National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2023



Independence Square

Independence National Historical Park

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Independence Square

Resource Classification: Component Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 300192

Parent Landscape: 300151

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Independence National Historical Park

Alpha Code: INDE

Park Organization Code: 4450

Park District: INDE

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

Independence Square is part of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Established in 1948, the park was created to protect the historic places associated with the birth of the American republic, standing as icons of freedom and democratic ideals for people around the world. The park spans more than 51 acres within the City of Philadelphia, preserving and interpreting a rich collection of the country's Colonial, Revolutionary, and Federal period heritage. The National Park Service has managed Independence Square since 1951 through a cooperative agreement with the City of Philadelphia, who owns the property.

Independence Square, originally known as the State House Yard in the late eighteenth century, comprises an entire city bock (520 feet by 420 feet) and is bordered by Chestnut Street (north), South Fifth Street (east), Walnut Street (south), and South Sixth Street (west). Four eighteenth-century brick buildings stand in the northern part of the square, anchored by Independence Hall – a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site – and flanked by Congress Hall, Old City Hall, and Philosophical Hall. There are also two wing buildings on either side of Independence Hall reconstructed in the late nineteenth century. A brick and concrete forecourt north of Independence Hall borders Chestnut Street, to the north of which lies Independence Mall, a three-block long open space. To the south of Independence Hall, the relatively level square features radial and cruciform bluestone walkways centering on a bronze statue of Revolutionary war hero Commodore John Barry. A mature canopy of deciduous trees shades areas of turf framed by the walkways. Mixed shrub and herbaceous perennial beds border staircases built into the brick Colonial Revival-style perimeter retaining wall that surrounds the square's east, south, and west sides. During the 1970s small scale features, including non-operating wooden hand-pumps and a watch post building were reconstructed to reflect conditions during Philadelphia's "Capital City Decade" from 1790 to 1800. Other historic features include sentry watch boxes, a flagpole, cannons, lamps, bollards, and memorial plaques.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Independence Square possesses significance under National Register of Historic Places Criteria A, B, C, and D. The property is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government, Science, Philosophy,

Conservation, and Commemoration as the historic setting for Independence Hall where multiple gatherings exemplified the political turmoil and purpose that defined the creation of the United States of America; for its association with the 1769 observation of the Transit of Venus, an event that would allow scientists to calculate the scale of the entire solar system; and for its longstanding role as a place for public enjoyment and use, and its close associations with the American Revolution and Independence Hall. The property is nationally significant under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with the many men and women who served in the formation and continued development of the nation. The property is nationally significant under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture for Independence Hall, an exceptional example of early-American Georgian architecture; and as an example of a late eighteenth-century urban square that evolved from design plans reflective of broader contemporary trends in American park design. Lastly, the property is nationally significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal) for its demonstrated potential to provide archeological resources that may provide additional information important in history or precolonial history.

In addition to its national significance, Independence Hall is a designated World Heritage Site through ICOMOS (part of UNESCO) under Criteria VI, “directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.” According to the nomination, “The universal principles of the right to revolution and self-government, as expressed in the United States of America’s Declaration of Independence (1776) and Constitution (1787), which were debated, adopted, and signed in Independence Hall, have profoundly influenced lawmakers and politicians around the world. The fundamental concepts, format, and even substantive elements of the two documents have influenced governmental charters in many nations and even the United Nations Charter.” (https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/78)

The overall period of significance for Independence Square is 1736-1976, beginning when the Pennsylvania Assembly decreed that the area south of the state house would remain as a public open green with walkways, and ending with the National Park Service’s alterations to the square’s landscape as part of the commemoration of the country’s Bicentennial.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of Independence Square is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1736-1976, with the square’s existing conditions as assessed in 2022-2023. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. Philadelphia’s 1683 street grid created by Penn and Holme formed the square’s original boundaries, which largely remain intact today despite reductions due to street widening. A cluster of four eighteenth-century buildings, anchored by the iconic Independence Hall (formerly Pennsylvania State House), still occupy the site’s high point in the northern part of the square. The larger southern part of the square, set aside in perpetuity in 1736 as a public park, retains its brick perimeter wall that was built beginning in 1770. The landscaped grounds hold vestiges of its original 1785 design by Samuel Vaughan, including the graded topography, the concept of a grove of trees, and an axial view along a central walkway between Independence Hall’s tower entrance and the square’s Walnut Street entrance. The radial design of the interior flagstone walks and maintained lawn areas harkens to the 1876 Centennial of the American Revolution alterations to the square’s design. A cobblestone drive, brick building aprons, lighting, bollards and chains, and cannon were introduced in site renovations made in 1915-1918 by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). These changes coincided with restoration of the buildings. The perimeter walk was changed from flagstone to brick in the 1960s, which was followed by improvements in the early 1970s in advance of the Bicentennial celebration, including watch boxes and water pumps. Monuments to George Washington and John Barry, several memorial plaques, and a flagpole date to the period of significance.

Since the end of the period of significance in 1976, some landscape characteristics and features at Independence Square have changed. Herbaceous and shrub plantings flanking entrances to the square were added in the last thirty years by the City of Philadelphia and through a partnership between the NPS and the associated friends’ groups. The existing site furnishings, waste receptacles, benches, steel bollards, and signage, post-date the period of significance but are compatible with the square’s historic character.

Condition:
The overall condition of Independence Square is evaluated as “Good.” This assessment indicates the square’s landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The square’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Independence Square is a component landscape within the parent cultural landscape of Independence National Historical Park. Including Independence Square, there are eight park landscapes that function as component landscapes: Washington Square, First and Second Bank of U.S. (Area A), Rose and Magnolia Gardens (Area B), Franklin Court (Area C), Graff House (Area D), Welcome Park (Area F), Deshler Morris House, and Independence Square. The park also manages and operates three other legislated national park units in and around the city of Philadelphia: Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, Gloria Dei Church National Historic Site, and Thaddeus Kosciusko National Memorial.

Landscape Type:

Historic Designed Landscape

Other Names:

Other Name:	State House Garden	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	State House Yard	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Independence Square	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic

Site Plan



Site plan, 2023. (OCLP)

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/27/2023

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Jennifer Hanna, Historical Landscape Architect with the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation in Boston, MA, conducted field photographic documentation and historical research, and drafted this CLI in fall 2022 and spring 2023. Mapping was completed by Kelsey Little, GIS Specialist with the Olmsted Center. The draft CLI was reviewed Jeff Killion, Regional Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, at the Olmsted Center. The cultural resource contact for Independence National Historical Park is Marilou Ehrler, Chief of Cultural Resource Management, who may be reached at marilou_ehrler@nps.gov or 917-831-8820.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Region 1
North Atlantic-Appalachian
1234 Market Street, 20th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

1.A.2.(IR1-RSS)

Andrea Lowery
PHMC Executive Director/State Historic Preservation Officer
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
State Historic Preservation Office
Commonwealth Keystone Building, Second Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Dear Ms. Lowery:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for Independence Square at Independence National Historical Park. We seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of previously unevaluated resources identified in this CLI for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and staff at Independence National Historical Park. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently undertaking a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS Historic Structures Inventory (formerly List of Classified Structures) includes structural features of cultural landscapes,

SHPO concurrence letter, September 6, 2023, page 1 of 6.

but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Previous Historic Property Evaluation:

Independence Square is part of Independence National Historical Park, established on June 28, 1948. The park was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 1966, with passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Prior to the comprehensive documentation of the park in the National Register in 1988, two buildings at the site were designated a National Historic Landmark and World Heritage Site. The NPS assumed management of the square in 1951.

On January 12, 1965, the American Philosophical Society Hall (Philosophical Hall) was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) under Theme XX: Science and Invention. NHL and National Register documentation for the building was approved on September 25, 1975. As one of America's oldest scientific societies, areas of significance were identified as Invention, Religion/Philosophy, Science, and Social/Humanitarian. The period of significance was identified as the eighteenth century, with specific dates of 1768 and 1789, the year the society was established and the year the building was completed, respectively.

On April 10, 1979, Independence Hall was designated a World Heritage Site through ICOMOS (now UNESCO) under Criteria VI, "directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance."

On March 4, 1988, documentation of Independence NHP resources was approved through an Inventory-Nomination Form, "Independence National Historical Park." The nomination identified national-level significance for the 39.5-acre historic district in the areas of Archeology-Historic, Architecture, Economics, Invention, Politics/Government, and Religion. The overall period of significance was identified as 1700-1899, with specific dates of 1774-1824, beginning when the First Continental Congress met in the newly-built Carpenter's Hall and Philadelphia became the nation's capitol, and ending when several key buildings were completed. The documentation also described four themes that define the park's historic resources including: 1) the Founding and Growth of the United States, 1774-1800; 2) Philadelphia, the Capital City, 1774-1800; 3) Benjamin Franklin, 1765-1790; and 4) Architecture, 1834. On October 12, 2001, the form was revised to include a statement of significance and associated resources related to the Underground Railroad and anti-slavery movement. Additional significance for the park was identified in the areas of Ethnic Heritage-Black, Law, and Social History, and a new end date for the period of significance, 1861, when President Abraham Lincoln spoke at Independence Hall. The 4.63-acre Independence Square, as well as Independence Hall, Congress Hall, Old City Hall, George Washington Monument, Lincoln Plaque, and John F. Kennedy Plaque were identified as a key features related to the founding and growth of the United States. Philosophical Hall (American Philosophical Society Hall) was identified for its association with the growth of Philadelphia as a capital city, 1774-1800.

Independence Square is included in updated documentation that is currently underway (August 2023) for the park in the Inventory-Nomination Form, "Independence National Historical Park." The draft nomination identifies national-level significance for the 44.2-acre historic district in the area of Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal), Architecture, Conservation, Landscape Architecture, Philosophy, Politics/Government, and Science.

SHPO concurrence letter, September 6, 2023, page 2 of 6.

The overall period of significance is identified as 1774-1976, beginning when the First Continental Congress met in the newly-built Carpenter's Hall and Philadelphia became the nation's capitol, and ending with the country's Bicentennial and opening of the park's new visitor center, Franklin Court, and the Liberty Bell Pavilion. For Independence Square, significance is identified under Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government, Science, Philosophy, and Conservation; Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The draft nomination notes the square's setting for buildings used by the Continental Congress and US Supreme Court, its role as a venue for rallies and celebrations, and its early American Georgian architecture. The form identifies several contributing resources at Independence Square: grass, trees, Greystone walks, perimeter brick sidewalks, brick and stone aggregate paving on Chestnut Street, brick retaining wall, Independence Hall, Independence Hall East Wing and Arcade, Independence Hall West Wing and Arcade, Congress Hall, Old City Hall, Philosophical Hall, John Barry Statue, George Washington Monument, Lincoln Plaque, John F. Kennedy Plaque, Civil War Cannon, Pumps on Chestnut Street (2), and Watch Box on Chestnut Street. Note: Congress Hall, Old City Hall and Philosophical Hall are not owned or managed by the National Park Service.

Current Findings:

The enclosed CLI for Independence Square fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the site's landscape retains integrity to the areas of Conservation, Other – Commemoration, Philosophy, Politics/Government, Science, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Archaeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal). As noted previously, twelve of the property's features compiled on the attached list have already been evaluated or described in the National Register. The CLI identifies an additional thirteen resources related to topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small-scale features that contribute to the significance and historic character of the property. An additional eight features have been evaluated as noncontributing because they are not historically significant. One feature has been evaluated as undetermined because future research is needed to determine its significance.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, Boundary Description, National Register Information and the Statement of Significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

Based on the CLI, we seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI:

- Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as the historic setting for Independence Hall where multiple gatherings exemplified the political turmoil and purpose that defined the creation of the United States of America.
- Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Science and Philosophy for its association with the 1769 observation of the Transit of Venus, an event that would allow scientists to calculate the scale of the entire solar system.
- Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation and Commemoration for its longstanding use as a place for public enjoyment and use, and its close associations with the American Revolution and Independence Hall.

SHPO concurrence letter, September 6, 2023, page 3 of 6.

- Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with the many men and women who served in the formation and continued development of the nation.
- Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for Independence Hall, an exceptional example of early-American Georgian architecture.
- Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture as an example of a late eighteenth-century urban square that evolved from design plans reflective of broader contemporary trends in American park design.
- Independence Square is significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal) for its demonstrated potential to provide archeological resources that may provide additional information important in history or precolonial history.
- The overall period of significance for Independence Square is 1736-1976, beginning when the Pennsylvania Assembly decreed that the area south of the state house would remain as a public open green with walkways, and ending with the National Park Service's alterations to the square's landscape as part of the commemoration of the country's Bicentennial.
- The categorization of contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined landscape characteristics and features (see attached list).

If you concur with these findings, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, Interior Region 1 CLI Coordinator, by email: jeff_killion@nps.gov.
We would appreciate your response in **30 days**, if possible. Thank you for your attention to this inventory. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 508-455-8540 (telework cell).

Sincerely,

JONATHAN MEADE

Digitally signed by JONATHAN MEADE
Date: 2023.08.21 18:13:39 -04'00'

Jonathan Meade
Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship and Science

Enclosure/Attachment

cc:
Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the landscape resources and features for Independence Square, as contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined.

Andrea L MacDonald

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer

9/6/2023

Date

SHPO concurrence letter, September 6, 2023, page 4 of 6.

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Independence Square
Independence National Historical Park
List of Contributing, Non-Contributing, and Undetermined Landscape Features
August 2023

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places. Features marked with a (*) were listed or described in updated draft National Register documentation dating to 1988.

Topography
- Elevation High Point of Independence Hall
- Plinth Topographic Affect formed by Perimeter Wall

Vegetation
- Trees on Chestnut Street
- *Grove of Shade Trees
- *Lawns

Circulation
- Brick Perimeter Sidewalks
- Brick and Stone Aggregate Paving, Chestnut Street-North Square
- Brick Paved Building Aprons
- *Interior Flagstone Walkways
- Cobblestone Driveway

Buildings and Structures
- *Independence Hall
- *Independence Hall: East Wing and Arcade
- *Independence Hall: West Wing and Arcade
- *Perimeter Wall and Steps

Views and Vistas
- *View North from Walnut Street Entrance to Independence Hall and Barry Monument

Small Scale Features
- *John Barry Monument
- *George Washington Monument
- *Lincoln Plaque
- *John F. Kennedy Plaque
- Civil War Cannon
- Water Pumps (2)
- Watch Boxes (2)
- Lamps
- Flagpole
- Wooden Bollards on Walnut Street

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Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation
Exposed Aggregate Concrete Aprons, South Square

Vegetation
Shrubs and Herbaceous Perennials

Views and Vistas
Views between Independence Hall and Liberty Bell Pavilion
Views between Independence Hall and Independence Mall

Small Scale Features
Benches
Trash and Recycling Receptacles
Interpretive and Directional Signs
Traffic-Related Furnishings

Undetermined Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Small-Scale Features
Iron Bollards, Chains, and Fencing

bcc:
Dennis Montagna, Region 1 History Program
Stephen Pisani, Region 1 Historic Architecture Program
Bethany Serafine, Region 1 History Program
Robert Page, Director, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

SHPO concurrence letter, September 6, 2023, page 6 of 6.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Independence Square
Independence National Historical Park

Independence National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Independence Square, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for Independence Square is hereby approved and accepted.

Digitally signed by Alexcy Romero
Date: 2023.09.27 17:01:42 -04'00'

Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, September 27, 2023.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia County

Size (Acres): 5

Land Tract Number(s)

04-101

Boundary Description:

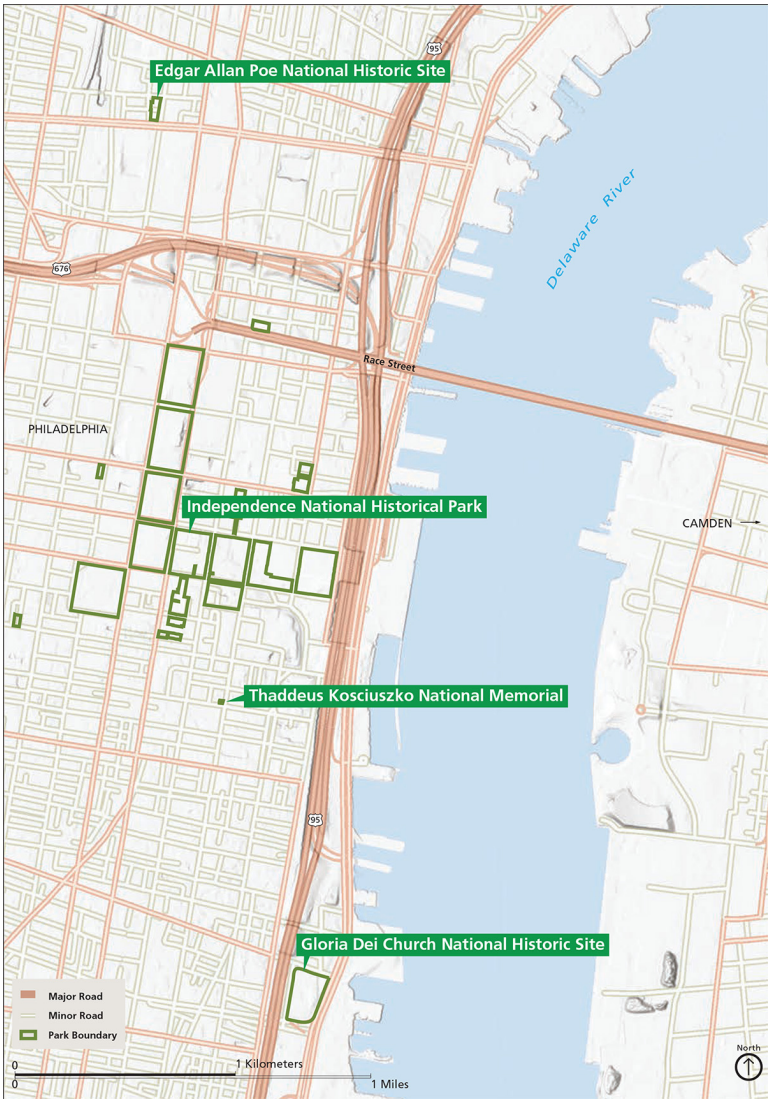
The Independence Square CLI boundary is within the authorized boundary of Independence National Historical Park. The boundary is marked by the granite curb lines of Chestnut Street to the north, and South Independence Mall East (South Fifth Street) to the east, Walnut Street to the south, and South Sixth Street to the west. Within this boundary are five buildings owned by the City of Philadelphia and managed by the NPS: Independence Hall, East Wing, West Wing, Congress Hall, and Old City Hall. Philosophical Hall is owned and managed by the American Philosophical Society.

The boundary, associated with the street grid set out in 1683 by William Penn's surveyor, Thomas Holme, has remained consistent except for street widening during the twentieth century. A mix of residential and commercial buildings, ranging from two to more than ten stories, surrounds the square on the south, east and west sides. Independence Plaza is located to the north. Brick sidewalks form a perimeter walk along the outside edge of the square and are separated from its interior by a Colonial Revival-style brick wall. The boundaries of Independence Square contribute to the square's significance because they encompass its features and the convey the square's relationship to the surrounding city.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
Aerial Photograph	Area	39.948488	-75.150164	
Aerial Photograph	Area	39.949125	-75.151006	
Aerial Photograph	Area	39.948969	-75.149237	
Aerial Photograph	Area	39.947238	-75.150895	

Location Map:



Map of Independence National Historical Park and other park units in the Philadelphia area. (National Park Service, Foundation Document 2017: 3)



Independence Square is located in Independence National Historical Park shown above in green. Independence Square the lower left center. (Independence National Historical Park--hereafter NHP--website)

is in

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Independence Square lies within the Atlantic Coastal Plain, which stretches over 2,200 miles in length from Cape Cod to the Mexico border and southward another 1,000 miles to the Yucatan Peninsula. The plain slopes gently seaward from the inland highlands in terraces and continues into the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, forming the continental shelf. Philadelphia is at the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers on the eastern border of Pennsylvania. The Appalachian Mountains to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east moderate the climate and eliminate temperature extremes. Precipitation falls throughout the year, with maximum amounts during the summer months.

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Independence Square is part of Independence National Historical Park, occupying more than fifty acres in the Old City section of Philadelphia. The park was established on July 4, 1956, to preserve and interpret the buildings, sites, and artifacts associated with the American Revolution and Philadelphia's founding role as the nation's capital city. The park includes nationally significant historic buildings and landscapes including Independence Hall, Congress Hall, and Old City Hall, as well as park features that provide educational and museum experiences for visitors, including the Independence Visitor Center (2001), Liberty Bell Center (2003), and the National Constitution Center (2003) located on Independence Mall. The sites tell the national story of the country's founding to millions of visitors. In 2018, more than 18 million people visited cultural sites in Philadelphia's center city. In addition, Independence Square serves as a neighborhood park as it straddles the border between the Society Hill section of Philadelphia and the Old City neighborhood to the north. The square is periodically a location for public protests and the exercises of free speech, as it has been for more than 100 years.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

The City of Philadelphia, according to the 2020 Census, has a population of approximately 1,584,064. The city shares boundaries with Philadelphia County and covers an area of roughly 135 square miles in southeastern Pennsylvania at the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. Independence Square is east of the center city business district and northeast of Washington Square.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/27/2023

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Independence Square meets the requirements of the management category, “Must Be Preserved and Maintained” because the property is related to the park’s enabling legislation. On June 28, 1948, Congress authorized the establishment of Independence National Historical Park and authorized the Secretary to accept donations of real estate interests (Public Law 80-795). Public Law 795 set forth the purpose of the park, defined its boundaries, and limited appropriations for acquisition of properties at approximately $4,435,000. The legislation also stipulated that the park would not be formally established until title of specific resources, including the First United States Bank, the Merchants’ Exchange building, the Bishop White House, the Todd House, and Franklin Court, along with two-thirds of the proposed boundaries, were vested to the United States. Roughly eight years later, on July 4, 1956, Independence National Historical Park was formally established. At the time, the park consisted of Independence Square and its public buildings, namely Independence Hall, Old City Hall, and Congress Hall, as well as present-day Area(s) A, B, C, and E. The land of Independence Square was acquired in fee simple by the National Park Service in 1997.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

The National Park Service has managed Independence Square since 1951 through a cooperative agreement with the City of Philadelphia, who owns the property.

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: None - Local Government Owned

Narrative: Independence Square, Independence Hall, East Wing, West Wing, Old City Hall, and Congress Hall are owned by the City of Philadelphia and through a formal agreement are administered by the NPS as part of Independence National Historical Park

Type of Interest: None - Privately Owned

Narrative: Philosophical Hall is owned by the American Philosophical Society

Located in managed wilderness?: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. The perimeter streets and street life are key features in the historic setting of Independence Square. The street curbs of the four city streets also serve as the square's boundaries and, as such, define the relationship of the square to the surrounding city. The 3-block grass expanse of Independence Mall extends north of Chestnut Street and offers an open foreground for the north side of Independence Hall. The landscaped lot of Independence National Historical Park's Second Bank block is east of the square. Continuous building facades comprise the streetscapes on the south and western sides of the square, providing a visual enclosure and, like the Second Bank Building lot, contributing to the square's urban character.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Inadequately Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Independence Square is part of Independence National Historical Park, established on June 28, 1948. The park was administratively listed without documentation in the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 1966, with passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Prior to the comprehensive documentation of the park in the National Register in 1988, Philosophical Hall was designated a National Historic Landmark and Independence Hall was designated a World Heritage Site. The NPS assumed management of the Independence Square in 1951 through a cooperative agreement with the City of Philadelphia.

On January 12, 1965, the American Philosophical Society Hall (Philosophical Hall) was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) under "Theme XX: Science and Invention." NHL and National Register documentation for the building was approved on September 25, 1975. As one of America's oldest scientific societies, areas of significance were identified as Invention, Religion/Philosophy, Science, and Social/Humanitarian. The period of significance was identified as the eighteenth century, with specific dates of 1768 and 1789, the year the society was established and the year the building was completed, respectively.

On April 10, 1979, Independence Hall was designated a World Heritage Site through ICOMOS (part of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-UNESCO) under Criteria VI, "directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance." According to the nomination,
"The universal principles of the right to revolution and self-government, as expressed in the United States of America's Declaration of Independence (1776) and Constitution (1787), which were debated, adopted, and signed in Independence Hall, have profoundly influenced lawmakers and politicians around the world. The fundamental concepts, format, and even substantive elements of the two documents have influenced governmental charters in many nations and even the United Nations Charter."
(https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/78)

On March 4, 1988, documentation of Independence NHP resources was approved through an Inventory-Nomination Form, "Independence National Historical Park." The nomination identified national-level significance for the 39.5-acre historic district in the areas of Archeology-Historic, Architecture, Economics, Invention, Politics/Government, and Religion. The overall period of significance was identified as 1700-1899, with specific dates of 1774-1824, beginning when the First Continental Congress met in the newly-built Carpenter's Hall and Philadelphia became the nation's capitol, and ending when several key buildings were completed. The documentation also described four themes that define the park's historic resources including: 1) the Founding and Growth of the United States, 1774-1800; 2) Philadelphia, the Capital City, 1774-1800; 3) Benjamin Franklin, 1765-1790; and 4) Architecture, 1834. On October 12, 2001, the form was revised to include a statement of significance and associated resources related to the Underground Railroad and anti□slavery movement. Additional significance for the park was identified in the areas of Ethnic Heritage-Black, Law, and Social History, and a new end date for the period of significance, 1861, when President Abraham Lincoln spoke at Independence Hall. The 4.63-acre Independence Square, as well as Independence Hall, Congress Hall, Old City Hall, George Washington Monument, Lincoln Plaque, and John F. Kennedy Plaque were identified as a key features related to the founding and growth of the United States. Philosophical Hall (American Philosophical Society Hall) was identified for its association with the growth of Philadelphia as a capital city, 1774-1800.

Independence Square is included in updated documentation that is currently underway for the park in the Inventory-Nomination Form, "Independence National Historical Park." The draft nomination identifies

national-level significance for the 44.2-acre historic district in the area of Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal), Architecture, Conservation, Landscape Architecture, Philosophy, Politics/Government, and Science. The overall period of significance is identified as 1774-1976, beginning when the First Continental Congress met in the newly-built Carpenter's Hall and Philadelphia became the nation's capitol, and ending with the country's Bicentennial and opening of the park's new visitor center, Franklin Court, and the Liberty Bell Pavilion. For Independence Square, significance is identified under Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government, Science, Philosophy, and Conservation; Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The draft nomination notes the square's setting for buildings used by the Continental Congress and US Supreme Court, its role as a venue for rallies and celebrations, and its early American Georgian architecture. The form identifies several contributing resources at Independence Square: grass, trees, Greystone walks, perimeter brick sidewalks, brick and stone aggregate paving on Chestnut Street, brick retaining wall, Independence Hall, Independence Hall East Wing and Arcade, Independence Hall West Wing and Arcade, Congress Hall, Old City Hall, Philosophical Hall, John Barry Statue, George Washington Monument, Lincoln Plaque, John F. Kennedy Plaque, Civil War Cannon, Pumps on Chestnut Street (2), and Watch Box on Chestnut Street. Note: Independence Hall, the East and West Wings, Congress Hall, Old City Hall are owned by the City of Philadelphia and managed by the NPS. Philosophical Hall is neither owned nor managed by the NPS.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the areas and periods of significance for Independence Square are not adequately documented in previous approved National Register documentation. This documentation does not adequately describe the site's historic resources that contribute to its significance. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, Independence Square is considered "Entered-Inadequately Documented."

Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 09/06/2023

Concurrence Narrative:

SHPO concurrence was received on September 6, 2023. The SHPO had only editorial comments.

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: Site

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Independence Square is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government, Science, Philosophy, Conservation, and Commemoration; under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government; under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture; and under Criterion D in the area of Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal). The square's most prominent building, Independence Hall, is a designated World Heritage Site through ICOMOS (now UNESCO) under Criteria VI, "directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance." According to the nomination, "The universal principles of the right to revolution and self-government, as expressed in the United States of America's Declaration of Independence (1776) and Constitution (1787), which were debated, adopted, and signed in Independence Hall, have profoundly influenced lawmakers and politicians around the world. The fundamental concepts, format, and even substantive elements of the two documents have influenced governmental charters in many nations and even the United Nations Charter." (https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/78)

The overall period of significance for Independence Square is 1736-1976, beginning when the Pennsylvania Assembly decreed that the area south of the state house would remain as a public open green with walkways, and ending with the National Park Service's alterations to the square's landscape as part of the commemoration of the country's Bicentennial.

CRITERION A

Politics/Government:
Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as the historic setting for Independence Hall where multiple gatherings exemplified the political turmoil and purpose that defined the creation of the United States of America. Independence Square gained meaning as a place for protest and for claiming human rights set out in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 109)

The open, landscaped grounds of the State House Yard—in 1825 renamed Independence Square—served as a central location in Philadelphia for public meetings and rallies aimed to sway political opinion. Crowds, for instance, massed on the square to protest the Stamp Act (1765), to hear the Declaration of Independence read publicly for the first time (July 8, 1776), and to debate the Jay Treaty with England (1795) during President Washington's second administration. Under Presidents Washington and Adams, numerous Native American delegations came to the city to negotiate peace treaties. The State House Yard provided a park-like setting to impress the delegates. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 109)

In the nineteenth century, supporters and opponents of slavery increasingly gathered at the State House Square. Prominent abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke there in 1844 and President-elect Abraham Lincoln spoke in 1861. The fugitive slave trials held in the State House in the 1850s also caused crowds to gather on the square to hear the outcomes. During the Civil War, the yard transformed into Camp Independence, a military training and recruitment center for Union soldiers. Recruitments were especially high because of the patriotic association with the place where Congress declared independence in 1776. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 109-110)

At the gathering for the Centennial of the Declaration of Independence in July 1876, female suffragists led by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott promoted their political campaign. In 1912, the National Women Suffrage Association assembled there to argue that women had been blocked from participating fully in the republic. Katherine Wentworth Ruschenberger, a Pennsylvania suffragist, also forged a campaign by association with Independence Square. After Congress passed the 19th Amendment and 36 states finally ratified it on August 18, 1920, Ruschenberger joined several prominent Pennsylvania suffragists to address a crowd of thousands on Independence Square. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 110)

On July 4, 1965, Frank Kameny, Barbara Gittings, and other gay activists from New York, Washington, and Philadelphia came to Independence Square to demand equality for homosexuals, marking the first gathering of gay activists from more than one city, and the first activists in a public forum to demand equality for homosexuals. Activists organized "Annual Reminders" on July 4 at Independence Square until 1969, when the Stonewall riot in New York diverted political events to that city. In July 2015, a large crowd gathered again as the park co-sponsored a ceremony at Independence Hall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of LGBT marches there. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 111)

In addition to Independence Square, Independence Hall, formerly the Pennsylvania State House, provided meeting space for the founding of the nation. In 1776, the Second Continental Congress debated and adopted the Declaration of Independence that created the first republic in the western world. In 1781 the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation, the nation's first frame of government. In 1787 delegates to the Federal Convention gathered here to address the nation's weak frame of government and created the Constitution of the United States. These documents forged a new nation and provided an example to other countries struggling for their rights. In 1790, the federal government returned to Philadelphia as the nation's temporary capital for a decade while Washington, DC was under construction. In Congress Hall, Congress ratified the Bill of Rights (1791); passed the Fugitive Slave Act (1793); admitted three new states to the union on an equal footing—Vermont (1791), Kentucky (1792), and

Tennessee (1796); stabilized the economy by passing a federal excise tax on distilled liquor (1791); and created the First Bank of the United States, followed by the U.S. Mint (1792). During this period the US Congress also occupied Congress Hall, then known as the Philadelphia County Courthouse, while the U.S. Supreme Court took up residence at (Old) City Hall. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 93,101-103; Review comments, Kosovych, 13 September 2023)

Science and Philosophy:
Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Science and Philosophy for its association with the 1769 observation of the Transit of Venus, an event that would allow scientists to calculate the scale of the entire solar system. On June 3, 1769, scientists assembled on a wooden observatory set up in the State House Square under the direction of astronomer, clockmaker, polymath, and inventor David Rittenhouse. They had come together to participate in an international observation of the Transit of Venus across the sun. After being chosen as a member of the American Philosophical Society in 1768, Rittenhouse announced his intended project to observe the transit. The Society in turn persuaded the Pennsylvania Assembly to grant a purchase for new telescopes. This transit took on exceptional importance, because astronomers recognized that another transit of Venus would not occur until 1874. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 118)

Rittenhouse constructed an observatory at his home and made a high-precision pendulum clock, a special telescope, an astronomical quadrant, an equal altitude instrument, and an astronomical transit for his observation. He also helped set up the other two stations, including one at the square comprised of a wood platform. Favorable weather allowed for clear readings, from which Rittenhouse gave the distance from Earth to the sun as 93 million miles, a figure scientists today still uphold. He wrote a report of it for publication in the first volume of the American Philosophical Society's Transactions. Prior to that printing, Benjamin Franklin, then living in London, published an article in the prestigious Journal of the Royal Society of London describing the successful transit results in Pennsylvania. His article is thought to be the first time that American science received recognition. Archeological explorations over the last two centuries have yet to pinpoint the location of the observation platform. (NR draft 2023 Sec.8: 118-120)

The American Philosophical Society was founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin and others, but it was not until eighteen years after the Transit of Venus event that they built Philosophical Hall in the square. Completed in 1789, it is the only privately owned building on the square, and reflects the Society's eighteenth-century origins and growth. Today, the building has been restored to its eighteenth century appearance and still houses the society's headquarters, the oldest learning society in the United States. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 96,117-118)

Conservation and Commemoration:
Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation and Commemoration for its longstanding use as a place for public enjoyment and use, and its close associations with the American Revolution and Independence Hall. In 1732, as construction began on the state house, the Pennsylvania Assembly called for the installation of fencing, walks, and trees in the adjacent grounds, and in 1736 voted that no buildings would be permitted in the area south of the state house, which would remain "public open green and Walks forever." This statute, although broken for the construction of Philosophical Hall in 1787 and a New District Court House in 1867 (removed 1901), has remained active to the present, despite efforts in the early nineteenth century to repurpose the square as a regular city block, and in the mid-nineteenth century to redesign it as a civic center for the city. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 128)

The Pennsylvania Assembly's 1736 statute for the grounds created Philadelphia's only public garden and one of the earliest public parks in the British North American colonies, perhaps only predated by the Boston Common (1643) and New York's Bowling Green (1733). Prior to 1769 the grounds only extended halfway to Walnut Street, but in 1761 the Pennsylvania Assembly authorized the purchase of the whole square, a process that ultimately spanned decades. By February 1770, a high brick wall enclosed the square with a massive gate on Walnut Street that opened to the yard. The next year, the Assembly once more proposed trees and walks for the grounds, but the legislators had to postpone landscaping as political tensions mounted with Great Britain. After the American Revolution, the Assembly again authorized the laying out of the grounds, and once again affirmed the 1736 statute that protected the grounds as a public open green and walks. In September 1783 the Assembly finally authorized the

improvements to the yard, which began in 1785, with notable redesigns in 1875-1876 and 1915-1916 (see Landscape Architecture below). (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 128)

The landscaped yard served as a green respite in the closing decade of the eighteenth century when Philadelphia served as the nation's temporary capital. The political figures who toiled in the square's buildings undoubtedly strolled through the square during breaks, while local and out-of-town visitors admired the fashionably landscaped public grounds. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 129)

In 1818, the City of Philadelphia completed purchases of the State House Square, blocking the Commonwealth's plans to demolish the State House Row and sell off the real estate to developers. The city government and local courts occupied the buildings while the yard remained a public park. By mid-century, however, crowded conditions for the offices and courts prompted City Council to propose a massive new city center along the four sides of the square. Local resistance to the idea led to a public referendum in 1870, which directed municipal offices to Center Square and preserve the intent of the act of 1736 act. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 129)

The City of Philadelphia turned over management of the square to Independence National Historical Park in 1951. Since then the park has continued to preserve much of the 1915-1916 plan and has upheld the 1736 mandate to keep the grounds as a "public open green and walks forever." To further invoke Independence Square's eighteenth-century setting, in 1974 the National Park Service removed the flagstone sidewalk on Chestnut Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets and replaced it with brick in a herringbone style pattern. The park also restored the square's pebble-stone areas, as well as the two pumps, a watch box, and wooden bollards.
These projects were part of larger parkwide efforts to enhance the sense of the past for visitors with reconstructions of buildings and small scale features considered essential to the understanding of the history of the American Revolution. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 44 and Sec.8: 129)

CRITERION B

Politics/Government:
Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with the many men and women who served in the formation and continued development of the nation. In the nineteenth century, they included Frederick Douglass who recognized the power of place when he came to speak against slavery at Independence Square, and leaders of the suffrage movement who attended the Centennial celebrations on the Square to argue for women's rights. In the twentieth century, Katharine Ruschenberger brought her campaign for women's suffrage to Independence Square, and Frank Kameny organized pickets at Independence Hall to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. Political protests there continue to make Independence Square a vibrant reminder of the rights provided to Americans by the founding documents, but not extended to all. (NR draft 2023: 96)

Independence Hall, Congress Hall, and Old City Hall have individually hosted countless national figures, from congressmen to presidents to Supreme Court justices and political protesters. Foreign dignitaries who admired or aspired to imitate the American Revolution have also made pronouncements in Independence Hall. At Congress Hall, the Congressmen who served the first six Congresses in Philadelphia broke ground, setting the precedent for the government under the newly ratified US Constitution. At Old City Hall, several justices provided precedent for decisions in the formative years of the US Supreme Court. (NR draft 2023: 137-138)

CRITERION C

Architecture:
Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for Independence Hall, an exceptional example of early-American Georgian architecture. Independence Hall is a two-story, nine-bay brick structure measuring 107 feet by 45 feet. The building's main block, east and west wings, and connecting arcades were completed in 1733 and provided room for office spaces. In 1750, the Pennsylvania Assembly provided for the construction of a brick bell tower and ordered a bell from London's Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Construction was completed in 1753, with the tower centered on the south façade and surmounted by a frame octagonal cupola and steeple. A decked gable roof and

balustrade continue to be the building's defining exterior features, in addition to the two-story clock on a soapstone base on the west wall. The exterior of the building remains largely intact, whereas its interior has undergone numerous alterations and restorations over the centuries. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 10)

In 1812 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorized the demolition of the State House's arcades and wing buildings. In their place, the Commonwealth financed the construction of large fireproof office buildings which were then removed in 1897 to make way for a reconstruction of the very wing buildings and arcades they had replaced roughly 85 years earlier. The reconstructed east and west wings and arcades were a part of a larger project approved in 1896 and designed to remove all post-American Revolution additions to Independence Hall. The structures were subsequently completed in 1898; although they were larger than the originals and slightly altered in design. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 13)

Originally built as the Pennsylvania State House, its distinctive brick tower and belfry and east and west two-story wings, presented an impressive display of the importance of the colony in British North America. Its Georgian architecture, displaying a symmetry and order, with a centered bell tower graced with a large Palladian window, was monumental in size and stature for the colonies. Although early nineteenth-century changes to the building damaged some of the original interior fabric, careful restoration of the building, completed by National Park Service in the twentieth century, has resulted in a high level of architectural integrity for Independence Hall. Together with the Congress Hall and Old City Hall on the Fifth and Sixth Street corners, this Chestnut Street row of buildings has retained remarkable architectural unity, integrity, and beauty. (NR draft 2023: 97,144)

Landscape Architecture:
Independence Square is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture as an example of a late eighteenth-century urban square that evolved from design plans reflective of broader contemporary trends in American park design. Trees and paths were anticipated at the square's inception in 1732 as construction began on the Pennsylvania State House (today's Independence Hall). The Pennsylvania Assembly called for walks to be laid out and trees planted to make the yard "more beautiful and commodious." In 1736 the Assembly enacted a law that set aside the ground south of the State House for public use, calling the yard to be "enclosed and remain a public open green and Walks forever." Internal politics and the American Revolution delayed the execution of this vision until 1785, but once landscaped and opened to the public, the State House Yard won acclaim for its novelty, beauty and accessibility. New York City was the only other American city at that date to have laid out grounds specifically for public recreation and health. (CLR Vol.I 2004: 370)

Three major landscape redesigns have been completed on Independence Square's yard since the close of the American Revolution. Between 1785 and 1787, the Pennsylvania Assembly authorized Samuel Vaughan to design and layout the first landscape for the State House Yard south of the public buildings. The spatial organization and cluster arrangement of the building complex, the square's boundary, the central walk and sight axis between Independence Hall's tower entrance and the square's Walnut Street entrance, the concept of the grove of trees, and Independence Hall are associated with Vaughan's late eighteenth-century design for the square.

Between 1875 and 1876, the city redesigned the entire square for the Centennial of the American Revolution, retaining some key elements of the original layout and several more recent design changes. The design by William F. Dixey, Chief of the Bureau of City Property, included paths laid out in a radial configuration. All paths met at the central grass plot intended for a grand patriotic monument that was not immediately erected. Flagstone walks extended through the square and along the outside of the perimeter wall. The design narrowed the earlier broad central path from Walnut Street to the Independence Hall tower entrance and interrupted the axiality of the original landscape with the installation of a central circular grass plot. In 1907, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick donated a statue of Irish-born Commodore John Barry for the circular grass plot.

Finally, between 1915 and 1916, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), in cooperation with the City of Philadelphia, prepared and implemented the most recent large-scale design modification. They suggested adding a brick apron around Independence Hall, installing new bollards and chains along many paths to protect surrounding turf, and resurfacing the Sixth Street driveway with cobblestones to evoke the eighteenth-century paving material. The AIA plan restored a sense of the original central walkway's 30-

foot-width south of the Barry statue by adding gravel borders on either side of the flagstone surface. The plan also replaced the one-foot-high wall of the centennial design with a four-foot-high brick wall patterned after the colonial wall surrounding nearby St. Peter's Church. The plan eliminated the four redundant entrances introduced in 1875 as part of the earlier centennial design and returned the connecting paths to grass. The AIA plan also provided a new pedestal for the Barry Statue and replaced the grass in the central circle with flagstone paving.

The National Park Service has retained much of the AIA landscape design on the south side of Independence Hall complex. As part of the Bicentennial commemoration, the National Park Service introduced site elements recreated from the eighteenth century, including a watch box, water pump, and paving details to evoke the era of the country's founding.

The wide plaza fronting the State House along Chestnut Street has traditionally been treated separately from the landscaped yard south of the State House. This plaza, or "front yard," served as the primary entrance to the building. There, people promenaded along Chestnut Street under trees first planted in 1821. In the early 1970s, the National Park Service redesigned this area based on archeology and period images to evoke the late eighteenth century. (CLR Vol.I, 2004: 9-11)

CRITERION D

Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal):
Independence Square is significant under Criterion D in the area of Archeology-Historic (Non-Aboriginal) for its demonstrated potential to contain archeological resources that may provide additional information important in history or precolonial history. The park's 1988 documentation identifies this area of significance but does not specifically reference Independence Square.

While the evaluation of archaeological resources is beyond the scope of this CLI, according to the 2023 National Register documentation, a rich history of archeological research establishes that all areas of the park that have not been subject to subsurface disturbance to a depth of 25 feet, including Independence Square, are likely to contain additional important archeological resources. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 97)

In the 1950s archeological investigations were undertaken in Independence Square behind Independence Hall. A primary goal of this research program was to uncover evidence of the square's 1785–1800 appearance. Archeologists Paul J.F. Schumacher and B. Bruce Powell excavated a series of crisscrossing trenches across the square. These multi-year excavations failed to locate evidence of the American Philosophical Society's astronomical observatory (constructed to observe the 1769 transit of Venus), which was then thought to have served as the stage for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. However, the excavations uncovered red gravel deposits that marked the location of portions of the serpentine walks that were a defining feature of the Samuel Vaughan's landscape plan. The remains of three early home sites were also uncovered, the oldest of which date to the closing years of the seventeenth century. A rubble-filled trench provided evidence of the precise location of a wall built in 1740, which marked the original southern boundary of the square, as well as features and artifacts dating to an American Revolution encampment. Taken together, the evidence these projects produced paint a picture of the square as a dynamic public space in a growing and increasingly congested city. (NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 164)

An archeological synthesis study, "Independence Square Archeological Sensitivity Background Study," was conducted in 2004 by Gerhardt and Yamin. As of this study, 44 archeological projects were conducted, and 164 archeological features or resources were identified. (Review comments, Hoffman, 13 September 2023)

National Register Significance Criteria:

A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1736 - CE 1976

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	Development of the Colonies	Physical Development	
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Civil Rights Movements	
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Abolitionism	
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Social and Humanitarian Movements	Women’s Movement	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Georgian (1730-1780)	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	Urban Planning In The Nineteenth Century	
Expressing Cultural Values	Intellectual Currents	Philosophical Schools Of Thought	
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs 1783-1860	The Constitution	
Shaping the Political Landscape	Political and Military Affairs 1783-1860	Early Federal Period, 1789-1800	
Expanding Science and Technology	Physical Sciences	Astronomy	
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	Regional Efforts: Mid-Atlantic States, 1860-1900: Memorials To The Revolution;	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative: Commemoration

Area of Significance Category: Philosophy

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Politics/Government

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Science

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	American Philosophical Society Hall
NRIS ID:	66000675
NRIS Name:	Independence National Historical Park
NRIS ID:	66000683
Primary Certification Date:	03/04/1988

State Register Documentation:

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark?	Yes
Theme:	Scientific Institutions
Contributing:	Individual
NHL ID:	66000675
NHL URL:	
Date:	01/12/1965

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site?	Yes
Category:	Cultural
WHS ID:	Impendence Hall, US-78
WHS URL:	
Date:	04/10/1979

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1683	Platted	Thomas Holme surveys Philadelphia and dedicates squares - Northeast, Northwest, Southeast (now known as Washington), Southwest, and Center Squares – “for the like uses as the moorfields in London.” The squares become known by these geographical names in accordance with Quaker tradition which avoids naming land features for persons.
CE 1732	Established	The northern half of the Square is under the ownership of the Philadelphia Assembly and is designated for use as the site of the forthcoming Pennsylvania State House [Independence Hall].
CE 1732	Established	As construction begins for a state house, the Pennsylvania Assembly moves, “That the Ground belonging to the State-house may, with the least Expence [sic], and with all convenient Speed, be levelled [sic], and enclosed with a Board Fence, in order that Walks may be laid out, and Trees planted, to render the same more beautiful and commodious.”
CE 1736	Established	The Pennsylvania Assembly votes, “That no part of the said ground lying to the southward of the State House as it is now built be converted into or made use of for erecting any sort of building thereupon, but that the said ground shall be enclosed and remain a public open green and Walks forever.”
CE 1761	Established	The Pennsylvania Assembly authorizes the purchase of the whole square.
CE 1777 - 1778	Built	During Britain’s occupation of Philadelphia between fall 1777 and summer 1778, the Square serves as a prison yard enclosed by a ten-foot-high brick wall.
CE 1784	Planned	Samuel Vaughan, Jr., receives a commission to design a landscape for the State House Yard so that it can better serve the public.
CE 1785	Built	Vaughan’s design applies contemporary taste in landscape gardening and design to the grounds, smoothing out the square’s course contours and creating small artificial planting mounds.
CE 1812	Altered	The State House Yard’s brick wall is lowered to three feet and topped with an iron palisade fence to promote improved air circulation and access to sunlight.
CE 1818	Purchased/Sold	The City of Philadelphia completes purchases of the Square to save the site and its historic buildings from demolition.
CE 1845	Built	To accommodate increasing foot traffic, the City Council installs two additional gravel walkways through the middle of the Square, joining Fifth and Sixth Streets.
CE 1843 - 1853	Built	City Council orders and installs gas lamps along the Square’s walkways about 1853.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1857 - 1858	Planted	Numerous trees are removed and replaced with new trees.
CE 1859	Established	In 1859 a travel writer records that the Square's walkways cross one another at right angles, except for a serpentine walkway around the interior perimeter of the square.
CE 1860	Platted	Independence Square is surveyed, and 201 varieties of trees are documented. There are eight entrance gates.
CE 1860	Altered	Twenty-four gas lamps are replaced with gas-saving models as part of a city-wide initiative.
CE 1860 - 1865	Built	Military recruitment station tents are erected and line Independence Square's central walkway.
CE 1867	Built	A new District Courthouse is built on Sixth Street, south of present-day Congress Hall. A cast iron perimeter fence is constructed around the lot, and a driveway connects to Independence Square's main walkway.
CE 1869	Memorialized	A monument to George Washington, Commander in Chief, is installed on the Chestnut Street sidewalk, thirty feet north of the front entrance to Independence Hall. The marble statue is sculpted by French sculptor, Joseph Alexis Bailly.
CE 1875	Planned	The Council approves a new design plan for the Square produced under the direction of William Dixey, of the Bureau of City Property.
CE 1876	Built	The Grand Division, Sons of Temperance, construct an ice water fountain, or "Temperance Fountain."
CE 1895	Moved	All government functions are moved from Independence Hall to the newly constructed Philadelphia City Hall, on Center Square.
CE 1895	Planned	The City Council passes an ordinance to restore Independence Square to its late eighteenth-century appearance.
CE 1901	Demolished	The 1867 District Courthouse is demolished.
CE 1901	Removed	The Bailly sculpture of George Washington is relocated to Conservation Hall in Philadelphia City Hall for protection. A copy of the statue is later placed in place of the original.
CE 1907	Memorialized	The Society of Friends funds the commission of a large bronze statue of Commodore John Barry, US Navy, sculpted by Samuel Aloysius Murray which is placed in the central circle of Independence Square.
CE 1913 - 1915	Planned	The City of Philadelphia contracts with the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects to supervise the rehabilitation of Independence Square. After two years of revision, the proposed redesign of the square is approved by the city in December 1915.
CE 1915 - 1916	Built	The Square's surrounding Centennial-era wall is replaced with a low brick retaining wall with marble coping.
CE 1915 - 1916	Removed	Entrances at the corners of Fifth Street and Sixth Street, and corresponding walkways are removed, and their locations planted in turf.
CE 1915 - 1916	Removed	Two beds of turf behind Independence Square are removed and paved in bluestone.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1915 - 1916	Planted	Two large turf beds are added behind Congress Hall. A swath of turf is also added to either side of Independence Hall tower, and on the northwest corner of Philosophical Hall.
CE 1915 - 1916	Built	A low chain and post fence is added to enclose the grass plots on either side of Independence Hall tower.
CE 1915 - 1916	Altered	The Centennial-era bluestone around the foundations of the historic structures is replaced with a brick apron, so that the immediate footprint of the historic structures would be surrounded with typical eighteen-century paving material.
CE 1915 - 1916	Built	Along Chestnut Street, new low round posts are installed, evoking the bollards that once stood along the street and on the south side of Independence Hall.
CE 1915 - 1916	Built	A low brick wall is added along both sides of the driveway on Sixth Street behind Congress Hall, extending eighty feet into the square.
CE 1915	Built	The walls are mounted with cast iron posts linked by a string of chains.
CE 1915 - 1916	Built	Two brick columns with stone caps are placed at the entrance to the cartway.
CE 1915 - 1916	Removed	The turf beds surrounding the John Barry Statue are removed.
CE 1915 - 1916	Altered	The circular circulation pattern at the center of the square is replaced with a cross pattern walk.
CE 1915 - 1916	Built	Sixty-two gas-powered lamps, 56 of which are mounted on iron posts and placed along inner walkways, are installed. The lamps are patterned after the Franklin-style lamps introduced throughout colonial Philadelphia.
CE 1915 - 1916	Removed	All police and fire boxes are removed from the area of the Square.
CE 1919	Built	A pair of Civil War era 12-pound howitzers are sunk into the ground to serve as wheel guards at the upper end of the Sixth Street driveway.
CE 1919	Planted	General John J. Pershing plants a tree on Independence Square honoring the Philadelphia soldiers lost during World War I.
CE 1920	Planted	The City of Philadelphia plants approximately 30 sapling American elm trees on Arbor Day.
CE 1925	Planted	About 1925, the Women’s Committee of the American Revolution Sesquicentennial and the National Gardener’s Association plants 13 red oak trees along the west side of the square.
CE 1926	Memorialized	A 75-foot flagpole is erected “on the grass plot” south of Independence Hall’s East Wing to mark the purported location of the 1769 Transit of Venus Observatory and the site of the platform used to deliver the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence.
CE 1930 - 1939	Planted	Tree plantings continue throughout the 1930s in Independence Square.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1950 - 1959	Moved	The NPS relocates the 75-foot flagpole from the Square to the east end of the Chestnut Street sidewalk.
CE 1951	Established	The NPS assumes management of Independence Square on January 2, 1951.
CE 1960 - 1965	Altered	The NPS replaces the flagstone sides surrounding the square with herringbone-patterned prick pavement in the early 1960s.
CE 1960 - 1965	Built	The NPS installs new benches and adds a watch box in the early 1960s funded with Mission 66 appropriations.
CE 1967 - 1974	Rehabilitated	Light standards in Independence Square are rehabilitated.
CE 1968	Removed	Sons of Temperance, “Temperance Fountain” is removed from the Square for sanitation reasons, and placed in National Park Service storage.
CE 1974	Altered	The NPS removes the flagstone sidewalk on Chestnut Street between fifth and Sixth Streets and replaces it with herringbone pattern brick paving.
CE 1974	Restored	The NPS restores the Square’s pebble-stone paving, as well as two pumps, a watch box, and wooden bollards.
CE 2001 - 2022	Altered	Following the September 11 attacks, the wooden bollards along Chestnut Street are replaced with larger steel bollards.
CE 2003 - 2008	Rehabilitated	The NPS completes a major rehabilitation of the square’s flagstone walks and other landscape elements.
CE 2009	Rehabilitated	Light standards in Independence Square Park are rehabilitated.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. The square's history has been addressed in numerous studies: a "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for Independence National Historical Park" by Anna Coxe Toogood (1988); two archaeological reports by John Milner Associates (1996, 2000); the "Cultural Landscape Report, Independence Square, Vol. I, Historical Narrative" by Anna Coxe Toogood (1998, revised 2004); the "Cultural Landscape Report, Independence Square, Vol. II" by Independence National Historical Park, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and Denver Service Center (1998); and two "Tree Inventories and Condition Assessments" by the Olmsted Center (2007, 2022). The following narrative is based primarily on the 1998 and 2004 CLRs.

This section includes a summary of the physical development of Independence Square, initially called State House Yard, beginning with its designation by the city leaders as the location of the new state house in 1734 through the transfer of the square's management from the City of Philadelphia to the National Park Service in 1954, to the present day. Seven historic periods correspond with major periods of landscape change and include the Colonial Period (1682–1785), The Evolution of the Samuel Vaughan Plan (1785-1874), The Centennial Plan, Planning for a Shrine (1875–1914), Influence of the Plan of the American Institute of Architects (1914–1951), National Park Service Management (1952–Present). Additional information on the history of individual landscape features is included in the Analysis and Evaluation chapter of this CLI. While Independence Square is considered today to be the entire city block enclosed by Chestnut, Walnut, Fifth, and Sixth Streets, before 1825, historical documents refer to both "State House Yard" and, alternately, the "State House Garden" as simply the ground lying to the south of the Pennsylvania State House. This fact implies that Independence Square has historically had two distinct sub-areas, the area south of Independence Hall and the area north of the buildings, fronting onto Chestnut Street. The following historical narrative retains the construct of separating Independence Square into southern and northern sections.

OVERVIEW

South Square – State House Yard:
In the Colonial period between 1730 and 1770, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the land now known as Independence Square as the site for a new state house. The grounds were set aside as a public open space in 1736 and enclosed with a seven-foot-high wall first in 1740 and altered in 1770. By the time of the American Revolution, the colonial legislature had completed the large brick state house, with office wing buildings on its east and west sides and a committee room on its southeast. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 2)

From its establishment in 1732, the Pennsylvania Assembly wanted the State House grounds leveled for walks and trees to make the surroundings "more beautiful and commodious." In 1736 they reserved the yard behind (south) the state house as a "public open Greene and Walks forever," specifying that no one could erect other buildings there. Finances and politics delayed the execution of the intended landscaping until after the American Revolution. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 2)

Three major landscape redesigns have been completed on Independence Square's yard since the close of the American Revolution. Between 1785 and 1787, the Pennsylvania Assembly authorized Samuel Vaughan to design and layout the first landscape for the State House Yard south of the public buildings. Between 1875 and 1876, the city redesigned the entire square for the Centennial of the Revolution, retaining some key elements of the original layout and several more recent design changes. Finally, between 1915 and 1916, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), in cooperation with the City of Philadelphia, prepared and implemented the most recent large-scale design modification. The National Park Service has retained much of the early twentieth-century landscape design on the south side of the Independence Hall complex. As part of the Bicentennial commemoration, the National Park Service introduced site elements recreated from the eighteenth century, including a watch box, water pump, and paving details to evoke the era of the country's founding. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 2)

North Square – Chestnut Street Forecourt:
The wide plaza fronting the State House along Chestnut Street has traditionally been treated separately from the landscaped yard south of the State House. This plaza, or "front yard," served as the primary entrance to the building. There, people promenaded along Chestnut Street under trees first planted in 1821. In the early 1970s, the National Park Service redesigned this area based on archeology and period images to evoke the late 18th century. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 2)

COLONIAL PERIOD

The State House Buildings, Perimeter Wall Around the Square, and Observatory:
Before 1730, the Pennsylvania Assembly rented quarters on private property. Considering their accommodations inadequate and often inconvenient, the Assembly threatened to move to Chester, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia's leaders proposed that the legislators build a state house in the city instead (Figure 1). The Pennsylvania Assembly agreed and purchased lots at the edge of town on Chestnut Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. In preparation for construction, two houses mid-block on Chestnut Street were torn down, though one served briefly as the legislators' seat before the State House's completion. The building project continued for over twenty years and included two wing buildings (1736) with connecting arcades (1743), a bell tower and steeple (1753), and a committee room for the Pennsylvania Assembly (1753) (Figure 2). The Assembly soon recognized the need to protect their new capital investment and built a brick wall around the property's south, east and west sides between 1740 and 1741. After purchasing additional lots, they extended the wall around the entire block south of the State House in 1770. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 11)

In 1769 the American Philosophical Society constructed a wood-framed astronomical observatory in the yard to record the Transit of Venus. This astronomical event provided scientists their first opportunity to measure the size of the solar system and the distance between the Earth and the sun. The observatory remained in the yard through the American Revolution, but its exact location has not been established, despite prodigious research and several archeological investigations. Nineteenth-century accounts by eyewitnesses at the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776, recalled that John Nixon read from a "raised platform" (Heinrich Miller) or "awful stage in the State House Yard" (John Adams). Historians assumed these recollections referred to the 1769 observatory. Other period records, however, suggest that the Assembly kept a temporary stage in the basement of the State House (Independence Hall) and brought it out for public meetings and special occasions such as the reading of the Declaration of Independence. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 11, quoted in Henrich Miller Pennsylvanisher Staatshate No. 813, 9 July 1776, in CLR Vol.I: 44)

The mid-eighteenth-century perimeter walls and gates around the square are documented in graphic prints of the 1790s by Charles Willson Peale, James Peller Malcom, and William Birch. A massive, pedimented gate stood at the center of the Walnut Street end (Figure 3). At the time, high brick walls around public and private properties were common in the city. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 11)

The State House Grounds - Planning for a Landscape Design:
In 1732, after purchasing the Chestnut Street lots, the Pennsylvania Assembly expressed their intent to improve the grounds by ordering that "the Ground ... be leveled and enclosed with a Board Fence in order that Walks may be laid out, and Trees planted, to render the same more beautiful and commodious." In 1736, a year after the Assembly moved into their still unfinished building, they voted that "no part of the said ground lying to the southward of the State House as it is now built be converted into or made use of for erecting any sort of buildings thereupon, but that the said ground shall be enclosed and remain a public open green and Walks forever." The Assembly partially leveled the yard with fill between 1737 and 1738. In time the French and Indian War intervened and directed resources elsewhere. Following the war, between 1771 and 1772, the yard was again improved and leveled. Yet the American Revolution led resources to causes other than enhancing public space. During the eighteenth century, people held political rallies and military parades on the grounds, and the yard served practical uses as a supply depot and privy location. Two frame sheds visible in Charles Willson Peale's 1777 illustration of the State House Square probably housed the cannon and artillery cited in Pennsylvania's war records (Figure 4). Nevertheless, this early legislation inspired the form that Independence Square would assume over the next two centuries. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 11-13)

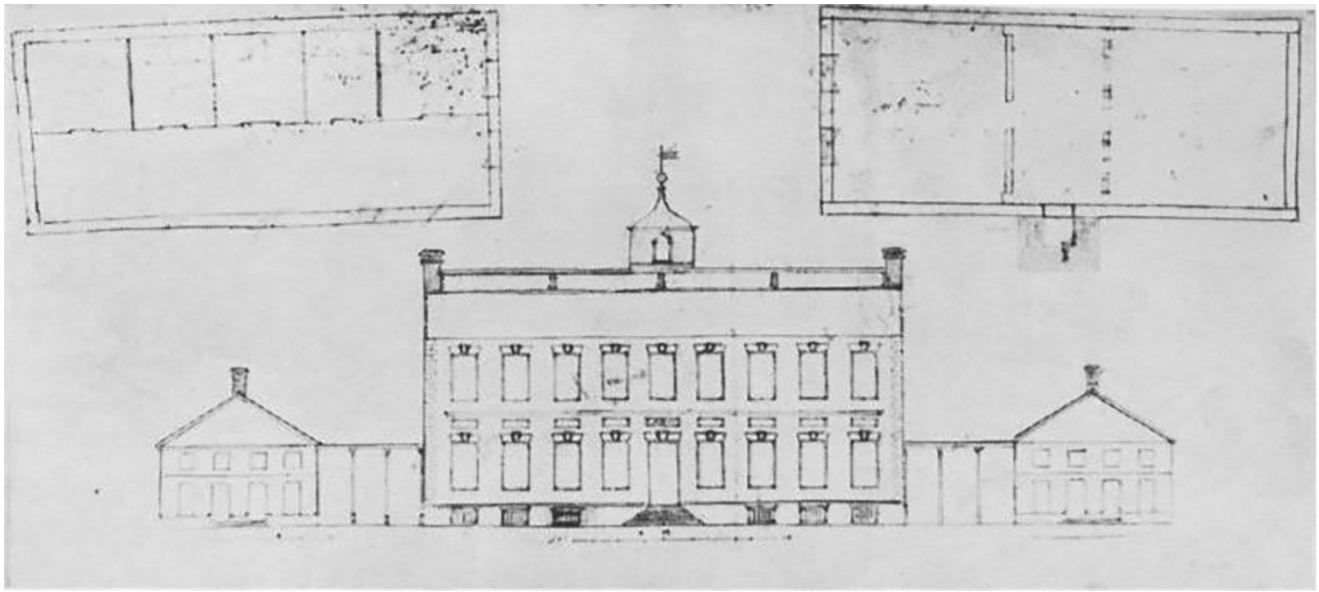


Figure 1. The plan of the State House, 1732, is attributed to Andrew Hamilton. The elevation of the main building shows it substantially as first built under the direction of master carpenter, Edmund Woolley. (Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

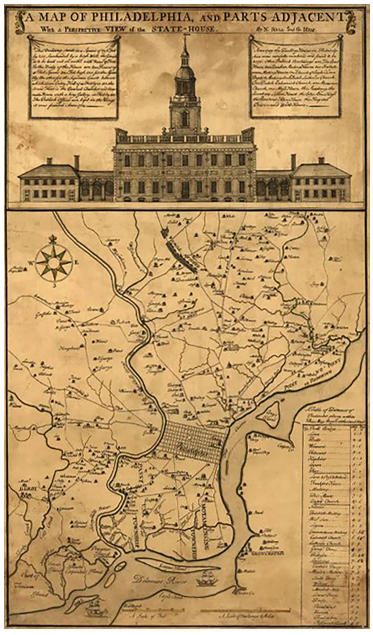


Figure 2. This 1752 elevation of Independence Hall (called the Statehouse at the time) and map of Philadelphia by Nicholas Scull and George Heap illustrates both the breadth of the new structure as well as the grid of the new city layout. (The Map Collection, Free Library of Philadelphia)



Figure 3. This sketch shows the enormous pedimented door in the wall around the State House yard in 1798. William or Thomas Birch, Preparatory sketch for State-House Garden, Philadelphia, ca. 1798. Watercolor and ink. (Library Company of Philadelphia)



Figure 4. Charles Wilson Peales 1787 etching of the of the northern side of the State House Square. (Library of Congress)

THE EVOLUTION OF THE SAMUEL VAUGHAN PLAN, 1785-1876

At the close of the Revolutionary War, the new state legislature agreed to Governor John Dickenson's proposal to move forward on landscape plans for the yard. In 1783, the Assembly voted to revive the February 1736 act that reserved the yard as a "public open green and Walks forever"

and authorized that the grounds be laid out “according to the original design.” The Assembly chose Samuel Vaughan, a recent English immigrant from Jamaica, where he owned a plantation. Vaughan, a member of the American Philosophical Society and the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, was a close friend of Benjamin Franklin and moved within influential social and professional circles. The construction of the square’s landscape design, as well as the American Philosophical Society’s Philosophical Hall, began in 1785. Vaughan spearheaded both projects. Historians have yet to discover landscape plans documenting the exact layout of plantings and paths. However, newspaper accounts, illustrations of the period, bills for work and materials provide an understanding of the square’s early design. Early 19th-century maps and National Park Service archeology projects have also confirmed the graveled serpentine paths’ location around the yard's perimeter (Figure 5). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 14, quoted in Historic Philadelphia 1980: 7-8, and John Dickenson to the Assembly, 17 September 1783, PA Archives, both in CLR Vol.I: 72)

The Vaughan Design:
The Vaughan design for the State House Yard featured a thirty-foot-wide graveled central walk bordered by a double row of elm trees on either side. The walk ran between the preexisting pedimented gate in the Walnut Street wall and the entrance at the base of the State House tower. The landscape reflected design elements of the Romantic-style popular during the period, and with gravel path meandering around picturesque copses of trees and mounded flower and shrub beds. A double row of elms on either side of the central walk created a formal allee on the axis with the State House entrance. Captain George Morgan of Princeton provided one hundred elms for the yard’s allee. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 14)

Vaughan completed the installation of the State House gardens in 1787 and soon began a landscape plan for George Washington’s grounds at Mount Vernon. Vaughan admired George Washington, and his landscape plan for Mount Vernon documented the improvements Washington had already made when Vaughan visited his estate. Vaughan’s design for the State House Yard incorporates features like Mount Vernon’s serpentine paths and planting palette. Indeed, Washington corrected a mistake Vaughan made on the plan, indicating he may have been Mount Vernon’s designer and, through his association with Vaughan, may have contributed to State House Yard landscape design. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 14)

During Philadelphia’s capitol city decade of 1790-1800, Vaughan’s landscape served as a pleasant and shady walk for legislators, diplomats, judges, civil servants, and the public. It was the only public walk of its kind in the new nation and possibly the safest place in Philadelphia to enjoy the benefits of exercise and fresh air, increasingly promoted to benefit health. Between 1798 and 1800 William Birch, in collaboration with his son Thomas (1779-1851), produced twenty-seven views of Philadelphia for a project originally entitled Philadelphia Dissected or the Metropolis of America. Sold by subscription and as separate prints, these images achieved great success as America’s first view book and were issued as The City of Philadelphia in four separate editions over the next quarter century. William Birch included two images of the State House Yard in his collection of published views of Philadelphia. These are the only known period illustrations of the Vaughan landscape, executed after fifteen years of maturation (1799 and 1800). A privy on the east side of the yard, behind the East Wing, appears in the view “Back of the State House” and the trees appear to be naturalistically planted on a slight knoll to the south of the state house (Figure 6). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 14-16)

Evolution of the Architectural Plan:
The county and municipal buildings on the original plan for the square were finally completed after the American Revolution. The County Courthouse, erected in 1787-1789 at the comer of Sixth and Chestnut Streets, was offered to the US Congress for use between 1790 and 1800 when Philadelphia served as the nation’s capital. The new City Hall building at Fifth and Chestnut Streets reached completion in 1791, and during that year, the US Supreme Court began sharing the use of the Mayor’s Courtroom, while its Circuit and District Courts used a second-floor courtroom. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 17)

Although the state and federal governments moved off the square in 1799 and 1800, the municipal and county offices remained to occupy the comer buildings. In 1802, the American artist Charles

Willson Peale expanded his natural history museum into the long gallery on the second floor of the State House. Until 1818, Peale also served as the paid superintendent of the State House grounds and oversaw changes to its design. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 17)

During the eighteenth century, Philadelphia suffered regular summer epidemics, which medical practitioners attributed to unhealthy seasonal conditions. In 1791, citizens petitioned the State to lower the yard's high brick perimeter wall and surmount it with a palisade fence to improve the airflow and dispel unhealthy stagnant air that pedestrians inhaled while walking along the square's adjoining streets. The State agreed in principle but left the funding of this project up to private sources. Finally, twenty years later, in 1811, the seven-foot walls on Fifth and Sixth Streets were lowered to three feet and surmounted with an iron palisade fence, a style then fashionable in Europe. New entrance gates to the yard were added on the Fifth and Sixth Street sides, just south of the buildings. In 1812 the Walnut Street section of the wall was lowered and topped with the iron palisade fence. The monumental pedimented gate was removed and replaced initially with a temporary gate. In 1824, John Haviland completed a new gate for the Walnut Street entrance. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 17)

Shortly after the city made capital improvement to the square, in 1813 the Pennsylvania legislature proposed to sell the square to fund a new state capitol building in Harrisburg. City leaders countered by offering to purchase the block to preserve healthful open space in a crowded urban setting and to preserve intact the "hallowed ground" where "some of the most important public acts" in the nation had transpired. The city took ownership in 1818 when the sale was finalized. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 27, quoted in Minutes 1819: 12, in CLR Vol.1: 172)

In spelling out their reasons to purchase the square, city leaders reiterated their commitment to preserving the square's historical values and to the 1736 act of the Pennsylvania Assembly that reserved the area south of the State House as a public green space and walkways. In 1819 members of the city's Committee for the Improvement of the State House Yard defended the preservation of the yard, arguing for keeping its general plan and arrangement because, "Time has given to them a character of sanctity which forbids that they should be touched ..." Patriotic sentiment led the city to rename the square Independence Square in 1825, a year after General Lafayette's emotionally charged visit to the "Hall of Independence." In 1828 the city and county hired William Strickland to design a replacement steeple for Independence Hall on the lines of the original which had been lost to decay, making it one of the nation's first examples of historic preservation. However, while recognized for its historic associations, the square continued to attract conflicting proposals for change. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 27, quote from Minutes 1819: 12, in CLR Vol.II: 177)

Only a few years earlier, in 1821, the Pennsylvania legislature passed an act authorizing the County Court of Quarter Sessions to lay streets and alleys over public squares, threatening the preservation of the State House Square. The Philadelphia Council argued that the act should not apply to the State House Square since the Assembly had set the land aside for the "recreation of the inhabitants" and the promotion of the city's health, The city persevered and the square was preserved and improvements continued. The same year, the city planted a double row of linden trees along Chestnut Street to provide shade for pedestrians walking in the hot summer sun (Figure 7). In 1820 Frederick Graff, the city's engineer for the Fairmount Water Works, supervised laying pipes from the reservoir into the yard to fit two new fire hydrants on the south side of the building complex. The following year, the city ordered the original Chestnut Street pumps replaced with two fire hydrants close to the curb. When fires damaged the roofs of both the County Courthouse and City Hall soon after, the city expanded the protection by adding a fifth hydrant in the yard. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 17,118)

During the early nineteenth century, the trees planted in the State House Yard soon after the Revolution matured, casting an ever-deepening shade over the yard (Figure 8). Andrew Jackson Downing, an American landscape designer, horticulturist, and writer, marveled at the yard's large plane or buttonwood trees during a visit to the square in the 1840s. Yet, it was common for aging trees to die within this challenging urban environment. When the city removed the failing trees, they replaced them with young trees to maintain the canopy over the yard and along Chestnut Street. At the same time, the shaded yard sometimes required resodding of the turf areas. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 23)

As the city grew and expanded westward, the importance of the square's open space diminished. Initially, as one of the only public promenading spaces in the city, the State House Yard was popular with residents and visitors. But the yard fell from favor after the city improved nearby Southeast Square (Washington Square) with extensive walks and relatively lavish plantings in the early nineteenth century. As transportation improved, public gardens at the Fairmount Waterworks and the Laurel Hill Cemetery, outside the city limits, drew people out of the city for recreation. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 23)

As the State House Yard's popularity waned, disreputable characters began to loiter there. An 1831 citizens' petition complained that the State House privies were "highly offensive." In response, city and county councils authorized the construction of new privies below ground. At the same time, they contracted for an iron palisade fence across the yard just south of the State House, presumably to secure the buildings and privies at night. In 1853, the city replaced the old oil lamps with gas lamps, an improvement that increased the square's illumination at night (Figure 9). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 22-23)

Making the Yard Convenient:
When the federal and state governments left Philadelphia, the city modified State House Square to make it more convenient and valuable to city residents, especially pedestrian commuters. The city opened new entrances at the Walnut Street corners in 1837 so pedestrians could cut across the square as they headed for work. Short diagonal paths joined these entrances to the perimeter serpentine path. Only a year later, the city installed chain and post fencing along some paths to discourage informal shortcuts across the square's thin turf. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 24)

In 1845 additional entrances were added mid-block on Fifth and Sixth Streets, connected by a new graveled path across the center of the square. In 1858 one writer described the yard as having eight different gates, including the State House central hall entrance. By the 1860s, historic photographs and plans show that the city had also provided diagonal paths from the comer entrances to the center of the square to give a more direct means for pedestrians to cross (Figure 10). Meanwhile, pressure to develop the square for office space continued. For instance, in 1838, the City Council proposed to purchase the county's interest in the State House Square to build offices but was turned down by the county. The County Board proposed to build new buildings for county courts and jury rooms on the southern end of the square in 1847 but was voted down by the Select and Common Councils. The site was threatened again with development in 1848 and 1857, but was preserved. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 24)

By the mid-nineteenth century, Independence Square had won strong patriotic public support as the home of the American Revolution. With this sentiment in mind, city leaders endorsed an 1851 proposal to build a Revolutionary War monument in the center of the yard and establish a national museum in Independence Hall. However, the divisive years of the American Civil War discouraged the construction of a grand monument to such a fragile union. During the Civil War, the square became the hub for Pennsylvania's Union recruitment, spurring national attachment to the site for its historical associations (see Figure 10). In 1862 the city and County erected a two-story addition at the southern end of the County Courthouse for a judges' retiring room and extended the underground drainage from the south side of Independence Hall to the Walnut Street sewer. By the end of the Civil War, however, the condition of Independence Square had deteriorated (Figures 11, 12, 13). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 25-27)

In 1869 a statue of George Washington by sculptor J.A. Baily was donated to the city by the Washington Monument Fund, a group representing the Philadelphia Public Schools. The statue had been commissioned for the US Sanitary Commission Fair in 1864 during the Civil War. The city placed the Baily statue in the center of the Chestnut Street walk, directly in front of the Independence Hall, and erected an iron paled fence around it. In 1869 two highly ornamented granite horse watering fountains, donated by the Philadelphia Fountain Society, were installed along the Chestnut Street curb at either end of the block. In 1870 the city made subsurface improvements to the drainage from the State House to the Chestnut Street curb and replaced the brick in the north square with large flagstone paving (Figures 14 and 15). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 28)

The conflict between those who wanted to develop Independence Square and those who wanted to

preserve it climaxed in 1869 when the city opened a design competition for a new city hall complex located on the square. One competitor's drawings, those of architect John MacArthur's, proposed massive Second Empire structures along three sides of the square reminiscent of the present City Hall complex on Penn Square. Adamant public protest to the plan, driven by a patriotic sensibility, led to the city-wide vote in 1870 designating Penn Square as the site for a new city hall building, not Independence Square. The need to ease overcrowding while the new government complex was under construction, however, led to a few changes in Independence Square. In 1872, the city built a new enclosed public urinal in the yard and provided more office space by building additions to the Mills buildings, which closed the remaining openings in the building's Chestnut Street façade. (CLR 1997: 24-29)

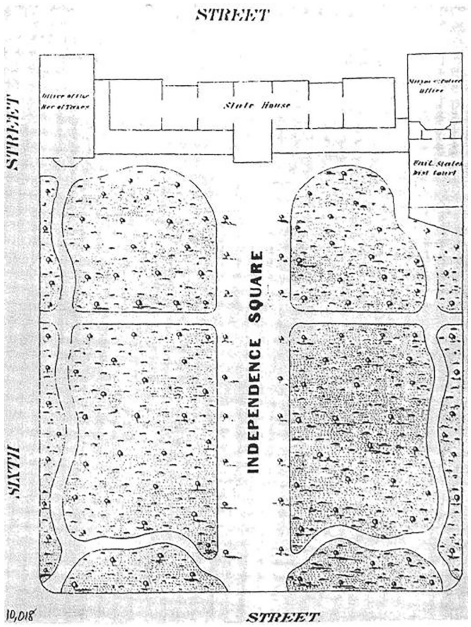


Figure 5. Drawing of the serpentine paths and central allee path for Independence Square, pre-1866. (Independence NHP, Photostat File, #10,018 as cited in CLR draft, 1997)



Figure 6. William Birch, "Back of the State House," Philadelphia, 1827-1828. Hand-colored engraving. Note the naturalistic copse of trees, as well as a privy or perhaps watch house visible in the center of this engraving. (Library Company of Philadelphia)



Figure 7. The double row of lindens is clearly visible in this 1858 painting by Ferdinand Richardt, about 30 years after their planting. (The White House Historical Association, White House Collection)

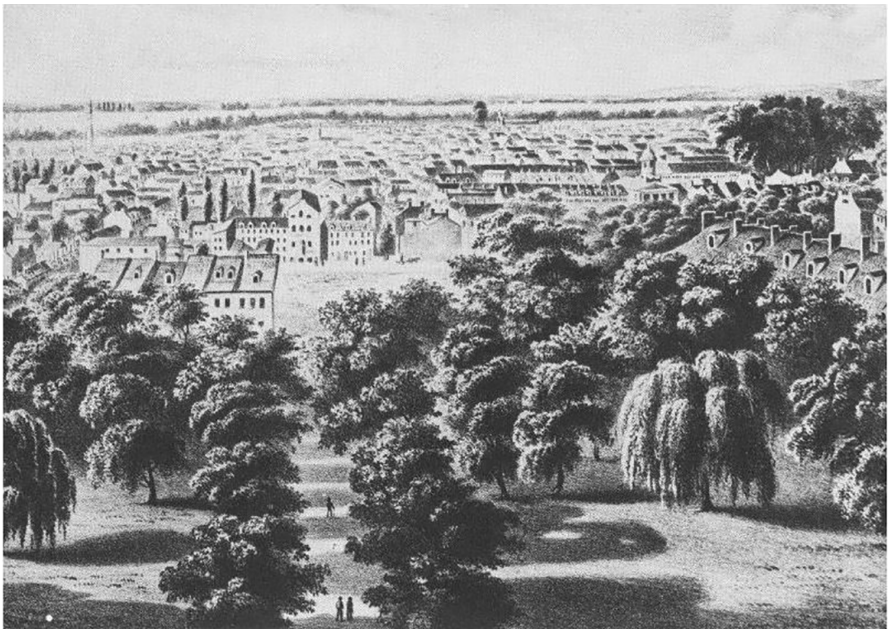


Figure 8. The allee of elms and the maturing tree canopy are visible in this 1838 lithograph by J.C. Wild "Independence Square in 1838, as seen from the steeple of Independence Hall." (Historical Society of Pennsylvania)



Figure 9. The elm allee and the new gas lighting is seen in this stereoscope image from 1859. (McAllistar Scrapebook, Library Company of Philadelphia)



Figure 10. View of Civil War Union recruitment camps on Independence Square in September or October 1862, (Library Company of Philadelphia)



Figure 11. View of tree-lined walks in Independence Square, 1868. (Library Company of Philadelphia)



Figure 12. In this photograph from 1868, the curvilinear perimeter path is just visible beneath the grove of shade trees. (Library Company of Philadelphia)



Figure 13. In this stereoscope card from circa 1868 of the plaza along Chestnut Street, the planting of the double row of linden trees is clearly visible. (Library Company of Philadelphia)



Figure 14. In this stereoscope card from circa 1870 the newly installed statue of George Washington surrounded by the metal fence (image far left), and the horse drinking fountain are visible (image far right). (Library Company of Philadelphia)



Figure 15. In this stereoscope card from circa 1870 of the ornate iron gate and palisade fence south of Independence Hall. (Library Company of Philadelphia)

THE CENTENNIAL LANDSCAPE: PLANNING FOR A SHRINE, 1875–1898

Having effectively protected Independence Square from future development by voting to move city hall to Penn Square, city leaders were soon planning for the Centennial Exposition of the American Revolution. Joseph Leeds submitted the first plan to improve Independence Square for the nation's Centennial in 1873, memorializing the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence with 56 trees. Thomas P. Gordon submitted a competing proposal, organized by radial walks and sprinkled with monumental statues of the 56 signers (Figure 16). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 29-30)

Dixey Plan, 1875:
In 1875, the City Council members selected a plan proposed by William F. Dixey, Chief of the Bureau of City Property. Contemporaries described Dixey's plan as rendering the square "as a thoroughfare" for pedestrian traffic and was like his design for Washington Square. Dixey's design included paths laid out in a radial configuration. All paths met at the central grass plot intended for a grand patriotic monument that was not immediately erected. Flagstone walks extended through the square and along its perimeter. The design narrowed the earlier broad central path from Walnut Street to the Independence Hall tower entrance and interrupted the axiality of the original landscape with the installation of a central circular grass plot. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 29-30)

The plan widened the Fifth and Sixth Street entrances at Walnut Street to thirty feet, bending the openings in the wall to meet new curved granite stairs. The city lowered the perimeter wall to one foot and finished it with marble coping. The soil behind the wall was graded to meet the new shorter wall. The city created four new entrances to the square and connected existing diagonal paths with short paths. Two gas lamps featuring facsimiles of the Liberty Bell hung on either side of the entrances. As a result of public outcry, the city minimized the loss of trees to half a dozen during the construction (Figure 17). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 29-30)

Centennial Plan Modified:
After the Centennial celebration, the city agreed to place the Sons of Temperance water fountain along the southeast diagonal walkway. The Sons of Temperance had exhibited this fountain at Philadelphia's Centennial Exhibition in West Fairmount Park. When the exposition closed in 1877, they arranged to move the fountain to the square and provide for its maintenance, in an effort to curb alcohol drinking in the city. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 29-30)

Between 1895 and 1902, the city planted patriotic flower beds in the central and north-central grass plots. Spring bulbs planted in the shape of stars, the Liberty Bell, and "1776" was characteristic of the era's carpet bedding flowerbeds (Figure 18). The square's superintendent also planted various trees to retain shade. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 29-30)

Following the city government's departure in 1895, private patriotic interest groups launched an effort to restore the buildings and grounds. With the city's permission, the Daughters of the American Revolution hired architect T. Mellon Rogers to direct the restoration of Independence Hall. As an initial step, the city tore down later structural additions to the square's eighteenth-century buildings, including the 1862 judges' retiring room, the 1872 office additions, and the 1812 Mills buildings. Independence Hall's wings and arcades were reconstructed in 1898, although not accurately. The city also repaired the square's perimeter wall and flagstone walks and removed the Liberty Bell lamps. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 29-30)

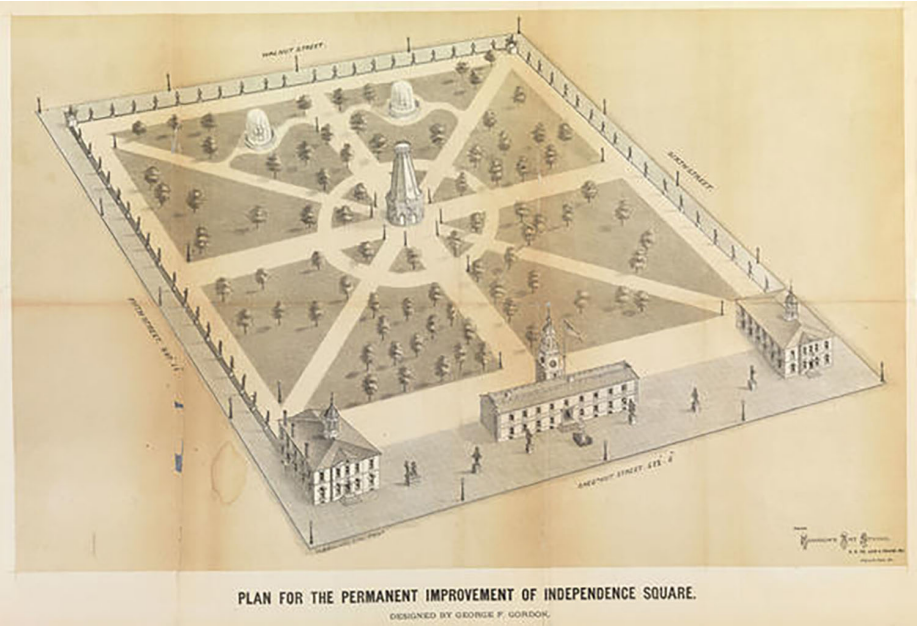


Figure 16. George Gordon's plan for Independence Square, 1874. (Library Company of Philadelphia).

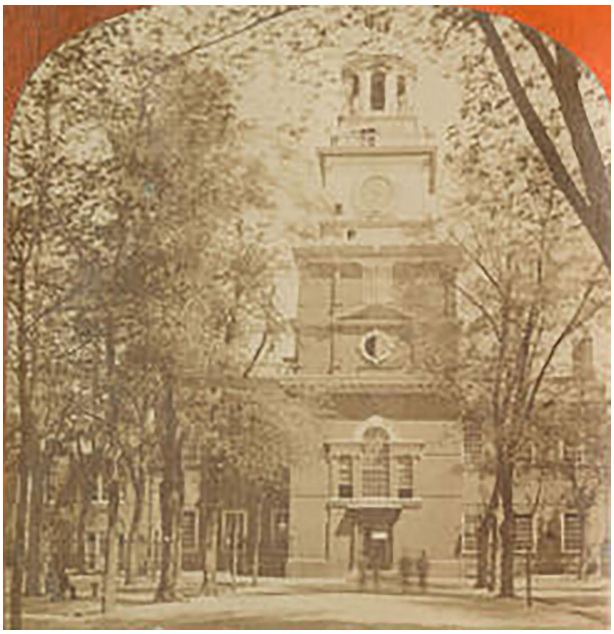


Figure 17. Stereoscope card from circa 1880, from just north of the central flower bed, showing the allee of trees south of Independence Hall with both fully mature and small saplings. (Library Company of Philadelphia)



Figure 18. This view of the southern portion of Independence Square around 1910 reveals the late nineteenth-century carpet bedded bulbs and annuals in place prior to the AIA design installation. (Library of Congress)

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 1898-1951

Recognizing a desire for a more authentic restoration of Independence Square, the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) became involved in the restoration project in 1898. The AIA consulted on the restoration effort for the next two decades. Part of the restoration program included the removal of Sixth Street Courthouse in 1901 to return the grounds to their eighteenth-century appearance. Despite the desire of the AIA to evoke the period of nation founding, in 1903, the Grand Army of the Republic, Post 2, of the Department of Pennsylvania, placed a bronze plaque on the sidewalk bordering Chestnut Street, commemorating President-elect Abraham Lincoln's 1861 visit to Independence Hall. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 34-42)

Similarly, in 1907, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick donated a statue of Irish-born Commodore John Barry to the city. The statue was placed in the circular grass plot in the center of the square, where the Revolutionary War monument originally had been planned (Figure 19). In 1910, the city paid sculptor Samuel Murray to copy the George Washington statue in bronze in front of Independence Hall on Chestnut Street so that the deteriorating original might be moved to the new City Hall at Penn Square. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 34-42)

In December 1914, the AIA completed a redesign of the centennial landscape to harmonize the grounds with Independence Hall and the associated eighteenth-century buildings. Though the city had planned to restore Independence Square to its appearance during the Revolutionary War, the AIA concluded that the proposed restoration was not feasible. They suggested adding a brick apron around Independence Hall, installing new bollards and chains along many paths to protect surrounding turf, and resurfacing the Sixth Street driveway with cobblestones to evoke the eighteenth-century paving material. The city added the driveway after constructing the new courthouse in 1867. The AIA plan restored a sense of the original central walkway's 30-foot-width south of the Barry statue by adding gravel borders on either side of the flagstone surface. The plan also replaced the one-foot-high wall of the centennial design with a four-foot-high brick wall patterned after the colonial wall surrounding nearby St. Peter's Church. The plan eliminated the four redundant entrances introduced in 1875 as part of the earlier centennial design and returned the connecting paths to grass. Finally, the AIA plan provided a new pedestal for the Barry Statue and replaced the grass in the central circle with flagstone paving (see Figure 19). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 34-

42)

After much research and consideration, the AIA designed new light standards after those designed by Benjamin Franklin for Philadelphia's streets in the mid-18th century. In 1916, fifty-six lamps, corresponding to the number of signers of the Declaration of Independence, were placed on posts and installed along the walkways in and around the square. Six other lamps were hung on buildings. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 34-42)

In 1915, the AIA carried out an archeological investigation to determine the location of the observatory erected in 1769 for the transit of Venus. This work attempted to verify archeology completed in 1914 by the city's curator Winifred Jordan. Jordan took a particular interest in finding the site of the 1769 observatory, assuming it served as the stage for the first reading of the Declaration of Independence. The AIA reported no evidence of the observatory, counter to Jordan's claims that his dig had uncovered its site. The AIA's involvement with restorations on the square concluded in 1922 with the rededication of Old City Hall. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 34-42)

Following the end of World War I, the city began collaborating with private patriotic and civic groups to plant trees in the square to commemorate the American Revolution and the sacrifices of all American veterans. General Pershing, a World War I hero, was present to plant a tree on Independence Square in 1919. In 1921 the city planted about 30 trees, primarily American elm, throughout the square and held a special tree-planting ceremony for Arbor Day. In 1926 the Women's Committee of the American Revolution Sesquicentennial and the National Gardeners' Association planted 13 red oaks along the west side of the square. In 1932 other civic groups also planted additional trees. Celebrating the sesquicentennial of the Constitution in 1937, the D.A.R. planted trees in the square with soil from burial sites of unknown soldiers at Valley Forge. In 1926, the city installed a 75-foot flagpole in the grass plot south of the East Wing for the Sesquicentennial of American Independence. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 34-42)

During the Great Depression, the city could only manage essential landscape maintenance. In 1932 the city placed a Revolutionary War-era cannon, salvaged from the Schuylkill River, on the central path of the square, just north of the Barry statue. By 1935, this cannon had been removed. In 1936 the Works Progress Administration funded renovations of the Independence Hall's complex of buildings and the repair of flagstone walks. In 1948 the American Philosophical Society restored the exterior of the Philosophical Hall on the Fifth Street side of the square. The restoration removed a late nineteenth-century mansard roof addition. The same year Congress passed legislation creating Independence National Historical Park. However, the city managed the square for two more years while planning for the national park proceeded. (CLR 1997: 34-43)



Figure 19. Independence Square with John Barry Statue in place circa 1930. (Library Company of Philadelphia)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, 1951-Present

The National Park Service assumed management of Independence Square on January 1, 1951, through a cooperative agreement with the City of Philadelphia. Park historians, historical architects, and archeologists soon launched an exhaustive documentary investigation hoping to identify the long history of the square's physical development. The researchers focused on the appearance of the landscape and buildings during the nation's founding in the late eighteenth century. During this time, the National Park Service's archeological investigations on the square cut many deep trenches across the south yard, revealing evidence of early residences, privies, wells, and walls. They also uncovered remnants of Vaughan's original graveled serpentine walks, though they found no evidence of the transit of Venus observatory foundations. Based on these investigations, a 1959 historic grounds report recommended restoring the landscape designed for the State House Square between 1785 and 1787 by Samuel Vaughan. The proposal did not move forward, however, likely due to community objections to rebuilding the high brick perimeter wall, which was considered a potential hazard to public safety and an inconvenience to local people walking to work across the square. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 43-47)

After deciding not to proceed with the restoration, the National Park Service made a few changes to the square's landscape. In 1951, historical architect Charles Peterson advised converting the Franklin-inspired gas lamps to electricity. Researchers have yet to determine the exact date of the lamp modification. In 1958, the National Park Service moved the 26-foot flagpole from south of Independence Hall's East Wing to its current location on the square north of Independence Hall. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 43-47)

The National Park Service made only minor changes to Independence Square during the 1960s. Following President John F. Kennedy's tragic death in 1964, Philadelphia's leaders placed a bronze plaque on the Chestnut Street sidewalk to commemorate the President's 1962 visit to Independence Hall. Funded as part of the National Park Service's Mission 66 initiative, new trees and shrubs were planted in the square south of Independence Hall, new wooden benches were installed, and a new

surface for the Sixth Street cobblestone driveway was laid. The National Park Service repaved perimeter flagstone sidewalks parallel to city streets with brick to evoke a late 18th-century appearance. In 1968, after a series of complaints from the Public Health Service, the National Park Service removed the Sons of Temperance ice water fountain from Independence Square and placed it into storage. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 43-47)

In 1974, in preparation for the nation's Bicentennial celebration in 1976, the National Park Service redesigned the Chestnut Street plaza based on an interpretation of the landscape's eighteenth-century features drawn from early nineteenth-century lithographs, drawings, and narrative sources. Some landscape changes were also supported through archaeological investigation. The key features of this reconstruction were the addition of exposed aggregate concrete paving intended to simulate pebble stone, brick pavement along curbs, colonial-styled lamps and watch boxes, and a water pump in front of each wing building. At this time, the park likely replaced the gravel borders along the yard's central path with an exposed aggregate concrete surface to create a durable substitute for pebble stone. The 1974 redesign marked the last significant modification to Independence Square's landscape. Continuing maintenance includes regular care and replacement of vegetation in kind and the replacement of benches, waysides, and other modern features as needed. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 43-47)

In 1974, the National Park Service also assumed management of Independence Mall State Park, which included the three landscaped blocks north of Independence Square. Harbeson, Hough, Livingston, and Larson architects designed this green open mall, built by the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between 1950 and 1967. The project required demolishing hundreds of nineteenth and twentieth-century buildings on three densely developed blocks north of Independence Square (Figures 20 and 21). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 43-47)

Construction of the long open plaza north of Independence Hall, where once were dense city blocks, was a radical change to the square's setting. Beginning in 1885, developers had built large multi-story office buildings around Independence Square. Although the National Park Service demolished the Drexel Building on Fifth Street in 1957, other twentieth-century buildings, including the Public Ledger (1925), Curtis (1910), and Penn Mutual buildings (1914, 1931, 1970), remain on the square's western and southern borders, recalling an earlier time when Philadelphia led the nation as an industrial center. The demolition of the three city blocks north of Independence Square to create Independence Mall is best understood within the context of post-World War II urban renewal programs that destroyed many of the nation's historic neighborhoods. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 43-47)

The next alternations to the Independence Square landscape came after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The National Park Service replaced the wooden bollards along Chestnut Street with larger steel bollards to improve the security of the national landmark. They also installed additional bollard and chain barrier fencing to control access to Independence Hall. The stone aggregate paving north of Independence Hall was replaced in 2004 using used stone aggregate panels. (Susan Edens, INDE landscape architect, interview, Doris Fanelli, no date). Between 2003 and 2008, the National Park Service rehabilitated Independence Square's flagstone walks, preserving undamaged stones and replacing those beyond repair. (CLR 2004: Historical Narrative, also PMIS 9626)



Figure 20. Pre-1950 photograph of the streetscape prior to the structural demolition in the early 1950s in the city blocks north of Independence Hall. (Independence NHP Archives)



Figure 21. Circa 1952 photograph showing the landscape post demolition. (Independence NHP Archives)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Landscape	Plaza/Public Space (Square)	Assembly Area	Yes	Yes	No
Government	Capitol	Capitol	Yes	No	No
Government	City Hall (Town Hall)	City Hall (Town Hall)	Yes	No	No
Government	Courthouse	Courthouse	Yes	No	No
Government	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Historic Furnished Interior	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Outdoor Sculpture (Statuary)	Outdoor Sculpture (Statuary)	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Functional Landscape	Pedestrian Circulation	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Plaza/Public Space (Square)	Urban Park	Yes	Yes	Yes

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

While visitors are not prevented from entering the southern portions of Independence Square, access to the northern portion of the square, and all buildings, requires a security inspection and is limited to the operating hours of the buildings.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: Yes-Unrestricted Information

Ethnographic Narrative:

In 1994 the report, “Rapid Ethnographic Assessment Procedures (REAP),” was completed for the park. The purpose of a REAP was to provide ethnographic information on local populations in order to evaluate alternatives and assess planning impacts on ethnographic resources and associated user groups. Findings indicated historic connections between the park and African Americans and Jewish-Americans, but less so between the park and Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Italian-Americans.

“From the findings we have learned that African Americans are the most concerned about their lack of cultural representation in the park’s colonial history, that Asian-Americans and Hispanic Americans are less directly concerned but would like to see their stories integrated as part of the American experience, while Italian-Americans and Jewish-Americans are at best ambivalent about presenting themselves as distinct from other Americans. Three of the cultural groups African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Jewish-Americans, mentioned places they would like to see commemorated or markers they would like to see installed to bring attention to their cultural presence within the park boundaries. And many of the cultural groups, particularly the Hispanic Americans, the African Americans, and the Asian-Americans, were anxious to have more programming for children and activities for families. The Hispanic Americans were particularly interested in the recreational potential of the park and their sentiments were echoed by at least few consultants in each of the other cultural groups. Overall, there are some distinct messages from each cultural group as well as some general preferences that relate to the majority of the groups.” (Low, et.al. 1994: 4, 10)

The Foundation Document for Independence National Historical Park references a Rapid Ethnographic Assessment completed in 1994 and notes that it should be updated to provide current information on how the park and its different sites are being used by various traditionally associated user groups and neighborhood communities. (FD 2017: 36)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The historic integrity of Independence Square is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1736-1976, with the square's existing conditions as assessed in 2022-2023. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. Philadelphia's 1683 street grid created by Penn and Holme formed the square's original boundaries, which largely remain intact today despite reductions due to street widening. A cluster of four eighteenth-century buildings, anchored by the iconic Independence Hall (formerly Pennsylvania State House) and its two late nineteenth-century reconstructed wings, still occupy the site's high point in the northern part of the square. The larger southern part of the square, set aside in perpetuity in 1736 as a public park, retains its brick perimeter wall that was built beginning in 1770. The landscaped grounds hold vestiges of its original 1785 design by Samuel Vaughan, including the graded topography, the concept of a grove of trees, and an axial view along a central walkway between Independence Hall's tower entrance and the square's Walnut Street entrance. The radial design of the interior flagstone walks and maintained lawn areas harkens to the 1876 Centennial of the American Revolution alterations to the square's design. A cobblestone drive, brick building aprons, lighting, bollards and chains, and cannon were introduced in site renovations made in 1915-1918 by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). These changes coincided with restoration of the buildings. The perimeter walk was changed from flagstone to brick in the 1960s, which was followed by improvements in the early 1970s in advance of the Bicentennial celebration, including watch boxes and water pumps. Monuments to George Washington and John Barry, several memorial plaques, and a flagpole date to the period of significance.

Since the end of the period of significance in 1976, some landscape characteristics and features at Independence Square have changed. Herbaceous and shrub plantings flanking entrances to the square were added in the last thirty years by the City of Philadelphia and through a partnership between the NPS and the associated friends' groups. The existing site furnishings, waste receptacles, benches, steel bollards, and signage, post-date the period of significance but are compatible with the square's historic character.

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on an 1736-1976 period of significance for Independence Square. Overall, Independence Square retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to the period of significance.

Location:
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. Independence Square remains in its original location as the setting for the original Pennsylvania State House, later named Independence Hall. As an existing, landscaped square consistent with boundaries of the late eighteenth-century State House Square, Independence Square retains integrity of location through 1976.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The design and alignment of the square's late-eighteenth-century perimeter retaining wall is intact, despite periodic alterations to its height. Samuel Vaughan's design from 1785 remains evident in the central axial walkway between the tower of Independence Hall and the Walnut Street entrance to the square. The existing grove of trees and turf covering the ground plane also evoke his early design. The landscape retains the radial layout, flagstone pavement, and curved granite stairs of the pedestrian circulation system implemented during the Centennial redesign in 1875. The square retains the highest integrity of design from the AIA landscape redesign in 1915 as existing circulation patterns, lighting, and the majority of individual trees date to this period.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Independence Square remains in a setting that is

reflective of the end of its period of significance, with the north square area comprised of historic buildings anchored by the iconic Independence Hall, and the south square area dedicated to landscaped grounds. The square is still surrounded by the city streetscape on the south and west, by the landscaped park surrounding the Second Bank on the east, and by the broad open swath of the mid-twentieth century Independence Mall to the north.

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. Independence Square retains integrity of materials in the existing structures of Independence Hall, the American Philosophical Society building, Old City Hall, and Congress Hall; the brick, aggregate, and stone, and marble walkways and steps; the brick and marble walls; iron and wood bollards; the cobblestone driveway; and various materials that comprise the memorials. It also retains material integrity in the high-arching branches of the shade trees set amongst lawns.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. In addition to the site's four eighteenth-century buildings, Independence Square retains integrity of workmanship to its late nineteenth and twentieth century development periods through the courses and patterns of the cut stones and bricks in the walkways, the brick coursework in the perimeter wall, the curved marble steps at the square's corners, and the artistry evident in the John Barry Monument.

Feeling:
Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. The integrity of feeling is preserved in the relationship between Independence Hall and the setting of Independence Square. The square's collection of original and reconstructed features – buildings, walkways, perimeter wall and walk, and site furnishings – evoke the late eighteenth century. Although Independence Mall north of the site had been developed when the period of significance ended, the historic colonial feeling was nonetheless lost by the removal of the many buildings in that area.

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Integrity of association is conveyed by the continued presence of Independence Hall and the surrounding buildings, an icon of early American history. It is also expressed in extant features associated with the Vaughan, Centennial, and AIA design plans, as well as the groups responsible for the square's monuments and plaques.

The following section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI, formerly List of Classified Structures) names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1736-1976), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is further evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: **Natural Systems and Features**

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. As a small urban square continuously used by the residents of Philadelphia for more than three hundred years, Independence Square has little evidence of natural systems and features. Therefore, there are no natural systems and features that contribute to the significance of Independence Square.

Landscape Characteristic: **Spatial Organization**

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. The historic spatial relationships within Independence Square's building complex and the grounds area are intact, anchored by two focal points, respectively: the Independence Hall tower and the John Barry Monument. Also extant is the historic spatial relationship between these two areas.

The area fronting on Chestnut Street, the perimeter sidewalks (along Fifth, Walnut and Sixth Streets), and the brick paving apron surrounding Independence Hall and its associated buildings are referenced as "north square." This area has an open quality and functions as a setting for the buildings and as a transition area for pedestrians. The remainder of the block, inclusive of the grove of trees and flagstone pedestrian plaza and walkways south of Independence Hall, is referred to variously as "south square" or the "yard." The south square is more enclosed and features a high tree canopy, walks, lawns, and benches (Figures 22 and 23). (CLR Vol.II, 1998: xviii)

Historic Conditions (to 1976) and Existing Conditions:
Independence Square is bounded by streets that were part of the 1683 grid city plan laid out by Thomas Holme on behalf of William Penn. In Penn's original plan, five squares were designated as public open spaces, one in the center of the new city and one in each of its four quadrants: northeast, northwest, southwest, and southeast. The Independence Square block is immediately northeast of the city's "Southeast Square," now known as Washington Square. Penn's agents originally reserved the Independence Square as "bonus lots" given to settlers as incentives for settling larger tracts in the countryside near Philadelphia. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 71)

This city block is where the Pennsylvania Assembly purchased a parcel in 1730 to build a hall for the Pennsylvania legislature. In 1732 they had purchased only the northern half of the block when construction began for the Pennsylvania Assembly's state house. By 1769 the Assembly had purchased the remaining lots and owned the entire block, and the following year a wall was constructed around the southern perimeter of the block. Though the wall was lowered in subsequent renovations during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it still defines the overall spatial characteristics of the site (Figure 24). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 71)

Independence Square is organized symmetrically along a north-south axis from Chestnut Street to the north and to Walnut Street on the south. The north square area is defined by an east-west row of 1-3-story buildings centering on the main block of Independence Hall and its flanking arcaded wings. Narrow spaces separate the ends of the two wings from Congress Hall to the west and Old City Hall to the east. Collectively, these buildings create a street wall along Chestnut Street, which effectively blocks the square's larger southern area from view. The front facade of Independence Hall is set back approximately 60 feet from the south curb of Chestnut Street. The paved setback transitions into a paved apron extending from the foundations of the buildings, and also ties into a perimeter walkway that surrounds the entire square (see Figure 24).

The south square area is a formal space of flagstone walks, lawns, and shade trees, bounded by the perimeter wall that is punctuated with five stairways (plus a smaller sixth stairway next to Philosophical Hall). Walkways arranged in a radial pattern intersect in the space's center point marked by a statue of Commodore John Barry. The features that comprise these spatial relationships are individually evaluated in the narratives below. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 81-83)

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

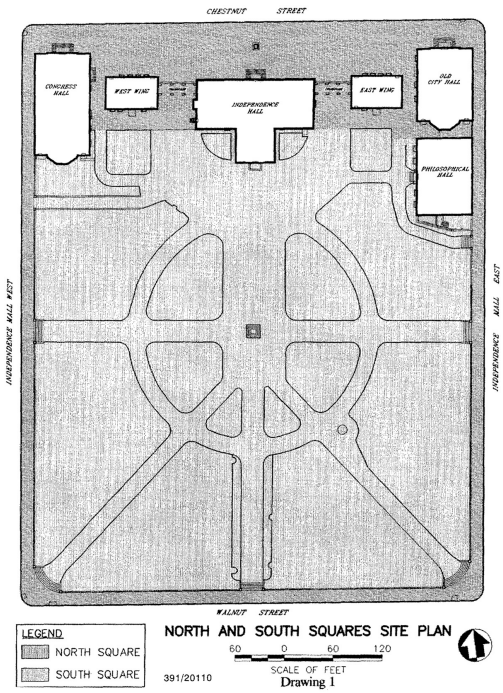


Figure 22. Drawing of the north and south square areas of Independence Square. (Cultural Landscape Report for Independence Square, Vol.2, 1998: xix)



Figure 23. View looking northwest at the two distinct areas within Independence Square; the site's buildings occupy the north square area and the landscaped grounds comprise the south square area. Independence Hall stands on the site's high point. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 24. A brick perimeter wall and brick walkway define the boundaries of the Independence Square landscape. View looking northeast from the intersection of Sixth Street and Walnut Street. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. Independence Square continues its role as a free public space for passive recreation, memorialization, and assembly. Although federal, state, and local government land uses have ceased, Philosophical Hall has been the home to the American Philosophical Society since 1789.

Historic Conditions (to 1976) and Existing Conditions:
During the Colonial period the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the land now known as Independence Square as the site for a new state house (now Independence Hall). By the time of the American Revolution, the colonial legislature had completed the large brick state house, with office wing buildings on its east and west sides and a committee room on its southeast. In the years leading up to and during the war, the square was the scene of political rallies, military maneuvers, and arms storage. During Britain's occupation of Philadelphia between the fall of 1777 and summer of 1778, the square served as a prison yard. In addition to state and local government uses, the buildings served as the seat of the federal government from 1790-1800 while the US capitol complex was under construction in Washington D.C. Other land uses at Independence Square included the American Philosophical Society's construction of an astronomical observatory in 1769 and headquarters building in 1789. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 2; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 40)

The grounds at Independence Square were set aside as a public open walk and green (1736) and enclosed with a seven foot high wall (1740-1770). From the outset in 1732, the Pennsylvania Assembly wanted the grounds leveled in order to lay out walks and plant trees to make the surroundings "more beautiful and commodious." In 1736 they reserved the yard behind the state house as a "public open green and Walks forever," specifying that no other buildings be erected there. Finances and politics delayed execution of the intended landscaping until after the American Revolution. Since then three major landscape plans have been executed in the south square area: 1785-1787 by Samuel Vaughan, 1875-1876 by William F. Dixey, and 1915-1916 by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). During these periods, various memorials and plaques were installed. The NPS acquired the site in 1951 has retained much of the AIA design. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 2; NR draft 2023, Sec.8: 128, quotes from Pennsylvania Assembly, 1732 and 1736)

The north square area was the "front yard" for the State House and served as the primary entrance to the building as well as the yard or square lying to the south. This forecourt was a safe and mud-free place for pedestrians to promenade along Chestnut Street. Trees are known to have been first planted here in 1821. In 1974, the NPS completed a restoration of this area to its circa 1790s appearance, based on period images and current archeology, although some modifications have been made since then. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 2)

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). The square's existing topography dates to the AIA's design plan from 1915-1916. Within the square the topography is relatively flat except for Independence Hall that stands on a small rise. However, as evidenced by the five staircases, the south square area rises up to four feet above the perimeter walks and streets, which creates the effect of a plinth or platform that reinforces the importance of Independence Square.

Historic Conditions (to 1976), Existing Conditions, and Evaluations:
The original building site for the State House sat on a slight rise, and the ground sloped down to the south and southwest, so that the corner of Sixth and Walnut Streets was approximately 9 feet lower than the base of the tower. After beginning construction on a cellar for the new State House, the Pennsylvania Assembly considered a motion "that the Ground belonging to the State-house may, with the least Expence [sic], and with all convenient Speed, be levelled, and enclosed with a Board Fence, in order that Walks may be laid out, and Trees planted, to render the same more beautiful and commodious." The city, however, paid little attention to the appearance of the square's uneven ground for some time. Fill was occasionally placed in the yard during basement excavation and by a nearby potter, but no organized grading took place until 1775 when, prompted by a growing rebellion in the colonies, fill was placed in the square to help facilitate the storage and easy movement of cannon and munitions. Through the Revolutionary War and up until 1784, the grounds functioned as more of a service area than a public green. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 71-72)

In 1785 the city hired Samuel Vaughan to design and oversee implementation of a more refined setting for the State House. Vaughan's design applied contemporary taste in landscape gardening and design to the grounds, smoothing out the square's course contours, building undulating walks, and creating small artificial planting mounds. In 1790 the leveling of the "footway," or sidewalk, on the north side of Walnut Street further cut into the street and created the need for four additional stairs into the square. The square began to be perceived as an elevated ground plane when viewed from the south. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 72)

In 1875 the city redesigned the square as part of the commemoration of the country's Centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and lowered the walls bordering Walnut, Fifth, and Sixth Streets from three feet to one foot in height. Workers then terraced the ground plane at the square's edges to meet the retaining wall's lower elevation. In 1914-1915 the AIAs again changed the squares grading by replacing the 1875 low stone wall with a four-foot-high brick wall. Soil was then backfilled behind the brick wall to create the approximately level ground plane one experiences today. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 72)

The topography of Independence Square today is generally flat with the north square area at street level and rising gently to the buildings. Independence Hall sits on the high point of the site (see Figure 23). In the south square area the site remains generally level. The surrounding retaining walls maintain grade an average of 4 feet above the adjacent perimeter sidewalks (see Figure 24). (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 72)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Elevation High Point of Independence Hall	201691	Contributing					No
Plinth Topographic Affect formed by Perimeter Wall	201692	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. Historic vegetation features include trees along Chestnut Street, the grove of trees in the south square, and areas of lawn. Plantings of shrubs and herbaceous perennials are not historic but complement the square's historic character.

Historic Conditions (to 1976), Existing Conditions, and Evaluations:
Trees on Chestnut Street.
In 1752 Nicholas Skull and George Heap prepared a "Map of Philadelphia and Parts Adjacent," which noted the intention to plant rows of trees on the State House Square, in keeping with then current design traditions. The double row of trees does not appear in views of Chestnut Street in 1778 or c.1792, but they may have been edited out in an effort to more clearly delineate the architectural facade of the buildings. A double row of trees is first mentioned in a c.1817 guidebook of the area. In 1821 the city and county councils authorized the replacement of what were probably Lombardy poplars with English lindens. The trees first appear graphically in drawings c.1825. In 1844 the lindens were pronounced "doomed" and after a hard pruning were replaced with five sugar maples transplanted from Logan Square. In 1880 more trees died along Chestnut Street after flagstones at their base were removed and replaced. A plan was made to create circles in the new flagstone with at least a 6-foot diameter to allow the trees to grow and not girdle them. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 115)

In 1896 four trees, this time Carolina poplars, had to be installed to replace two trees that had been killed by a natural gas leak. The tenure of the poplars was not long. In 1896 the newly hired city forester disparaged the quality of the poplars and planned to have elms installed in raised grass panels. Eight Carolina poplars did come down the following year. The second part of the plan, however, which called for the installation of elms, was not carried out. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 115)

Photographs of the area between 1900 and 1905 show the Chestnut Street frontage without any trees, but later photographs taken in 1906 show a single row of young trees. In 1919, based on recommendations from the AIA, the Fairmount Park Commission cut holes about 45 feet apart on the Chestnut Street sidewalk on either side of the Washington Statue to restore the double row of trees. This work made places for six elm trees set back 15 feet from the trees already present on the curb line, bringing the total number of trees on Chestnut Street to thirteen, one for each original state. A tree inventory of the square during 1953 documents that these trees were still present. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 115)

The three Siberian elms along Chestnut Street extant today constitute the remnants of the double row, and represent what was the southern row of trees nearest the buildings (Figure 25). The last surviving tree on the northern row, also an elm, was removed from the curb line in June 1996. As a feature, the double row of trees has appeared, disappeared, and reappeared since its first mention in the c.1817 guidebook. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 115)

Grove of Shade Trees.
Scull and Heap's 1752 "Map of Philadelphia" indicates of an intention to lay out the grounds of the State House with "walks and Rows of Trees." In 1763 the Pennsylvania Assembly ordered the preparation of "a plan for laying out the square behind the same with proper Walks, to be planted with suitable trees for Shade." However, no trees were planted until after the American Revolution, when Samuel Vaughan proposed double rows of elm trees along the yard's central walkway and informal clumps of trees along the perimeter serpentine path in 1785. It had been Vaughan's plan to introduce to the square one example of every tree species known to the original thirteen states. By 1785 he had collected over eighty different kinds of trees, only to see them damaged by the hot dry summer. Although Vaughan's plant lists survive, exact locations of plantings are unknown except for the double elm row. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 117, quote in Toogood 1996: 419)

Photographs taken in 1875 reveal that the rows of elm trees were a dominant feature of the landscape for almost 100 years. In addition to the elms on the central walkway, by 1844 Andrew Jackson Downing was commenting on the superb specimens of planes or buttonwoods (Platanus spp.) growing at the square. As late as 1859 as many as 210 different tree species survived, their interlocking branches forming “a canopy of verdure.” Varieties included “horsechestnut, elm, maple, buttonwood, and one small evergreen.” This small evergreen, a cypress, was identified in 1932 as the last surviving tree from the Vaughan landscape. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 118 quotes in Toogood 1996: 431)

As the landscape matured and many of the older specimens died, Independence Square hosted many statesmen, generals and dignitaries who planted a tree and honor the place where the nation was founded. Civic and patriotic groups also participated in tree planting, including the National Gardeners Association who in 1926 planted thirteen red oaks along Sixth Street, one for each of the thirteen original states. During the twentieth century, Independence Day and Memorial Day became an occasion for memorial tree planting. Opportunity and initiative rather than planning has driven replanting efforts, and this in combination with disease, has removed the double rows of trees along the central walk from the landscape. The number of varieties of trees have also been simplified, as tree planting choices have reflected the experience of which trees perform well on this challenging urban site. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 118)

There are 71 deciduous trees growing within the boundaries of Independence Square today. Of these trees, 43 have a DBH more than 25 inches in diameter, and of these nine have a DBH of more than 36 inches. The trees vary in age from recent plantings to specimens estimated to be up to around 140 years old. The grove of trees includes deciduous shade tree species such as oak, elm, and sycamore, species that have been well represented on the square since Vaughan’s 1785 plan. The grove of trees, evolved from the original design, no longer has a discernible physical pattern or order. Instead of relating to individual trees, or their layout, the character of this historic landscape is defined by the interlocking canopy of trees which has shaded the square through so many events and periods in its history (Figure 26). The grove is evaluated as a contributing landscape feature. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 116; INDE Tree Inventory, 2022)

Lawns.
Grass was present in the square as early as the Revolutionary War, and was allowed to grow long to be cut for hay. Grass seed for both Independence and Washington Squares was purchased in 1842, which contained a mixture of red and white clover. The development of agricultural reaping and cutting machines between 1851 and 1855 coincided with the growing aesthetic for well-trimmed lawns, and by 1868 the first patents for mechanical lawn mowers were granted. While it has not been documented, it is likely that after the 1870s the turf at Independence Square began to be mowed and managed with the goal of a lawn in mind rather than a meadow. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 121,123)

As trees planted as part of the square’s original design and subsequent redesigns matured, they increasingly cast their shade on the grass. In addition to this stress, compaction from countless political events and assemblies have also made turf management a challenge. Independence Square’s existing design incorporates large turf beds divided by wide flagstone walks under the shade of a dense tree canopy (Figure 27). While the current composition of the turf grass species is not historic, the continuity of the use of grass as a groundcover in the square stretches back for hundreds of years. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 121,123)

Shrubs and Herbaceous Perennials.
Prior to Vaughan’s design in the 1780s, the State House Square was known to have contained a scattering of trees and shrubs. They were referred to as whortleberry in the historical record, a large shrub now classified as fetterbush. Vaughan’s plant lists included varieties of hydrangea, euonymus, arborvitae, Carolina allspice, and Virginia sweetspire. Vaughan’s later shrub plantings included varieties of St. Johnswort, indigo, bayberry, mountain laurel, viburnum, and deciduous holly. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 119)

In 1836, when Lawrence Hart was hired as the gardener for the Independence Square, keeping the

shrubbery trimmed and free of insects was listed among his responsibilities. However, it is unclear as to the changes of the shrubbery during the remainder of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the 1875 landscape design, one of the goals was to be “more consistent with the square’s past memories, unlike other schemes that would turn it into a flower garden.” However, flower beds were introduced by city forester John Lewis and his supervisor, who had an enthusiasm for trees and flowers that resulted in heart shaped flower beds of red, white, and blue hyacinths in the grass plots on either side of the Independence Hall bell tower. Other flower beds, including the central circular grass plot that surrounded the Barry Statue, were planted with designs of stars, the flag, and the Liberty Bell. After 1901 these floral displays became more subdued, and most probably were eliminated after 1915 when the circular grass plot was paved with flagstone to match the existing walks. Photographs taken in the early 1950s indicate that there were no shrubs or flowers present on the site at that time, although the NPS began adding shrubs after it assumed management. One such project was a planting of the thorny barberries south of the East Wing building in 1989 in an effort to help direct pedestrian foot traffic (CLR Vol.II 1998: 119, 121; quote in Toogood 1996: 434)

Plantings of shrubs and herbaceous plantings are currently set out on either side of the staircases to Independence Square (Figure 28). Shrub beds are also present along the walks by Philosophical Hall, and along the edges of turf beds where visitors wait to enter Independence Hall and its adjacent buildings. Euonymus is the most frequently occurring genus of shrub. While shrubs and perennials were present in the square historically, planting plans and locations have not been documented. The present shrubs on site are attributed to NPS stewardship after 1951. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 119)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Trees on Chestnut Street	201693	Contributing					No
Grove of Shade Trees	201694	Contributing					No
Lawns	201695	Contributing					No
Shrubs and Herbaceous Perennials	201696	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 25. View looking west at the north square and one of the three Siberian elm trees. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 26. A portion of the grove of shade trees in Independence Square, view looking east toward the Second Bank Block. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 27. View looking east at the lawns in Independence Square. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 28. Beds of shrubs and perennials frame the southeast entrance to Independence Square, view looking west. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of

movement in a landscape. Circulation defines the form and design of Independence Square and includes historic brick perimeter walkways, interior flagstone walkways, a cobblestone driveway, and brick and aggregate paving around the buildings. Sections of exposed aggregate concrete aprons along a portion of the central walkway are not historically significant. The square's bordering streets contribute to the site's character but are not owned or managed by the NPS.

Historic Conditions (to 1976), Existing Conditions, and Evaluations:
Vehicular Streets (not owned or managed by NPS).
Originally laid out in 1683, Philadelphia's streets have had a variety of surfaces throughout their history. At the time the State House was being constructed during the 1730s, the city's streets were unpaved, muddy in inclement weather, and dusty in dry weather. In addition, it was common practice to dump garbage in the streets for the benefit of free-ranging hogs. In 1762 the city began a widespread municipal program to pave city streets, requiring adjacent property owners to pave the "footway" in front of their holdings at the same time. It is unclear whether or not this early effort made it as far west as the State House Yard, which was then on the western edge of the city. By 1831 authorization had been given to "macadamize" Chestnut Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets, a technique that prescribed a crowned subgrade surfaced with successive layers of relatively small stones and a final layers of small stones packed together for a water resistant surface. By 1858 streets in the vicinity of Independence Square were paved with "blocks of hammered stone," almost certainly what we know today as "Belgian block." This surface, typically a mix of Belgian block or brick, prevailed for over 100 years. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 90-92)

In 1954 Chestnut Street was widened on its northern side as part of the Independence Mall State Park project taking place during that time. In 1967 the street was paved with asphalt concrete, after complaints of the unkempt appearance of the trolley tracks and brick surface. The Belgian block surface on Fifth Street was restored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in the 1990s. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 92)

Independence Square today is bordered by four city streets. Chestnut, Sixth, and Walnut Streets are paved with bituminous concrete (asphalt) and Fifth Street is paved with "Belgian block" pavers. The street edges consist of granite curb, 6 inches wide, flush with the brick sidewalk paving and 3 to 4 inches higher than the current street surface. The street is sloped, carrying surface water to the drain inlet system along the curb. Curb stones are cut at crosswalks, forming a warped surface for curb ramps. Though not owned or managed by the NPS, the city streets which bound and define the square are an important part of the landscape setting (see Figure 24). The busy and often crowded movement of vehicles through these streets connects Independence Square to the life of the city, a continuity of use that has been in place for over 260 years. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 92)

Brick Perimeter Sidewalks.
The historical documentation suggests that the square's original perimeter sidewalks were surfaced with gravel. In 1763 a city ordinance called for property owners to pave their footways in good well-burnt bricks or good, square, flat stones with gutters no deeper than 4 inches. During the 1780s and 1790s, brick sidewalks, or "footways," were introduced around the square. In the 1870s, the perimeter sidewalks serving Independence Square were resurfaced with large pieces of bluestone flagging. This was the result of a long term effort to give the old State House building the dignified setting that many felt it deserved. As early as 1790, one citizen had recommended that the approach walk to the State House and the passageway through it to the gardens should be "paved with neat slabs either of Marble or Free-stone" in contrast to the brick sidewalks which would have been commonplace in the city at that time. In the early 1960s the bluestone perimeter walks, excepting the north square along Chestnut Street, were replaced with brick paving. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 101, quote in Toogood 1996: 122; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 45)

The current brick sidewalks are intended to represent the conditions present during the 1790s, the decade during which Philadelphia served as the nation's capitol. They are paved in wire-cut brick pavers in a herringbone pattern, bounded by buildings or walls on the inside and a granite curb on the street side (Figure 29). The herringbone pattern runs to the edges, with brick pavers cut to fit as necessary. Installed during the period of significance, the brick sidewalks are considered contributing. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 101; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 45)

Brick and Stone Aggregate Paving, North Square-Chestnut Street.
The NPS installed this hardscape in 1974 as a reconstruction project for the nation's Bicentennial. The exposed aggregate concrete paving areas, referred to as "pebblestone" on the reconstruction plans, were a gesture to gravel. Prior to this reconstruction, the surface of the north square on Chestnut Street had been flagstone, consistent with the treatment of the walkways south of Independence Hall. The flagstone surface was installed around 1870 and itself had replaced an earlier pavement of brick. Before the introduction of brick sidewalks or "footways" in the 1780s and 1790s, the historical narrative suggests the square's perimeter walks, including the Chestnut Street frontage, were surfaced with gravel. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 92; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 45-46)

Paving in the north square area today consists of two large, exposed aggregate panels bounded by different patterns of brick paving (Figure 30). The panels, last replaced in 2004, are separated by a herringbone brick walk that surrounds the Washington Monument and leads to the entry stairs of Independence Hall. Set within each exposed aggregate panel is an area of running bond brick providing a setting for period replica water pumps. Adjacent to the granite curb and abutting the exposed aggregate on the north is a brick sidewalk that incorporates a section of herringbone pattern with a band of five stretcher courses and six running bond courses intended to resemble the historic gutter. This band follows along the stone Chestnut Street curbing and turns the corners of Sixth and Fifth Streets, terminating in a line parallel with the front facades of Old City Hall and Congress Hall. Three tree pits pierce the broad expanse of pavement in the north square area. The brick and stone aggregate paving is a contributing feature. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 92; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 44)

Brick Paved Building Aprons.
The 1915 AIA plan included an exception to the bluestone paving by providing for brick building apron. Bricks were thought to serve as a "more appropriate and attractive paving material when brought in direct relation with the base of the old buildings" and typical of the historic period. Construction drawings for the 1974 reconstruction of the north square indicated replacement of the brick building aprons on the south sides of the buildings. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 99-100; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 45-46)

The brick paving is in a herringbone pattern that surrounds the row of buildings on from a line even with the north edge of the stairs on the north side of Independence Hall to a line even with the south face of the main portion of Independence Hall (see Figure 30). This brick paving connects to the perimeter walks, the north and east sides of Old City Hall, and the west side of Congress Hall. A stretcher course edges the paving, separating it from the adjacent bluestone and exposed aggregate. The building apron also connects into the perimeter walks along Chestnut Street. The brick aprons contribute to the site's significance. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 99-100)

Interior Flagstone Walkways.
Prior to Samuel Vaughan's 1785-1787 plan, the State House Yard resembled little more than an enclosed service area with a covering of long grass, interspersed with the occasional tree and shrub. Vaughan's work reinforced the axial relationship between the tower on the State House and the pre-existing Walnut Street gate by connecting the two points with a wide central pathway bordered on each side by a double row of trees. Around the perimeter of the square, Vaughan laid out a serpentine walk in keeping with the fashion of the day. Photographs taken in 1868, prior to the removal of the Vaughan walkways, show the central walkway elevated approximately one foot above the surrounding ground surface. This walk was spanned by two 33-foot-wide stone stairs that provided access to the intersection of the central walk with the serpentine perimeter path at the Walnut Street gate. Entrances at mid-block, and at the corners of Walnut Street also made their way into Vaughan's plan as it appeared at mid-century. At this time the walkways were surfaced with gravel. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 107)

In 1875 the gravel walkways were removed to make way for a redesign of the square in preparation of the Centennial celebration. The new plan eliminated the perimeter serpentine walks, reinforced the central north-south walk, and introduced two circular walks and new radial walks. Within the inner-most circular walk was an open space, which satisfied the wishes of some citizens wanting a

site for a prominent monument. However, the circular plot remained vacant for years as many argued that there was no more appropriate a memorial to the events that took place here than Independence Hall itself. Seasonal floral displays filled the circular plot until 1907, when the city accepted the gift of a statue of Commodore John Barry and placed it in the center of the circle. Details of the 1875 plan indicate the walks were surfaced in bluestone flagging to match the treatment of the wide plaza in the north square area in front of Independence Hall, which had been surfaced with bluestone earlier around 1870. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 107)

In 1914 the AIA, in concurrence with the city's Art Jury, elected to retain the bluestone surface material on the square in the new plan. One exception was made to provide for brick building aprons around the base of the buildings. The AIA plan also removed four redundant entrances and walks in the south square area, and paved the remaining circular plot surrounding the Barry Statue with a radial pattern of bluestone, matching the material of the existing walks. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 107)

Today, a wide central walk, varying in width between 20-60 feet, marks the north/south axis between the bell-tower and the Walnut Street entrance and is crossed by a narrower 20-foot-wide walk running east/west between Fifth and Sixth Streets (Figure 31). Two diagonal walks extend from the crossing towards the two intersections of Walnut Street with Fifth and Sixth, forming a goosefoot or "patte d'oie" pattern. A circular walkway, 210 feet in diameter and 15 feet wide, is superimposed into this pattern creating wedge shaped areas of turf which point towards the center of the square. The surfaces of the interior walks are paved with large bluestone flagging, laid in a European coursing pattern (random setting within an even horizontal band). The slightly crowned walks are bordered by a narrow stone curbing set on edge and served by drain inlets leading to a subsurface system of pipes. The bluestone coursing runs perpendicular to the direction of the main walks. At the Commodore Barry Statue, the coursing forms concentric circles. Where the circular pattern intersects the straight walkways, stones have been cut, accommodating the paving patterns of the straight walks. On the walks adjacent to Philosophical Hall, the bluestone is set in a random pattern. The width of coursing ranges from 4 to 9 feet, with most in the 4-foot range. Stones are somewhat larger in the immediate vicinity of Independence Hall. As the interior flagstone walks were installed during the period of significance, they contribute to the significance of Independence Square. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 103)

Cobblestone Driveway.
The cobblestone driveway is approximately 50 feet south of Congress Hall, and enters Independence Square from Sixth Street. It is likely a vestige of the New District Courthouse, which was extant to the south of the drive between 1866 and 1901. The driveway or cartway appears to have served as an access point for the courthouse when the openings between the fireproof Mills buildings and the County and City Hall buildings were infilled with additional office space in 1872. The AIA plan of 1915 retained this driveway, making note of its utility for "hauling coal to the buildings and for similar traffic into the square as occasion required." Walls were installed along the driveway in keeping with the treatment of the rest of the square and it was surfaced with cobblestone to be reminiscent of pavings typical of the eighteenth century. In 1919 a pair of cannon were upended into the ground at the ends of the driveway walls to serve as fenders. The cobblestone pavement was reset by the NPS in 1960 during restoration work then taking place on Congress Hall. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 110-112, quote in Toogood 1996: 310)

Today this ramped drive provides access to the square for maintenance and service vehicles (Figure 32). The entry to the driveway from Sixth Street is gated and restricted to vehicular access. It is 97 feet long by 10 feet wide, paved with cobbles that are crowned for drainage to swales lining both sides. Each swale terminates at a drain inlet. Brick retaining walls with marble copings border the drive on both sides, matching the retaining walls surrounding the square. The walls still terminate with a pair of cannon at its east end. The tops of the walls are bordered with iron bollards strung with heavy gauge chain. As the cobblestone driveway dates to the period of significance, it contributes. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 110-112; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 45,130)

Exposed Aggregate Concrete Aprons, South Square.
In 1915, as a part of the AIA rehabilitation of the square, two gravel aprons were installed flanking

either side of the central walkway from the Walnut Street gate to the center circle. In 1959 the NPS removed the apron from the islands north of the circular walkway, and replaced the remaining aprons with exposed aggregate concrete. This change may have been motivated by the desire to replace the high maintenance gravel surface with one requiring a lower incidence of repairs as well as the need to eliminate the potential for the loose gravel to be used as projectiles. The motive for this change in surface has not been documented. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 108-110)

Exposed aggregate aprons currently line the bluestone walkway on both sides from the Walnut Street entrance north to the circular walkway south of the Barry Statue. Tree wells were provided accommodating rows of trees lining the walk. Voids created by loss of trees have been filled with exposed aggregate. As a contemporary surface treatment, the aprons do not relate or contribute to the historic significance of the property. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 108-110)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Brick Perimeter Sidewalks	201697	Contributing	080224				No
Brick and Stone Aggregate Paving, Chestnut Street-North Square	201698	Contributing	080202				No
Brick Paved Building Aprons	201699	Contributing					No
Interior Flagstone Walkways	201700	Contributing	080224				No
Cobblestone Driveway	201701	Contributing	080224				No
Exposed Aggregate Concrete Aprons, South Square	201702	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 29. View of the brick perimeter wall and sidewalks along Walnut Street, looking east. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 30. View of the exposed aggregate surfacing in north square and a portion of the brick building apron. View looking west. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 31. View looking north at the central flagstone walkway. The walk is bordered by exposed aggregate concrete paving south of the John Barry Monument. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 32. The cobblestone driveway, looking west from Sixth Street. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a

landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. The square is anchored by the iconic Independence Hall and its associated east and west wings, and surrounded by a brick perimeter wall punctuated with steps. Independence Hall and its two wings, as well as Old City Hall and Congress Hall, are owned by the city and managed by the NPS. Philosophical Hall is owned and managed by the American Philosophical Society and is not evaluated in this report.

Historic Conditions (to 1976), Existing Conditions, and Evaluations:
Independence Hall.
Independence Hall (also called the Pennsylvania State House) stands between Fifth and Sixth Streets on the south side of Chestnut Street. The first gathering of the Pennsylvania Assembly met in the unfinished building in 1735. The building project continued for over twenty years, adding two wing buildings (1736) with connecting arcades (1743), a bell tower and steeple (1753), and a committee room and library for the Pennsylvania Assembly (1753). The two-story, nine-bay Georgian brick structure measures 107 feet by 45 feet (Figures 33 and 34). (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 10-13)

In 1781 the Assembly voted to remove the rotting wooden steeple and relocated the bell to the brick tower under a new hipped roof, which remained in place until 1828. The Continental Congress and the Confederation Congress met in the State House in the years leading up to and during the American Revolution. Following the State Assembly's move to Lancaster in 1799, the Pennsylvania State House stood empty until 1802, when renowned artist Charles Willson Peale used the building to house his Philadelphia Museum. In 1812, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorized the demolition of the State House's arcades, wing buildings, committee room, and library to construct additional office space. In 1818 the city purchased the entire square from the Pennsylvania Assembly to save the historic property from subdivision and destruction. In 1828 the city commissioned architect William Strickland to replace the steeple, which he designed to resemble the original. Upon Peale's death in 1828, the city removed the Philadelphia Museum from the State House. The city hired architect John Haviland to evaluate the structure and remodel the interior. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 10-13)

During the mid-nineteenth century, officials still governed Philadelphia from the municipal buildings on Independence Square. However, toward the beginning of the twentieth century, the inadequacy of the facilities became apparent. In 1895 city government functions were relocated from Independence Square to a new and larger building at Penn Square. Philadelphia's City Council then called for restoring Independence Square to its appearance during the American Revolution. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 10-13)

In March 1896 the city granted permission to the Philadelphia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to restore the second floor of Independence Hall. The DAR hired architect T. Mellon Rogers, whose restoration began with demolishing all buildings dating after the American Revolution. By 1898 the entire building had been restored "to an approximation of its original design," including reproductions of the wings and arcades. During the NPS restoration, most efforts focused on correcting errors created by the 1896-1898 project. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 10-13)

Independence Hall remained under the city's administration throughout the first half of the twentieth century. The municipality was responsible for the building's maintenance, which included replacing the front entry stairs in 1922. During this period, visitors frequented Independence Hall to view its historic rooms and the Liberty Bell housed at the site. In 1942 area business leaders and architects formed the Independence Hall Association, which lobbied for a national park with Independence Hall as its focus. A year later, Congress declared Independence Hall a National Historic Site. Subsequently, the US Congress passed the Independence National Historical Park authorization in June 1948. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 10-13)

In 1961, the NPS Regional Director imposed a moratorium on restoration work for Independence Hall to allow for thorough research and investigation. In 1972, after rigorous research and study of the building, the NPS restored Independence Hall to its historic 1774-1800 appearance. In 1979

the building was designated a World Heritage Site for its exceptional universal significance. As Independence Hall was constructed in the late eighteenth century and retains integrity, it contributes to the significance of Independence Square.

Independence Hall: East and West Wings and Arcades.
Independence Hall's original east and west wings and arcades were completed in 1733 and provided room for office spaces, in addition to a set of staircases leading to the Pennsylvania State House. In 1812, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorized the demolition of the State House's arcades and wing buildings. In their place, the Commonwealth financed the construction of sizeable fireproof office buildings designed by architect Robert Mills. Subsequently known as the Mills buildings, the city removed the buildings in 1897 to make way for a reconstruction of the wing buildings and arcades they replaced about 85 years earlier. The reconstructed wings and arcades were part of a larger project approved in 1896 and designed to remove all post-American Revolution additions to Independence Hall. Organized by the DAR, architect T. Mellon Rogers directed the effort. Rogers designed the present-day replicas of the wings and arcades, completed in 1898, with the assistance of the AIA. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 13 and Sec.8: 146-147)

Based on period sketches, these reconstructions are larger than the originals and slightly altered in design. The open arcades facing the yard and the lack of staircases visible in period drawings differ from the originals. Still, the reconstructions reflect the general outline and scale of the originals (see Figures 33 and 34). As the east and west wings and arcades date to the period of significance, they are considered contributing. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 13 and Sec.8: 146-147)

Old City Hall.
Old City Hall, located at the corner of Fifth and Chestnut Streets, was built between the years 1790 and 1791. The two and a half story, brick building complete with marble trim concluded a 1736 plan enacted by the Pennsylvania Assembly to construct two public buildings to flank the Pennsylvania State House. City Hall features a five-bay Flemish bond façade with a slightly projecting three-bay pedimented pavilion and a fan-lighted, round-arch entrance. An open octagonal cupola rises from the hipped roof. Upon completion, City Hall measured 50 feet in width by 75 feet in length. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 15)

As a complex, Independence Hall, Congress Hall, and City Hall represented the administrative center of Pennsylvania and the nation as a whole during the final decade of the eighteenth century. Between c.1791 and 1800, numerous entities shared City Hall, including the mayor of Philadelphia and city council, the U.S. District and Circuit Courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Furthermore, many common and select councils met here. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 15)

By 1812, the structure was connected to Independence Hall via a collection of "modern" office buildings known as the Mills buildings. Designed by architect Robert Mills, these structures replaced Independence Hall's original wing buildings and arcades. In 1823, the city replaced the roof and cupola of City Hall after a fire severely damaged the roof. Roughly 23 years later, a south bay window was converted into a door leading into a one-story structure designed to connect City Hall with nearby Philosophical Hall. In the waning years of the nineteenth century, City Hall's lack of space necessitated the transfer of the Philadelphia city government to a new location. This move was made in 1895, following the completion of present-day Philadelphia City Hall. The move also inspired the modern-day moniker "Old City Hall." (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 15-16)

In 1916, the Committee on the Preservation of Historic Monuments of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA conducted an investigation of Old City Hall. The resulting report found the building's shell, framing, and parts of its interior to be predominantly original. Furthermore, this study resulted in measured drawings of the building's features. These documents would play a vital role in a 1921 restoration of the building. Under the supervision of the city architect, the effort included restoring the roof and cupola. Furthermore, the door leading into Philosophical Hall was removed. The restoration also recovered many details of the original interior decor. Research by park historians and architects determined the 1921 restoration was largely accurate. The NPS has since carried out extensive structural rehabilitation of Old City Hall's roof and cupola. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 16)

Congress Hall.
Congress Hall was completed in 1789 as a two-story brick county courthouse at the southeast corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets. Though completed in the waning years of the eighteenth century, its conception was initiated roughly 50 years earlier. In 1736, the Pennsylvania Assembly set aside lots on either side of the Pennsylvania State House at the northwest and northeast corners of present-day Independence Square. The land was slated to be the site of two separate public buildings, one for county use and the other for city use. Funding for the buildings' construction, however, was delayed by the American Revolutionary War. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 13)

Upon completion, the two-and-a-half-story brick building measured 55 feet by 73 feet and included a two-story bay window on the south end. Additionally, the county courthouse included marble trim, an open octagonal cupola, arched first floor windows, a projecting central pavilion, and a second-story wrought-iron balcony on the façade. Within months of Congress Hall's realization, the Pennsylvania Assembly proposed the building as a home for the United States Congress, then seated in New York City. The proposal was subsequently accepted following Philadelphia's selection as the nation's temporary seat of government in the period between 1790 and 1800. The city remodeled the interior of Congress Hall to accommodate legislative body, and the third session of the First Congress met in December 1790. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 13-14)

In 1793, the length of Congress Hall was extended 27.6 feet to the south, resulting in an overall length of 98 feet. The extension was in response to the need for more room to accommodate an increase in the number of congressmen elected to the House of Representatives as a result of the Federal Census of 1790. The enlargement retained the two-story bay window on the south façade. In addition to building's extension, Congress also added a "Portico" along the east side of the House Chamber to provide its legislators a more convenient entrance and vestibule. This 18-foot by 29-foot, one-story brick addition was later removed and never restored. Congress occupied the newly oriented first-floor room from December 1793 to May 1800. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 14)

Following Congress's relocation to the then-newly built Washington, D.C. in 1800, Congress Hall resumed its intended role as a courthouse. Courtrooms and hallways were reintroduced, and a new entrance on Sixth Street was opened for the convenience of the courts. In 1895, the courts moved to Philadelphia's then-newly completed City Hall. In June of that same year, the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames and the Pennsylvania Sons of Colonial Wars occupied the second floor of Congress Hall. Subsequently, the organizations initiated a restoration of the Senate chamber under the direction of architect George C. Mason. The restoration was deemed complete in 1896, though Mason's work was not supported by historical evidence and was later deemed largely inaccurate. At the turn of the century, a committee of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA, led by architect Frank Miles Day, worked with city officials to correct Mason's mistakes. The restoration was completed in 1913 and returned the building to its late eighteenth-century appearance. The project relied predominantly on physical evidence, as few historical records remained. Subsequent studies conducted by NPS during the 1950s and 1960s confirmed the authenticity of the 1913 restoration. (NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 14-15)

Perimeter Wall and Steps.
The State House Yard was completely enclosed with a wall for the first time in 1770. The historical narrative indicates that this first wall was 7 feet in height and to a great extent constructed of brick. This type of high wall was characteristic of many private lots, school yards, the Pennsylvania Hospital, and several churchyard cemeteries in the city. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 80)

Around 1790 the high wall fell into disfavor, and petitions began to circulate to lower the wall so that those passing by on the streets and footways would benefit from better air circulation and the pleasant view of the green open space. A 1791 act authorized the lowering of the wall to 3 feet in height, but this was not realized until 1812 when it was lowered, capped with a marble coping, and surmounted with an iron palisade fence. Work also included the installation of narrow entries on the east and west sides of the square, adding to the existing Walnut Street gate. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 80-81)

Additional iron palisade fencing was installed during 1832 immediately south of the State House,

apparently to control access to the building environs after official visiting hours. The square was further subdivided with iron fencing in 1867 after the construction of the New District Courthouse in 1866. This interior fencing was apparently removed as part of restoration efforts of the late 1890s soon after the city's offices moved to their new quarters in Center Square. The perimeter walls surrounding the east, south and west sides of Independence Square were again lowered in 1875, this time to one foot in height. This work was undertaken in preparation for the Centennial celebration taking place the following year. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 81)

Forty years later, in 1915 the perimeter walls were again redesigned through the efforts of the AIA and attained their current configuration and height. Notes prepared by the AIA on "Improvements to Independence Square" indicate that restoration of the walls to their original 7-foot height was considered, yet dismissed as inappropriate. This redesign made use of existing cut stone stairs dating to the 1875 Centennial plan for the square. The AIA design terminated the walls at these existing stairs, using brick piers surmounted with marble ball finials as end pieces. During the 1960s, Independence National Historical Park's plans to restore the walls to their 1770-1812 7-foot height were dropped due to political pressure from neighboring insurance companies. (CLR Vol.II 1998: 81)

The existing perimeter brick retaining wall, interspersed with stairs, lines the perimeter of the square's west, south, and east sides, terminating at Philosophical Hall and Congress Hall. Two sets of stone stairs, one on each side of Independence Hall, lead from the north square into the south square through the arcaded walls connecting the East and West Wings to Independence Hall. These marble stairs run the entire length of the arcades. The perimeter wall is constructed in a Flemish bond and capped with a Pennsylvania blue marble coping stone. The base of the wall steps out slightly toward the sidewalk, incorporating molded brick to form a water table. Eight additional openings in the wall provide entry into the square. Brick piers mark the corner of each entry. All but two are accessed through stone stairs; the cobblestone drive passes through the entry south of Congress Hall, and a gated entry south of Philosophical Hall provides access to a service area behind the building. Entrances are located at the southeast and southwest comers of the square and mid-block on Walnut, Fifth, and Sixth Streets. The stairs are constructed of blue marble and are flanked by brick wing walls with a blue marble coping. The brick piers, capped with marble finals, extend above the height of the wall. The wall and pier footings are concrete pads set on an old stone footing before constructing the existing wall. As the perimeter wall was constructed during the period of significance, the wall contributes to the integrity of the square (Figures 35 and 36). (Review comments, Clement, 13 September 2023)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Independence Hall	201703	Contributing	000775				No
Independence Hall East Wing and Arcade	201704	Contributing	080200				No
Independence Hall West Wing and Arcade	201705	Contributing	080201				No
Old City Hall	201706	Contributing	000766				No
Congress Hall	201707	Contributing	000777				No
Perimeter Wall and Steps	201708	Contributing	080225				No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 33. The south facade of Independence Hall, looking north from north of the John Barry Monument. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 34. The north facade of Independence Hall fronted by Chestnut Street, looking south from Independence Mall. Note the flagpole in front of the east arcade. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 35. View looking north at the steps at Sixth Street and Walnut Avenue, and their connection to the brick perimeter wall. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 36. View of perimeter wall, with entrance plantings and signage. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Cluster Arrangement

Cluster arrangement is the locations and patterns of buildings, structures, and associated features in the landscape.

Historic Conditions (to 1976) and Existing Conditions:
The spatial relationship between Independence Hall with its east and west wings and arcades, Philosophical Hall, Old City Hall, and Congress Hall form a cluster arrangement that is a contributing characteristic, but not a feature, of Independence Square. Individual features that comprise this characteristic are evaluated elsewhere in this chapter.

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. Historic views are intact between the square's Walnut Street entrance and Independence Hall tower, although they are diminished by the John Barry statue at the center of the square. Views between Independence Mall and Independence Hall, and the Liberty Bell Center and Independence Hall, are intact but not historically significant.

Historic Conditions (to 1976), Existing Conditions, and Evaluations:
The original view from Walnut Street to the south side of Independence Hall along the square's central north-south axis survives from the eighteenth-century Vaughan design. The 1907 John Barry statue diminishes the integrity of this view, but maintains balance along the axis. The widening of the central walkway between the Barry statue and the Independence Hall tower helps to widen the central view but does not entirely mitigate the placement of the statue in that viewshed. The statue, itself located at the central point of the square, serves as a secondary focal point, especially from the square's other radial walkways that terminate at this location.

The strong axial relationship present in the south square area is also present but not as strong in the north square area. In 1967 nineteenth and twentieth century buildings north of Chestnut Street were razed to create Independence Mall, a 3-block long corridor of lawn panels bordered by trees, walks, and in time several buildings. The general symmetry in the mall serves to reinforce the symmetry around the central axis on the north square. However, the views between Independence Mall and Independence Hall are evaluated as noncontributing because they do not evoke the late eighteenth century character of this area. There is also a view between the mall's Liberty Bell Center and the north side of the Independence Hall tower, but it is not defined with circulation or planting features and did not exist historically (see Figures 33 and 34). (CLR Vol.II 1998: 83-86)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View North from Walnut Street Entrance to Independence Hall and Barry Monument	201709	Contributing					No
Views between Independence Hall and Liberty Bell Center	201710	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Views between Independence Hall and Independence Mall	201711	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Independence Square includes historic small-scale features in two monuments, two Civil-War era cannons, replica watch boxes and water pumps, lamps, a flagpole, and wood bollards. Noncontributing features include steel bollards and fencing, site furnishings, and signage.

Historic Conditions (to 1976), Existing Conditions, and Evaluations:

John Barry Monument.

A bronze statue of Commodore John Barry, USN, was sculpted by Samuel Aloysius Murray and stands in the center of Independence Square (Figure 37). The statue stands on a 12-foot-square, medium-gray granite base surmounted by an 11-foot-high pedestal on which the eight-foot statue stands. Barry is dressed in an officer's uniform of the Continental Navy and has one arm outstretched. A bronze plaque attached to its north side reads, "Commodore John Barry, U.S.N.; Father of the Navy of the United States; Born in Wexford, Ireland, 1745; Died in Philadelphia 1803; Presented to the City of Philadelphia by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, 1907." The monument remains the property of city and is maintained by NPS as a contributing feature. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 142; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 81)

George Washington Monument.

The George Washington Monument is a bronze statue mounted on an Esperanza Blue marble pedestal (Figure 38). The monument is on the Chestnut Street sidewalk roughly 30 feet north of the front entrance to Independence Hall. Sculpted by Samuel Murray and cast by Roman Bronze Works of New York, the statue is a 1910 reproduction of a marble statue sculpted by Joseph A. Baily in 1869. The original statue was relocated to City Hall to protect it from the elements. The bronze statue was situated atop a granite base until 1919, at which time it was replaced with the current pedestal. "Washington" was inscribed on the north face of the pedestal in 1925. The bronze statue is 8 feet high and 6 feet square at the base, and the pedestal is 7 feet high and 3 feet square. Washington is depicted with his left hand on his sword and his right hand on a book. The monument remains the property of city and is maintained by NPS as a contributing feature. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 142; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 81)

Lincoln Plaque.

In 1903 the Grand Army of the Republic, Post 2 of the Department of Pennsylvania, placed a bronze tablet in the pavement approximately 30 feet north of Independence Hall's east end. The tablet marked the spot where President-elect Abraham Lincoln purportedly raised the US flag commemorating the admission of the state of Kansas into the union on February 22, 1861. The plaque measures 33 inches by 36 inches and is maintained by NPS as a contributing feature (Figure 39). (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 144-145; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 81)

John F. Kenney Plaque.

In June 1964 the city placed a plaque in the Chestnut Street sidewalk about 10 feet east of the Washington Monument to commemorate President John F. Kennedy's visit to Independence Square on July 4, 1962, when he delivered a speech before a huge and enthusiastic crowd. The plaque is bronze and measures 36 inches by 33 inches, and is a contributing feature (Figure 40). (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 145; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 82)

Civil War Cannon.

In 1919 a pair of 12-pound, Civil War-era howitzers were overturned and cemented into the ground on either side of the east end of the cobblestone driveway walls "to serve as fenders." The work was completed as a part of the AIA's rehabilitation initiative of 1915. According to a 1998 NPS Cultural Resource Study, the howitzers were manufactured at the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, Virginia. Thus, the upended cannons serve as two examples of the nearly 1,100 such artillery pieces produced by the foundry for Confederate armed forces from 1861 to 1865. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 136; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 45)

Water Pumps on Chestnut Street (2).

The two water handpumps on Chestnut Street are reproductions of eighteenth-century style water pumps. They stand between 5 feet and 6 feet tall within an octagonal housing and rest on top a wooden ball finial. The curved handle is iron, and iron bands reinforce a wooden spout, which incorporates an iron bucket hook. The NPS installed the two replica pumps in 1974 as part of the north square reconstruction prior to the Bicentennial celebrations. The original pumps provided fire protection beginning in 1772 but were removed in 1821. The pumps contribute to the historic significance of the square (Figure 41). (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 137-138; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 46)

Watch Boxes (2).
The watch box on Chestnut Street is a replica of the two sentry huts added in the square in 1789 to provide shelter for three guards. The original watch boxes were removed prior to the NPS tenure, but the date was not recorded. The replica installed in 1974 is a hexagonal wood structure 3.5 feet in diameter and 8 feet high to the roof, or 10 feet high overall. It is painted brick red, with wood shingle roofing (see Figures 23 and 38). The replica was completed prior to the Bicentennial celebrations. Another watch box stands on the south side of the West Arcade. Only the two watch boxes installed in 1974 have lamps based on pictorial records. The watch boxes contribute to the historical significance of Independence Square. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 136-137; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 46)

Lamps.
Walkway lights consist of a stanchion with a lantern type luminaire, both painted black. The luminaires consist of four panes of glass and contain no reflectors. Lighting is laid out along the sides of the walks on the south square, and along the Chestnut Street frontage in the north square. The north square lights are mounted on wooden lamp posts, consistent with graphic evidence of the colonial period, while lighting along the walkways in the south square is mounted on iron posts. The lights were updated as LED light fixtures in 2016. Period lanterns are also mounted on top of the two reconstructed sentry huts, or “watch boxes.” Lights are also attached to the exteriors of the buildings, and floodlights across Chestnut Street light up Independence Hall at night (Figure 42). The existing light fixtures date to the 1915 redesign by the AIA and are contributing features. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 124-126; PMIS 199461A)

Flagpole.
Located at the eastern end of the Chestnut Street sidewalk, the 75-foot tall steel flagpole is topped with a flying eagle carrying a ball (see Figure 34). Prior to 1926, the United States flag was displayed on a flagpole mounted on Independence Hall itself, at the center of the roof of the building in line with the bell tower to the south. The flagpole was braced with four guy wires which held the tall pole upright. For the Sesquicentennial of the American Revolution in 1926, a flagpole was erected on a grass plot south of Independence Hall’s East Wing, purportedly at the location of the 1769 Transit of Venus Observatory, in addition to the site of the platform used to deliver the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. In 1958, after the NPS had assumed stewardship of the property, the flagpole was moved to its present location. As the flagpole was installed and moved during the period of significance, it is a contributing feature. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 132; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 43)

Wooden Bollards on Walnut Street.
Wooden bollards are present along Walnut Street, extending around 3 feet 6 inches above grade and featuring simple domed tops (Figure 43). Prints and engravings by Peale (1778) and Peller Malcom (1792) indicate bollards, but a drawing dating to 1825 does not show them. Wooden bollards were installed by the AIA in the 1910s and again by the NPS as part of the Bicentennial commemoration in 1974. The extant wood bollards are contributing features, but the wood bollards along Chestnut Street are missing, having been replaced with steel bollards. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 134-136; NR draft 2023, Sec.7: 44)

Iron Bollards, Chains, and Fencing.
Bollards have long been used south of Independence Hall to keep pedestrians to the walkways and off the grass. In 1828 a drawing of the square shows a line of posts and chains along the central pathway and along the bowed pathways on the northern end of the yard. Once the new corner entrances were created into the square at the southeast and southwest corners in the 1830s, records indicate that the Councils also authorized the placement of “chains and posts” to protect the grass plots that were being damaged as a result of the new circulation pattern. Photographs from the 1860s document white-painted bollards along the surviving serpentine walks of the original Vaughan landscape. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 134)

The existing iron bollards and chains were introduced to the square as part of the 1915 AIA redesign. These iron posts were placed at the edges of the new brick aprons designed for both the north and south facades of the Independence Hall group of buildings. The bollards were intended

to assist in setting the State House apart from the busy activities of both Chestnut Street and the square to the south. Bollards were removed from the north square along Chestnut Street as a part of the 1974 reconstruction, and were marked for salvage. The AIA bollards were also removed from the edges of the brick aprons surrounding the buildings, but were retained in the south square area. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 134)

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, most wooden bollards along Chestnut Street were replaced with reinforced steel bollards (see Figure 41). The run of steel bollards was extended from Chestnut Street south along both Fifth and Sixth Streets, ending opposite the south facades of Philosophical Hall and Congress Hall, respectively. Some sections of the bollards included chains. At this time, steel bollards without chains were also installed at the tops of stairways into the square (see Figure 24). (CLR Vol.I, 2004: xviii; CLR Vol.II, 1998: 134-136)

In addition to these locations, cast iron bollards can be found in the south square behind the cobblestone drive walls and around grass beds and shrub plantings in heavy traffic areas. They, along with the bollards along Chestnut, Fifth, and Sixth Streets, separate the ticketed admission area around Independence Hall from the south square area. The bollards are low round iron posts with ball tops, painted black, and strung with heavy gauge chain or spanned by metal gates (Figure 44). As the installation dates of iron bollards spans both the historic and post-historic periods, this feature is evaluated as Undetermined. (CLR Vol.I, 2004: xviii; CLR Vol.II, 1998: 134-136)

Security Screening Facilty.
As stated in the park's 2017 Foundation Document, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell have been identified as designated American icons by the Department of Homeland Security due to both their historical importance and roles as national symbols for the United States of America. With this status, the park is required to maintain mandated staffing and security levels, as well as commissioned law enforcement rangers. (FD 2017: 27)

Entrance to the buildings at Independence Square is through a security and screening area located between Old City Hall and the East Wing. The park is preparing a project statement to study options for the site's evolving security needs and possible alternative locations for a facility that minimize impacts to historic buildings and the cultural landscape. (Review comments, M. Ehler, 13 September 2023)

Stockade Fence.
A dark green painted fence stands atop the perimeter wall between Old City Hall and Philosophical Hall. The fence features abutting vertical planks that block views into this area from the perimeter sidewalk. Park research suggests the fence post-dates 1976. (Review comments, M. Ehler, 13 September 2023)

Benches.
Seating at Independence Square consists of teak benches along the walks. The benches are "off the shelf" and commercially available for replacement needs. Benches are anchored to the paving in most locations. The benches are unpainted and allowed to weather to a silver-grey color. While not historic, these benches have a subdued and subordinate expression which is compatible with the overall character of the square (see Figure 42). (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 130-132)

Trash and Recycling Receptacles.
The square's current trash receptacles are round, metal containers with dome tops and spring controlled flip doors. These "off the shelf" containers are painted black (see Figure 42). The recycling receptacles are found with no cover, and painted dark green. Both types are non-contributing features. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 132)

Interpretive and Directional Signs.
Interpretive signs are located near the north and south sides of the buildings, while directional signs are located at various building entrances, and on or adjacent to buildings. Interpretive signs are also located in the south square, and feature steel frames, painted dark brown, with replaceable fiberglass exhibits (see Figure 26). Wood directional signs identify the building entrances for Old

City Hall and the East Wing. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 139-141)

Traffic-Related Furnishings.
Non-contributing modern furnishings along the edge of the sidewalk include traffic signals, no parking signs, one way signs, crosswalk signs, fire hydrants, SEPTA bus stops with signs, and other standard street operational furnishings common to a high traffic city street. (CLR Vol.II, 1998: 139)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
John Barry Monument	201712	Contributing	006917				No
George Washington Monument	201713	Contributing	006916				No
Lincoln Plaque	201714	Contributing	006918				No
John F. Kennedy Plaque	201715	Contributing	080210				No
Civil War Cannon	201716	Contributing					No
Water Pumps (2)	201717	Contributing	080203				No
Watch Boxes (2)	201718	Contributing	080227				No
Lamps	201719	Contributing	080226				No
Flagpole	201720	Contributing					No
Wooden Bollards on Walnut Street	201721	Contributing					No
Iron Bollards, Chains, and Fencing	201722	Undetermined					No
Security Screening Facility	201723	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Stockade Fence	201724	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Benches	201725	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Trash and Recycling Receptacles	201726	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Interpretive and Directional Signs	201727	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Traffic-Related Furnishings	201728	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 37. The John Barry Monument, view looking north-northeast toward Independence Hall. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 38. The George Washington Monument, located on the north side of Independence Hall. In the background is a watch box with dark red sides and a black roof topped with a lantern. (OCLP 2022)

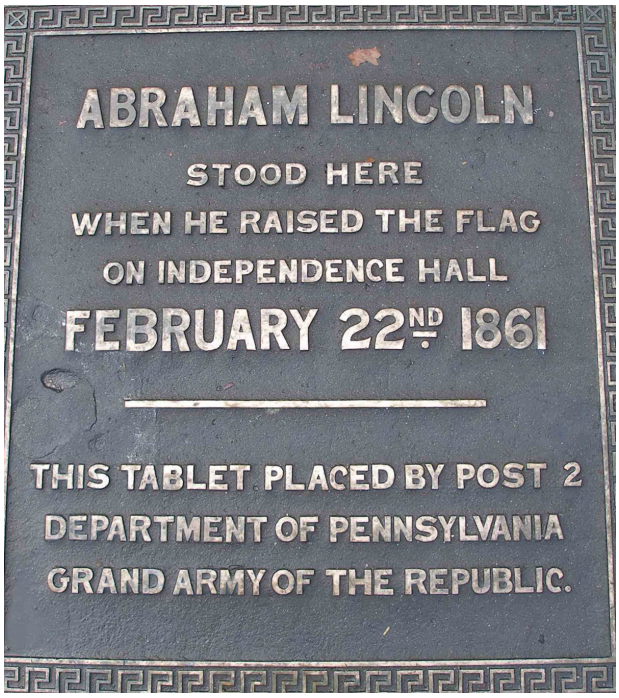


Figure 39. The Lincoln Plaque is embedded in the walkway on the north side of Independence Hall, just to the east of the George Washington Monument. (NPS)



Figure 40. The John F. Kennedy Plaque on the north side of Independence Hall, east of the George Washington Monument. (NPS)



Figure 41. One of two replicated eighteenth-century pumps within the Chestnut Street portion of Independence Square, view looking northwest. Note the iron bollards in the background. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 42. View looking south at a bench, lamp, and trash and recycling receptacles. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 43. Several wooden bollards are located along Walnut Street. View looking east. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 44. View north at some of the iron bollards with chain and fencing south of Independence Hall. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report. While numerous archaeological investigations have occurred within the property, Independence Square does not include any archaeological sites that are listed in the National Register. Pleas refer to the National Register Information chapter of this report and the 2023 draft National Register documentation for more information.

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 6

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/27/2029

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/27/2023

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Independence Square is in good condition. This assessment indicates the property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The property's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: Cultural Landscape Report Part 2

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

The 1998 “Cultural Landscape Report for Independence Square, Vol. II” recommended Rehabilitation as the treatment choice, given the characteristics of the site, the goals and objectives of Independence National Historical Park, and the current use of Independence Square. The following recommended repair and improvement items were developed in priority order based on their relative importance as determined by the "Choosing By Advantages" decision making process:
1. Repair paving and drainage. Resolve accessibility.
2. Repair walk lights and provide high quality exterior building lighting.
3. Eliminate hazardous tree limbs.
4. Install a new Irrigation system.
5. Repair brick walls, piers and coping. Repair stairs. Install handrails on all stairways.
6. Replace shrub plantings at stairways.
7. Provide graphic and audio wayside exhibits to interpret Independence Square.
8. Repair damaged site furnishings.
9. Replace missing features.

In addition to providing direction for repair of the existing landscape features, the CLR described the following specific proposals for new components needed to address park management's requirements:
• Alternative schemes for re-establishing street trees along Chestnut Street.
• To provide universal access to the Independence Hall building complex, it is recommended that the temporary ramps be considered permanent and their designs be modified to enhance durability, minimize maintenance, and extend their lifespans.
• Alternative stairway handrail designs are presented to improve visitor safety. (CLR 1998: iii-iv)

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

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