of the cellar window openings.

C. 1856-1881

By 1855 the number of Old State House lessees listed in the Boston Directory had increased to 29; some shared the same room numbers, however, so the interior space had not necessarily been divided into 29 rooms.(8) In 1858 repairs costing over \$2,300 included \$1,500 worth of painting and glazing, work on the "ball and vane," "slating," and "covering doors." The rental income from the Old State House increased to \$11,125 for 1859-60.(9) On the first floor, tailor Smith occupied the area "from Washington Street back to the Centre Entry of the building" and the "Entire Attic Storey."(10)

Illustration 33, dated c. 1860, is the earliest photograph yet discovered of the Old State House. A similar one by Josiah Hawes is dated c. 1865. Both view the building from the northwest down Court Street, and show more of the north facade and roof than of any other portion of the structure. It seems likely that the photograph labeled "Court St. from Scollay Sq. About 1860" is the earlier of the two, because it shows the Old State House with fewer signs. More importantly, it shows a sign mounted above the belt course, on the north elevation between the west corner and the central doorway -- exactly the location of the "C.A. Smith & Co. Cloth and Clothing Warehouse" sign shown in Smith's c. 1850 advertising poster.

Of special interest in this pair of photographs is the presence of two skylights on the north roof slope. The earlier view shows a downspout on the north facade, the familiar four tall chimneys, and a chimney at each gable end -- as well as a single ox-eye window in the lower half of the north face of the first stage of the tower. Both photographs show a small portion of the west facade with a glimpse of the iron balcony railing. Part of the awning and northernmost west shop window also appear.

Illustration 34 can be dated 1864-67 by the presence of the sign for John T. Smith's Independent News Room. According to issues of the Boston Directory, Smith came to the Old State House in 1864 and departed in 1867. The view of the Old State House on this receipt has some unlikely features, including three nearly square windows on the third floor and a tower with a small lantern sitting directly on the first stage. However, it does indicate that the appearance of the east facade had not changed much since the Brown, Lawrence & Stickney firm installed its large shop windows and iron columns c. 1850. Only two significant changes seem to have occurred: the sign across the lower balustrade now touts "Smith's Independent News Room," and semaphores have been attached at the third-floor level near the northeast and southeast corners of the east facade.

In a c. 1866 photograph of the east end of the Old State House (Ill. 35), the number of signs on the building has increased. The Old State House looks more like a billboard than a building. Since the United States Telegraph Company, whose sign is prominently displayed across the east facade, is not listed with an Old State House address in the Boston Directories until 1866, this photograph probably postdates that year.

Several important east-end changes appear in this view. The portico now has two stairways from State Street up to first-floor level. These stairways do not appear in the drawings attributed to Rogers, or in the views prior to about 1860. The wide gable-end chimney that first appeared about the time of the Rogers' remodeling now has four chimney pots; these persist in subsequent views through 1880. This photograph shows two downspouts on the north elevation -- a pattern not shown (or at least not clearly shown) in earlier views.

Finally, in this and other photographs up to 1881, the first stage of the tower features a quoin treatment with more strongly vertical margins than seen in most earlier views.

Illustration 36 shows more clearly than any previous view the central, first-floor doorway leading onto the east portico, the old doorway probably reopened by Rogers. Signage indicates the tenancy of tailor Charles A. Smith and the North American Insurance Company. In 1867 these two parties and Newell A. Thompson & Company -- which had occupied a room in the Old State House since 1846 -- took a 10-year lease "collectively" that expired on July 1, 1876.(11)

Old State House tenants continued to increase. The Boston Directory of 1870 lists 50 different Old State House occupants.(12) Illustrations 37-39 show the Old State House in its most eclectic state. The Classical Revival portico remains, somewhat obscured by signs, and a mansard roof has been added. Illustration 37 dates from 1876. Illustration 38 cannot be dated precisely, but the presence of John E.M. Gilley's sign means that it must postdate 1869, the date of the earliest Boston Directory listing of an Old State House address for Gilley. All of the signs on the east facade that can be read in both views correspond, so the two views must be approximately contemporaneous, the major difference being that the drawing shows the east and south facades, while the photograph shows the east and north facades. The two main changes shown in these views are the creation of the mansard roof, and the alteration of the sash from 12/12 to 2/2.

Illustration 38 exhibits clearly the deterioration of the building in the mid-1870's. Thompson & Company, the North American Insurance Company, and Charles A. Smith -- who jointly leased the Old State House for the period from 1866 to 1876 -- evidently did not invest much money in exterior maintenance.(13) Some of the most obvious areas of decay include: the balustrade on the second stage of the tower, which has very few balusters; the scrolls on the gable steps, which are collapsing; and the portico columns, which appear to be splitting. Too, paint is peeling, and panes are missing from the sash in the tower.

Illustration 39 probably also dates to c. 1876; the east portico is still in place. On the west facade the iron balcony is still there, along with the basic format of large shop windows, recessed center entrance, and iron supporting posts. However, the water table at the south end of this facade clearly supports two pilasters: both bases are evident, as are the neck moldings (just visible beneath the word "Company" in the transit sign). Presumably the northwest corner is the same, although only the outermost pilaster is visible because of the signs. This paired-pilaster treatment differs from that in Illustrations 31 and 32, which show only single corner pilasters. As those are drawings, and Illustration 39 is a photograph, it would seem likely that the paired pilasters constituted the actual configuration.

The shop windows have larger panes than are shown in any of the views of the 1850's (Ill. 30-32), and extend out to include the iron posts in interior space. This may mean that the west end was significantly remodeled again between 1850 and 1876. Sash on the second and third floors have become 2/2, and the ox-eye windows have four panes, rather than eight around a small circular pane.

The scrolls on the stepped ends of the west gable do not appear as badly deteriorated as those on the east gable (Ill. 38). (Interestingly, they do not have exactly the same shape as the scrolls on the east.) Too, the western part of the second-stage tower balustrade has most of its balusters, in contrast to the eastern and southern sections of the balustrade.

In 1875 the City of Chicago offered to buy the building and preserve it on the shores of Lake Michigan.(14) Only a few months later -- in the Centennial Year of 1876 -- some members of the Joint Standing Committee on Streets made a strong but unsuccessful recommendation for demolition of the Old State House. Justin Winsor notes the effort in his Memorial History of Boston, and includes mention of the mansard roof. This feature -- like Rogers' porticos -- represented yet another attempt to modernize the building's appearance.(15) The Joint Standing Committee on Streets did order that the "balcony" (portico) at the east end be removed at the expiration of the 10-year lease in 1876, and it recommended a shorter lease term of five years. The east portico might not have been removed at the time of the Centennial celebration, but it did come down sometime between 1876 and 1880.

Illustration 40 shows the east elevation c. 1880. The mansard roof remains, but the portico is gone. Its removal led to several other striking changes. The original, 18th-century treatment of flush doorway with descending steps was not reintroduced, perhaps because of exterior space limitations. Instead, the old center entrance seems to have been "holed out" to create a very wide recessed stairway with a rather awkward classical surround, extending up from the street to the first floor.

Again, on the second floor, the original cantilevered balcony was not replaced. The former central balcony door has been converted here to a window. Its base has been redesigned to achieve a Renaissance Revival character, visually uniting the window with the doorway opening beneath. (In the middle section of the window's base is a sign, "John Wetherbee." Wetherbee, not listed in the Boston Directory as an Old State House occupant before 1877, was treasurer of the East Boston Improvement Company through 1881.) Despite these changes, the window retains the segmental pediment and fluted Corinthian pilasters of the 18th-century balcony treatment, and the mullioned sash of the 1830's also appears intact.

Some repairs evidently were made: Illustration 40 shows that missing balusters were replaced on the tower. However, this was the time when the Boston City Council was debating the very existence of the building, and repairs in general were minimal.

The building had reached a state of maximum intensity of use by diverse businesses and professional people. Small wonder that many Council members argued that the Old State House was "disfigured," defaced," and not a "genuine relic."(16)

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NOTES

- (1) WPA, p. 245.
- (2) Ibid.
- (3) Ibid., p. 246.
- (4) Ibid.
- (5) Ibid., pp. 246-47 *passim*.
- (6) Ibid., p. 246.
- (7) Ibid., p. 247.
- (8) Ibid.
- (9) Ibid., p. 249.
- (10) Ibid.
- (11) Ibid., p. 251.
- (12) Ibid., p. 252.
- (13) Ibid., p. 251.
- (14) Proceedings, Vol. V, 1904, p. 7.
- (15) WPA, p. 254, and Winsor, Justin: Memorial History of Boston, Vol. IV, pp. 54-55.
- (16) Proceedings of the Common Council, May 26, 1881. "Debate on the proposition to Renovate the Old State House." Boston Public Library, Prints Department.

1882-1907: THE FIRST RESTORATION

The year 1881 marked a turning point in the history of the Old State House. The building's steady degradation through "adaptive abuse" was halted by the decision of the Boston City Council to restore the Old State House to an earlier appearance — one that would call to mind its role as the setting of significant events during Revolutionary times.

As the 1876 leases on the building terminated in May 1881, the debate on the question of demolition of the Old State House intensified. In a meeting of the Boston City Council on May 26, 1881, proponents of demolition cited the following arguments: the building impeded traffic; it was producing less and less income; it no longer had an historic appearance; and, lacking original material, it was not a "genuine relic."⁽¹⁾

Antiquarian and Council member William H. Whitmore strongly defended the building's right to survive, making reference to Philadelphia's Independence Hall as a parallel case. That, too, he observed, was a building greatly altered over the years, but with a similar claim to national historic importance. Whitmore, in calling Independence Hall second only to Mount Vernon in national fame, argued also that the tourist trade generated by its restoration produced a substantial income for the city of Philadelphia.

As to the existence of historic fabric in the Old State House, Whitmore asserted,

The building is substantially what it was originally....The walls are not only intact, but the windows, floors, and timbers are the same. That work was put up to last for generations, and it has lasted. The changes I speak of have been such as are made in every old building; such as the tearing down of partitions and putting in stairways for convenience. The walls are in the same condition, and it is as genuine a relic as can be found....It is just as feasible for us to restore the Old State House as it was to restore Independence Hall, more than that, we have ten times more material than Mr. Etting had when he began there ten years ago.

Whitmore's arguments proved persuasive and in September 1881, the Committee on Public Buildings was given a budget of \$35,000 for the restoration work.⁽²⁾ George Clough, Boston's City Architect from 1873-83, was in charge of the work, which he brought to completion in June 1882.⁽³⁾

Clough's work on the building was concentrated more on the upper floors, leased in 1881 to the Bostonian Society, than on the lower floors, which were still "to be let in the interest of the City by the Department of Public Buildings." The Red Line Transit Company and the Old Colony Steamboat Company both leased rooms "fronting on Washington St.," and the Mutual Union Telegraph Company leased the basement until 1894.⁽⁴⁾

The Bostonian Society, formed in 1881 as the Boston Antiquarian Club, used the second and third floors of the Old State House for exhibition and storage of materials relating to the history of Boston, and for an office for the Secretary of the Society, until 1894. By that year, the Society's need for more space for books and exhibits had become acute. It therefore took a lease on the rest of the building, and the companies that had leased space in the west end of the first floor and in the east end of the basement moved out.(5) So, too, did the two city offices that had been in the eastern end of the first floor: namely those of the City Surveyor and the Inspector of Buildings.

These offices became the new quarters of the Bostonian Society's Secretary and Director. There was also a third room acquired with the other two. A newspaper clipping on page 98 in Scrapbook F at the Bostonian Society mentions the "room first entered from State Street," which contained a collection of maps of Boston. The Annual Proceedings confirm a three-room plan on the east end of the first floor. The "outer apartment of those recently acquired, on the lower floor" was used for an

exhibition of the topography of Boston...The two inner rooms opening from the topographical room have been fitted up as an office for the Secretary and the Director's Room. In these two apartments has been placed the library of the Society...."(6)

On the basement floor, one more important alteration occurred during the period 1900-04. The East Boston tunnel of the subway system was constructed under the Old State House, and the eastern half of the basement was converted into a subway station. The subway conversion will be discussed at the end of this chapter.

* * *

The Clough Restoration

Illustrations 41-44 show the Old State House as Clough restored it. None of the four are dated, but since they do not show the subway openings, they must date between 1882 and 1903. Gone are the mansard roof, recessed east doorway, and commercial signs.

Roof. "It was, of course, necessary to take off the modern French roof and to restore the old pitch(ed) roof...", the Committee on Public Buildings report of June 29, 1882, observed.(7) Clough found that "All of the early roof above the cornice to the height of eight feet, between the trusses, had been removed; but above that height, forming the apex, the original boarding and jack rafters were found in good condition."(8) Also in "a good state of preservation," according to Clough, were the main cornice and "the ten trusses supporting the roof, which, of course, determined the original outline...."(9) Clough described the roof framing:

These trusses were framed with a king post, and were constructed of oak-hewn timber, the principal rafters being in double sections, the under section of a natural curve; the tie beams of the trusses were about fourteen inches square and formed the sleepers or girders for support of the third floor.(10)

(Nearly all of the framing described above can be seen at present, along with certain 20th-century reinforcements that will be described later.) Most of the framing that Clough found very likely dates back to the mid-18th century; the same is true of the cornice.

To restore the roof fully to an 18th-century appearance, Clough recreated the dormers that had been displaced by the mansard roof -- "the number, position, and proportions being ascertained from the several woodcuts...",⁽¹¹⁾ and removed "the unsightly chimneys, which in past years have acquired a large number of stoves...."⁽¹²⁾ Clough erroneously cites five chimneys "of modern construction" on each side.⁽¹³⁾ All views and photographs of the period 1865-80 show only four per side.

It is interesting to note that "It was found necessary to heat the building by steam in order to do away with the chimneys which had been put on during the present century." The steam-heating apparatus required a boiler room; this was put in a "circular sub-basement, constructed of brick, which was built directly under the rotunda," such that it provided "support (for) the partitions of the same...."⁽¹⁴⁾

Although the 1881-82 Annual Report of the City of Boston⁽¹⁵⁾ mentioned "the entire reconstructing of the tower," Clough reported that its copper roof and "the old vane and lightning-rod were found in a very passable condition." He did find the tower, however, in a "neglected and very unsafe condition, several of the bedplates which formerly received the posts having been removed in the course of adapting the third story to business purposes, while others had been completely burned off." These alterations had left the tower supported only on the heads of two plank partitions. The decayed condition of the wooden trim of the tower made it necessary for him to remove "all of the sash, two-thirds of the pilasters, pedestals, balustrades, and carved finials, and replace the same by new work."⁽¹⁶⁾ Reconstruction of the roof and tower together cost over \$4,000 -- close to one-seventh of the total restoration budget.⁽¹⁷⁾

Facades. The basement and first floor, in general, were not restored to an 18th-century appearance. The granite foundation facing and basement-window surrounds of c. 1850 were retained. Indeed, Clough even duplicated the latter to trim the basement windows that he restored on the east elevation.

It appears that, because Clough believed the east balcony doorway treatment to be original, he left it as he found it. The balcony doorway with its glazing closely resembles the one in views dating back only to Rogers' work, however. As for the missing balcony itself, Clough recreated one with supporting consoles; it resembled the balcony in the c. 1801 Marston painting, which presumably was original. The large recessed flight of stairs shown at the east end in the 1880 photograph (Ill. 40) was replaced with "substantial brick walls and proper doors and windows."⁽¹⁸⁾

On the west facade of the building, "the walls of the first story of the Washington street end, which had been taken away for modern improvement, to fit the building for business purposes, were easily replaced with window openings like those above."⁽¹⁹⁾ The same situation applied to the doorway in the west end, which Clough had to reconstruct. Clough adds that "the brick moulded belt courses were easily continued where they had been removed," and the restoration of the exterior was "not of a difficult nature."⁽²⁰⁾

Rogers' doorways on the north and south elevations were retained. Clough probably thought they dated to the 18th century -- as indeed the triangular pediments with dentils might have, since Rogers apparently didn't redo them. Clough's new doorway on the west appears to be a widened copy of these north and south doorways.

From the second story upward, Clough executed his restoration more thoroughly. Everything has an 18th-century appearance, with a few minor exceptions. The wide chimneys at the east and west gable ends, the clock works and the clock's surrounding decoration, and the mullions on the balcony door remain from the 1830's. (There is some photographic indication, however, that Clough may have worked on the chimneys.)

Illustrations 41-44 also show the carved wood figures of a lion and a unicorn that were installed on the steps of the east gable as part of Clough's restoration. Views dated 1750 and 1770 indicate an historical precedent for those royal symbols. Clough defied historical authenticity, however, when he placed the shield of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the state motto on the west end of the Old State House.

Also on the west facade, a gilded eagle was installed sometime between 1882 and 1893, perched on a ball affixed to the center of the chimney coping. An 1893 guide to Boston remarks, "The gilt eagle with the state and city arms, spread over the western front, was placed to appease over-sensitive citizens who were disturbed, or professed to be, by the restoration of the lion and unicorn, in copies, on the eastern gables."⁽²¹⁾ In 1903 the "Gilded Bird of Freedom," made of gilded sheet copper, was taken down and put inside. The soft-coal smoke that issued from the chimney on which it was placed had evidently blackened it so much that it had to be removed.⁽²²⁾

Some deterioration of the building is seen in Illustrations 41-44, particularly in Illustration 41. The paint of the east facade is peeling badly, and the pargeting or "cement wash" on the belt course over the southernmost second-floor window is crumbling. There are also cracks in this pargeting on the second floor of the west facade. Some of the carved keystones around the ox-eye windows are badly eroded, as well.

Sash. Clough restored the sash on the second and third floors, using the c. 1800 Marston painting (see Ill. 12) for the "number of glass in each window." The muntin profiles, he says, came from "a reproduction from the window of the second story, opening upon the balcony at the State-street end."⁽²³⁾ To prove the "original character" of this window, he cites the fact that he found that "The frame of this window, like all other windows about the building, was built solid into the walls and extending back of the same, on two sides and across the top, at least four inches...."⁽²⁴⁾

The sash on the second floor and in the large gable-end windows on the third floor were restored to a 12/12 configuration. The third-floor dormers received 6/6 sash: this should have been 8/8 (Ill. 4). The ox-eye windows were outfitted correctly with eight wedge-shaped panes around a small, circular pane. Clough did not even try to introduce historically correct sash on the first floor, however, in keeping with his generally limited treatment of this level. The 2/2 sash on the north, south and east elevations -- installed c. 1866 -- were retained. The two windows that Clough recreated on the west elevation, after the large shop windows had been removed, received single-pane fixed sash.

Clough does not indicate why he chose a dark paint color for the trim, but that choice is consistent with late Victorian tastes.

Interior. Clough's restoration of the interior, despite his good intentions, was not very colonial, and it caused a major controversy. The following discussion traces his work, and his and Whitmore's justification of their decisions.

The two men based their restoration of the interior, including the circular staircase, on a plan found by Whitmore among Isaiah Rogers' papers in Cincinnati, and on evidence they found in the building. When Clough investigated the interior of the Old State House, he found what he took to be "the exact location of all the original partitions of the second story,...the original underfloors," and indications of "original partition caps" and "position of all the doors."⁽²⁵⁾ "But the most important development of all was the opening up of the original framing in the second floor around the circular staircase...."⁽²⁶⁾ Whitmore adds, in his report, "The plans of the old building and the indications in the woodwork pointed to a circular stairway between the first and second floors."⁽²⁷⁾ Illustration 45, printed in the Re-dedication, is a "Plan of Second Floor/showing Circular Staircase Hall...also representing in dotted lines the original Oak framing around the Staircase opening."

The authenticity of Clough's circular stairway (Pl. 46) as a colonial form, and the division of space on the second floor necessitated by its central location, were challenged by one George H. Moore in 1885. Moore quoted from documents cited in "The Revolutionary Period" section of this report to prove his assertion that the circular staircase and second-floor plan Whitmore and Clough restored were not colonial, but rather dated to 1830.⁽²⁸⁾ Why did architect Clough (and ardent antiquarian William Whitmore, who served on the Committee of Public Buildings and helped to research the building with Clough) misjudge the age of what they found by 90 years?

Although methods of historical investigation of buildings were not as thorough or scientific as they are now, it seems likely that Clough, after four weeks of investigation with the help of a "careful carpenter,"⁽²⁹⁾ would have looked for colonial details had Rogers' 1830 material been intact and in good condition. The fact that he came across 1830 elements in his investigation, and concluded that they were much older, strongly suggests that by then, even Rogers' work had been reduced to fragments. Apparently, very little remained of either Rogers' interior details or structural changes. The interior had been remodeled extensively during the Victorian period (1841-81) for shops, offices, and a restaurant. Clough obviously met a confused interior, mistook the deteriorated Rogers material for 18th-century work, and restored the Old State House accordingly — back only to 1830, not to 1748.

Moreover, Whitmore firmly believed that Isaiah Rogers merely had repaired, not remodeled, the Old State House. He stated, with regard to the "Rogers' Plan" he had found,

The reader can judge whether the architect in making his sketch was adapting existing walls to a new purpose or was making entirely new divisions of the entire floor. No description yet recovered throws the slightest light on this vital point. It must also be added that every authority, save one casual newspaper comment at the date, agrees in calling the changes in 1830 'repairs.'

Whitmore felt that Clough's "careful examination" of existing material in the building and the floor plans (which he thought represented the first and second floors of the Old State House as they existed prior to Isaiah Rogers' "repairs") provided sufficient evidence that the Old State House originally had a circular stairway from first to second floor, and two legislative chambers with anterooms on the second floor.

In addition to restoring the Rogers staircase, Clough evidently retained yet another feature of Rogers' plan -- the curved wall on the east end of the Representatives' Chamber. Illustrations 45 and 47 show the curved partition, and can be compared with Illustration 18. A later view of the Representatives' Chamber, Illustration 48 shows Clough's work and later electric light fixtures.

Along with the framing of the circular stairway, Whitmore and Clough found "existing pieces of wood mouldings..., such as pieces of cornices, bases of pilasters, pieces of old wood mantels, and wood wainscoting connecting with the same, besides the positions of all the old wood grounds upon the brick walls, giving the heights of the cornices, wainscoting, etc...."(30) With this evidence they formed "A very definite idea...of the treatment of the interior wood finish...."(31) Some of the material they found was, very likely, 18th-century material, but in general the interior wood finish that Clough installed was most unacademic.

Illustration 49 depicts the east end of the Council Chamber c. 1893, as restored by Clough. Note that the floorboards run north-south. The trim details chosen by Clough are exceedingly unacademic -- Federal Period motifs, rather than 18th-century designs. A somewhat later view of this end, probably from the early 1900's, is Illustration 50. Here the floorboards run east to west, and electric lighting has been installed.

The west end of the Council Chamber is shown in Illustration 51, with Clough's work intact. A later, 1936 photograph (Illustration 52) shows the center doorway on the west wall of the Council Chamber as Clough restored it.

Naturally, Clough and Whitmore studied early views of the Old State House, and performed first-hand investigation of the fabric of the building itself, in preparation for their restoration work. It is interesting to note that they also made

sketches and a careful study...of all the buildings erected in this vicinity, of about the date of the Old State House; among them several dwellings at the North End, Christ Church, Hancock House, King's Chapel, Royall House at Medford, the Gov. Shirley House at Roxbury, and several public and private buildings at Salem, Newburyport, and Portsmouth...."(32)

The stair balusters, according to a footnote by Whitmore, were "copied from those in Gov. Shirley's house, still standing in Roxbury."(33)

After he completed the restoration, Clough reported that:

The circular staircase has been replaced, the legislative hall and Governor's chamber also restored upon the second floor, with its wooden cornices and dado, carved wood mantels and door-caps, with four anterooms adjoining, and large circular rotunda about the circular staircase between and connecting the legislative departments. The first floor and basement have

been fitted up for office accommodations, to be let in the interest of the city by the Department of Public Buildings, under the order of the City Council. A circular sub-basement, constructed of brick, has been built directly under the rotunda, which supports the partitions of the same, and affords an excellent boiler-room. A steam-heating apparatus has been put in, which heats the entire building. The unsightly chimneys, which in past years have accommodated a large number of stoves, have been removed. The exterior and interior of the building have been refitted in a thorough and substantial manner, and the building will stand for many years to come."(34)

(It should be noted that the circular stairway was extended down to the basement.)

Clough's restoration work looks completely Colonial Revival, of the early type — rather free in design, not scholarly. His work is vitally important, therefore, as an example of a very early restoration.

Completion of the restoration work was celebrated on July 11, 1882. The proceedings at the rededication of the Old State House consisted of short addresses by the mayor, the governor, and a few other notable men, but primarily of a lengthy oration about the Old State House. The rededication proceedings, along with relevant appendices, were published by order of the Boston City Council in 1882. As controversy over the authenticity of the restoration grew, the rededication publication was reissued in new editions (the sixth being printed in 1893), with material added by Whitmore as he defended the 1882 restoration against George H. Moore's charge of historical inaccuracy. The Re-dedication is of vital importance, not only because it contains the arguments about the 18th-century plan of the buildings, but also because it offers much information on the history of the building itself. Appendices F, G, and M of the 1893 edition are especially valuable. Appendix F is a letter from Clough to Alderman William Wooley, Chairman of the Committee in charge of the restoration of the Old State House, in which Clough explicates his research methods and his discoveries. Appendix G has two items: the report of the Committee on Public Buildings on the restoration and renovation work, submitted to the City Council; and the architect's statement of the restoration costs, along with the names of the "mechanics" and firms who did the work. Appendix M contains, after a prefatory note by Whitmore, excerpts from Moore's address before the Bostonian Society in 1885, "Prytaneum Bostoniense," in which he boldly states his chief objection to the 1882 restoration: "No such division of the space on the second floor as the present existed at any time during the official use of the building by the Legislature — Colonial, Provincial, Revolutionary, or State."(35)

The Subway

In 1903-04 and 1907 subway tunnels were excavated under the eastern part of the Old State House (III. 53-56). The construction of the East Boston subway tunnel (1900-04) — and of a related subway station in the basement of the east end of the building — were "among the misfortunes of the Old State House," according to

Sinclair Hitchings. In the 1969 report for the Architectural Heritage group, Elizabeth Amadon recounted the chronology of the subway. The first tunnel and station occasioned very little outcry, protest, or publicity. Although the owners of the nearby Sears Building and the Ames Building did complain about possible damage to their structures' stability, due to the subterranean excavation and/or vibrations of the subway, no evidence has appeared of complaints of danger to the Old State House.

The Bostonian Society was given a new lease to all of the space in the building, except the subway station, in 1903. Curtis Guild, then president of the Bostonian Society, said that he believed the subway station would "not seriously injure the building."⁽³⁶⁾ The reports of the Chief Engineer in the Boston Transit Commission Annual Report, Fourth (August 15, 1898) indicated some of the changes in the Old State House walls that would be caused by the subway and station construction. The easterly ends of the north and south walls were to be opened up to permit pedestrian access to a "lobby." These alterations took place in 1903. To accommodate the ceiling of the station, the "floor of the room over the station lobby was raised about 19 inches and replaced with concrete and steel."⁽³⁷⁾ The raised floor in turn required that all first-floor windows on the eastern half of the building be shortened from the bottom. This nonhistoric action was counterbalanced somewhat by the installation of 12/12 sash in these windows.⁽³⁸⁾ Illustration 57 shows this alteration. This photograph is undated, but must have been taken between 1903 and 1909; it shows the subway entrance on the north, opened for use in 1905, but not the Chandler remodeling of 1909. Although the first-floor windows on the western half are not shown clearly here, other photographs on file at SPNEA reveal that at this time those windows stayed their original length.

Other subway alterations in Old State House fenestration included a change in the east elevation's basement. Instead of a center doorway flanked by windows with 2/2 sash, three small nine-light windows were created directly beneath the three windows on the first floor. These basement windows were constructed with granite surrounds to match those on the basement-level openings around the rest of the building.

Illustration 57 is also the earliest to show a flagpole on the roof, just behind the east chimney.

NOTES

- (1) Proceedings of the Common Council, May 26, 1881. "Debate on the proposition to Renovate the Old State House." City of Boston, Boston Public Library, Prints Department.
- (2) WPA, p. 256.
- (3) Ibid., p. 261.
- (4) Ibid.
- (5) Proceedings, Vol. III, 1895, p. 16.
- (6) Ibid., pp. 7-8.
- (7) Re-dedication (Sixth edition, 1893), p. 157.
- (8) Ibid., pp. 155-56.
- (9) Ibid.
- (10) Ibid.
- (11) Ibid.
- (12) WPA, p. 261.
- (13) Re-dedication, p. 156.
- (14) WPA, p. 261.
- (15) Ibid.
- (16) Re-dedication, p. 156.
- (17) WPA, p. 161.
- (18) Re-dedication, pp. 157-58.
- (19) Ibid., p. 155.
- (20) Ibid., p. 156.
- (21) WPA, p. 261.
- (22) "Gilded Bird of Freedom Goes," (untitled), October 9, 1905, SPNEA clipping file.
- (23) Re-dedication, p. 154.
- (24) Ibid., p. 155.
- (25) Ibid., pp. 152-53.
- (26) Ibid., p. 153.
- (27) Ibid., p. 158.
- (28) "Prytaneum Bostoniense," 1885 edition, pp. 6-14.
- (29) Re-dedication, p. 154.
- (30) Ibid., p. 155.
- (31) Ibid.
- (32) Ibid.
- (33) Ibid., p. 62, n. 20.
- (34) WPA, p. 261.
- (35) Re-dedication, p. 213.
- (36) Proceedings, Vol. V, 1904, p. 18.
- (37) Boston Transit Commission Annual Report, Fourth, August 15, 1898, p. 41.
- (38) Proceedings, Vol. V, 1904, p. 19.

1909-1940: THE CHANDLER RESTORATION AND EARLY 20th CENTURY

The subway became an issue in the history of the Old State House again in 1905, when it was announced that a tunnel was to be built under the Washington Street end of the building. There had been a proposal that part of the western end of the first floor and basement be used as a subway station to serve the new line.(1) Such a use no doubt would have entailed some radical alteration of the lower portions of the west end of the building.

Two years later, in 1907, a number of Bostonians rallied to support legislation that would more securely protect the Old State House from such encroachment. Among others, William Sumner Appleton, founder of the SPNEA, was invited to "a hearing on the petition for legislation to prohibit use of the Old State House for commercial purposes and to promote its preservation, on Friday, March 8, 1907."(2)

The legislation referred to in the message above was passed. Chapter 385 of the Acts of 1907, State of Massachusetts, is titled, "An Act to Provide for the Preservation of the Old Provincial State House in the City of Boston." The Act settled the subway question. The Boston Transit Commission was permitted to continue use of the basement under the eastern end of the Old State House for a subway station, and to use the

space under the western end and beneath the basement floor for transit purposes...provided that no entrance or stairway to the tunnel or subway adjacent to the Washington Street front thereof, and no part of the walls of the old state house above the grade of the sidewalk shall be disturbed.

The second section of the Act called for restoration of the Old State House "as nearly as possible to its provincial condition," so that it could be maintained as "an historic and patriotic memorial." The City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were to share equally the costs of restoring and preserving the building. Provision also was made for enjoining and restraining violation of the Act.

The Chandler Restoration

To accomplish the work, the City Building Department turned to Boston's foremost restoration architect. Joseph Everett Chandler was chosen by the Boston Society of Architects to assist George Morrison, Superintendent of Public Buildings, in drawing up the plans. Chandler already had established a reputation for his work restoring colonial buildings. He worked primarily on domestic buildings, but noted in his book The Colonial House (1916) that even public buildings of the colonial period, including the Old State House, were built on a domestic scale.(3)

According to newspaper articles, Chandler's mandate was "to bring the building back to its original condition, both interior and exterior."(4) As another article in The Boston Herald put it, he was to restore the Old State House "to its original provincial style."(5) The work "original" seems ambiguous, but the Herald article goes on to

specify that the entrances on the west, north, and south "will be made as nearly as possible like those made in 1713." The 1713 date is problematic, since no known views of the Old State House between 1713 and 1747 show much detail. It appears more likely that Chandler used the Massachusetts Magazine views of 1791 and 1793 as inspiration.

Chandler's 1908 drawings (Illustrations 58-66) furnish primary evidence of his work on the Old State House, as discussed below.

Exterior. Chandler's treatment of the exterior of the Old State House affected primarily the basement. He removed the granite foundation facing and tall basement windows of the mid-19th century. He replaced the stone work with a molded brick water table and brick foundation facing all around, and shortened the basement windows. His shorter openings have jack arches like the windows on the upper stories, but do not extend above the water table. In a 1910 letter to Richard W. Hale, Chandler says that he restored "the water table and substructure down to grade" with brick, thereby replacing the granite that had been installed in the 19th century.⁽⁶⁾ Chandler noted on Sheet No. 2 (Ill. 59) of the drawings on both north and south sides, "Remove old Granite Base Course and Window Trim." Precedent for brick foundation facing can be seen in buildings contemporary with the 1748 build of the Old State House, but it is difficult to verify from early views the existence of that treatment on the Old State House itself (see Illustrations 4, 12, et al.).

Illustration 58, "Basement Plan," shows that new light wells were to be constructed for the western windows on the north side of the Old State House, to compensate for the light lost when the old Victorian windows were made smaller. On the south side, one new basement window is shown, just to the west of the south doorway. As this window is to open into a lavatory, it is to have ground glass (Ill. 61). The westernmost basement opening on the south side is shown with a note: "This light area to be suspended across Boiler Room stairs...." (Ill. 61). (The boiler room, which Clough had located in an area below the circular stairs, evidently was moved to the west end.) Finally, Illustration 66 shows that Chandler remodeled the doorways to the subway station.

Chandler also shortened the first-floor windows on the western half of the Old State House (Ill. 60-62) to make them conform to the first-floor windows on the eastern half of the building, which had been shortened when the subway station was built.

Illustration 67 helps confirm that Chandler's work was done substantially as his plans (especially Illustration 62) show. On the north, south, and west doorways (Ill. 65, 68), Chandler's restoration resulted in the removal of earlier material, some installed by Rogers and some by Clough.

The west elevation, shown in Illustration 60, includes a banner with the motto of the Commonwealth on the parapet. The motto that Clough installed was removed, but the motto designed by Chandler does not appear on the Old State House in any views observed so far, including Illustration 68. Chandler apparently planned to "Use old shield..." the angular one installed at the time of Clough's 1882 work, but later views show an entirely different oval one. The eagle was reinstalled on a new perch — an extension of the chimney — that apparently would protect it from smoke. The scrolls in the gable parapet steps are shown in a slightly modified design, which does not seem to have been executed. Illustration 68 also shows that Chandler changed the downspouts on the south facade; here they are square, whereas earlier photographs show them as round.

The Bostonian Society's Committee on Rooms reported that among the 1909 alterations to the Old State House was "...the reconstruction of the historic balcony on the east end," and photographic evidence confirms Chandler's rebuilding of the Clough balcony.(7) The balustrade and console brackets of the Clough balcony clearly differ from those of the Chandler balcony (Pl. 69).

Finally, Chandler removed all paint from the brick exterior surfaces of the Old State House. Evidence for this exists in his 1910 letter to Hale:

Regarding the possible restoration of the Old South Church about which you asked me and which restoration would be chiefly removing the paint from the present brickwork and bringing it back to the old surface, I will say that I have conferred with the man who did the work on the Old State House and he estimates roughly that there are in the building about 14,000 square feet, or 1,500 square yards of brickwork, and that it would be worth \$3. a yard to do, or \$4,500 for this part of the work, and that painting the tower and trims white or nearly so would cost \$500. more, making in all \$5,000.(8)

That the paint on the exterior walls was indeed removed is confirmed by a report in the Bostonian Society Annual Proceedings of 1910.(9)

Interior. Most of Chandler's work inside the Old State House focused on Keayne Hall, the large room at the west end. Plans called for "a wooden paneled dado and a new cornice...while the columns down the center of the room will be of square wooden fluted design...and the deforming radiators will be concealed beneath window seats."(10) Chandler's drawings confirm the existence of all of the above items, and also note "Columns — All New," "Window Finish — All new," and "New Architraves" around the two doors on the curved wall at the east end of the room (Pl. 59). "The whole interior will be painted in white," according to the Boston Herald of October 26, 1908.

An example of Chandler's interior work is seen in Illustration 70. This doorway opens from the rotunda into Keayne Hall. The architrave with bolection molding is part of Chandler's 1909 restoration; the rest of the doorway is Clough's work. The square, fluted columns shown here correspond with Chandler's plan for Keayne Hall.

Chandler also made several changes in the Old State House's basement. Illustration 58 shows a stairway "Down To Boiler Room" on the south side of the southwest corner room of the "Janitor's Room." A partition and some steps south of the circular stairs were removed, and a previous opening closed. Toilet fixtures are shown in the plan, and in fact, the room is still a rest room.

Structure. No major structural revisions in the Old State House occurred during the 1909 work, but Chandler's drawings indicate a few changes in, and additions of, structural elements. In the west end of the basement (Pl. 58), four old cast-iron columns are shown positioned to support the four square fluted columns on the first floor (Pl. 59, 63). Chandler called for the addition of one New 6" Cast Iron Column, in line with these but to their west. This column's function was to support two six-inch, steel I-beams that were placed under the new west entryway (Pl. 64, 65). The I-beams were run diagonally out from the column to the west wall to support the new

granite platform that Chandler introduced as the top step of the doorway. Interestingly, a note on Illustration 65 indicates a previous column in this location. Perhaps one of Chandler's predecessors sought a similar support system.

Concerning the steps themselves, Chandler's drawings (Pl. 64, 65) specify reinforced concrete under all three sets of rebuilt granite steps. The north and south entries, being downhill from the west door, each had an additional flight of iron stringers on the upper level. These Chandler retained: both entries have enclosed vestibules, and the old iron steps didn't show from the outside.

Over the west entryway, Chandler indicated the location of steel I-beams and steel angles to be "riveted on each side to take floor Joists" of the second floor (Pl. 65). The need for a new structural member to carry second-floor joists over the Chandler entry probably means that the Clough entry (see Pl. 43) had a supporting member that was removed in the 1909 remodeling.

Apparently Chandler did no work in certain areas of the building. The drawings as found do not include the tower, attic, or second floor. Most probably Chandler did not disturb Clough's work or earlier material in those areas, except for the second-floor sash and the third-floor sash in the central windows on each gable end.

In January 1910 the Bostonian Society's Committee on Rooms stated in their annual report that "the finishing touches are being made on the Old State House...." As the 1907 Act specified, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston had shared equally in paying for the Chandler work. The following paragraph from the report is a quick summary of highlights of Chandler's restoration:

Briefly stated, the alterations consist of the substitution of brick for stone in the basement story, the placing of new doors and vestibules on the west end and on the north and south sides, the reconstruction of the historic balcony on the east end, new window sashes throughout the building, the entire refinishing of the lower west hall, and the removal of paint from the exterior walls of the building.(11)

Chandler's attempt to reproduce the "provincial" appearance of the building resulted in full-blown Colonial Revival details of great charm. It appears that he used the 1791 Massachusetts Magazine engraving (Pl. 11) as his guide for some of the details, in particular the scroll capitals of the engaged columns flanking the west doorway. His treatment of the columns themselves, however, did not follow the engraving. In addition to this mixing of details, Chandler's Colonial Revival style — like so much of the Colonial Revival work — somewhat exaggerates colonial motifs. For example, the vestibule ceilings of all three entries have both paneling and a Greek key relief. The fluted engaged columns back up against wood rustication. The door jambs also are paneled, and the cornice of the triangular pediments is heavily molded.

1921 Fire

A fire in the Old State House on April 13, 1921, burned primarily the roof timbering and third floor, especially on the north side. Ceilings and interior walls sustained water damage. An article in the Boston Evening Transcript of April 14,

1921, stated that "The flames ate into the air spaces in the walls and mushroomed on the third floor, where they crept along under the peaked roof....At one time flames burst from the gable windows at the ends of the building and the heat destroyed the large clock in that end facing State Street."(12) That statement is not entirely accurate, however; the Simon Willard clock was not destroyed. The clock's works, in fact, still remain in an area over the eastern end of the attic. The article asserted that "much of the roof timbering along the north and east sides" of the building would have to be replaced, and that "a complete renovation of the interior will be necessary." Another article reported that "Practically every ceiling in the building will have to be replaced, as well as many of the walls, and a complete renovating of the interior will be required."(13)

In Illustration 71 one can see clearly that the damage was most severe on the northern side of the third floor. The lower rafter of one of the roof trusses (far right in photograph) shows more charring near the eave than farther up. The radiator shown still survives and has an 1877 patent date; similar radiators appear in early views of the Council Chamber.

Illustration 72 shows how the fire caused lath and plaster in the attic to fall away from the furring. This reveals purlins and roof sheathing that appear to be completely uncharred above a certain level. The upper and lower rafters of the visible trusses, however, look badly charred along the entire length of the portions shown in the photograph. It is clear that the fire burned inside the walls, since the front surfaces of trim pieces show minimal damage.

A substantial portion of the ceiling area in a post-fire photograph (Ill. 73) of the "second-floor west room," or Representatives' Chamber, retains only a few laths and no plaster. The moldings and walls show less damage, however. Clough's interior trim is shown here; the windows have thick-muntined sash, which shows more clearly in the original photograph.

Illustration 74 views the "second-floor east room," or Council Chamber. The ceiling shows extensive cracking and water damage, but the plaster has not fallen. Of particular interest is the east balcony doorway: the heavy mullions as shown in views from 1837 onward are still there. The radiator seen here was removed in 1943 to its present location in one of the window alcoves.

That the tower suffered little damage from the fire is evident in Illustration 75. Except for broken sash, the rest of the material on the eastern side of the tower remained intact. However, the window glass — blackened to the point of opacity — indicates the extent to which the interior of the tower was soiled by smoke.

Although it is not necessary to detail the museum cases and exhibits that were in the Old State House at this time, it is interesting to note that the Evening Transcript article mentions that the 1803 deed by which the State transferred ownership of the Old State House to the City, "escaped damage."

Another article said that the old copper state motto, which "was taken down when the building was being painted and could not be found afterward," was found in a closet on the third floor.(14) The paint job referred to may have been painting done as part of the Chandler work. This reference may explain why the 1910 photographs show that the motto was not on the building at that time.

Other photographs of the area that suffered fire damage are on file at the headquarters of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

1922-1940

Illustrations 76-93 document the Old State House as it appeared in 1932. After the fire an automatic fire alarm system was installed in the Old State House, but not until 1933 was the system extended to cover the entire building.(15) At the same time the wiring throughout the building was checked and new lighting was installed on the third floor, which at this time was divided into two areas -- Blackstone Hall on the east and Winthrop Hall on the west.(16) More modern lighting had been installed in the office of the Secretary (now called the Director) of the Bostonian Society and in the Library during the preceding year.(17)

Other recommendations for fireproofing the Old State House included "wire netting instead of the present wooden laths, and fire stops in the walls, constructed of either brick or hollow tile."(18) Wire lath is currently visible in many areas in the attic.

In 1936 the Old State House was reroofed. A letter -- from Fitz-Henry Smith of the Bostonian Society to the mayor of Boston, John Fitzgerald -- urged that the roof work be completed before the annual meeting of the American Bar Association, scheduled to be held in the Old State House in August. The Superintendent of Public Buildings wrote in a subsequent letter that although getting more expert slate roofers had been difficult, roofers had been hired and would work a double shift in order to finish the job by August 22.(19) The "cupola" and exterior trim also were painted. The several directors of the Bostonian Society at that time protested to the City of Boston that the City's proposal to clean the exterior of the building "would in all probability have been of little lasting benefit and might have resulted in considerable harm to the old plaster and brick work."(20) The Willard clock in the eastern gable was overhauled in 1936, and the building was floodlighted. On the interior, the walls of the exhibit halls were painted and the ceiling "whitened."(21)

The reroofing of the Old State House was done as a WPA project. Another significant project undertaken by the WPA was the documentary research on the history of the building, described on page 2. The focus of the search was on documents that might provide enough information for a restoration of the building "to its original condition." A committee was formed in the mid-1930's to oversee restoration of at least some portion of the building to its original state, but members concluded that "Adequate, comprehensive, and authoritative information and plans are entirely lacking for the basis of such a restoration."(22) By 1938 the WPA researchers had turned up over 2,000 documents, but no original plans of the building. Their compilation of documentary material pertaining to the Old State House remains, nevertheless, a most valuable source of information about the history of the building.

NOTES

- (1) Scrapbook G, p. 201; Scrapbook H, p. 70, Bostonian Society.
- (2) Postcard, 1907, SPNEA Clipping File.
- (3) Chandler, Joseph E.: The Colonial House, p. 97.
- (4) Article, Boston (name cut off), August 27, 1908. SPNEA Clipping File.
- (5) Article, Boston Herald, October 26, 1908.
- (6) Old South Association File, Boston Athenaeum.
- (7) Proceedings, Vol. VI, 1910, p. 22.
- (8) Old South Association File.
- (9) Proceedings, Vol. VI, 1910, p. 22.
- (10) "Old State House Restored to its Appearance in Colonial Days." Boston Globe, October 10, 1909.
- (11) Proceedings, Vol. VI, 1910. p. 22.
- (12) "Old State House Swept by Fire Caused by Cigarette." Boston Evening Transcript, April 14, 1921.
- (13) Article, Boston Evening Transcript, April 15, 1921.
- (14) Article, SPNEA Postcard File.
- (15) Proceedings, Vol. XI, 1934, p. 9.
- (16) Ibid., Vol. X, 1930, p. 10.
- (17) Ibid., Vol. X, 1933, p. 9.
- (18) Article, Boston Evening Transcript, April 15, 1921, p. 6.
- (19) Letters on file at the Bostonian Society.
- (20) Proceedings, Vol. XI, 1936, p. 14.
- (21) Ibid., Vol. XI, 1937, p. 14.
- (22) Ibid.

1941-1977: THE NEW COUNCIL CHAMBER AND LATER WORK

In 1942 the question of restoration came up again, and reference was made to the 1936 discussion. Despite the lack of documents, the decision was made that "what could be done, should be done." Preparations got underway for "changes" to be made in the following year.(1)

In July 1943 restoration of the Council Chamber was undertaken by the architectural firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn. Restoration of this room was not completed until late in 1944, the same year during which a recommendation was made for painting and calcimining the interior of the building.(2) Illustrations 94-100 are copies of interior elevations — showing the changes made in the Council Chamber by Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn — and of full-scale drawings of the new fireplace details. Conover Fitch, who kindly retrieved these drawings from storage vaults, observed that the full-scale drawings appeared to be by Perry himself.

In general the restoration designs of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn are more academic than are those of George Clough, and look considerably more Georgian. Illustration 101, of the eastern end of the Council Chamber, shows the 1943 Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn restoration work, including a new floor. The western wall of the Council Chamber, as shown in Illustration 102, has the Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn center doorway and shows more of their 1943 remodeling. Discussion of the details of the 1943 restoration as they currently appear follows in the section "Dating of Extant Elements."

In restoring the Council Chamber to a more nearly colonial appearance, Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn covered and moved the radiators to different locations under the windows and, as shown by a note in their drawings and by subsequent photographs, buried the pipes. Where necessary, the interior face of the exterior wall was bricked up. They also cut a chase, probably to conceal the heating pipes for the third story that were left exposed before 1943 (Ill. 51). This is inferred from notes in the City Building Department's jacket for the Old State House for the period 1942-1944: the exterior brickwork around the windows was described as "loose due to pounding around windows cutting chase in walls." The Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn interior work was therefore supplemented with exterior repairs. The exterior brickwork was repointed with cement grout. In addition, the deteriorated parging on the belt courses at the second- and third-floor levels was replaced.

* * *

Another "Authentic Restoration for Old State House," relating primarily to the east end of the building, was designed (Ill. 103-105) by architect George Sherwood and carried out under Boston Superintendent of Buildings George F. Donovan in 1956.(3) A Boston Traveler article of the time included a photograph that shows staging to the top of the east gable and around the eastern part of the south side of the building. The "general overhauling on the exterior with original bricks" probably used old but not original bricks. According to the Traveler article, the exterior walls were restored with water-struck brick, selected with "great care, to harmonize with original brickwork below; and great thought has been given to the pointing of the joints of this brickwork."

The Building Department jacket is more explicit about the work done in 1956-57. (All of the following discussion is based on items in the jacket for the Old State House on file at the City Building Department under "208 Washington Street.") In April and May the Building Inspector, M.J. Caddigan, described the condition of the east and west walls: "Parapet wall at each end at several points above 3-brick belt course is seriously deteriorated." In addition, he mentioned loose and fractured brickwork around the circular windows and around the clock; loose brick beneath the bluestone cap on the parapet wall; and the need to brace the lion, unicorn, and flagpole. He recommended replacement of the lintel over the "first-floor window left side" (presumably on the east wall), and the raking and repointing of all brickwork. In October 1956 there was an additional recommendation for pointing on east and west elevations, and replacement of parging on north and south elevations. Sixteen recommendations were sketched out in a letter from Inspector Caddigan dated October 25, 1956:

1. Rebuild entire parapet above roofline west end
2. Rebuild all other wall areas indicated in red 8" deep (no drawings in jacket)
3. West chimney
4. Flue — terra-cotta
5. Remove one course of brick below all window sills to a depth of 8"
6. Repair copper gutter
7. Repoint all existing brickwork
8. Eagle
9. Provide steel /s covered with fabric flashing
10. Remove all staff beads and replace with new
11. Remove bed mold of main cornice, north and south, and replace or salvage
12. Remove and replace 500 defective bricks
13. Repair six window sills — coat with L.C. copper
14. Muntins in 2 south windows
15. New molded brick water table at northwest corner
16. Replace four existing rubbed brick lintels with new to match

One of the major 1957 alterations in the appearance of the Old State House was replacement of the clock with a sundial (Pl. 106). The clearest early representation of the east end of the Old State House showing a sundial is Marston's painting of c. 1800 (Pl. 12). Installation of a sundial was intended to create a more 18th-century appearance for the building. Exactly what constituted an 18th-century appearance was a matter of some confusion, however. Edwin W. Small of the Boston Historic Sites Commission wrote a letter to the Boston Sunday Herald of January 6, 1957, entitled "Provincial Condition for Old State House." In it, he debated the issue of what "provincial" means, and concluded that it referred to the appearance of the building before 1798. Small somewhat optimistically said that "most of the exterior brickwork remaining in the building today is that of the Second Boston Town House as erected after the great fire of 1711." He observed that "urgent repairs to the walls" were needed first, and that "attention can then be given toward achieving a reasonably accurate restoration of the interior on the basis of scientific study and historical research." Although no such ambitious restoration was undertaken, the sundial did seem a step in the right direction.

The gilded eagle, installed on the west chimney of the Old State House in 1882, was moved to a location under the west attic window in the mid-1930's. In 1958 it was removed and reinstalled, and again in 1964; in 1964 it was regilded.(4)

The Building Department jacket for the Old State House shows that in June 1958 a permit was issued for removing loose and defective brick and masonry, and for construction of staging for inspection of the Old State House. Less than two months later, another permit was issued for putting steel angles over the second-floor windows, removing loose brick on the parapets and rebuilding the caps, replacing two circular windows, lining the chimney with eight-by-12-inch flue lining, and painting the "entire front return."

The most recent item in the jacket is a note dated April 1, 1968, expressing concern over the possibility of unsafe conditions of the circular stair. In 1969 the weak condition of the circular stairway again was emphasized in a report on the Old State House prepared by Architectural Heritage (Frederick A. Stahl and his associates). That report included a Summary of Investigations of the building by LeMessurier Associates (John Coote and Juris Anderson). Some of the working plans used for structural work done in 1975-76 are included here as Illustrations 107-112.

The most recent alterations to the Old State House are taking place at the basement level on the east end, in the subway station. A complete set of plans and drawings for this work is available at the Bostonian Society. The remodeling of the interior of the subway station is of little importance to this report, but the basement window openings and subway entrance that also are being reworked (Pl. 113) are relevant. The primary subway entrance will be located at the eastern end of the south facade. An emergency exit will be located at the eastern end of the north facade. On the north and south elevations, the basement window openings have been rebuilt with new brick jack arches, in line with Chandler's basement windows on the west half of north and south facades. On the east elevation, the three basement windows have lost their functional properties: behind each sash is a metal box painted black to create an illusion of interior space.

NOTES

- (1) Proceedings, Vol. XIII, 1943, p. 9.
- (2) Ibid., Vol. XIII, 1944, p. 10.
- (3) Article, the Boston Traveler, November 1, 1956, p. 45.
- (4) Loose newspaper clippings, Bostonian Society scrapbook (unlabeled).

SUMMARY

This brief discussion of the site of the Old State House, and of the chronology of major architectural changes in the building from 1712 to the present, serves as an overview of the history of the building.

17th Century

The site on which the Old State House stands has served a public purpose since the 1640's. Documentation strongly suggests a marketplace at the intersection of present-day Washington Street and a wide "way" — now State Street — that led west from some early wharves. Even then this latter street divided to embrace the north and south sides of the site, such that the shape of the lot, relatively long and narrow along an east-west axis, was as it is now.

In about 1658 a wooden Town House was built on the site. Robert Keayne, who left money to construct a town house, specified that the building house "some necessary things of public concernment..., a marketplace..., a convenient room or two for the Courts to meet in both winter and summer, and also for the townsmen and commissioners of the town; ...and a gallery or some other handsome room for the elders to meet in and confer together."

About six weeks after this frame Town House burned to the ground in 1711, the freeholders and other qualified residents of the Town of Boston met and voted to concur with a proposal put forth by the General Assembly that a new Town House be erected "in or near" the place where the former Town House had stood.

The First Period, 1712-1747

By May of 1712 a cornerstone for the new building on the old Town House site was laid, and — despite the ravages of Revolutionary vandals, fires, and time — some portions of the exterior brick walls of the present Old State House probably date to this build. The years from 1712 to 1747 comprise the first period in the history of the Old State House. Although all depictions of the building in this earliest period are relatively imprecise, taken together they do suggest a rectangular building with a gambrel roof, central tower or cupola, stepped gables, and two ox-eye windows at third-floor level in the east end. It appears that the south facade had a single central entrance, and that the east facade had a second-story balcony. Documentary evidence indicates that at least some of the basement space was rented for storage, and that the first floor — used as a merchants' exchange — was a single, large, open room with a row of 10 columns down the middle and two small offices on the north side, under two stairways. These stairways led to three chambers on the second floor: a chamber for the royal governor and his council on the east; a larger room for the General Assembly in the middle, with stair lobbies on either end; and a smaller chamber for the Suffolk County courts on the west. Some use may have been made of the third or attic floor for committees of the General Assembly and for meetings of the Selectmen of the Town of Boston. In 1747 fire destroyed all of the building except the exterior walls. These were saved, and the Old State House soon was rebuilt within them.

The Revolutionary Period, 1748-c. 1800

From 1748 to c. 1800 the Old State House, as it was rebuilt after the 1747 fire, changed relatively little. The 1748 build retained the surviving brick walls, with exterior dimensions limited to 110 feet by 36 feet to enable traffic to flow in an east-west direction around the building. Some of the changes that did occur reflected political events. Figures of a lion and unicorn — symbols of royal authority — appeared in the steps of the east gable around 1748. In July 1776 they were pulled down, not to reappear until the 1882 restoration. Inside, a gallery was built in the Representatives' Chamber in 1766, which permitted the public to witness debates on such inflammatory issues as taxes, duties, and the impressing of sailors. After 1776 the Representatives' Chamber was enlarged to the west, to accommodate the increased number of delegates to that House of the newly formed state government.

In views of the Old State House during this period, the roof is shown clearly as a pitched roof, with five dormers on each slope. The tower has three stages, the upper two with round-headed windows on all four sides. Scrolls appeared in the gable steps on both east and west ends in the views of the 1790's. Although each of the many views up to c. 1860 shows the scrolls with slightly different curves, scrolls remained the decorative motif in the east gable steps until their replacement by the lion and unicorn in 1882. Later scrolls still remain in the west gable steps. One architectural element that appears to have survived from the 18th century — possibly even from 1714 — is the swallow-tailed banner weathervane atop the tower.

The east elevation of the Old State House appears to have had an entrance to the first floor that — due to the slope of the site to the east — was at the head of a flight of stone steps. Above the entrance was a balcony, with a door leading out from the Council Chamber. This door was ornamented with a dentillated segmental pediment supported by a pair of fluted Corinthian pilasters. From this balcony many significant public announcements were read, including the Declaration of Independence on July 18, 1776. A balcony in that location has been one of the constants in the appearance of the east facade, absent only for about 50 years (1830-82). In the gable peak on the east end, above the third-floor window over the balcony, was a sundial; this apparently was replaced by a clock c. 1825.

Fenestration on the first, second, and third floors was very nearly the same in the second half of the 18th century as it is today. The window openings are in the same locations, but the first-floor windows were longer then, having been shortened in the early 20th century to accommodate the subway station. Sash very likely was 12/12, except in the dormers, the ox-eye windows, and the round-headed windows of the tower.

Openings at the basement level were changed a number of times. It appears that during the second half of the 18th century there were two small doors on the basement level in the east end, on either side of the stone stairway. On the south elevation (and probably the north as well) views show small, wooden-shuttered openings and bulkheads.

The north, south, and west doorways apparently were flanked by slender engaged columns and surmounted by triangular pediments. The capitals of the columns, or "colonets," as Hugh Morrison called them, were shown on the west doorway in 1791 as scroll brackets. On the south doorway a 1751 view shows rather strange, flattened capitals. The doorways have undergone a series of revisions and alterations since 1748.

Other exterior elements from this period — including the brick belt courses, the jack arches over the windows, the quoined corners of the first stage of the tower, and the four keystones of the ox-eye window surrounds — remain substantially unaltered even today.

In 1798 the state government moved to the State House built by Bulfinch, and the Old State House, as it was then called, underwent nearly a century of adaptation and revision.

The Early Commercial Period, c. 1800-1829

By 1804 the building had been modified, both inside and out, to accommodate shops. The first-floor west end of the Old State House — as it appears on a trade card of that time — had two doorways rather than one, and arched windows. The same view appears to show three doorways on the south facade of the Old State House, and the Salmon painting of c. 1830 shows at least three doorways on the north facade. The large first-floor doorway and steps on the east were removed.

The second and third floors were used by the Order of Masons from 1820-29. Some offices of the city government — for example, the Board of Health, with Paul Revere as President — also occupied rooms in the Old State House.

The City Hall Decade, 1830-1840

In 1830 the City of Boston had the Old State House remodeled for use as the City Hall. Architect Isaiah Rogers and his assistant, William Washburn, added one-story Classical Revival porticos to the east and west facades. They also restored a single, central doorway to the first floor of the west facade, and may have reopened the old first-floor east doorway, to lead onto the main level of the portico. During this period, the c. 1825 clock face in the east gable was surrounded by decoration.

The interior also was remodeled in accord with the taste of the time, most probably as it is shown in the "Rogers' Plan" (Ill. 18). Rogers' design included a circular stairway in the middle of the first floor. The west end of the first floor housed a post office; the middle portion of the first floor, an area for merchants; and the east end, a reading room and newsroom. City officials had their offices in small rooms around the stair rotunda on the second floor, and on the third floor. Larger rooms on the second floor were designed by Rogers for the Mayor and Aldermen on the east, and for the City Council on the west.

Rogers' work was in no way a restoration. His intent was not to restore the building to any previous plan or appearance, but rather to render it "suitable and convenient" for use by the government of the City of Boston. Nor was his work limited to "repairs," as the architect of the 1882 restoration thought likely.

Use of the Old State House as the City Hall lasted only 10 years.

The Victorian Era, 1841-1881

From 1841 to 1881 the Old State House was leased for commercial use, and was occupied by an ever-increasing number of offices, shops, and even a restaurant. The 1830 portico on the west elevation was removed in the late 1840's, and a rather fancy iron balcony was installed across the facade at second-floor level. The doorways and windows at first-floor level here were remodeled after 1848: by 1850, views show a single center doorway flanked by large shop windows.

Large store windows also appear on the east facade c. 1850, but at the basement level beneath the east portico, which remained until c. 1880. At this time it was removed and a large entranceway built, with stairs rising from the street to the first-floor level into a deeply recessed doorway.

At some time in the 1840's the basement windows on the north and south facades were lengthened and given projecting granite surrounds, and the entire foundation was faced with granite. On the north and west slopes of the roof, early-Victorian era views show four tall chimneys. These remained even after the Old State House acquired a mansard roof, 2/2 sash, and even more signs between c. 1866 and c. 1870. In America's Centennial year, the building was in its most eclectic state.

In the late 1870's, as in nearly every other period of the building's history, the Old State House was criticized for obstructing traffic and threatened with demolition. After considerable debate, the City of Boston was persuaded in 1881 to budget funds to restore the Old State House to a more "historic" appearance, and to lease the second and third floors to the newly formed Bostonian Society.

The First Restoration, 1882-1907

Restoration of the upper levels of the building was completed in 1882 under direction of City Architect George A. Clough, with considerable assistance from antiquarian William H. Whitmore. By 1894 most of the entire building was leased to the Bostonian Society, which has used the space ever since for the storage and exhibition of items pertaining to the history of Boston, for its own offices, and for a valuable reference library. Subway tunnels running under the east, north and west sides of the basement were constructed in 1900-04 and 1907, and a subway station — still in use — opened in 1905 in the eastern half of the basement.

Clough's restoration, although based on architectural and historical investigation of the building, was not strictly colonial. In restoring the circular stairway and associated plan on the second floor, he was going back only to what was very likely Rogers' 1830 plan. Clough redesigned the entire interior, but only Whitmore Hall, the staircase and second-floor anterooms, the Representatives' Chamber, and the attic remain largely as he designed them.

Concerning the exterior, Clough restored a pitched roof with dormers. However, he put 6/6 sash in the dormers, not 8/8 as shown in the 1751 view. He replaced, but evidently did not redesign, most of the material on the exterior of the second and third stages of the tower. Finally, he introduced 12/12 sash on the second floor, and recreated a balcony on the east elevation, second floor.

On the east facade at the basement level, he took away the shop front, but retained the arrangement of a center doorway flanked by two windows. He replaced the shop front with granite foundation facing and projecting window surrounds to match those introduced on the north and south facades in the 1840's. At this time, the first floor had original window openings but 2/2 sash. When the subway station was constructed 1900-04 in the east half of the basement, the ceiling there was raised 19 inches, and large doorways were opened at the east end of north and south elevations. The raised ceiling caused the interior height of the first floor to be diminished, at least at the east end; window openings there had to be shortened, but the installation of 12/12 sash in them helped minimize their visual divergence from the longer, 12/12 windows on the second floor.

A large flagpole mounted on the roof just behind the east chimney appears in a c. 1906 view, and a flagpole remains in that position at present.

The 20th Century

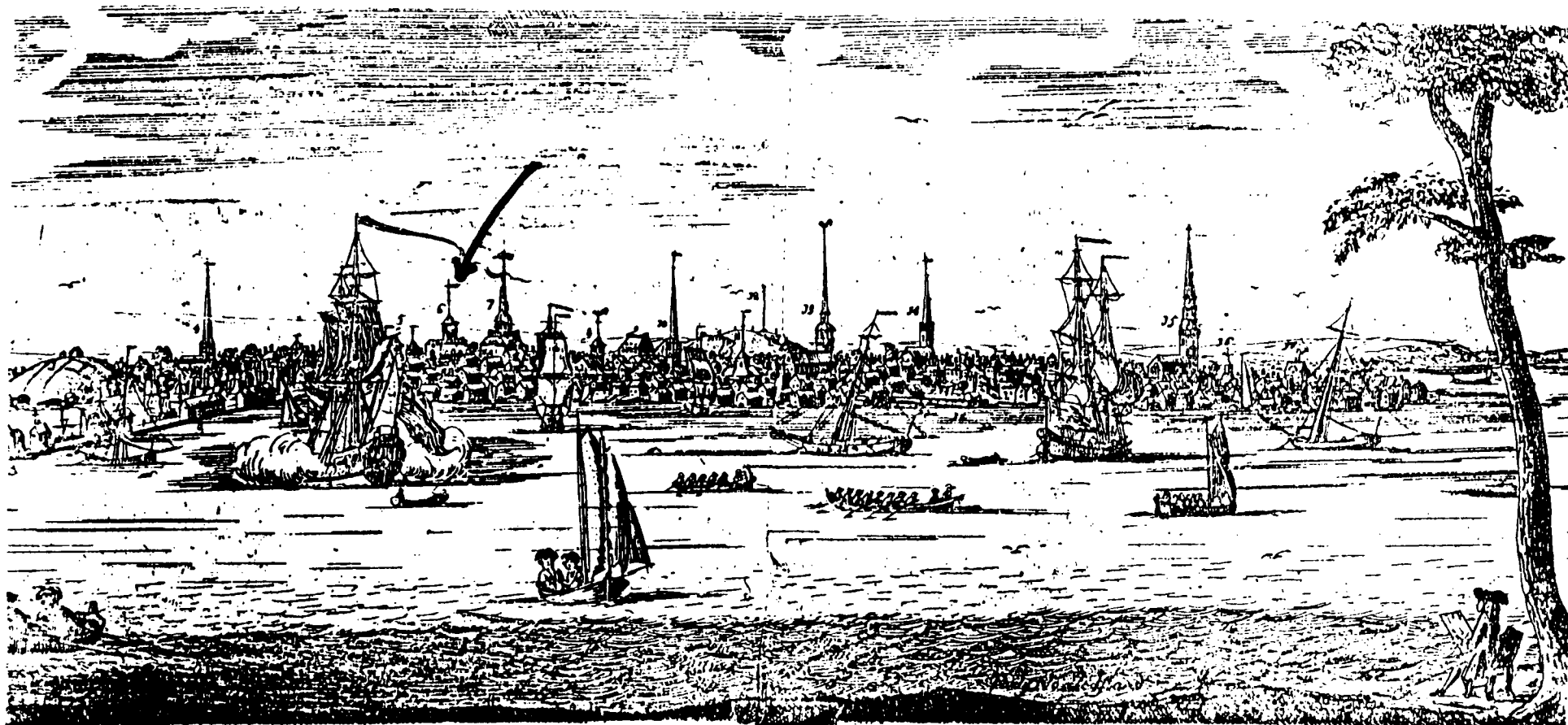
The Massachusetts legislature passed "An Act to Provide for the Preservation of the Old Provincial State House in the City of Boston" in 1907. Not long afterward, another major restoration of the Old State House was undertaken, this time by Joseph Everett Chandler, a well-known colonial-restoration architect. He worked primarily on the western end of the first floor: outside he shortened the windows and installed 12/12 sash to make them match the first-floor windows on the east; inside he remodeled Keayne Hall. He also shortened the basement window openings on the north and south elevations, which had been elongated during the mid-Victorian commercial period. On all the basement elevations, he removed the granite foundation facings and window surrounds, and restored a brick water table above a brick foundation. Above the basement, Chandler rebuilt Clough's balcony on the east elevation, but did not alter its doorway's pediment or sash. He did redesign the north, south, and west doorways, which remain today substantially as he reconstructed them. In addition, he had all paint removed from the exterior brickwork.

In 1910, sash throughout the Old State House was altered: Clough's thin muntins were replaced with muntins of thicker, Colonial Revival profile. A fire in 1921 damaged the attic, especially the north side. The tower was soiled by smoke, and the second floor sustained some water damage. Repairs were made immediately.

Some years later, in 1936, the slate roof was renewed. In 1942-43 the firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn restored the Council Chamber to a more "colonial" appearance by removing Clough's trim and substituting their own reproduction work. The balcony window/door dating from the 1830's was not altered.

In 1957 architect George Sherwood designed a sundial that was installed in the east gable end of the Old State House, and repaired and restored deteriorated areas of brickwork on the east and west facades. The firm of Stahl/Bennett worked on the stabilization of the tower and roof framing in 1975, and strengthened the circular stairway. In 1977, the MBTA began renovating the east-end subway station.





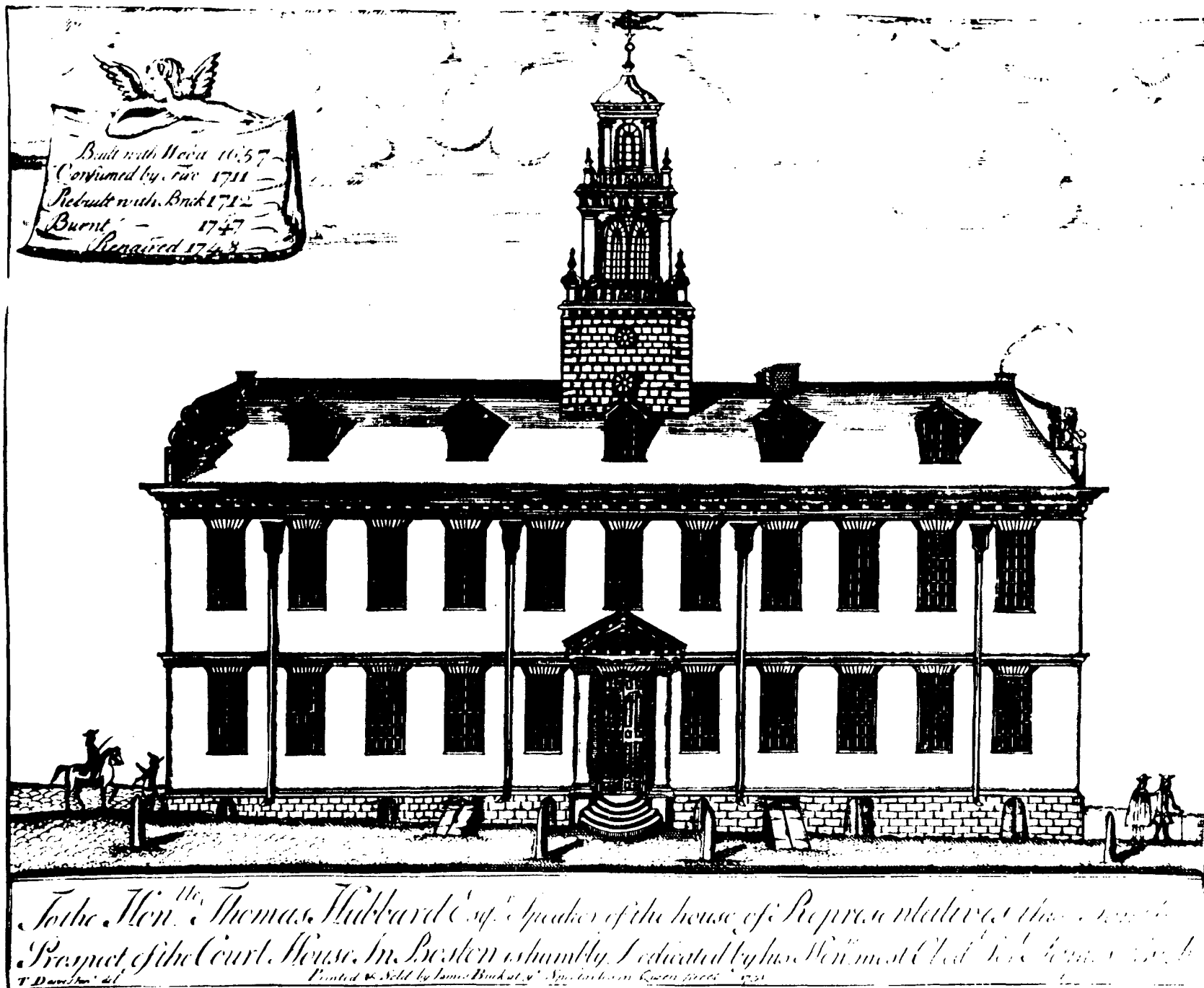
North East View of the Great Town of B
 1. 2 South Battery, 3 Long wharf, 4 New South Meetinghouse, 5 the Old South, 6 The Town House, 7 the Old Meeting house, 8
 9 the Old State House, 10 Brattle Street Church, 11 Old North, 12 Bacon hill, 13 New North Brick, 14 New North, 15 Christ Church, 16 Cap. Greenough house, 17 M. Ru

Illustration 2. Detail Showing Old State House (possibly 1723).



Illustration 3. Detail Showing Old State House (1743).

Illustration 4. "...South Prospect of the Court House in Boston" (1751).



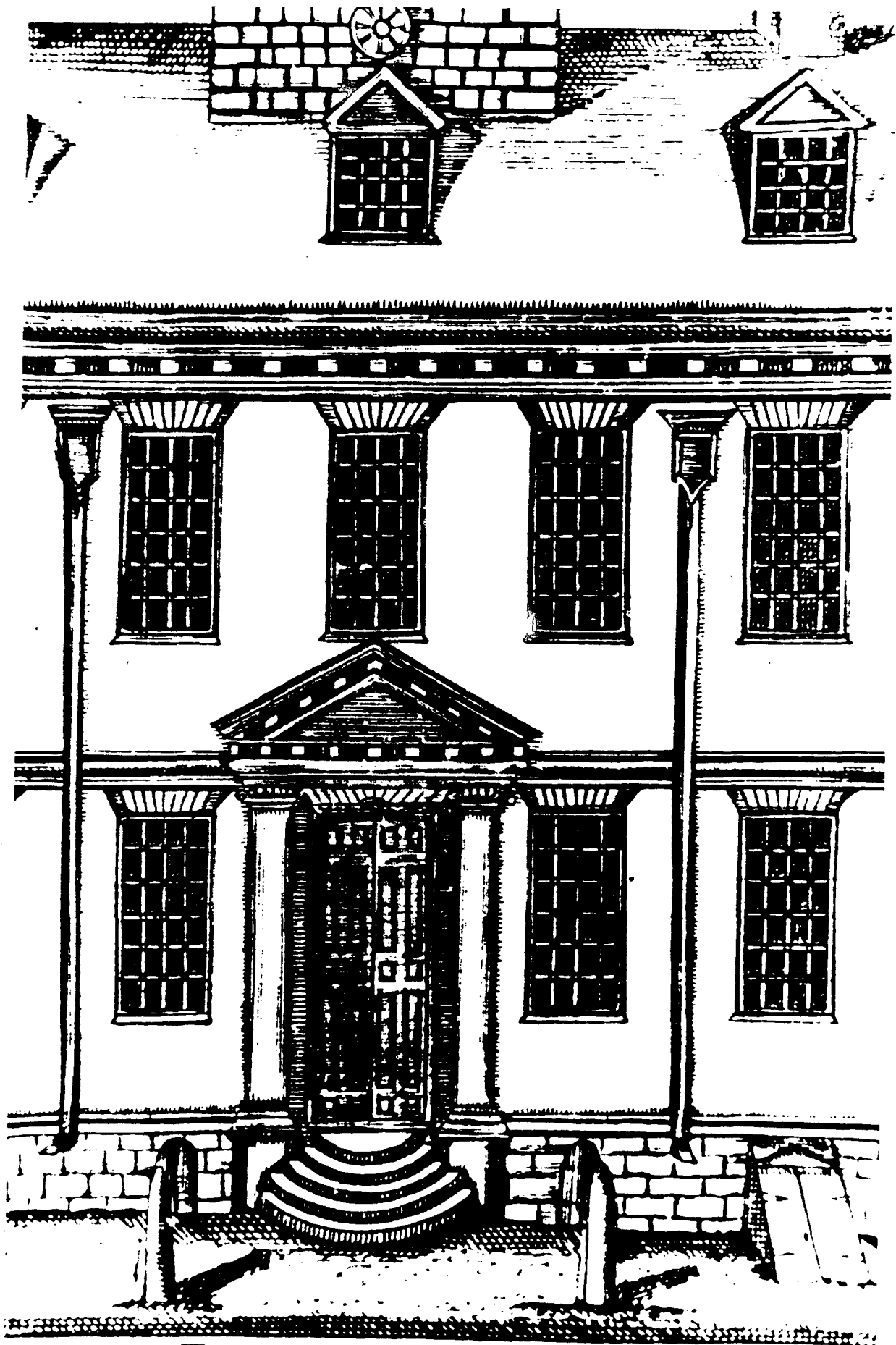


Illustration 5. Detail of South Entrance, Old State House (1751).

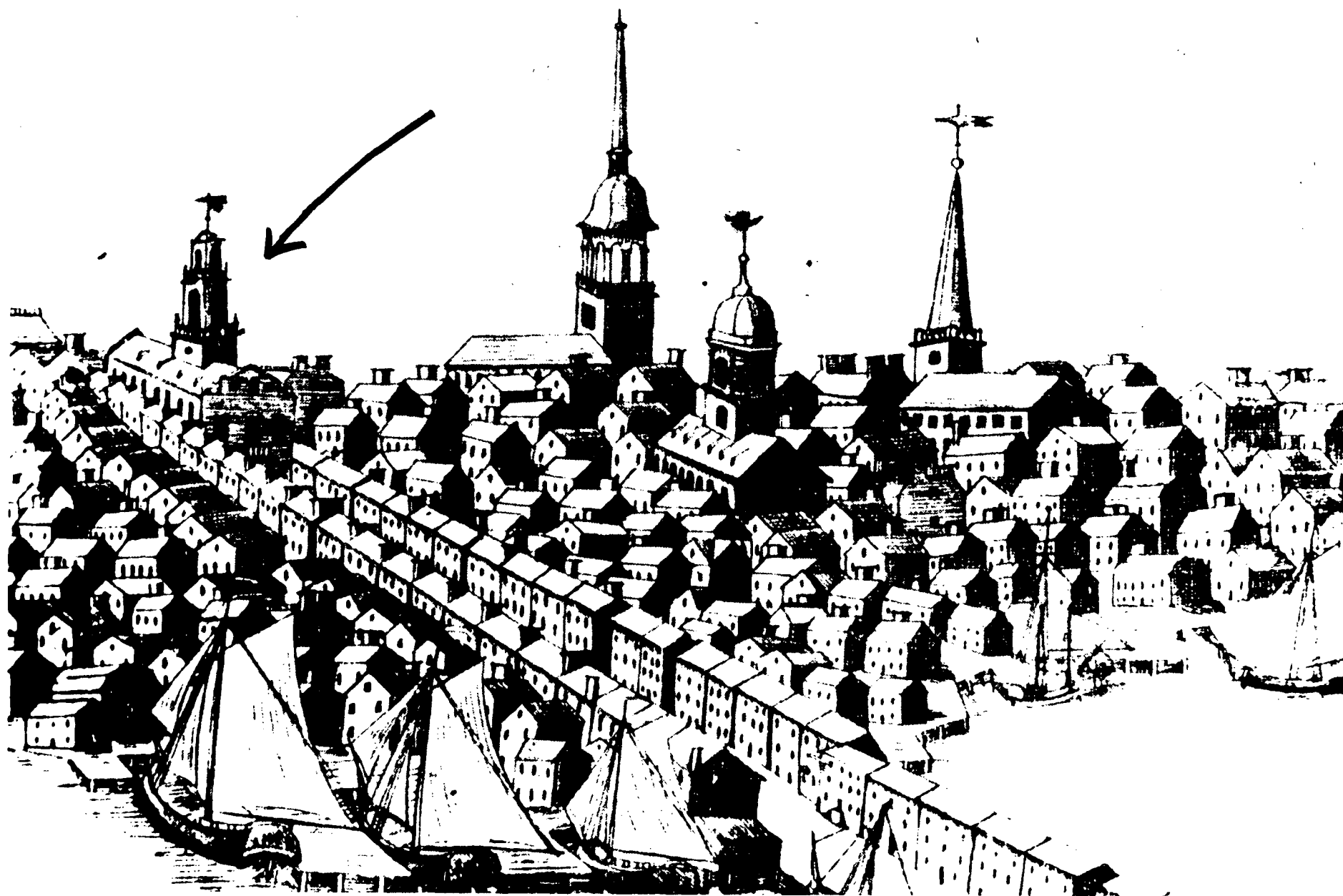
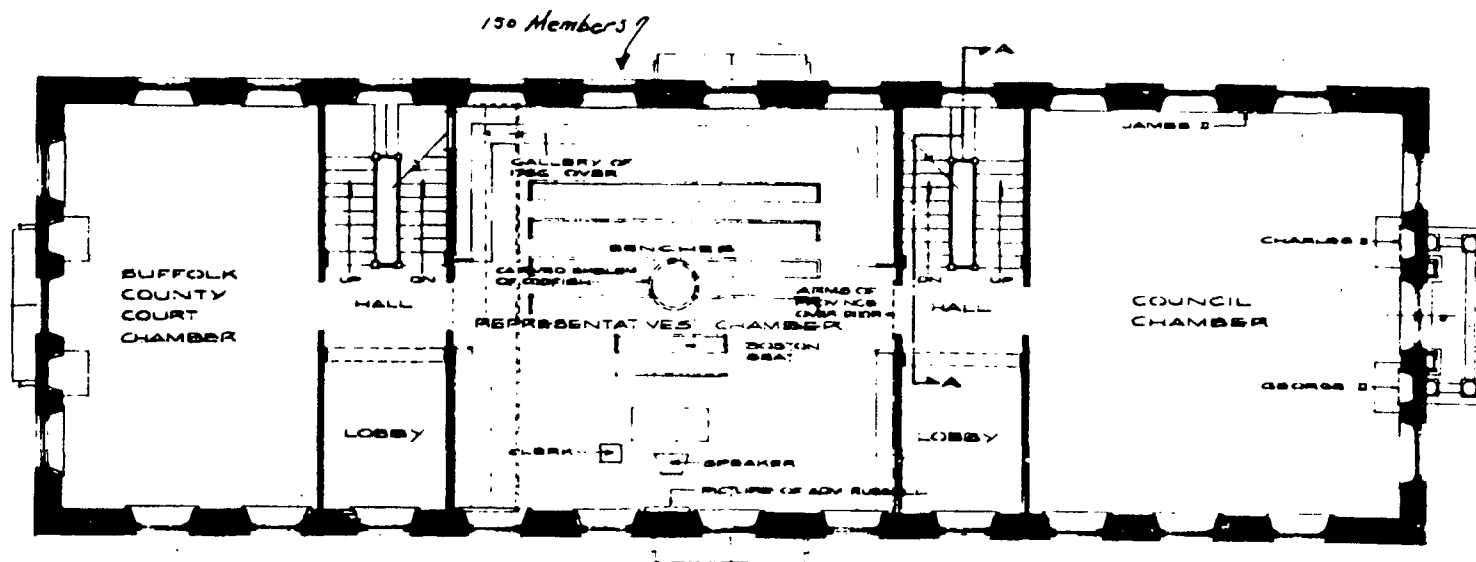


Illustration 6. Detail Showing Old State House (1768).



PROPOSED RESTORATION OF THE
OLD STATE HOUSE - SECOND TOWN HOUSE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

01 134 007690
SCALE

PREPARED BY
THE BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION
EDGAR T. WALKER - CONSULTING ARCHITECT

NOV. 16, 1956

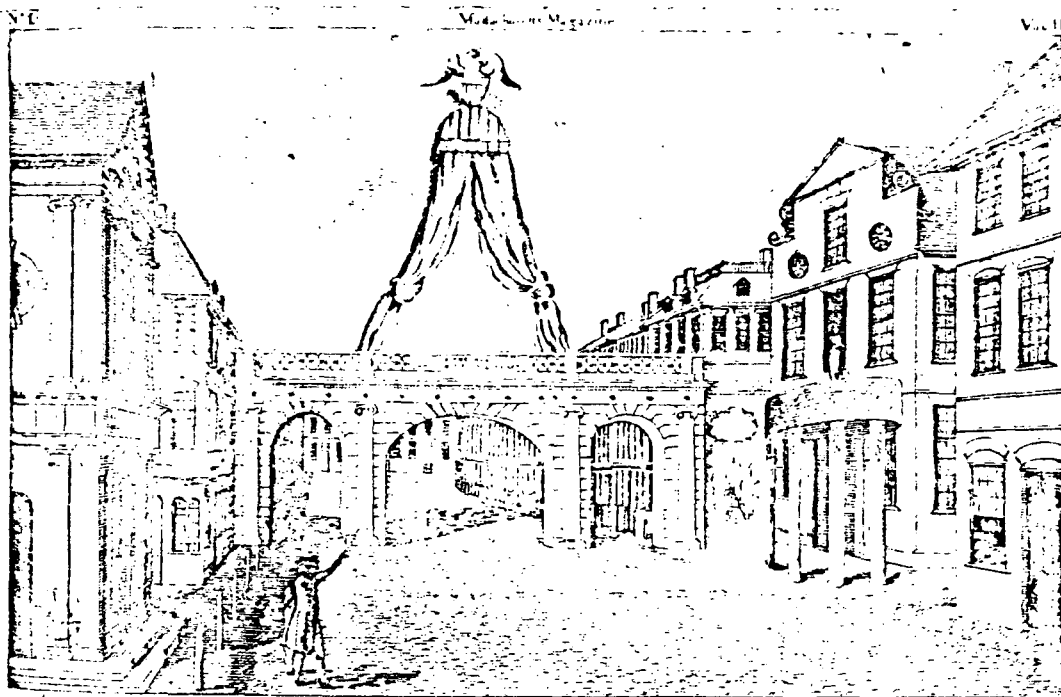
Illustration 7. "Proposed Restoration of the Old State House...Second-Floor Plan" (1956).

[illegible]

MASSACRE perpetrated in King-st Street *BOSTON* on March 5th 1770.



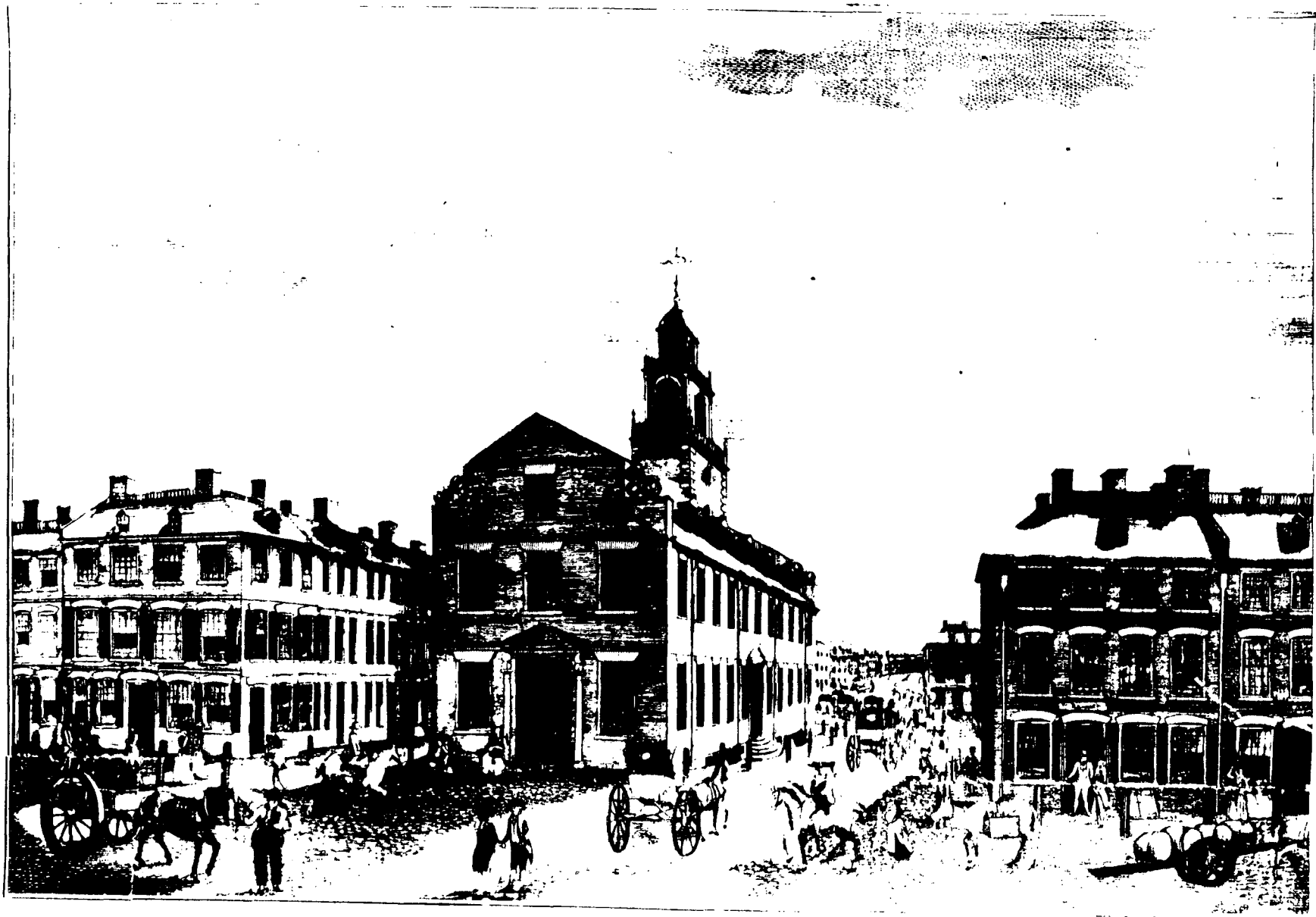
Illustration 9. Detail Showing Old State House (1770).



View of the triumphal ARCH and COLONNADE erected in BOSTON.

83. View of the triumphal Arch, 1790

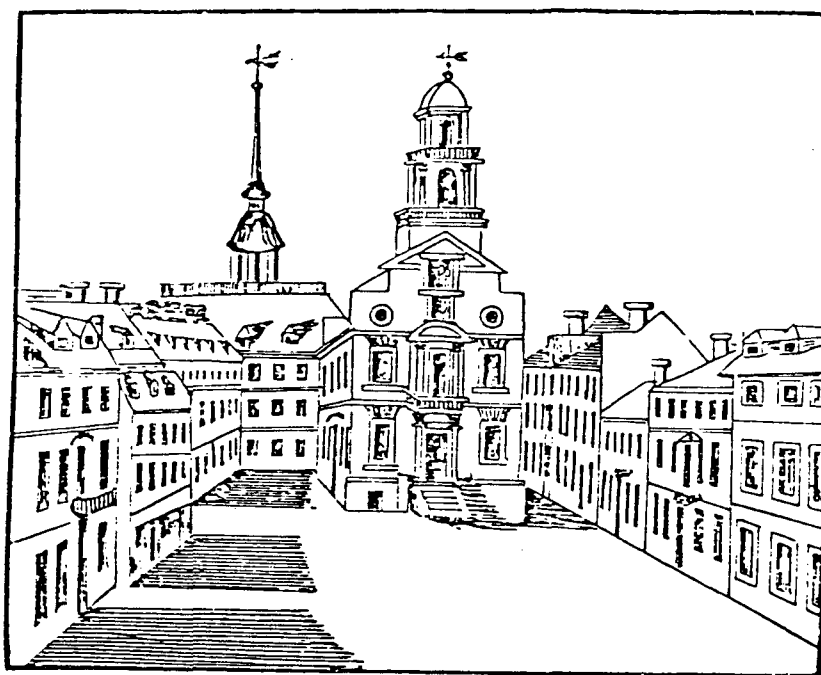
Illustration 11. "A S.W. View of the State House in Boston" (1793).



A S.W. View of the STATE HOUSE *in 1793*

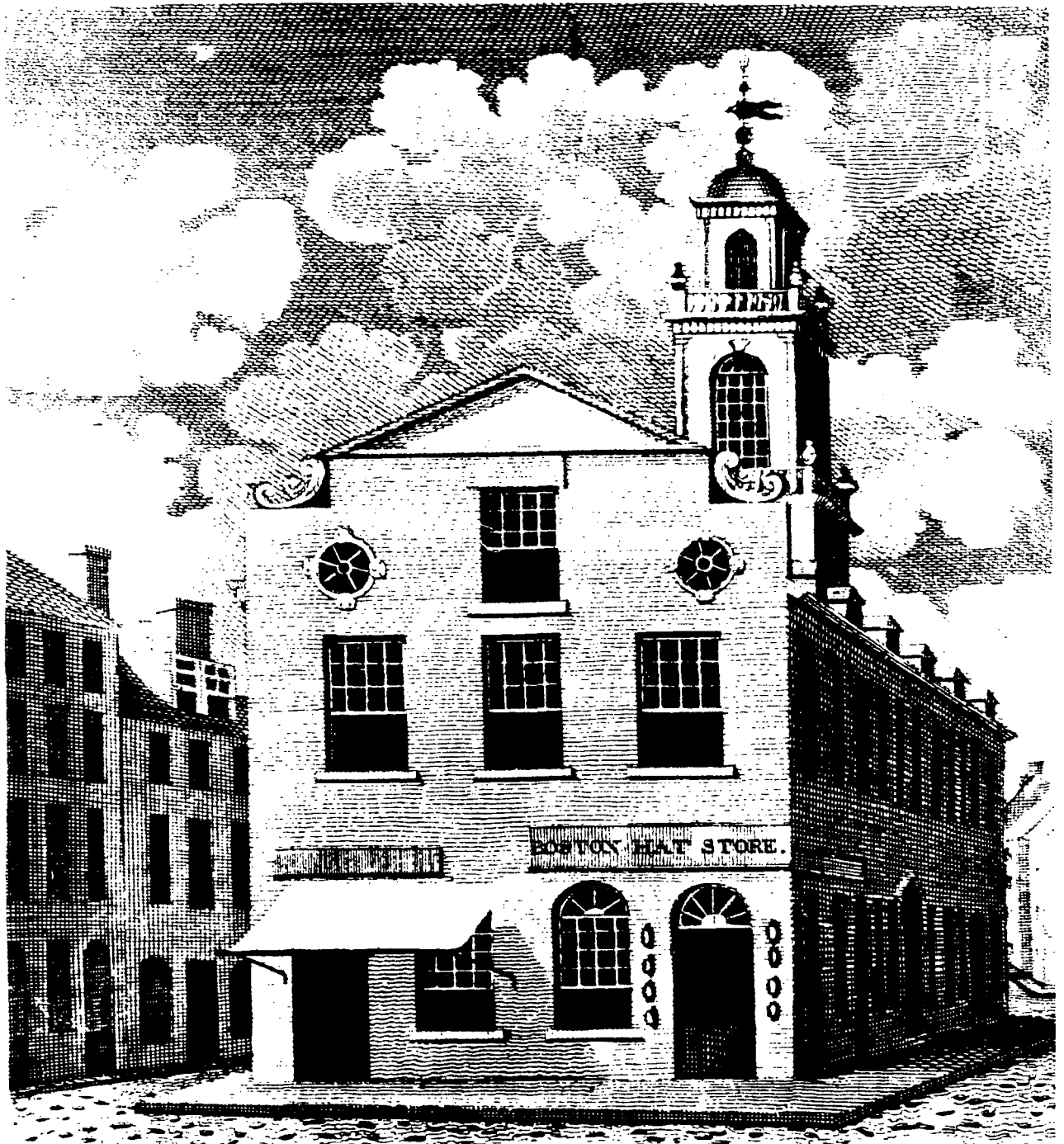
Illustration 12. East Elevation of Old State House (c. 1801).





OLD STATE HOUSE IN 1785. (From the Cover of the Boston Magazine.)

Illustration 13. East Elevation of Old State House (1785).



WILLIAM BARRY.
 No. 1 Old State House,
 (BOSTON.)
Hats, Furs, Trimmings &c.

Albion S.

Illustration 14. West and South Elevations of Old State House (c. 1807-29).



ENGRAVED FOR THE HISTORY OF BOSTON.

HENRY BOWEN, 1817

OLD STATE HOUSE.

Illustration 15. East and North Elevations of Old State House (1817).



VIEW OF THE EAST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE

Illustration 16. East and North Elevations of Old State House (1825).

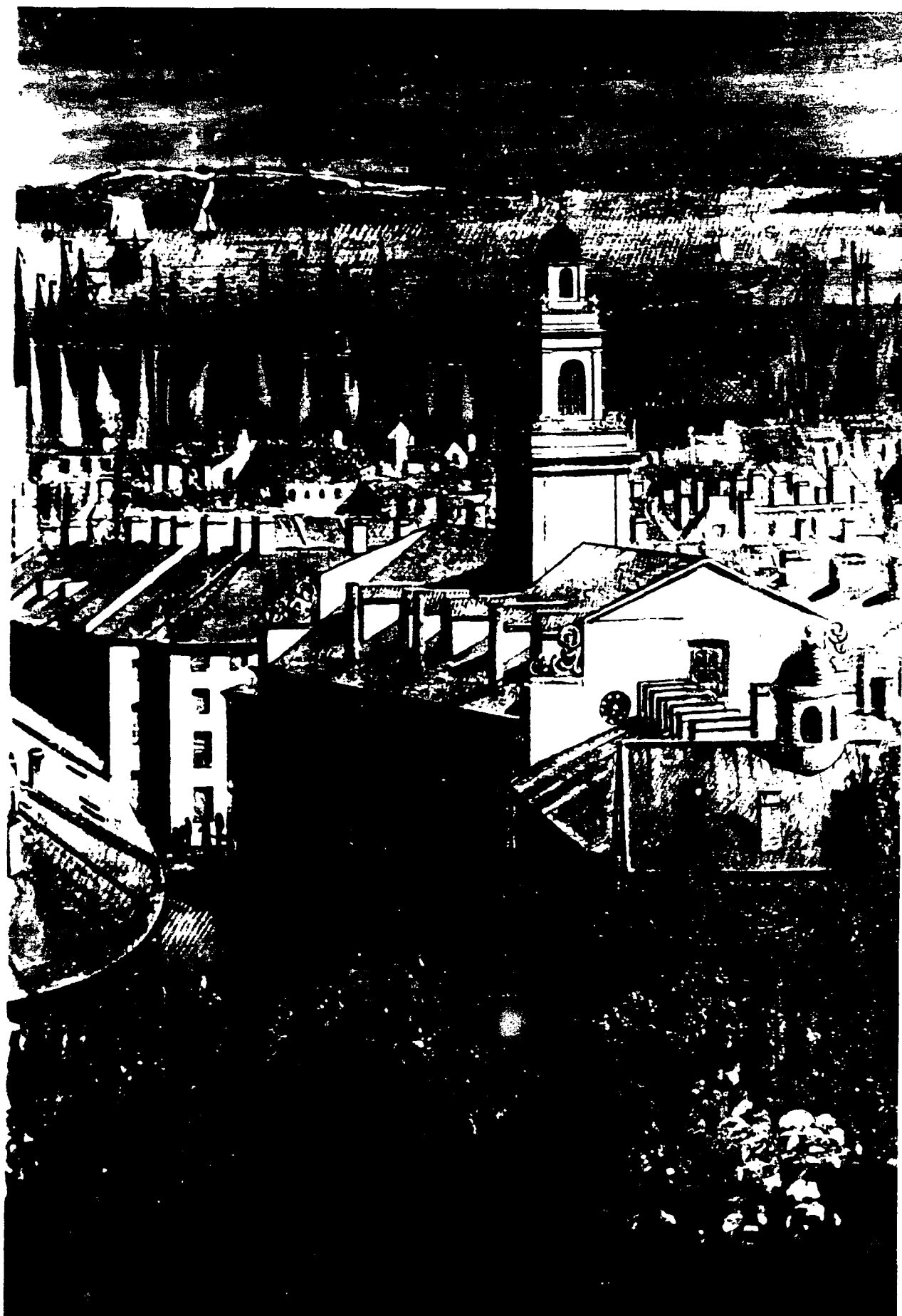
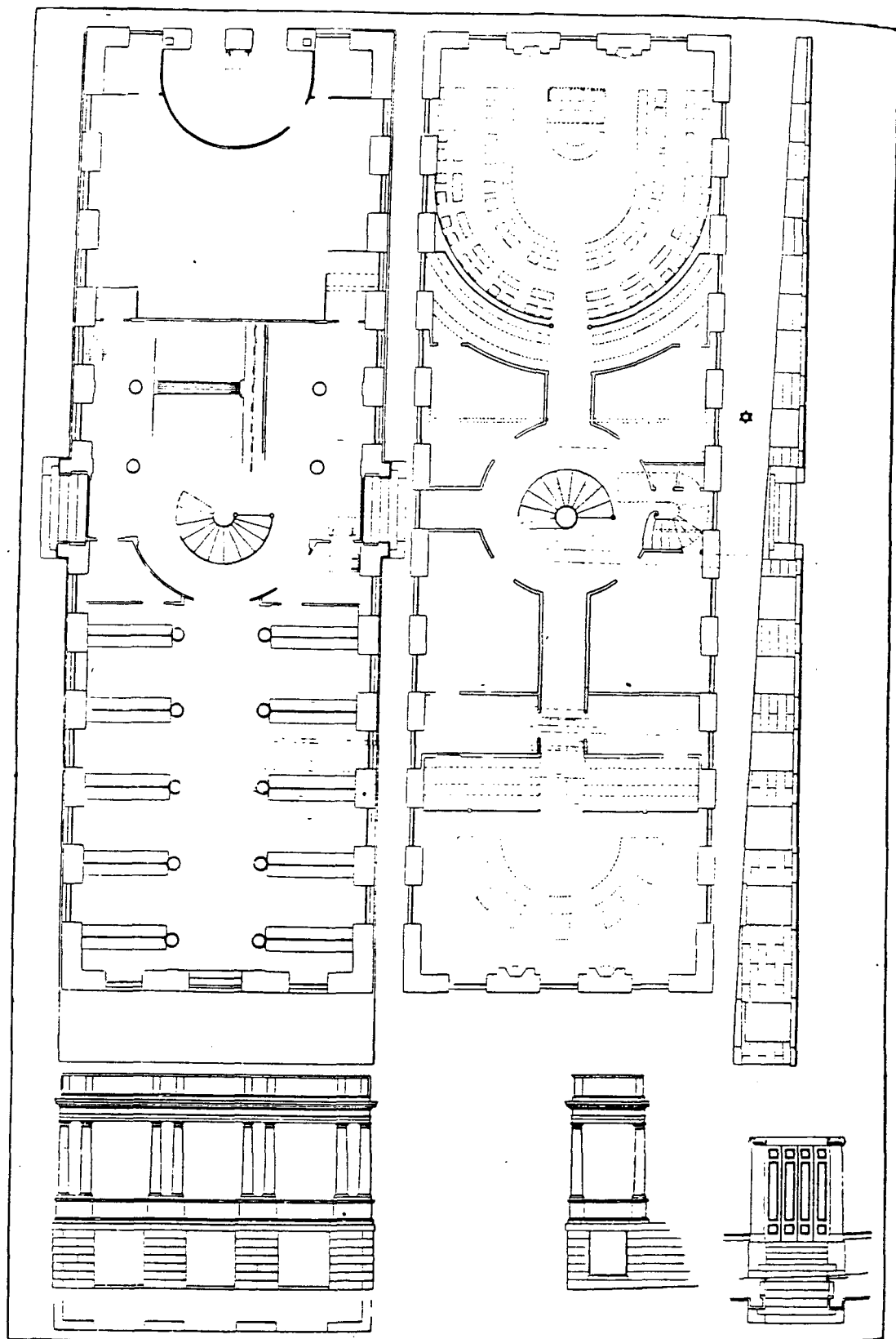


Illustration 17. Detail Showing Old State House (c. 1829).

2	Columns & 90th	140	-
1	Column & 10.50	105	-
	and for Ionic caps & fluting	120	
2	Columns or pilasters 12' x 12' 6.50	52	
2	Partitions for plastering	34	
1	" " plank tongue	30	
3	" " with lights over west end	36	
1	" " Port Office	6	
2	" " entrance to area	50	
1	" " entrance to Reading room	16	
12	Pilasters & 24	24	
7	new windows & 10	70	
	adding to windows to run double & 90	90	
	inside blinds for 23 windows & 4.50	196	
	300, " " with a 6" - - -	18	
	40' deep floor spruce boards & 6.50	260	
	turning down architecture -	55	
	470 yds plastering & 20" -	174	
	West Portico with copper roof	400	
	East " " " " " " " " " " " "	600	
	Painting & glazing day - -	500	
	2 doors & 2 windows in basement		
	west end & 14.50 each - 1	50	
	10 doors & windows on the sides		
	in basement story & 7.50	75	
		23151	

the above is for the lower story & on the basement level
 that the second story will be done - if only the first story is done
 there should be something added to effect a landing for stairs

Illustration 19. Bill for Work Probably Done at Old State House (c. 1830).



ROGERS' PLAN, 1830.

Illustration 18. First- and Second-Floor Plans, Foundation, Portico, and Doorway Elevations, Old State House (1830).



SNOW'S GEOGRAPHY, 1830.



Illustration 21. East Elevation of Old State House (c. 1832).

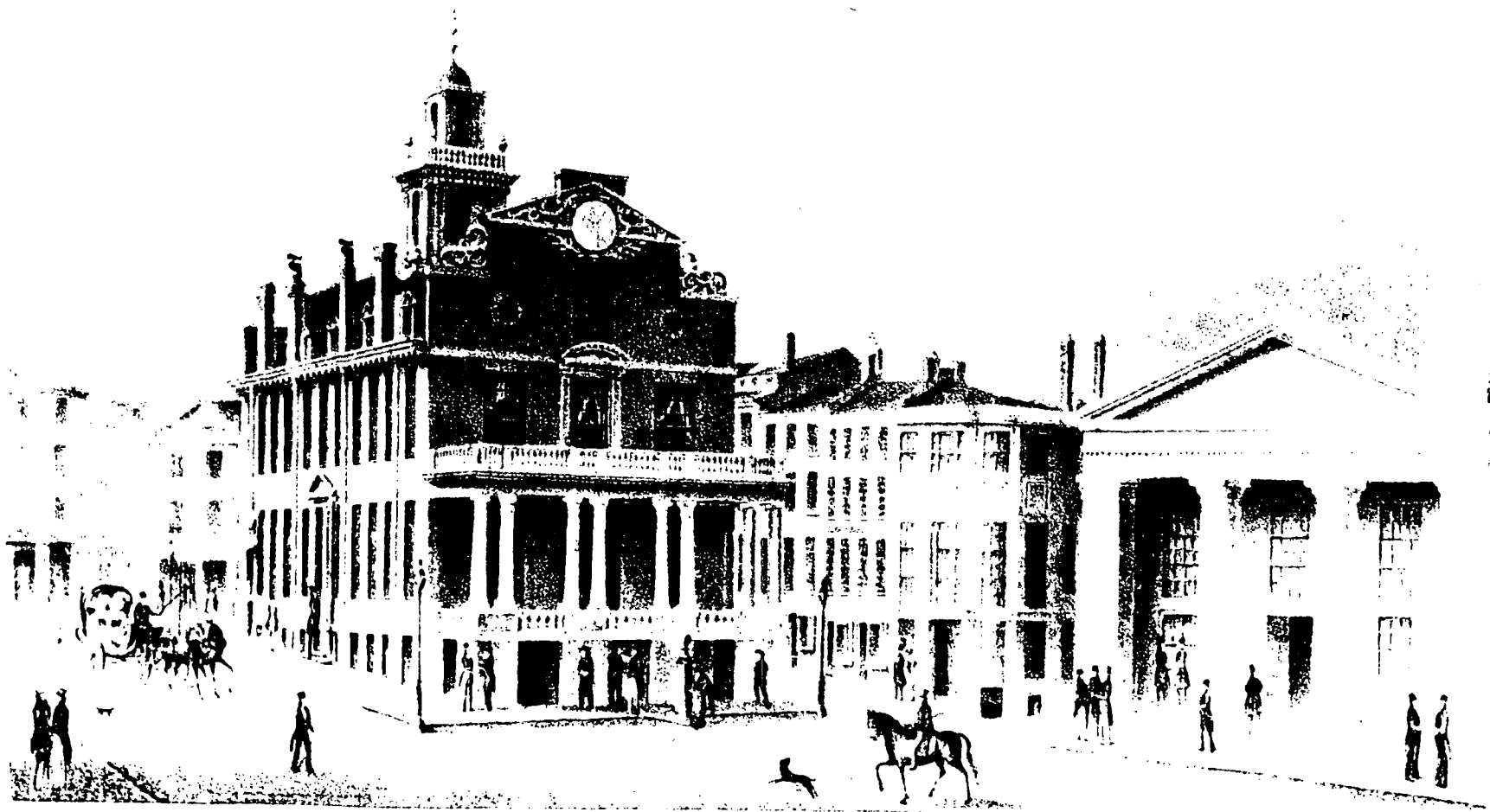


Illustration 22. East and South Elevations of Old State House (c. 1836).

Illustration 23. East Elevation of Old State House (1837).

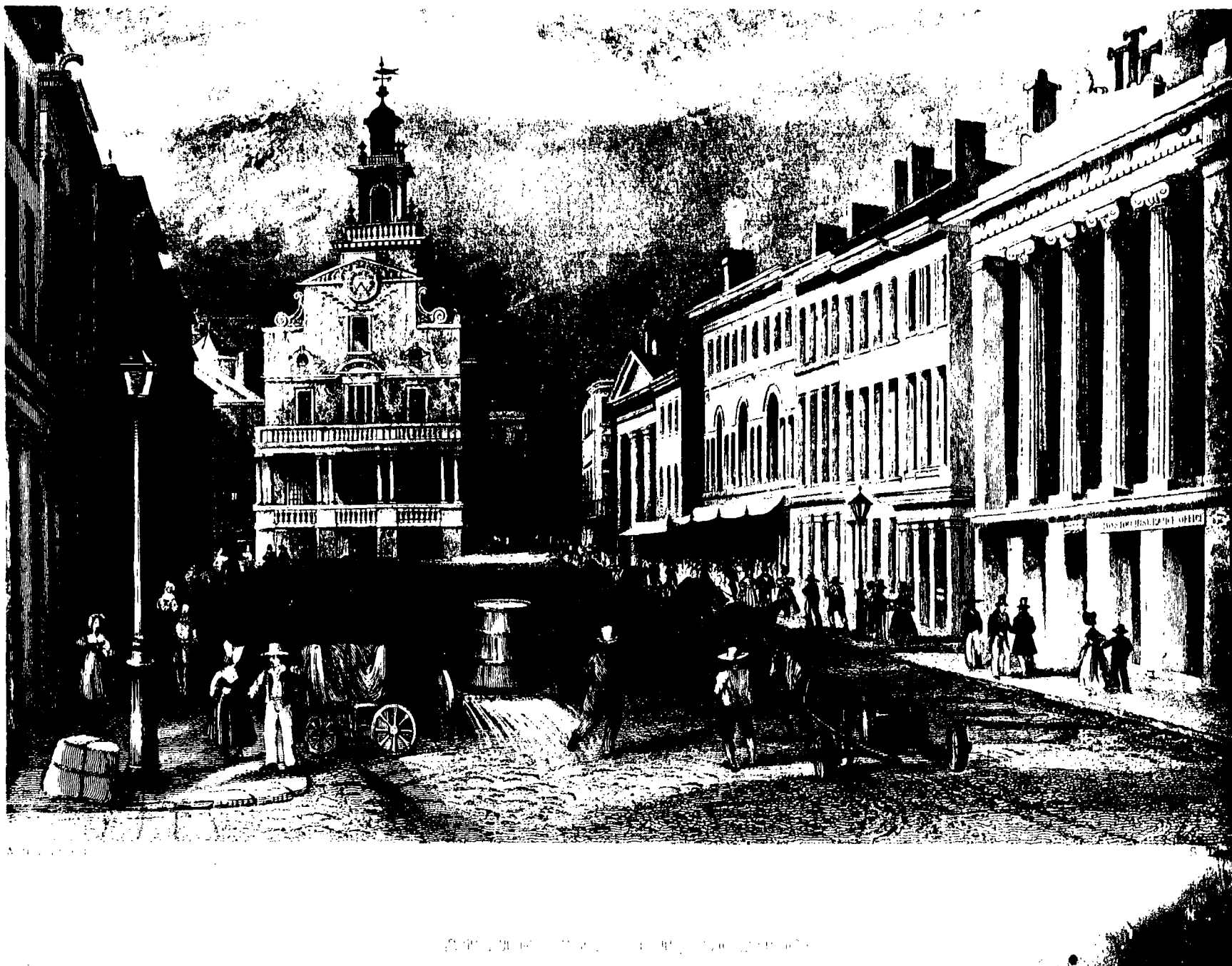
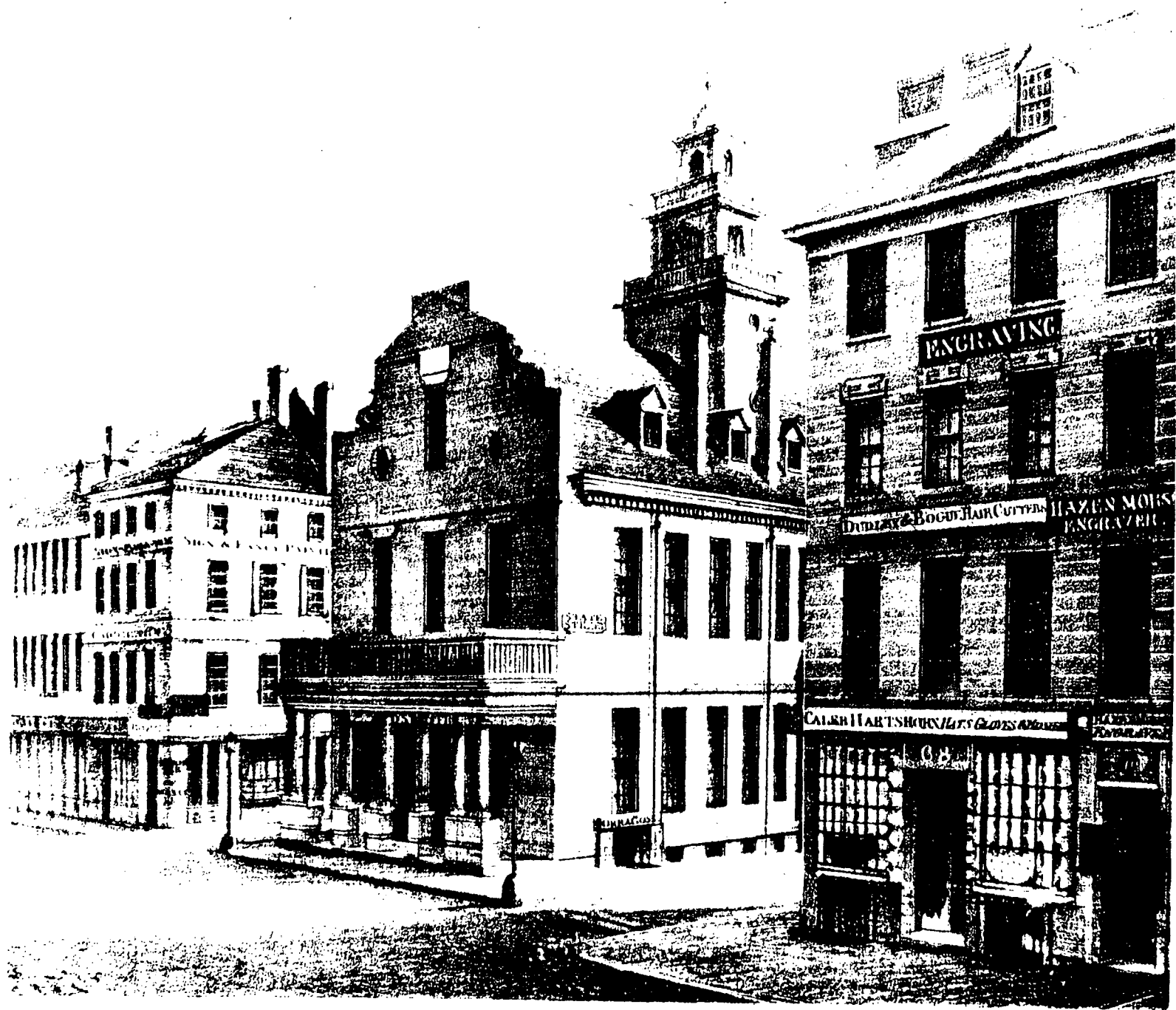
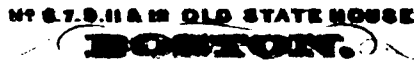


Illustration 24. Southwest Corner of Old State House (c. 1835).



View of the Post Office, City Hall & corner from the SW in the street St. Thomas



Boston May 20 1841

Paul Moore Esq.

^{to} Brown, Lawrence S. Hickory, Va.

All Making and Trimming of Garments (clothing)

Coat & Pants

2-1-11

Rec^d Payt

Brown Lawrence & Hickney

N, LAWRENCE & STIC
MERCHANT TAILORS,
ALERS IN READY-MADE CLOTH



Nº 6.7.9.11 & 12 OLD STATE HOUSE.

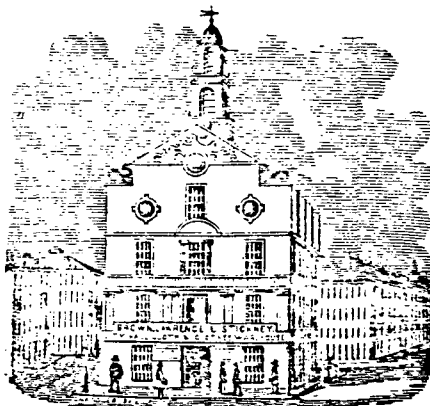
BOSTON.

**BROWN, LAWRENCE & STICKNEY,
CLOTHING WAREHOUSE,**

Nos. 8, 7, 9, 11, & 12

OLD STATE HOUSE,

Fronting State St., Boston.



Strangers and citizens generally are invited to call and examine the **LARGEST STOCK OF FASHIONABLY MADE CLOTHING** which can be found in the city, consisting of every variety of Garments, manufactured from Goods of the latest importations, and in the best and newest styles.

We have also on hand a splendid assortment of

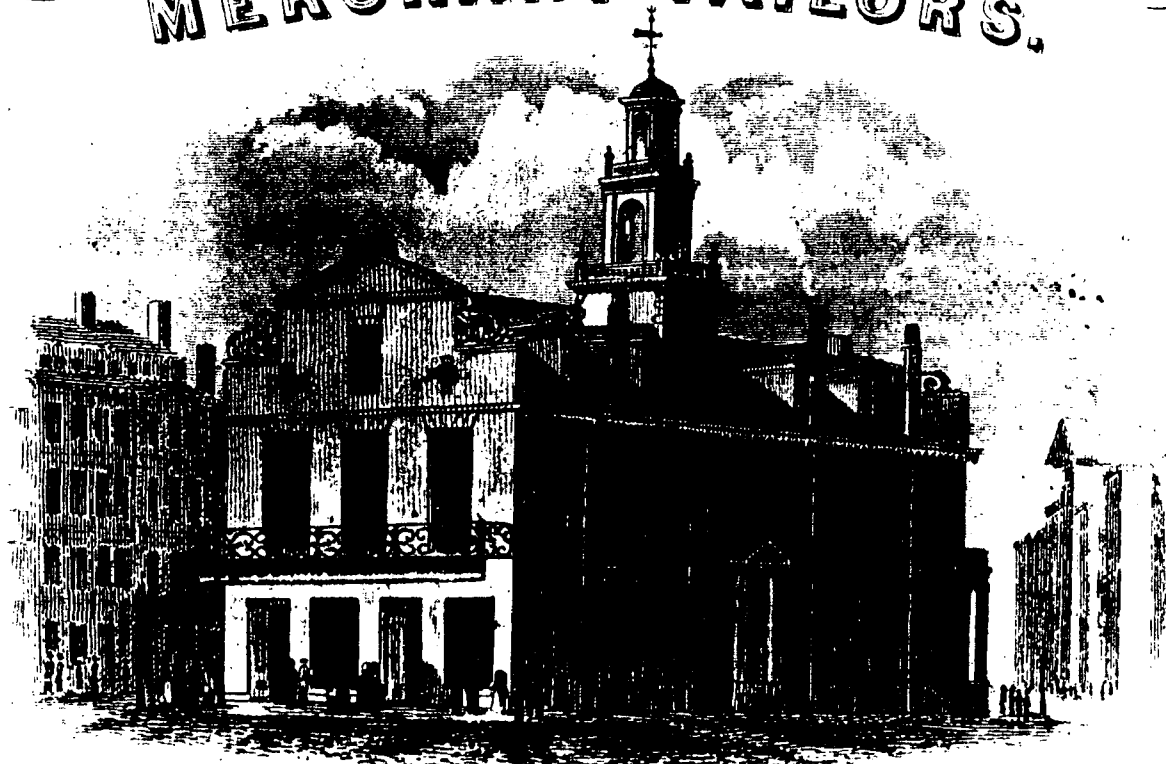
CLOTHS, DOESKINS, CASSIMERES & VESTINGS,

From the latest Importations, and every variety of Goods, suitable for Gentlemen's wear.

WHICH WILL BE MADE UP TO ORDER,

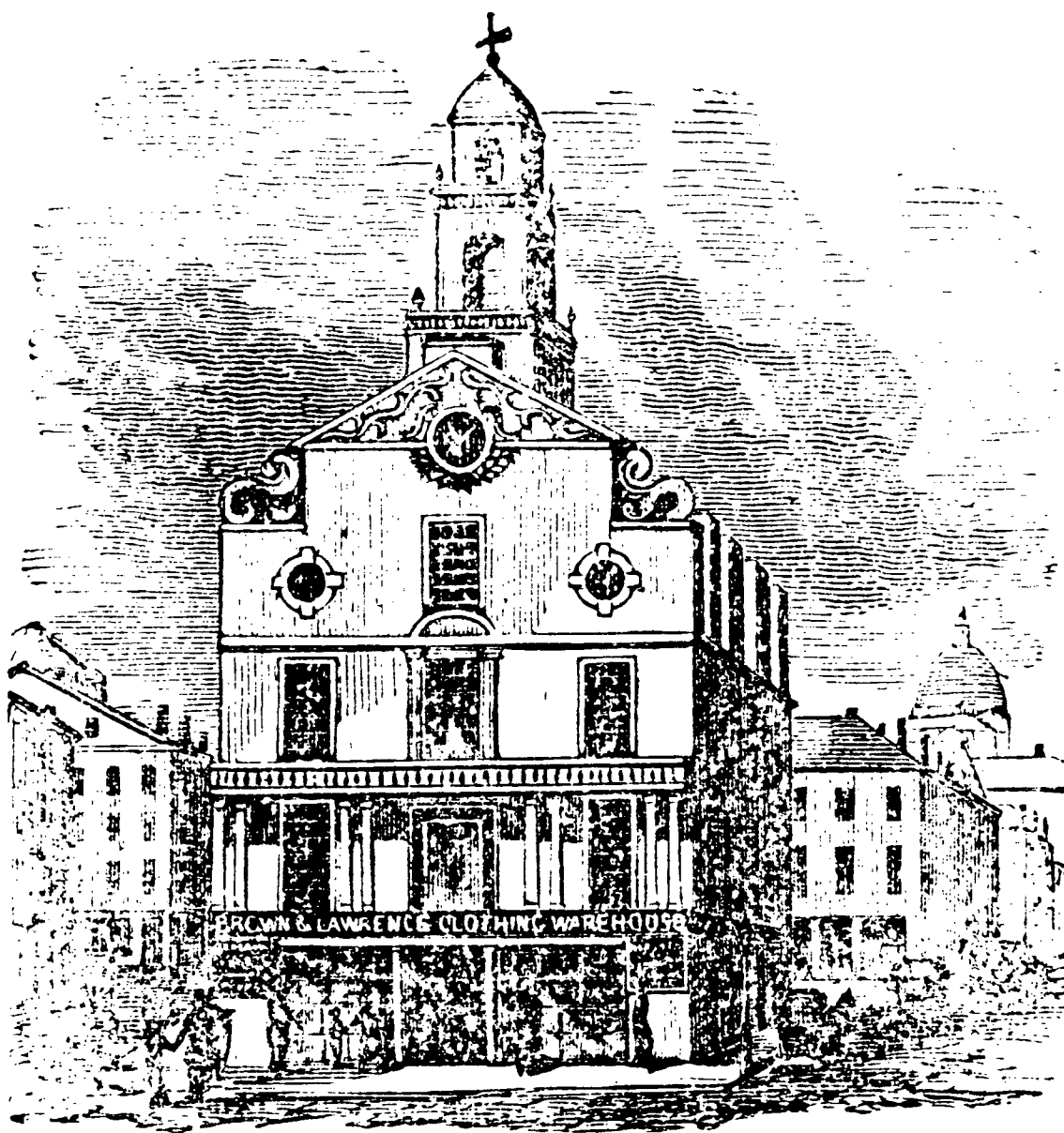
IN THE MOST FASHIONABLE STYLE,

(MEARS & SMITH)
MERCHANT TAILORS.

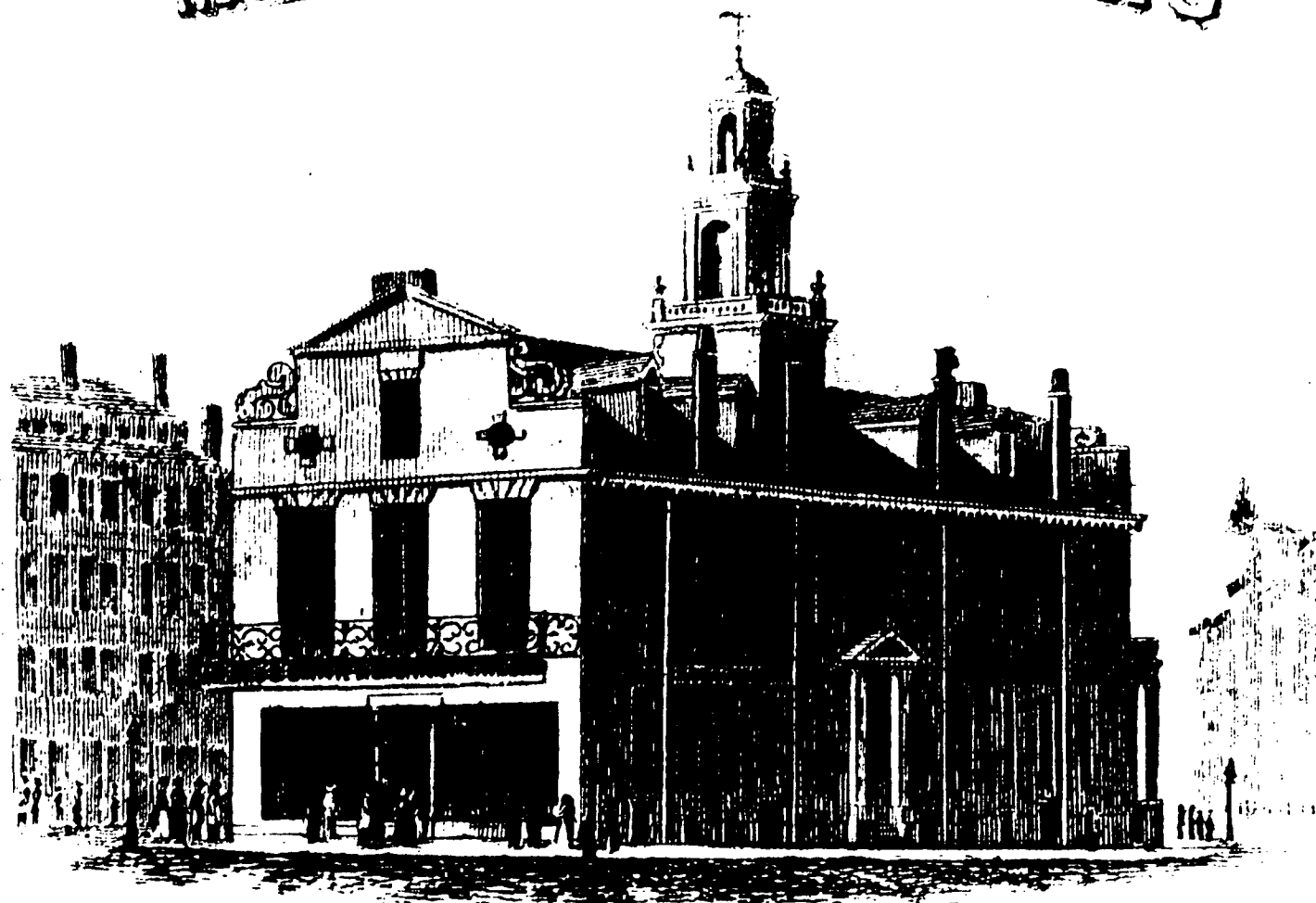


OLD STATE HOUSE
(BOSTON.)

Charles Mears.



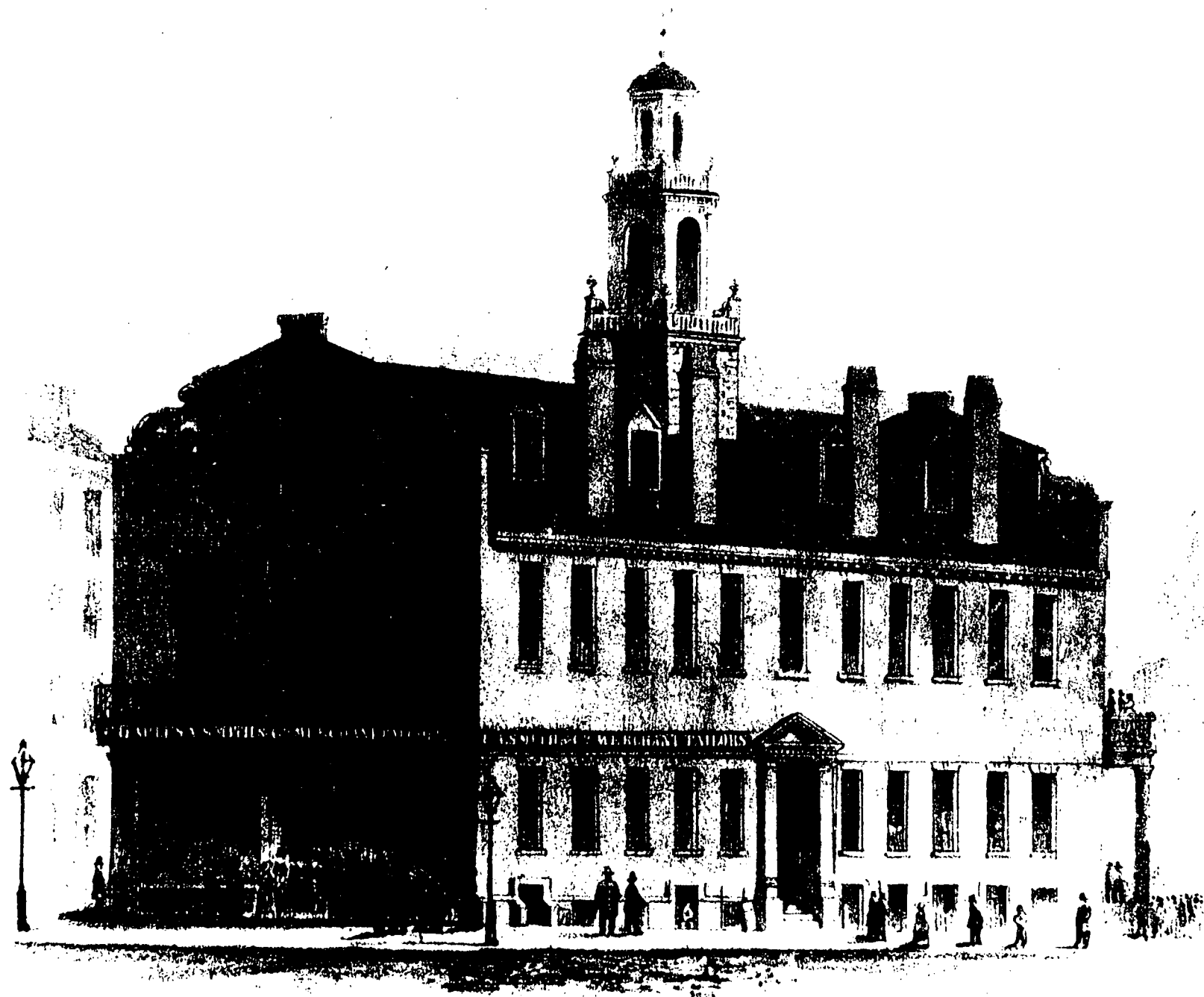
OLD STATE HOUSE. Page 169.



OLD STATE HOUSE
(BOSTON.)

Illustration 30. West and South Elevations of Old State House (1850).

Illustration 31. West and South Elevations of Old State House (undated).



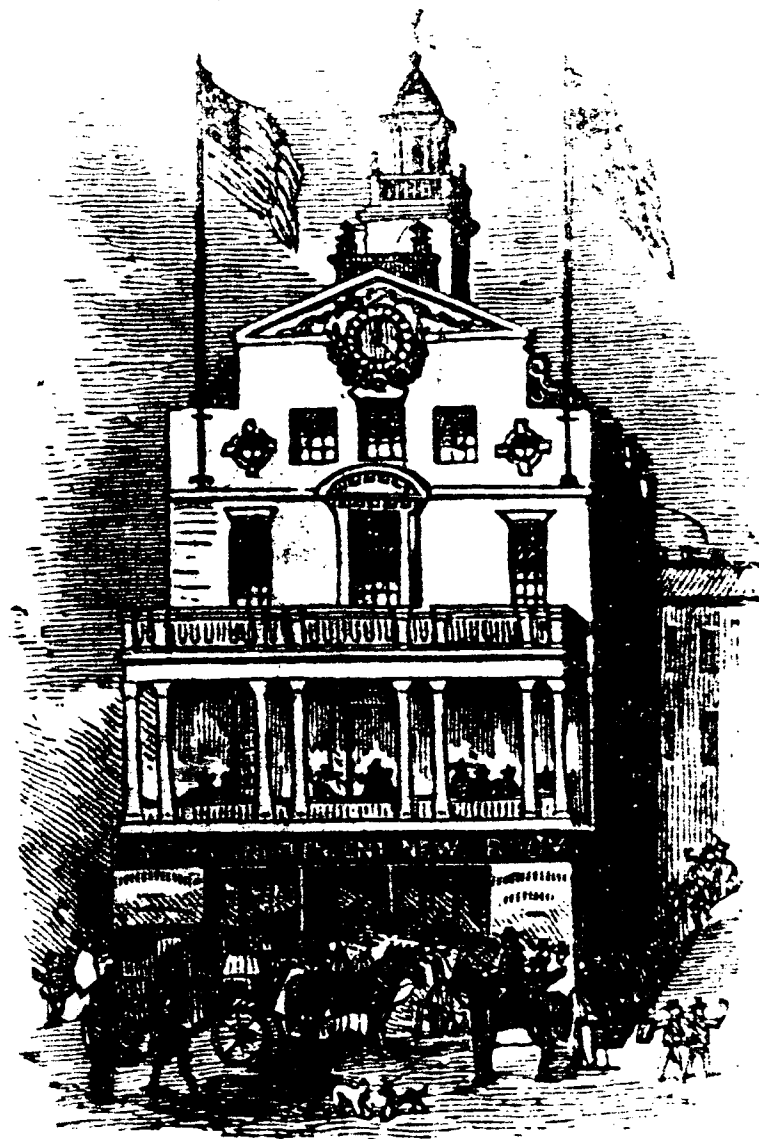
OLD STATE HOUSE BOSTON



Illustration 32. West and North Elevations of Old State House (c. 1855).



Court St. from Seely Sq.
About 1860.



State Street.

Illustration 34. East Elevation of Old State House (1867).



Illustration 35. East and North Elevations of Old State House (c. 1866).



Illustration 36. East Elevation of Old State House (c. 1866).



Illustration 37. East and South Elevations of Old State House (after 1869).

1876

1876

AS IT IS.

THE OLD STATE HOUSE

THE OLD STATE HOUSE



Illustration 39. West and North Elevations of Old State House (c. 1876).



Illustration 40. East and South Elevations of Old State House (c. 1880).



Illustration 41. East and South Elevations of Old State House (c. 1886).

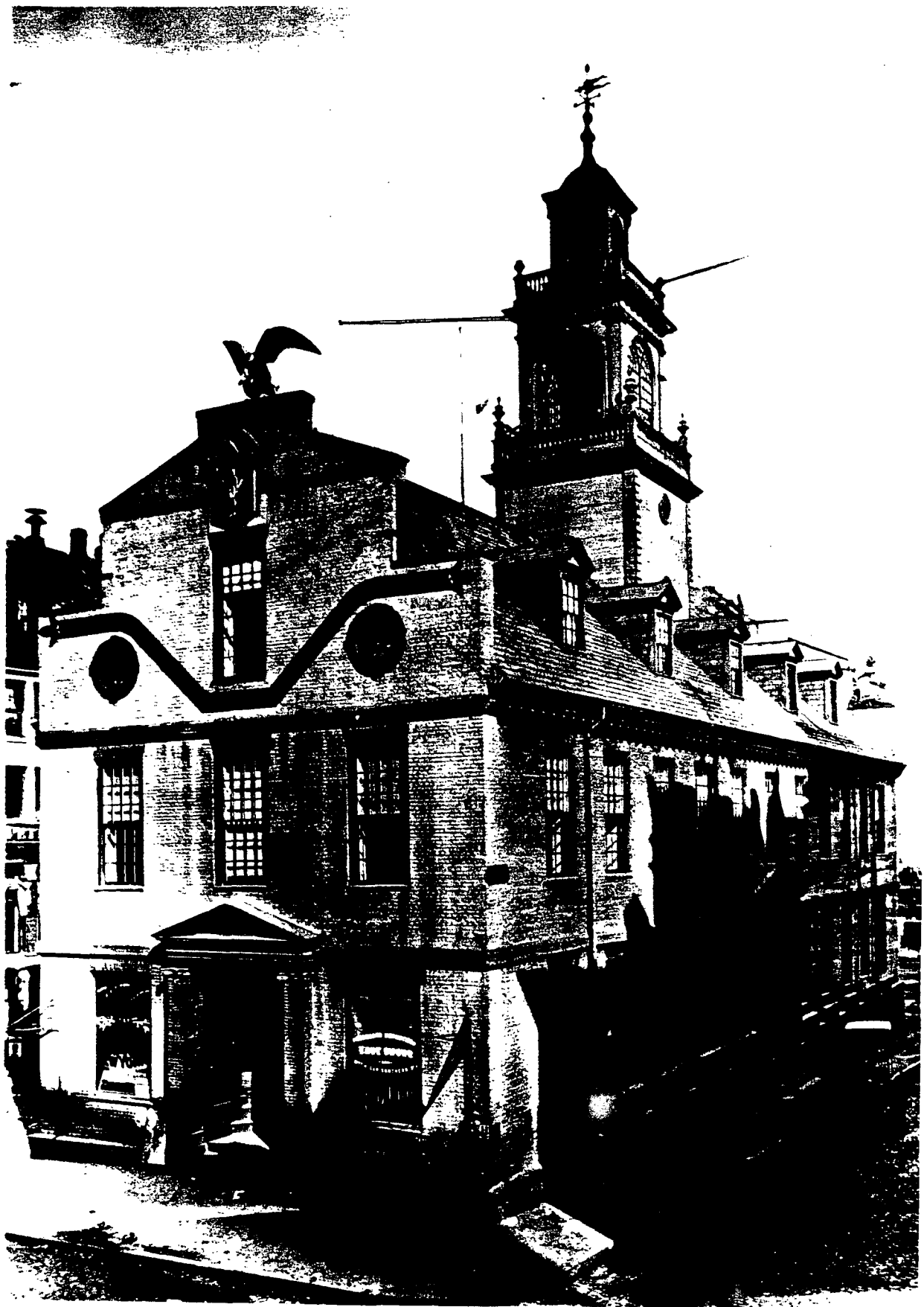


Illustration 42. West and South Elevations of Old State House (c. 1886).

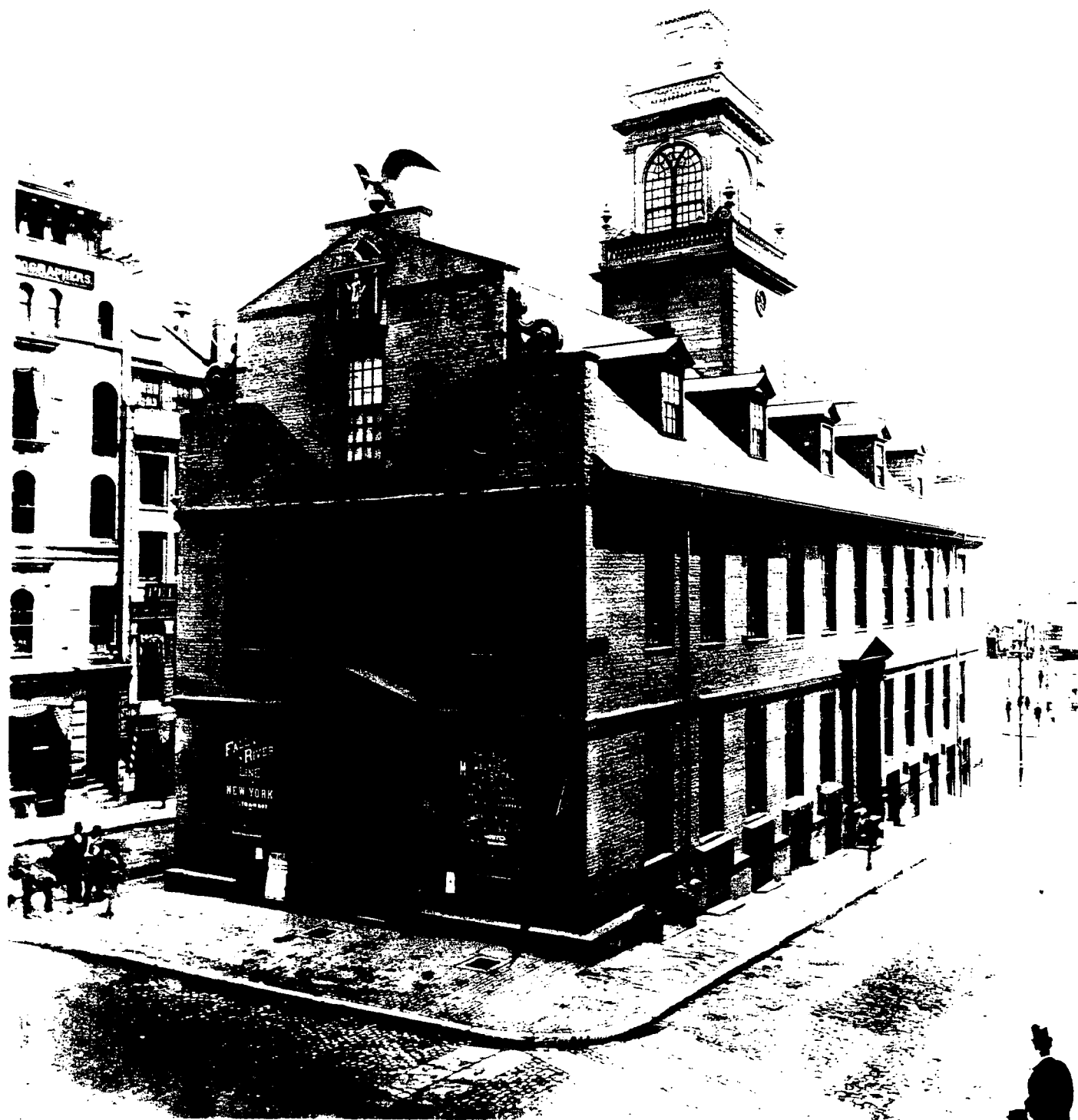
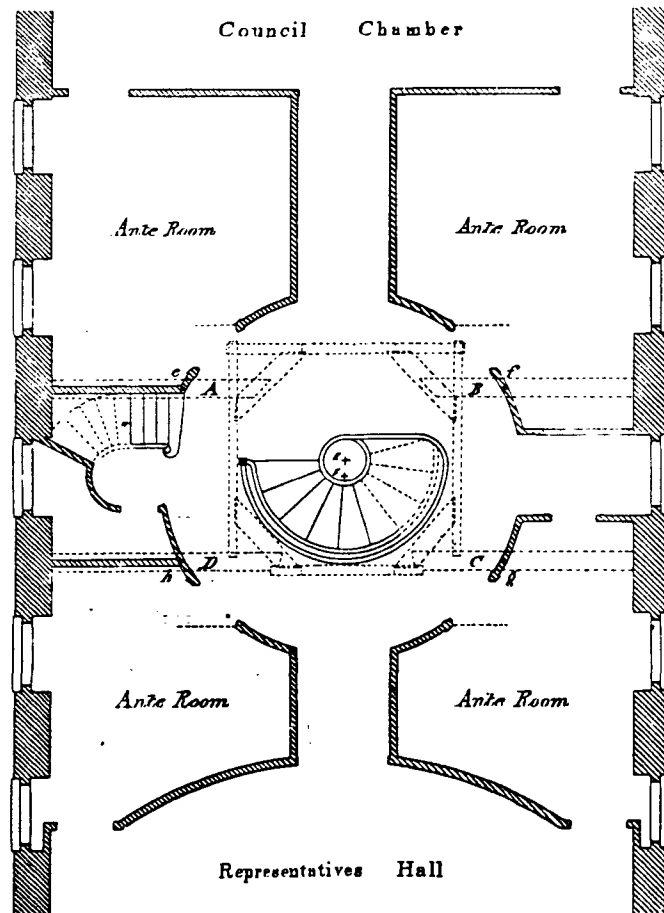


Illustration 43. West and South Elevations of Old State House (c. 1886).



Illustration 44. East and North Elevations of Old State House (c. 1893).

OLD STATE HOUSE — STATE STREET
— BOSTON —



PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR

showing Circular Staircase Hall, and the four Ante Rooms adjoining, also representing, in dotted lines the original Oak framing around the Staircase opening. The Girders A, B, C, D were hung from the Tie Beams of the Roof Trusses in the Third Floor by four 1 inch square rods in the partitions at the points E, F, G, H. All of these indications were found in the restoration of 1881.

Illustration 45. Plan of Second Floor, Old State House (1893).

Illustration 46. Circular Staircase, Old State House (c. 1936).





Illustration 47. East End of Representatives' Chamber, Old State House (1893).



Illustration 48. West End of Representatives' Chamber, Old State House (c. 1930).



Illustration 49. East End of Council Chamber, Old State House (1893).



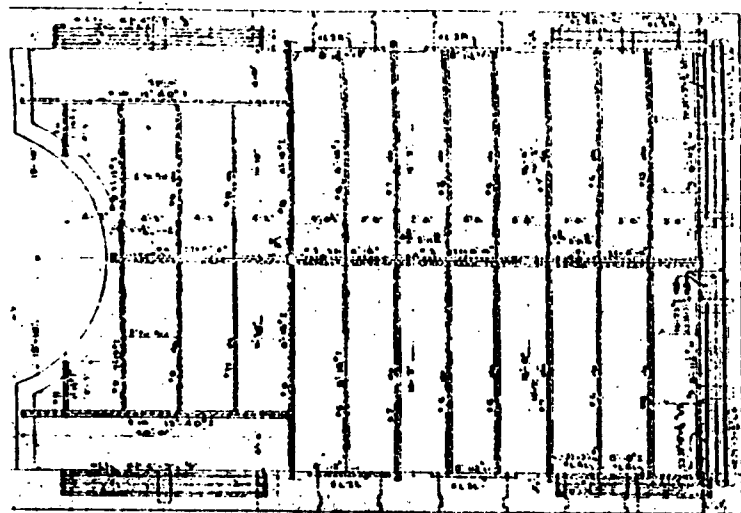
Illustration 50. East End of Council Chamber, Old State House (probably early 1900's).



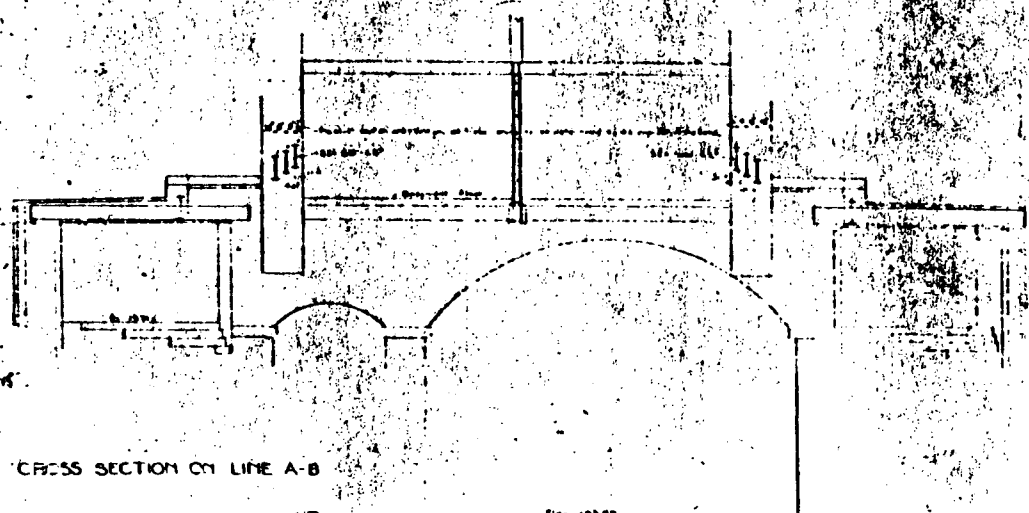
Illustration 51. West End of Council Chamber, Old State House (undated).



Illustration 52. Detail of Center Doorway, West Wall of Council Chamber, Old State House (1936).

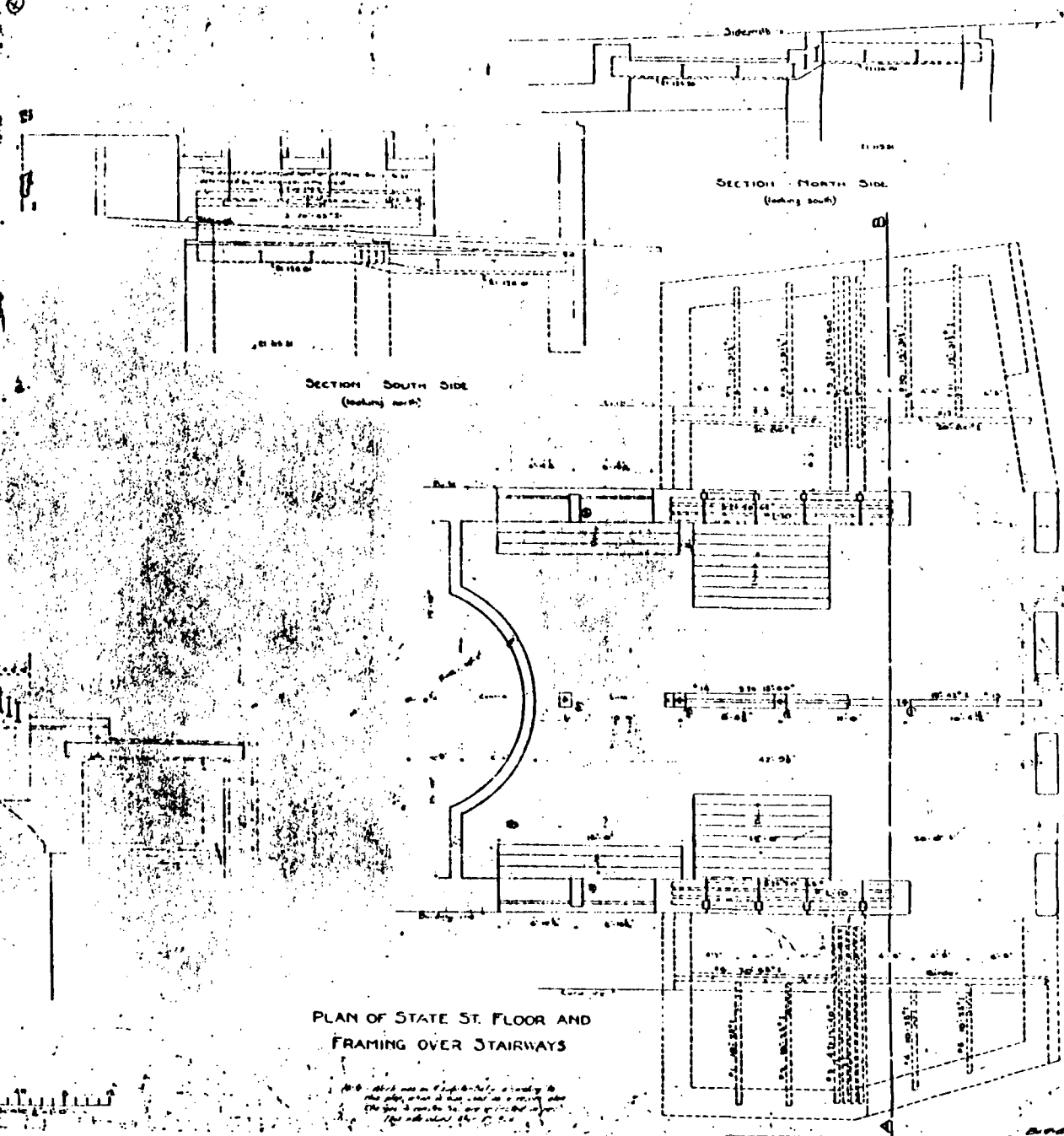


FRAMING PLAN OF WASHINGTON ST. FLOOR



CROSS SECTION ON LINE A-B

DETAIL PLAN. SECTION E, EAST BOSTON TUNNEL.



PLAN OF STATE ST. FLOOR AND
FRAMING OVER STAIRWAYS

Illustration 53. "Detail Plan, Section E, East Boston Tunnel" (1902).

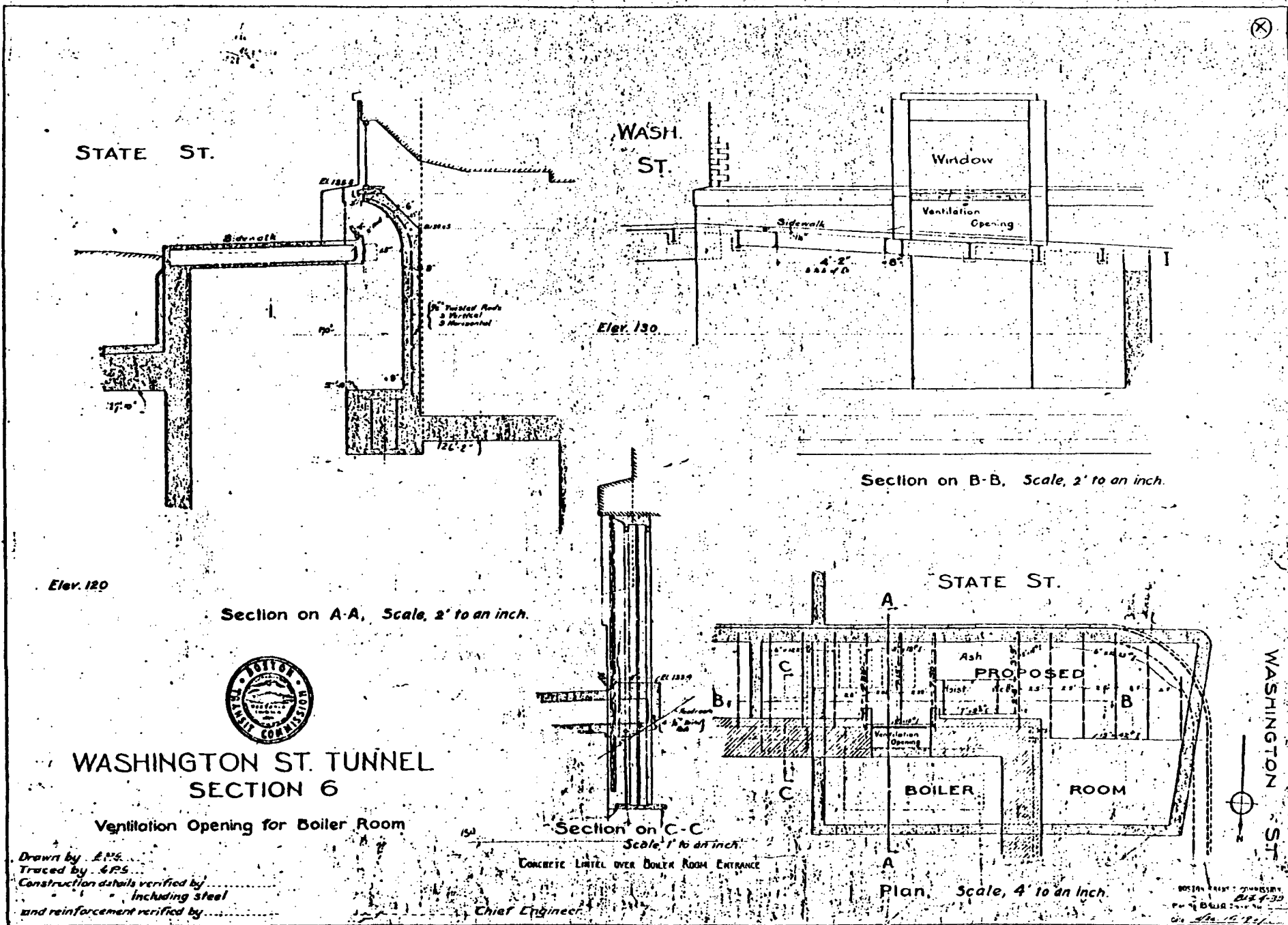


Illustration 54. "Washington St. Tunnel, Section 6, Ventilation Opening for Boiler Room" (1907).

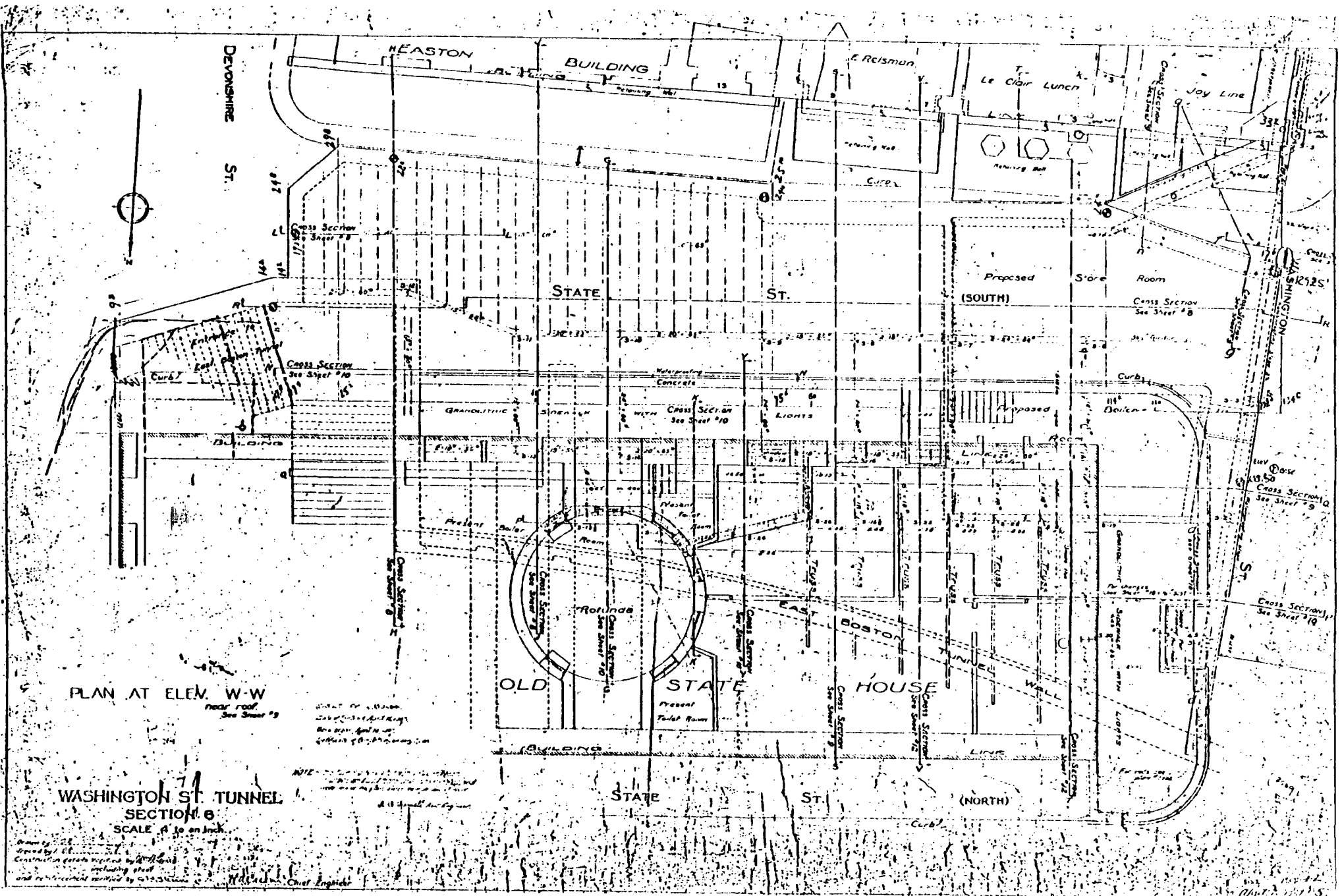
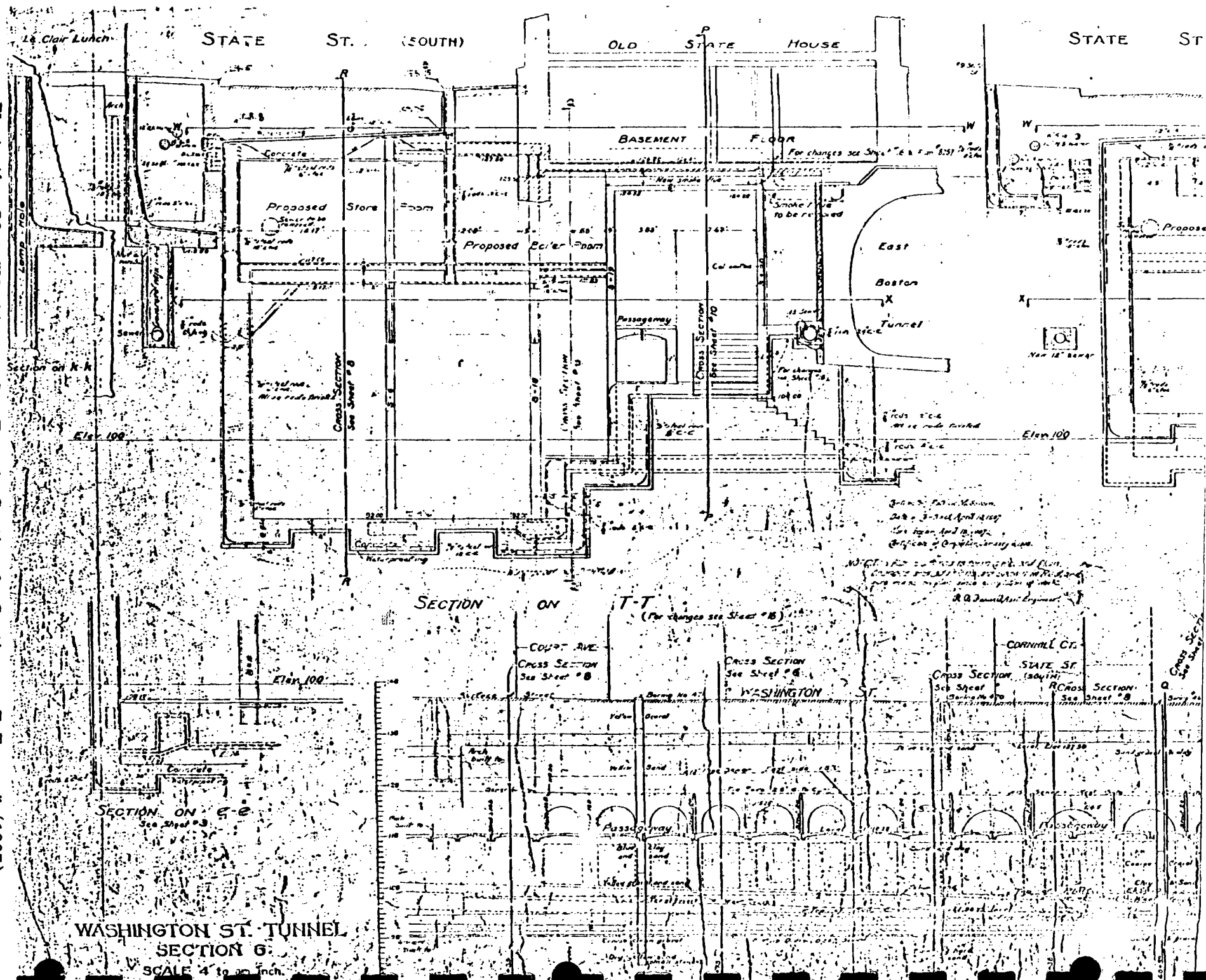


Illustration 55. "Washington St. Tunnel, Section 6, Plan at Elevation W-W" (1907).

Illustration 56. "Washington St. Tunnel, Section 6, Section on T-T, e-e" (1907).



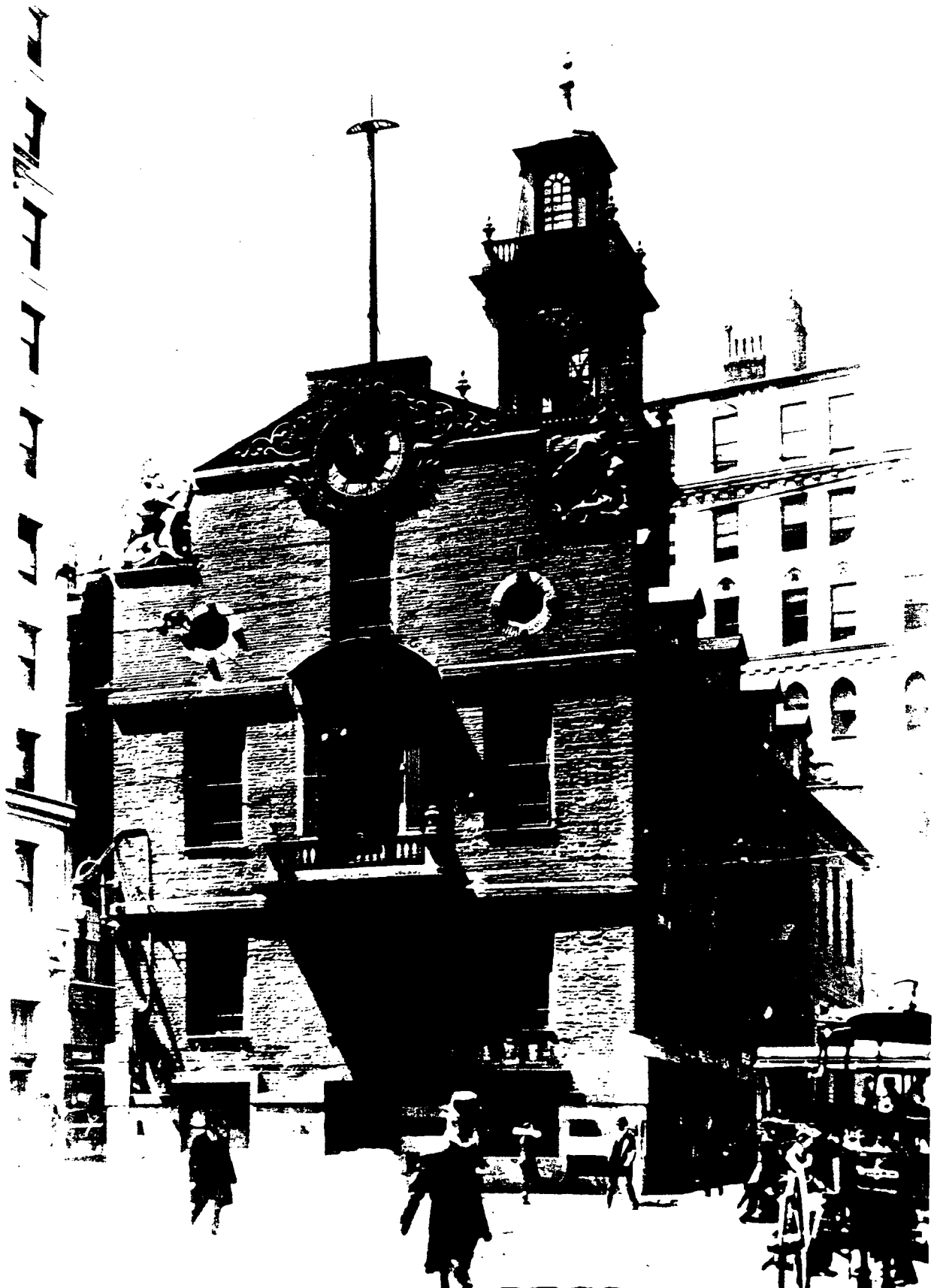


Illustration 57. East and North Elevations of Old State House (c. 1906).

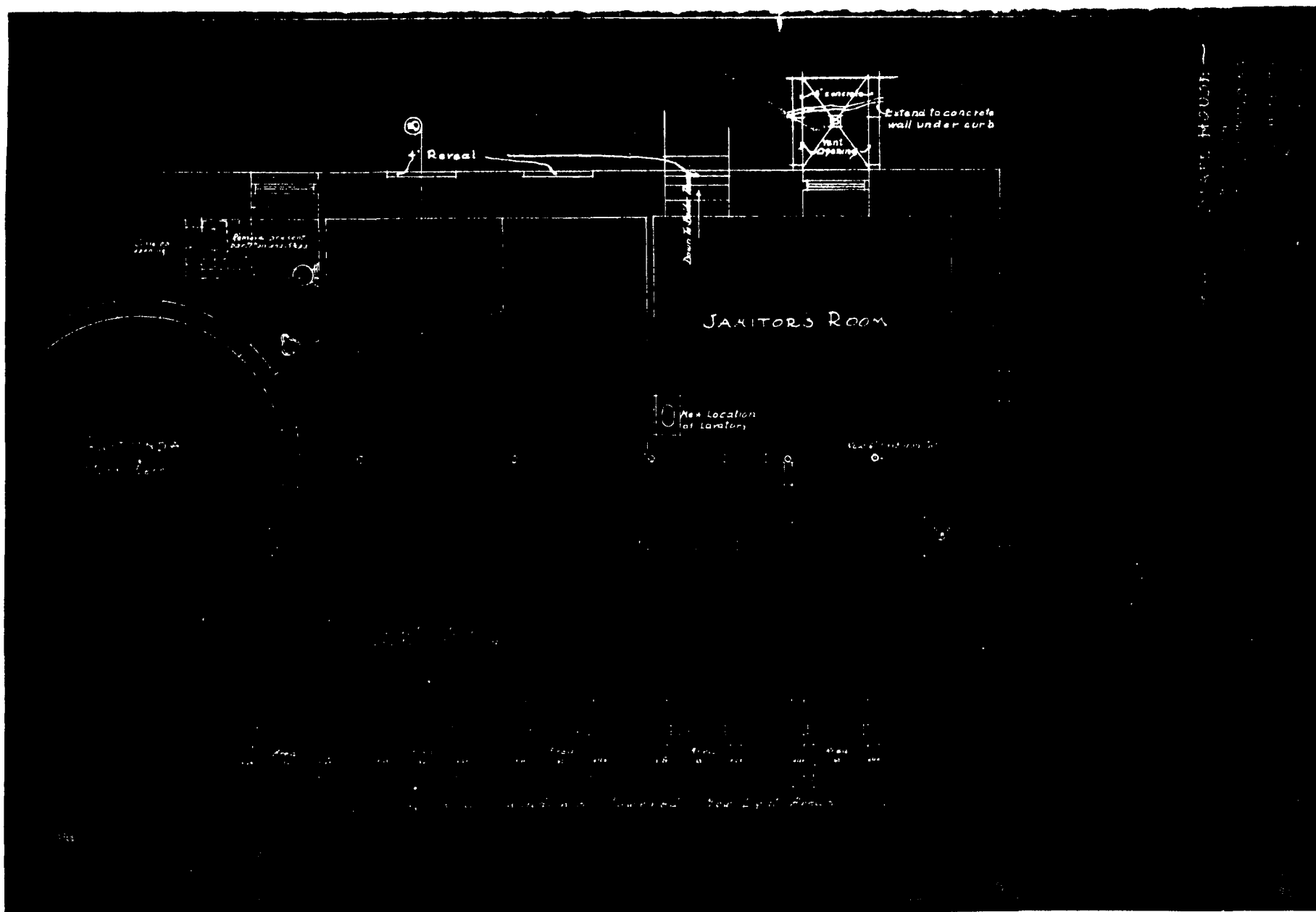


Illustration 58. Basement Plan, Old State House (1908).

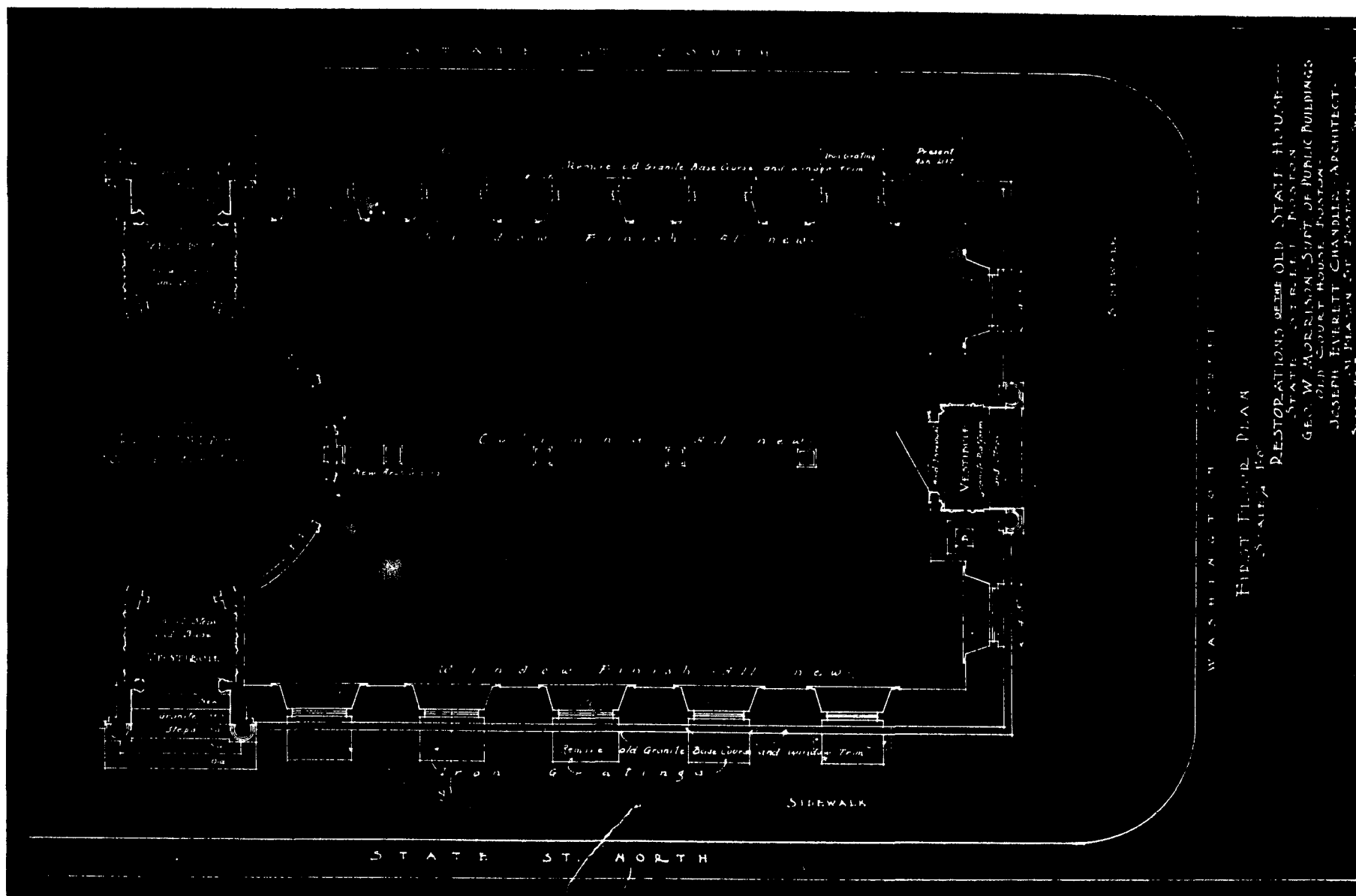


Illustration 59. First-Floor Plan, Old State House (1908).



WASHINGTON STREET ELEVATION
SCALE $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$

RESTORATIONS OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE —
STATE STREET — BOSTON —
GENERAL WARRANT — BUREAU OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS
DES. COURT HOUSE — BOSTON —
JOSEPH F. FLETCHER, CHARTERED ARCHITECT —
100 PRINCE STREET, BOSTON —
SHEET NO. 3. DEPT 14, 1908

Illustration 60. Washington Street (West) Elevation, Old State House (1908).

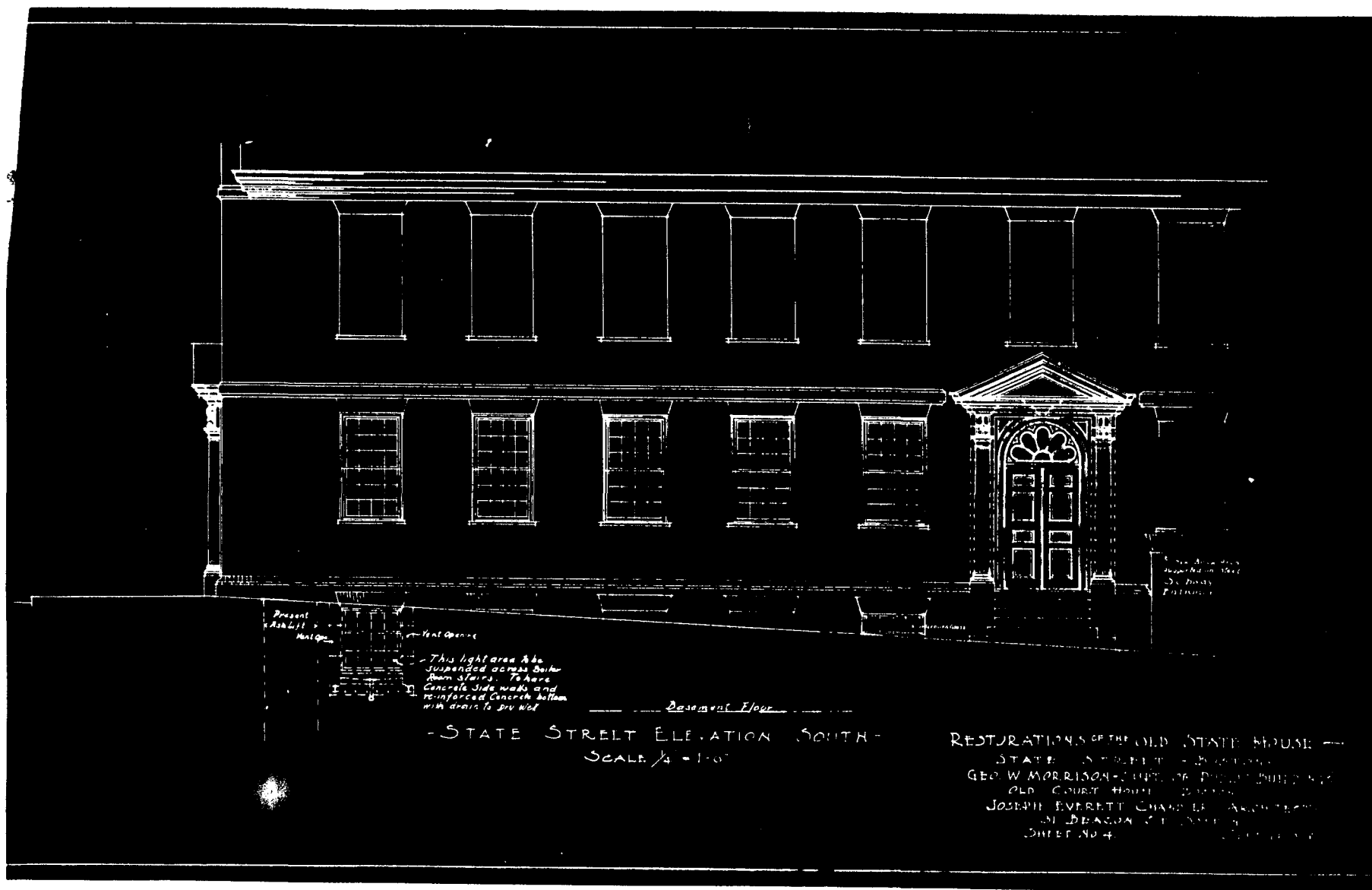


Illustration 61. State Street (South) Elevation, Old State House (1908).

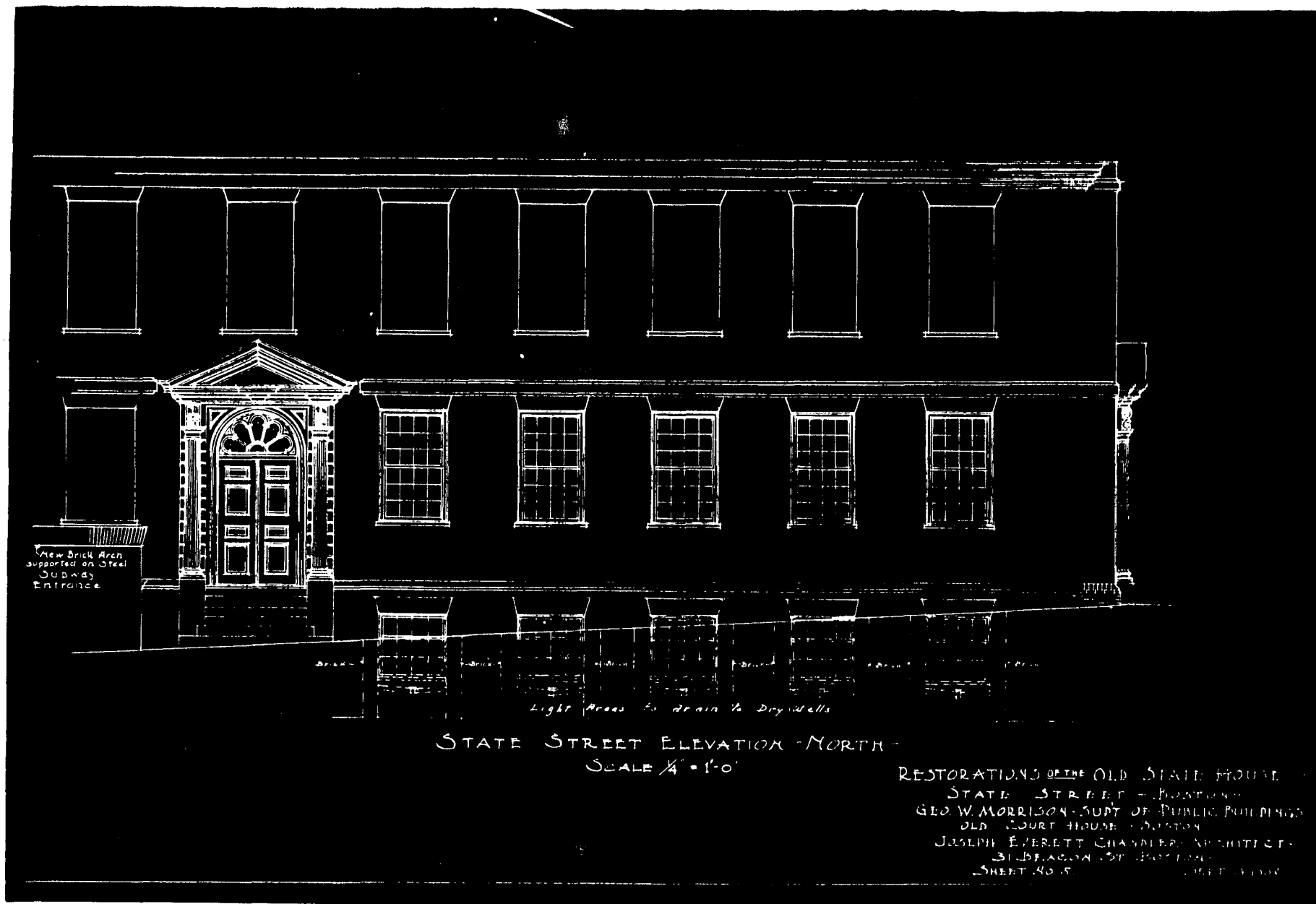


Illustration 62. State Street (North) Elevation, Old State House (1908).



LONGITUDINAL SECTION.
looking north
SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1'-0"

RESTORATIONS OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE: —
STATE STREET - BOSTON —
GEO. W. MORRISON - SUPT. OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS
OLD COURT HOUSE - BOSTON —
JOSEPH EVERETT CHANDLER - ARCHITECT —
31 BEACON ST. BOSTON —
SHEET NO. 6. SEPT. 14, 1908.

Illustration 63. Longitudinal Section, Looking North, Old State House (1908).

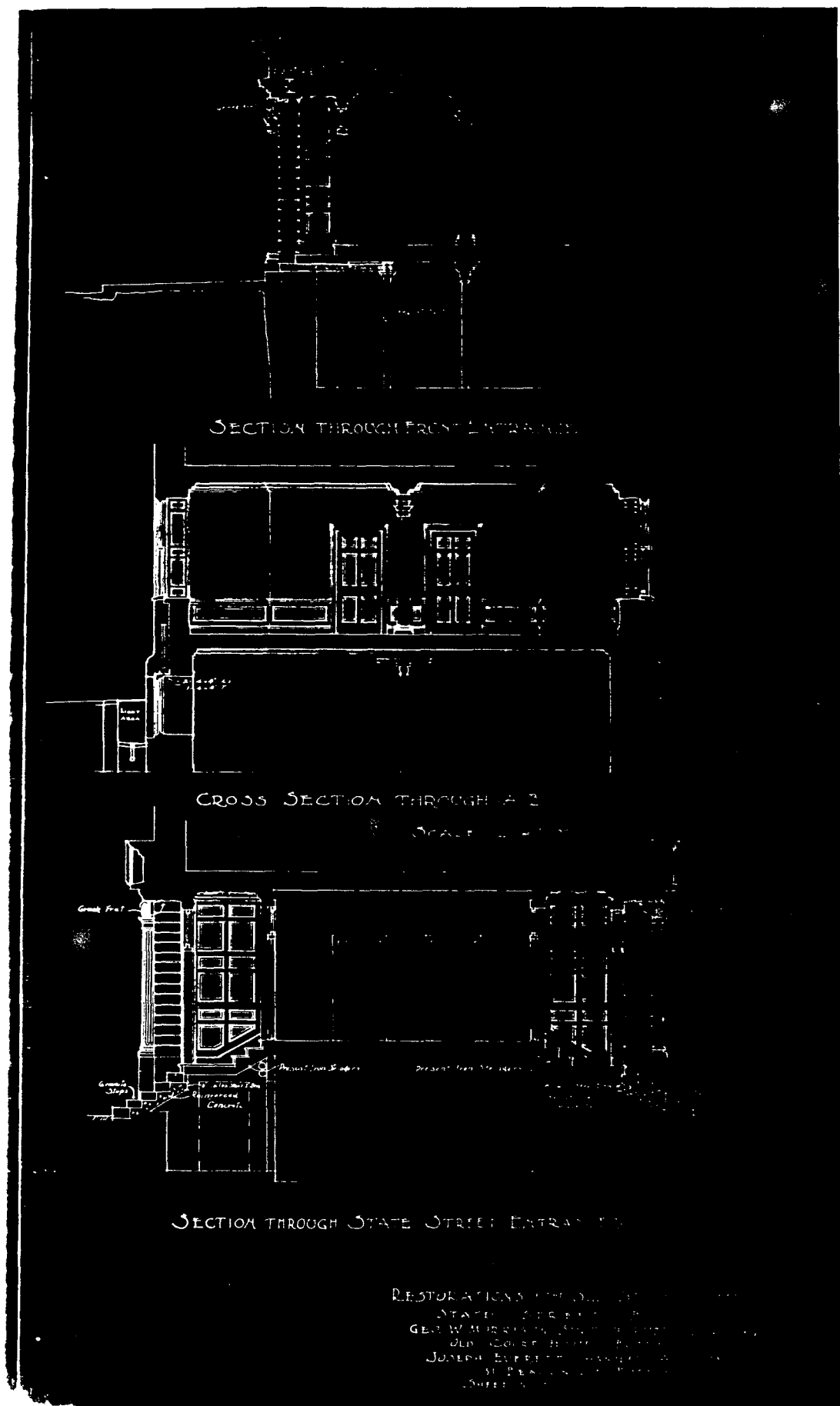


Illustration 64. Section through State Street Entrances, Old State House (1908).

1/4" SCALE DETAILS OF WASHINGTON ST. ENTRANCE
 RESTORATIONS OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE
 STATE STREET - BOSTON -
 GEO. W. MORRISON - SUPT. OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS -
 OLD COURT HOUSE - BOSTON -
 JOSEPH EVERETT CHANDLER - ARCHITECT -
 31 BRACON ST. BOSTON -
 SHEET No. 8. Sept. 14, 1908.

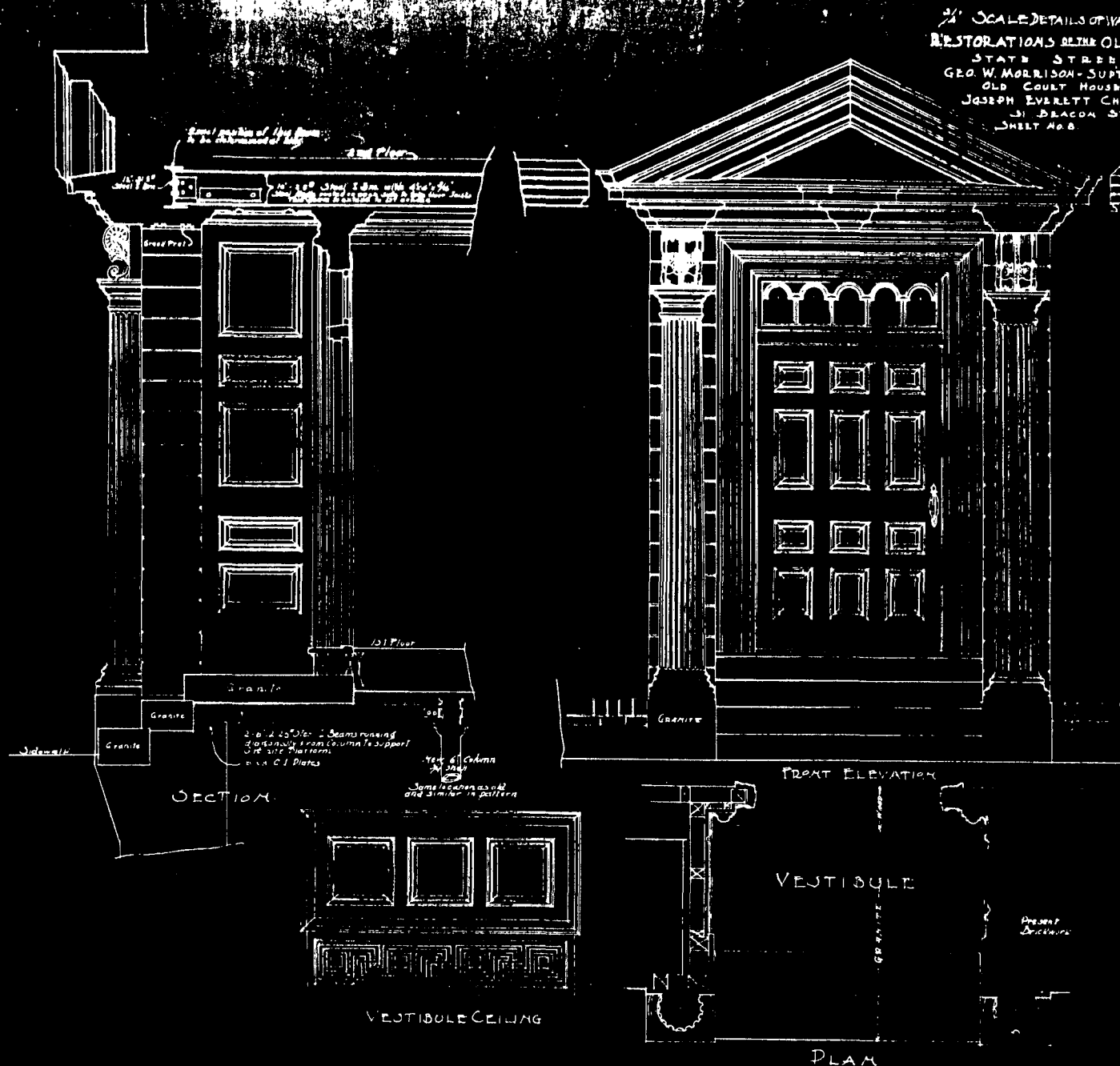
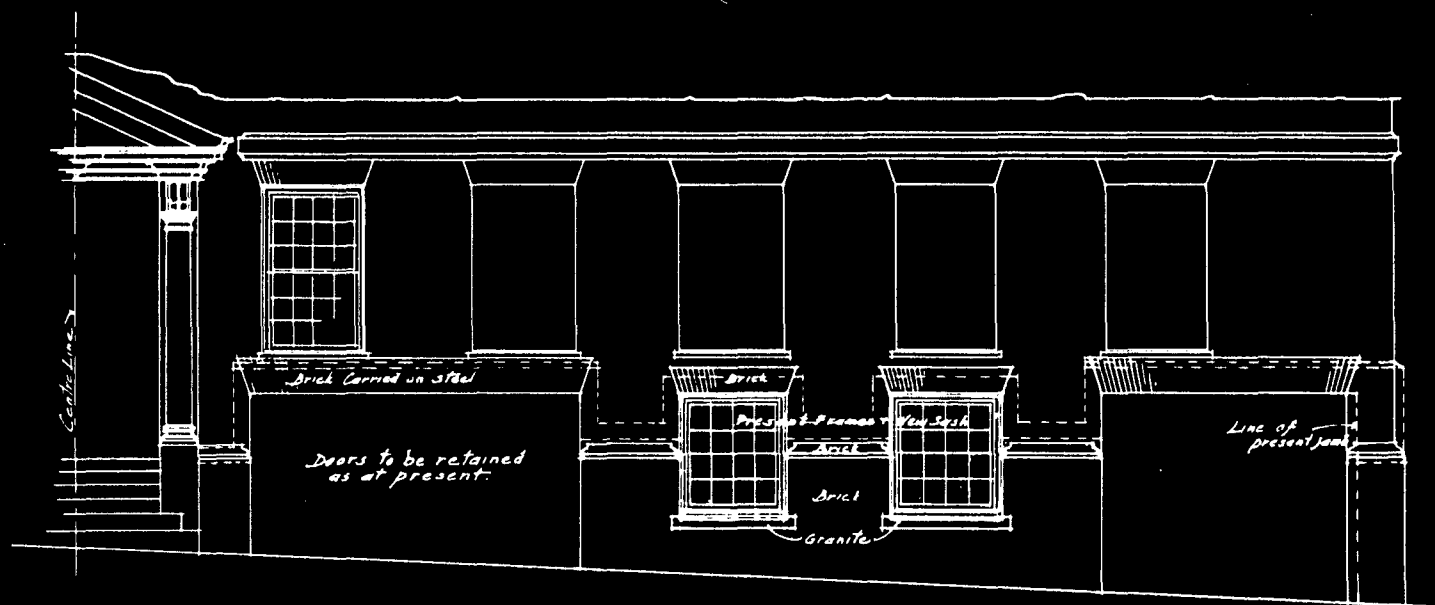
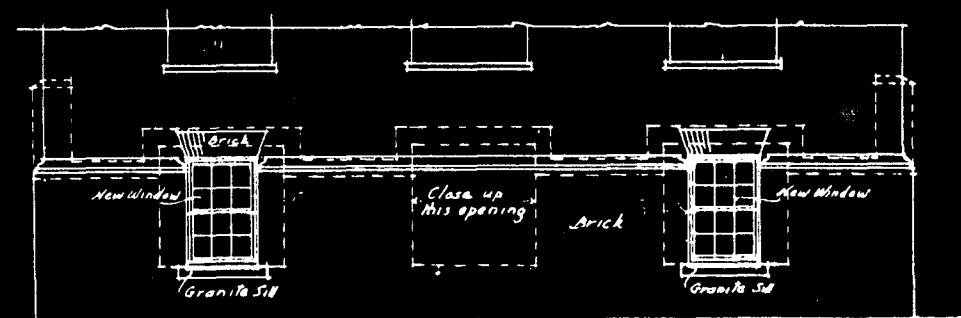


Illustration 65. Details of Washington Street (West) Entrance, Old State House (1908).

Illustration 66. "Proposed Alteration in Lower (East) End of Building,"
Old State House (1908).



STATE STREET ELEVATION - SOUTH.
Opposite Side of Bldg. same as this.



STATE STREET - EAST -

SCALE $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$

*Position of present openings with stone
lintels etc. indicated by dotted lines.*

PROPOSED ALTERATION IN LOWER END OF BUILDING

RESTORATIONS OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE

STATE STREET - BOSTON.

GEO. W. MORRISON, SUPT. OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

OLD COURT HOUSE BOSTON.

JOSEPH EVERETT CHANDLER, ARCHITECT.

31 BEACON ST. BOSTON.

SHEET No. 9

NOV. 2, 1906.



Illustration 67. West and North Elevations of Old State House (c. 1930).



Illustration 68. West and South Elevations of Old State House (c. 1910).



Illustration 69. East and South Elevations of Old State House (c. 1910).



Illustration 70. Doorway to Rotunda, Keayne Hall, Old State House (undated).



Illustration 71. North Side of Garret, West End, Old State House (1921).



Illustration 72. North Side of Garret, East End, Looking West, Old State House (1921).

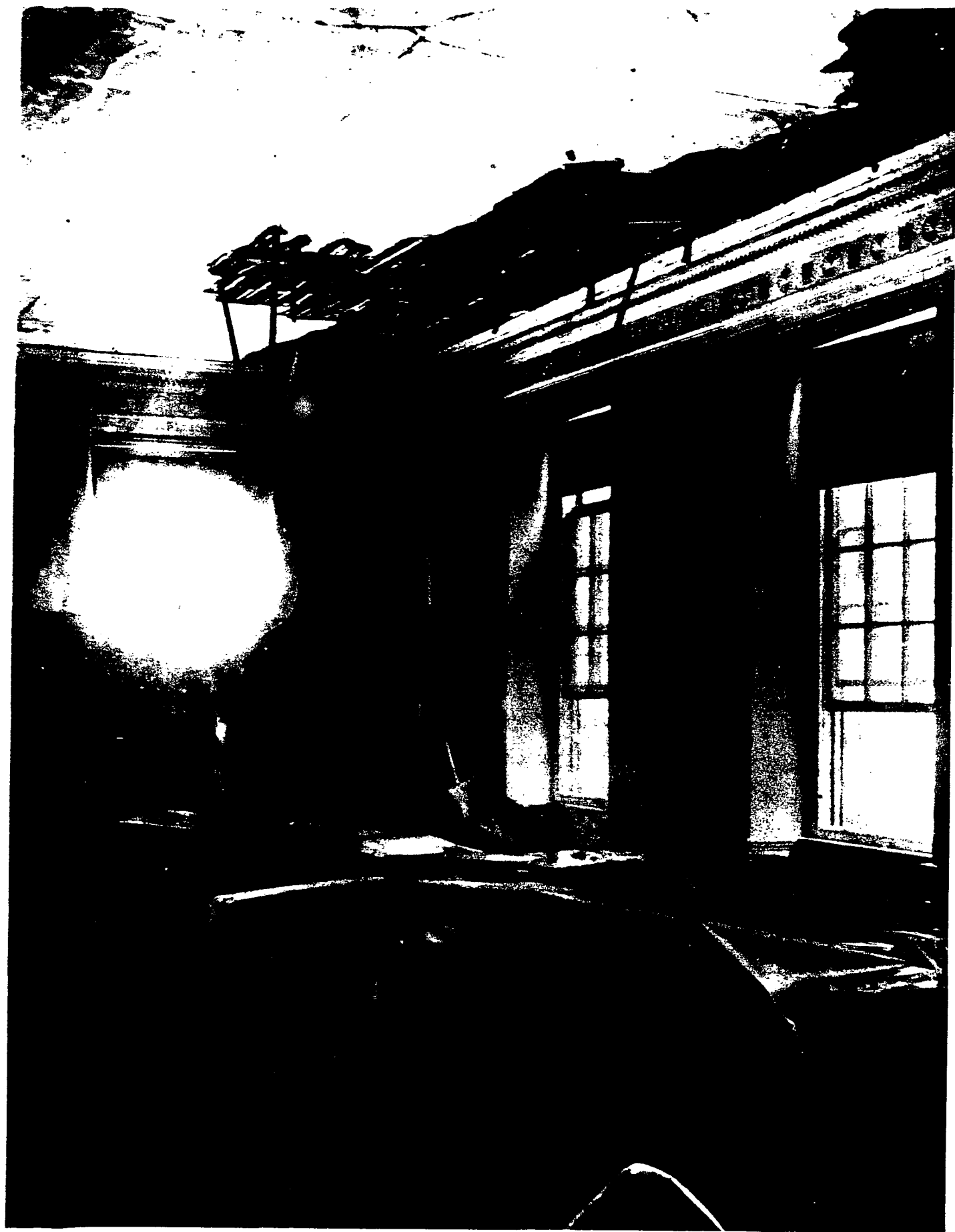


Illustration 73. Representatives' Chamber, Old State House (1921).

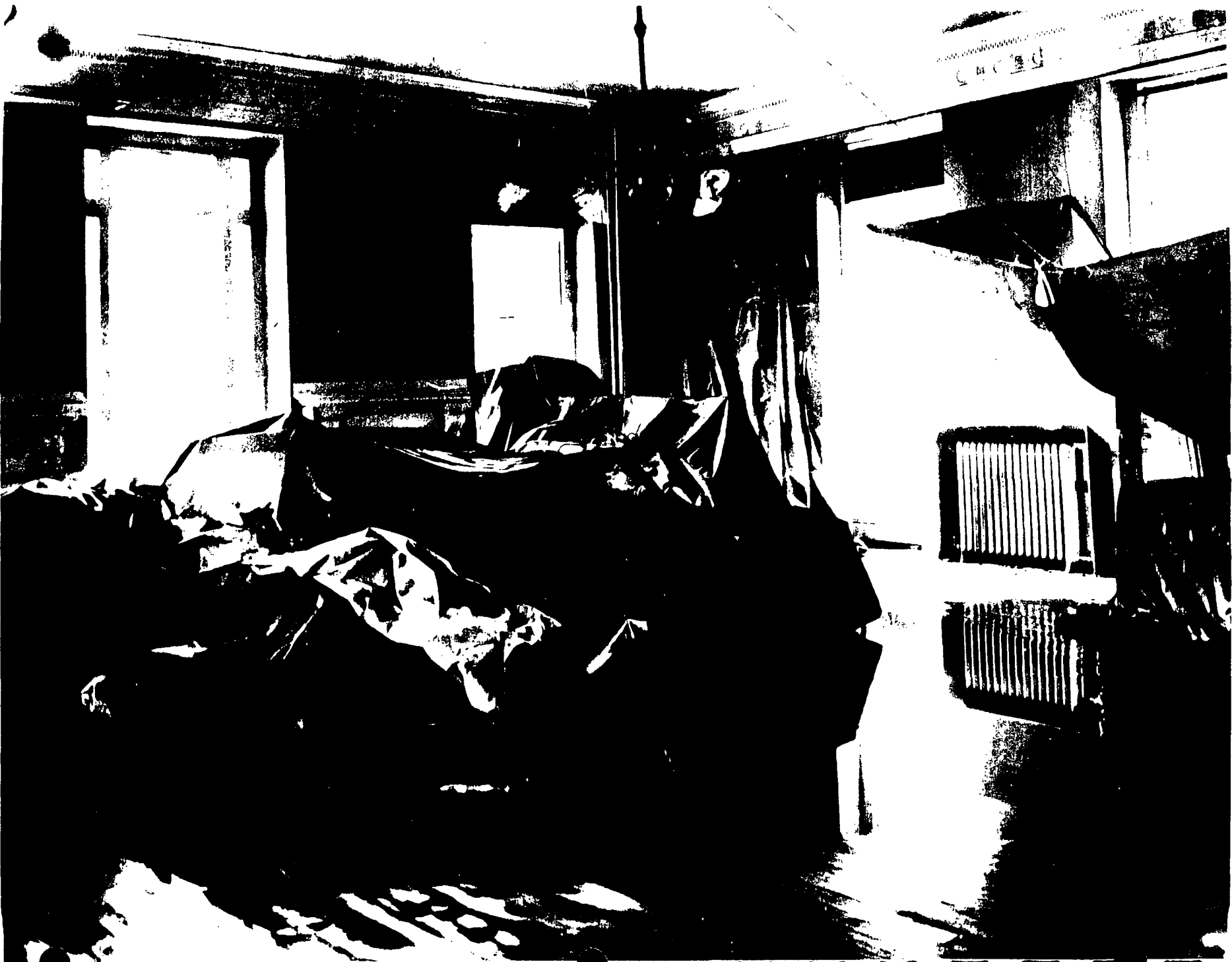
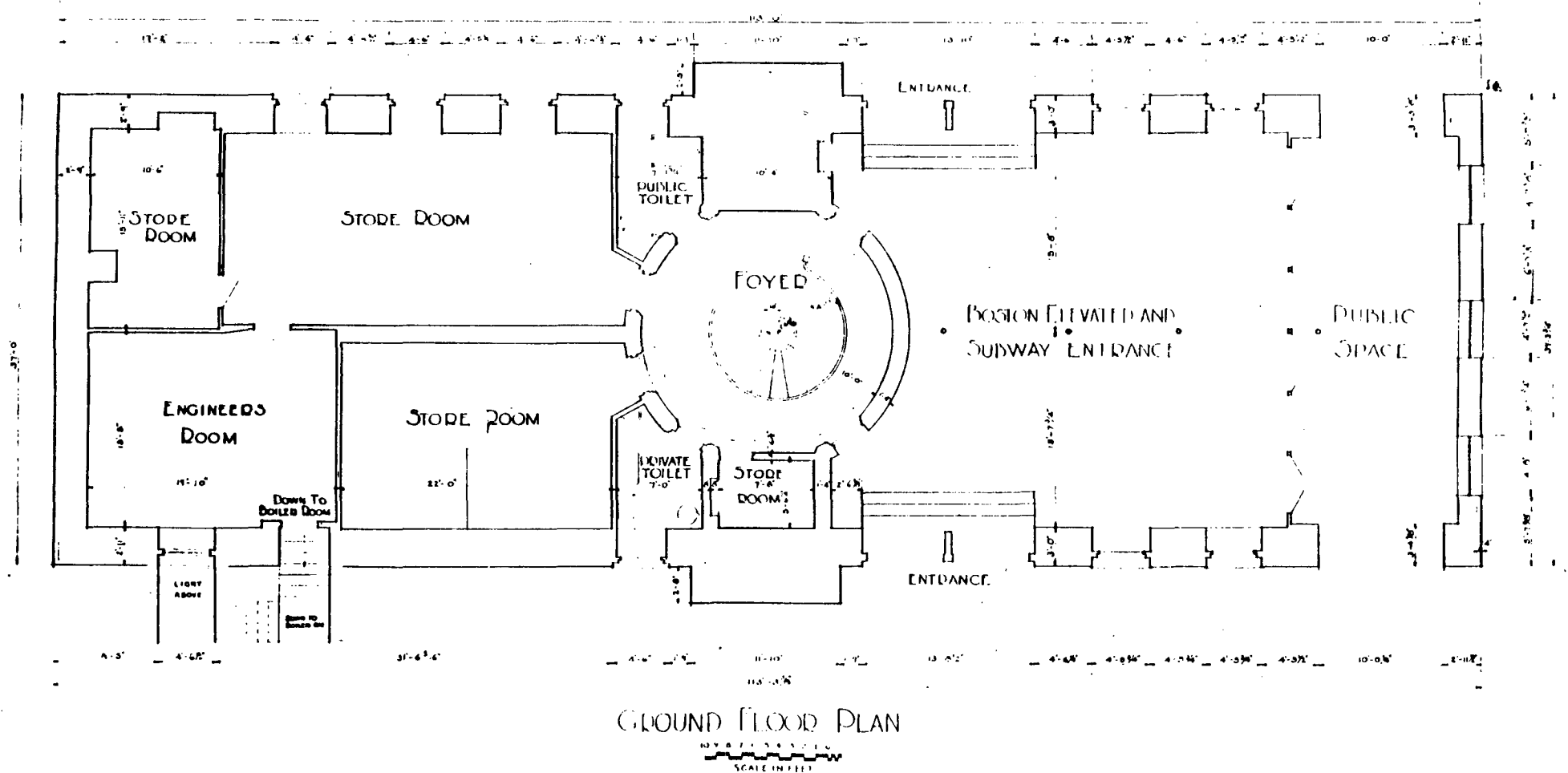


Illustration 74. Council Chamber, Old State House (1921).



Illustration 75. East Face of Tower, Old State House (1921).

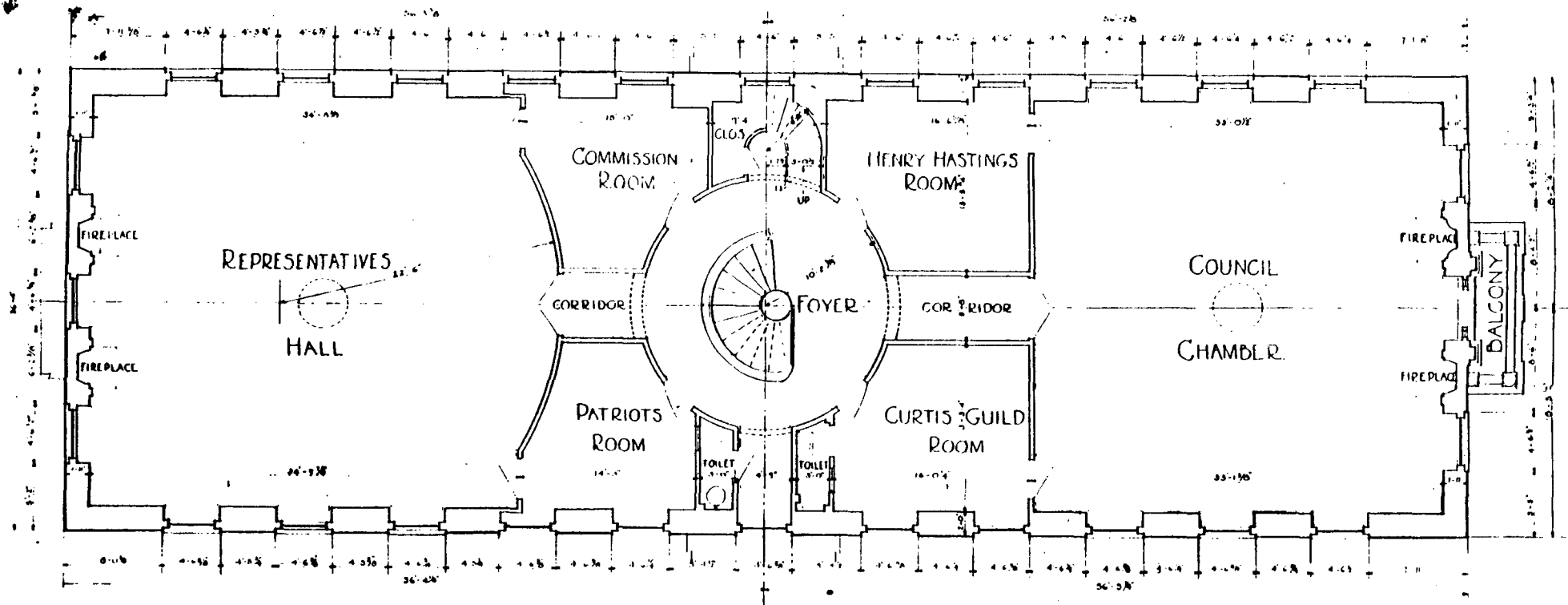


REPRODUCED FROM
THE ARCHITECTURAL RECORD
PUBLISHED BY THE
ARCHITECTURAL RECORD CO.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

OLD PROVINCIAL STATE HOUSE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

REPRODUCED FROM
THE ARCHITECTURAL RECORD
PUBLISHED BY THE
ARCHITECTURAL RECORD CO.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Illustration 76. "Ground-Floor Plan, Old Provincial State House" (probably 1932).



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

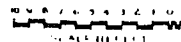
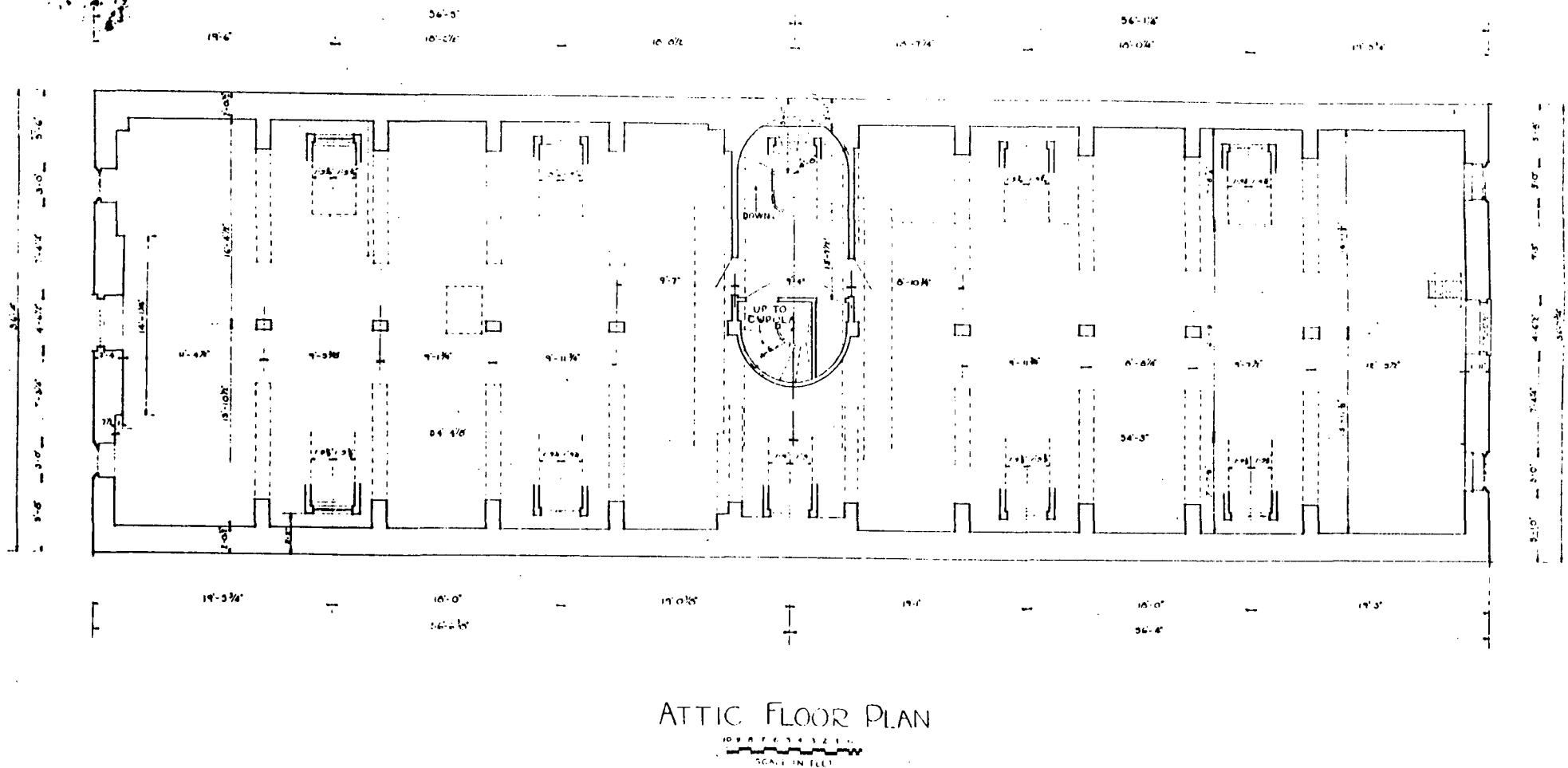


Illustration 78. "Second-Floor Plan, Old Provincial State House" (probably 1932).

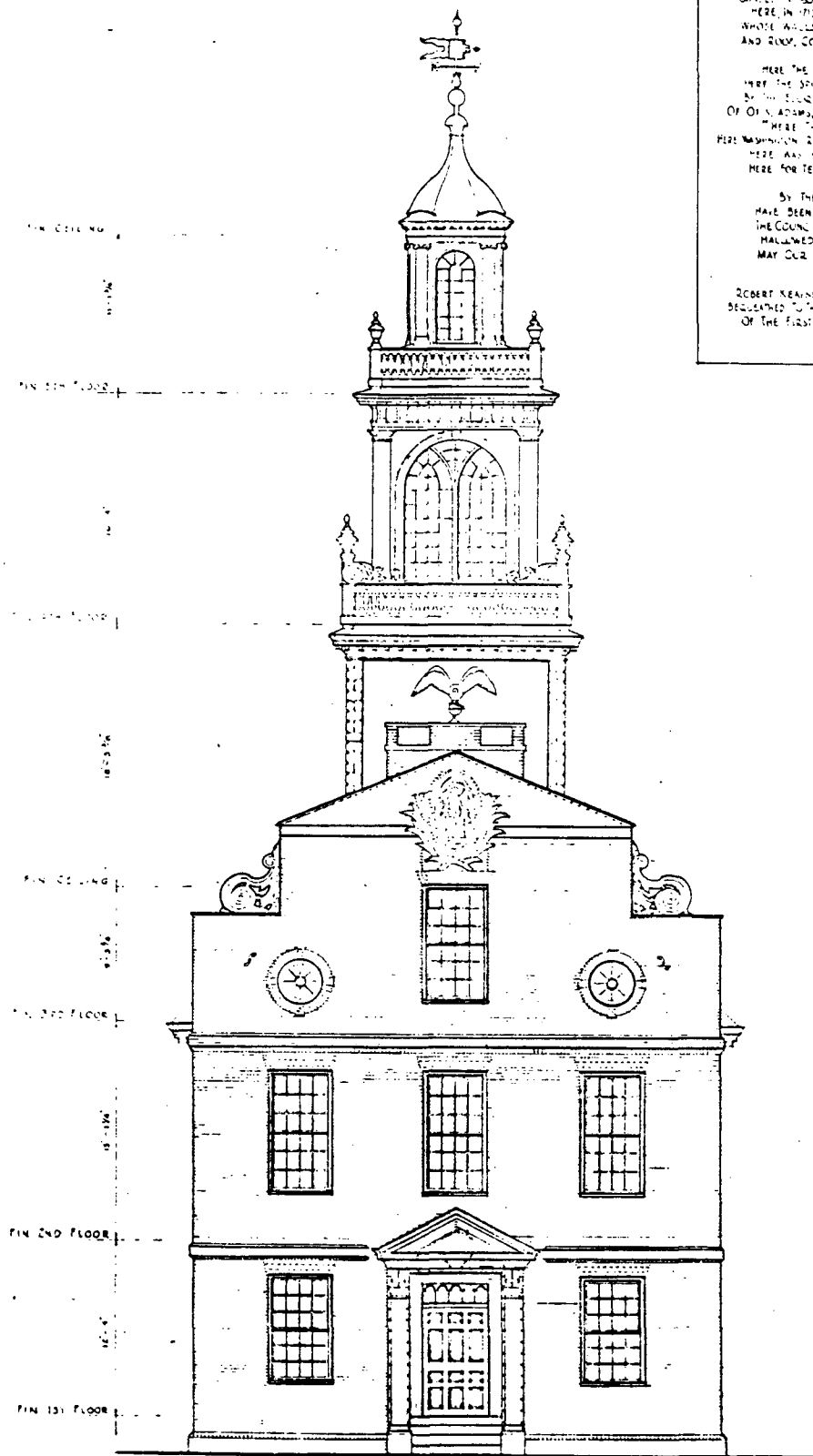


DESIGNED BY
JOHN T. ENGLISH
ARCHT. & ENGRS.
CITY OF BOSTON
BOSTON SOCIETY

OLD PROVINCIAL STATE HOUSE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DRAWING NO. 10 STATE STREET

ENGINEERED BY
THE ARCHT. & ENGRS.
F. M. BERRY, F. M. BERRY & COMPANY
100 N. STATE STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

Illustration 79. "Attic-Floor Plan, Old Provincial State House" (probably 1932).



ON THE 1ST OF SEPTEMBER, 1711, THE FIRST TOWN HOUSE OF BOSTON, FOUNDED IN 1637 BY THE GENERALITY OF THE FIRST SETTLERS, HERE, IN 1713, WAS DECEASED. THE SECOND FLOOR, WHICH HAD ENDURED TO THIS DAY, AS DO THE FLOORS AND ROOF, CONSTRUCTED IN 1710, AFTER A SECOND FIRE HAD DEVASTATED IT. FORTY-SEVEN YEARS THE JUDICIAL ASSEMBLY USED THE ROOM, HERE THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY WAS AWAKENED AND GROWN BY THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ACTION OF INDIVIDUALS, QUINCY, WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON, AND MADISON. HERE THE CHARTER OF INDEPENDENCE WAS SIGNED. HERE WASHINGTON RECEIVED THE TITLES OF AN INDEPENDENT NATION. HERE AND UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT OF A NEW STATE, HERE FOR TEN YEARS OUR CIVIL RIGHTS ASSEMBLED AND HERE.

BY THE VOICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF 1841, HAVE BEEN RECONSTRUCTED IN THE ORIGINAL FORM THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REPRESENTATIVE HALL - HALLMARKED BY THE MEMORIES OF THE REVOLUTION MAY OUR CHILDREN PRESERVE THE HALLS' TRUST.

ROBERT KEANE, THE FOUNDER AND 1ST CHIEF ARCHT. CO. OF MASS. DEDICATED TO THE TOWN OF BOSTON AND SIGNED THE DEEDS OF THE FIRST TOWN HOUSE, WHICH STOOD ON THIS SITE FROM 1637 - 1711.

WEST ELEVATION

10' 0" 8' 0" 6' 0" 4' 0" 2' 0" 0' 0"
SCALE IN FEET

Illustration 80. "West Elevation, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

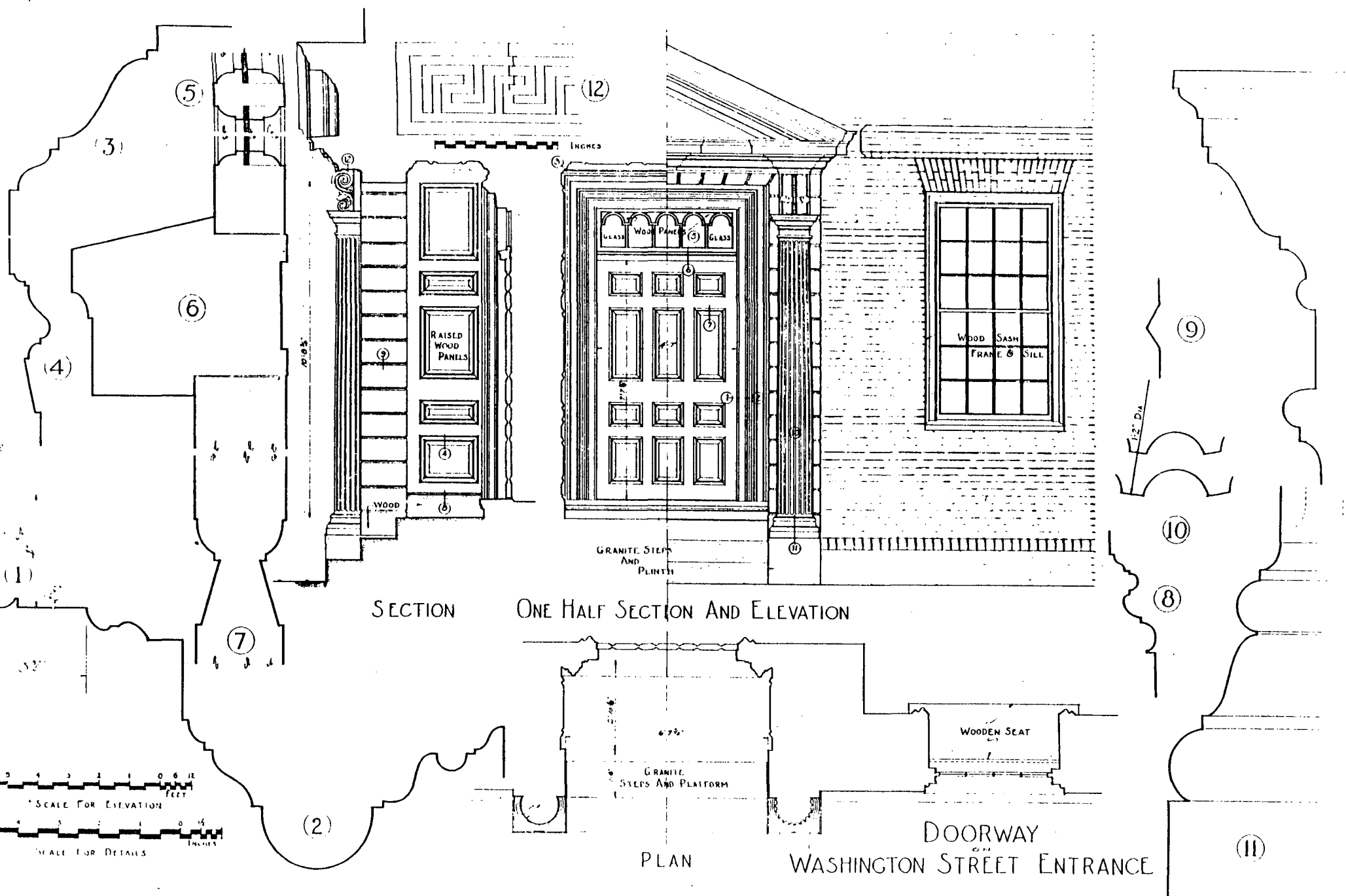


Illustration 81. "Doorway on Washington Street (West) Entrance, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

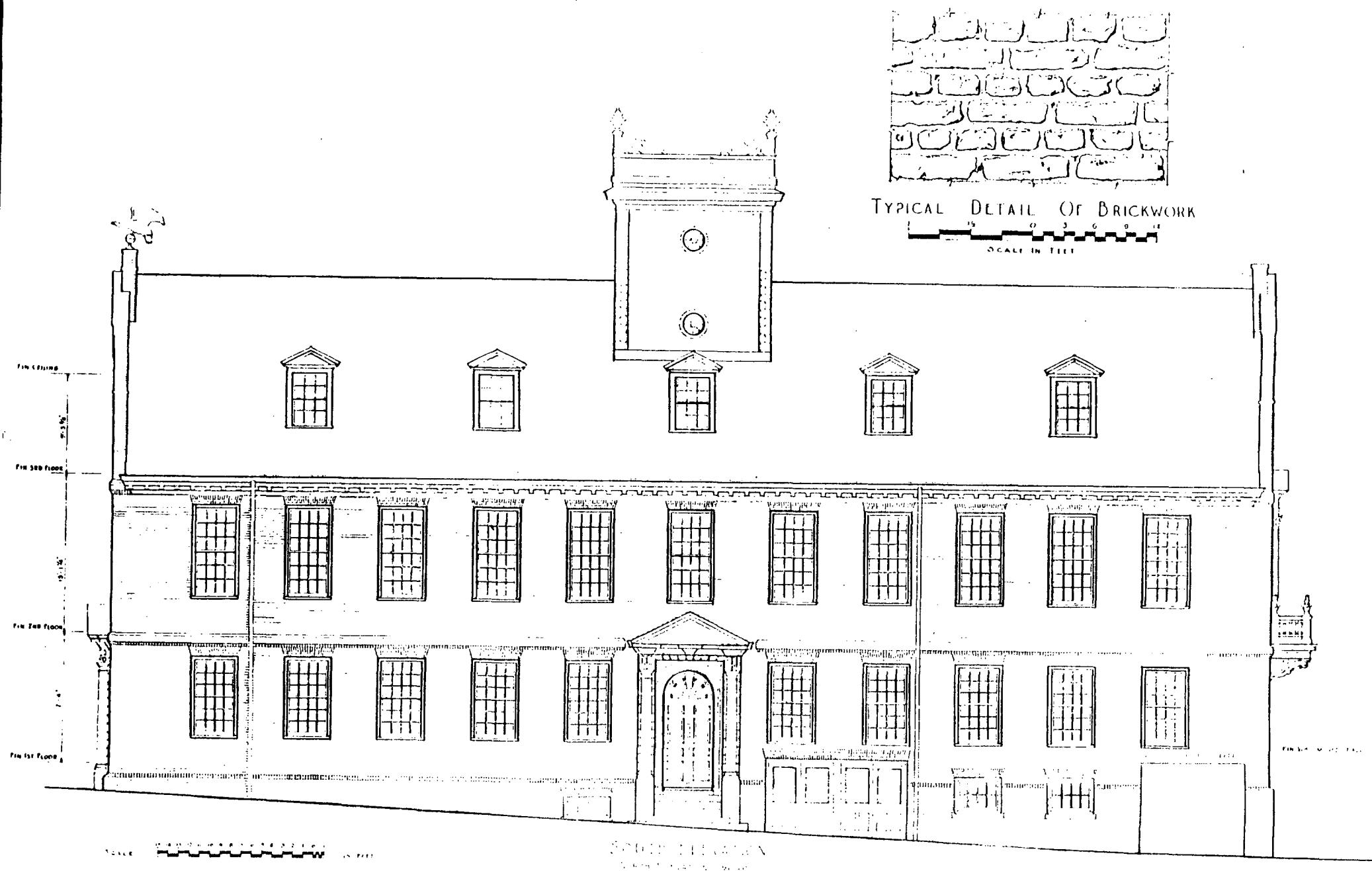


Illustration 82. "South Elevation, North Elevation Similar, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

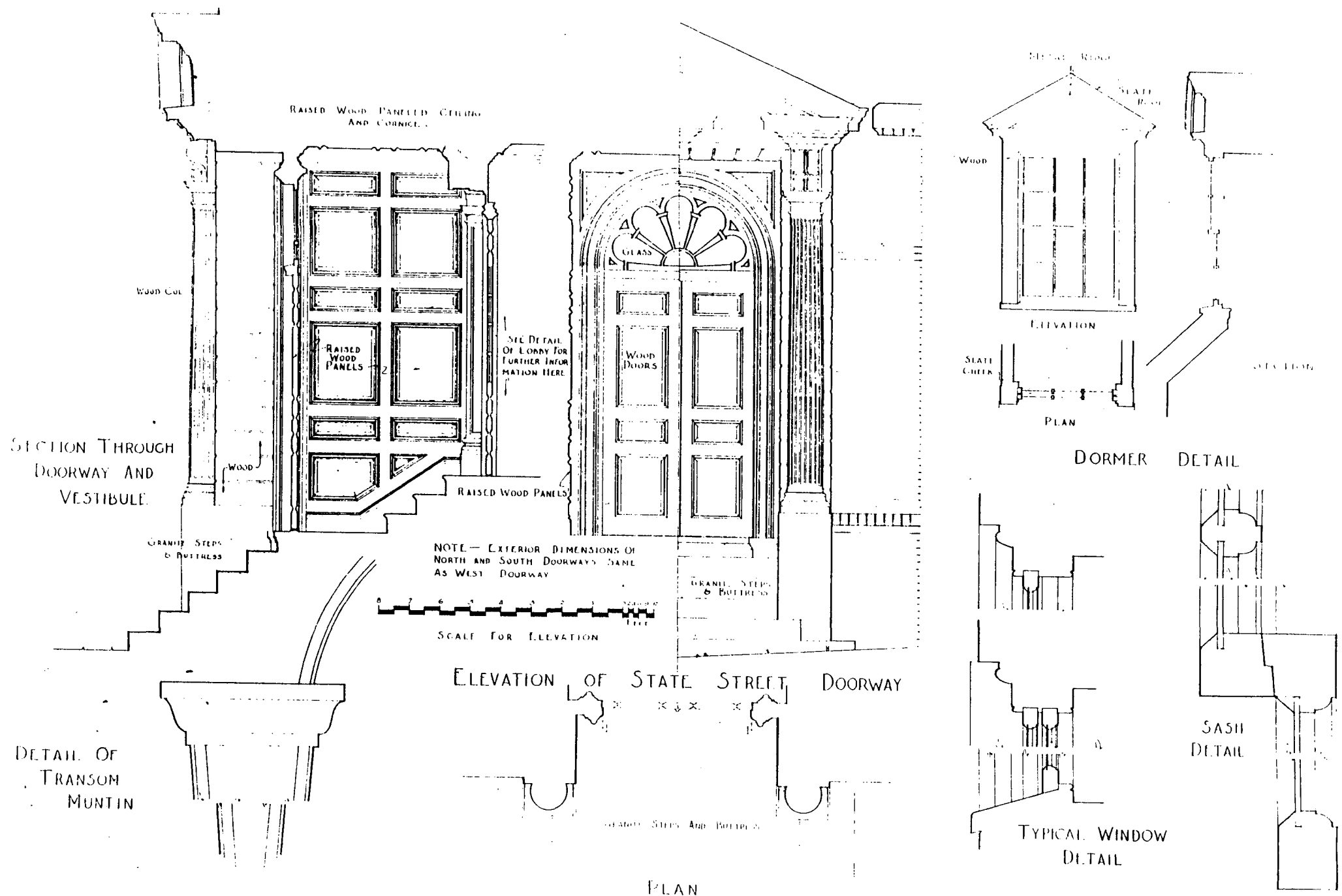


Illustration 83. "Elevation of State Street (North) Doorway, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

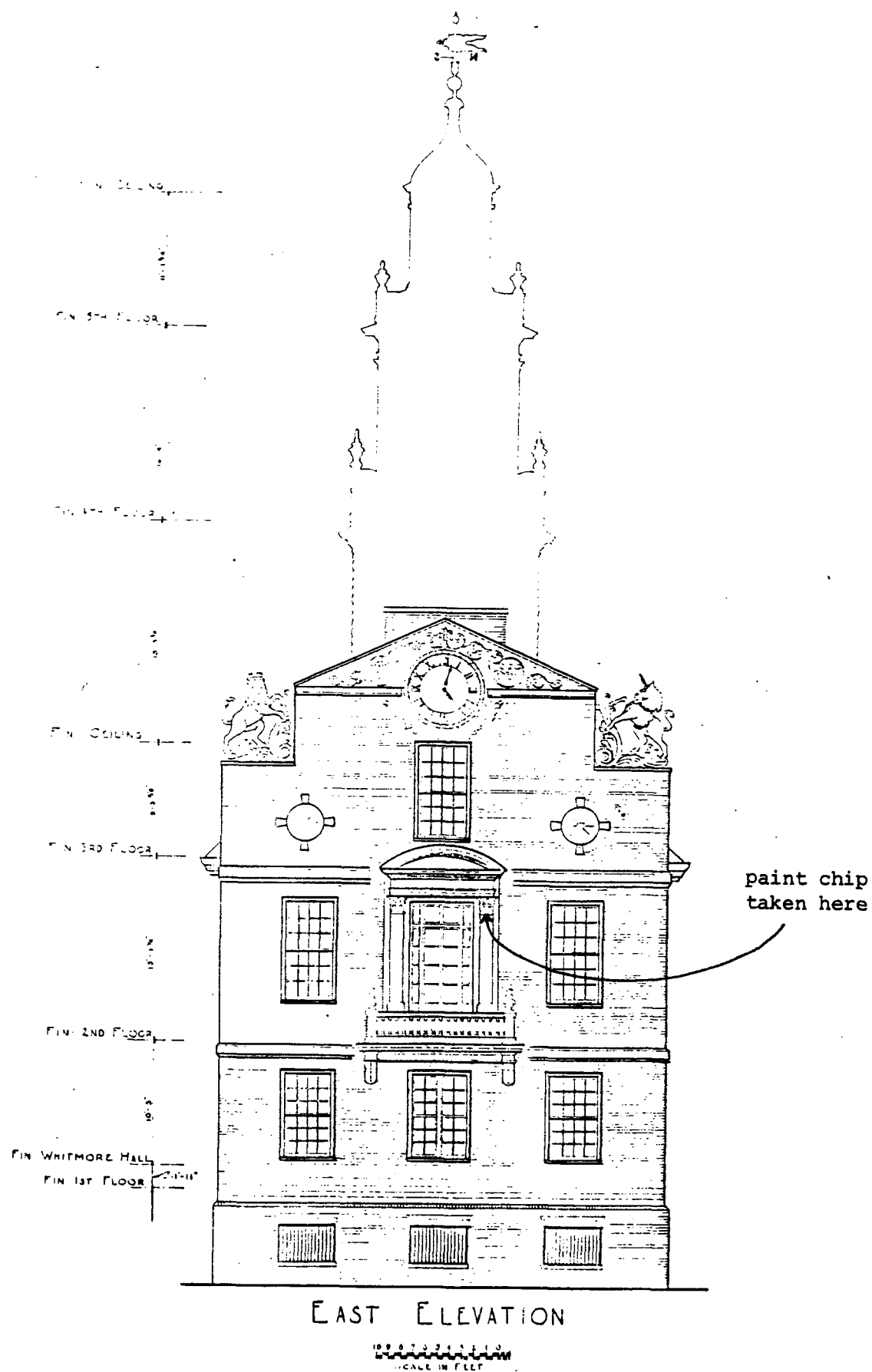


Illustration 84. "East Elevation, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

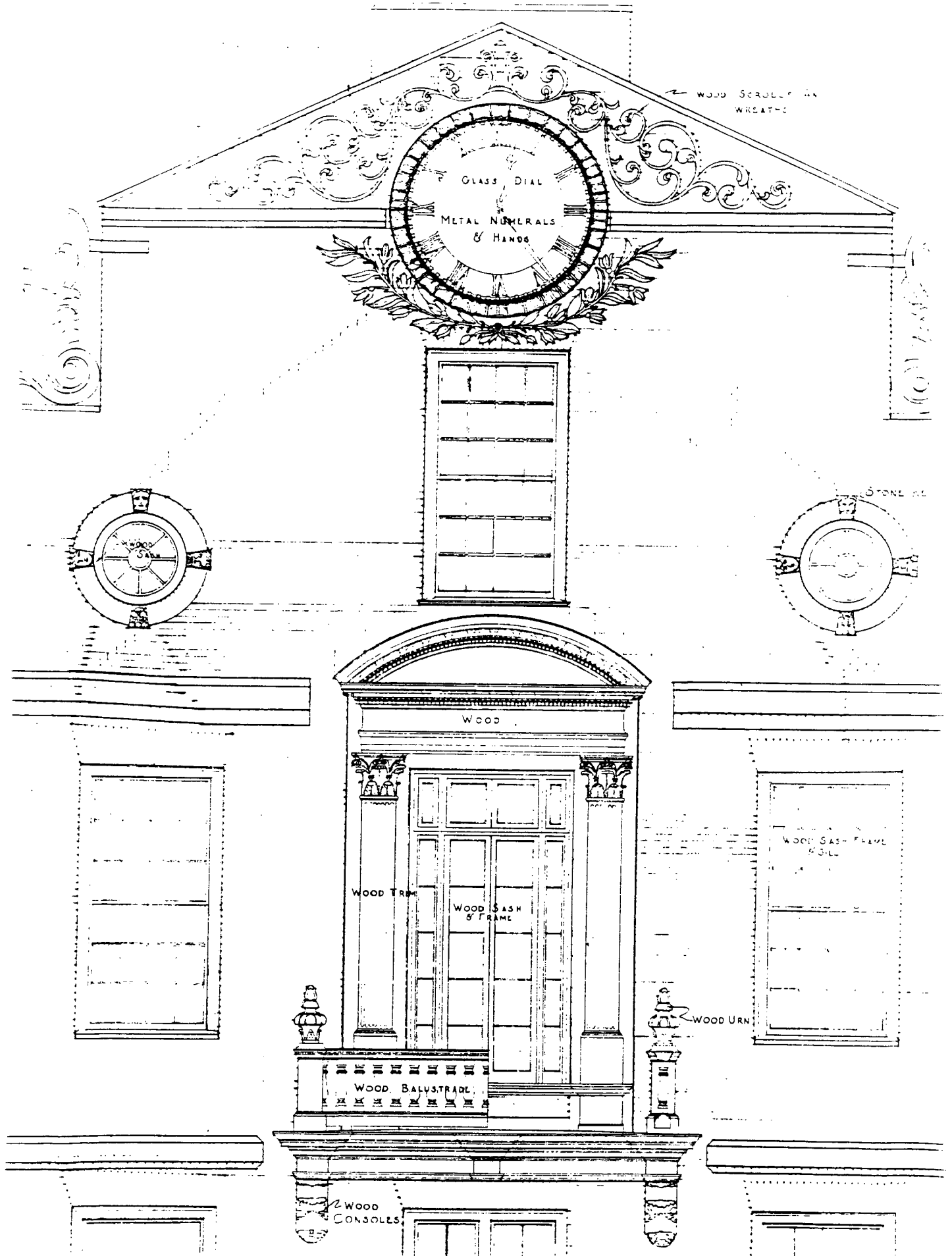


Illustration 85. "(Partial East Elevation,) Old Provincial State House" (1932).

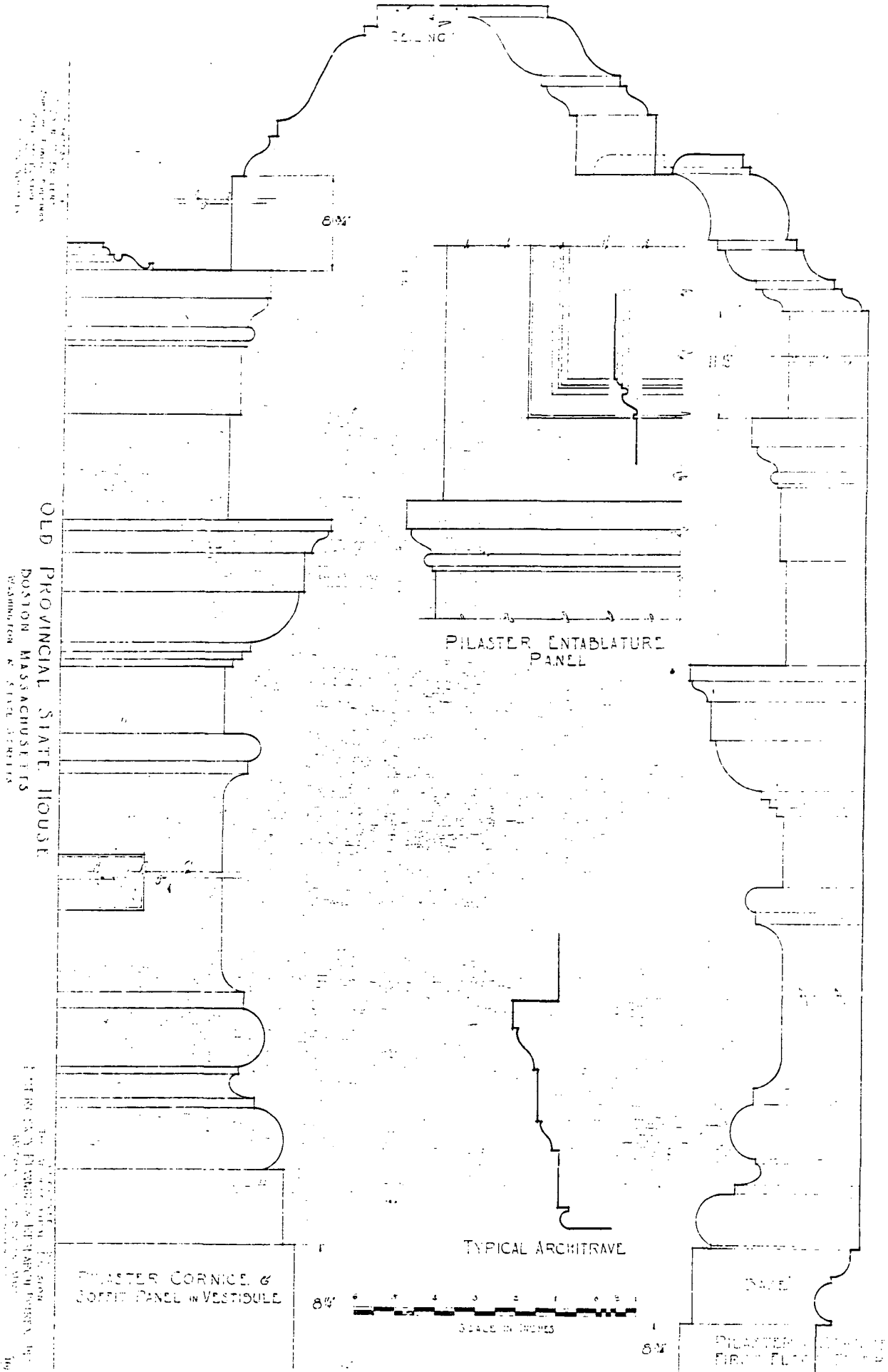


Illustration 87. "Detail of...Vestibule and...First-Floor Foyer, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

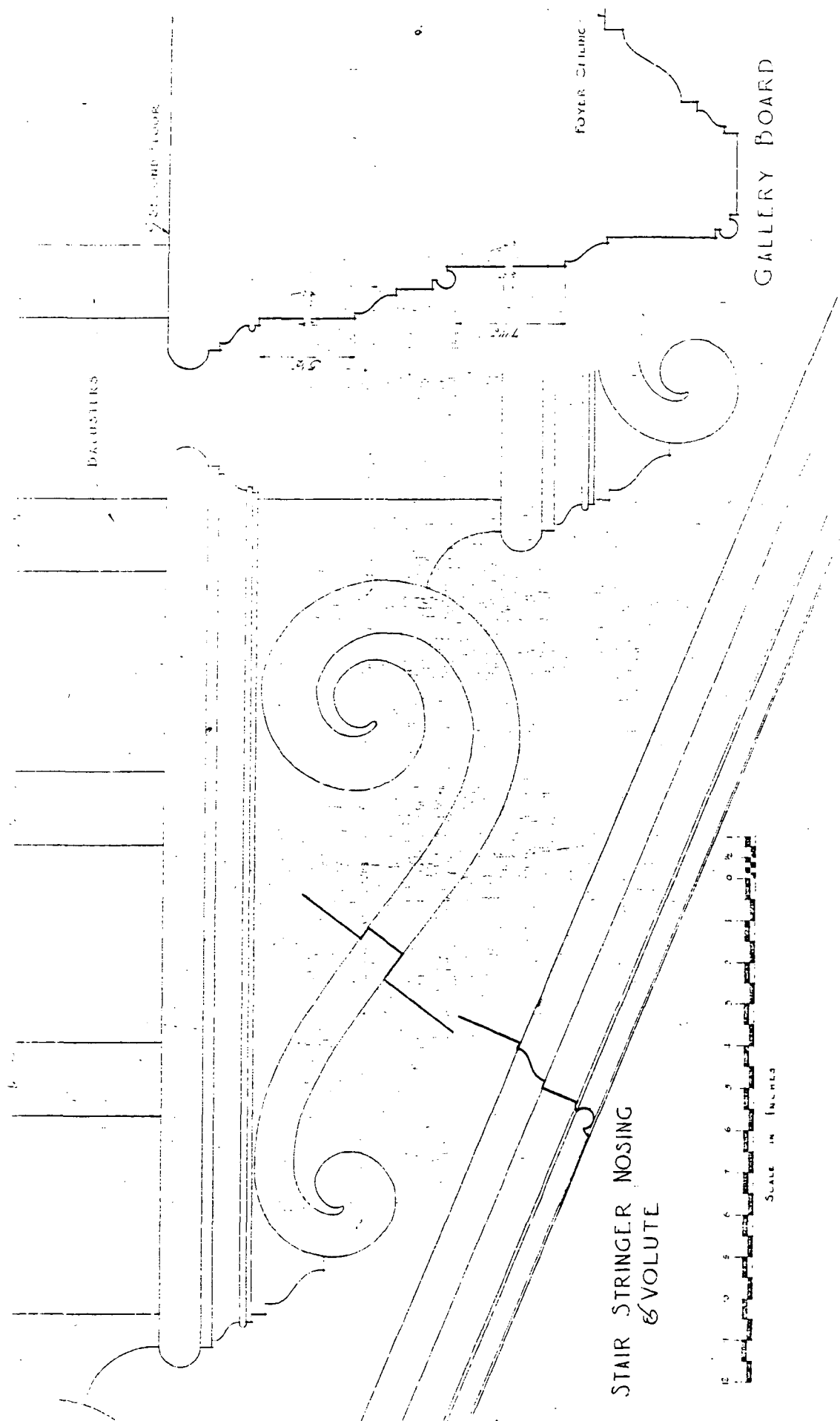


Illustration 89. "Stair Stringer Nosing and Volute, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

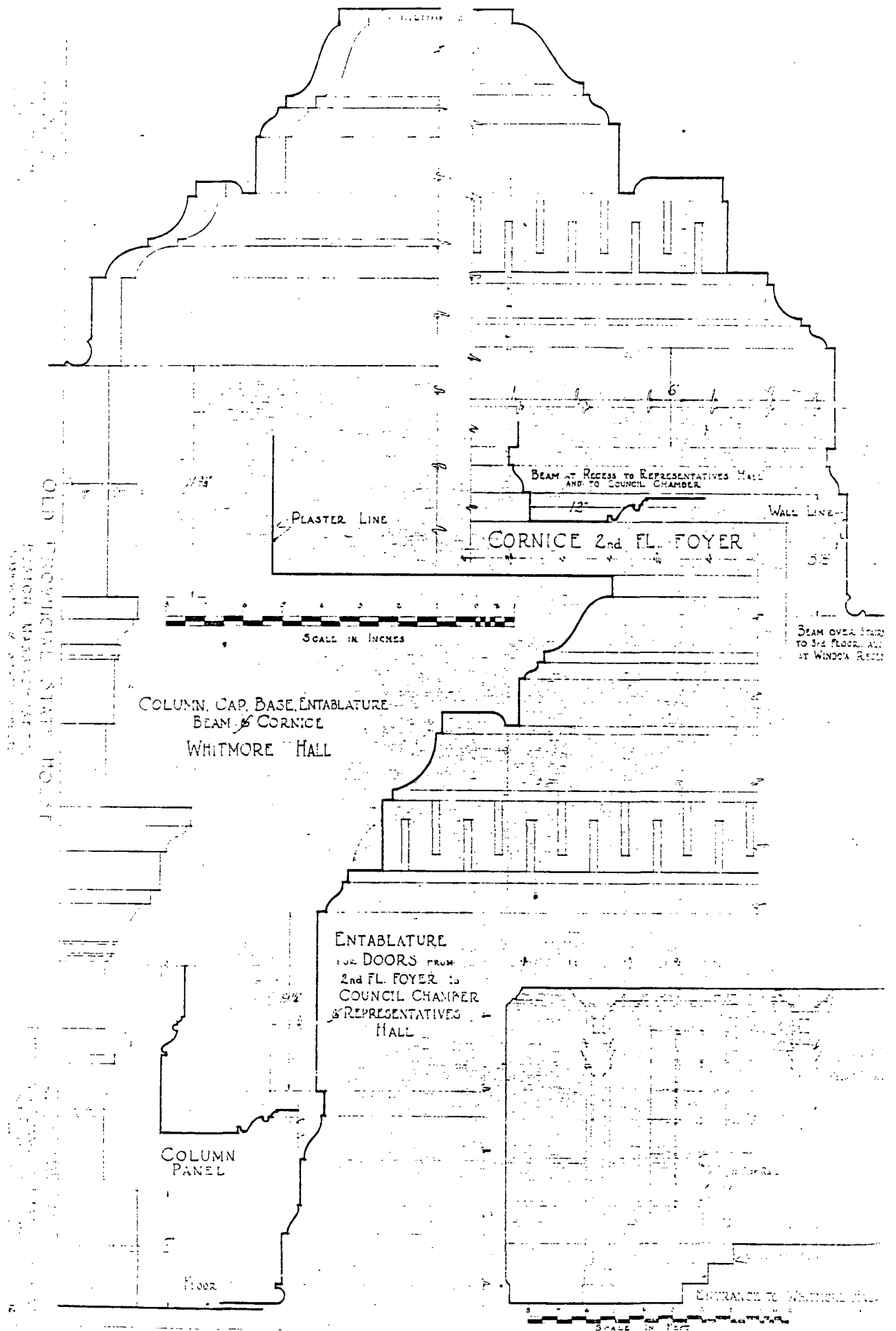


Illustration 90. "Column, Cap, Base, Entablature, Beam & Cornice,
Whitmore Hall, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

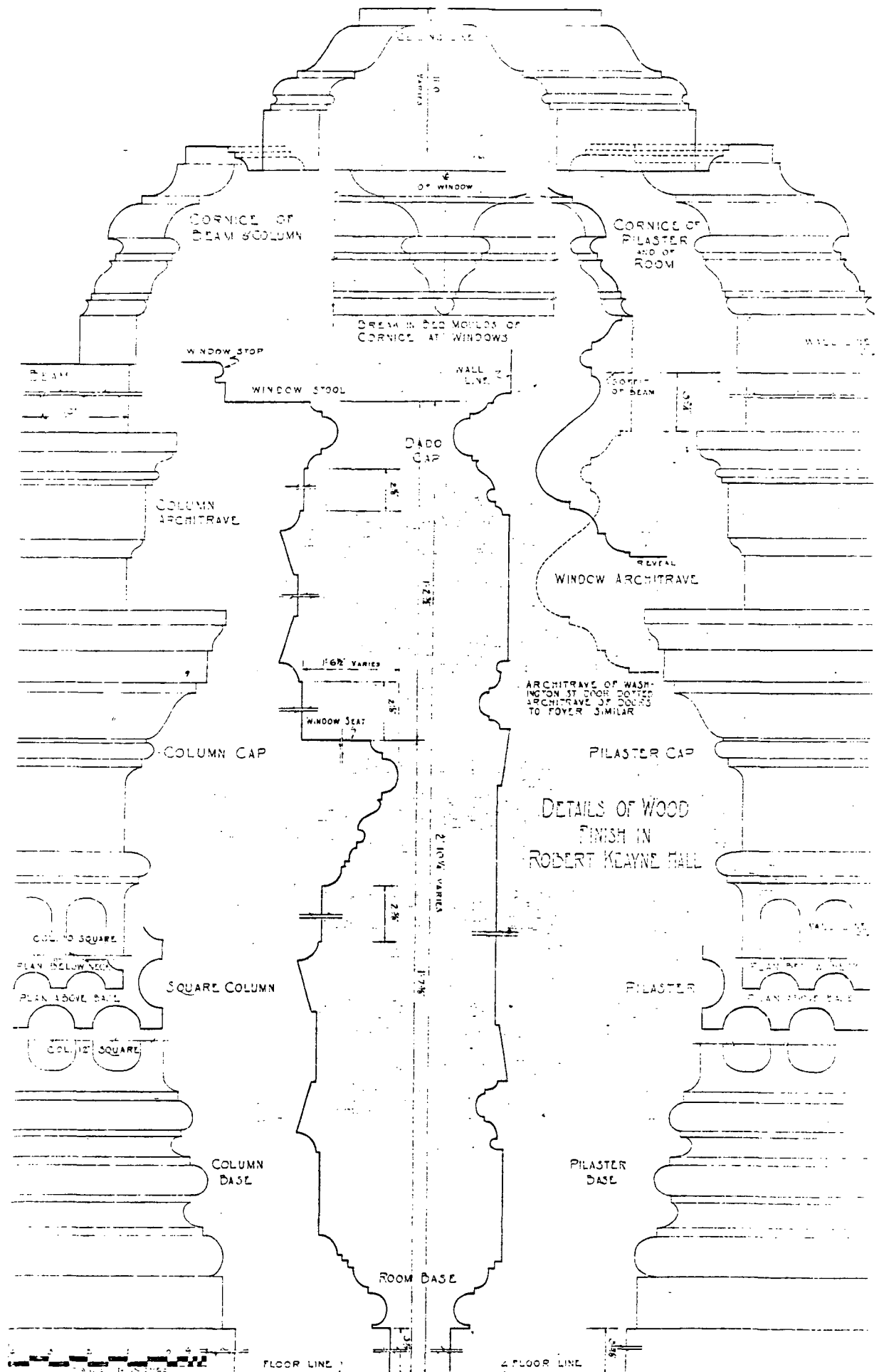


Illustration 91. "Details of Wood Finish in Robert Keayne Hall, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

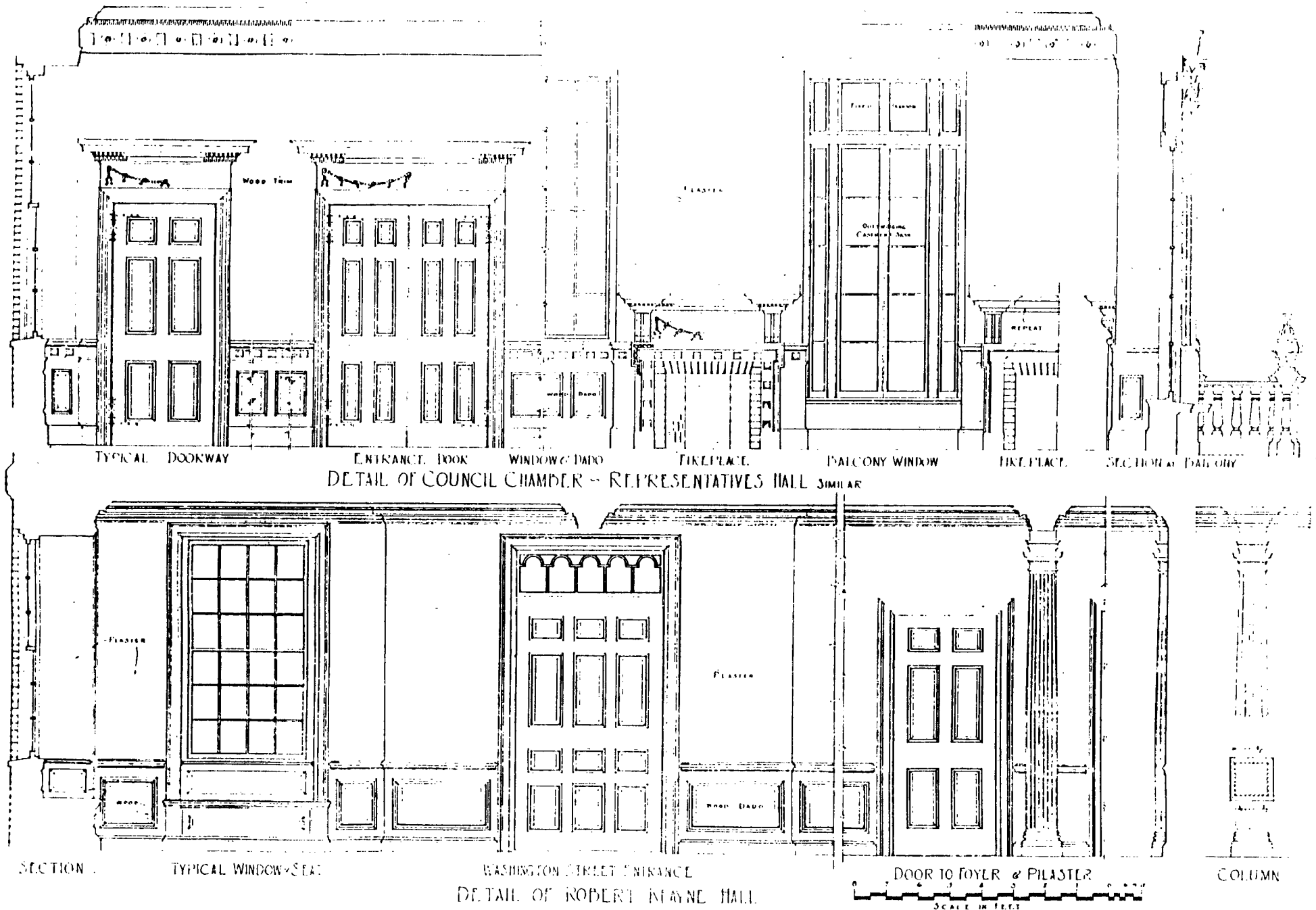


Illustration 92. "Detail of Council Chamber..., Detail of Robert Keayne Hall, Old Provincial State House" (1932).

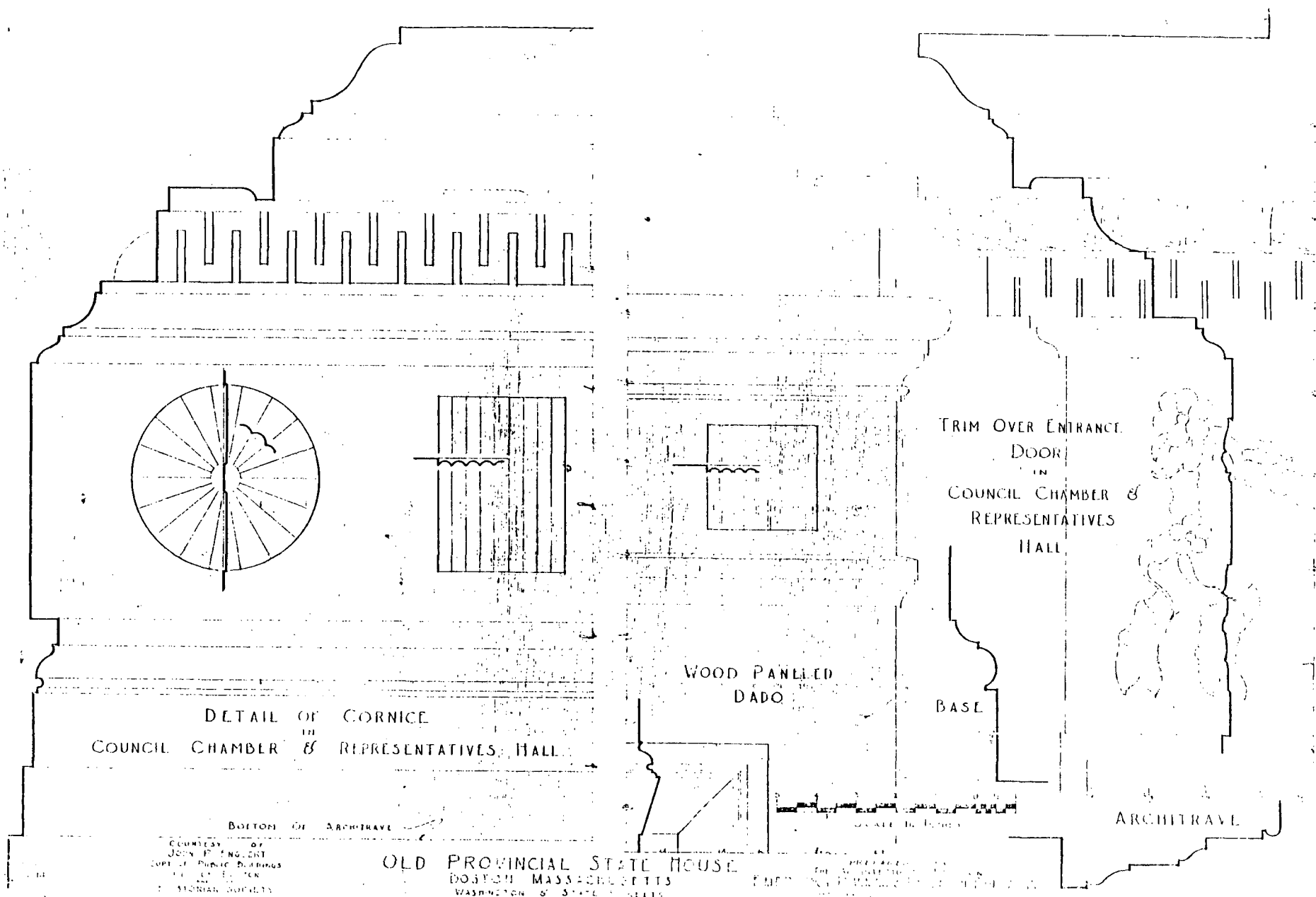
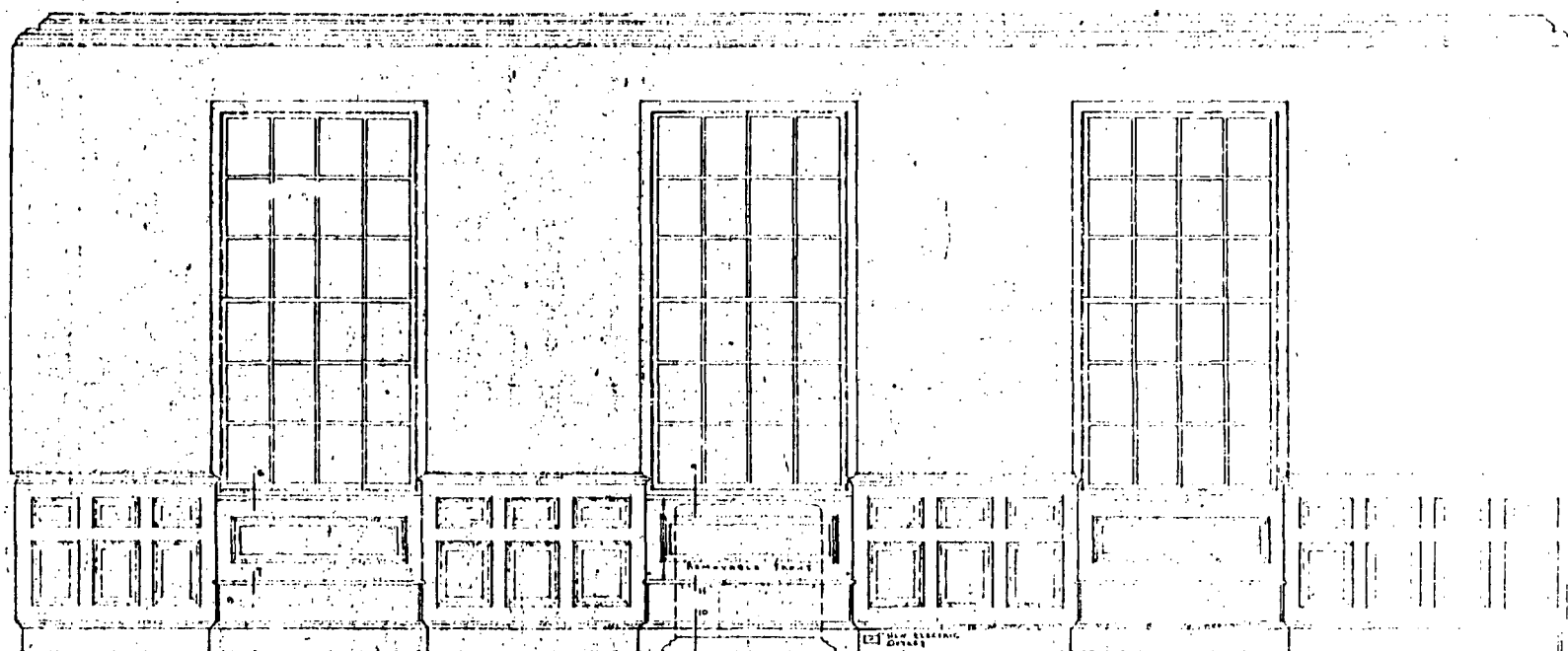


Illustration 93. "Detail of Cornice in Council Chamber & Representatives' Hall, Old Provincial State House" (probably 1932).



NORTH WALL
 SOUTH WALL - SIMILAR
 SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"

CONTRACTOR VERIFY
 ALL DIMENSIONS
 AT BUILDING

DESIGNED BY
 DRAWN BY
 CHECKED BY

3

Illustration 96. "North Wall, Alterations to Council Chamber, Old Provincial State House" (1943).

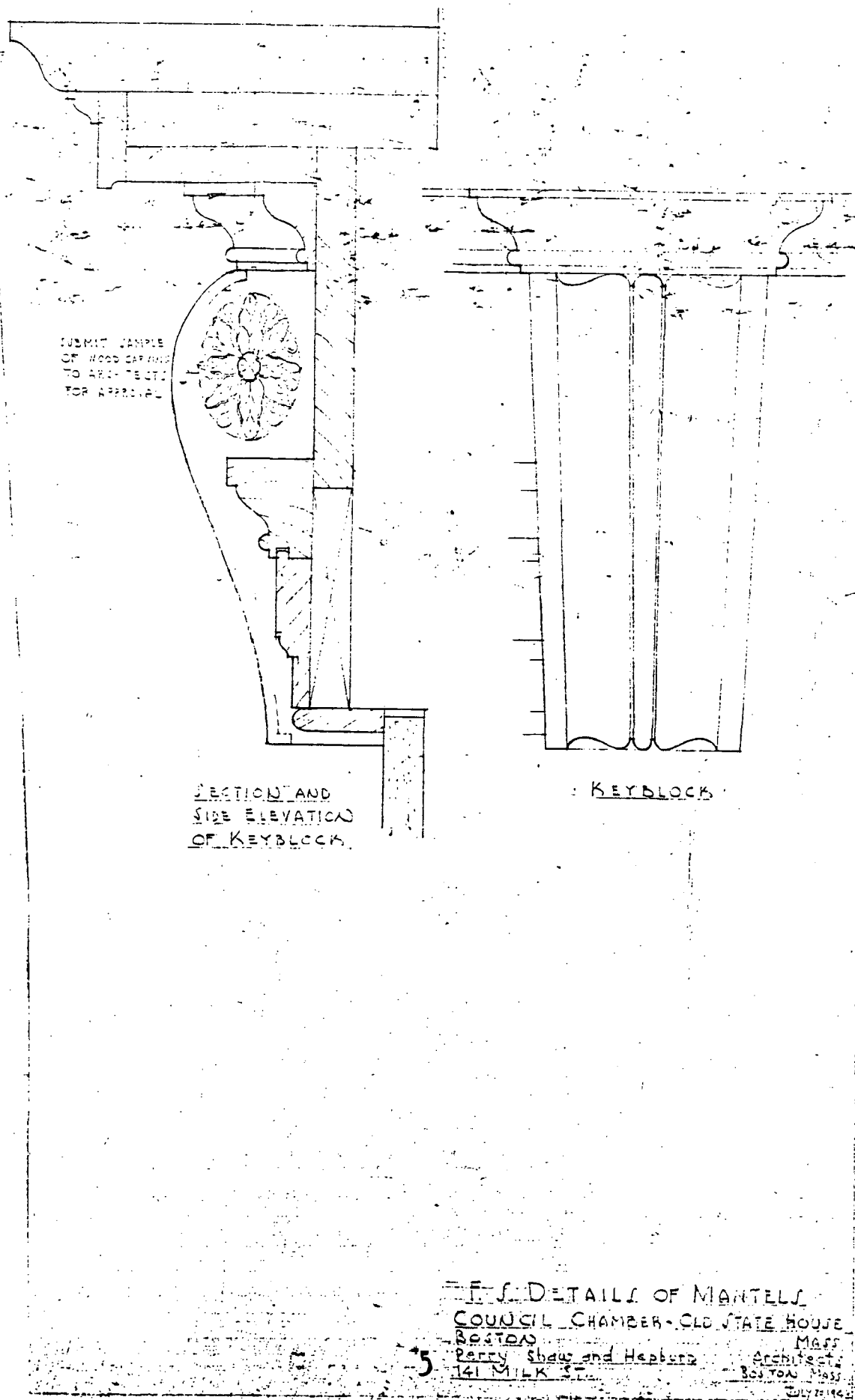


Illustration 97. Details of Mantels, Council Chamber, Old State House (1943).

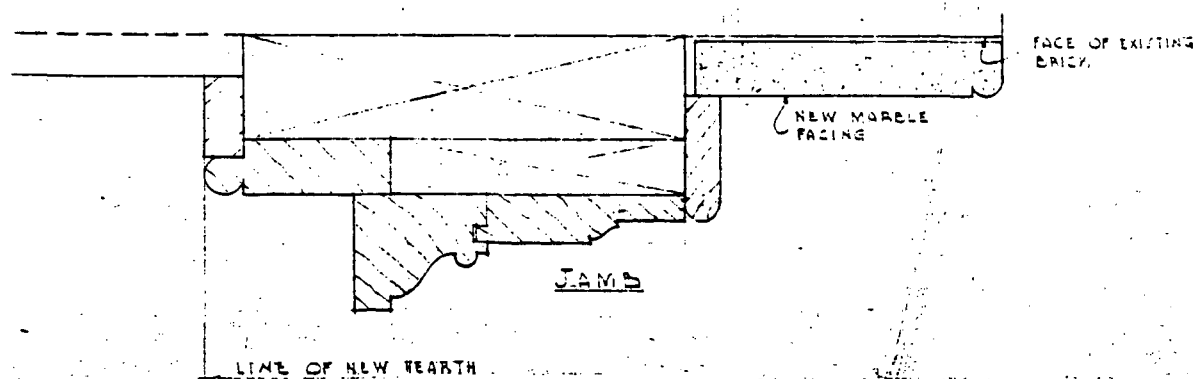
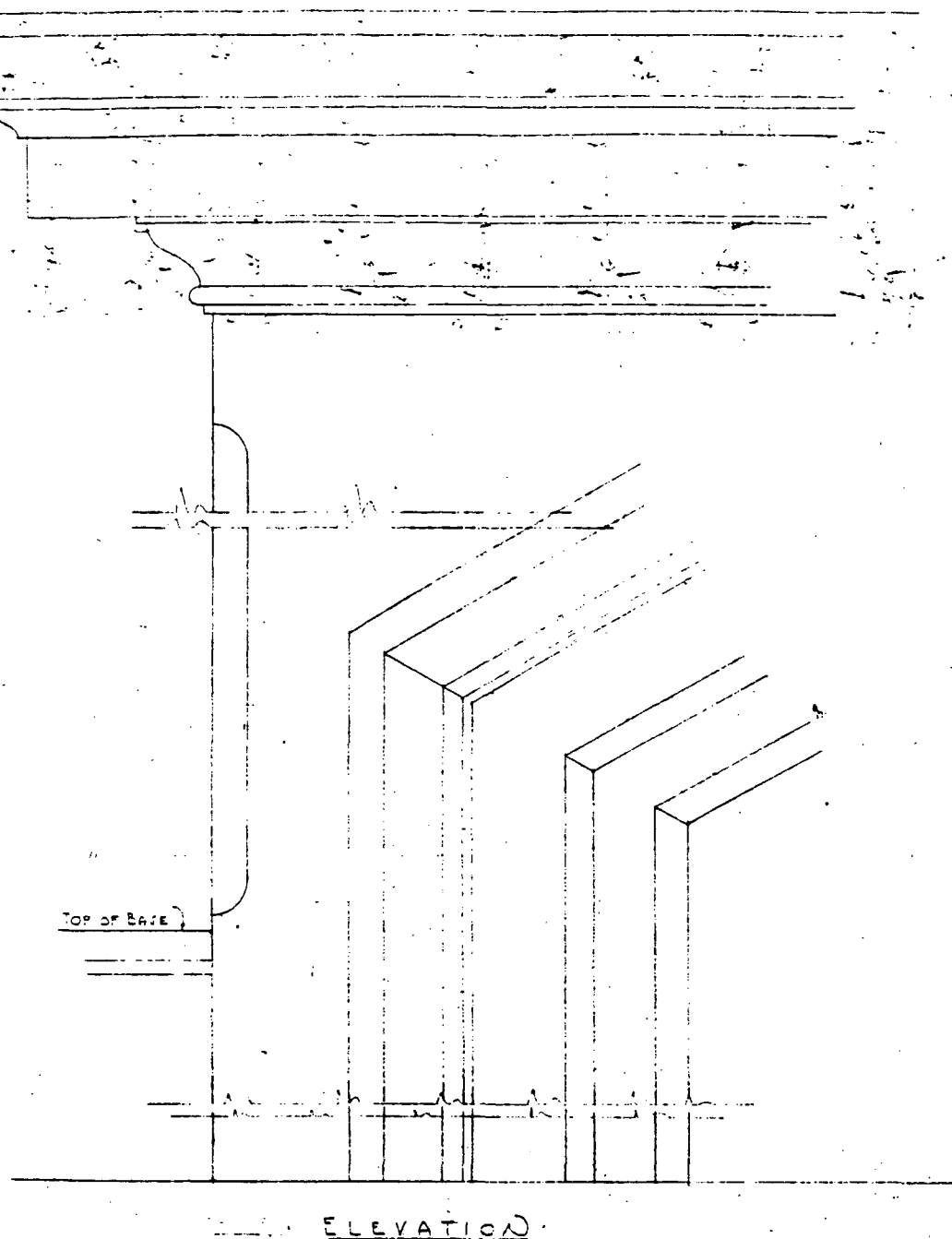


Illustration 98. Details of Mantels, Council Chamber, Old State House (1943).

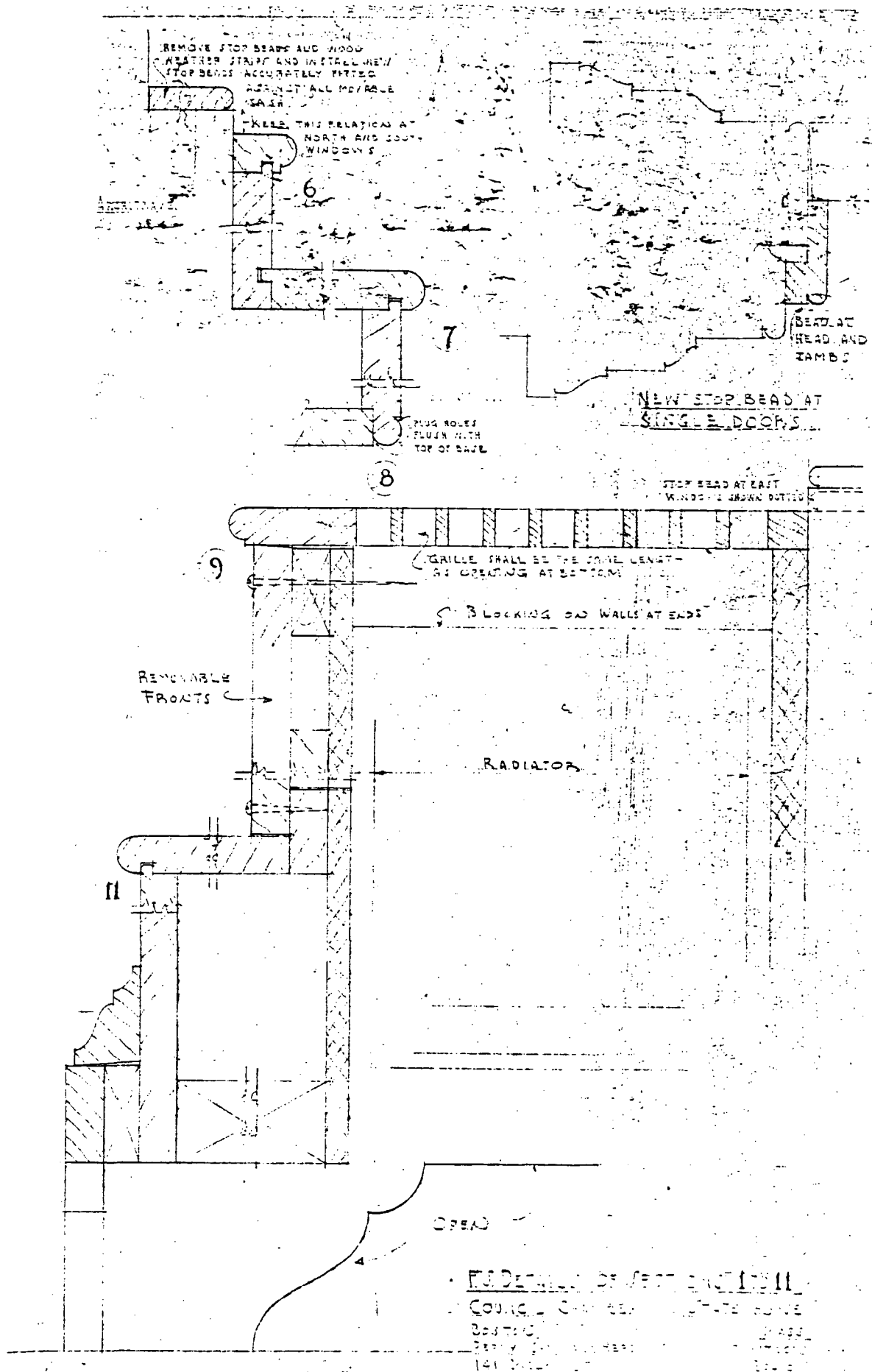


Illustration 99. Details of Sections 1 to 11, Council Chamber, Old State House (1943).

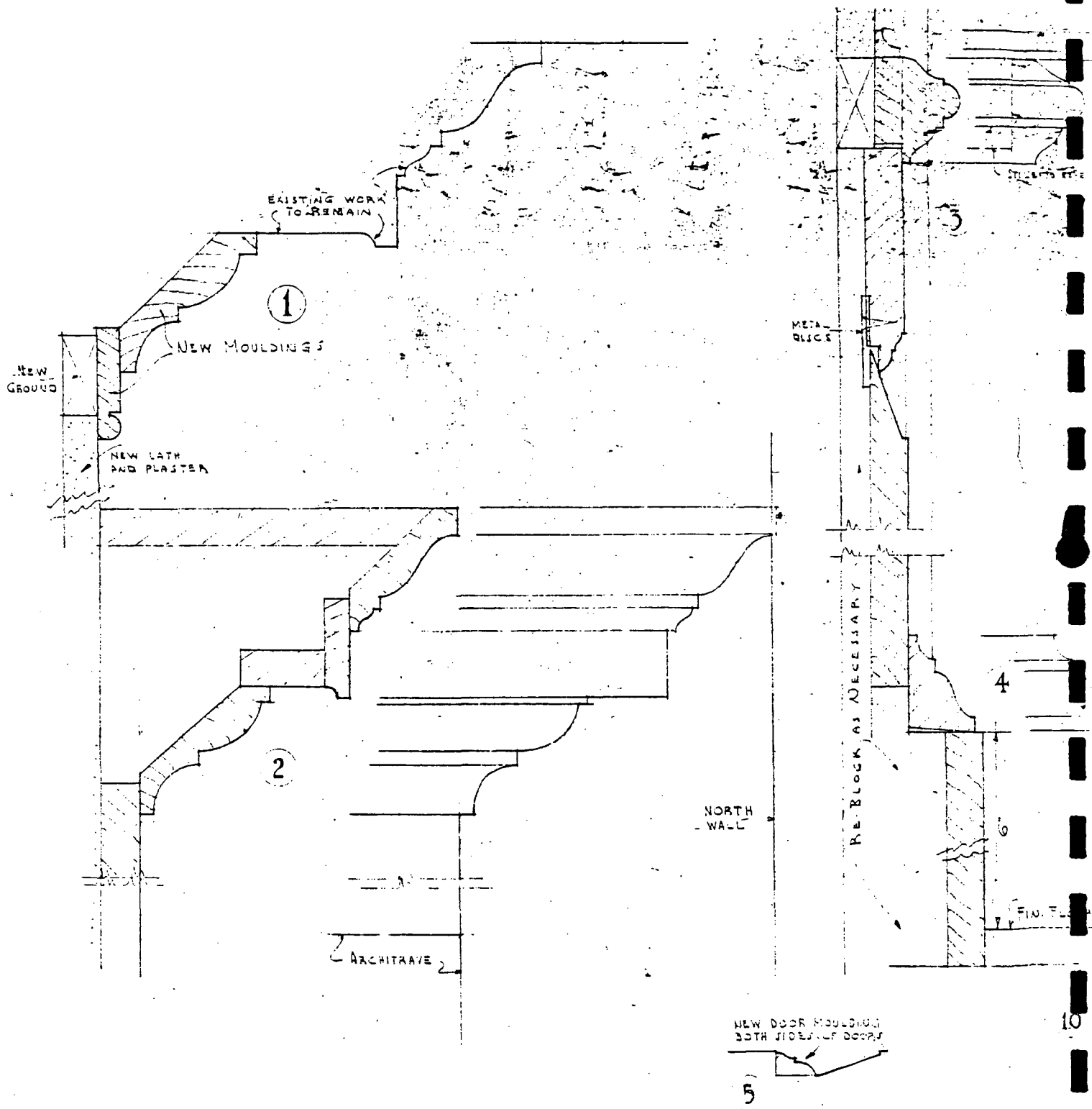


Illustration 100. Details of Sections 1 to 11, Council Chamber, Old State House (1943).



Illustration 101. East End of Council Chamber, Old State House (c. 1966).



Illustration 102. West End of Council Chamber, Old State House (c. 1966).

EW GOLD LEAF
4 LION. _____
EW PAINT ON
INAMENT _____

ANCHOR NEW WALL TO EXISTING ROOF
FRAMING AT THESE POINTS

NEW COPPER PAN FLASHING BENEATH STONE

NEW L.C. COPPER FLASHING

NEW GOLD
LEAF ON
COLLAGE

CEILING

BUILD NEW WALL
AROUND EXISTING
METAL TIE —

ATTIC FLOOR

CEILING

13' 5 1/2"

2ND FLOOR

REMOVE ALL EXISTING BROWN STONE KEYS AND REPLACE

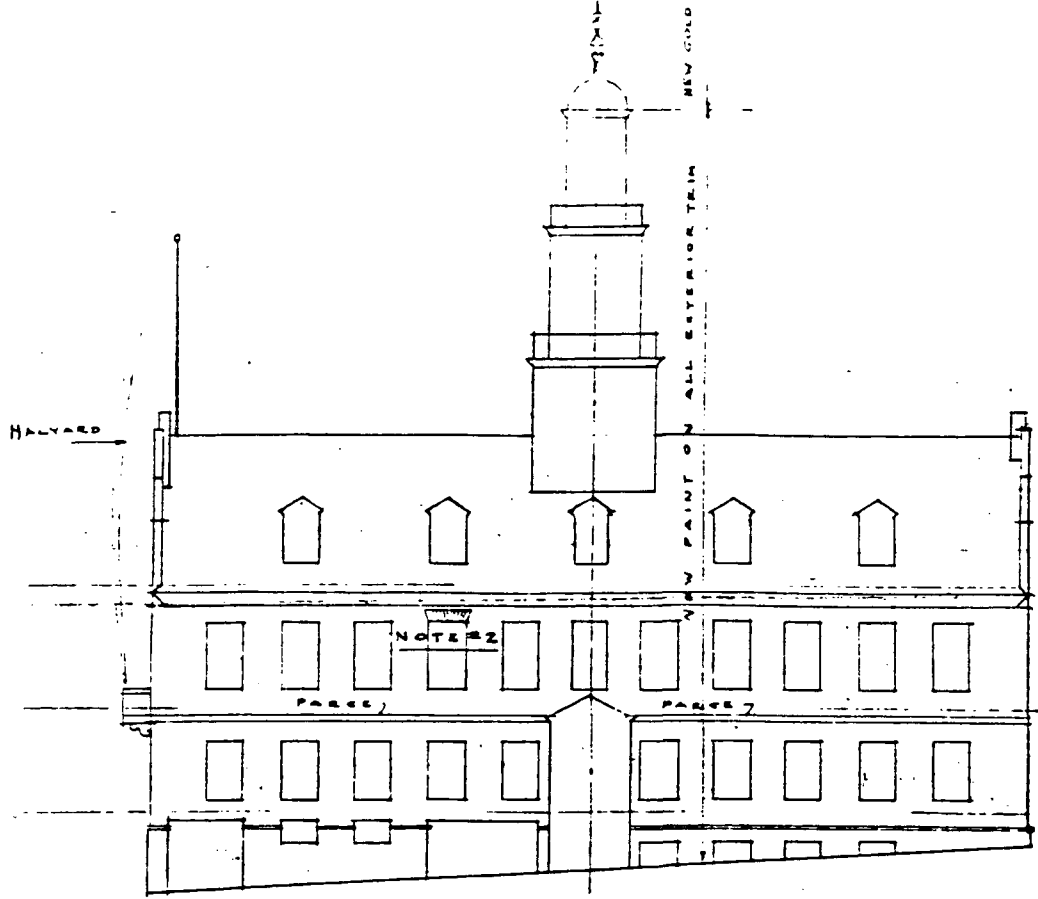
CAST STONE REPUCA

REMOVE EXISTING DAMAGED WOOD ORNAMENT, AND REPLACE WITH NEW.

REPAIR EXISTING ORNAMENT.

37:3" ±

Illustration 104. Part of a Drawing of East Elevation, Indicating Work to be Done, Old State House (1956).



NORTH ELEVATION
(NOT TO SCALE)

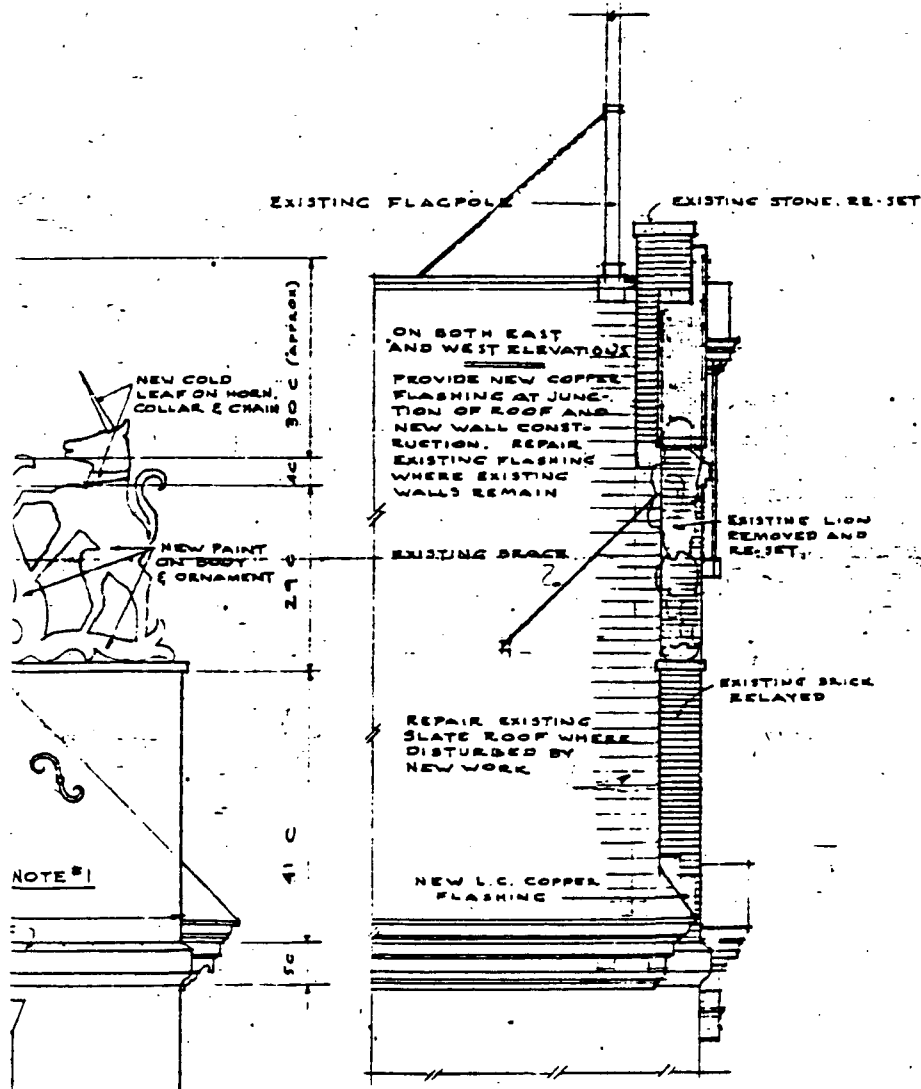
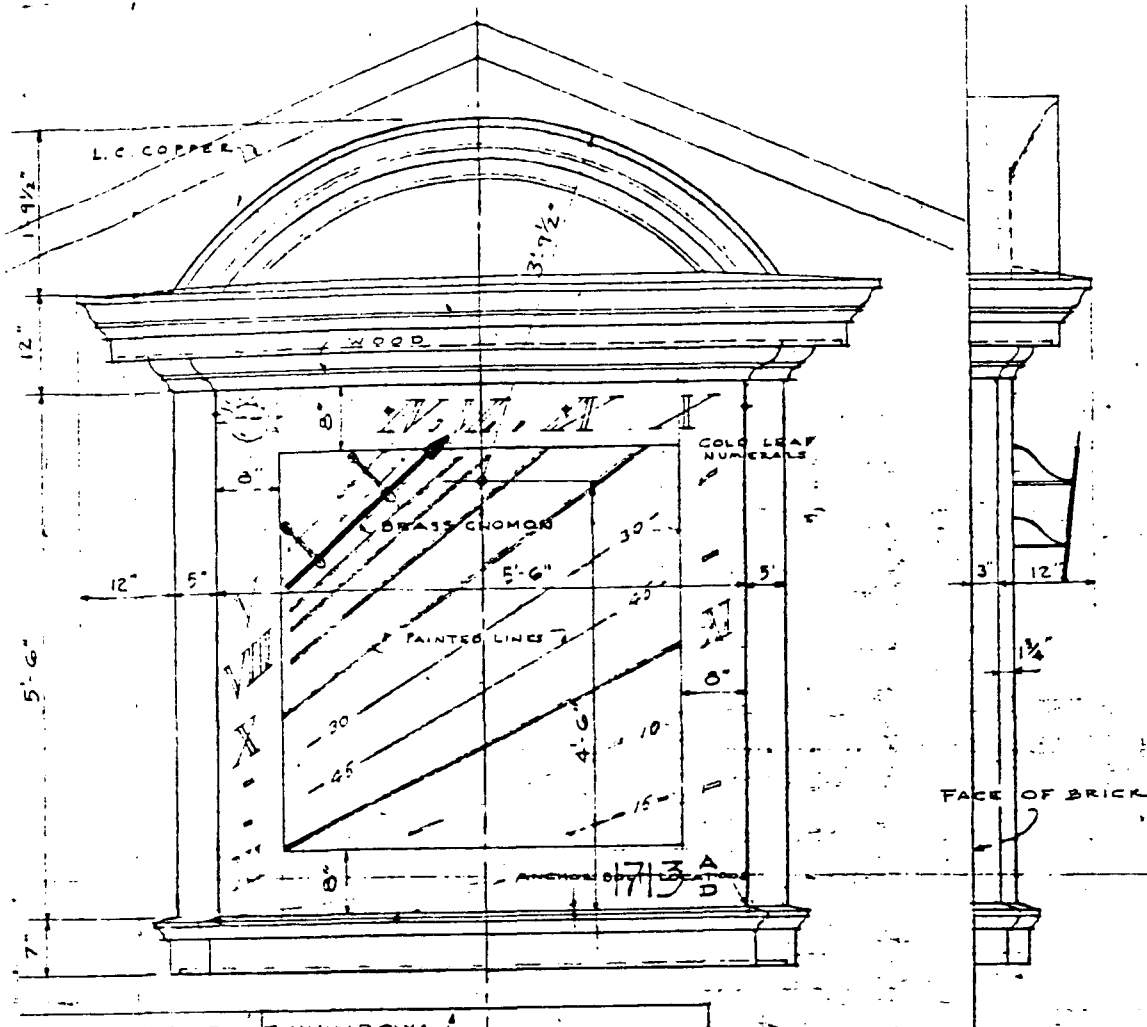


Illustration 105. Part of a Drawing of East Gable and North Elevation, Indicating Work to be Done, Old State House (1956).



SEE DWG 100A FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
SEE DWG 101 FOR DETAIL OF GNOMON
SEE DWG 102 FOR LETTERING

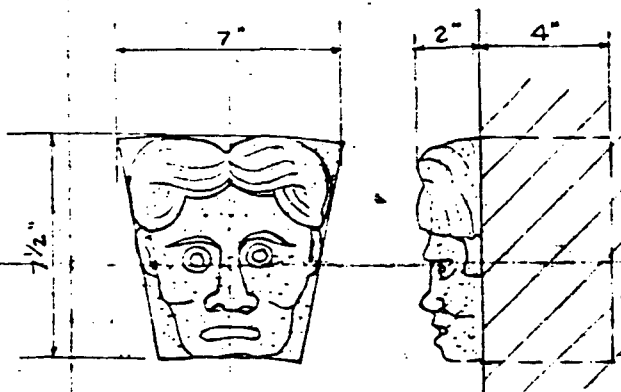
F R O N T S I D E

D E T A I L S O F S U N D I A L

SCALE $\frac{3}{4}" = 1'-0"$

- NOTE :
- A. SUBMIT SHOP DRAWING SHOWING METHOD OF ATTACHING SUN DIAL TO BRICK WALL TO THE BOSTON BUILDING DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL.
 - B. ALL ANCHORS OR SUPPORTS SHALL BE OF A NON-CORROSIVE MATERIAL.
 - C. DO NOT FABRICATE UNTIL FULL SIZE DETAILS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE ARCHITECT.
 - D. THE LETTERING (1713AD PLUS IV TO XI) AND THE SUNS RAYS SHALL BE GOLD LEAF : THE BALANCE SHALL BE PAINTED AS DIRECTED.

SEE ALLOWANCE



F R O N T S I D E

SCALE $3" = 1'-0"$

CAST STONE KEYS AT CIRCULAR WINDOWS

LeMessurier
Associates, Inc

Subject OLD STATE HOUSE

Made by GJC

Checked by

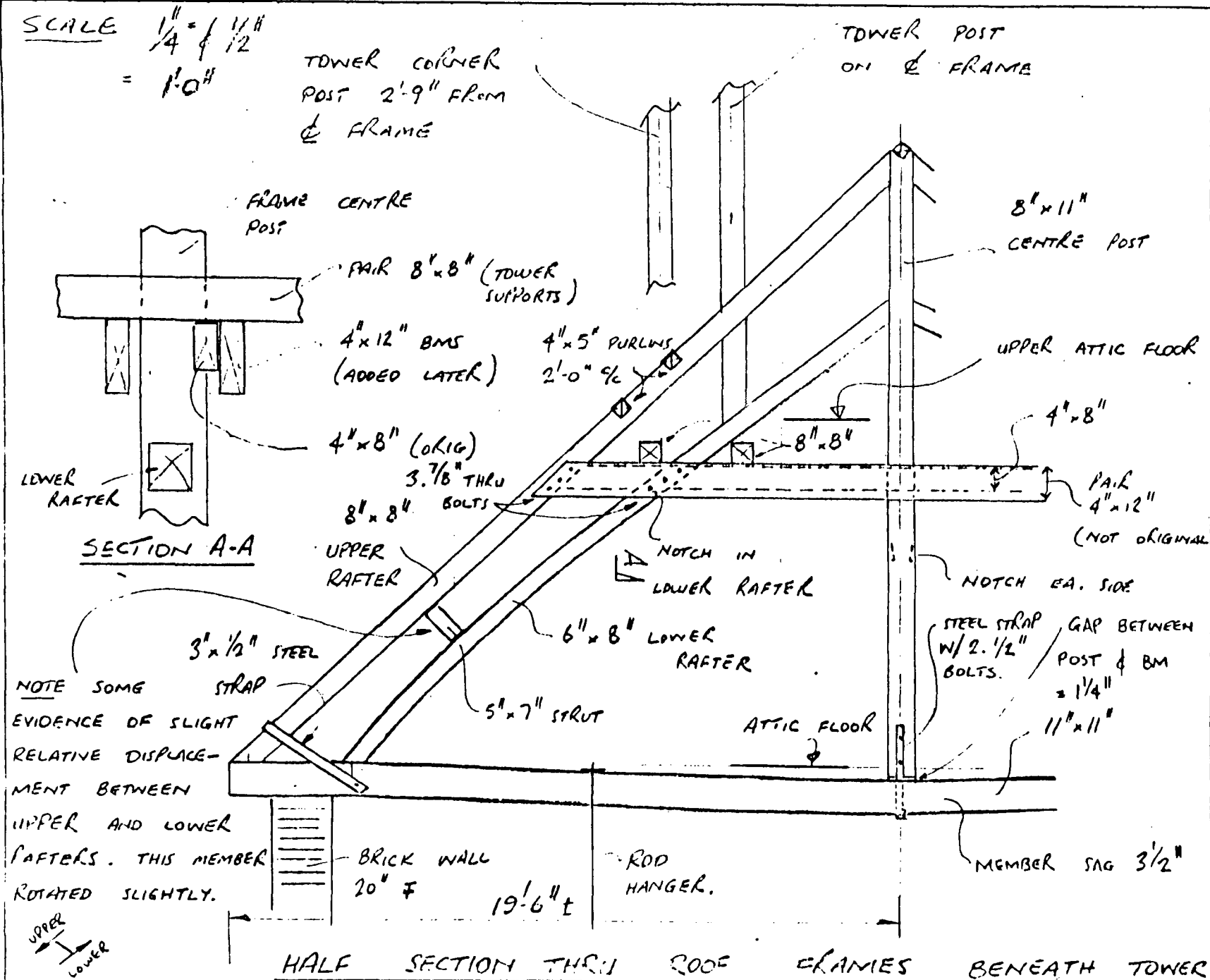
Approved by

Job No. 5550

Date 2/5/74

Sheet No. 28/1

Illustration 107. "Half Section thru Roof Frames beneath Tower," Old State House (1974).



NOTES

1. NEW MEMBERS SHOWN BEAMED
2. RE-NAIL ANY LODGE JOINTS
3. COUNTER MAY USE NEXT LARGER STR. LUMBER SIZES

1X6 NOM.

NEW 3'x5' WEDGE TIGHTLY BETWEEN PURLINS

RESET PURLINS TO TAKE OUT SAG. WEDGE TIGHTLY PURLIN TO RAFTER

2 3/4" x 9 1/2"

4 1/2" x 5 1/2"

ENSURE THIS IS TIGHTLY WEDGED

1X7 NOM. ADD MEMBER TO MATCH EXISTING

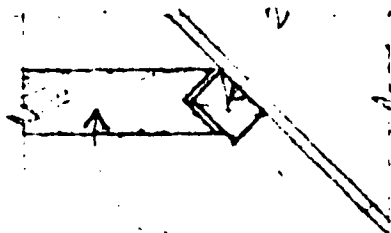
PANCKERS JOINING

PURLINS 3 1/2" x 4 1/2" UNCL.

4'x5"

7 STRENGTHENING DETAILS

SUPPLEMENTARY ROOF TRUSS LOCATED BETWEEN MAIN TRUSSES AND END WALL



EXISTING PURLIN

NEW 3'x5' WOOD MEMBER NOTCH AND WEDGE TIGHTLY

Illustration 108. Roof Framing and Strengthening Details, Old State House (1974).

NOTES

1. STEEL GUSSET PLATE TO BE 3/8" THICK.
2. BOLT GUSSET PLATE TO WOOD MEMBERS WITH 2 PRE-DRILLED HOLES.
3. BOLT GUSSET PLATE TO STEEL MEMBERS WITH 2 PRE-DRILLED HOLES.
4. PLATE GUSSET IS BEARING BETWEEN GUSSET PLATE AND WOOD MEMBERS TO CUT FIBER CONNECTIONS.
5. INSTALL 1/2" ROD IN JOINTS IN STEEL PLATE WITH 2 LONG TURNBUTS. END PLATE TO BE 1/2" THICK. LONG END CAPS TO BE 1/2" THICK. INSTALL 1/2" ROD IN JOINTS IN STEEL PLATE WITH 2 LONG TURNBUTS.
6. EXISTING STEEL FIBER MEMBERS AND SHOW ALL JOINTS ON TOP TRUSS.

PR. STEEL
GUSSET PLATE

✓ 2 PR. 3/2" x 3" x 5/8" L - LONG
LESS BACK TO BACK - 1 PR. EA. SIDE
OF EXISTING TRUSS.

2 PR. 3/2" x 3" x 5/8" L
LONG LESS BACK TO BACK ✓

EXISTING STAP-
DO NOT REMOVE

PR. STEEL
GUSSET PLATE ✓

2
5-1

4
5-1

3
5-1

PR. STEEL GUSSET PLATE
PLACE BETWEEN 5/8" x 12" NOTCH TAB
TO SUIT.

7/8" x HANGER

ADD BOLT W/ASB
MISSING

ATTIC FLOOR

1/2" x 1/2" ROD SEE NOTE 5 ✓

EXISTING TRUSS. LIFTED
WHERE ROSE. FOR LIFTING. ADDED ✓

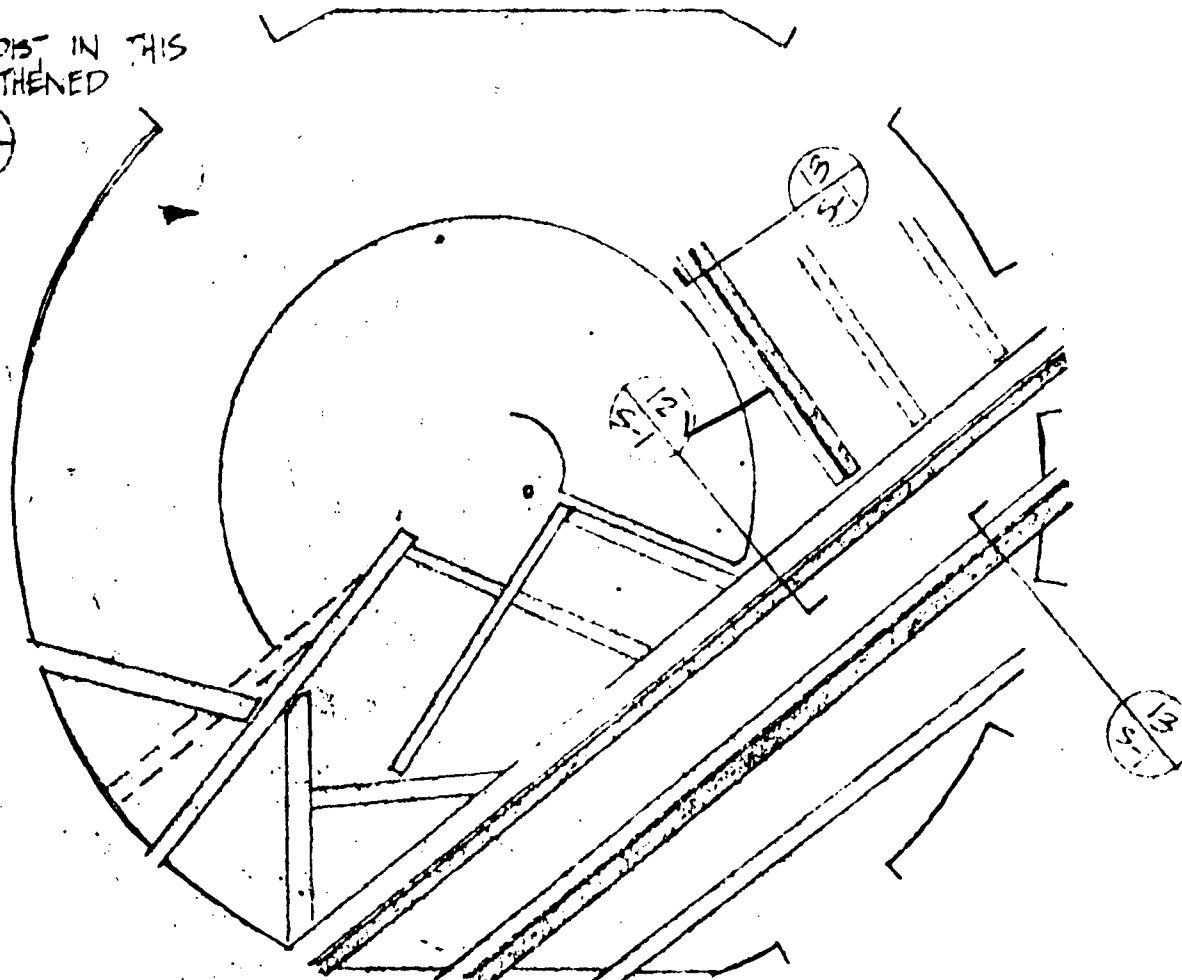
4x4 EXG

PR. 1/2" x 20" PLATE

Illustration 109. Truss Strengthening, Old State House (1974).

ALLOW FOR ONE JOIST IN THIS
AREA TO BE STRENGTHENED
AS SECTION

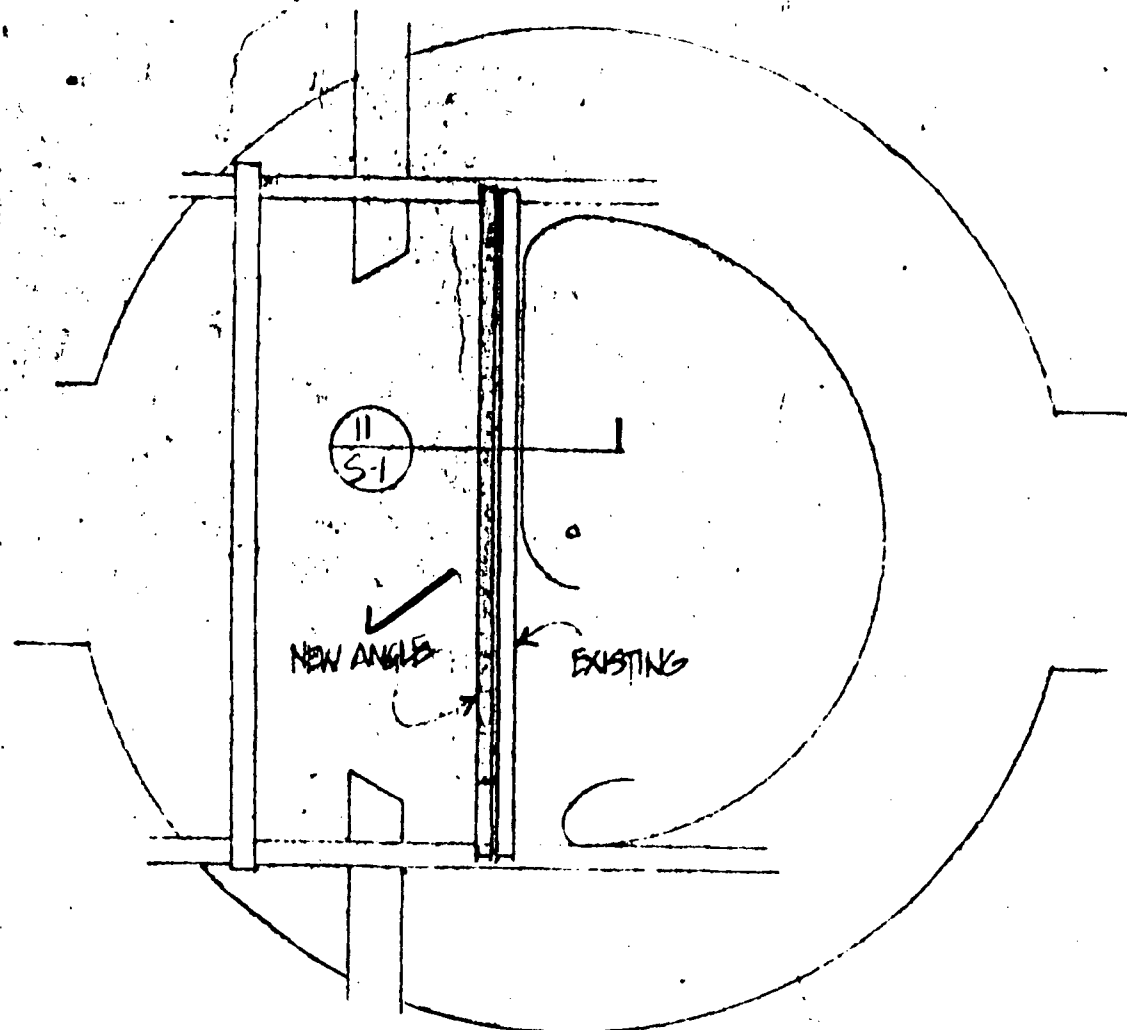
13
S-1



10
S-1

PART. PLAN. FRAMING AT FIRST FLR. STAIR LANDING

Illustration 110. Partial Plan of Framing at First-Floor Stair Landing, Old State House (1974).



9
S-1

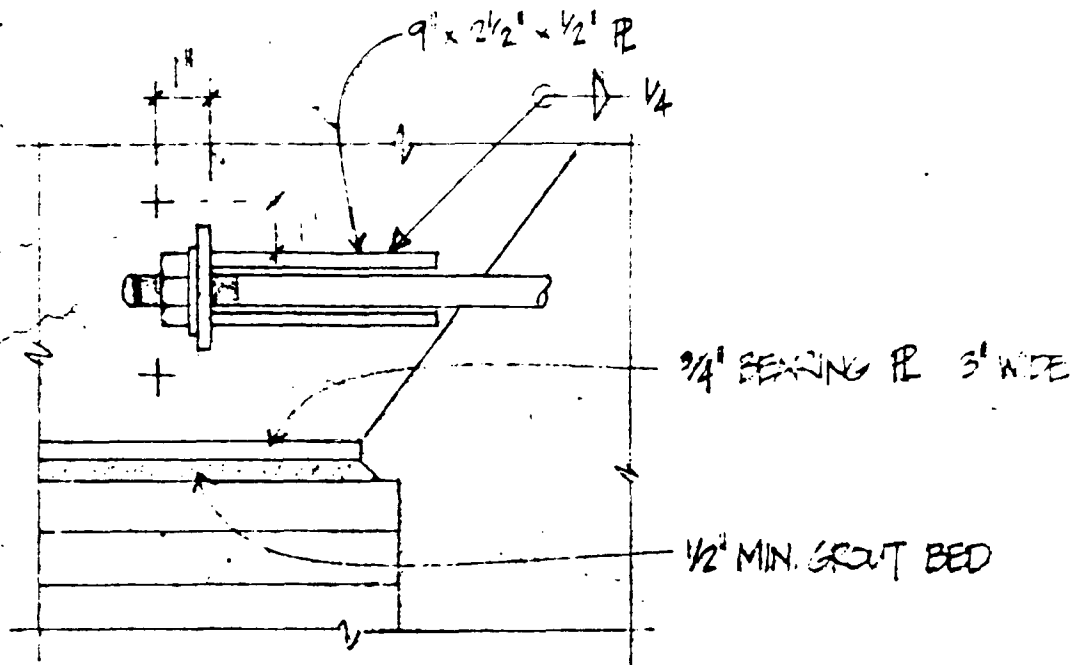
PLAN

AT 2ND FLR STAIR LANDING
SHOWING ADDED FLR. BEAM.

Illustration 111. Plan at Second-Floor Stair Landing, Showing Added Floor Beam (1974).

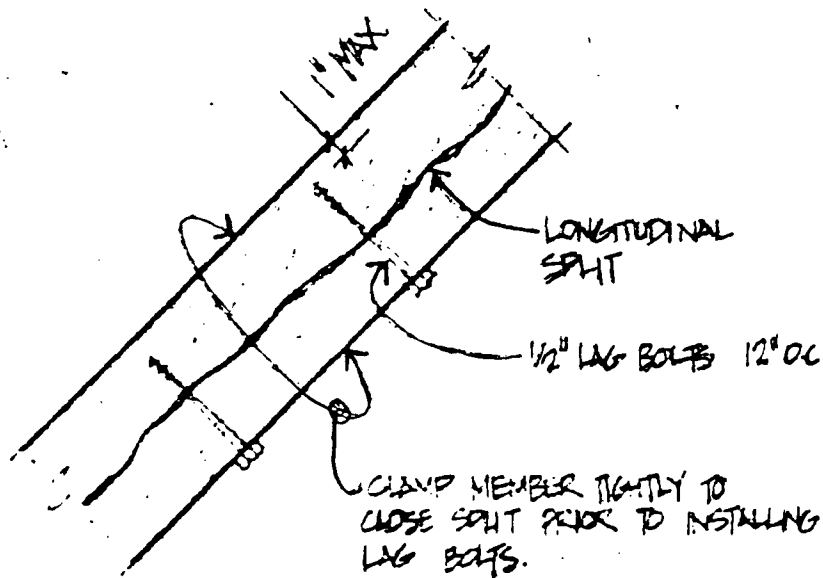
2
S-1

DETAIL



4
S-1

DETAIL



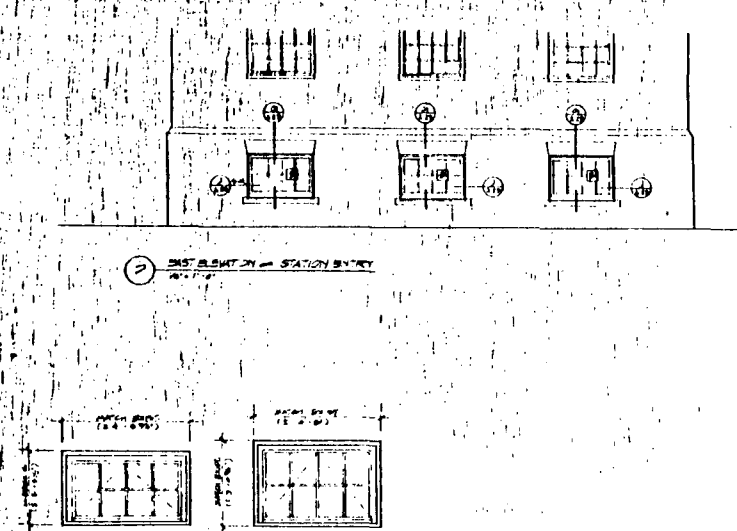
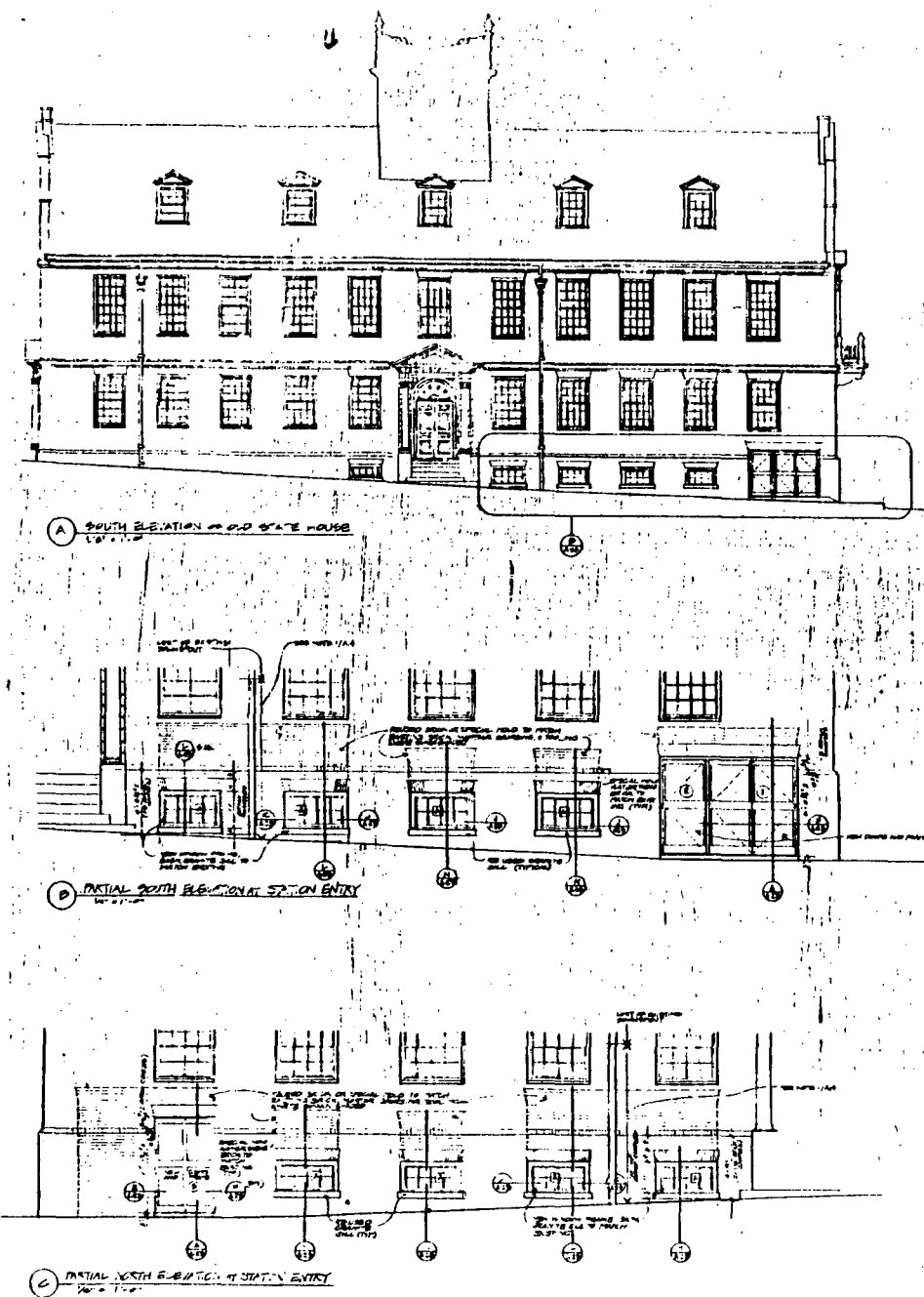
PROVIDE ON THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:
TRUSSES 8 & 9 - NORTH & SOUTH SIDES

5
S-1

DETAIL

REPAIR TO SPLIT TRUSS TOP CHORD
IN ATTIC LOFT

Illustration 112. Detail of Repair to Split Truss, Top Chord in Attic Loft, Old State House (1974).



1. YES 02 11 2011

ALL WORK TO BE COMPLETED BY 11:00 AM ON 11/11/2011

NOTES:

1. PARTIAL SECTION OF BUILDING INTERIOR, INCLUDING 1st FLOOR, 2nd FLOOR, AND 3rd FLOOR, TO BE DEMOLISHED AND RECONSTRUCTED TO MATCH EXISTING BUILDING.



MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY	
STATE STREET STATION MODERNIZATION CONTRACT NO. SM-538	
EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS - OLD STATE HOUSE	
WALLACE FLOYD & ASSOCIATES, INC. Architect/Planner 65 Huntington Street Cambridge, Mass. Telephone (617) 864-5500	MASS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY APPROVED BY Project Manager
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"	DATE: 11/11/2011

Illustration 113. Exterior Elevations of Subway Station Entries, Old State House (1976).

9

9

9

APPENDIX A

List of Burgis views that include the Old State House
(Attributed to William Burgis)

- "A North East View of the Great Town of Boston," possibly 1723.
BPP, p. 34.
- "A South East View of the Great Town of Boston...", 1725. BPP,
pp. 36-37.
- "A South East View of the Great Town of Boston...", 1736 pasters
added. BPP, pp. 38-39.
- "A South East View of the Great Town of Boston...", 1743 revised.
BPP, pp. 40-41.



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Items of special interest are indicated by asterisks. The location of rare or hard-to-find items is indicated in parentheses following the bibliographical entry. The bibliography of the WPA report on the Old State House follows this bibliography.

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ADDENDUM

Old State House Historic Structure Report Boston National Historical Park

After the Historic Structure Report on the Old State House — prepared by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities — was published, additional information was discovered about the structure's rebuilding in 1748-50. This material was uncovered by Frederic C. Detwiller, an architectural historian then employed by the Society. The information consists of a transcript of extracts from Jacob Wendell's original Account Book of the Committee for Rebuilding the Boston Court House (Old State House).

In the words of Detwiller,

The Wendell account book gives a detailed chronological account of the building's reconstruction, and tells us some interesting facts about the structure and its builders: the weathervane, which apparently survived the fire, was repaired and gilded by Shem Drowne; the carved work, probably including the lion and unicorn, was by John Welch; the sundial by James Blake; the desk for the House of Representatives, which may be that now in the Bostonian Society Collection, was made by Benjamin Frothingham; Joshua Blanchard, who built Old South and Faneuil Hall, was the mason (he died in 1748 during construction) and Thomas Dawes was apparently Blanchard's apprentice.

In general, the accounts show this was the same group of men involved in the reconstruction of Faneuil Hall, King's Chapel, and other comparable buildings of the period. The accounts show not only who was responsible for the work, but also who supplied them....

S.K.O.

8/25/82

EXTRACTS OF OLD STATE HOUSE CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNTS, 1748-50

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Wendell, Jacob. Account book of the committee for rebuilding the Boston Court House (Old State House). Ms. s.; Boston, 15 April 1748 - 13 September 1750.

(total cash received from treasurer for disbursement £27784.10.5 O.T.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
April 15, 1748	William Hunt rec'd	£100 O.T.	for timber
May 7,	" Joseph Russell "	150	"
April 15,	" "	188	"
May 7,	William Chadwick	1224	boards (51,000)
"	Isaac Vergoose	21	for surveying & piling boards
May 10,	Joseph Russell	50	timber
May 21,	Wm. Hunt	200	" del'd
May 23,	Seymour (?) Smith	317	52 tons timber & measuring
June 1,	Bar'w. Rand	111	2000 ft. clearboards
June 20,	Jas. Fairservice	25	carting dirt out of cellars
June 25,	Wm. Hunt	400	timber & materials
August 10,	Thos. Crafts	200	Stuff & c.
August 13,	Henry Ferguson	50	Clearing out the dirt
August 15,	Joseph Russell	150	Stuff & c.
August 25,	Joseph Russell	700	"

Wendell. Account of Building New Court House (Old State) 1748-50.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
August 25, 1748	Joseph Russell	£100	Timber bought
September 10, "	William Chadwick	354	8000 merchantable 3500 clear boards
September 24, "	Thos. Crafts	200	Work
September 26, "	Wm. More	100	Stuff & c.
September 29, "	Jacob, John, & Jacob Wendell	1056	24 crates crown sheet glass del'd to the glaziers
October 15, "	Wm. More	200	Work
October 12, "	Thos. Crafts	200	Boards
October 21, "	Jos. Russell	120	Timber
October 25, "	Maylem Brackett	15	For canvas & tarring it for the roof of said house del'd W. Fosdi & my master John Bulfynch
October 26, "	Jacob Parker	50	Lyme
November 2, "	Thos. Hubbard	600	(in part)
December 6, "	Wm. Hunt	66	Timber del'd Jos. Russell
December 7, "	John Goldthwait Wm. Fairfield	200	"in behalf of my mother Sarah Blanchard pr Joshua Blanchard"
December 7, "	Wm. More	300	Work & stuff
December 7, "	One's. Tileston	400	Work & "
December 7, "	Thos. Crafts		"
December 7, "	John Indicott	300	"
December 9, "	Robt. Wilson	300	Slates del'd

Wendell. Account of Old State House 1748-50

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
December 9, 1748	James Fosdick	£ 300	slating
December 29, "	John Indicott	400	for stuff
December 29, "	Jos. Russell	420	stuff & work
<u>Jan. 10 1748/49</u>	Joseph Shed	102	carting
February 3, 1749	Wm. More	100	work
February 4, "	Thos. Hubbard	300	"what I have supplied"
February 4, "	John Rogers	118	dry boards del'd Benja. Russell
February 7, "	James Fosdick, Tm. Thornton	150	slating work
February 8, "	Robt Wilson	131	slate provided
February 9, "	John Indicott	300	
February 10, "	Thos. Crafts	150	work
February 10, "	Jos. Russell	150	work
February 10, "	One's. Tileston	300	work by Benj. Russell
February 3. "	Thomas Drowne	88	on account of repairing vane and Gilding "done by my father Shem Drowne"
March 20, "	Joseph Shed	70	Carting
April 6, "	John Indicott	100	
April 6, "	Jos. Russell	100	work
April 6, "	Thos. Crafts	100	work
April 6, "	One's. Tileston	200	work by Benj. Russell and self
April 6, "	Wm. More	150	stuff
April 12, "	Ed. Brazer	26	"
April 12, "	Robt Wilson	100	slates del'd

Wendell, Jacob. Old State House Accounts

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
May 8, 1749	Jos. Russell	£ 40	sawing plank
May 9, "	Ed. Brazer	40	masons work
May 11, "	John Goldtwait	100	lath
May 16, "	One's. Tileston	100	work
May 16, "	Wm. Fairfield	50	masons work
May 23, "	John Orr (?)	32	clearing out house and cellars
May 22, "	John Indicott	100	work
May 22, "	Jos. Russell	152	work & stuff
May 22, "	Wm. More	100	work & stuff
May 22, "	Jos. Fosdick	100	slating by Tm. Thornton & self
May 16, "	John Newell	100	painting work
May 16, "	Josiah Waters	100	painting work
May 27, "	Thos. Lawlor	100	painting work
May 27, "	Ebenez. Messinger	50	turners work
May 29, "	Ed. Winter	100	iron work
May 30, "	Thos. Gouge	70	painting
May 31, "	Ed Brazer	100	work
June 7, "	Jacob Parker	200	masons work & stuff
June 8, "	Wm. Fairfield	100	masons work & stuff
June 9, "	Jabez Hunt	10	brushes
June 10, 1749	One's. Tileston	200	self & Benj. Russell
June 12, "	Benj. Frothingham	24	"a desk for the House of Representatives Room made by order of Mr. (?) Oliver"
June 12, "	Mary Deneen	52	carting done by my husband

Wendell, Jacob. Old State House Accounts

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
June 17, 1749	Thos. Crafts		work
June 22, "	Thos. Dawes	£100	"on acct. of Masons work done for my mistress Sarah Blanchard"
July 4, "	Jos. Roby, Wm. Peck, Nath. Brown	400	glazing work
July 14, "	Jos. Russell	200	Boards & timber
July 15, "	One's. Tileston	160	work
July 15, "	Wm. More	120	work
July 15, "	Ed. Brazer	200	masons work
July 15, "	John Indicott	200	work
July 26, "	Jacob, John & Jacob Wendell	52	lead del'd
July 28, "	Wm. Baker	9	"Cleaning out the Court House the day before Election"
July 28, "	Jacob Parker	200	masons work
July 28, "	Wm. Fairfield	60	masons work
July 31, "	Ed. Winter	200	iron work
July 28, "	Ebenez. Messenger	60	work
August 1, "	Nath. Emmes & Comp'y.	90	stone cutters work
August 30, 1749	Jacob Parker	50	work
August 30, "	Ed Brazer	50	for stuff
September 1, "	Thos. Hubbard	550	on Acct.
September "	Geo. Tilley	11	carting
September "	Benja. Frothingham	13	work
September "	Rebecca Messinger	160	turners work done by husband Ebenezer
September "	John Nowell	110	painting

Wendell, Jacob. Old State House Accounts

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
Sept. 5, 1749	Jos. Russell	£130	stuff & work
<u>Jan. 7, 1749/50</u>	Wm. Crockford	26	Turner's work
January 26, 1750	John Nowell	105	
January 26, 1750	Wm. Crockford	44	work
February 10, "	Ed. Brazer	200	work
February 12, "	Wm. Peck	200	glazing
February 13, "	Jacob Parker	600	masons work
February 13, "	Thos. Lawlor, Edwd. Gouge	230	painting
February 13, "	Jos. Russell	300	stuff & work
February 13, "	John Indicott	300	stuff & work
February 15, "	Wm. More	200	work
February 15, "	One's. Tileston	400	work & stuff
February 15, "	John Welch	240	carvers work
February 15, "	Josiah Waters	150	painting work
February 16, "	Joseph Roby	80	glazing
February 16, "	Thos. Crafts	300	work & stuff
February 22, "	Jos. Shed	50	carting
February 24, "	Ed Winter	500	smiths work
February 24, "	Ed Brazer	100	masons work
March 3, "	Tim Thornton	129	Paving, James Fosdick & self
March 3, "	Robt. Wilson	105	slates
March 5, "	Sam'l. Duncan	35	carting
March 6, "	Joseph Shed	146	carting
March 7, "	Thos. Hubbard	575	acct.

Wendell, Jacob. Old State House Accounts

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
March 7, 1750	Timo. Newell	£ 42	Sundry del. for Court House
March 13, "	Joshua Emmes & Co.	72	stones and work
March 13, "	James Cunningham	100	
March 13, "	Samuel Grant	15	
March 23, "	Shem Drowne	40	"for repairing the vane with Ball, Pipe & Gold Gilding"
March 24, "	Andr. Hall	279	for brick (?), del'd.
March 24, "	Eben. Messinger	38	Turners work
March 24, "	Wm. Crockford	8	work
March 31, "	Jos. & Henry Roby	33	glazing work
March 31, "	Wm. Peck, Nathl Brown	36	glazers
March 31, "	James Cunningham	18	"
March 31, "	Ed. Brazer	200	masons work
March 31, "	Thos. Lawlor, Edwd Gouge	187	painting work
April 3, "	John Nowell Josiah Waters	217	painting work
April 3, "	John Welch	137	carved work
"	"for my father James Blake pd. Sam'l Blake £10 for making a Dyall"		
April 3, "	Thos. Hubbard	7	second Acct.
April 3, "	James Fosdick	3	second Acct.
March 29, "	Wm. More	125	
Sept. 13, 1750	Andrew Oliver	90	"being my proportion of the allowance made by the General Court to the Committee for rebuilding the Court Hse.

Wendell, Jacob. Old State House Accounts

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
Sept. 13, 1750	Jos. Allen	£ 90	"being my proportion of the allowance made by the General Court to the Committee for rebuilding the Court House.
"	Tho. Hutchinson	90	"
"	Thos. Hubbard	90	"

(The following from front page of account book)

Thomas Crafts 1750 work & general account settlement £227
Onesipherus Tileston 1750 work & general account settlement £300
Edward Brazer 1750 "for work done by Capt. Indicott and myself £400
John Goldthwait, Jacob Parker, Wm. Fairfield" masons work £400.

F.C. Detwiller, June 1980

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