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EARLY CONCEPTS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION:
THE RESTORATION OF CARPENTERS' HALL 1857-1876

Mark Isaksen

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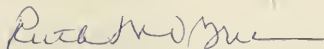
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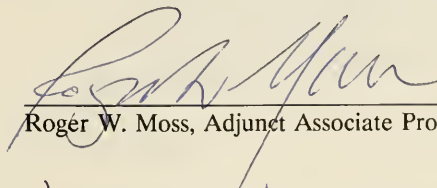
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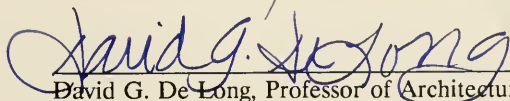
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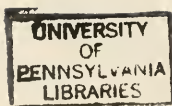


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Preface

Any project which touches upon the artifacts of the American Revolution is bound to include a mention of the important colonial-era buildings in Philadelphia, such as Independence Hall and Carpenters' Hall. The Hall owes its primary historic significance to the meeting of the First Continental Congress, held there in 1774. It is the Revolutionary period of the Hall which has received the most attention for research and scholarship; this study is meant to focus on the period after its initial period of historic importance. The Hall is unique in that the Carpenters' Company continued to own the building and in 1857 opened the building to the public, free of charge, as an historic site.

The Company undertook the restoration of the Hall in a way that was useful to them, hence the term "fitting up" used in the minutes of the Company to describe the work done in 1857. This "fitting up" is an early example of preservation and is worthy of research not only as part of the history of the Company and their Hall but also because of its importance to historic preservation on a national level. Concurrent activity during the mid 19th century, such as that at Mt. Vernon and the ongoing work at Independence Hall, were large undertakings funded by the government or through national fundraising campaigns which sought new uses for the sites. The Carpenters' Company worked independently to preserve their Hall for themselves and for future generations.

The core of this study deals with a nineteen-year period commencing with the fitting up of 1857 and culminating in the preparations for the Centennial in 1876. It is an attempt to trace the development of the Company

which in 1857 had a modest interest in the historic nature of their building to an organization of men which in 1876 were proud to display their Hall and wanted it to appear in the best possible condition. Although an attempt was made to achieve historic accuracy the main thrust of the Companys' treatment of the site was that it should suit the needs of the present while evoking an image of the past.

I chose to research this period because it seemed to be the most overlooked area of the Companys' history and one which has influenced the present condition of the building. Thanks go to Ruth O'Brien and Charles Peterson for stimulating this research interest. Mr. Peterson's extensive work on the early history of the Carpenters' Company and their Hall provided the foundation upon which I have built my research. Of course it is the extensive records of the Company kept by its members which provided most of the archival documentation for the study period.

The paper is divided into three sections, the first dealing with the context of historic buildings in mid-19th century America. The second part centers on the fitting up of 1857 while the third section considers the improvements to the Hall between 1857 and 1876. Although they might not have realized it at the time, the Carpenters' Company was one of the pioneering groups in the field of historic preservation and it is my desire to document and explain their contribution to our collective history.

Introduction

During the mid 19th century there were but a handful of locations which could be viewed as historic sites, whereas today one can look upon many sites from the colonial era which have been restored and opened to the public. One of the first examples of the early work of historic preservation is Carpenters' Hall, the meeting place of the First Continental Congress in 1774, and the earliest building under private ownership to be preserved for its historic significance.

The importance of historic structures in our society reflects a recurring need for an artifact of the past that can be experienced within and without in a tactile and sensory manner. The modern historic preservation movement has its roots in the spirited battles of the nineteenth century where every effort was made to save important physical remnants of the Revolutionary era. Sites of national importance, such as Independence Hall, are more often deemed significant for the patriotic events which took place within them rather than for their architectural design.

Although Independence Hall is symbolic of the founding our nation, after the events of the Revolution had passed and the Capital of the nation had moved, the care of the old Hall became less than adequate. However, a popular appreciation for the events of the Revolution which was expressed in the literature and the arts of the 19th century, changed the way Americans cared for their historic buildings. In 1872 the Philadelphia City Council had established a committee chaired by Frank Etting to manage the refurbishing of Independence Hall. Etting expressed a sentiment presumably shared by many Americans when he wrote about the restoration of Independence Hall, "The actuality of our Founders is already losing itself in the mists of the past.

So long ... as we can preserve the material objects which these great men saw, used or even touched, the thrill of vitality may still be transmitted unbroken."¹ Every visitor who makes a pilgrimage to the historic shrines of our colonial past experiences that very connection to our Revolutionary forebears. While it is the design of the building which creates the most vivid sensory experience for the visitor, it is the nationalistic spirit which it evokes that is most often the motivation for preservation.

The popular appeal of the Revolutionary era to Americans grew during the mid-19th century, especially in cities such as Philadelphia, where Henry James could declare: "Nowhere throughout the country does our historic past so enjoy the felicity of an important concrete illustration. It survives there in visible form as it survives no where else."² Most preservation activity in the city was focused upon the sites of greatest national significance. During the mid-19th century, this work centered on Independence Hall and Carpenters' Hall. Both sites had suffered through periods of neglect, a pattern which ended at Carpenters' Hall with the "fitting up" of 1857.

One cannot ignore the growing fascination of Americans during the mid-19th century with the events of the Revolution. The last remaining survivors of the conflict were passing away and with them the experience and memories of that era. The new generation, facing a crisis of confidence as they looked to the noble deeds of the past and the divisiveness of current sectional conflicts, might have agreed with the sentiments of Ralph Waldo Emerson who wrote in 1837: "If there is any period one would desire to be

¹Frank M. Etting, Historical Account of the Old State House of Pennsylvania Now Known as the Hall of Independence, (Boston: J.R. Osgood & Co., 1876), 1.

²Henry James, The American Scene, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1968), 288.

born in, is it not the age of the Revolution."³ This changing perception of the events and objects of the past produced three significant events in the field of historic preservation in the 1850's.

In 1850 a group of concerned citizens in Newburgh, New York, asked the state for assistance in preserving the Hasbrouck House. The house had served as Washington's headquarters and in 1848 had been taken by New York state as part of a foreclosure proceeding. Rather than sell the site, the state government was persuaded to maintain and preserve the building because of its importance as Washington's headquarters. The site is considered to be the first house museum in the country and is still run by the state of New York.⁴

Another significant preservation cause of the 1850's was the saving of Mt. Vernon in 1858. Ann Pamela Cunningham, who wrote her first appeal for rescuing Mt. Vernon in 1853, directed her efforts towards the development of a national campaign organized by the private initiative of regional committees. The Mt. Vernon Ladies Association was chartered in 1858 as a national organization with the sole purpose of obtaining, protecting, and restoring Mt. Vernon because of its significance as the home of George Washington. By 1859 the Association had gained possession of the site and began a campaign to preserve the house and its setting.⁵

Of course the other significant event in preservation during the 1850's was the "fitting up" of Carpenters' Hall in 1857. If a distinction is to be made which can separate the preservation of Carpenters' Hall from concurrent events it is the fact that it was the only site where no outside group

³Michael G. Kammen, A Season of Youth: The American Revolution and Historical Imagination. (N.Y.: Knopf, 1978), 16.

⁴Dorothy Barck, "Washington's Newburgh Headquarters," J.S.A.H., XIV (May, 1955), 31.

⁵Charles B. Hosmer, Presence of the Past, V. 1 (NY: Putnam, 1965), 49.

intervened or took over the building. In addition it was the only site where the decision making and funding for the restoration was to take place solely within the organization which still held ownership of the building.

The specific motivation which compelled the Carpenters' Company to "fit up the Old Hall" as they termed it, will be the starting point of this paper. Like the caretakers of Mt. Vernon and Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh, the members of the Carpenters' Company valued their Hall mostly for its historic associations rather than its architecture; patriotism was the prime factor of their preservation efforts. The members of Carpenters' Company were as affected by national events as much as by changes within Philadelphia and the neighborhood surrounding the Hall. Several key men within the organization figured prominently in the restoration of the Hall during the nineteen year study period. The motivation for "fitting up" the Hall mirrors the popular sentiments of the day for the objects and artifacts of the Revolution.

From the literature and politics of the 1850's to the Centennial period of the 1870's, a theme of viewing the past as an idyllic time far different from the present affected the way in which cultural artifacts were treated. The restoration of Carpenters' Hall, which is part of this trend, demonstrates the changing preservation philosophy of the members of the Carpenters' Company. The Company's attitude towards preserving their historic hall developed from its beginnings in 1857 to become the primary concern of the Company by the Centennial. One of the main purposes of this project will be to document the changes made to the Hall and the ideas about preservation which motivated the Company. The first section of the paper discusses the cultural background of the 1850's as it relates to the Carpenters' Company. The second section documents the first phase of improvements to the Hall

during the "fitting up" of 1857. The third section of the paper will focus upon the changes made between 1857 and 1876. In this section of the paper, the work done by the Company is divided into five categories: collections management and public outreach, interior decoration, mechanical systems, exterior surroundings, and adjacent property. While the members of the Company did not have a formal plan for the entire nineteen year period, there is a constant increase in resources devoted to the care of the Hall and a growing awareness of the significance of the building as part of the nation's heritage.

While this project will focus solely upon the nineteen years prior to and including the Centennial, the Carpenters' Company continues to maintain its stewardship of this historic site to this day. The preservation of the Hall is an ongoing process, which each generation contributes to and leaves its mark upon. This paper will document the changes initiated by a generation of men in the mid 19th century who believed in the importance of preserving one of the patriotic artifacts of our past.

I. Carpenters' Hall in Context

The members of the Carpenters' Company preside over an organization little changed since the Revolutionary period. With roots in the English guild system, the Carpenters' Company was founded in Philadelphia as an association of master builders in the 1720's.⁶ The Company was organized to establish standards for work done in the city, to provide a means of mutual instruction and education, and to support elder members of the Company, their widows and children, both financially and through apprenticeship training programs.

Between 1770 and 1774, the Company built their meeting hall on the location now known as Carpenters Court off Chestnut Street below Fourth Street. The design of this Hall was executed in the Georgian style and is essentially a symmetrical building in cruciform plan, two stories in height, constructed of timber frame with a brick facade in Flemish bond. This bond was executed at Carpenters' Hall as a finely patterned arrangement of glazed headers and plain stretchers. Except for alterations of minor decorative elements and the dramatic shift in the surrounding built environment, early images of the exterior of the Hall vary little from present day views.

The building's primary purpose was as a meeting hall for the Company and other groups. The central meeting area covers the entire first floor with the exception of an entry and stairwell in the northern side. It is believed that the main hall originally was divided by partitions which formed a central passage with two separate rooms on the east and west sides of the first floor. Evidence exists for this in the writings of the Continental Congress, but

⁶Roger W. Moss, "The Origins of The Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia," Building Early America (Radnor, PA: Chilton Publishing Company, 1976), 45.

further research is necessary to reach a final conclusion about the existence of such walls.⁷

In 1774 the first Continental Congress sought to meet in the Hall because of its location and the fact that no other large meeting space was available save for the State House which would have been too conspicuous a place to meet. The meeting of the colonial delegates might have been considered a treasonous act against Britain, and it was necessary to conduct such activities at a place that could afford privacy and security. Carpenters' Hall provided the space in which many important decisions were made which helped to organize our own independent government at the onset of the Revolution. The Hall also hosted the meeting of the Provincial Assembly of Pennsylvania in 1776, for which Carpenters' Hall has also become known as the birthplace of Pennsylvania. However, the meeting of the first Continental Congress has been the focus of most attention and scholarship and provides a demarcation between early research on the Hall and the scope of this current project.

Designed to serve as a building for meetings and functions, the first floor and often the second floor were rented out from the time of the Hall's opening in 1774. The second floor has had considerable alterations since the completion of construction. However, the west side, which originally served as a room for committee meetings, is still used for this purpose. This space was also rented and used by other organizations such as the Library Company, one of the first tenants of the Hall. Although the Hall was in use after 1774, the original subscription funds had been insufficient to complete the building

⁷Charles E. Peterson, "Carpenter's Hall," Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, V. 43 (1953),102. Peterson elaborates on the use of the Hall by the Continental Congress and in particular the arrangement of spaces within the Hall in 1774. Also see Illustration # 1

and all its decorative elements. Income from rentals and other property holdings allowed the Company to finish the Hall by making incremental improvements. In 1790, the Company reports having completed the front doorway of the Hall and installing a decorative surround to both north and south facades, thus completing the first building program of the Hall begun in 1770.⁸

In 1791 the Company decided to build New Hall on the west side of Carpenters' Court, primarily to function as a meeting space while the Company rented out the old Hall. The construction and use of New Hall was for purely economic reasons because the income generated by the rental of the old Hall was greater than if the Company used the old Hall themselves. Building on their existing property on the Court was the most profitable means for the Company to maintain its holdings. From 1791 until 1857 the old Hall was rented to various organizations while the Company remained in its, much smaller, New Hall.

A number of the important organizations the Hall was rented out to had strong ties to the history of Philadelphia or the Revolutionary period. The Library Company occupied the second floor of the Hall, while many other organizations such as the American Philosophical Society, various government agencies, and the Bank of the United States, used Carpenters' Hall for their own purposes.

The tenant of longest term was an auctioneer named C. J. Wolbert who used the Hall as his auction house for nearly 30 years. The earliest photograph of the Hall, from about 1855, clearly shows the building with

⁸Charles E. Peterson, "Carpenter's Hall," Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, V. 43 (1953), 106.

Wolbert's logo across the door and pediment.⁹ As recorded by a writer who described the Hall in the early part of the 19th century, he believed that the events of the Revolution were being tread upon by rising commerce: "Citizens who were familiar with it's [Carpenters' Hall] history used occasionally to glance up Carpenters Court at the quaint old fashioned building at the head of it; but unless they were in pursuit of bargains at Auction they rarely approached nearer to it than Chestnut Street."¹⁰ Until the re-occupancy of the Hall by the Company in 1857 the old Hall was mostly known as an auction house and only of historical interest to the relatively few antiquarians and others with a fondness for America's past.

Nor was architectural criticism of the time favorable towards the remaining structures of the Revolutionary era. Although the architecture of Carpenters' Hall received little notice when it was first built, architectural critics and proponents of modern styles in the early 19th century often derided the architecture of the past. Most commentary on the built environment expressed the advancement of modern design as compared to the simple architecture of the past. An 1843 visitors' guide to Philadelphia highlighted the progress of the city: "The spirit of change and improvement has been so busy in Philadelphia as to leave us but few relics of the olden time to show the character of its primitive architecture."¹¹ Even by the late 19th century the definitive remark by British historian James Fergusson regarding American architecture before 1815 was that "there was hardly one single

⁹See Illustration # 4.

¹⁰Casper Souder, Carpenter's Hall. (Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1865), 12-13.

¹¹Charles B. Trego. Geography of Pennsylvania.. to which is appended a Travellers' Guide. (Philadelphia: Edward C. Biddle, 1843), 318.

building erected in North America which is worthy of being mentioned as an example of Architectural Art."¹²

An early architectural critic and historian from Philadelphia, Louisa Tuthill, published the first history of American architecture in 1848. She writes mildly of her native city, "that it possesses an interior almost unrivalled in the world, although its exterior, when seen from a distance is not imposing."¹³ Tuthill focused on Philadelphia's latest buildings of the 1840's, Girard College and the Athenaeum namely, and does not directly remark upon the older structures of the city. Both buildings have plates in her book, with Girard College on the frontispiece. She describes at length the dimensions and form of the main building at the College designed by Thomas U. Walter. Her admiration of modern architecture derives from a perceived historic accuracy of the finer examples of Grecian Architecture, of which Girard College is clearly modeled. Regarding the Athenaeum, Tuthill exclaims that "this building is a beautiful specimen of street architecture," for she believed that it displayed ornament in way that was harmonious with its site.¹⁴

However, with her praise comes criticism of both new and historic architecture. The modern buildings in New York are described as being overcome by "the imputation of sameness and bad taste," perhaps in contrast to the more academic work she cited in Philadelphia.¹⁵ Her treatment of historic architecture focuses on the historic buildings of New England. Regarding public buildings such as meeting houses, academies, and court houses, she remarks on the "dumpy cupolas" that stand in prominence,

¹²James Fergusson, History of Modern Styles of Architecture. 2nd ed. (London, 1873), 498.

¹³Louisa Tuthill, A History of Architecture. (Philadelphia, 1848), 263.

¹⁴*Ibid*, 264-266.

¹⁵*Ibid*, 262.

although the buildings "often stood upon an elevated situation, and though truly grateful and even beautiful from association... they were outrageous deformities to the eye of taste."¹⁶ One might assume that buildings of a similar era, such as Carpenters' Hall, were viewed with the same sentiment; distinguished by their historic associations but deplorable in style.

However forward looking architectural criticism of the period may have been, the mood of the country in the 1850's appears to undergo a distinct shift towards developing a greater appreciation for the past. The distinctions between the past and present were growing ever more apparent, especially in America's cities. In comparison to Philadelphia, New York City seemed to embrace all that is modern and displayed a willingness to sacrifice the past for present concerns. A writer remarked upon New York in 1831 that, "The denizens of New York are such utilitarians that they have sacrificed to the shrine of Mammon almost every relic of the olden time. The feeling of veneration for the past, so characteristic of the Old World, is lamentably deficient among the people of the New."¹⁷ Changes in urban living were rapidly advancing the city from its 18th-century roots. The American city began to lose its former sense of community, one that was rooted in the patterns of colonial life. In his sweeping look at the social history of Philadelphia, Sam Bass Warner describes the changing structure of the new city.

By 1860 the combined effects of Philadelphia's rapid growth - the endless grid streets, the scattering of churches, stations, and factories, the flood of immigrants, the novelty, the sheer size and pace of the big city - all its elements of change contribute to the thorough destruction

¹⁶Ibid, 243.

¹⁷Frank Matero and Herbert Mitchel, "A Backward Glance: Preservation Attitudes in New York City 1831-1939." (Exhibit Catalog & Bibliography, Columbia University: May 11- June 3, 1988. Photocopy),1.

of the informal neighborhood street life which had characterized the small-scale community of the 18th century town.¹⁸

Many of the buildings of the old city were being lost at the same time, either through physical destruction or simply by losing their original use or historic association.

In 1840's and 1850's popular literature and political thought reflected the changing social structure. Literature and the arts began to place greater focus on the colonial period as a time of virtue and excitement when our forebears were somehow of better character and purer in heart than the men and women of the 1840's and 1850's.¹⁹ Political parties such as the Know-Nothings, took hold of this thought and sought to expand this into a belief that America's heritage must be maintained and could be reformed by the exclusion of and protection from foreign influences. It is perhaps a corollary that in times of social uncertainty, rising xenophobia and idolation of the past take hold of American thought.

The Know-Nothing Party was formed in the late 1840's, and by the 1850's held elected positions including governorship of several northeastern states. Historians have analyzed this time of the Know-Nothings and affiliated groups as an "early example of the use of political and scientific theory to buttress an ideology of exclusionism and hostility."²⁰ The organization had branches in many states and held affiliations with groups such as the Sons of America based in Pennsylvania. They appealed to fears of decline in American consciousness and held a jaundiced view of the Anglo-

¹⁸Sam Bass Warner, The Private City. 2nd ed. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1987), 61.

¹⁹Michael G. Kammen, A Season of Youth... (NY:Knopf, 1978), see Kammen's chapter 4, "Reshaping the Past to Persuade the Present," which discusses the role of literature and the arts in forming public opinion.

²⁰Harvey Green, "Popular Science and Political Thought..." Journal of American Culture, VI (winter 1983), 4.

Saxon roots of society as the salvation for present day problems. The most compelling problem being new immigrants who were unlike the perceived homogeneous character of American society in the colonial period. The membership of nativist groups like the Know-Nothings is characterized as "primarily composed of middle-class professionals, artisans, and laboring men."²¹ The party declined during the Civil War only to be revived in the 1880's in response to the rise in immigration. However the Know-Nothings and other groups brought to the forefront of American political thought reasons for associating the past, albeit one that was Anglo-Saxon, with a more perfect and ideal time in American history.

An increased awareness and popularization of the colonial past spread throughout popular literature and the arts during the early 19th century. Authors such as George Tucker, John Neal, and Benson Lossing published many popular novels and historical works which were widely sold in the period, yet are relatively unheard of today. Nevertheless, one can not discount the influence they had on society. Their tales of the Revolutionary era were extremely popular, often "consisting of a romantic relationship that was somehow linked to the hero's activity in the great struggle against Britain."²² During this same period numerous plays relating to the subject of the Revolution were introduced, as well as allegorical forms of art directly tapping the nation's sentiment towards its colonial past.²³

Of the many paintings executed of Washington crossing the Delaware River, none is more famous than that done in 1851 by Emmanuel Leutze. The following year Senator James Cooper, clearly moved by the work of art,

²¹Harvey Green, "Popular Science and Political Thought..." Journal of American Culture, VI (winter 1983) 4.

²²Geoffrey Rossano, Creating a Dignified Past... (Savage MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1991), 2.

²³Michael G. Kammen, A Season of Youth... (NY:Knopf, 1978), 108.

queried "who has looked upon that admirable picture and contemplated that majestic form and... determination which comes from the countenance of the heroic chief... and has not felt his patriotism stimulated and the blood flowing in warmer and quicker currents through his veins."²⁴ These works of art appealed to the patriotism of citizens and to the growing popular appreciation of and fondness for cultural objects associated with the colonial era.

A belief that stylized images or objects could provide a link to a past time grew during this period, but focused upon the Greek, Egyptian, and Gothic Revival styles. From this development a theory of 'associationism' grew in the 1840's and spread rapidly in the following decades. This theory "held that by properly decorating and arranging a home or other environment with references to the past, one might stimulate in the inhabitants the character traits most admired in the bygone civilization."²⁵ A natural development of this belief eventually led to America's own past as a source of reference for stylistic and decorative trends.

The process of awareness and analysis of American culture, undertaken by foreign observers as early as Toqueville, and by a growing cadre of American writers, intellectuals and antiquarians would become the foundation of the Colonial Revival in America. In 1854 a young lawyer in New York remarked upon the reactions of his own city and of American society in general towards the rapid nature of development and progress in the built environment.²⁶ George Templeton Strong commented in his journal, "We are so young a people that we feel the want of nationality, and

²⁴William B. Rhoads, The Colonial Revival. (NY: Garland Press, 1977),479.

²⁵Geoffrey Rossano, Creating a Dignified Past... (Savage MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1991), 11.

²⁶Frank Matero and Herbert Mitchel, "A Backward Glance: Preservation Attitudes in New York City 1831-1939," (Exhibit Catalog & Bibliography, Columbia University: May 11- June 3, 1988. Photocopy),1.

delight in whatever asserts our national 'American' existence. Hence the development, in every state of the Union, of 'Historical Societies' that seize on and seal up every worthless reminiscence of our colonial and Revolutionary times."²⁷ From this "want of nationality" came a rise in patriotic fervor towards objects of the colonial era. The earliest preservation efforts of the 19th century were successful almost exclusively because of their historic associations rather than their architectural merit. In his seminal history of the preservation movement, Charles Hosmer aptly places patriotism as the primary "motivating force behind the majority of preservation efforts, " in the 19th century.²⁸

Of all preservation activity concurrent with the Carpenters' Hall restoration, there are but two successful campaigns which were influenced by the same patriotic trends which may have pushed the Company towards re-occupying their Hall. While the Company was motivated by economic factors to initiate the "fitting up" of their Hall, an equal influence came from patriotic sentiments toward the historic associations with the Revolutionary era. Other preservation efforts, those at Washington's Headquarters in New York and at his plantation in Virginia were unique from Carpenters' Hall because both required the use of outside funding or influence to protect the historic site. Both were initiated only in response to imminent threats of loss to unsympathetic owners or to new development. While all three appealed to the patriotic sensibilities of their constituents, it is only Carpenters' Hall which can be distinguished for retaining its original occupant and owner.

The effort to save Washington's headquarters in Newburgh, New York began as an appeal to the patriot in every citizen by the governor of

²⁷Michael G. Kammen, *A Season of Youth...* (NY:Knopf, 1978), 12.

²⁸Charles B. Hosmer, *Presence of the Past*. V. 1 (NY: Putnam, 1965), 264.

New York and key legislators who favored taking over the house. The ca. 1750 Hasbrouck House served as headquarters for General Washington for less than a year, and remained as a private home up until the state received title to the property in 1848.²⁹ The last private owner of the property had failed to make payments on a state guaranteed mortgage, leaving the state to foreclose on the site. Now under receivership, the property was to be sold at auction to recover the lost investment. Several local politicians proceeded to enlist the support of the governor in securing state funding for the purchase of the property. These individuals felt the house could be "safeguarded by the public rather than be allowed to fall into possibly irreverent and destructive private hands."³⁰ In 1850, the committee established to consider the preservation of Washington's Newburgh Headquarters truly believed that if visitors to the site "have an American heart in his bosom, he will feel himself a better man; his patriotism will kindle with deeper emotion; his aspiration for his country's good will ascend from a more devout mind for having visited the 'Headquarters of Washington.'"³¹ With full backing of the state and especially local citizens, the Hasbrouck House became the first public house museum, and with the contemporary addition of a separate museum building to house artifacts of the Revolution, the house was and is interpreted to the year 1783 when Washington used it for his headquarters.

Mt. Vernon, George Washington's home in Virginia and a site perhaps better known for its associations to Washington, became an even greater lightning rod for national attention and patriotic idolatry of the

²⁹Dorothy Barck, "Washington's Newburgh Headquarters," *J.S.A.H.*, XIV (May, 1955), 30-32. Writing as the curator of the site, Barck details the early history of what is termed 'the first house museum in America'.

³⁰Dorothy Barck, "Washington's Newburgh Headquarters," *J.S.A.H.*, XIV (May, 1955), 31.

³¹Charles B. Hosmer, Presence of the Past. V. 1 (NY: Putnam, 1965), 36.

founding father. Beginning modestly in 1853 and culminating with the possession of the house in 1859, the efforts of the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association to preserve the country house of George Washington are well documented as the first successful nationwide effort to rescue a site with important historic associations. Ann Pamela Cunningham spearheaded the effort by appealing to the ladies of the nation to provide stewardship for this important historic site. Committees were soon established in major cities across the country, the first being in Philadelphia, and inclusion in this Association became a mark of a patrician society which valued an interest in the colonial past that might demonstrate connections to an ancestral heritage.³²

The commonality between Mt. Vernon and Carpenters' Hall is in the use of an organization to preserve the site. While the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association was a national effort, compared to the local scope of the Carpenters' Company, both organizations benefited from the growing enthusiasm for citizens to join into new groups or established associations as a reaction to the changing social structure of the mid-19th century.³³ However, Mrs. Cunningham's organization had one purpose only, to rescue Mt. Vernon.

Ann Cunningham spent a portion of each year in Philadelphia, partly for medical concerns, and was perhaps influenced by the many historic sites of the Revolution which abounded in the city. Nevertheless, the campaign to save Mt. Vernon attracted enough interest, and funding, to enable the

³²Charles B. Hosmer, Presence of the Past. V. 1 (NY: Putnam, 1965) See Hosmer's Chapter II, "The Shadow of Mt. Vernon," which details the legacy of the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association.

³³Warner, Sam Bass, The Private City. 2nd ed. (Philadelphia: U. of P. Press, 1987), 61. Warner cites the changing social structure of the city as creating a pattern in which "Philadelphians of every class and background, reacted in the same way to the loss of the old patterns of sociability and informal community - they rushed into clubs and associations."

purchase of the site by the Committee in 1859. This preservation effort tapped into the growing attachment to the colonial past as the only perceived common heritage of the expanding and fracturing young nation of the 1850's.³⁴

The acquisition of Mt. Vernon attracted the attention of antiquarians and architects because the house was viewed as having architectural merit, though by no means greater than the historic association with George Washington. In 1856 Samuel Sloan, a writer and architectural critic, reported of his visit to Mt. Vernon that:

The process of insufficient, trivial patching was painfully evident, all about the exterior of the mansion. In one sense, every pilgrim aided the dilapidation. ...the constant treading of thousands of tourists, would soon utterly wear out the piazza and other floors...; if the process of patching Mt. Vernon should continue many years, there would no be a solitary vestige of George Washington's Mt. Vernon left.³⁵

The dilemma of preserving a quickly deteriorating historic structure perplexes modern curators as much as it did Mr. Sloan. His solution was to remove the interior, and reconstruct in the exact same space as the mansion, a new exterior shell of duplicate dimensions into which the interior could be placed, thus "replacing the frailness of wood by the permanence of marble and of galvanized iron."³⁶ While such a scheme was never pursued, the Mt. Vernon of today is probably more "patches" than the mansion of the 1850's. Yet the patriotic appeal of the site is not diminished, a factor which was crucial to preservation motives of the mid 19th century.

³⁴George B. Forgie, Patricide in the House Divided: A Psychological Interpretation of Lincoln and His Age. (NY: Norton, 1979), 191.

³⁵Samuel Sloan, "The Restoration of Mt. Vernon," Sloan's Architectural Review and Builders Journal, V.1(August 1868),86.

³⁶Samuel Sloan, "The Restoration of Mt. Vernon," Sloan's Architectural Review and Builders Journal, V.1(August 1868), 87.

Preservation efforts were a means of saving the significant artifacts of the past that were in some form of danger. The memories of the Revolution were also in danger of being lost, and to preserve and extend those reminiscences several writers took on the task of recording the events and people of the Revolution. Primary among the writers of popular histories of the Revolution was Benson J. Lossing, who hoped that his writings "would attract the attention and win to the perusal of our chronicles of our Revolution many who could not be otherwise decoyed into the apparently arid and flowerless domains of mere history."³⁷ It would seem that even by modern standards Lossing's work such as The Field Guide to the American Revolution was rich in visual images, personal interest narratives, and historical anecdotes of both fact and myth.

Lossing included criticism in his writings, mostly directed at his contemporary citizens who were insensitive to the holidays and artifacts of the Revolution. In 1851, Lossing wrote a short essay on the Revolution for the July issue of Harper's Magazine in which he bemoans the lack of sincerity in observing the 4th of July, believing that "too often the day has been desecrated by bacchanalian revels."³⁸ Lossing's criticism came out of his interest in history and his desire to spread his vision of the past as widely as possibly. However, it is his historical books about the Revolution not his criticism which were most widely enjoyed and which "may have done more than any other publication to foster popular pride in United States history."³⁹

According to Lossing's own writings, his interest in objects associated with the Revolution came about by accident. In June of 1848, while passing

³⁷Benson John Lossing, A Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution. (NY: Harpers, 1859), preface.

³⁸Benson John Lossing, "Our National Anniversary," Harpers No. 14 (July 1851), 160.

³⁹Michael G. Kammen, A Season of Youth... (NY:Knopf, 1978),52.

from the town of Greenwich to Stamford, Connecticut, Lossing happened across a stone stair in the face of a valley wall which Putnam used to escape from the British in Tryon's Raid in 1779. He stopped and asked an older gentleman about the site, who being a veteran of the Revolution gave Lossing a lengthy tale of the event in question. Of this unintended stop Lossing wrote,

The incident and its associations made a deep impression on my mind. I had been brought suddenly into the presence of animate and inanimate relics of the old war of independence, both of which were fading away and soon to be seen no more on the earth forever. I felt an impossible desire to seek and find such mementoes of the great conflict for freedom and independence, wherever they might exist, and to snatch their lineaments from the grasp of decay before it should be too late.⁴⁰

Inquiry such as Lossing used in Connecticut was to be his *modus operandi* in seeking out and recording the events and sites of the Revolution. Once an itinerary and a publisher were organized Lossing began his travels. Upon entering a city or town he would seek out a local antiquarian or senior gentlemen who might remember the significant events and important sites within a particular locale. From this tradition of oral history he would occasionally reference other scholarly or historical works for additional material. At most every stop he would make special effort to sketch the places of most importance. The "Field Book" as it was published had to be expanded considerably beyond the initial estimate to accommodate his prolific artistry.⁴¹

⁴⁰Alexander J. Davidson, "How Benson J. Lossing Wrote His Field Books..," Papers of the Bibliographic Society of America. Vol 32 (1938), 57-64.

⁴¹See Illustration # 2

Upon his visit to Philadelphia in 1848, Lossing gleefully writes, "I was in Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love; a glorious harvest of Revolutionary Reminiscences spread out around me, inviting the pen-sickle to reap for my garner."⁴² With this anticipation he made his first stop on November 27, 1848, to Carpenters' Hall and was quickly thrown into despondency.

On Monday morning I visited Carpenters' Hall, the building in which the first Continental Congress held its brief session. Having had no intimation concerning its appearance, condition, and present use, and informed that it was situated in "Carpenters' Court," imagination had invested its exterior with dignity, its interior with solemn grandeur, and its location a spacious area where nothing uncommon or unclean was permitted to dwell... The spacious court was but a short narrow alley; and the Hall, consecrated by the holiest associations which cluster around the birthtime of our republic, was a small two-story building of somber aspect, with a short steeple, and all of a dingy hue. I tried hard to conceive the apparition upon its front to be a classical frieze, with rich historic tryglyphs; but it would not do. Vision was too lynx-eyed and I could make nothing more poetic of it than an array of impudent letters spelling the words,

"C. J. Wolbert & Co. Auctioneers, for the Sale of Real Estate and Stocks, Fancy Goods, Horses, Vehicles, and Harness."

What a desecration! Covering the facade of the very Temple of Freedom, with placards of groveling mammon!⁴³

That a writer with such an admiration of historic relics should be so shocked is well understood. For the Hall, as it was in November of 1848, did not resemble anything but a downtrodden temple to commerce. C.J. Wolbert had use of the Hall for nearly thirty years, and in the minds of most Philadelphians Carpenters' Hall was merely an auction house. For the members of the Company this had become a comfortable and established business arrangement; meeting in the New Hall and supporting themselves from the income derived from renting the old Hall and the Store facing onto

⁴²Lossing, *A Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*. V. 2 (NY: Harpers, 1859), 42.

⁴³Lossing, *ibid.*, 57-58.

Chestnut Street. The Company held other real estate and mortgages throughout the city with which they could support their own charitable needs. However this arrangement changed in the 1850's, as the Company began to develop an awareness of the importance of their old Hall and the potential economic and patriotic value in its preservation.⁴⁴

Lossing's "Field Book" was published serially beginning in 1850, and appeared in its entirety in two bound volumes by the end of the decade. The Company subscribed to Harpers Weekly and has in its library a 1859 edition of the Field Book of the American Revolution. It is probable that the members of the Company would have been aware of Lossing's criticism. While no specific reference to Lossing's comments have been found in the Company Minutes, one might assume that his sentiments were taken under consideration.

⁴⁴For a record of the reasoning for preservation of the Hall as recorded by the Company, see the introductory remarks of "Committee on Fitting Up the Old Hall, Minute Book 1857," Managing Committee Minutes, July 29, 1857-January 7, 1891. American Philosophical Society, Manuscripts Collection, Microfilm.

II. The Fitting Up of Carpenters' Hall in 1857

The restoration of Carpenters' Hall in 1857 began a process of improvement and embellishment that reached its peak before the Centennial of 1876. The Company initiated the process of restoring the Hall after being influenced by outside criticism and persuaded by key members who believed in the patriotic and economic reasoning for preservation. The Company had a stable arrangement of income-producing properties which provided them with some financial security, but they still chose to undertake a risky and unprecedented move. In the Field Book of the Revolution, Benson Lossing had written of the existing conditions at Carpenters' Hall and pleaded to his readers, "is there not patriotism strong enough and bold enough in Philadelphia to enter this temple and 'cast out all them that buy and sell and overthrow the table of the money-changers?'"¹ Partly influenced by patriotism and partly by financial planning, the Company was swayed to return to their old Hall.

Within the Company the responsibility for day to day affairs falls to the Managing Committee. Having been directed by the Company to look into the matter of returning to the old Hall, the Managing Committee appointed a subcommittee "to inquire into the expediency of removing to the old Hall."² In March of 1856, the subcommittee comprised of James Hutchinson, Michael Erickson, and Richard K. Betts reported "that the time has arrived in which it

¹Benson J. Lossing, The Pictorial Field Book of the American Revolution, V. 2, (NY: Harpers, 1859), 57-58.

²Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, "Committee on Fitting Up the Old Hall, Minute Book 1857," January 21, 1856. Managing Committee Minutes, July 29, 1857-January 7, 1891. American Philosophical Society Manuscripts Collection, Microfilm. (hereafter cited as Fitting Up MSS.) The minutes are without page numbers, therefore all references have been organized by date. These items are also in Appendix A as transcribed from the source above.

would be sound policy to remove to the Old Hall, a building originally put up for and always intended to be occupied by the Company."³ The approval of the Company was given by a resolution which directed the subcommittee to "take the necessary measures for obtaining possession & fit up for the meetings of the Company, & for the accommodation of the Superintendent... Carpenters' Hall, and that in such fitting up special care be taken to preserve as much as possible every feature in said Hall as it now exists indicative of its original finish."⁴ With this guiding mandate the subcommittee began the process of preserving the Hall.

The building to which the Company intended to return was not a grand "temple to freedom" as Lossing envisioned but neither was it in satisfactory condition for meetings of the Company. Several years prior to the fitting up, Lossing commented on the interior of the building that

If sensibility is shocked by this outward pollution, it is overwhelmed with indignant shame on entering the hall where that august assembly of men - the godfathers of our republic - convened to stand as sponsors at the baptism of infant American Liberty, to find it filled with every species of merchandise, and the walls which once echoed with the eloquent words of Henry, Lee and the Adamses, reverberating with the clatter of the auctioneer's voice and hammer."⁵

Now it was up to the Company to take action and begin their campaign to "fit up the old Hall."

The subcommittee had presented to the Company a plan in favor of fitting up and returning operations to the old Hall which was based upon two basic ideas. First they presented a simple cost-benefit analysis of the project; in

³"Fitting Up MSS," March 26, 1856.

⁴"Fitting Up MSS," March 26, 1856.

⁵Benson J. Lossing, The Pictorial Field Book of the American Revolution, V. 2, (NY: Harpers, 1859), 57.

essence proving that by re-occupying the old Hall they could then rent out the new Hall and store and eventually build a larger and more modern building fronting Chestnut Street that would yield a higher profit than was currently possible. Secondly, they admitted that the events of the Revolution had "to a certain extent identified the Old Hall with the liberties of our country and has become a part of its history," and is therefore worthy of being maintained.⁶ The Company, once having occupied the building, could ensure that it be "kept in a much better state of preservation than at presently occupied, being enabled thereby to exhibit it to better advantage to the many strangers who visit our city..."⁷

Having reasoned with the patriotic hearts and the prudent wallets of the Company, the subcommittee was given authority to obtain possession of the Hall from the current tenant and fit up the building for the meetings of the Company and for the residence of a Superintendent. Although not discussed in any detail in the minutes, the need for accommodating a Superintendent appears to be a foregone assumption by the Company. It is apparent that the Company was aware of a need to care for the building on a daily basis, and that the best possible means of providing security and maintenance would be to have an on-site caretaker.

In the planning and execution of the improvements to the Hall, there was a continual awareness of the building as an artifact and of the governing statement that "special care be taken to preserve as much as possible every feature in said Hall as it now exists indicative of its original finish."⁸ While the work done in 1857 can be considered more renovation than restoration,

⁶"Fitting Up MSS," March 26, 1856.

⁷"Fitting Up MSS," March 26, 1856.

⁸"Fitting Up MSS," March 26, 1856.

the members of the subcommittee were aware of the historic fabric. That is to say that while the priority of the work was to improve the building for the needs of the present, in doing so they had to be aware of the historic importance of the building. This awareness did not mean that the building should be returned to its original condition in 1774, but rather it meant that the loss of historic fabric would be kept at a minimum but a certain amount was necessary for some of the required improvements to the building. This emphasis on the historic nature of the building, though supported by many within the Company, can be traced possibly to the influence of one member.

Of the members on the subcommittee, Richard K. Betts remained a continual force in the preservation of the Hall and of the artifacts of its historic period. From the fitting up of 1857 to the preparations for the Centennial, the minutes demonstrate that the Betts's activities were the primary motivating force within the Company. Having been a member of the Company since 1843, Betts had sufficient seniority to allow his own interests as a historian to influence the affairs of the Company. From his initial role in the fitting up, Betts slowly increased his own influence on the direction the Company might take in the care of the Hall. Little biographical information is available about Betts, though it is known he came from an established Quaker family in Philadelphia. While Betts did hold several different positions within the Managing Committee during his membership, the Company primarily relied upon him in matters pertaining to historic records or artifacts.

As the most prominent antiquarian of the Company, Richard Betts may be cited as its first historian. He may have known Benson Lossing or was at least familiar with his writings on the Revolution. If Lossing inquired to a member of the Company regarding the Hall, it is probable that he would have

spoken with Betts.⁹ Another connection appears later in the minutes of the Managing Committee which further indicates that Betts was acquainted with the writings of Lossing. Betts requests that the Company subscribe to the American Historical Record specifically during the three years which Lossing worked as its editor. His request makes special note that Lossing is the editor of the periodical.¹⁰ Betts's recurring role as advocate for the preservation and documentation of the building and its records is a prominent example of the efforts of one member of the Company to maintain proper stewardship over this historic site.

Between April of 1856 and May of 1857, the subcommittee on fitting up the old Hall met and began a lengthy series of negotiations to gain possession of the Hall from C. J. Wolbert. Having occupied the Hall for nearly 30 years, Wolbert was reluctant to move his auction house. After nearly a year of negotiations the arrangements had been set and the subcommittee began to plan the details for fitting up of the Hall. Hoping to finish within two months to allow the Company to use the Hall at their next meeting in July, work began even though C. J. Wolbert still occupied the first floor of the Hall.

On May 21, 1857 the subcommittee outlined the scope of work for the fitting up. On the first floor, they decided to place a partition with sash doors between the columns on the south side of the first story to create a wardens' room. The president's and officers' desks were to be arranged at the center of

⁹To try to verify any connection between Lossing and Betts, a search was conducted of the Benson Lossing Manuscript Collection at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. No correspondence or references to Carpenters' Hall or Richard Betts were located. The manuscripts of Richard Betts were not located in the collections of any archive or library.

¹⁰Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, Managing Committee Minutes, July 29, 1857-January 7, 1891, "November 6, 1872," American Philosophical Society Manuscripts Collection, Microfilm. (hereafter cited as Managing Cmte MSS.) The minutes are without page numbers, therefore all references have been organized by date. These items are also in Appendix B as transcribed from the source above

the partition facing north. The stair treads between the first and second floors were to be repaired with cast iron nosings. A new furnace was to be placed in the cellar. Partitions were needed in the second floor east side to create a parlour and kitchen, two chambers and one water closet to be used as quarters for the Superintendent. Another partition was to be placed at the end of the entry hall on second floor for another chamber, leaving the west side of the second floor open for use as a Committee Room and Library with a partition at the south end to form a room for water closet.¹¹

These changes, which were outlined by the subcommittee before work began, expanded and changed over the course of the summer as work progressed on the building. The subcommittee had formulated these changes to fit the new uses being introduced to the Hall. The main floor, previously completely open, was now to be closed off at its south end to form a room for the Wardens to meet. The east side of the second floor would now have to accommodate the Superintendent and his family; a continuous presence in the Hall became a necessity because the Company itself would not be using the Hall every day. The west side of the second floor would house the Committee meeting room and the library, this being an area that would be of service to all members and used regularly.

On May 26, 1857 work began on the second story and in the cellar.¹² Within several weeks Wolbert vacated the Hall and the fitting up process had reached its peak. The month of June saw the greatest activity as the work effected every part of the Hall. The subcommittee kept minutes to record the details of the process and the work in each room.

¹¹"Fitting Up MSS," May 21, 1857.

¹²"Fitting Up MSS," May 26, 1857.

For the cellar, it was decided that a well should be dug and a gravel mortar floor laid down.¹³ The well proved impossible, owing to the saturated nature of the soil-possibly as a result of increased in-fill of the surrounding Dock Creek and other former drainage areas. The men reached a depth of 15 feet having gone through layers of gravel and clay until finally yielding as "the water then commenced oozing in."¹⁴ At that stage, the subcommittee decided to wall in the well and to lay pipes to connect with city water service. A new furnace was installed in the center of the cellar, with an opening for heat in the floor of the Hall and two flues on the sides of the building to connect with the second floor rooms.¹⁵ In the fall of 1857, a cooking range was purchased and placed in the cellar.¹⁶

On the first floor, the entry hall still contained fireproofs that had been constructed in the 1790's for the use of the one of the tenants, the Bank of the United States. During their tenancy, the Bank had made an addition to the northeast corner of the building to accommodate a vault which was accessed through the east window of the entry hall.¹⁷ These old fireproof vaults received new iron doors to replace the existing wooden ones.¹⁸ A pendant gas light was hung at the foot of the stairs and one at the top of the stair well at the second floor.¹⁹ Although the stairs were still in good condition, each stair tread required a new cast iron nosing due to wear.²⁰ For the first and second floor entry halls they procured an oilcloth carpet to cover the floors.²¹

¹³"Fitting Up MSS," May 25, 1857.

¹⁴"Fitting Up MSS," May 27, 1857.

¹⁵"Fitting Up MSS," May 27, 1857.

¹⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," October 28, 1857.

¹⁷Charles Peterson, "Carpenters' Hall," Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, V.43, Part I, (A.P.S.: Philadelphia, 1953), 107.

¹⁸"Fitting Up MSS," June 2, 1857.

¹⁹"Fitting Up MSS," May 27, 1857.

²⁰"Fitting Up MSS," May 21, 1857.

²¹"Fitting Up MSS," August 5, 1857.

Within the main hall, the major change came with the placement of a partition across the south end, which included sash doors parallel to the windows to allow light into the Hall.²² The wallpaper on the existing walls was removed, to allow for re-plastering and the hanging of new wallpaper.²³ Two gas chandeliers were brought in for the Hall, while two gas pier lights were arranged for the Wardens' Room.²⁴ Existing chairs were fixed and painted while six new settees were ordered in a color to match the chairs, to be placed in the recesses of the Hall.²⁵ A table was bought for the Hall.²⁶ Window blinds, 12 spittoons, 2 umbrella stands, and a water cooler were purchased for the Hall, though it is unclear if they were intended for this room or for another part of the Hall.²⁷

Behind the president's desk, the new partition was painted with a motto voted on by the Company affirming the patriotism which weighed heavily upon their restoration. "Within these walls, Henry, Hancock, and Adams, inspired the Delegates of the Colonies with nerve and sinew for the toils of war resulting in our National Independence."²⁸ This motto is visible in the earliest interior photograph of the Hall, a stereoscopic view from the period 1866-69, which shows evidence of the changes made in 1857. One can clearly see the new partition wall with the gilt letters of the motto and the

²²"Fitting Up MSS," May 21 & June 1, 1857.

²³"Fitting Up MSS," June 5, 6, & 15, 1857.

²⁴"Fitting Up MSS," May 27, 1857.

²⁵"Fitting Up MSS," August 5 & 26, 1857.

²⁶"Fitting Up MSS," September 1, 1857 (Account of Expenditure)

²⁷"Fitting Up MSS," September 1, 1857.

²⁸"Fitting Up MSS," August 25, 1857. While it is unclear who originated this motto for the Company, it may have possibly been derived from writings such as those done by Lossing in "Our National Anniversary" in *Harpers* on July 1851 where he writes "placed by the side of the principles involved in our struggle for independence, the men and their councils, battles, sieges, and victories wave into comparative insignificance. They are but the nerves and muscles, the sinews and the blood of the being we apotheosize..."

darker mouldings and trim which had been grained.²⁹ Also visible are the chairs, settees and table as well as a gas chandelier and wallpaper. An 1865 description of the interior of the hall emphasizes that the first floor was grained in imitation of oak and that new furniture had been added in the style of the old items such as the two high-backed windsor chairs that were stamped "Continental Congress 1774."³⁰

In the second floor, major changes had to be made to provide accommodations for the Superintendent's family. These changes included placing partitions to create three chambers: a parlor, a kitchen, and a water closet.³¹ A sink was placed in the southeast corner of the kitchen along with a gas pier light.³² For the parlour a marble mantle shelf was procured and a gas pendant light placed in the room.³³ Part of the second floor also required replastering at this time.³⁴ Each of the chambers was given a gas pier light, as well as the two bathrooms which each had a water closet.³⁵ For the washroom at the rear of the Committee Room, a urinal and wash basin were installed as well as an oilcloth carpet and hand towels.³⁶

The library and committee room had one large pendant gas light placed in the center of the room.³⁷ An iron fireproof safe was placed in the room for important papers and documents and provided a supplement to the existing fireproofs in the first floor entry hall.³⁸ The subcommittee purchased a

²⁹See Illustration # 6.

³⁰Caspar Souder, Carpenters' Hall. (Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1865), 16-18.

³¹"Fitting Up MSS," May 21, 1857.

³²"Fitting Up MSS," May 27, 1857.

³³"Fitting Up MSS," May 27, 1857; "Managing Cmte MSS," September 30, 1857.

³⁴"Fitting Up MSS," June 1, 1857.

³⁵"Fitting Up MSS," May 25 & 27, 1857.

³⁶"Fitting Up MSS," June 3, August 5 & 22, 1857.

³⁷"Fitting Up MSS," May 27, 1857.

³⁸"Fitting Up MSS," July 30, August 5, & September 1, 1857 (Account of Expenses).

floorcloth to place under the committee table and oilcloth to cover the top.³⁹ New cushions were acquired for the chairs in the room and the bookcases from New Hall were brought over and placed along the walls of the room.⁴⁰

On the exterior of the old Hall the subcommittee had ordered two "candelabras in lamps"⁴¹ for the front steps and to have the exterior of the building sanded and painted. They decided to "alter fence and privy south of Hall" and have the back yard laid out for a garden.⁴² The walks were to be paved with brick as well as the yard in front of the hall.⁴³ Gutters were placed on the slate roof because none existed at the time.⁴⁴

On June 22, 1857, the subcommittee met and recorded in the minutes that while the painters were working on the roof removing the "ball and vane, Ambrotype view of the Hall taken at this time from the corner store second story."⁴⁵ By mid July, with work not yet finished, the first meeting of the Company was re-scheduled for September rather than in July as had been planned. On the 23rd of July the completion of work on the second floor allowed the Superintendent's family to move in two days later. On the 29th of July the Managing Committee met in their room on the second floor for the first time in 66 years.⁴⁶ By September 1, 1857, the subcommittee reports its work complete and is subsequently discharged of its duties. On the 5th of September the Company made a public demonstration of the re-occupancy of

³⁹"Fitting Up MSS," August 3 & 5, 1857.

⁴⁰"Fitting Up MSS," May 21, August 4, & 5, 1857.

⁴¹"Fitting Up MSS," June 16, 1857.

⁴²"Fitting Up MSS," June 10, 1857.

⁴³"Fitting Up MSS," June 22, 1857.

⁴⁴"Fitting Up MSS," June 23, 1857. According to Charles Peterson, ["Carpenters' Hall," *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, V.43, Part I, (A.P.S.: Philadelphia, 1953), 110.] the slate roof was installed in 1817 along with copper gutters. Apparently the gutters had deteriorated and were removed prior to 1857.

⁴⁵"Fitting Up MSS," June 22, 1857.

⁴⁶"Fitting Up MSS," August 4, 1857.

the Hall on the 83rd Anniversary of the meeting of the First Continental Congress.⁴⁷ This event concluded the "Fitting Up" campaign of 1857. While work on the Hall continued throughout the study period, this particular phase merits a separate discussion because the Company regarded this activity as a distinct and planned action.

In trying to place the work done in 1857 within a preservation context, one may consider Carpenters' Hall as the first self-motivated program of restoration of an historic site by its original owners. The preservation of Mt. Vernon, though contemporary with the work at Carpenters' Hall, can be viewed as a nationwide rescue effort on the part of an outside organization to take over a site from its owner. While the other preservation effort described within this context, Washington's headquarters in Newburgh, began as a government action to rescue a site with the complete funding and management by the state of New York.

Carpenters' Hall is a unique historic site. The site, though in poor condition while it was rented out for business purposes, was restored through the sole initiative of the Company in 1857. They took upon themselves the task of improving the building for patriotic as much as financial reasons. The only comparable historic site, both in terms of historic context and use, is Independence Hall. The Company was aware that like their own Hall, Independence Hall suffered from a lack of appreciation. In 1865, an author writing about the history of Independence Hall remarked:

Independence Hall itself was for many years a mere lumber room... It is no wonder then that Carpenters' Hall which is private property, should have been suffered, until quite recently to be devoted to the ordinary purposes of trade, and to be kept in a condition by no means

⁴⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," August 5, 1857.

gratifying to those who love to see historic relics cherished and treated with becoming respect.⁴⁸

With this sentiment, it is obvious that the Company would be adamant about who should care for the Hall. Shortly after the completion of work on Carpenters' Hall, the Company received a letter from city officials inquiring about obtaining the building from the Company. This conveys the belief held by the city government in the 1850's that Carpenters' Hall, like Independence Hall, should be in the care of the city. The Company resolutely dismissed the communication, stating succinctly that

We in common with our fellow citizens venerate it [Carpenters' Hall] not only for its associations with the stirring events of the Revolution 'but we also hold it as a sacred trust committed to us by our predecessors, which nothing shall ever induce us to part with.' Also that having fitted up the Room Occupied by the first Congress as near as possible as it was originally finished we intend as heretofore to keep it open for the inspection of all who may wish to visit it.⁴⁹

Thus as recorded in the minutes, the Company reaffirmed, as one of their prime duties, their commitment to preserve the Hall.

They maintained the building by restoring its original purpose, as a meeting hall, rather than making it into a museum frozen in time and without any future besides its historic period. The uniqueness of Carpenters' Hall is its ability to partake in a continuum of history, one that honors the First Continental Congress as much as it honors the Company itself. For the Company has a history and a current presence which are omnipresent in the building. Preservation of the Hall, as it happened in 1857, while considerate of historic fabric, equally focused upon restoring its use a meeting place for

⁴⁸Caspar Souder, Carpenters' Hall. (Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1865), 6.

⁴⁹Charles Peterson, "Carpenters' Hall," Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, V. 43, Part I. (APS: Philadelphia, 1953), 113-114.

the Company. If the Hall was to continue as a living museum, meaning a site with an active and continuing history, then it would be necessary to change the Hall to fit the needs of the present.

The Carpenters' Company "fit up" their Hall in a unique way. While preserving the most salient attributes of the history of the Hall-the building, the library, significant furnishings-they were free to add or change as necessary those things which would make the Hall useful to the Company in 1857. Partitions are added, some rooms are given new uses and furnishings, with the overall effect of making the building more useful to Company. Yet the building is far from being modern, and its historic associations and 18th-century architecture are most prominent in the minds of the Company and visitors alike.

One might deduce that overt historicism and patriotic fervor grew in the following twenty years after the work of 1857. The later changes to the building are more dramatic and expensive, yet more often the motivation is historic pride rather than modernization. While the call for new wallpapers and interior decorations becomes apparent around 1870, the need for up-to-date decoration is tied directly to a desire to show the Hall in the best light for the approaching Centennial. It is part of an on-going process to embellish the Hall, brought about as a result of an appreciation of the building as an important symbol that ought to be shown in the best condition possible. The "fixing up" of the Hall continues into the present as modern improvements embellish the Hall in a way that often contradicts the documentation or existing fabric of the historic period.

III. Improvements to Carpenters' Hall: 1859-1877

A. Collections Management and Public Outreach

With the completion of the "fitting up" of Carpenters' Hall in August of 1857 the Company settled into the old Hall. The functions of the Company did not change as much as the building changed to fit the needs of the Company. In the years following the work done in 1857, up to the Centennial in 1876, the Company made improvements and changes to bring the building up to date and suitable to current needs. The discussion of these changes will be divided into categories of work done during the period. These areas include: Collections Management and Public Outreach, Interior Decoration of the Hall, Mechanical Systems of the Hall, Exterior Changes to the Hall and the Court, and Adjoining Properties, such as the store facing Chestnut Street and New Hall.

The way in which the Company chose to display its Hall derived from its most salient historic association - the meeting of the First Continental Congress. This event became the common element which defined the Hall as the birthplace of the nation in the minds of the Company. They were aware of the need to plan for visitors and for the display or reproduction of important documents.

In order that there be a continual presence in the Hall both in anticipation of visitors and for concerns over security, arrangements were made for a Superintendent to live at the Hall. Little is known of this first family, the minutes only record the day they moved in, July 29, 1857, and the payment to Martha Stewart of monthly fees for cleaning the Hall. Mrs Stewart was the widow of a member of the Company and upon her death in 1870, her daughter took over her duties at the Hall.

While the Company did not use the Hall daily, it was nevertheless open to the public. The Minutes record that the Managing Committee was directed to "open the Hall for public inspection at such times as they may be deemed suitable," and do not specify a schedule for making the Hall available to visitors.¹ The Hall has remained open to visitors free of charge up to the present. There was an increasing need to document the historic events in the Hall and to present them to the general public. Gradually, efforts towards presenting artifacts within the Hall and printing reminiscences and other documents for public distribution were undertaken by the Company.

In the midst of the "fitting up" of 1857, the Committee authorized the purchase of a gilt frame for the Roll of Members to display in the Hall. In September of that year extracts from the old minutes were ordered to be published for the first time. Of the 300 printed, 200 were given to all members of the Company as a means of conveying a sense of the past activities and events associated with the Hall and the Company.² The additional one hundred copies were for the public with several being sent to various repositories such as the Massachusetts Historical Society.³

Items from the founding of the Company, such as the original subscription papers for building the Hall, were framed and placed on display.⁴ Richard Betts's involvement in the display of archival papers and publication of documents increased over the years. Often his name is listed for referral to or handling of items given to the Company or those in its possession, especially when those items are to be displayed, published, or presented in some way to the public. However he was not directly involved in the

¹"Managing Cmte MSS," September 16, 1857.

²"Managing Cmte MSS," November 25, 1857.

³"Managing Cmte MSS," June 30, 1858.

⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," September 23, 1857.

stewardship of the company's own records. In the 1850's and 1860's, the Treasurer was directed to prepare an annual schedule of all documents in the fireproofs. In addition, he was to place the records of the previous year with the older documents and papers in storage. This occurred at the beginning of each year when the new officers of the Company were elected. In February of 1859, the Treasurer had read into the minutes a complete listing of the documents which included "one old Escutcheon from Old Door of Hall, 27 copper plates of mouldings and Hall."⁵ The practice of listing old documents and items in the fireproofs continued for several years, although the above mentioned items did not appear again.

Often the Company was given objects of historic importance either relating to the Company or the Revolutionary War. The Company received items such as original plans of the city and views of colonial era buildings or scenes. One plan of the city from 1754 published in London and given to an American in 1825, was noted for being "framed with wood connected to Carpenters' Hall either as growing near it or as having been a part of it..."⁶ The minutes often called for the sending of the thanks of the Company in response to the "valuable present of a rare document of the Olden times of Philadelphia."⁷ Items of a colonial nature or having associations with the Hall were received throughout the period, but were most common just after the "fitting up" of 1857 and in the years just prior to the Centennial.⁸

A subcommittee was formed in October of 1857 to procure portraits of the delegates of the First Continental Congress.⁹ The intent of having a

⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," February 9, 1859.

⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," January 13, 1858.

⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," March 9, 1859.

⁸Explanation of these gifts are not always included in the minutes, see footnote #25 which lists all references to such items. It is unknown if these items are still in the collection of the Hall.

⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," October 28, 1857.

portrait of every delegate who met in the Hall was never realized, as this concern fell from importance at the beginning of the new year when a new slate of officers were elected to the Company. After this point, the subcommittee does not appear in the minutes either for purchase orders for portraits or to report progress on their task. It can be assumed that the subcommittee dissolved itself without having purchased any portraits during this period.¹⁰ However it would seem that the members of the Company were more committed to taking care of the needs of the present rather than acquiring portraits of the past. The next year a subcommittee was formed to obtain Carpenters' tools for the use of the Hall, and within several months a chest of tools had been bought for \$12.86.¹¹

The outbreak of the Civil War brought a renewed sense of patriotism to the members of the Company. Just days after the firing on Fort Sumter, a new flag and pole were ordered and placed on the pediment of the Hall.¹² The Company was so anxious to trumpet their act of patriotism that they placed advertisements in the Evening Journal and the Evening Bulletin about the flag-raising.¹³ During the course of the Civil War the Carpenters' Company played an active part in the city's efforts to support the war and the troops. In 1863, during Lee's attack on Pennsylvania, the Company offered the Hall "to all such Carpenters who may see fit to form a company for home defence under such regulations as the Managing Committee may adopt."¹⁴ Meanwhile the Company took upon itself the cause of several wartime

¹⁰The Company owns a portrait of Peyton Randolph, president of the first Continental Congress, but the minutes during this period do not document the acquisition of this portrait which may have been received at another time.

¹¹"Managing Cmte MSS," March 9, 1859.

¹² See Illustration # 7.

¹³"Managing Cmte MSS," May 15, 1861 & June 5, 1861.

¹⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," July 1, 1863.

charities voting to donate \$250 to the Citizens Volunteer Hospital, \$125 to the Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloon, and \$125 to the United States Sanitary Commission. The Company increased their involvement with the Sanitary Commission by donating \$500 to aid the Great Central Fair of 1864.¹⁵ While the Fairs raised funds for the national organization and for local charities such as the Soldiers and Sailors Home, they were equally known for the displays of colonial artifacts and rooms such as the Pennsylvania Dutch Kitchen. Other regional fairs displayed similar period rooms, which became popular items in themselves. They were a means of showing the technical advancement of the present as much as a means of evoking the simpler times and "good life" of the past.

Benson J. Lossing, a prominent writer of Revolutionary histories, became involved in the U.S. Sanitary Commission and was noted as a consultant for historical accuracy on the period kitchens exhibited at several of the fairs. A specific mention of Lossing is made for his work on the Poughkeepsie Sanitary Fair Committee, which prominently displayed a Dutch kitchen similar to the one at Philadelphia.¹⁶ It is possible that if there was a connection between Lossing and Richard Betts as suggested earlier, that it could be one reason for the Company's support for the Sanitary Commission and for its fairs.

During this period comes the first mention of keeping any record of visitors to the Hall. In 1864, a motion appears in the minutes to purchase "a piece of oilcloth for first story around the Register."¹⁷ The following year

¹⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," April 19, 1864.

¹⁶Alan Axelrod, *The Colonial Revival in America*, (NY: Norton, 1985), 171,

¹⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," January 6, 1864. As the minutes are written this may also be interpreted as referring to an oilcloth around a hot-air floor register or grate. However, I have interpreted this to mean a register in which the names and signatures of visitors are recorded.

there is a purchase order for a new register, a pattern which continues through the Centennial. It seems that the Company began to keep a record of visitation over time. This is particularly apparent during the Centennial, when the Hall reached it's highest attendance level to that date.

During the year 1865, Richard Betts began three tasks dealing with the records of the Company. The Journal of Congress, a recent gift, was rebound and inscribed for display in a special glass case on the table in the hall. In addition, Betts is directed to have "the statistics of the Company prepared, framed, and placed in the Hall." In addition to the new items on display to visitors, Betts was involved in preparing a new document on the history of the Company. The Company had directed Betts to "transcribe in a book prepared for the purpose all laws, alterations in bylaws, and the resolutions of a permanent nature that may be passed by the Company."¹⁸ What Betts published included the bylaws and reminiscence of the Company and a catalogue of its library, and by 1865 three hundred copies were printed.¹⁹ The minutes note that 125 were bound and 175 were kept in pamphlet form.

At the end of the Civil War, the members continued their involvement in patriotic causes by draping the Hall in mourning for the death of President Lincoln and in placing a contribution box in the Hall to raise funds for the veterans at the Soldiers and Sailors Home.²⁰ Their support included allowing the use of the Hall to "dispose of goods remaining

¹⁸"Managing Cmte MSS," January 18 & 23, 1865 and November 15, 1865.

¹⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," December 6, 1865. This publication also appears as a pamphlet under the authorship of Casper Souder, for the benefit of the Soldiers & Sailors Home Fair, and is apparently partly the same as the publication by Richard K. Betts noted in the minutes without the catalogue of the library or bylaws of the Company.

²⁰"Managing Cmte MSS," April 26, 1865 & October 18, 1865.

from their late fair."²¹ They even chose to illuminate the Hall with gas jets and candles to celebrate the fourth of July. The practice of illuminating the Hall falls from the record only to be mentioned at the Centennial at New Year's Eve of 1876. For celebrating the new centennial year the Company hosted a festive party, the highlight being a series of gas jets across the front of the building which read "The Nations Birth Place".²²

During the several years following the Civil War, most activity of the Company focused upon renovations and the maintenance of the Hall. By 1870, the Company decided on a new policy for the use of the Hall, resolving that "the meeting of any association or society in this building is strictly forbidden," though this did not include the Captain's Society.²³ The Company had a long-standing relationship with the Captain's Society who had been renting the Hall for their meetings since as early as 1795.²⁴ From the passing of this resolution, the Company allowed the Society to use the Hall for their meetings at no charge, being that they were the only group allowed to use the Hall on a regular basis.

The first floor of the Hall still displayed documents of the Revolution and pictures and items relating to the Carpenters' Company. The Managing Committee continued to record the receipt of "ancient documents" which were most often framed to be hung on display in the Hall.²⁵ However the

²¹"Managing Cmte MSS," November 8, 1865. The Soldiers and Sailors Home had just held a benefit fair at the Union League and needed a place to store and sell the remaining items. The Company allowed this use with the restriction that it last no longer than two weeks.

²²"Managing Cmte MSS," January 6, 1876.

²³"Managing Cmte MSS," January 17, 1870.

²⁴Charles Peterson, "Carpenters' Hall," Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, V.43, Part I. (APS: Philadelphia, 1953), 109.

²⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," There are sixteen references to the receipt of historic documents; November 11, 1857, January 13, 1858, March 31, 1858, March 9, 1859, May 27, 1863, December 1, 1869, April 4, 1870, July 6, 1870, May 3, 1871, April 3, 1872, August 6, 1873, October 10, 1873, March 4, 1874, October 6, 1875, May 3, 1876, July 5, 1876.

manner in which items in the Hall were displayed is improved upon through the embellishment of cases and the interior of the Hall itself. The cases at the east and west wall of the first floor, presumably those which held the two banners of the Company, were directed to have gilded eagles placed above each case.²⁶ By 1870, the Company had removed the old fireproof vault at the northeast corner of the first floor entry, which increased area of the vestibule. The partition across the south end of the Hall was removed and the columns encased with a new Ionic order trim which, with the addition of an encaustic tile floor changed the appearance of the first floor.²⁷ The Company had also made considerable renovations to the library on the second floor.²⁸ A common mention in the minutes is for the re-gilding of frames. All of these improvements added to the enhanced display of objects and historic documents.

In 1871 the Company decided "to have photographs of members taken and having same framed and suitably placed in Hall."²⁹ In a little over a year, the Company having engaged F. Guttekunst to photograph each member, were able to have the complete set framed and hung in the Hall with a bronze rail around the frame to protect it from visitors who might get too close. ³⁰

Only two references to photographs taken of the Hall itself are mentioned in the minutes. An ambrotype of the exterior of the Hall taken in 1857 from the rear of the store at 322 Chestnut Street has not been located.³¹ In 1871 Robert Newell gave two photographs to the Company, one interior

²⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," April 4 & June 1, 1870.

²⁷The laying of the encaustic floor was followed shortly after by the purchase from "Goodyear Rubber & Co. for gum cord for chair feet in Hall" on April 4, 1870.

²⁸These first and second floor interior decorative changes will be explained more thoroughly in the following section on Interior Decoration of the Hall.

²⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," May 3, 1871.

³⁰"Managing Cmte MSS," June 6, 1871 & October 2, 1872.

³¹"Fitting-Up Cmte MSS," June 22, 1857.

and one exterior, which still exist.³² In 1874, the minutes refer to "stereotype plates" as part of printing a pamphlet about the Celebration of the "150th year of the Company and the 100th year of the Continental Congress."³³

The charity of the Company did not waver after the Civil War. While continuing to support the Soldiers and Sailors Home³⁴, the Company readily gave help to others such as those in need after the devastating fire in Chicago in 1871.³⁵ Towards people in their own employ, the Company displayed great kindness by assisting Sarah Stewart, daughter of their Janitor. Martha Stewart, Sarah's mother, who had been hired to work at the Hall since her husband James Stewart, a member of the Company, had passed away in 1856.³⁶ The Company commended Mrs. Stewart for having "satisfactorily performed the duties of Janitress of the Hall for a period of sixteen years."³⁷ Upon Martha Stewart's death in 1872, the Company decided to reimburse her daughter for all expenses in caring for her mother during her sickness and in paying for the funeral. The Company then employed Sarah Stewart to care for the Hall.³⁸

³²"Managing Cmte MSS," September 6, 1871. These exist at Carpenters' Hall (Accession # 71 & 72) and in the collection of the Library Company (Reference: Robert Newell Album P9260, #39a & 47a). Also See Illustration # 8 & 9.

³³"Managing Cmte MSS," December 2, 1874 & list of expenses January 3, 1877.

³⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," December 11, 1867 & April 4, 1870.

³⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," October 16, 1871.

³⁶According to the biographical records on members kept at the Carpenters' Company, the only information about James Stewart is of his election to the Company in 1833 and his death in 1856. He is not listed in the Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects.

³⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," March 3, 1872.

³⁸"Managing Cmte MSS," March 3, 1872. Although the minutes do not explicitly refer to the Stewarts as residing in the Hall, it can be assumed that they lived in the Superintendent's Quarters on the second floor. The minutes do not mention any other person or family outside the Company other than the Stewarts. After the Centennial, the Company extended their gratitude to Sarah Stewart for her "ladylike bearing in greeting visitors to the Hall" (January 17, 1877) which implies that Miss Stewart was a constant presence in the Hall; a commitment of time and energy to which a janitor on meager salary would not be required to perform unless residing in the Hall.

By far the greatest expense during the period was for investments in Centennial stock, for which the Company began their subscription in 1872 for a total investment of \$1000.00.³⁹ The Company's enthusiasm for the Centennial became apparent in their preparations. Several improvements were made to the displays in the Hall. The Company directed that on the large gilt frame for the Roll of Members the word "expelled" be removed from where it appears next to the name of members.⁴⁰ Apparently the Managing Committee was directed to do this in order that visitors would not look upon the expulsion of members of the Company. The Committee procured a gilt frame similar to the Roll of Members and placed it in the Hall to display historic documents "and thus secure our Company many others that are acquiring additional value with each proceeding year."⁴¹ A special purchase was made to procure a gilt framed portrait of George Washington.⁴² Several gifts to the Company during this period were from important visitors such as Patrick Henry's great grandson who presented the Company with a copy of Sully's portrait of Henry.⁴³ Other improvements to displays in the Hall were to the flags which were "re-upholstered" for the Centennial.⁴⁴ An iron gate placed across the stair with the word "private" signaled the increased visitation to the Hall and the need to secure areas from public access.⁴⁵

In honor of its first historic event, the Centennial of the Continental Congress, the Company held a celebration in the Hall on September 5, 1874.

³⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," January 15, 1872.

⁴⁰"Managing Cmte MSS," May 5, 1874.

⁴¹"Managing Cmte MSS," October 10, 1873.

⁴²"Managing Cmte MSS," January 3, 1877.

⁴³"Managing Cmte MSS," July 5, 1876.

⁴⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," October 7, 1874.

⁴⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," March 1, 1876.

A Committee including Richard K. Betts, organized the event to include an oration by H. A. Brown and a band to play music at the Hall. The Company sent special requests to Washington, D. C., to invite the president and members of Congress to the event at Carpenters' Hall. Although most declined, Vice-President Wilson decided to attend, and the Company took care of his expenses while in Philadelphia. The Committee decorated the Hall and had a special illumination of the Hall just for the event. Afterwards, 1000 copies of the proceedings of the event including a copy of Brown's oration and stereotype plates were printed for distribution.⁴⁶ While the celebration of the centennial of the Congress involved some effort and planning, the events for the Centennial of 1876 were even more extensive if only for the reason that the event was for more than just one day.

To open the Centennial year on New Year's Eve, the Company unfurled a new flag with gas jets across the facade reading "The Nation's Birth Place." The minutes note that the display brought the attention of many spectators who enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the "birth of the Centennial Year in this Historic Building."⁴⁷ By February the Company had procured buntings and flags to decorate the interior and exterior of the Hall for Washington's Birthday.⁴⁸ Soon after the Managing Committee received approval to reprint 10,000 copies of Carpenters' Hall and It's Historic Memories.⁴⁹ By November of that year the Company had given out 70,000 free copies of the publication.

⁴⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," September 2, 1874, November 4, 1874, December 2, 1874 . For a complete list of expenses see January 3, 1877.

⁴⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," January 6, 1876.

⁴⁸"Managing Cmte MSS," February 16, 1876.

⁴⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," March 29, 1876. Additional 50,000 printings recorded as paid on September 6 & 12, 1876.

The Centennial Exposition in 1876 brought many visitors to Philadelphia, most of whom were to visit the historic sites of the city as well as Fairmount Park. In July of 1876, a chronicle of the events of the Centennial reads:

That Philadelphia is the Mecca of every patriotic American heart which turns as surely as the needle to the pole to the birth-place of American Independence, even a century after it was declared, the unparalleled influx of visitors into the city on the days preceding July 3rd and 4th of the Centennial year was a striking proof.⁵⁰

While the Company did anticipate that an increase in visitation would occur, no one believed it would reach a level approaching 70,000. Throughout the spring, summer and fall of 1876, the minutes reveal the Committee rushing to print additional copies of the Reminiscences and purchasing more registers to record visitors. By the end of the Centennial, the Company looked back upon the year and determined that it was necessary to "cleanse" the Hall after such use and repair the damage that had occurred over the last several month which included a general cleaning, painting, and replacement of worn materials.

In the course of the twenty or so years from the the Fitting up of 1857 to the Centennial, the Company became more adept at formulating a method of presenting collections in the Hall. Although not a self-conscious effort, the Managing Committee and members such as Richard K. Betts sought to improve the display of artifacts and objects within the Hall. Their goal was two fold, to present a picture of what the Carpenters' Company is and had been over time and what historic events were associated with the Hall. The sophistication in curatorial management of the Hall was probably on par with

⁵⁰J. S. Ingram, The Centennial Exposition. (New York: Arno Press, 1976 reprint of 1876 edition), 652.

the few other privately owned historic sites, and compared favorably with the publicly owned sites such as Independence Hall and Mt. Vernon.

III. Improvements to Carpenters' Hall: 1859-1877

B. Interior Decoration

The decoration and design of the interior spaces of Carpenters' Hall are just as crucial to public perception of this historic site as the curatorial and archival display of objects. At a site such as Carpenters' Hall, where the building itself is an artifact on display, it is important to understand the physical changes to the site which are a reflection of its history. The changes made to the physical fabric of the building during the period after the fitting up of 1857 are an example of how the building as an artifact can be understood as a structure of many layers, all of which contribute to its overall history.

After the fitting up, the Company did not engage in many changes to the interior until several years after the Civil War. Having spent a not inconsequential sum to improve the Hall in 1857, the Company focused its attention on other properties on Carpenters' Court such as New Hall and the store on Chestnut Street. However, activity at the old Hall such as adding items to the collection and making improvements to the building were done whenever they were necessary.

In March of 1859, several new bookcases were constructed due to a request by the Library Committee for more shelf space.⁵¹ The existing cases were moved from New Hall in 1857 to the Committee Room, and are the predecessors to the built-in cases which currently exist. Changes to the Committee Room on the second floor were the result of dissatisfaction in meeting the needs of all members who used it. In 1860, the Managing Committee gave the treasurer permission to order a new desk "for his use for

⁵¹"Managing Cmte MSS," March 9 & May 18, 1859.

books and papers to be placed in Committee Room."⁵² In 1862 the blinds in the room were repaired and a new fireproof safe was purchased.⁵³ The clock in the room was fixed in 1865, and the following year new cushions for the chairs were procured for \$25.00.⁵⁴ In 1867 the Committee purchased new shades for the gas lights in their room; in addition they bought a cloth to cover the table, and authorized the purchase of a desk for the secretary of the Company.⁵⁵ Apparently due to the number and frequency of persons using the room, it was decided "to have locks put on the drawers in committee room."⁵⁶ The sum of these minor changes was to result in the need for a reorganization of the space.

By now the Managing Committee had determined to make a sweeping renovation of the Committee Room and Library. In April of 1868, the Company directed the Managing Committee to "modernise the Committee Room."⁵⁷ This subcommittee of which Richard Betts was a part, undertook the task of renovating the room. All new work was done in walnut, which included the bookcases along the walls, rolling blinds, inside shutters, and eleven new desks for the committee and treasurer.⁵⁸ Chairs, carpet, a new clock and gas fixtures along with a re-papering and repainting of the room rounded out the renovation. A reconstruction of the chimney-breast was necessary to allow for the insertion of a fireproof vault.

Most of the carpentry work was performed by a member of the Company, Thomas Shuster, who is often listed in the minutes for minor

⁵²"Managing Cmte MSS," September 12, 1860.

⁵³"Managing Cmte MSS," November 26 & December 3, 1862.

⁵⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," October 25, 1865 & May 2, 1866.

⁵⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," April 24, July 17, & October 2, 1867.

⁵⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," February 19, 1868.

⁵⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," April 22, 1868.

⁵⁸"Managing Cmte MSS," June 24, 1868.

repairs and improvements to the Hall. Most of the work was completed by the summer of 1868, but there was still a problem with the arrangement of the space. The following year, the Managing Committee decided to remove from the Committee Room "desks and platform and substitute in place thereof a large suitably arranged table with drawers for the use of the several committees and members.. and to dispose of the same."⁵⁹ By 1869 the arrangement of the space had been defined, with the use of one large committee table which could serve all members who used the room, rather than many individual desks which were most impractical. The unused desks were sold at Birch's Auction House, while the old bookcases were offered for sale to members.⁶⁰ In addition, the Committee decided to "partition off a portion of the South Room for a Wardrobe and have same papered,"⁶¹ a task done in walnut to match the existing work in the second floor wash room. Other work on the second floor related to repainting or papering the rooms of the Superintendent's quarters and laying oilcloth carpets in the entry of the second floor.

Work on the first floor of the Hall began in 1869 with two important decisions to lay encaustic tiles across the entire floor of the hall and entry and to remove the partition across the south end of the hall which had created a wardens' room in 1857.⁶² These decisions came about through the initial motions of Richard Betts and were voted upon, which was an unusual occurrence in the minutes of this period.⁶³ The Philadelphia firm of S.A.

⁵⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," January 20, 1869.

⁶⁰"Managing Cmte MSS," January 23 & April 7, 1869.

⁶¹"Managing Cmte MSS," March 3, 1869.

⁶²"Managing Cmte MSS," November 20 & December 1, 1869.

⁶³"Managing Cmte MSS," November 20, 1869.

Harrison was engaged to supply the English encaustic tiles for the floor.⁶⁴ The removal of the partition from the hall would have increased the light level and brought the proportions of the room more closely to their condition prior to the "fitting up" in 1857. Yet it is perhaps this added light that forced the Committee to acquire shades for the windows of the first floor.⁶⁵ In another recorded vote, the Managing Committee agreed to alter the existing columns in the hall so that they would "be cased with fluted staves and shafts as Ionic Columns."⁶⁶ The ceilings were "frescoed", though probably not traditional fresco work. It may be that the ceilings were covered in a fresco wallpaper of the kind popular during the period.⁶⁷

In 1873 the Company continued its work on the first floor of the Hall by deciding to remove the fireproofs on the east side of the vestibule.⁶⁸ Extra care was taken in this project to record the work and report the findings to the Company. Richard Betts supervised the project of removing the fireproofs and his report was read into the minutes detailing the process.⁶⁹ The fireproofs were constructed in the early 1790's and apparently were at the east side of the vestibule, accessible through the window frame. They were constructed as part of brick shed attached to the exterior of the building at its northeast corner. However, the newer brickwork was separated from the old wall by a 1/8 inch thick layer of paper "so that neither bricks or mortar should

⁶⁴ S.A. Harrison was the firm which carried encaustic tiles manufactured by Minton, Hollins & Company of Staffordshire, England. (see "Plain & Encaustic Tiles, for Floors" in The Architectural Review and American Builders' Journal, November 1869.p. 475)

⁶⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," February 2, 1870.

⁶⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," January 17, 1870.

⁶⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," February 2 & April 4, 1870.

Fresco papers were popular in the mid-19th century and often were designed to simulate architectural panels of mouldings and cornices. A description of these types of papers is found in Catherine Lynn Wallpaper in America: From the 17th Century to World War I, (N.Y.: W.W. Norton, 1980.), 344.

⁶⁸ See Illustration # 11.

⁶⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," September 9, 1873.

touch the Original Walls."⁷⁰ The original window frames were still intact, one missing a sash, the other complete with inside shutters. Betts concluded that from the evidence he found "that the inside of the Hall was still unpainted when the fireproofs were constructed, though more than twenty years from its first occupancy."⁷¹ The items in the old fireproofs were removed and placed in the cabinets of the wash room on the second floor; an additional five feet were added to these cases to accommodate the storage of the documents.

The only change in original existing fabric was the need to remove "the decayed board partition alongside the cellar stairway and have a brick wall in its place as an additional security from fire."⁷² This alteration is evident on the inside of the stairway between the cellar and the first floor entry. The care taken to document the removal of the fireproofs demonstrates the ability of Richard Betts to influence the work done at the Hall and the desire to document the changes incurred by his generation of members of the Company.

A final group of interior work occurred around the Centennial. In the spring of 1876 new oilcloth carpets were purchased, areas of the Hall were repainted, a security gate was installed across the stairway, and a new water cooler was placed in the Hall.⁷³ Of course the interior was much embellished by flags and decorative bunting purchased especially for the Centennial. After the Exposition closed in November, the Managing Committee undertook the task of "cleansing" the Hall, a process necessary due to the high visitation

⁷⁰"Managing Cmte MSS," September 9, 1873.

⁷¹"Managing Cmte MSS," September 9, 1873.

⁷²"Managing Cmte MSS," September 9, 1873.

⁷³"Managing Cmte MSS," February 16, March 1, & June 7, 1876.

rate.⁷⁴ A subcommittee to perform this duty, lead by Richard Betts, carried out the necessary repainting and replacement of worn items.

The interior decoration of the Hall during the period reflects a greater self-awareness by the members of the Company that they must care for and protect the Hall as an important historic site. Although most efforts seem contingent on large national celebrations, the commitment demonstrated by the members steadily increases as does their willingness to finance projects which improve the Hall more than that required to serve the needs of the Company. While the "fitting up" saved the Hall for the use of the Company as a meeting hall, it was the changes within the Company over the following twenty years up to the Centennial which transformed the Hall into a historic site that would be maintained and open to the public.

⁷⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," November 15, 1876.

III. Improvements to Carpenters' Hall: 1859-1877

C. Mechanical Systems

To have a complete understanding of the work done at the Hall, the mechanical systems must be reviewed in conjunction with other work. Artifact displays and interior decoration are often the features of an historic site that are most apparent and readily grasped by visitors. Often the mechanical systems of a historic site, which are less visible, can suffer the most neglect due their relative invisibility. It is usually an emergency which necessitates an upgrade or improvement in the mechanical systems of a building. Continual preventive maintenance as well as long-term capital improvements are both necessary to the stability of a historic building and can demonstrate the veracity of the governing organization.

At Carpenters' Hall, the improvements to mechanical systems are more often than not reactive rather than preventative measures. The first major upgrading of the mechanical systems came during the "fitting up" of 1857 when gas lighting and plumbing were introduced. After this periodic modifications to the heating and lighting systems are mostly alterations for new or evolving uses of the interior spaces.

The first of such modifications came about in the fall of 1857. In preparation for the annual dinner the Company decided to place a cooking range in the cellar; gas lights, an ash pit and coal bin were added soon after.⁷⁵ Improvements to the new heating system were made with the addition of a "cold air box" for greater circulation of fresh air. While this was the final

⁷⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," October 28, & November 25, 1857; October 5, 1859.

major change to the heating system during this period, it was necessary to make general repairs to the system on a nearly annual basis.⁷⁶

The windows of the Hall provided circulation and cooling in the summer and security through the year. The outside shutters remained throughout this period and were most likely used for protection as they still are. Iron bars are only used on the basement windows as an added security measure.⁷⁷ Photographs of the period show the building open to allow for cooling of the interior by cross-ventilation.⁷⁸

Improvements to the plumbing system of the Hall were made continuously from 1857 to the Centennial. During the "fitting up" new water closets were installed in the second floor of the Hall, however they were of a type that required continual maintenance.⁷⁹ In addition, the Company still maintained their outdoor privy, adding a wooden screen to it in 1863.⁸⁰ Interior plumbing existed only in the second floor kitchen and water closet of the Superintendent quarters, and in a water closet off the south end of the Committee Room. A bathtub was purchased for the Superintendent's quarters in 1868.⁸¹ Other than regular repairs, there were no other references in the minutes regarding the plumbing system or the type and arrangement of equipment such as sinks and toilets.

⁷⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," Repairs to the heating system are noted on the following dates: October 12, 1859; January 8, 1862; August 23, 1865; February 7, 1866; February 6, 1867; January 22, 1868; October 14, 1868; January 4, 1871; April 2, 1873; January 7, 1874; January 6, 1875;

⁷⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," October 5, 1859.

⁷⁸ See Illustration # 10.

⁷⁹The water closets probably consisted of a pan-toilet or other type of early device which due to its particular design often required the replacement of parts. Throughout the period of study there are notations of plumbing repairs on a roughly annual basis.

⁸⁰"Managing Cmte MSS," April 29, 1863. There were two privies on the Court during this period, one at the southwest corner of the yard for the use of Carpenters' Hall and one at the northwest corner of the yard next to New Hall. This privy was enclosed and connected to the adjacent buildings and was apparently used up to the end of the 19th century. See R. Bruce Howell's 1958 report, "Archaeological Investigations of Carpenters' Court" at INHP Library.

⁸¹"Managing Cmte MSS," May 13, 1869.

Gas lighting was a significant addition to the Hall during the "fitting up" of 1857. With increased use of the Hall and alterations to the window treatments, new burners and lights were added as necessary. Gas lights were added to the cellar in 1857.⁸² New arrangements in the Committee Room in 1859 required that two extra pendant gas lights be hung.⁸³ Gas jets were added to illuminate the Hall for special occasions such as Fourth of July celebrations or for New Year's Eve of 1876 when gas jets illuminated a sign reading "The Nation's Birth Place."⁸⁴ Gas was used for cooking, too, as the minutes recorded the replacement of a gas oven in Superintendent's kitchen in 1868.⁸⁵ New gas lighting fixtures for the Hall were introduced between 1868 and 1870.⁸⁶ At this point the "old chandelier" (probably from 1857) and some scrap iron in the Hall were sold.⁸⁷ In 1873 new burners were purchased for the gas fixtures in the Hall.⁸⁸ Gas lighting was an important system within the Hall and added to its use and decoration.

Generally, the maintenance of the mechanical systems of Carpenters' Hall became a function of the changing use and needs of building and those who used it. While certainly not negligent, the Company sought to make improvements either in response to deterioration or as an improvement in decoration or use. Such improvements were a crucial part of the stewardship of this historic property.

⁸²"Managing Cmte MSS," December 9, 1857.

⁸³"Managing Cmte MSS," March 30, 1859.

⁸⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," July 19, 1865 & January 6, 1876.

⁸⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," April 1, 1868.

⁸⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," July 22, 1868; April 7, 1869; February 2 & July 6 1870,

⁸⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," August 3, 1870.

⁸⁸"Managing Cmte MSS," April 2, 1873.

III. Improvements to Carpenters' Hall: 1859-1877

D. Exterior Changes

The exterior of Carpenters' Hall reflects the level of care of the building as much as its interior. The most public face of the building, the north front towards Chestnut Street is framed by the buildings on the Court. The traditional view of the Hall was dictated by its placement on an interior parcel set back from the street by a long court.⁸⁹ This view has changed in recent years with the creation of Independence National Historical Park, however even the buildings which stand on the court today still demonstrate the importance of the exterior of the Hall and its placement on Carpenters' Court.

The setting of Carpenters' Hall was most often described as being a site that was shielded from the rush of the street and the advance of progress, a fact demonstrated by the changing architecture around Carpenters' Court. A description of the Hall from the mid-19th century attests to this view.

The ancient Hall with the exception of some recent additions and improvements, stands just as it did in the days of the Revolution; and with its drowsy old semi-circular windows, its ancient blue-header bricks, which chequer its front, and its adjacent grass plot, it is a quiet retreat, as though it stood miles from the town, instead of within less than 200 feet from the core and center of the 'maddening crowd's ignoble strife.'⁹⁰

The exterior of the Hall and its surroundings are perhaps the one area which has received the least amount of change. The main exterior features, the patterned brick and wooden elements have not been changed at all. The roof and cupola changed only as replacement was necessary. The front pediment

⁸⁹ see. Photo of Hall from Chestnut St. 1855 (M.A. Root; P.9057.169(Brenner) at LiCo.)

⁹⁰Caspar Souder Carpenters' Hall (Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1865), p. 6.

had the addition of a flagstaff and painted sign. Nonetheless, the exterior of the Hall closely resembles its original appearance.

Soon after the "fitting up" of 1857, the Company had iron gates placed at the head of the Court on Chestnut Street.⁹¹ The iron gates were finished in 1858 with a granite base and, with the addition of a pointer stone on the west side of the entrance labeled "Carpenters' Court," helped to define the public entrance to the Hall.⁹² With these new gates, the security of the Hall could be better maintained by closing the entrance to "persons entering at improper hours."⁹³ The building at the east side of the court had its windows closed up with bricks at the request of the Company, which may have been in response to a need for greater fire protection.⁹⁴ A committee looking into improving fire protection recommended that rather than place iron shutters and an iron cornice on the Hall it would be better to build a wall on the sides of the court which would provide security and not modify the appearance of the Hall.⁹⁵ These concerns were warranted by the increased size of the buildings adjoining the Hall, especially to the west of the Company's property.

Improvements were made to the land immediately surrounding the Hall to utilize that area as a garden. During the winter of 1863, the Company had work done on arbors for the garden.⁹⁶ That Spring the brickwork and gate around the privy was repaired and a screen placed around it. By 1865, the first mention in the minutes of purchasing items to plant in the garden is

⁹¹"Managing Cmte MSS," May 3, 1858.

⁹²"Managing Cmte MSS," January 19, 1859.

⁹³"Managing Cmte MSS," April 19, 1859.

⁹⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," April 4, 1860.

⁹⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," October 24, 1860.

⁹⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," January 18, 1863.

listed within the regular monthly payment to the Superintendent.⁹⁷ The following year the Company made a special purchase of an evergreen tree to plant in the garden in the front of the Hall.⁹⁸ Again in 1868 the Company has a tree planted in the front yard.⁹⁹ By 1870, the Company had hired James Graham to maintain the garden around the Hall, spending \$52.81 that year for plants and flowers.¹⁰⁰ After construction on the Court in 1873, the garden area was resodded and planted.¹⁰¹ William Eyre, a member of the Company, constructed 15 arbors and a trellis for the garden which were made of wood and iron.¹⁰² Up to 1876, the Company continued to employ a gardener and even purchased a lawn mower to keep the grass as trim as possible.¹⁰³

At the front of the Court alterations were being carried out during this period as well. The gates at the head of the Court and the lamposts at the front stairs of the Hall were "painted and varnished" in 1866.¹⁰⁴ However, by 1870 the gates fronting Chestnut Street needed to be refinished and were galvanized to provide greater protection from deterioration.¹⁰⁵ In addition, a small tin box was placed on east side of the gates to receive newspapers and other materials.¹⁰⁶ By 1873 the latch for the iron gates needed repair, as did the shutter bolts on the Hall.¹⁰⁷ In 1875, the Company decided to have the gates facing Chestnut Street "painted and bronzed with gold bronze or gilded

⁹⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," May 10, 1865. The usual amount of purchase is \$10.00, and is done by Sarah Stewart. After she becomes ill, a hired gardener maintains responsibility for the garden.

⁹⁸"Managing Cmte MSS," October 31, 1866.

⁹⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," November 4, 1868.

¹⁰⁰"Managing Cmte MSS," July 6, 1870.

¹⁰¹"Managing Cmte MSS," May 6, 1874.

¹⁰²"Managing Cmte MSS," September 1 & October 6, 1875.

¹⁰³"Managing Cmte MSS," July 5, 1876.

¹⁰⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," July 1, 1866.

¹⁰⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," September 7, 1870.

¹⁰⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," December 18, 1867.

¹⁰⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," April 2, 1873.

in the best manner. Also to have galvanized iron gates erected on east and west sides and on a line with front of Hall."¹⁰⁸ These additional gates at the sides of the Hall further secured the gardens and most importantly the Hall.

Much work was done on the Court due to the construction of the new Guarantee Trust and Safe Deposit Bank building on the east side of the court and because of work done to connect the water drainage pipes to a new culvert.¹⁰⁹ New paving and curbs of north river flagging and Belgian block were used to repair the Court. The Company required that the Bank owners pay for the damage to the Court and the necessary re-paving and setting of the stones.

The first repairs to the roof did not occur until nearly ten years after the "fitting up." Small jobs were done on the tin downspouts in the Spring of 1867, 1868, and 1871.¹¹⁰ A lightning rod and ball was installed on the roof in 1871.¹¹¹ That same year the Company decided to have a sign on the central pediment of the north side of the building painted to read "Carpenters' Hall. Company Instituted 1724."¹¹² Major reconstruction of the cupola was undertaken in 1873 costing over \$600.00 to make repairs with galvanized iron.¹¹³ The exterior of the Hall was painted in 1869 and again in 1875.¹¹⁴

The improvements to the exterior of the Hall are indicative of which elements the Company felt were most important to this historic site. The building itself, though little changed, was certainly highlighted by the addition of a flag and signs. The garden evoked a pastoral image of the

¹⁰⁸"Managing Cmte MSS," June 2, 1875.

¹⁰⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," December 3, 1873. This is a full report of the culvert work.

¹¹⁰"Managing Cmte MSS," May 1, 1867; April 15, 1868; October 4, 1871.

¹¹¹"Managing Cmte MSS," June 6, 1871.

¹¹²"Managing Cmte MSS," October 16 & December 6, 1871.

¹¹³"Managing Cmte MSS," September 9, 1873.

¹¹⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," November 3, 1869 & December 12, 1875.

colonial past, albeit one that was probably cleaner and more manicured than the original. Improvements on the court for security simply reflected the changing neighborhood of Chestnut Street in the mid-19th century. The new gates which defined the public front of the building were probably the most visible improvement during the period.

The pedestrian who forms a part of the busy throng that pours daily along the south side of Chestnut Street will notice about midway between Third and Fourth streets a handsome iron gateway tastefully bronzed. This gate bears at its summit the following inscription: Carpenters' Hall, 1724. The gate, although a formidable-looking barrier is not kept fastened, the object of its erection being the exclusion of persons who have made the passage way it protects a common nuisance of late years. The gate and the passage it adorns and protects, leads to Carpenters' hall, a cherished relic of Revolutionary times.¹¹⁵

The rapid changes in the area around Carpenters' Hall attest to Company's steadfast ability to maintain the site in a way recognizable as a relic of the colonial era yet still able to survive the advance of modern problems.

¹¹⁵Caspar Souder, Carpenters' Hall, (Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1865),5.

III. Improvements to Carpenters' Hall: 1859-1877

E. Adjacent Properties

The buildings immediately fronting Carpenters' Court merit discussion because they relate to the original decision to move back to and fit up the old Hall for the meetings of the Company. These buildings also demonstrate the changing nature of the commercial area of Chestnut Street during the mid-19th century. Two buildings other than Carpenters' Hall, which the Company owned and which influenced its restoration and perception, were New Hall and 322 Chestnut Street.¹¹⁶ New Hall was the building the Company used from 1791 to 1857 as their meeting Hall. Constructed on the west side of the Court closest to old Hall, New Hall provided a proximity to the historic site which forced the Company to remember their Revolutionary past. While using New Hall, the Company yielded a financial benefit from renting out the old Hall and the building at 322 Chestnut Street. The Store as it is often referred to in the minutes, provided the added incentive the Company needed to make their move back to the old Hall.

Part of the argument which persuaded the Company to act in 1857 centered upon the value of the property at 322 Chestnut and the propensity of the site to produce a greater yield in the future. Construction of a larger building, one which encompassed the ground of both New Hall and the Store would yield a greater rental profit and allow for long-term financial support for the Company. If it weren't for these properties and others which the Company owned, the restoration and upkeep of the old Hall would not have

¹¹⁶ See Illustration # 12, 13, & 14.

been possible. Otherwise it would have certainly fallen like other historic buildings to the changing fortunes of the lower Chestnut Street area during the nineteenth century. As Henry James remarked upon the stewardship of important sites of New York City, "the possession of an historic monument of the first order would long since have been replaced by the higher advantage of a row of skyscrapers yielding rents."¹¹⁷ So, it would seem fortunate that amid the rapid advance of development that Carpenters' Hall and the Court on which stands would survive.

Soon after the "fitting up" in 1857, the Company began to make inquiries regarding the property on the west side of the Court. The tenant of several years at the store was the wallpaper firm of Hart Montgomery & Company.¹¹⁸ They were the firm contracted for all of the wallpaper work done at the hall in 1857. By 1860, the Company had obtained specifications from the architectural firm of Collins and Autenreith for a building on the site of 322 Chestnut Street.¹¹⁹ The proposed building was to cost \$22,000 and be constructed of a cast iron front with pressed brick facing the court. By the calculations of the Company, the income derived from rentals would pay for the construction within seven years.¹²⁰ The current lease for the Store was terminated in October of 1860, yet the Company chose not to construct the new building. Although the decision to forego the plans for a new building is not discussed in the minutes, it might have been the result of several factors such as a bad economy or the increasing turmoil in advance of the Civil War. Nevertheless, the Company undertook a renovation of the Store which in it's

¹¹⁷Henry James, *The American Scene*. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1968)269.

¹¹⁸ See Illustration # 11. The firms of Hart Montgomery & Company, Merrill Miskey & Thackera, and H. C. Coates, visible in this view, were used by the Company for wallpaper, gas fixtures, and printing respectively.

¹¹⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," March 14, 1860.

¹²⁰"Managing Cmte MSS," April 11, 1860.

sum was nearly three times greater than that expended on the "fitting up" of the Hall in 1857.¹²¹ The investment in the building allowed it to continue to be used for the next hundred years; the Store and New Hall were demolished in the 1950's by the National Park Service as part of the new Independence National Historical Park.

During the upgrading of the Store in 1861 the Company was mostly interested in making the property suitable for rent. Soon after, at the request of the new tenant of the Store, a one-story counting house was added to the rear of the building.¹²² After these renovations and additions were made to the west side of the court, the only other activity was the regular maintenance of these buildings. As part of general improvements for new tenants in 1867, the exterior of the Store and the counting house were painted, and a new stair was constructed inside from the first to second story.¹²³ Also, the interior was painted and papered, the cellar cleaned and whitewashed and gas fixtures put into the Store.¹²⁴ It was at this time that iron bars were introduced on the windows of the counting house facing the court.¹²⁵ Repairs to the plumbing, gutters, furnace and other general repairs to 322 Chestnut Street were listed in the minutes as often those regarding the Hall.¹²⁶ In 1872, the Store was painted again at the request of new tenants.¹²⁷

It was in 1872 that the Company sold a portion of its property on the Court. In advance of the construction of the new Guarantee Trust and Safe

¹²¹"Managing Cmte MSS," January 16, 1861. The Company spent \$9273.49 to improve 322 Chestnut Street while the expenses for fitting up and furnishing the Hall as recorded in September of 1858 were \$3983.09

¹²²"Managing Cmte MSS," October 2, 1861.

¹²³"Managing Cmte MSS," December 11, 1867

¹²⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," May 29 & July 17 1867.

¹²⁵"Managing Cmte MSS," April 10, 1867.

¹²⁶"Managing Cmte MSS," July 22, 1868; January 13, 1869; July 7, 1869; August 9, 1869; January 7, 1874.

¹²⁷"Managing Cmte MSS," January 3, 1872.

Deposit Bank, a realtor inquired to the Company about purchasing a plot of land at the rear of the east side of Court which was occupied by "our two-storied office building."¹²⁸ Although initially hesitant, after some consideration the Company sold the property for \$5,000.00 and had the title transferred by the Spring of 1873.¹²⁹ The clearing of this land for the construction of a new building caused some intrusion upon the court but had little effect on the Hall itself. However, the addition of larger buildings around the Hall might be said to have aided the charm of the setting like an "odd town-nook, " as Henry James had written. He described Carpenters' Hall as being admirably "shaded from the general glare; (though) the shade I speak of may have been but the shade of 'tall' buildings."¹³⁰

Perhaps as a result of the new construction, a water drainage problem developed at the Store. At that time the Managing Committee decided to construct a culvert in the Court to handle all waste water and runoff from Company property.¹³¹ As the Court was already in some disrepair, it was an opportune time to make improvements and have the Court suitably repaved.¹³² In preparation for the Centennial the Company had the exterior of the Store repainted at the same time the Hall was being done and had "the rough castings" on the east wall of the Store repaired.¹³³ The final touch on the Court was to have the stone pointer sign re-gilded for the aid of visitors in search of Carpenters' Hall.¹³⁴

¹²⁸"Managing Cmte MSS," December 16, 1872.

¹²⁹"Managing Cmte MSS," April 2, 1873. See James C. Massey's Carpenters' Court, rev. ed. 1957, (figure-ground map of the Court comparing 1862 to 1873) Illustration # 13.

¹³⁰Henry James, The American Scene. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1968)294.

¹³¹"Managing Cmte MSS," September 9, 1873.

¹³²"Managing Cmte MSS," December 3, 1873. The paving was done with north river flagging and belgian block.

¹³³"Managing Cmte MSS," November 3 and December 12, 1875.

¹³⁴"Managing Cmte MSS," January 6, 1876. This sign was installed on west side of the Court on the exterior wall of the Store.

Most of the work done to adjoining properties on the Court often related to improvements to the Hall or a need to alter the buildings for new tenants. This work shows the way in which the Company handled other properties within their care compared to Carpenters' Hall. While the Company's priority was certainly the Hall, they were aware of the need to maintain the adjoining properties which provided the income which sustained the Hall and which framed its most public entrance.

IV. Conclusion

The history of Carpenters' Hall is that of a living museum. Far more than a simple re-creation of an historic site interpreted to a specific era, the Carpenters' Company is an organization which lives to serve the needs of the present while maintaining its past. The Hall in which several important historic events have occurred must be viewed in the context of the present. The Hall today is not an exact version of the building in which the first Continental Congress met in 1774. Although it is the same structure, it is one that has developed and changed with the needs of the Company which still own the building and use it for its originally intended purpose.

It is therefore unique that the Company would preserve their Hall with such vigor. For while the preservation of Carpenters' Hall began with patriotism at its roots, the Company made the Hall more than an artifact. The motivation to preserve, as it began in 1857, still inspires the Company today. Two convergent trends which directly affected the motivations of the Company in the middle of the 19th century were previously discussed. The growing urbanization of the city changed the social structure of Philadelphia as it had existed in the 18th century. In his social history of urban change, Sam Bass Warner describes the reactions of Philadelphians to the modern city: "The mid-19th century was par excellence the era of the urban parish church, the lodge, the benefit association, the social and athletic club, the political club, the fire company and the gang. Over the whole range of sociability from the parties of the wealthy to the meanest boys gang all Philadelphians sought a sense of social place and community in club life."¹

¹Sam Bass Warner, The Private City: Philadelphia in Three Periods of Its Growth. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1987), 61.

This social change contributed to the evolution of the Carpenters' Company from its origins as a guild for master builders to an association of professionals related to the construction industry. The Company became a social and historical organization of individuals in the building trades, with a new focus on the preservation of their historic Hall.

In looking to the past for a source of identity and focus for activity, the members of the Company were part of a trend in appreciating the Revolutionary era. In the popular culture of the mid-19th century, the events of the Revolution appealed to many Americans who felt a need for a common heritage. Benson Lossing's criticism of the condition of Carpenters' Hall in 1848, might have changed if he had seen the subsequent changes. Similar to the objectives behind Lossing's writings on the Revolution, the opening of the Hall to the public was another way of presenting the events of the past in a tangible manner. Modern historians credit the books written by Lossing for having "done more than other publication to foster public pride in United States history during the second half of the 19th century."² In a similar way the preservation of the Hall was a way of popularizing the events of the Revolution, a fact which is supported by the overwhelming interest in the Hall during the Centennial.

The actions taken by the Company during the study period are important because they indicate the long-term commitment towards preserving the Hall which guided their work. The only organized restoration effort, the fitting up of 1857 discussed in Section II, demonstrates the effort needed to re-occupy the Hall and serves as a basis of comparison for later work done by the Company. In Section III the incremental changes

²Michael G. Kammen, A Season of Youth: The American Revolution and Historic Imagination, (N.Y.: Knopf, 1978), 52.

undertaken between 1857 and 1876, although not part of an organized preservation plan, illustrate the growing willingness of the members to care for the Hall as an historic site.

A distinction was made between these incremental changes to categorize them in a way which could reflect patterns over several years. The largest number of references, 30% of the selected minutes, concern the management of the collections and public outreach.³ This figure shows that a large part of the Companys' preservation work related to the care and display of objects and documents; in essence a focus upon interpretation and curatorial concerns. Although in absolute monetary terms the funds allocated to improve the Hall in 1857 were half as much as that used for the Store in 1860, the majority of references in the minutes during the study period relate to concerns about the Hall. Only the smallest share, 10% of the total, refer to the adjoining properties such as the Store. The other 90% deal exclusively with the the Hall and the Court, demonstrating the time and concern which the Company chose to devote their meeting time to. Clearly more attention was paid to the Hall than to rental properties such as the Store. The minutes reflect the increased importance of stewardship of the Hall, so that by the time of the Centennial there was no question of whether or not to do something to preserve the Hall but to what degree action should be taken.

By 1876, the Company was better prepared to present their historic Hall to the public than at any time since 1857. Yet like the Centennial, the site was

³These figures represent the authors' own calculations based upon the total number of references(585) taken from the Managing Committee minutes of August 5, 1857 to January 17, 1877. These were itemized according to five areas of concern: 30.6% for Collections Management and Outreach; 29.2% for Interior Decoration; 17.1% for Exterior Work; 13.0% for Mechanical Systems; 10.1% for Neighboring Properties.

a dichotomy of the modern and the past. While the Hall was preserved, the addition of modern decorative treatments such as encaustic tiled floors, frescoed ceilings, and elaborate gasoliers gave it the appearance of contemporary building. True to the nature of its use, the Company had made the Hall a compromise between historic associations and modern convenience. While the Centennial Exposition is often regarded as important for the display of the "New England Kitchen" and its commemoration of the birth of the nation, it was more significantly a display of the progress of the modern industrial age. The few historically related displays were commercial in purpose. The vast majority of exhibits were of manufacturers and goods which displayed the wealth and advancement of the nation since 1776. As J.B. Jackson wrote of the historic interest in the Centennial Exhibition, "The past is prologue; interesting enough but not to be compared with the marvels of the present and the promise of the future."⁴

Certainly visitors to the Centennial sought out the historic sites of Philadelphia, the 70,000 visitors to Carpenters' Hall demonstrate that point. In the preservation of their Hall, the Company was showing their own progress since 1776 and were just as eager to have the interior of the Hall appropriately finished in a modern way. The actions of the Company are a reflection on the twenty years from 1856 to 1876. It was an era of an evolving industrial nation which sought reassurance in the events and characters of the past. Yet the country embraced progress as a positive change which could validate the current generations' stewardship of the nation. The care of Carpenters' Hall by the members of the Company is a microcosm of these national trends.

⁴John B. Jackson, American Space: The Centennial Years 1865-1876, (N.Y.: W.W. Norton, 1972), 235.

Selected transcriptions from the original document.

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-Additional comments or summations of original text are prefaced as "Note."

Preliminary Memorandum

In the year 1791 the Company built on the west side of Carpenters Court and removed from the Old Hall to the new building, since which time the meetings of the company have been held there.

Since 1791, the Old Hall has been occupied by various Institutions and individuals a large number of the members of the Company have been anxious for many years that the Company should occupy their Hall themselves and within the last thirty years several attempts have been made to remove, but all unsuccessful (sic) until April 28, 1856 when the proposition was unanimously agreed to.

A copy of the proceedings in relation thereto are hereto annexed.

January 21, 1856.

Resolved that

The managing cmte be directed to inquire into the expedience of removing to the Old Hall, and of renting the premises now occupied by the Company and the difference of the rental , and report to the next meeting.

March 12 1856.

Meeting of the Managing Cmte - appointed to a subcmte to inquire into the expediency of removing to the Old Hall under resolution of the Company of January 21, viz James Hutchinson, Michael Erickson and Richard K. Betts.

March 26, 1856.

Report of subcmte.

Agreed in opinion that the time has arrived in which it would be sound policy to remove to the Old Hall, a building originally put for and always intended to be occupied by the Company.

Circumstances have heretofore delayed the occupation of the Hall that do not now exist. The removal so far from having an injurious effect upon the funds of the Company will on the contrary eventually naturally increase its income.

March 26, 1856, cont'd

If this were the only argument to be advanced in favor of removal, we think it would of itself be sufficient , but other reasons may be advanced which we are willing to believe will touch the patriotic feelings of our members. In this Hall in 1774, some of the wisest and best of our countrymen met in Convention to concert measures to resist the tyrannical course pursued by the government of Great Britain, out of which grew our present state of Independence, this feat has to a certain extent identified the Old Hall with the liberties of our country and has become a part of its history.

By Occupying the building ourselves it will be kept in a much better state of preservation than at present occupied, being enabled thereby to exhibit it to better advantage to the many strangers who visit our city and who feel an interest in viewing a building which has occupied so conspicuous a place in our early Colonial history.

From inquiries made by the Cmte they are satisfied that the room and dwelling we now occupy can be rented with the store on Chestnut Street for at least \$300 per annum more than the store and Hall now rent for.

The cost of fitting up the Old Hall for our purposes would be from \$1000 to \$1500, a considerable portion of which should be expected wether we occupy it or not in order to keep it in a good state of preservation.

Before many years it will no doubt be advisable to take down all the buildings upon the west side of the Court and erect on the site thereof a substantial store which will yield an income to the Company far beyond that now received.

The ground would admit of a building 25 feet front by 140 feet deep, say five stories high, making one of the finest stores in our city, the cost of this building we think would not exceed \$25,000 from which a rental of \$6,000 could be collected.

The Cmte under a view of all circumstances would recommend the Managing Cmte to lay before the Company at its next meeting for its action on the following resolution.

Resolved

That it is expedient for the Company to remove as soon as possible to the Old Hall.

Resolved

That the Managing Cmte immediately take the necessary measures for obtaining possession & fit up for the meetings of the Company, & for the accommodation of the Superintendent, the building on the South end of Carpenters Court known as Carpenters Hall, and that in such fitting up special care be taken to preserve as much as possible every feature in said Hall as it now exists indicative of its original finish.

April 28, 1856

Meeting of Company

Passes Resolutions unanimously

April 28, 1856, cont'd

Note:

The next series of entries into the report refer only to matters of vacating the Old Hall. In the succeeding year the Managing Committee makes numerous attempts at removing William Wolbert, auctioneer, from the Old Hall. Despite promises to leave the Hall, Mr Wolbert remains until the very end of his lease in the Spring of 1857.

Also drawn onto the page facing the next entry are plans of proposed changes to the first and second floors.

May 21, 1857

Present Hutchinson, Knight and Erickson, also of the M.(managing) Cmte Williams and Betts - the Cmte agreed with Mr.Wolbert that he should give us possession of the second story on Monday next, and the whole building in the course of next week upon these terms his rent to cease on the 23rd.

It was then agreed that a partition should be put across the first story close to the south of the columns with a sash door on each side to form a room for the use of the Wardens during the time of our meetings, the desks for officers to be in the center south side of Main room fronting North; the stairs to Second Story being very much worn it was agreed to put on new nosings about 1 1/2 to 2 inches wide and a cast iron plate to be put on each step bedded in mortar, all the other parts of the stairway to remain as they are excepts such () as may be positively necessary; a suitable furnace to put up in cellar; in the second story Eastern side a partition near the center and one at each end North and South forming two rooms in the offsets to be used as chambers the other two, one a parlour & one a kitchen, the entry to have a partition across forming another chamber, the Western side to remain in one room as a cmte room & Library, the cases with books to be placed around the sides.

The Cmte appointed Thos. Shuster to do the Carpenter Work and Wright & Hunter to do the plumbing and put in gas pipes.

May 25, 1857

The Committee met, present Hutchinson & Knight, Wm. Shuster (Carpenter) commenced this day in second story with two journeymen and two laborers. Wm. Hunter met the Cmte. and agreed with him as to plumbing as follows, in the second story two water closets one in each of the two small south rooms and in the one room back of Cmte room a urinary and wash basin in the kitchen a sink in SE corner , a well to be dug in the cellar five feet diameter to water, the Cmte also agreed to have a gravel mortar floor in cellar.

May 26, 1857

Cmte met present Hutchinson & Knight also of M. Cmte Williamson & Williams, the work progressing in second story and commenced digging well, it was agreed to notify Elijah Jones, bricklayer and Weaver & Volkmer, furnacemen to meet the Cmte tomorrow morning.

May 27, 1857

Cmte met present Hutchinson, Erickson, & of Managing Cmte Williamson, Mr. E. Jones, Mr Weaver, and Mr Hunter also met the Cmte. It was agreed that the furnace should be built about the center of the cellar with opening to first floor main room and one opening to small back room and the heat to be continued in flues on each side of building to second story rooms, the furnace guaranteed to be complete and answer fully the expectation of the Cmte.

It was then agreed with Mr. Hunter to place gas pipes as follows, for two lamps on platform of front steps, for a pendant light in first story foot of stairs, for two pendants in main room and one ditto over President's desk and in back room for two pier lights. Second Story one pendant head of stairs, in the parlour and Cmte. Room for one pendant each and in kitchen, three bedrooms and small room back of Cmte Room, each for one pier light, the number of burners to be sufficiently large for any number that may be wanted.

The well is now about 15 feet deep and the diggers are much troubled with water, in digging came to gravel about 3 feet down, extending down about 3 feet then came to clay the water then commenced oozing in.

Carpenters work progressing in second story of fixing stairs. Mr. Wolbert is not yet out of first story.

May 28, 1857

Cmte met present Hutchinson Knight and Erickson also of the Company Colladay, Williams, Luick, and Eyre... work progressing. Wright & Hunters' men digging in yard for water pipes, men in cellar at heater and pumping water out of well. Agreed with Mr Wolbert to pay them \$15.00 for old furnace and tin pipes.

May 29, 1857

Cmte met, ...work progressing favorably.

May 30, 1857

Cmte met, present ... Mr Hunter reported that the well in the cellar could no be got any deeper as the water came in so fast, had the punch in use but could make no headway, decided to wall it up as it was. The plasterer commenced making stuff.

June 1, 1857

Cmte met, present... decided to replaster part of the walls and partitions of second story and make the sash doors to the wardens' room to correspond with the windows as we want more light in the Hall.

June 2, 1857

Cmte met, present ... bought two second hand fireproof doors of Mr. Erickson for the fireproof, there being only wooden doors to the same.

June 3, 1857

Cmte met, present... decided where to place the wash basin and urinal. Heard of an accident to the Chairman of this cmte on an excursion on the N.Y. & Erie RR, he had the small bones broke in both legs and otherwise injured.

June 5, 1857

Cmte met, present... on taking the paper off of walls in lower story find the plastering in bad [] work progressing.

June 6, 1857

Cmte met, present... decided to repair plastering in large room lower story and to paper over the same; received estimate for painting and sanding outside, viz Megget & Pedley estimate \$345.00 and Collins West estimate \$332.00

June 8, 1857

Cmte met, present... Mr Knight reported that he had called at Mr Hutchinson's house to inquire how he was, it was said he was doing as well as could be expected and in good spirits.

June 9, 1857

Cmte met, present ... decided to employ Collins West for painting the outside, his estimate being the lowest. furnace finished.

June 10, 1857

Cmte met, present... plasterer has finished his work, made a fire in furnace to dry the walls as there is so much rain . decided to alter the fence and privy south of Hall.

June 11, 1857

Cmte met, present... commenced cleaning the paint preparatory to painting

June 12, 1857

Cmte met, present... work progressing

June 13, 1857

Cmte met, present... work progressing

June 15, 1857

Cmte met, present... decided what style to paper the lower story, also called in Archer & Warner to examine gas fixtures, they promised to put up two Chandeliers in the Hall for us to look at by tomorrow.

June 16, 1857

Cmte met, present... fixed upon the Chandeliers and also the Candelabras in lamps for the front steps.

June 17, 1857

Cmte met, present... work progressing, painters making scaffold to cupola

June 18, 1857

Cmte met, present... work progressing slowly on account of rainy weather

June 19, 1857

Cmte met, present... work progressing slowly on account of rain

June 20, 1857

Cmte met, present... Josiah Hutchinson informed Cmte that his brother James Hutchinson was mending fast and expected to get home next week; met the painter by appointment to get an estimate for painting inside.

June 22, 1857

Cmte met, present... decided to have the backyard laid out for garden and have the walks paved, painters took off the ball and vane, Ambrotype view of the Hall taken at this time from the corner store second story.

June 23, 1857

Cmte met, present... decided to put gutters on the Slate roof, there being none on the roof.

June 24, 1857

Cmte met, present... work progressing

From the last date up to July 8th the Cmte met as convenient, there being nothing particular to attend to no minutes were made during the time the Cmte met several times at the house of the Chairman he being unable to get out.

July 8, 1857

Cmte met at house of Chairman, present... it was concluded that as we could not get everything complete so as to get into the Hall at the next stated meeting of the Company that it would be best to meet at the old place and take time to complete everything so as to open the Old Hall early in the Fall.

July 9th & 10th, 1857

Cmte met, present... work progressing
From this date to the 30th most of the cmte attended but nothing worthy occurred to minute.

July 30, 1857

Cmte met, present... agreed to purchase a fireproof chest to be placed in Cmte Room

July 31, 1857

Cmte met, present... examined fireproof chest at Farness

August 1, 1857

Cmte met, present... work progressing

August 3, 1857

Cmte met, present... agreed to get a floorcloth to put under table in Cmte Room

August 4, 1857

Memorandums

On the 23 of July last the Old Hall being in sufficient state of preparation in the second story the family commenced moving, finished on the 25th, sleeping in the Old Hall that night.

At the same time the men commenced moving the library cases to the second story room appropriated to the use of the M. Cmte and finished having the room complete on the 29th

On the 29th day of July 1857 the M. Cmte met in their room in Old Hall for the first time in about 66 years.

The painters finished the inside complete on the 30th of July.

The gas fixtures finished about the same time

August 5, 1857

Cmte met, present... agreed that Hutchinson should get oilcloth carpet for vestibule first story, entry second story, and for small room back of Cmte room, also oilcloth cover for table in Cmte Room, floor cloth to go under Cmte table and some towels for washroom

Erickson to get chairs for hall painted and fixed up & cushions for chairs in Cmte room, he is also to have fireproof chest purchased at Farness brought as soon as possible, also to get () to pave yard and take away rubbish.

August 6, 7, & 12 1857

Cmte met, present... nothing of mention.

August 19, 1857

Cmte met, present... Plan of paving space in front of Hall now agreed upon the bricklayer is urged to proceed to finish as soon as possible.

August 22, 1857

Cmte met, present... Oilcloth down in the two halls and room back of Cmte Room

August 25, 1857

Cmte met, present... The Managing Cmte having fixed upon the motto as follows. "Within these walls, Henry Hancock, and Adams, inspired the Delegates of the Colonies with nerve and sinew for the toils of War resulting in or National Independence."

The Cmte agreed that the most appropriate place to have it put up would be the pannel (sic) in the rear of the President's Chair.

August 26, 1857

Cmte met, present... Collins West met with Cmte by appointment and it was agreed that the should paint the Motto to be done forthwith.

William Sanderson was appointed to make six settees (settles) for the recesses in the Hall of the usual size, to be same color as the chairs and to be made in time for the meeting of the Company.

September 1, 1857

Cmte met, present... agreed to purchase for use of Hall, 12 spittoons, 2 umbrella stands, and 1 water cooler. The subcommittee having now completed the duty assigned to them ask to be discharged.

Names of Persons Furnishing Materials to doing the work of fitting up Old Hall & amount of the bills

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| Henry & Thomas F. Shuster | Carpenters Work | 545.94 |
| " | Lumber | 152.69 |
| " | Laboring work etc | 117.68 |
| Newhall & Lehman | Hardware | 46.54 |
| L.M. Potts | Blacksmith | 6.00 |
| Wright Hunter & Co | Plumbing | 418.78 |
| Archer, Warner & Co | Gas Fixtures | 261.75 |
| Weaver & Volkmer | Furnace etc | 180.00 |
| Sanson & Farren | Iron Plates on Stairs | 44.04 |
| Samuel Baugh | Plastering | 104.00 |
| E. Evans | Repairing Slate Roof | 35.98 |
| Wm. P. Neff | Tin Work | 54.72 |
| Farness & Herring | Iron Safe | 200.00 |
| Elijah Jones | Bricks & Work | 430.00 |
| Hart, Montgomery & Co. | Papering | 294.24 |
| I & B Orrie | Carpet, Oilcloth, Matting | 281.75 |
| Charles E. Clark | Putting down " | 39.71 |
| Wm Sanderson & Sons | Settees & Chairs | 87.50 |
| Peter Rogers | Locks etc. | 17.31 |
| John Baird | Marble M. Shelf | 6.62 |
| Geo. W. Watson | Granite Steps back door | 46.00 |

\$ 3983.09

Account of Expenses in fitting up and Furnishing Carpenters Hall
September 1858

Fitting Up

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Carpenter Work | 400.00 |
| Lumber | 152.69 |
| Laboring Work etc | 88.26 |
| Hardware | 46.54 |
| Blacksmith Work | 6.00 |
| Painting Inside & Out | 562.74 |
| Iron Plates on Stairs | 44.04 |
| Repairs to Slate Roof | 35.98 |
| Plastering | 104.00 |
| Tin Work | 54.72 |
| Papering | 294.24 |
| Repairing Locks etc | 17.31 |
| Marble Mantel Shelf | 6.62 |
| Granite Steps Back Door | 46.00 |
| Wright, Hunter & Co | 418.78 |
| Furnace etc | 180.00 |
| Bricks & Work | 430.00 |

\$ 2887.92

Furnishing

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Carpenter Work | 78.13 |
| New Table (Hall) | 67.81 |
| Laboring Work | 29.42 |
| Painting Bookcases | 8.50 |
| " Banner | 24.50 |
| " Motto | 16.60 |
| Carpets & Matting | 281.75 |
| putting down " | 39.71 |
| gas fixtures | 261.25 |
| Iron Safe | 200.00 |
| Settees & Chairs | 87.50 |

\$1095.17

+ 2887.92

Total \$3983.09

Manuscript Collection: American Philosophical Society
Managing Committee Minutes July 29, 1857 through January 7, 1891

Selected transcriptions from the original document from 1856-1876

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August 5, 1857

On motion the following orders were drawn

No. 82 for \$25 in favor of John Mooney for frame for Roll of Members...

Resolved that the day appointed for a public demonstration of the reoccupancy of the Old Hall be the 5th day of September next, that being the 83 anniversary of the meeting of the First Congress in our Old Hall.

August 19, 1857

No. 89 for \$11.47 to William Jones for furniture for committee room

No. 90 for \$7.00 to John Ogden for map of the United States

No. 91 for \$36.25 to R. W. Hensil for window blinds for furnishing Hall

August 22, 1857

passed resolution affirming motto chosen by company to be painted in Hall

bill of fare agreed to for banquet upon occupying Old Hall

September 9, 1857

No. 21 for \$562.74 to Collins West for "painting and glazeing Old Hall"

No. 22 for \$49.60 to Collins West for "graining wood"

September 16, 1857

"Resolved, that the Managing Committee is empowered to have such extracts from the minutes of the Company read this day be published in such form as they deem proper."

"Resolved, that the Managing Committee be authorized to open the Hall for public inspection as at such times as may by them be deemed suitable."

Have rented out the store on Chestnut street to Hart Montgomery and Co. as of October 1, 1857 for \$3500.00 per year.

September 23, 1857

listing of several bills for fitting carpets, stair step castings, plastering, and tinwork etc. as previously listed in the Committee to Fit up the Old Hall

September 23, 1857, cont'd

"Resolved, that Richard K. Betts was authorized to have framed and hung up in the Hall the original subscription papers for the erection of the Old Hall."

September 30, 1857

No. 130 for marble shelf for dwelling area of second floor of Hall

No. 131 for \$8.00 for spittoons from Thornbull and Stetson.

October 7, 1857

No. 132 for \$294.24 to Hart Montgomery and Co. for papering Old Hall

October 28, 1857

Preparation of table for annual supper and "have a cooking range placed in the cellar of Hall"

Appoint a committee to "attend to the matter of Portraits of the Delegates of the First Congress meeting in the Hall.

November 11, 1857

Copper plate engraving of "a blank invitation of President George Washington" presented to the company as a gift

No. 145 for \$28.70 to Samuel Cresswell for range in cellar

November 25, 1857

300 copies of Old Minutes printed and 200 copies bound for use of the members

bill paid for installation of range and ash pit in cellar of Hall

December 9, 1857

authorized placement of gas lights in cellar

January 13, 1858

accepted an "original view and plan of city taken by George Heafs from the Jersey Shore under direction of Nicholas Scull Surveyor General of the Province of Pennsylvania, published by an act of parliament by Thomas Jeffrey, near Charing Cross London about 1754, given to James Clark by Commander Barthing in 1825 framed with wood connected to Carpenters Hall either as growing near it or as having been a part of it..."

March 31, 1858

"John McAllister esq. presented to the Company a framed engraving of Christ Church a view taken in the year 1787 from the plate in his possession."

April 14, 1858

Committee to print reminiscences of the Company report work completed and ready for distribution to members.

May 3, 1858

"Resolved that the Managing Committee be directed to procure and have set up suitable iron gates with appropriate finish at the end of Court fronting Chestnut Street."

June 30, 1858

letter of thanks read at meeting from president of Massachusetts Historical Society for receipt of copy of reminiscences of Company

August 25, 1858

Committee reports that iron gates with granite base at end of Court will cost \$275.00

January 19, 1859

No. 2 for \$50.00 for "model of stone intended for Washington Monument"

"Resolved, to have placed upon the west side of Court on our own building near Chestnut Street a pointer either of wood, iron, or stone with the word Carpenters Court plainly marked."

January 26, 1859

Resolved, that the Treasurer is to have the bills and papers at the end of each year placed in the fireproof with the other papers of the Company.

Resolved, that a committee prepare a schedule of the books and papers in the fireproof on the first story.

Motion passed that John Williams and Joseph Hutchinson be authorized to procure Carpenters Tools for use of the Hall.

February 9, 1859

Schedule of contents of fireproof given; among ledgers and minute books are included "one old Escutcheon from Old Door of Hall, 27 copper plates of mouldings and Hall."

Committee on Carpenters Tools reports finishing duties

March 2, 1859

Committee appointed to have water closet repaired

March 9, 1859

acknowledge gift presented to Company by J. P. Drew "for his valuable present of a rare document of the Olden times of Philadelphia."

Committee appointed to "have an additional bookcase constructed in accordance with request of the Library Committee."

No. 37 for \$12.86 to Mr. H. Knight for chest of tools for Carpenters Company

March 30, 1859

authorize two additional drop lights for committee room

April 13, 1859

committee on index stone has completed work

April 19, 1859

Resolved, "that the Managing Committee be instructed to have the entrance to Carpenters Court secured from persons entering same at improper hours."

May 18, 1859

committee on bookcases has completed work

July 6, 1859

No. 76 for \$91.96 for H. P. Bockius for bookcases and repairs to Hall

Note and plan relating to construction of brick wall on west side of Carpenters Court adjoining property owners on fourth street

October 5, 1859

Appoint committee to have "an iron gate place in front cellar window and a coal bin put up in cellar for small coal."

October 12, 1859

Committee on Grate and Coal Bin authorized "to have a Cold Air Box to Heater and such repairs as may be necessary."

October, 19, 1859

Committee on Grate and Coal Bin authorized "to sell old iron and stoves in cellar of Hall."

January 11, 1860

No. 153 for \$37.61 to Henry Bockius for carpenters work at Hall

March 7, 1860

Appoint a Committee to "consider the propriety of improving Companys property on Chestnut Street and report to the [managing] committee."

March 14, 1860

Committee on Improving Chestnut Street Property given authority to "have an elevation ground plan and specifications prepared and produce them at the next meeting."

April 4, 1860

No. 41 for \$95.95 to Elijah Jones for brickwork "for walling up windows on East of Company property." [Pemberton House]

April 4, 1860, cont'd

"Committee on the New Building produced an elevation and general plan, which with slight alteration was approved and the committee directed to obtain an estimate of the cost of erecting the same."

April 11, 1860

Committee on improving the Chestnut Street property report " the cost of the building as described in the annexed drawings and specifications not to exceed the amount of \$22,000.00 with cast iron front on Chestnut Street and pressed brick front on Court with outside iron shutters... so that in seven years the improvement will pay the cost of erection."

June 6, 1860

Correspondence from Stephen Benton regarding " the erection of a monument to the signers of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia," and asks to use Hall for its meetings June and July because of its "historic associations."

August 15, 1860

No. 87 for \$50.00 for Collins and Autenreith for drawing plans and writing specifications for building on Chestnut Street

Appoint Committee to purchase clock for use of Hall

September 5, 1860

Report that Hart Montgomery & Co. will vacate Chestnut Street property as of October 1

September 12, 1860

Report that gate at front of Court repaired.

"Joseph Hutchinson, treasurer, is authorized purchase of a table for his use for books and papers to be placed in committee room."

October 3, 1860

Appoint a committee to look into means of greater protection of the Hall from fire.

October 10, 1860

No. 125 for \$6.75 for Lewis Smith for desk for Hall

Clock committee ask to be discharged from duty

October 12, 1860

Committee authorized "to repair and make necessary changes to improve 322 Chestnut Street so that it may be rented out.

October 24, 1860

Lease made for 322 Chestnut Street, alterations to be made by Company at same property

Committee on improving fire safety reports that the best means of preventing fire from adjoining properties is to build "a wall on west side of company property instead of iron shutters and cornice believing it will be a better security and interfere less with the appearance of the building."

October 31, 1860

Allocation of \$5,000.00 to improve building at 322 Chestnut Street

November 28, 1860

Revised insurance policy for 322 Chestnut Street with Philadelphia Contributionship

December 19, 1860

No. 183 for \$28.78 for tinwork at Old Hall

January 16, 1861

Committee on 322 Chestnut Street reports work completed at a cost of \$9273.49, and that the property is now to be rented out for \$4,500.00 annually.

April 17, 1861

Complaint received about gates at end of Court

Motion passed to have a "suitable flagstaff and Union flag placed on the front pediment of the hall to be displayed on all National holidays and on the anniversary day of the Company."

May 1, 1861

Flag and staff placed on Hall at cost of \$78.64

May 15, 1861

No. 54 for \$8.60 for "advertising in Evening Journal and copy of Scots Tactics."

June 5, 1861

No. 84 for \$5.50 for Evening Bulletin for advertising flag raising.

July 24, 1861

No. 90 for \$13.40 to S.W. Forsythe for plumbing at Hall.

October 2, 1861

Authorized "erection of a Counting Room at the South end of store No. 322 Chestnut Street, one story in height..."

November 20, 1861

No. 135 for \$443.77 for building counting house to 322 Chestnut Street

November 20, 1861, cont'd

No. 134 for \$8.50 for paperhanging at Hall

December 11, 1861

Instructed to get a new flag for Hall

January 8, 1862

No. 168 to Weaver and Volkman for repair of heater and range

October 29, 1862

Authorized to have cellar of Hall whitewashed and plastering repaired

November 26, 1862

No. 124 to repair blinds in Committee Room

December 3, 1862

No. 149 for \$100.00 to Samuel Williamson for fireproof placed in Committee Room

December 17, 1862

No. 151 for \$18.62 to Thomas Shuster for replastering cellar of Hall

January 14, 1863

No. 157 "to pay for H & T.F. Shuster for carpenter work and materials in Arbors etc. in yard of Hall and painting same.

January 18, 1863

Motion approved "to have a new spring to iron gate on front of court on Chestnut Street also to have papering in Hall and roof of Hall repaired."

March 2, 1863

Motion passed "to have cupola repaired and covered with tin and have the front door of Hall varnished."

April 29, 1863

Authorized purchase of floor cloth for Committee Room and placement of a screen around privy in yard of Hall and repair gate and brickwork around privy.

May 27, 1863

Motion passed to thank James Hutchinson for gift to Company of Swans Collection of Architecture and British Architecture and Builders Treasury, and Nicholsons Carpenters and Joiners Assistant.

July 1, 1863

Authorized repair "of plumbing to Wash Basin in wash room and also the Hose Pipe."

Resolved that "the Hall first story be tendered to all such Carpenters who may see fit to form a company for home defence under such regulations as the Managing Committee may adopt."

July 15, 1863

Motion passed to submit the following donations
No. 81 for \$250.00 to the Citizens Volunteer Hospital Association
No. 82 for \$125.00 to the Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloon
No. 83 for \$125.00 to the United States Sanitary Commission

January 6, 1864

Motion to "procure paper and pens for the use of the committee and a piece of oilcloth for first story floor around the Register."

January 13, 1864

Motion to "authorize purchase of six dozen plated teaspoons for use of Hall."

January 20, 1864

No. 1 for \$28.50 for six dozen teas spoons

February 10, 1864

No.7 to Farrell & Herring for alterations to fireproof

February 24, 1864

No.8 for \$7.24 to S.W. Forsythe for plumbing done at Hall

April 6, 1864

Motion to authorize "the Sanitary Committee have the use of the Hall on Saturday evening the 9th for a call of the builders of the City of Philadelphia."

April 19, 1864

No. 35 for \$500.00 in aid to the United States Sanitary Commission for the Great Central Fair

January 11, 1865

Authorize R.K. Betts to rebind "the Constitution of the Company and the Book of Incorporation."

January 18, 1865

Instructed R.K. Betts to have the statistics of the Company prepared, framed, and placed in the Hall.

January 23, 1865

Resolved, that R.K. Betts will "transcribe in a book prepared for the purpose all laws, alterations in bylaws, and resolutions of a permanent nature that may be passed by the Company."

February 22, 1865

No. 10 for \$12.25 to Matsinger & Brothers for repairs to Hall

March 22, 1865

Motion to have the paperhanging in Hall repaired

March 29, 1865

No. 36 for \$44.71 to E. Buton for paperhanging in Hall

April 18, 1865

No. 40 for \$15.37 to Charles Conard for "advertising Resolutions in relations to the death of president of the United States."

April 26, 1865

No. 41 for \$95.86 to pay for draping Hall in mourning for the death of the president of the U.S.

May 10, 1865

No. 45 for \$5.00 to pay for garden planting (within usual payment to housekeeper)

June 21, 1865

Committee formed to coordinate the illumination of Hall on July 4.

July 19, 1865

Received as a gift to the Company the cane of late member Daniel Smith

No. 76 to Godfrey Krouse for gas fitting at Hall for the 4th of July illumination
No. 77 for \$20.66 for carpenters work to Hall (\$16.66) and for candles for the illumination (\$4.00)

August 23, 1865

Motion to approve repair of heater in Hall

October 11, 1865

R.K. Betts authorized to procure a new register for Hall

October 18, 1865

Resolved, that "Walter Allison be authorized to place a contribution box in the Hall for the benefit of the Solders and Sailors Home."

October 25, 1865

Clock in committee room is repaired

November 8, 1865

Resolve, that "the use of Hall be allowed by the Committee for the Fair to Benefit the Soldiers and Sailors Home to dispose of the goods remaining from their late fair at the the Academy of Music for a period not exceeding two weeks."

November 15, 1865

Motion, that R.K. Betts is authorized "to have Journal of Congress, a gift of Eli K. Price rebound and properly inscribed and placed on the table in the Hall."

November 29, 1865

Motion, R.K. Betts is requested to purchase clock for use of Hall

December 6, 1865

No. 149 for \$25.00 for clock for use of Hall

R.K. Betts "reports the Reminiscences of the Company, Constitution and By Laws, and Catalogue of the Library of the Company are ready for the printer, when on Motion he was instructed to have 125 bound and 175 in pamphlet form."

January 10, 1866

No. 153 for \$436.65 to pay for printing 300 copies of Reminiscences of the Company...

January 17, 1866

No. 3 for \$114.00 to R. K. Betts to pay B. Aikens \$15.00 for writing statistics of Company, and \$99.00 for frame and binding of same

R.K. Betts authorized to have a case made for Journal of Congress

February 7, 1866

No. 6 for \$79.80 to Matsinger & Brother to repair heater and range in Hall

February 14, 1866

No. 8 for \$32.65 for glass case and cushion for Journal of Congress

April 11, 1866

Motion to authorize Mr Philippii to have new cushions made for chairs in committee room

May 2, 1866

No. 47 for \$25.00 to Mr. Philippii to pay for cushions for chairs in committee room

June 27, 1866

Authorize flag-raising and illumination of Hall for fourth of July observance

July 11, 1866

Instructed to have the gates in front of court and lamppost in front of Hall painted

September 19, 1866

No. 117 to pay for "painting and varnishing gates and lamp posts at Hall door."

October 24, 1866

No. 120 for \$16.33 to pay for paperhanging in Hall

October 31, 1866

Motion, to authorize planting an evergreen tree in the plot in front of Hall, and to purchase files for newspapers in Committee Room

November 28, 1866

No. 129 for \$7.00 for tree in front of Hall

December 5, 1866

No. 155 for \$17.25 for whitewashing cellar of Hall

February 6, 1867

No. 5 for \$21.50 to Matsinger & Brother for repair to furnace and range and \$2.25 for repairs to water closet

April 10, 1867

Authorize painting of counting house 322 Chestnut Street and placing of iron bars on windows of same

April 24, 1867

No. 45 to Miskey, Merrill & Thackera for shades for gas lights in Committee Room

May 1, 1867

No. 50 for \$33.96 to "Lyons & Shuster for tin spouting etc repairs to Hall"

May 29, 1867

No. 76 for \$28.50 to John Godbon for painting parlour in Hall and counting house of Chestnut Street store

July 17, 1867

No. 82 for \$35.01 for paperhanging in Hall and counting house

No. 84 for \$3.50 to S.W. Forsythe for plumbing work in Hall

October 2, 1867

No. 118 for \$15.00 to cover table in committee room with cloth

No. 119 for \$22.00 for "glazing front windows of Hall damaged 25 September last by a hail storm."

Authorize secretary of Company to "procure a suitable desk for his use in committee room."

October 16, 1867

Resolved, to have outside of No. 322 Chestnut Street painted two coats

November 13, 1867

Resolved, to have basement of No. 322 Chestnut Street cleaned and painted

No. 130 for \$18.15 to "H. Shuster for Carpenter Work etc at Hall."

November 20, 1867

Authorized, introduction of gas into basement of Store, 322 Chestnut Street

December 11, 1867

"The janitor handed to Walter Allison \$7.50, the amount collected in the Contribution Box in the first story of the Hall for use of the Soldiers and Sailors Home."

Resolved, that the counting room first story of 322 Chestnut Street be painted and papered, a flight of stairs built from first to second story and the second story painted throughout and first story stairway from the first to second floor.

December 18, 1867

Resolved, "to have a suitable tin box for newspapers placed on the eastern small gate in front on Chestnut Street."

January 8, 1868

No. 159 for \$23.90 to Jeffrey Krouse for gas work at store

No. 160 for \$18.70 to R.J. Hazzard for papering counting room

No. 162 for \$5.00 to Edward Kelley for cleaning out cellar and carting away dirt at 322 Chestnut St.

January 15, 1868

Following items are for repairs at 322 Chestnut Street
No. 163 for \$343.17 for new stairway etc.

No. 164 for \$102.65 to Miskey Merrill & Thackera for gas fixtures etc.

No. 165 for \$546.54 to Huncker & Brant for painting outside and inside

No. 166 for \$72.92 to Samuel Drinkhouse for repairing and painting roof

No. 167 for \$13.00 to Matsinger & Brother for ironwork at Hall and store

No. 168 for \$15.95 to H. Shuster for Carpenters work at Hall and store

January 22, 1868

No. 2 for \$21.60 to Job Bartlett for repair to heater

January 25, 1868

No. 7 for \$10.00 for repair of clocks

No. 8 for \$9.25 for "reglazing etc."

February 5, 1868

No. 11 for \$17.50 to J.W. Forsythe for plumbing at Store and Hall

February 19, 1868

No. 15 for \$13.65 to Miskey Merrill & Thackera for gas fixtures at Store

Resolved, "to have locks put on the drawers in committee room."

March 11, 1868

No. 28 for \$3.75 for tinbox for Hall

Motion, "to have the gutters and spouts of Hall repaired."

April 1, 1868

Motion, "to have Range put in the Superintendents kitchen in place of the present gas oven."

April 15, 1868

No. 38 for \$135.21 "to Lyons & Shuster for Range, tinwork etc for Hall."

April 22, 1868

No. 43 for \$24.59 to R.K. Betts for painting, paperhanging, stationery for Hall

Received communication from Secretary of Company, to "direct the Managing Committee to modernise the Committee Room."

Resolved, that "a fireproof be made in the chimneybreast, that walnut rolling blinds, inside shutters, and dado be put to the window, walnut bookcases from floor to ceiling and extending around the room, walnut desks for the committee and treasurer, new chairs and carpet with the proper gas fixtures and that the rooms be repapered and painted. R.K. Betts, John Ketcham, and Philip Kramer were appointed to carry this into effect."

No. 44 for \$10.00 to Sarah Stewart for seeds and plants for Hall garden

May 13, 1868

Committee on Fitting Up Committee Room directed "to have a Bathtub placed in the room at the south end of entry in second story of Hall for use of Superintendent."

May 20, 1868

Committee on Fitting Up Committee Room directed "to have the Heater of the Hall put to good order."

May 27, 1868

No. 50 for \$45.91 to Conner & Co for stone for fireproof

No 55 for \$53.00 to Evans & Watson for fireproof locks

June 6, 1868

Motion, "to have Walnut inside shutters to the two windows in the retiring room, 2nd story."

June 17, 1868

Committee on Fitting Up Committee Room reports "having sold the old fireproof safe and paid the nett [sic] proceeds \$134.25 to the Treasurer."

No. 65 for \$162.84 to Matsinger & Brothers for fireproof doors for Hall.

No. 67 for \$132.00 to Sanderson & Son for Chairs for Hall

June 24, 1868

No. 68 for \$30.00 for I.B. Schell for marble stand for water cooler for Hall

No. 69 for \$376.75 to D.H. & L.H. Large for 11 desks for Committee Room

July 1, 1868

No. 71 for \$40.00 to G.R. Smith for clock for Committee Room

No. 72 for \$2.70 for Blank Register

No. 73 for \$74.30 for brickwork at fireproof

No. 74 for \$3.00 for tinpipe for heater

No. 75 for \$304.00 to J.F. & E. Borrie for carpet in Committee Room

July 8, 1868

No. 78 for \$500.00 to Thomas Shuster for carpenters work and materials in Hall

No. 79 for \$47.11 to W. H. Young for hardware for bookcases

July 15, 1868

No. 81 for \$286.57 to "Smith & Balbney for painting & glazing at Hall"

No. 83 for \$16.05 to E. H. Fisher for matting and putting down carpets

No. 85 for \$8.00 to Struthers & Sons for stone for register

No. 86 for \$1.25 to J. E. Hunter for plumbing

July 22, 1868

No. 87 for \$2.00 to S. Drunkhouse for fixing spouts on 322 Chestnut Street
No. 89 for \$40.15 to S. W. Forsythe for plumbing at 322 Chestnut Street
No. 90 for \$97.80 to W. L. Baron for Gas Fixtures for Hall
No. 91 for \$16.00 to Howell & Brothers for paperhanging at Hall
No. 92 for \$16.50 to Moss & Co. for inkstand for Hall
No. 93 for \$30.00 to Tyndall & Mitchell for spittoons for Hall
No. 94 for \$801.97 to Shuster in full for materials and work at Hall

October 14, 1868

No. 113 for \$48.75 to Lyons & Shuster for repairs to heater

October 21, 1868

Managing Committee directed to "have the lower entry and stairs [] and ceiling in second story lined and oiled."

November 4, 1868

Samuel Williamson directed to have a tree planted in grass plot in front of Hall

November 25, 1868

No. 125 for \$5.50 for ropes for flagstaff and rigging

December 9, 1868

No. 139 for \$7.00 to L. M. Seyers for plumbing at Hall

January 6, 1869

No. 141 for \$3.50 to Elijah Jones to repair pavement of the yard at Hall

January 13, 1869

No. 143 for \$54.30 to J. W. Barnes for floorcloth for Committee Room
No. 144 for \$9.05 to J. E. Hunter for repair to pipe at Hall and 322 Chestnut Street

January 20, 1869

Managing Committee directed to remove from library room "desks and platform and substitute in place thereof a large suitably arranged table with drawers for the use of the several committees and members... and to dispose of the same."

January 20, 1869

Managing Committee authorized to "dispose of the bookcases in the entry on the east side."
No. 3 to D. A. & R. J. Knight for \$50.00 for plated forks

January 20, 1869, cont'd

Appointed a committee on table, sale of desks, bookcases in entry, and alteration of room

Jacob Jones offers \$5.00 a piece for bookcases and offer is accepted.

February 3, 1869

Edward Kelley reports having received \$5.00 from John Ogden for one and \$10.00 from Jacob Jones for two bookcases.

Motion, "Edward Kelly and Walter Allison was appointed a committee to attend to take charge of and keep the Hall in repair."

March 3, 1869

Received from Jacob Jones \$5.00 for one bookcase

Motion, "The Committee on the Hall was instructed to procure a water cooler, waste basket, and chandelier for entry also to partition off a portion of the South Room for a Wardrobe and have same papered."

No. 22 for \$295.97 to Edward K. Snow for table and desk for committee room
No. 27 for \$11.65 to Miskey Merrill & Thackera for gas fixtures at 322 Chestnut Street

April 7, 1869

Edward Kelley reports "received \$83.41 being the nett [sic] proceeds from sale of desk at Birchs Auction Store."

No. 31 for \$4.20 for Brown Muslim for Hall

No. 32 for \$14.00 for cooler and basket for Hall from Jackson & Snyder

No. 34 for \$17.25 for Miskey Merrill & Thackera for gas fixtures for Hall

No. 35 for \$12.00 for Daniel M. Karcher for umbrella stand for Hall

No. 38 for \$51.62 for R.J. Hazzard for paperhanging at Hall

No. 39 for \$225.00 for "Carlisle & Joy for Oiling, Graining & Painting"

No. 40 for \$18.38 for Shuster & Brother for hardware

No. 41 for \$904.96 for H. & I.F. Shuster for carpenters work and materials

No. 42 for \$85.68 to John Lavis for paperhanging

No. 43 for \$13.60 to McHetrick & Brown for plumbing

May 5, 1869

Motion, direct the Committee on Library to "procure City Directories for 1869 and all former years which we have not."

Motion, direct the Committee on Hall to procure carpet for Superintendents room

No. 49 for \$4.00 to Farr & Brother for repair of clock in Hall

No. 54 to Sarah Stewart for \$10.00 to procure plants for garden

June 2, 1869

Motion, Committee on Hall directed to have roof repaired

No. 67 for \$138.48 to McCallum Crease & Sloan for carpet for Superintendents room

July 7, 1869

No. 70 for \$38.00 to Gopsill & Doyle for Directories

No. 71 for \$2.00 to McHetrick & Brown for plumbing at 322 Chestnut Street

August 9, 1869

Managing Committee instructed to have outside of Hall painted

No. 76 for \$14.25 to J.W. Forsythe for repairs to water pipe on court

No. 78 for \$4.30 to J. Kelley for repairs of roof of Hall

No. 81 for \$16.38 to I.J. Wayne for repairs to 322 Chestnut Street

November 3, 1869

Resolved, by the Company that the Renovating of the Hall be referred to the Managing Committee; motion passed to refer matter to Committee on the Hall

No. 101 for \$454.50 to Carlisle & Joy for painting outside of Hall

No. 104 for \$9.40 to Edward Kelley for repairs to Hall etc.

November 20, 1869

Committee on Hall directed to have the partition on south side of Hall in first story removed

Note: motion made by R.K. Betts, passed on vote of 6y 2n, as recorded in minutes

December 1, 1869

Resolved, by the Company that, "the Managing Committee be instructed to have the first floor of Hall laid with encaustic tiling."

William Forsythe receives the thanks of the Company for his donation of "certain ancient documents relating to our struggle for Independence."

January 5, 1870

No. 124 for \$4.50 to McArdel & Brother for smith work for Hall

No. 125 for \$4.50 for cleaning carpets at Hall

No. 126 for \$65.76 to Charles Inseminger for plumbing work at Hall

No. 129 for \$1415.25 to "S. A. Harrison for tiles and tiling floor of Hall"

No. 131 for \$333.13 to James T. Allen for plastering Hall

No. 132 for \$30.87 to Struthers & Son for marble work at Hall

January 17, 1870

Resolved, by the Company, "that from and after the first day of April next, the meeting of any association or society in this building is strictly forbidden. And the Secretary of the Company be directed to notify all person interested of the passage of this resolution. Provided that nothing contained therein shall apply to the Captains Society of the City of Philadelphia.

Resolved that the Captains Society of the City of Philadelphia being of a purely benevolent character, the annual rent charge paid by them to this

January 17, 1870, cont'd

Company be for the present remitted and they be permitted the use of this Hall free of expense until otherwise ordered."

No. 1 \$14.00 to Fred Smith for laboring work at Hall

No. 2 \$8.00 to Kelley & Boone for hardware

No. 4 \$12.00 to E. H. Fisher for "making Carpet at Hall."

No. 5 \$16.75 for cloth covering tables in Hall Room

No. 6 \$64.00 to Balter & Wheeler for repairing chairs

Motion, resolved that "the columns in Hall be cased with fluted staves and shafts as Ionic Columns." Note: resolution voted on and passed on a 7y-2n vote as recorded in minutes

Motion, resolved that "the Committee on Hall be instructed to procure shades for lower window of Hall and oilcloth for floor of entry in second story."

February 2, 1870

No. 12 for \$63.69 to Miskey Merrill & Thackera for gas fixtures at Hall

No. 14 for \$61.44 to J. H. Orrie Sons & Co for carpets and mats for Hall

No. 18 for \$828.31 to Walter Allison for carpenter work and materials

No. 19 for \$256.63 to Carlisle & Joy for painting at Hall

No. 20 for \$5.00 to "John Lavis for taking off old paper in Hall"

No. 22 for \$6.50 to "Thomas H. Aurocker for bell pull and fixing bell at Hall"

Motion, resolved that "the estimate for frescoing the ceiling and walls of Hall Room now be read. When on Motion it was resolved that the plan submitted by R. K. Betts No.1 be adopted."

March 2, 1870

No. 37 for \$266.61 to Shuster for carpenter work and material at Hall

Motion, Committee on Hall directed to have kitchen on second floor papered

April 4, 1870

Walter Allison reports taking \$4.07 from contribution box in Hall and giving same to Soldiers and Sailors Home on 16th and Filbert.

No. 38 for \$326.64 to J. W. Forsythe for plumbing at Hall

No. 41 for \$3.50 to J. H. Orrie & Son for oilcloth to entry on second floor

No. 42 for \$6.86 to "Goodyear Rubber & Co. for gum cord for chair feet in Hall"

No. 43 for \$12.49 to John D. Lavis for paperhanging in kitchen of Hall

No. 45 for \$400.00 to Charles Brumer for frescoing Hall

Resolved, that the Committee on Hall "be directed to procure an eagle to be placed on the case against the west wall similar to the one on the east wall."

Resolved, that "the thanks of the Committee on behalf of the Company go to Robert Wood and Co. for the presentation of the ornamental cast iron step or nosing plate on the 2nd floor of Hall."

May 4, 1870

No. 53 for \$4.00 to William Bacon for gas fitting for Hall

June 1, 1870

No. 69 for \$6.00 to George J. Hetzell for carving eagle for case in Hall

July 6, 1870

Communication received from Keystone Wood Paving Co. giving notice of paving in front of Company property on Chestnut Street

Committee on Hall directed to "have the ancient documents presented by William J. Forsythe to the Company, suitably framed."

No. 72 for \$52.81 to James Graham for plants, flowers, and gardening

No. 74 for \$208.72 to Walter Allison for carpenters work, brickwork, painting, glazing etc at Hall

No. 75 for \$203.05 to Miskey Merrill & Thackera for gas fixtures at Hall

No. 76 for \$4.00 to Carlisle & Joy for gilding two eagles for top of cases

No. 78 for \$56.00 to J. H. Orrie for oilcloth

August 3, 1870

Received from Walter Allison for Old Chandelier and old iron sold, \$10.05 and \$3.00

No. 87 for \$32.49 to J. W. Forsythe for plumbing for Hall

September 7, 1870

No. 90 for \$15.70 to galvanize gate for Hall

No. 92 for \$21.59 "for writing and frame for paper of the Revolution."

January 4, 1871

Motion, that the "Secretary of the Library Committee be allowed the use of the drawer in the north end of the table in this Committee Room."

No. 135 for \$11.25 to Miskey Merrill & Thackera for gas fixtures in store

No. 138 for \$49.00 to Jacob Weaver for repair of furnaces under Hall Room

No. 139 for \$7.50 to James Graham for work at garden of Hall

No. 142 for \$9.50 to Walter Allison for carpenters work at Hall

February 2, 1871

No. 6 for \$19.38 to Carlisle & Joy for painting store at 322 Chestnut Street

No. 7 for \$28.95 to J. W. Forsythe for plumbing at store and Hall

April 5, 1871

No. 35 for \$10.00 for flowers and plants for garden at Hall

May 3, 1871

Managing committee instructed to have photographs of members taken and having same framed and suitably placed in Hall

May 3, 1871, cont'd

"James McGlathery presenting the portrait of his grandfather together with his certificate of membership in Company was received and the Managing Committee were instructed to make such disposition of them as proper."

No. 38 for \$19.79 to Otto Pohl for "tinwork at conductor etc. for Hall."

May 8, 1871

Managing Committee directed to rent store 322 Chestnut Street "on the best terms they can provided no liquor is manufactured or sold on the premises."

June 6, 1871

Committee on Photographs of Members of Company report proposals submitted by two photographers, selected F. Guttekunst of No. 712 Arch Street

Motion, "to have a lightning rod and conductor of the best quality placed on Hall."

July 5, 1871

Committee on Photograph reports progress, "request wardens to notify members to attend the next stated meeting of the Company on July 17th and receive cards of admission to the Photographers Room."

Lightning rod and conductor complete, ball presented at next meeting

August 2, 1871

No. 65 for \$133.90 to "Rayburn, Hunter & Co. for lightning rods, fixtures etc. on Hall."

September 6, 1871

Thanks of Company sent to "R. Newell Photographer of No. 272 Arch Street for his gift to the Company of photographic views of the front and interior of the Hall. Also thanks sent to Field and Handi for the handsome walnut frames in which the views are placed."

October 4, 1871

Authorize renewal of sashes in cellar windows
No. 83 for \$3.37 to Otto Pohl for repairing tin gutters at Hall

October 16, 1871

Resolved, that "the Managing Committee is authorized to have the name 'Carpenters Hall' placed in a conspicuous manner on the front of the building."

No. 85 for \$500.00 "donation to aid the sufferers by Fire in Chicago."

December 6, 1871

Motion, Committee on Sign be authorized "to add to the top of the sign now up with the words 'Company Instituted 1724'."

No. 103 for \$66.76 to Walter Allison for carpenters work, cleaning cellar of Hall etc.

January 3, 1872

No. 116 for \$28.00 to Carlisle & Joy for painting and glazing store at 322 Chestnut Street per request of new tenants.

January 10, 1872

No. 121 for \$85.15 to Hunnecker & Brant for sign in front of Hall

January 17, 1872

Motion, the Managing Committee be directed to "place the photo of members in a square frame according to the date of their membership."

February 2, 1872

No. 4 for \$11.95 to J. W. Forsythe for new hydrant and plumbing work at Hall and Store

March 3, 1872

Motion of R. K. Betts, resolved that "an order be drawn in favor of Martha Stewart for \$25.00 toward defraying the funeral expenses of her mother Sarah Stewart (late our Janitor) whose death occurred on the 16th of last month in 82 years of her age"

The following resolution also passed

Whereas Sarah Stewart widow of our late fellow member James Stewart having satisfactorily performed the duties of Janitress of the Hall for a period of sixteen years, deceased on the 16th of last month in the 83rd year of her age, leaving daughter Martha Stewart in charge. Who being familiar with all the duties of the position it was on motion resolved that she be continued in charge until the next stated meeting of the Company at the same rate of compensation."

No. 11 for \$35.45 to Martha Stewart for monthly services etc.

No. 12 for \$25.00 to Martha Stewart to defray funeral expenses of Sarah Stewart

April 3, 1872

Resolved, that the thanks of the Company be given to Dr. Francis R. Shunk for the gift of a copy of Paines Practical House Carpenter and Youth's Instructor, late of our deceased member Isaac Shunk.

May 5, 1872

Committee receives notice from Company that Martha Stewart be hired as Janitress at a wage of \$50.00 per month and that she be given \$250.00 for expenses related to her Mothers sickness and funeral

Motion by R.K. Betts to have thanks of Committee go to "Walter Allison for a copy of the journal of the United States Centennial Commission for 1872 which was placed in the library."

Committee on photograph requests "to notify such members of the Company as have not had their likenesses taken to attend to it at once, that the frame now in readiness may be complete."

No. 28 for \$5.00 for repairs to pipes at Store

No. 29 for \$96.57 for carpenters work and material for Hall & Store

No. 30 for \$28.00 to Carlisle and Joy for painting and glazing at Store

No. 31 for \$213.16 for hoisting machine for Store

August 7, 1872

No. 57 for \$42.12 to J. W. Forsythe for plumbing at Hall and Store

October 2, 1872

No. 73 for \$274.75 to F. Guttekunst for Photographs of Members and Frame for Hall

No. 74 for \$25.00 to Leonidas Mancanin for bronze railing in front of photograph frame

November 6, 1872

Motion, resolved that "R. K. Betts be authorized to subscribe for one copy of the American Historical Record by Benson J. Lossing at \$3.00 per annum, also..."

No. 78 for \$90.00 to J.E. McClees for making and hanging frame for photographs in Hall

No. 79 for \$9.70 to J.H. Warrin for engraving names on photograph mat

December 4, 1872

No. 89 for \$2.75 for "autograph book for table in Hall."

No. 90 for \$3.00 to Chase & Town for one years subscription to American Historical Record from January 1, 1872 to January 1, 1873.

December 16, 1872

Received proposal for purchase of Company property by D. J. Pratt Real Estate Broker, on the east side of Court in the rear of Howells property now occupied by our two-storied office building

January 15, 1872

No. 103 for \$20.07 to Shuster for carpenter work at Hall and Store

No. 104 for \$8.08 to J. Reynolds & Son for repair to heater in Store

January 15, 1872

No. 107 for \$4.00 to Chase & Town for 1 year subscription to American Historical Record for 1873.

No. 108 for \$1.50 to J. W. Forsythe for "plumbing in 1872"

No. 109 for \$15.15 to David Shuster for tinwork at Hall

Resolution passed "deeming it inexpedient to sell any portion of property of Company."

Approved contribution of \$1000.00 to the proposed Centennial Celebration of Independence

February 26, 1873

Company agrees to offer of Guarantee Trust & Safe Deposit Company for \$5,000.00 for transfer of title of Company property

April 2, 1873 Note: Includes complete title for transfer of property written into record

No. 27 for \$48.00 to Matsinger & Brother for repair to heater of Hall

No. 30 for \$5.00 for repair of spouts on Store

Walter Allison directed to have:

-party wall off 322 Chestnut Street used by Central Bank, measured

-latch fastenings to iron gate Chestnut Street, spouts and shutter bolts of Hall put in proper repair

-new burners to gas fixtures in Hall etc..

May 7, 1873

No. 38 for \$26.75 for new gas burners

No. 40 for \$15.00 to Martha Stewart for plants for garden

June 4, 1873

No. 42 for \$14.00 to R. K. Betts for exchange of clock in Hall

July 2, 1873

No. 56 for \$8.50 to John D. Lavis for paperhanging at Store

No. 59 for \$5.70 to Philadelphia Carpet Company for cleaning carpet for Hall

August 6, 1873

Motion, that "certain ancient documents were referred to R. K. Betts to report to a future meeting."

No. 64 for \$27.00 to J. W. Forsythe for plumbing at Hall

No. 67 for \$6.00 to C. H. Fisher for putting down carpets

Motion, that "R. K. Betts be appointed to have the fireproofs at the northeast corner of Hall removed and the wall restored to their original condition."

Motion, for R. K. Betts "to purchase a convenience for members to black their boots and have placed in the 'Retiring Room'."

September 9, 1873

No. 73 for \$641.37 to Austin & Obdyke for galvanized iron work on cupola etc.

Complaint received from 322 Chestnut Street of water in cellar, the committee checked wells, then recommends "a culvert be constructed up the court to receive waste from the basins, the surface drainage of the Store, Court, Hall, and water closets."

Committee on Fireproof presents the following report:

The fireproofs have been taken down. From the care taken in their construction () it very tedious. We found that our predecessors in allowing them to be up, had carefully protected 'The Hall' by having paper nearly the eighth of an inch in thickness placed so that neither bricks or mortar should touch the Original Walls. The Old Window frames were still in place, one having the sash removed and the other having the sash and inside shutters in perfect order. These show that the inside of the Hall was still unpainted when the fireproofs were constructed, though more than twenty years from its first occupancy.

One of the vaults in the cellar has been used for coal, the other has had the shelving from those now removed placed in to accommodate the crockery and belongings to the Company.

The valuable books and papers were removed to the Fireproof in the Committee Room, those of comparative little value were placed in the case in the retiring room for the present. They were found to be in a very musty condition from the dampness of the vault.

We recommend that the case in the retiring room be continued up an additional height of five or six feet as a depository for these and other papers.

The cost of removing the rubbish has been avoided by putting it in the cellar on the east side of court.

A change has been made in the gas main to the front wall, the plastering brickwork tile flooring wainscoting and lining the ceiling will be completed without delay.

The Committee though had to remove the decayed board partition alongside the cellar stairway and have a brick wall in its place as an additional security from fire.

Submitted by R. K. Betts

October 10, 1873

No. 82 for \$45.00 to "Austin & Obdyke for refrigerator, tinwork, etc. for Hall"

No. 83 for \$198.73 to George Greely for brickwork for Hall

No. 84 for \$66.98 to James Allen for plastering for Hall

No. 85 for \$85.50 to Sharplen & Watt for tileing in vestibule

No. 86 for \$212.05 to Philadelphia Granite Co. for sills, flagstone, etc.

No. 87 for \$43.65 to Carlisle & Joy for painting cupola etc.

No. 88 for \$88.00 for lumber & work

No. 89 for \$200.00 for two installments of Centennial stock

October 10, 1873, cont'd

Committee on Ancient Documents reports, and recommends that "a frame be made similar to that of the roll of Company and placed in a corresponding position in the Hall to receive them and others of like character, and thus secure our Company many others that are acquiring additional value with each proceeding year." Recommendation approved.

Committee on Culvert report that there is no culvert on Chestnut Street to hook up to, therefore will connect with a culvert on Hudson's Alley

November 5, 1873

No. 91 for \$146.00 to J. L. Wharton for iron columns for Hall

No. 93 for \$85.56 to H. Hamlin for terra cotta pipes for Hall

No. 94 for \$92.62 to D. W. Nichol & Brother for taking down old fireproof and cleaning brick

No. 95 for \$29.00 to Thackera Burk & Co. for gas fixtures for vestibule

No. 96 for \$6.00 for night watchman at open culvert on Hudson Alley

No. 97 for \$1.90 for lantern, oil, etc for watchman

December 3, 1873

No. 100 for \$39.59 to G. H. Hamlin for terra cotta pipes

No. 101 for \$85.65 to Etris Brothers for paperhanging at Hall

No. 102 for \$45.55 to John Kelly for slating etc.

No. 108 for \$2.74 to Sharplen & Watt for tileing in vestibule

No. 109 for \$9.30 to Shuster for work in Hall

Committee on Culvert reports work is completed; entered into the minutes is a complete report detailing the layout of pipes, dimensions, runoff control etc.

Also, "a large portion of the pavement of our court was necessarily torn up in performance of this duty and the opportunity to use the Old Brick in building the culvert was embraced and North River Flagging has been substituted in their stead. We found the water main...

"Your committee accepted the offer of D. W. Nichols and Brother that if we would furnish new curb and belgian blocks to do the work of resetting curb and paving the Cartway for the old materials as advantageous to the company."

January 7, 1874

No. 122 for \$39.82 to L. J. Creswell for cast iron work

No. 123 for \$11.00 to Suddard H. Fenmore for Photographs

No. 129 for \$11.25 to W. E. Allen for cementing wall of store

No. 130 for \$84.43 to Matsinger Brothers work on Heater

No. 131 for \$131.00 to C. Faser for new frame, glass, and reguiling

No. 132 for \$156.00 to Obdyke & Austin for tin roof at store

No. 133 for \$212.50 to Burke & Bro. for granite blocks for Court

No. 134 for \$350.78 to Carlisle & Joy for frescoing in Hall , painting etc.

No. 135 for \$511.60 to J. W. Forsythe for plumbing & gas fitting

January 7, 1874, cont'd

No. 136 for \$603.30 to W. McClelland for digging culvert

No. 137 for \$861.43 to G. R. Greely for work and materials to culvert, paving yard and cellar

No. 138 for \$876.73 to W. A. Allison for lumber, hardware, carpenters work

No. 139 for \$1360.10 to Philadelphia Granite Co. for flagging and curbstones

No. 140 for \$2.25 to D. Shuster for repair to range and heater

January 21, 1874

Motion, resolved that "Walter Allison be authorized to procure photographs of such members as have not yet been obtained and have placed in the frame."

Authorize Walter Allison to have leak in water closet repaired

March 4, 1874

Walter Allison reports cards ready for photographs of members

William Eyre and R.K. Betts appointed to a committee "to take an inventory of the papers and effects of the Company in the possession of the Treasurer."

Notice from William Hanna presenting to the Company the volumes of The Delegates of the Convention, thanks of company is sent .

No. 5 for \$4.10 for subscription to American Historical Record

No. 6 for \$9.63 to Etris Brothers for paperhanging in Hall

April 1, 1874

Note: List of effects and papers in hand of Treasurer read into the minutes

May 6, 1874

"The garden and ground around the Hall requiring to be resodded and planted with shrubbery, it was on motion resolved that the sum of \$50.00 be appropriated to that object and R.K. Betts and Walter Allison be appointed to attend to the same and also to have the chamber second floor of Hall papered."

No. 17 for \$200.00 for 3rd installment of subscription to Centennial Fund

No. 24 for \$50.00 for sodding and plants for yard of Hall

July 1, 1874

Motion, resolved that an order be drawn for "William Boyle [gardener] of 42nd & Lancaster for \$10.00 for extra sodding on the east side of yard in front and that he be employed to cut grass and give needed attention to the garden which he proposes to do until next Spring for \$25.00."

No. 32 for \$10.00 to Wm. Boyle for extra sodding east side of yard

September 2, 1874

"John Ogden , Walter Allison, and R. K. Betts were appointed a committee to carry out the Centennial Celebration of the meeting of the Colonial Congress in the Hall."

Pavement in front and east side of court is finished with flagging and paving. Notice to contractor of new building on east side of court in regard to expenses of said paving.

No. 35 for \$10.69 to Etris Brothers & G. Brown for paperhanging and gas fitting

No. 37 for \$85.00 to McClung's Band for Centennial Celebration to be held on the 5th

October 7, 1874

Received \$60.00 from contractor of new building for damage to pavement on Court

Received and thanks are sent from Company for gift of Journal of the Senate of the United States, Being the first session of the second Congress held in the city of Philadelphia October 24, 1791.... from Thomas Brown (plumber etc of the City of Philadelphia)."

No. 42 for \$42.25 for Gerry Creely for digging out and paving in front of Hall

No. 48 for \$175.00 to Philadelphia Granite Company for flagging east side of Court

No. 49 for \$28.62 to Theo. Kerny for taking down and carting away music stands, chairs etc from and to the Union League for Centennnial Celebration
September 5, 1874

No. 50 for \$3.15 to Geo. Doll & Co for Buckets, Lantern, and Candles

No. 51 for \$47.70 to J. W. Forsythe for plumbing at Hall And Store

No. 52 for \$12.65 to Godfrey Krouse for Putting up gas pipes and fixtures at Hall

No. 53 for \$41.00 to W. A. Robin for upholstering and fixing up Flags etc for Centennial

No. 54 for \$6.50 to G. H. Garrett for carriage hire for Centennial

November 4, 1874

Notify Guarentee Trust & Safe Deposit Company to "have a stone cap placed with an iron railing on the wall now erected between our premises, so as the whole will be at least eight feet above our pavement."

Resolved, that M. Cmte pay expenses incurred on Centennial Celebration amounting to \$318.50.

No. 58 for \$12.00 to Henry Dreer for cut flowers for Centennial

No. 59 for \$60.00 to H. W. Crotzer for 1000 copies of Centennial newspaper

No. 61 for \$11.00 to D. Williams for reguilding frames

No. 65 for \$30.00 to "Allison and Betts for expenses in delivering Memorial to Congress"

No. 66 for \$400.00 for 4th and 5th installment to Centennial Stock

December 2, 1874

Committee on Centennial Congress authorizes "1000 copies of proceedings of Celebration printed and bound in pamphlet form together with the proprietiously [sic] of the Stereotype plates, the expense to be \$220.00." No. 73 for \$12.79 to Carlisle and Joy for painting Hall
No. 74 for \$13.15 to Field & Hardie for hardware
No. 75 for \$26.02 to Walter Allison for carpenters work
No. 81 for \$200.0 to "Committee on account of printing oration at Centennial and including the Stereotype plates."

January 6, 1875

Thanks of Company sent to B. F. Kerns for certificate of membership in Company of William Roberts date March 15, 1763, which will "be safely preserved."

Authorize committee to procure "six dozen napkins for use at Annual Dinner and to have the same marked with name of the Company." No. 89 for \$14.60 to Matsinger and Brother for repair to heater
No. 92 for \$24.40 to William Boyle for care of yard and garden

February 2, 1875

No. 5 for \$19.92 to Homer Colladay & Co. for napkins and towels
No. 7 for \$131.20 for Taylor & Smith for printing oration etc. of Centennial
No. 8 for \$3.50 to P. Kramer for carpenters work etc, at water closet
No. 9 for \$3.65 to J. W. Forsythe for gas pipes etc at Hall

March 3, 1875

No. 18 for \$8.50 to J. E. Kingsley for Continental Hotel bill for Hon. William Wilson Vice-President of the United States at Centennial Celebration of Hall on September 5, 1874

May 5, 1874

Company directs the Managing Committee to "have the word 'expelled' erased wherever it occurs on the list of Members suspended against the wall in our Hall."

Resolved that \$10.00 be spent on flowers and plants for garden

June 2, 1875

Newly erected gates on court to be "painted and bronzed with gold bronze or gilded in best manner. Also to have galvanized iron gates erected on east and west sides and on a line with front of Hall."

Motion, of Walter Allison for additional \$5.00 for plants for garden of Hall

No. 34 for \$5.00 for plants and flowers for garden

No. 35 for \$36.00 to H. C. Coats for printing supplement to catalogue of Library

July 7, 1875

Walter Allison reports "painting & bronzing" of gates at front of court completed and "the erasures directed to be made on the list of members are now complete..."

Committee on gates, produces plan for gates on side of Hall, accepts Matsinger & Brothers estimate of \$112.00 for non-galvanized gates.

August 8, 1875

Charles M. Betts pays dues as new member

Thanks of Company is sent to William J. Forsythe "for the donation of valuable papers of the revolutionary period."

Authorized to procure from the Centennial Board of Finance the "certificate for the Companys' contribution to the Centennial Fund... and to have the same suitably framed and hung in Hall."

No. 46 for \$3.00 to Godfrey Krause for putting up and taking down gas fixtures

No. 48 for \$25.33 to Walter Allison for carpenters work and materials

No. 49 for \$37.21 to Carlisle and Joy for painting and bronzing front gate

No. 50 for \$51.00 to J. Johns for binding 200 volumes of Centennial Carpenters Hall

No. 52 for \$245.00 to Matsinger & Brother for iron gates at front of Court

No. 53 for \$24.75 to William Boyle for care of garden and plants as per arrangement

September 1, 1875

Committee requests proposals for painting outside of Hall with "two coats of the best material."

William Eyre directed to have frames and trellis work prepared for plants and vines in front yard of Hall.

No. 58 for \$10.00 to John Burgen for drawers and locks to table in Committee Room

No. 59 for \$4.25 to J. W. Forsythe for plumbing at Hall, repairing water closet etc.

No. 61 for \$112.00 to Matsinger & Bro. for iron gates at side of Hall

October 6, 1875

Certificate from Centennial Board of Finance if now framed and hung in Hall as directed

William Eyre reports "the arbors and trellis work completed with three coats of paint on wood and four on the iron work."

No. 70 for \$120.15 to "William Eyre for 15 arbors and trellis for front yard."

November 3, 1875

Company orders Managing Committee to have exterior of store painted two coats; lowest bid received and accepted from Carlisle & Joy for \$184.00.

December 12, 1875

Thanks of company to F. A. Dreer for gift of lease of Hall by Company to the Bank of the United States for 3 year term beginning November 1793 for \$1000.00 per year. Document is to be placed "among other ancient papers in the frame provided for that purpose against the north wall in the Hall room."

"The flag used for some years on the Hall having become so nearly worn out as to be discreditable to the Company, it was on Motion resolved that Walter Allison be directed to procure a new one before the opening of the Centennial year 1876."

Resolved to direct supervisor of painting "to have rough castings on eastern wall (of store) repaired and painted."

No. 80 for \$255.00 to Charles Abel for painting outside of Hall

No. 81 for \$184.00 to Carlisle & Joy for painting No. 322 Chestnut Street

January 6, 1876

Reported that "the flag ordered at last meeting had been procured and unfurled on the opening of the new Centennial Year on the eve of which the front of our Hall was illuminated in a brilliant display showing in gas jets the words

'THE NATIONS BIRTH PLACE'

Which attracting much attention brought in a large number of interested spectators, who seemed to enjoy the opportunity, lingering until past the midnight hour thus witnessing the birth of the Centennial Year in this Historic Building."

No. 91 for \$36.00 to F. Guttekunst for photographs of members

No. 92 for \$31.50 to Hortsman Brothers for a new flag

No. 93 for \$15.35 to James Allen for repair of rough castings on east wall of Store

No. 94 for \$22.25 to William Boyle for care of garden, furnishing plants, etc to Nov. 1875

No. 95 for \$13.47 to Walter Allison for carpenter work, hardware, etc

No. 97 for \$120.00 to Carlisle & Joy for "painting east wall four coats and blocking off, also reguilding sign 'Carpenters Court'."

January 19, 1876

Suspended resolution restricting meetings in Hall to allow the Universal Peace Union, to "occupy our Hall for 4-5 days in the month of July next a few hours each day for the purpose of holding public meetings." Note: letter from Universal Peace Union is amended to the minutes

Resolved that members of the Company join with the Managing Committee for "the purpose of perfecting arrangements whereby the members of the Company may celebrate in a becoming manner the 100th anniversary of the Nations Independence."

February 2, 1876

Motion, Secretary be directed to procure "suitable envelopes and stationary for use of Committee. Also a suitably ruled and bound book for a registry for the autographs of visitors."

February 16, 1876

Special meeting called for purpose of finding "suitable decoration of the Hall for the approaching 144th anniversary of the birth of Washington on the 22nd."

Motion, Chairman is authorized to procure "suitable flags and the necessary fixtures for holding them to be displayed from the second story front windows and smaller sized ones for the Decoration of the interior of the Hall and Library Room."

March 1, 1876

Motion, authorized to have "a light wicket gate placed near bottom of stairs with a suitable private fastening."

No. 5 for \$20.60 to Godfrey Krause for fixing gas pipes for illumination etc.
No. 6 for \$53.75 for flags and fixtures for decorating Hall for Washington's 144th Celebration

March 15, 1876

Special Meeting called for decorating Hall, appointed Committee of two from the Managing Committee to check into cost of decorating interior and exterior of Hall for Centennial.

March 22, 1876

Committee reports costs of decorating Hall ranging from \$478 to \$715; "But deeming it impolitic to incur so heavy and expenditure, and in view of the rapid rise in prices of decorating materials and labor," the committee suggests deferment believing that the Hall can be sufficiently decorated at a cost not exceeding \$325.00.

March 29, 1876

Authorizes \$400.00 to be spent on decorating Hall for Centennial

Subject of publishing a brief history of the Hall, committee is reminded on printing 1000 copies of reminiscences for gratis distribution in October of 1873, therefore the Managing Committee now resolved that 10,000 copies of Carpenters Hall and Its Historic Memories be made for the Centennial Celebration for distribution gratis.

April 5, 1876

No. 19 for \$16.50 to Matsinger and Brother for iron gate on stairs
No. 20 for \$161.24 to J.T. May & Co. for bunting and decoration of Hall
No. 22 for \$34.03 for new registry book and other stationary

May 3, 1876

Motion of R.K. Betts to have cellar cleaned and whitewashed and to have a new oilcloth placed on the floor of second story entry.

Thanks of Company are sent to Daniel K. Cassel for lithographic copy of map of the city of Philadelphia from surveys taken in 1750 showing ownership, public buildings etc.

No. 24 for \$50.00 to J.L. Smith for decorating Hall

No. 25 for \$45.00 to W.E. Needham for painting shield with coat of arms etc.

No. 26 for \$225.00 to H.C. Coats for printing and binding 10,000 copies of Carpenters Hall and Its Historic Memories

June 7, 1876

Report that the cellar cleaned and whitewashed and "new oilcloth placed on the second story Hall floor after having floor planed over as directed at last meeting."

Request received for loan of Peyton Randolph portrait to E.D. Merchant for making a copy; secretary reports that terms of donation do not permit it leaving the Hall.

Authorize purchase of "two more registry books to match the one now in use it being already nearly filled and to have them numbered conspicuously on the back no. 1,2,3."

Authorize purchase of a "lawn mower of suitable size for use around Hall."

No. 31 for \$52.22 to J. H. Orrie & Co. for 26 1/4 yards of oilcloth for Hall

No. 32 for \$9.25 to Matsinger Brothers for flags etc.

No. 34 for \$6.55 to Godfrey Krause for gas fitting

No. 35 for \$18.45 to Isaac Williams & Co. for water filter and cooler etc.

No. 36 for \$92.00 to Walter Allison for portrait of Washington \$80.00; and to Cooper & Conrad for 10 foot flag, \$12.00

July 5, 1876

Authorize loan of Peyton Randolph portrait to Mr. Marchant (artist) for two days provided given proper security that portrait be returned.

R.K. Betts is authorized to have 10,000 additional copies of Carpenters Hall and Its Historic Memories "with its location printed thereon, also to have letter of John Adams inserted in full in each copy in italics."

Received thanks from Essex Institute in Salem, Massachusetts for copy of 1873 Rules of the Company and for Carpenters Hall and Its Historic Memories.

"Photographic copy of Sully's portrait of Patrick Henry was received from his great grandson William Henry of Virginia who was a recent visitor to our Hall." Authorized to have it framed and hung in Hall and also the ancient map of Philadelphia presented by Daniel Cassel hung in Hall & framed.

Authorized purchase of two more registry books, of similar size and binding, no. 4 & 5.

July 5, 1876, cont'd

No. 44 for \$21.00 for two new registry books

No. 45 for \$18.00 to Field & Hardi for a lawn mower

No. 46 for \$164.00 to H. C. Coats for 10,000 copies printed and bound of Historic Memories

No. 47 for \$7.50 for lettering and hanging flag in front.

August 2, 1876

A copy of Etting's Historical Account of the Old Statehouse was purchased on motion of William Eyre.

No. 50 for \$36.12 to Wm. Eyre for registry books, plumbing bill, and sundry expenses

September 6, 1876

Motion to procure three additional registry books, no. 8,9, &10.

"The edition of Carpenters Hall and Its Historic Memories being exhausted and the visitors to the Hall still continuing, R.K. Betts is authorized to procure an additional 20,000 copies, making in all to date 50,000."

No. 53 for \$350.00 to H. C. Coats for 30,000 copies of Carpenters Hall and Its Historic Memories

No. 54 for \$17.00 for Registry Books 6 & 7

No. 56 for \$37.00 to Wm. Boyle for garden

September 12, 1876

No. 67 for \$220.00 to H. C. Coats for 20,000 copies of Carpenters Hall and Its Historic Memories

No. 68 for \$50.00 for additional registers no. 8 to 13 inclusive.

November 1, 1876

No. 73 for \$17.00 for two register books no. 14 & 15.

November 15, 1876

Special meeting called to "consider what repairs are needed to place the premises and furniture in good condition after the very hard usage to which they have been subjected during the Centennial Period just closed. In which it is estimated that not less than a half million visitors coming from nearly all parts of the civilized world have been drawn to view our justly venerated and Historic Building, nearly 70,000 of whom have left their signature and address on our Registry Books.

On examination it was found that the oilcloth on the Hall in second story was so much worn as to require renewing, and the entire 1st and 2nd story of the Hall together with the decorating bunting, flags etc. requiring a thorough cleansing, on motion it was resolved that S. Rain, R.K. Betts be appointed to attend to same and make necessary repairs to Hall."

December 6, 1876

Committee on Cleansing of the Hall reports "service completed. A new floorcloth called 'Linoleum' has been place on the 2nd story Hall. The chairs reupholstered and the Hall passages, stairs and library thoroughly cleansed."

Authorized committee to review the minutes and have report drawn of expenses for Centennial.

No. 77 for \$97.10 to R.K. Betts for Linoleum floorcloth, reupholstering chairs, repairs etc.

No. 81 for \$22.24 to Samuel Rain for carpet cleaning and repairs to Store and Hall

January 3, 1877

Report of Expenses for the Nations First Centennial

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Company Subscription to Centennial Stock | \$1000.00 |
| Bunting and Decoration | \$ 161.24 |
| Upholstering work including Shield and States Coat of Arms | \$ 95.00 |
| Flags Brackets & Fixtures etc. | \$ 82.50 |
| Gas Fitting, for removing and putting up pipes | \$ 6.55 |
| New large-sized water cooler and fixtures for hanging about | \$ 10.00 |
| Bill for Exhia Ice from May 10 to November 15 | \$ 39.54 |
| Portrait of Washington in gilt frame to remain in Hall | \$ 80.00 |
| 15 Registry Books for recording visitors name & addresses | \$ 137.30 |
| Printing & Binding 70,000 copies of Historic Memories | \$ 959.00 |
| Carpet repair and laying down again | \$ 12.00 |
| New floorcloth, 2nd story entry (one new last Spring worn out) | \$ 62.22 |
| 1/2 expense of repairing Library Room chairs about | \$ 25.00 |
| | ----- |
| Making the entire cost of Celebration of 1876 | \$2705.35 |
| from which amount and dividend received in stock is to be deducted | |

Report of Expense of Celebration of September 5, 1874
150th year of Company and 100th year of Continental Congress

For engrossing memorials to President of the United States and both
branches of Congress inviting them to participate in celebration

| | |
|---|-----------|
| | \$ 25.00 |
| Expense of Committee to Washington to present same | \$ 34.00 |
| Band of music \$85.00, carting settees etc \$28.62, cut flowers \$12.00 | |
| | \$ 125.62 |
| Decoration \$41.00, building stages inside and outside Hall \$26.12 | |
| | \$ 67.02 |
| Carriage Hire and Hotel bill for H.R. Wilson, Vice-President of the United States, invited guest | \$ 15.00 |
| Subscription to Centennial Newspaper with engraving of our Hall for distribution | \$ 60.00 |
| Print and bind 2000 copies of H.A. Brown's oration for distribution | \$ 131.60 |
| Gas fitters bill for putting up and removing gas fixtures in front | \$ 12.65 |
| | ----- |
| Total Cost | \$ 478.55 |

January 17, 1877

R. K. Betts motion , now resolved ..."whereas the large number of visitors at our Hall during the Centennial Exhibition largely increased the duties of our esteemed Superintendent Martha J. Stewart. Her ladylike bearing and courtesy to those visiting our Hall deserves the notice of the Company. Therefore..."

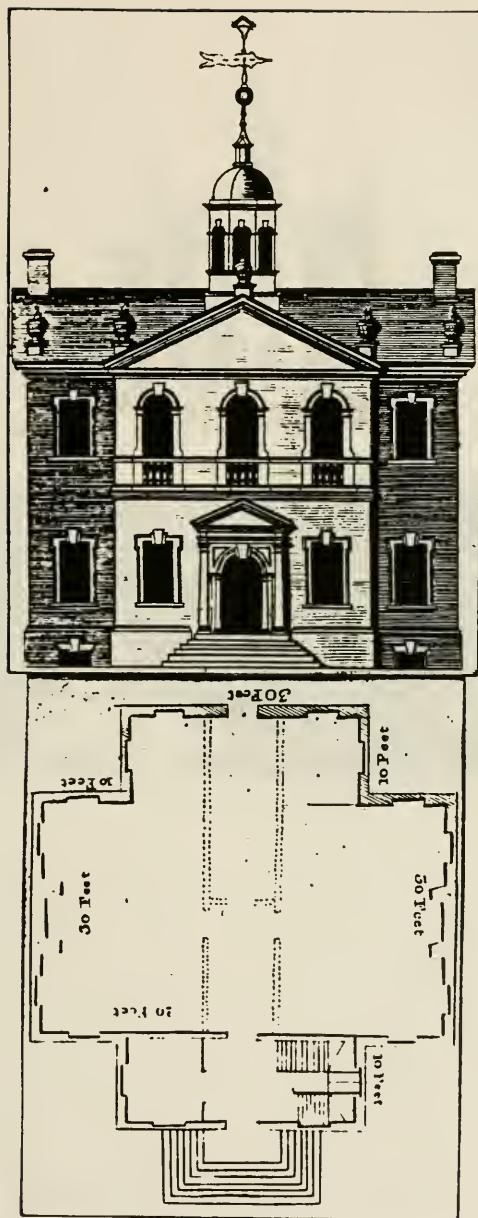
Thanks of Company is sent to Martha Stewart with bonus of \$200.00

January 17, 1877

Resolved that the Managing Committee have a "case or cabinet placed in the second story entry in which may be deposited such ancient relics as our members and others may be pleased to donated or loan to the Company."

Charles K. Betts motion that "the present decoration of the Hall be continued as now except removing the Foreign Flags and replacing them with our national emblem."

Thanks of Company is sent to R. K.Betts "for compiling the excellent pamphlet for distribution to our Centennial Visitors."



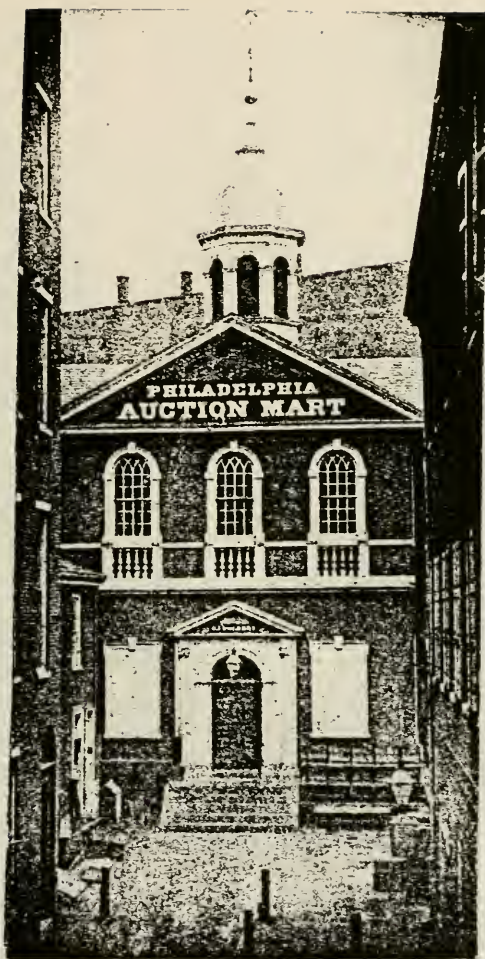
Original Planned Elevation and Floorplan, Carpenters' Hall, ca. 1770. Independence National Historical Park Library.



CARPENTERS' HALL.



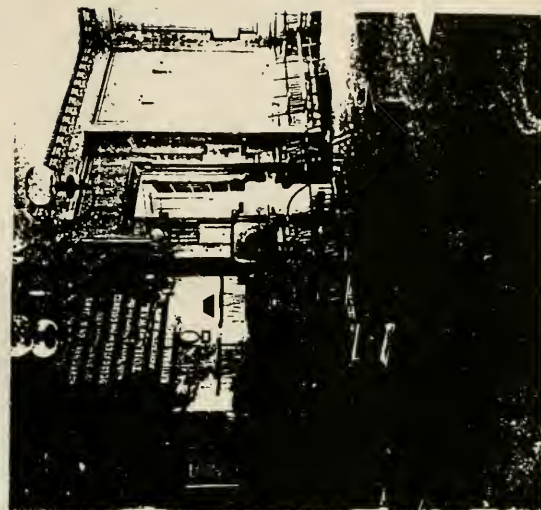
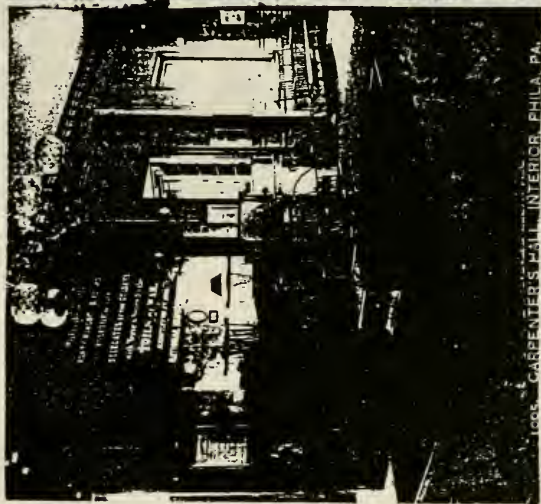
Benson J. Lossing, interior and exterior view, Carpenters' Hall, Sketch, 1848. Independence National Historical Park Library.



M.A. Root, exterior view of Carpenters' Hall, Photograph, 1855. Library Company.



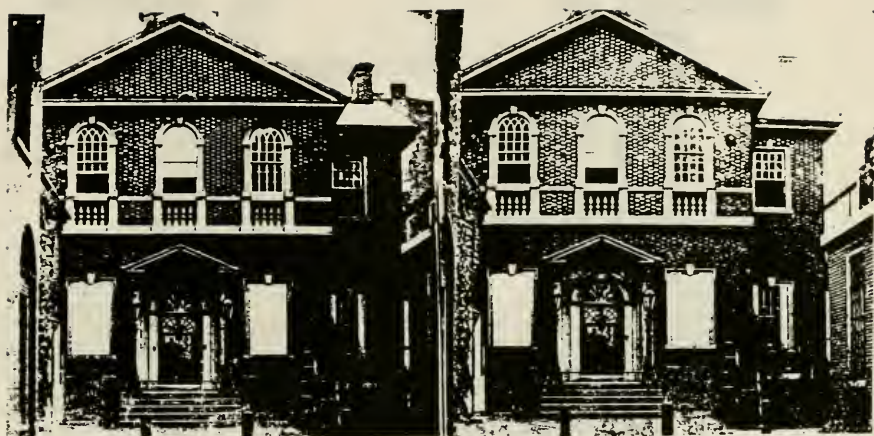
F.D. Richards, exterior view of Carpenters' Hall, Photograph, ca. 1859. Library Company



Interior view of Carpenters' Hall, Photograph, ca. 1866-1869.
Library Company.



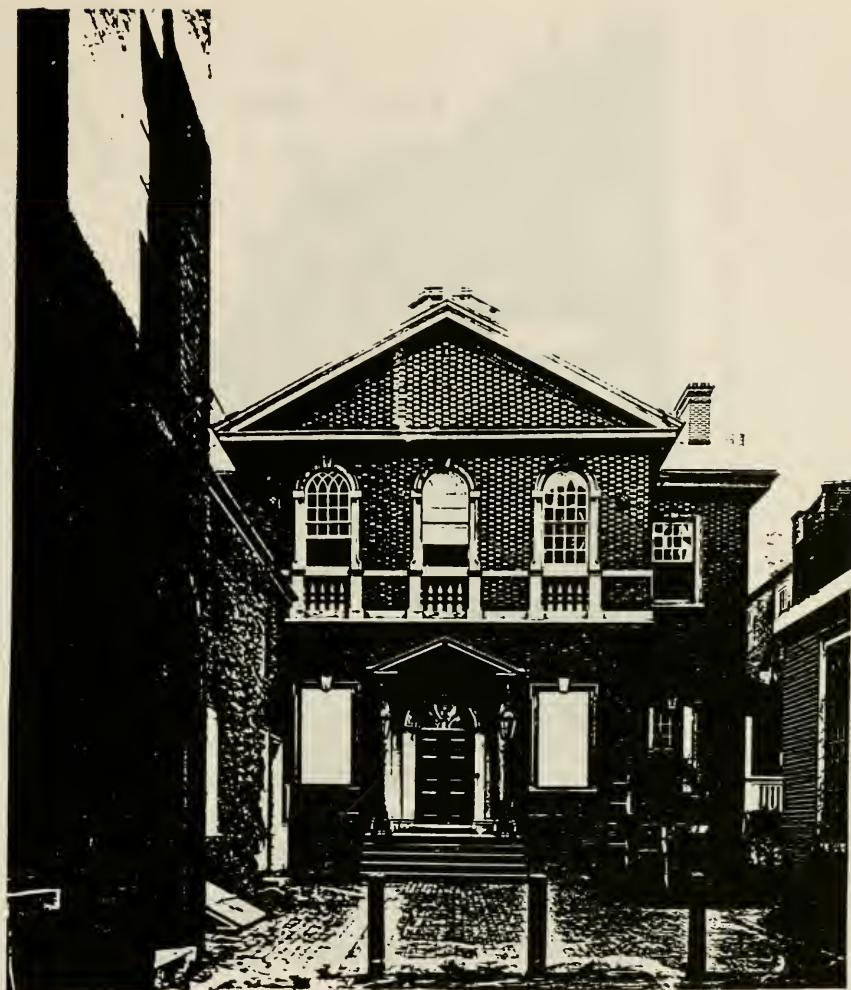
Bartlett and Smith, exterior view of Carpenters' Hall,
Photograph, ca. 1867-1871. Library Company.



Robert Newell, exterior view of Carpenters' Hall,
Photograph, ca. 1867-1871. Library Company.



Robert Newell, interior view of Carpenters' Hall,
Photograph, ca. 1870-1871. Library Company.



Robert Newell, exterior view of Carpenters' Hall,
Photograph, ca. 1867-1869. Library Company and
Independence National Historical Park Library.



Robert Newell, exterior view of northeast corner of Carpenters' Hall,
Photograph, 1873. Library Company.

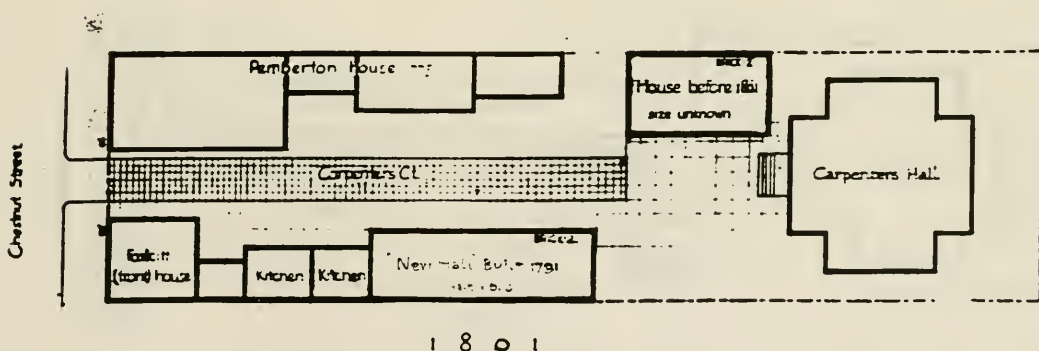
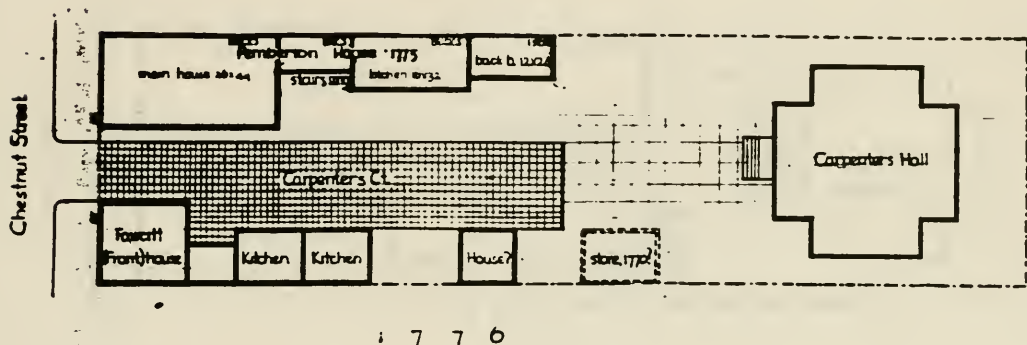
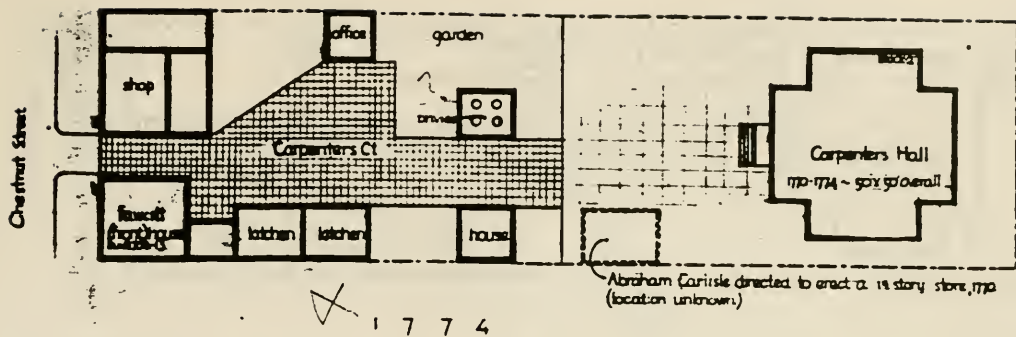
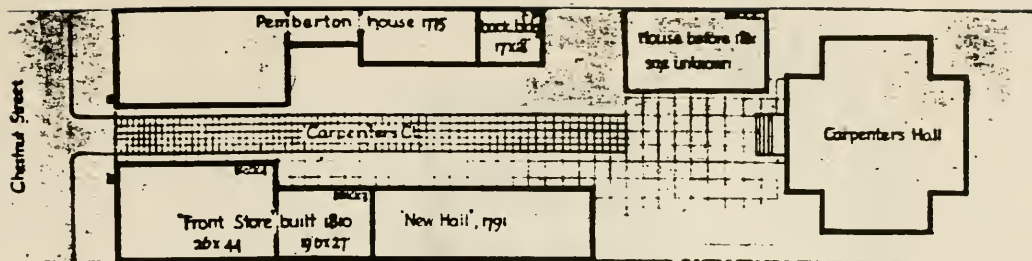
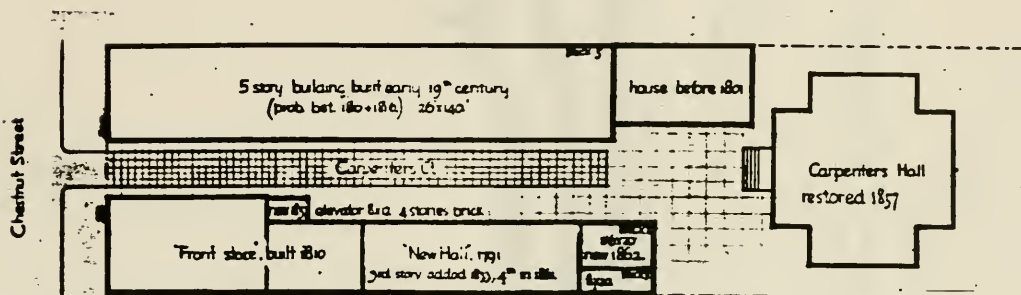


Figure Ground Drawings, Carpenters' Court, 1774-1801.
James Massey, Carpenters' Court, (rev. ed.) Philadelphia:
National Park Service and Univ. of Penn., 1957.
Independence National Historical Park Library.

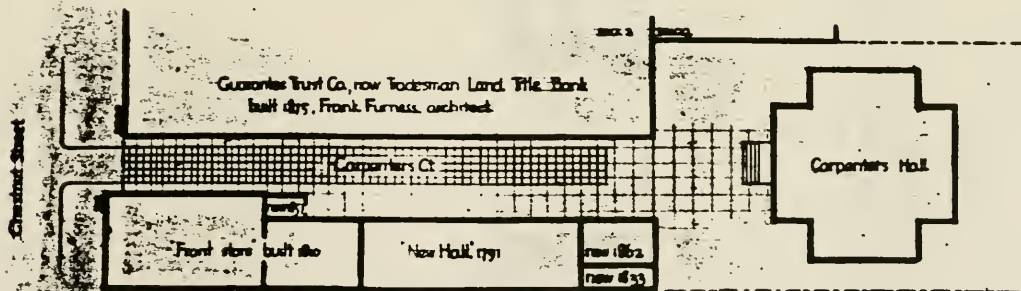


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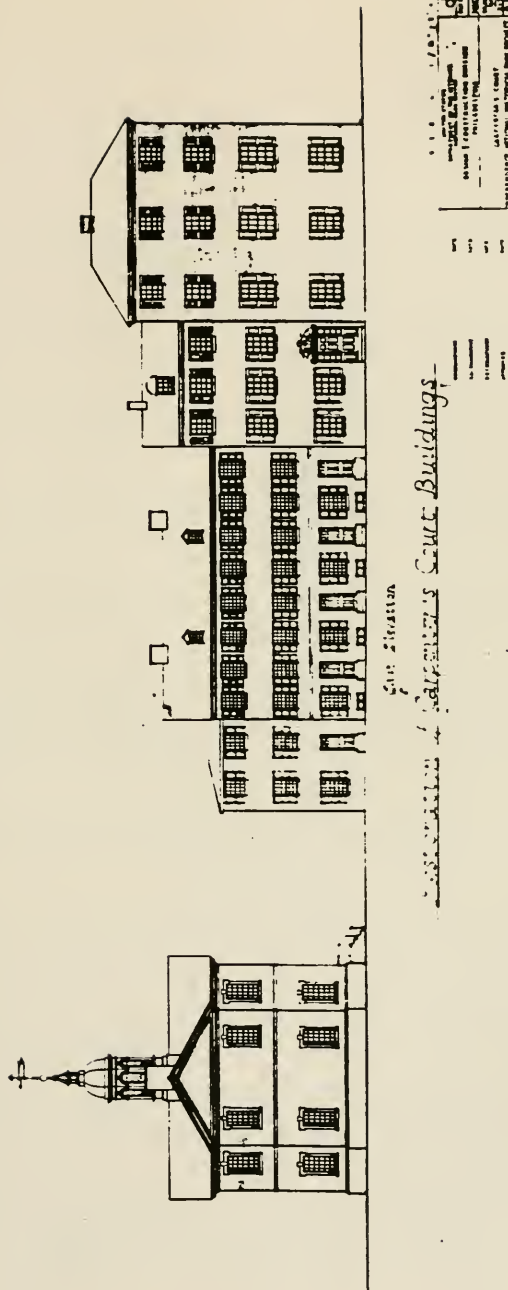
The whole range of buildings on this side restored 1857. piazza for privies & stairs added 1833.

1 8 6 2



1 8 7 5

Figure Ground Drawings, Carpenters' Court, 1812-1875.
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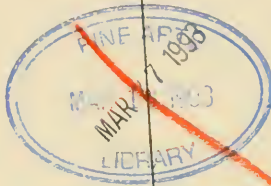
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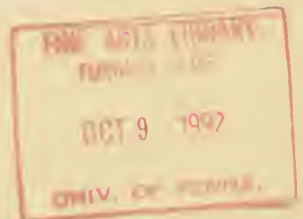
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