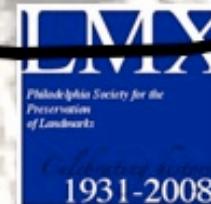


Powel House

From the ~~Mayor's house~~
to a
~~Horsehair Factory~~
To
House Museum



Historic Preservation: Theory and Practice

1765 1765-1766 House built for Charles Steadman as speculative housing

1770 1769 - 1773 Samuel Powel purchases house and lives there until death by Yellow Fever 9/29/93

Period of Interpretation by PSPL

1775

1780

1785

1790

1795 1798 Sold by Elizabeth Powel to William Bingham
1799 House given to William Bingham's Daughter (Ann) wife of Alexander Baring
1805

1810

1815

1820

1825

1830 1823 House sold to Charles Wilkes (NY Attorney)
1829 House sold to Isidore Hocker (Philadelphia Merchant)

1835

1840

1845

1850

1855

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1798 Sold by Elizabeth Powel to William Bingham

1823 House sold to Charles Wilkes (NY Attorney)

1829 House sold to Isidore Hocker (Philadelphia Merchant)

1886 House sold to Theodore Salolignac (Lawyer)

1904 House sold to Wolf Kleibansky (Exporter and manufacturer using horse hair)
1917 Back room upstairs on second floor sold to the Metropolitan Museum of Art

1922

1923

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1931 House sold to Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks

1932 246 South 3rd (Wolf Kleibansky's house and offices torn down by Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks)

1942 Philadelphia City Planning Commission

1945 Philadelphia Redevelopment Corporation

1947 BETTER PHILADELPHIA Exhibit

1949 Federal Urban Renewal program

1950

1955

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1949 Federal Urban Renewal program

1950

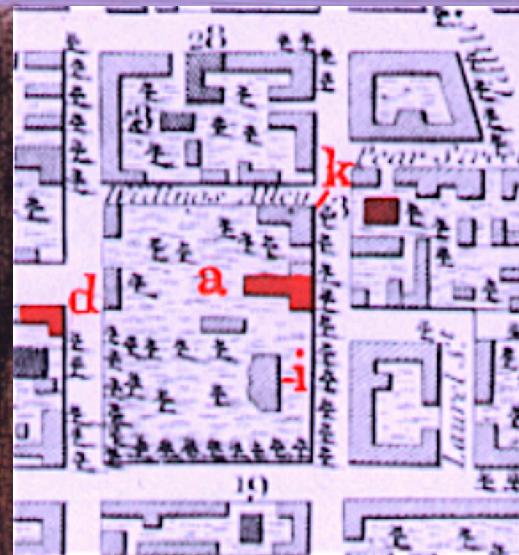
1955

1960

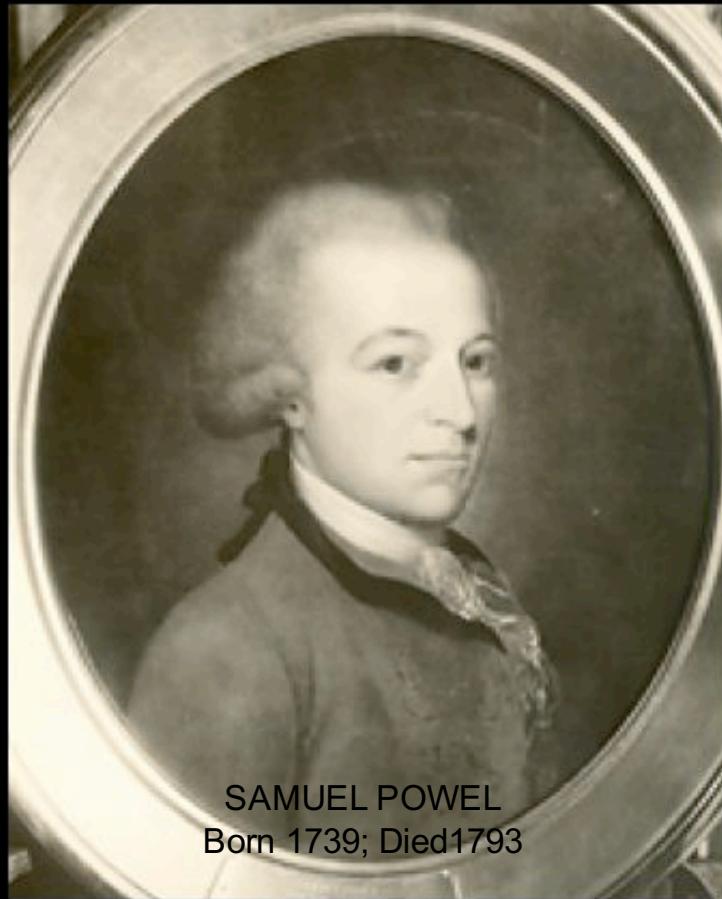
1970

1975

1980

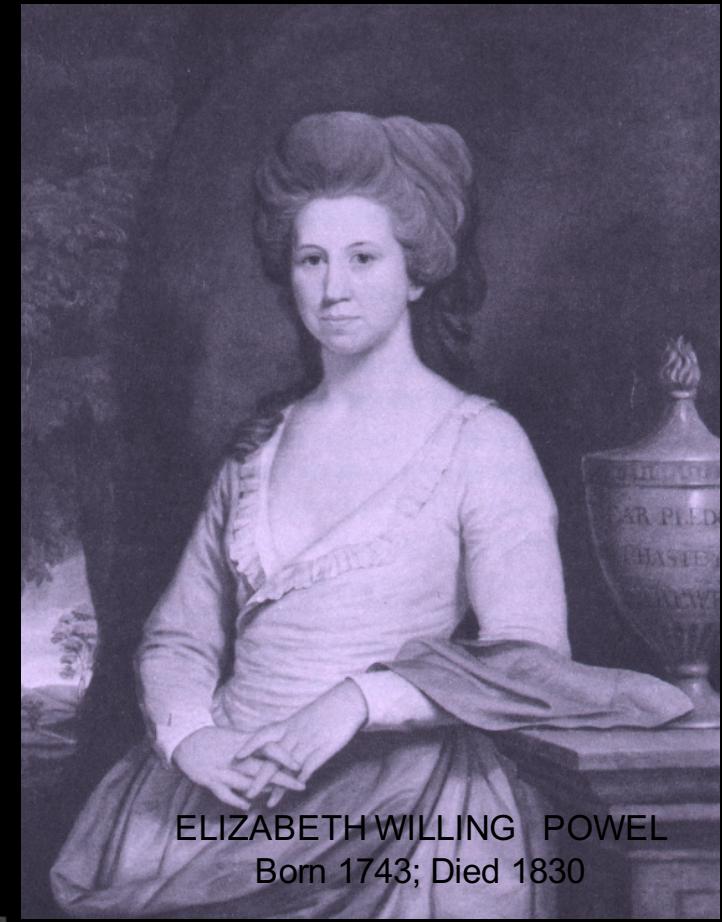


*INSET: Plan of the city of Philadelphia, 1796 by John Hills. Powel House and estate "a".
The City of Philadelphia, Third Street looking NW from Spruce, 1800 by William Birch*



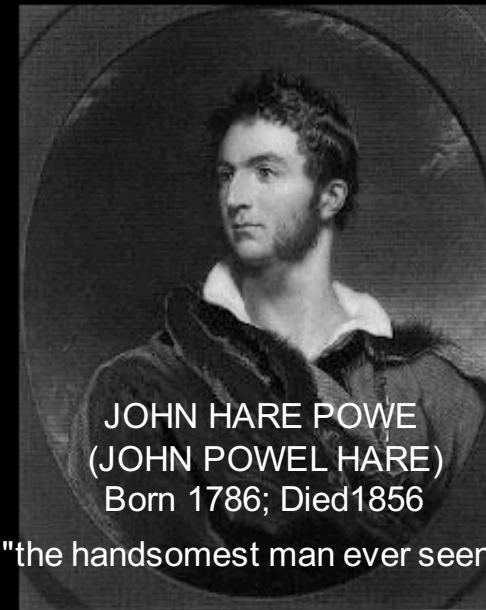
SAMUEL POWEL
Born 1739; Died 1793

1775 mayor
1789 again chosen mayor.
Speaker of the Pennsylvania Senate in
1792
1785 first president of the Philadelphia
society for promoting agriculture,
Manager of the Pennsylvania hospital



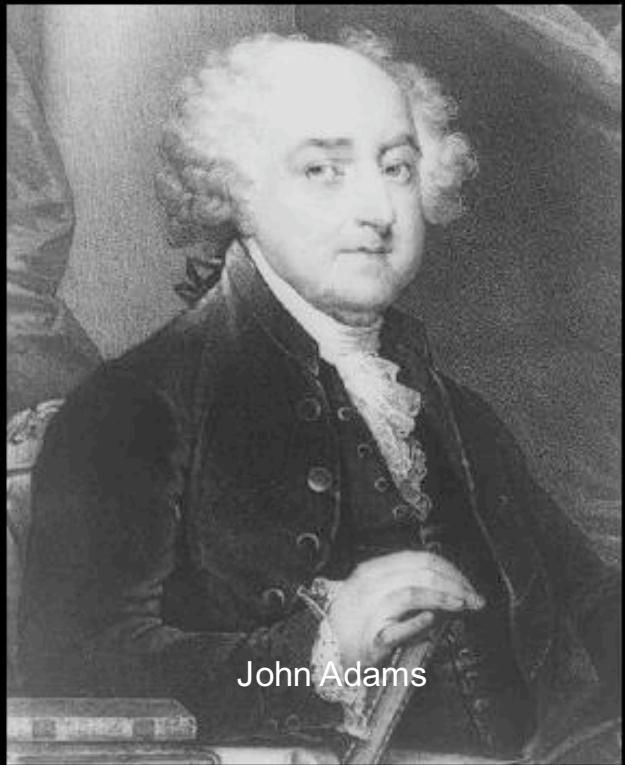
ELIZABETH WILLING POWEL
Born 1743; Died 1830

Confidant to George & Martha Washington
Political "lobbyist"
"social connector"
Family ties to Philadelphia Politics and
Commerce



JOHN HARE POWE
(JOHN POWEL HARE)
Born 1786; Died 1856

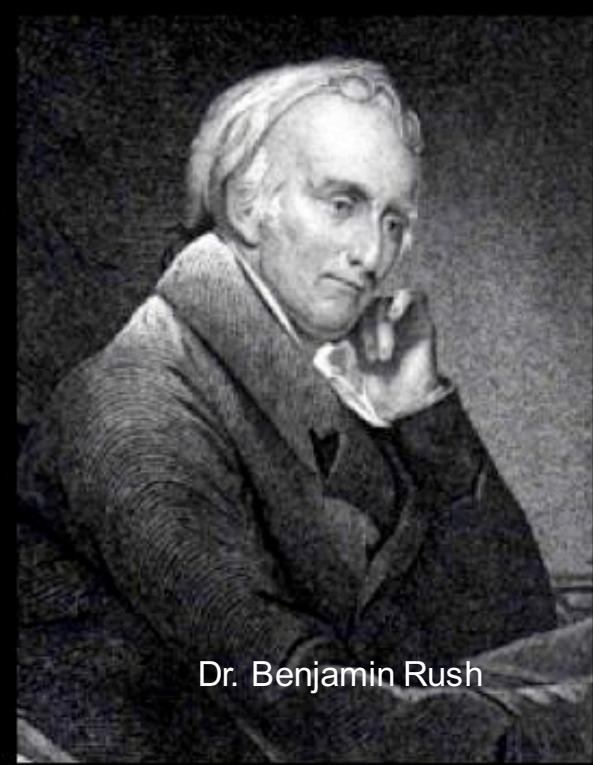
"the handsomest man ever seen."



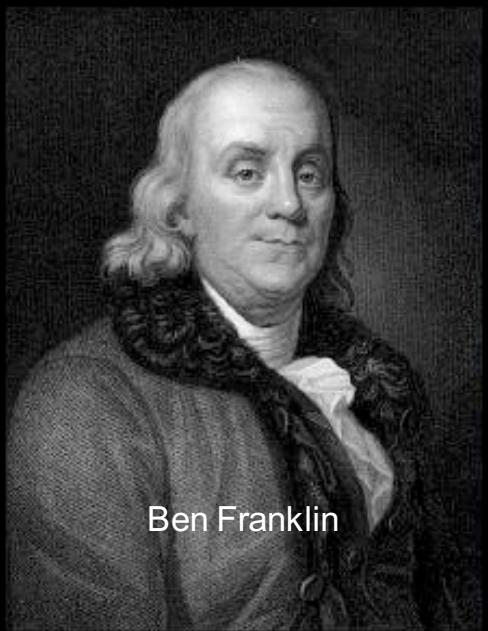
John Adams



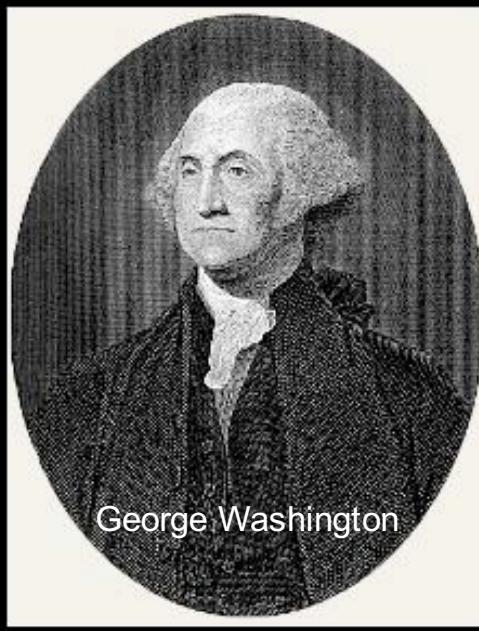
Marquis de Lafayette



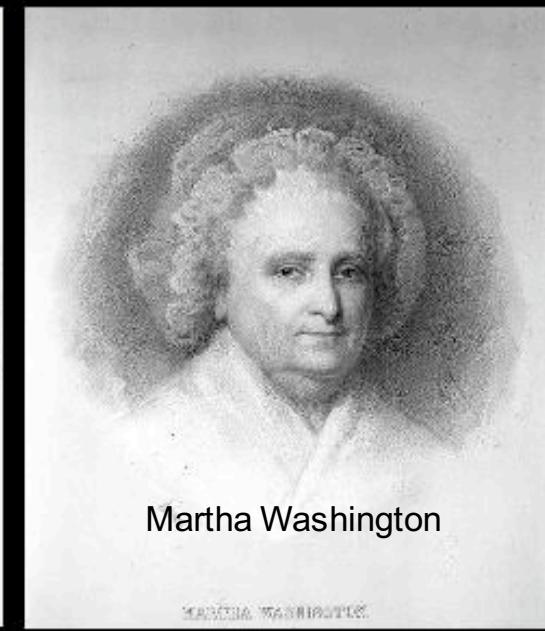
Dr. Benjamin Rush



Ben Franklin

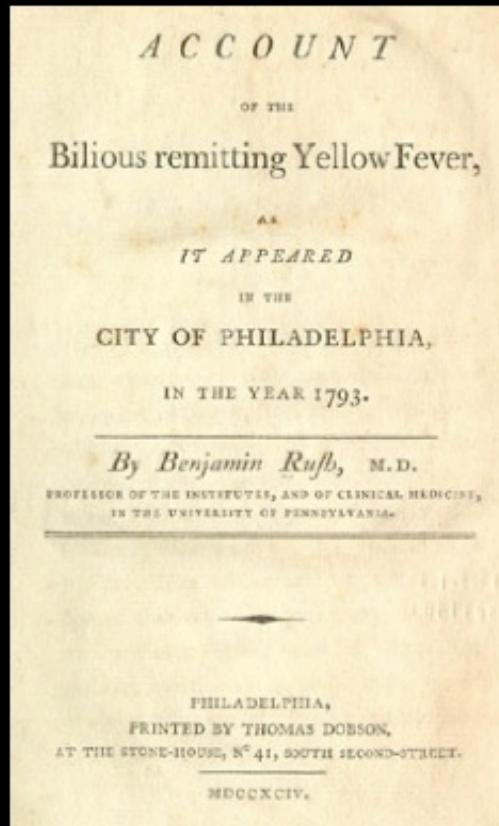
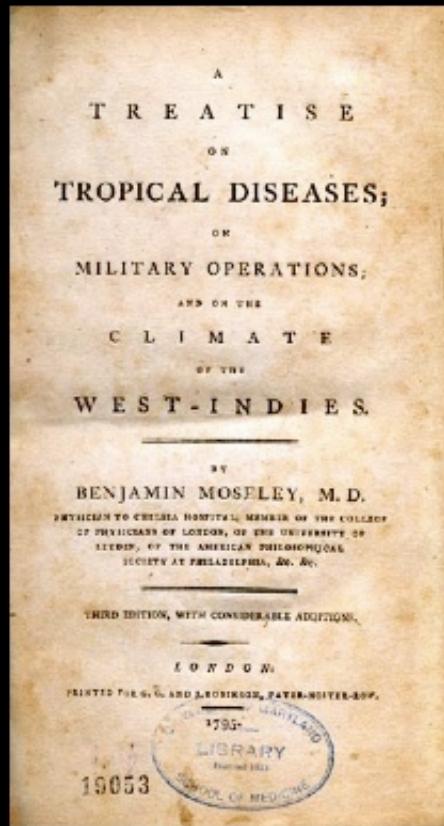


George Washington



Martha Washington

MAINTAIN WASHINGTON



With a population of approximately 55,000 in 1793, Philadelphia was America's largest city, its capital and its busiest port. The first fatalities appeared in July and the numbers grew steadily. Victims initially experienced pains in the head, back and limbs accompanied by a high fever. These symptoms would often disappear, leaving a false sense of security. Shortly, the disease would announce its return with an even more severe fever and turn the victim's skin a ghastly yellow while he vomited black clots of blood. Death soon followed as the victim slipped into a helpless stupor. A good portion of the population, along with members of Congress, President Washington and his Cabinet, abandoned the city. The disease subsided and finally disappeared with the arrival of cold weather in November.

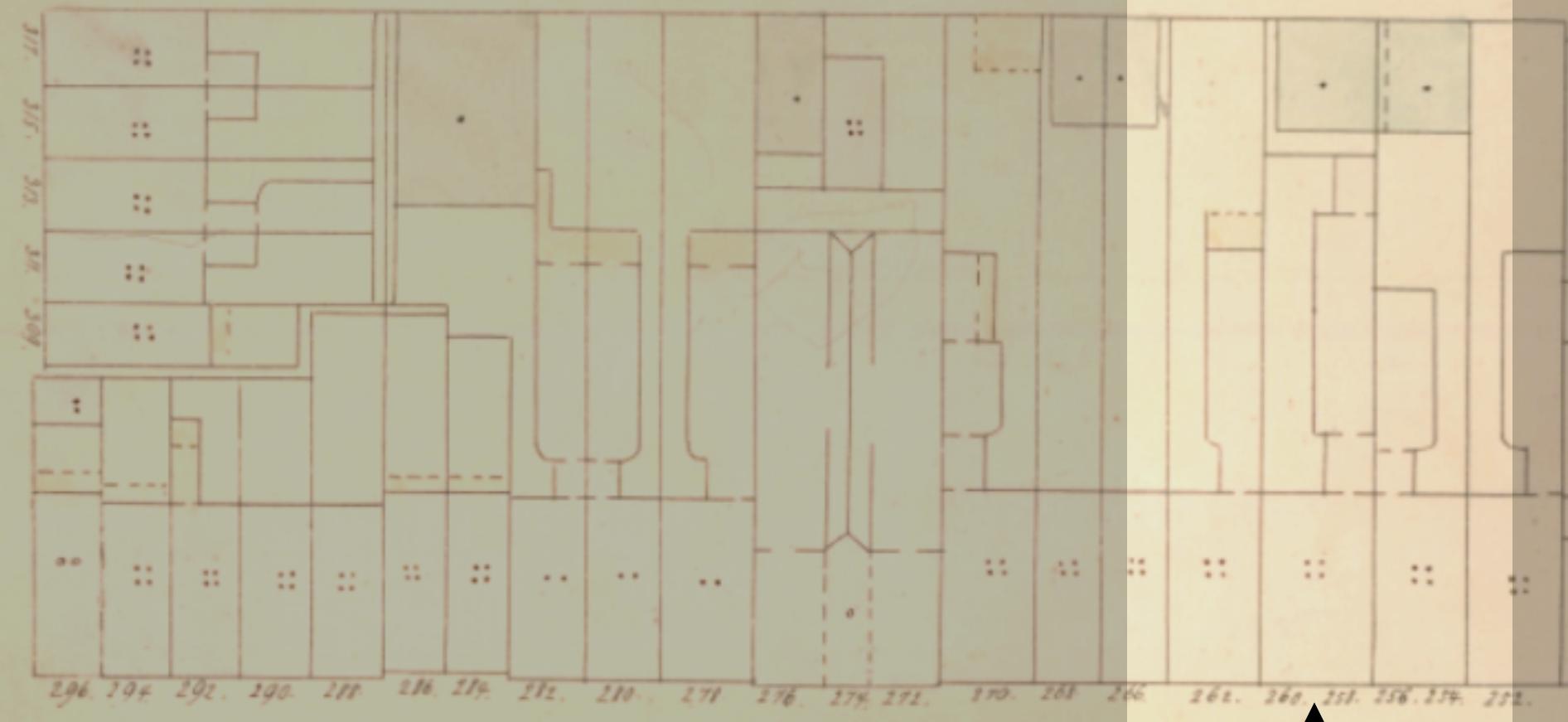
*From JULY 1793 to NOVEMBER 1793 it is estimated that 4,000 died.
(Mayor Samuel Powel died on September 29, 1793.)*





Binghams

Court



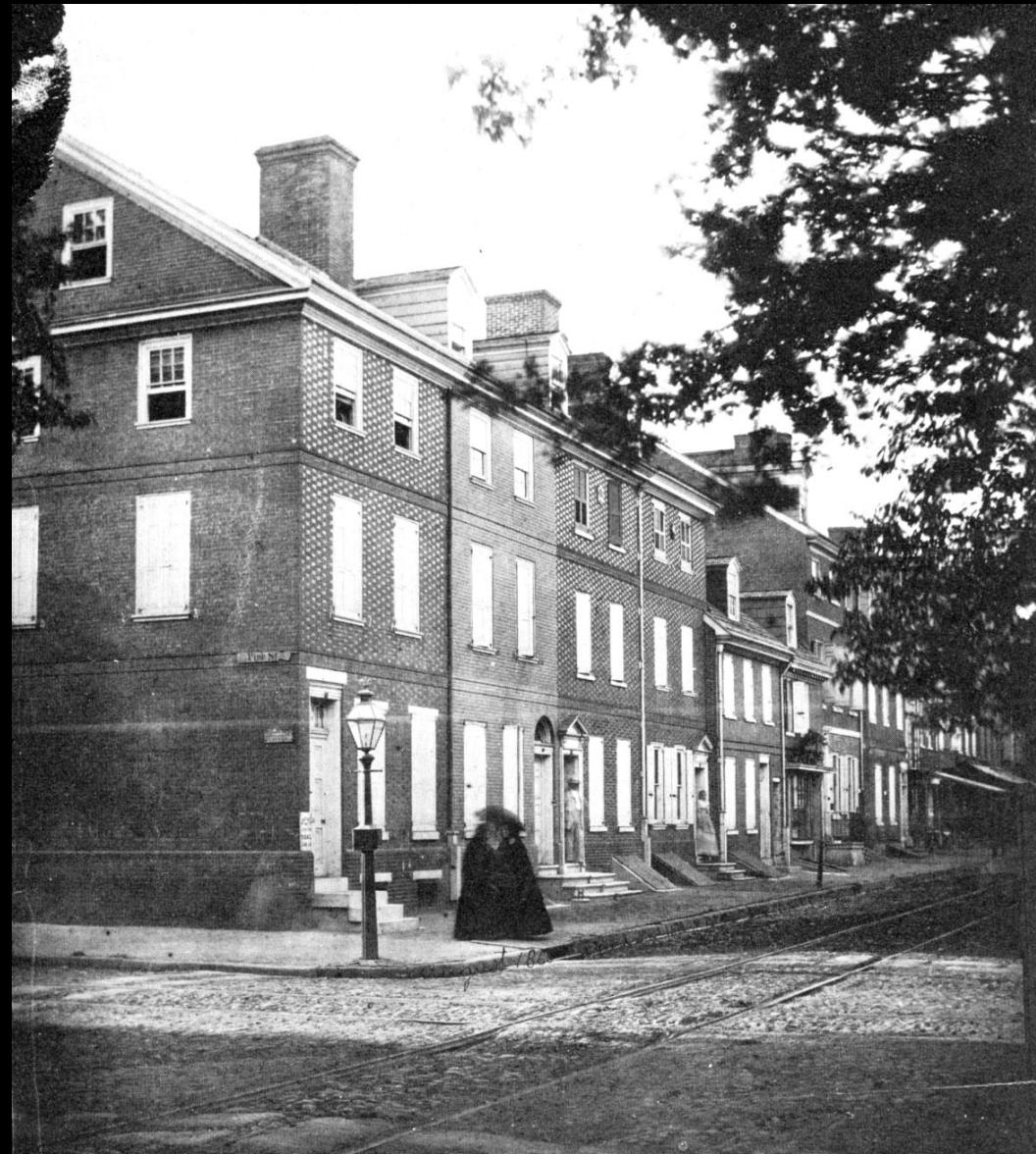
THIRD

Hexamer - Locher Map, 1860

Map with the assistance of Free Library of Philadelphia Map Collection



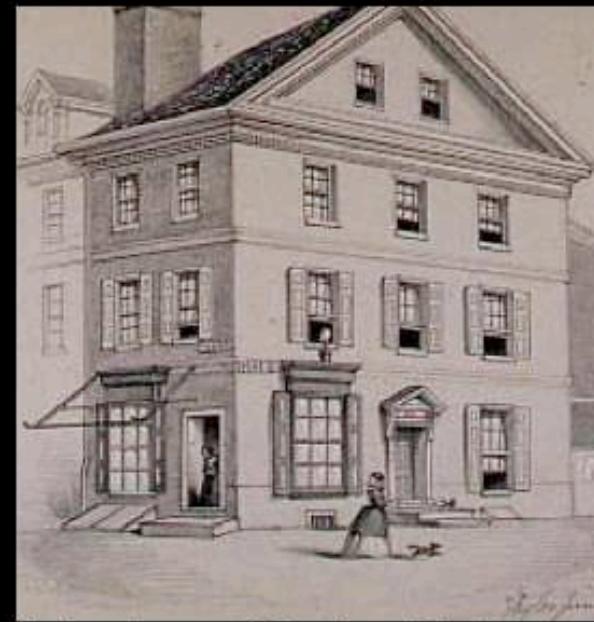
400 block Spruce St. shows the then Baptist church as recently remodeled (now Spruce St. Synagogue). 1860



West side, 300 block of 4th St. 1860



Southwest corner of Spruce and Fourth Street.
July 1861.



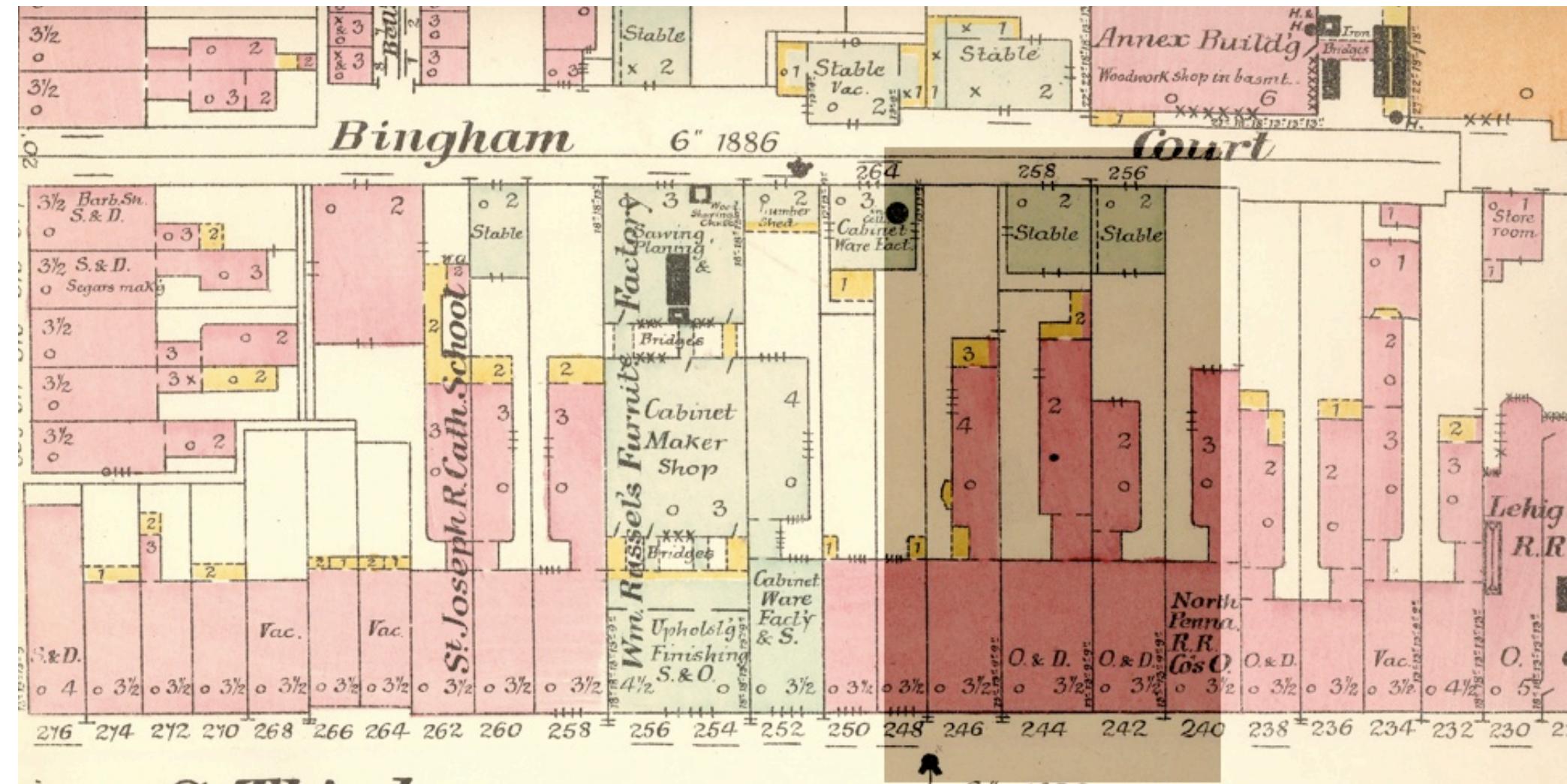
Northeast corner of Fourth and Pine Street.
June 1861.



North side of Spruce west of Fifth Street.
August 1861.



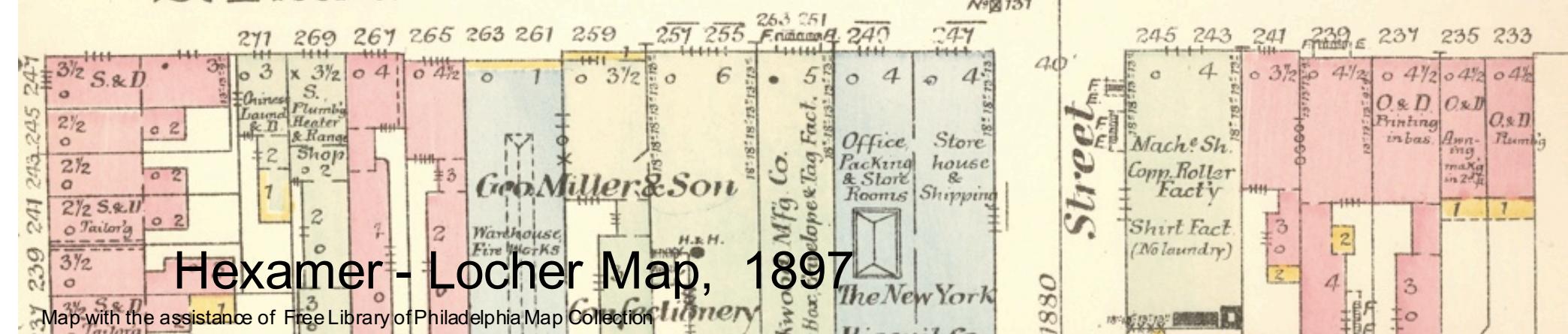
Southeast corner of Spruce and Third Street.
June 1861.



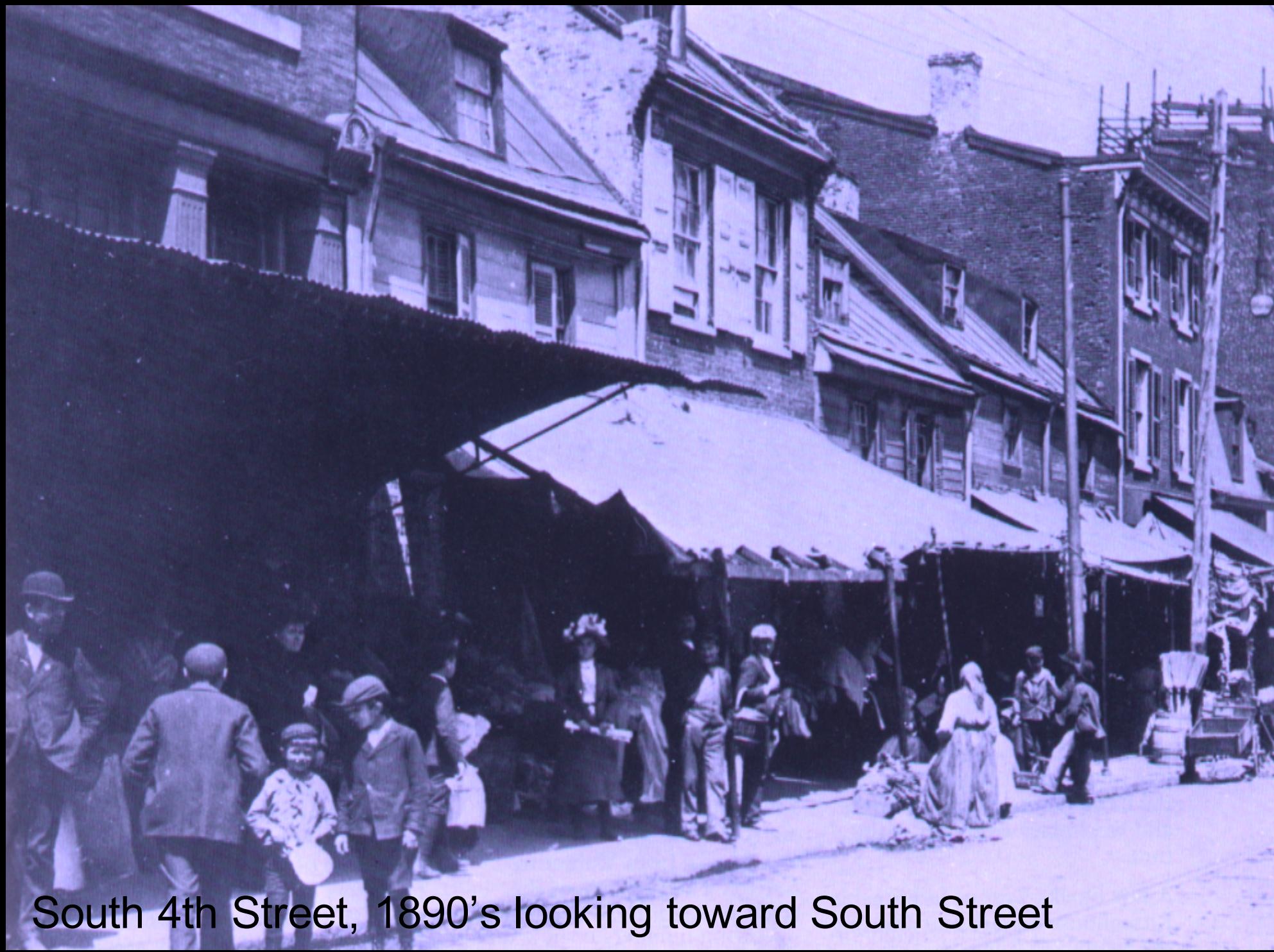
S. Third

6" 1826 (20 lbs.)

F.A.B.
No 137



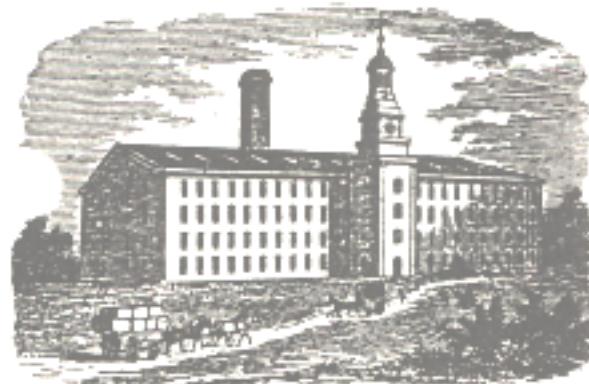
Hexamer-Locher Map, 1897



South 4th Street, 1890's looking toward South Street

Photograph from STILL PHILADELPHIA, A photographic History

Works: 243, 245 & 247 S. ORIANA ST.



Cable Address
"KLEBANSKY, PHILADELPHIA"

Wolf Klebansky

Importer, Exporter and Jobber in All Kinds of

Russian and Siberian Horse Hair and Bristles

Manes and all Kinds of Animal Hair Supplied to the Curled Hair Trade

Also Manufacturer of Drawn Hair for the Supply of Brush Manufacturers and
Hair Cloth Weavers

Realty Registry(1927/ 1928)

246 South 3rd. Street
Purchased by Wolf Klebansky on May 1899
\$9,400

242 & 244 South 3rd. Street
Purchased by Wolf Klebansky on May 1903
\$23,000



"POWEL MANSION" SOUTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA

**HORSE HAIR FACTORY
ON HISTORIC SITE**

IN THIRD STREET DISTRICT

1-23-1907

**WOLF KLEBANSKY
IMPORTER AND DEALER IN
HORSEHAIR
AND
HOG BRISTLES.**

Think you that this up-to-date business-sign would strike the casual observer as inappropriate when displayed over the front door of the house in which George Washington and the Queen of Samuel Powel, Mayor of Philadelphia, in the years 1775 and 1759, more than stepped graciously to the music of a minuet? And it appears to have artistic sense if blazoned in letters of gilt upon the panes of the front windows of the historic mansion?

With due respect to Mr. Klebansky, the Colonial Dames of America emphatically declare that it most certainly would not. And yet, unless patriotic souls come quickly to the rescue, very little can be done to prevent it.

Down on old S. 3d st. stands, or rather leans, an old, three-story-and-a-half yellow brick house, numbered 244. The dilapidated building looks desolate and forlorn. The dilapidated exterior of paint, applied long since, is emphasized by the spruce, prosperous appearance of its neighbors on either side. Notice that a pane of glass is missing in the lone stone of the little colonial stoop have been discolored by age and through want of proper care. The iron railings are rusted and rickety. Hard indeed is it to realize that this dilapidated old structure was, once the scene of brilliant balls and receptions, and still more difficult is it to conjure up the picture of the "Merry Country" dancing gaily with some fair party across the once polished floors of the outcast of a house, which now bears a "For Rent" sign, swung carelessly from a weedy willow.

In proof, however, that this really did happen, and is not the production of a disordered brain, a letter written on January 12, 1804, by Sarah Baché, to her father, Benjamin Franklin, may be quoted:

"Dearest father," the letter reads, "I have staid several times abroad with the Queen and Mrs. Washington. He always inquires after you in the most affectionate manner, and speaks of you highly. We danced at Mrs. Powel's ball-may or the 12th of January, in company together, and he told me it was the anniversary of his marriage. It was just twenty years that night."

The letter is now in possession of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

Mrs. Powel, who was many times the hostess of Washington, was, before her marriage, Elizabeth Willing. The house which she and her husband, the author, occupied, was then numbered 112, the number may still be deciphered upon a metal plate over the door. Years ago the house was built, it was one of four or five famous mansions which stood between Willing's alley and Spruce st.

In some manner the house, passed from the hands of the Powels, and in the fall of 1804 was bought by Wolf Klebansky. Klebansky is a Russian Hebrew, a native of the province of Kovno, Russia. He came to this country twenty-one years ago and became a man of considerable means through the importations from Siberia and Japan of horse hair and bristles, which he prepared for the use of doctors and dentists in this country. He bought the houses at 246 S. 3d st. and 242 S. 3d st. The former No. 246 is his residence and office, the latter he leases as an office building. In the rear of 244 S. 3d st. Mr. Powel has just built a factory, where he shapes up his horse hair and bristles. This factory was not large enough, so Klebansky purchased, two years ago, 242 S. 3d st., which was then owned by a Frenchman, and he intended to install machinery, and operate in conjunction with his factory. When he was informed of the historic value of 244, he hesitated to demolish it.

WHERE WASHINGTON DANCED.

It is this old house, on S. 3d st., that is in danger of being turned into a hair and hog bristles factory.

It is understood that Klebansky paid in the neighborhood of \$25,000 for the house.

The Colonial Dames of America are making every effort to save the old dwelling, and have offered to rent to them the front part of the house, which contains the rooms in which Washington was entertained. The rear portion, which is only two stories high, and runs back nearly to Oriana st., is proposed to be torn down. He intimated that if a high enough bid were offered, however, he would sell the whole house.

No definite decision has been reached, but certain Colonial Dames have started a movement to have various historical societies each rent a room or two in the front portion, thus securing it for the present. The Imperial Riders Society, the only one which has so far entered into this plan, is also purposed to organize a society for the preservation of historic places, which would include the 3d st. house. John Frederick Lewis is greatly interested in the preservation of the old place.

A member of the Society of the Colonial Dames of America said to-day that everything possible was being done to save the Powel house.

"I think it would be desperation to tear the building down," she declared. "All true Philadelphians should assist us in our effort to save it. This is one of the few buildings in this city which we know really sheltered George Washington."



REAL ESTATE NEWS

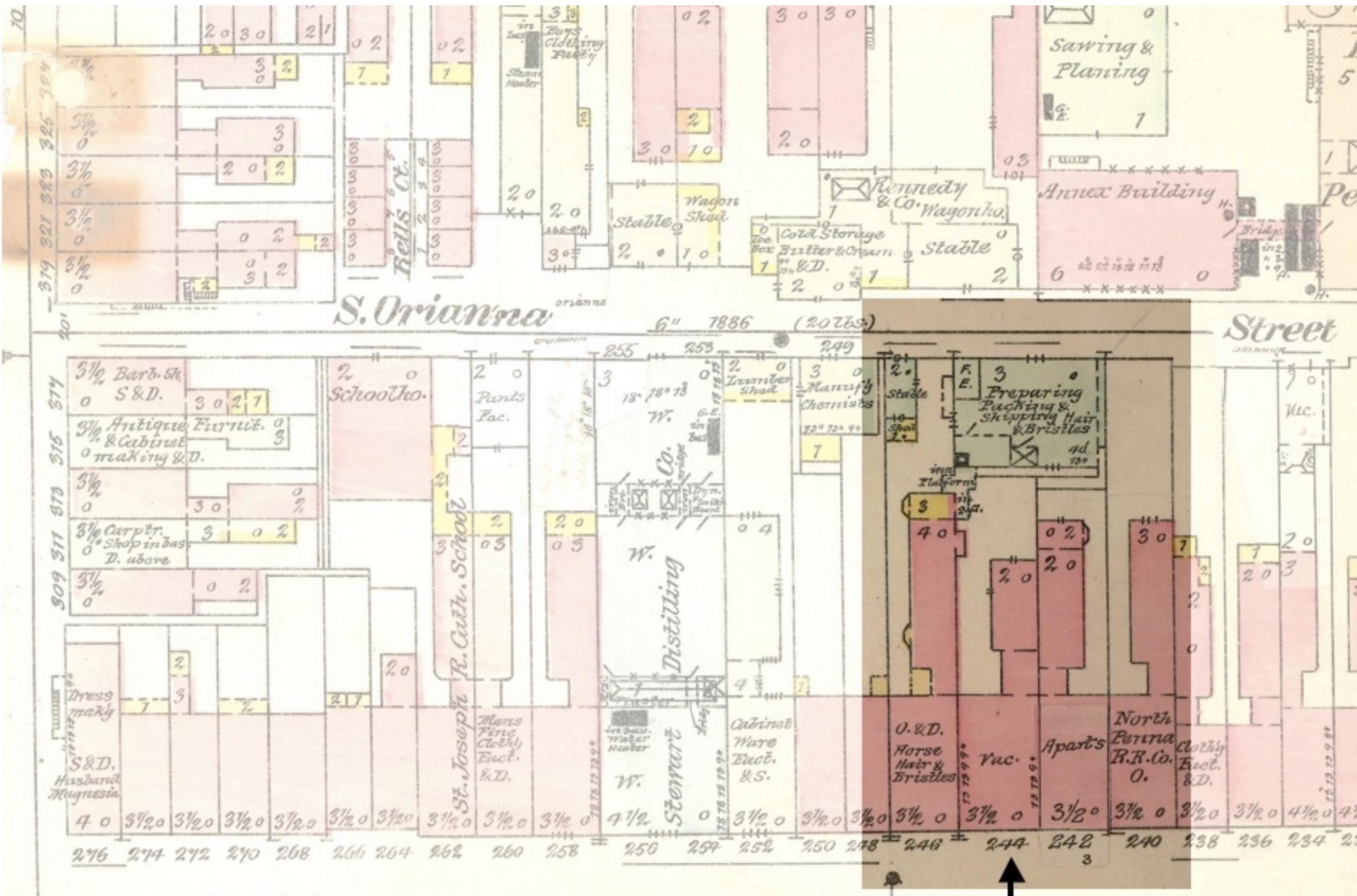
OLD POWEL MANSION TO BECOME BUSINESS STRUCTURE.

No. 1117 Walnut Street Sold for
\$55,000—Addition to the Nether
lands Apartments.

The historic Powel mansion, at No. 244 South Third street, in the drawing room of which George Washington attended numerous entertainments, is to be extensively remodeled into a business structure. The owner, Wolf Klebansky who bought the property from the Salignac estate about four years ago, is having plans prepared by Architects Watson & Huckle, which provide for an entirely new front, as well as lowering the first floor to the street level. This, it is understood, will be fitted up for a financial institution which is in the process of formation. The old mansion is a three-story brick structure of the familiar Colonial type, and was built in 1762. In several of the letters written by Mrs. Bache to Benjamin Franklin, her father, the statement is made that the writer attended receptions in the old house and danced the minuet with George Washington. The Society of the Colonial Dames during the past few years have made several ineffectual attempts to raise funds for the purpose of retaining the old mansion in its original condition.

Philadelphia Record, February 26, 1909

With the kind assistance of Harry Boonin



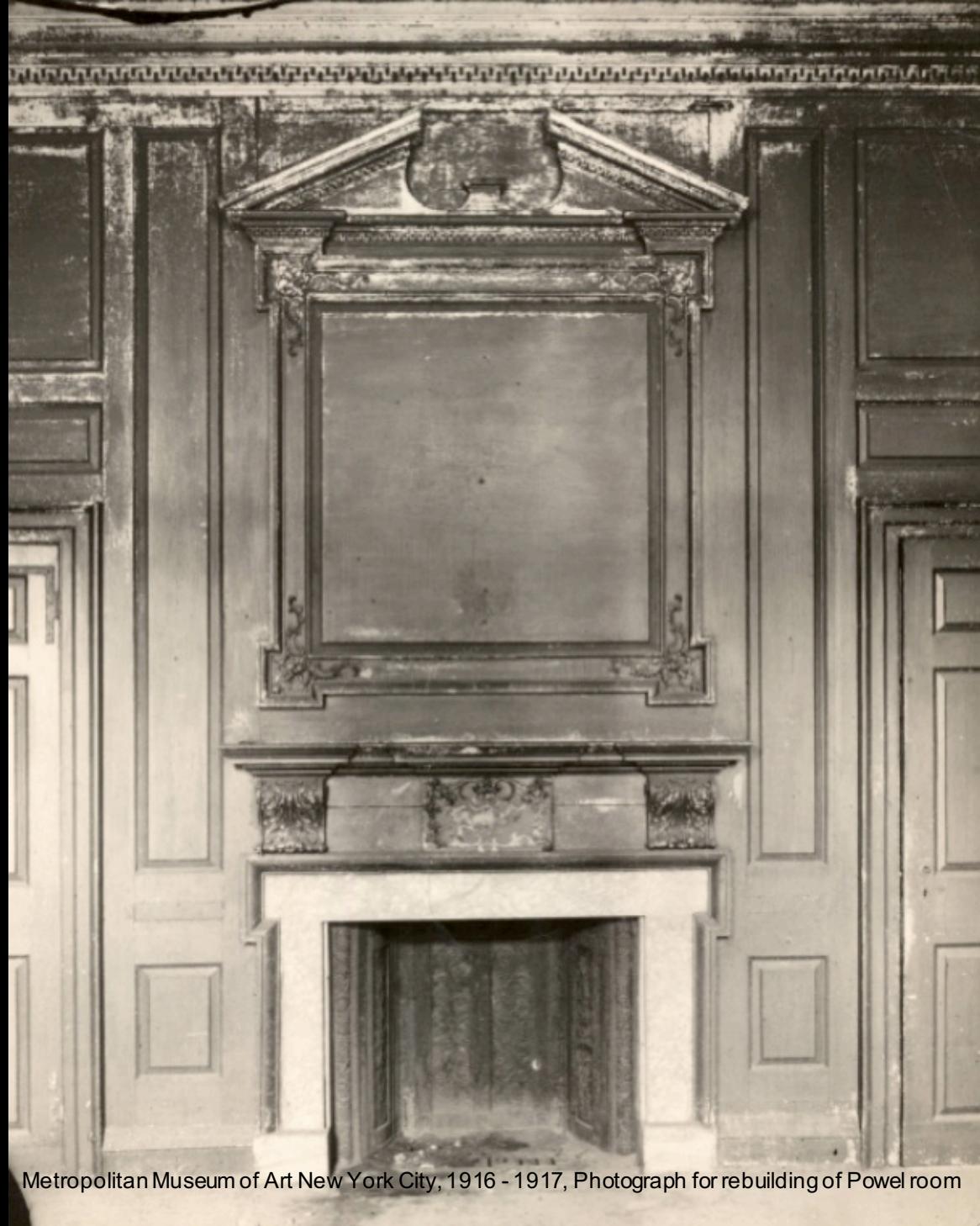
S. Third

Hexamer-Lochner Map, 1915



South 5th Street, 1915

Photograph from STILL PHILADELPHIA, A photographic History



Metropolitan Museum of Art New York City, 1916 - 1917, Photograph for rebuilding of Powel room

1917
The Metropolitan museum of Art
Acquired the 2nd. Floor
Back room



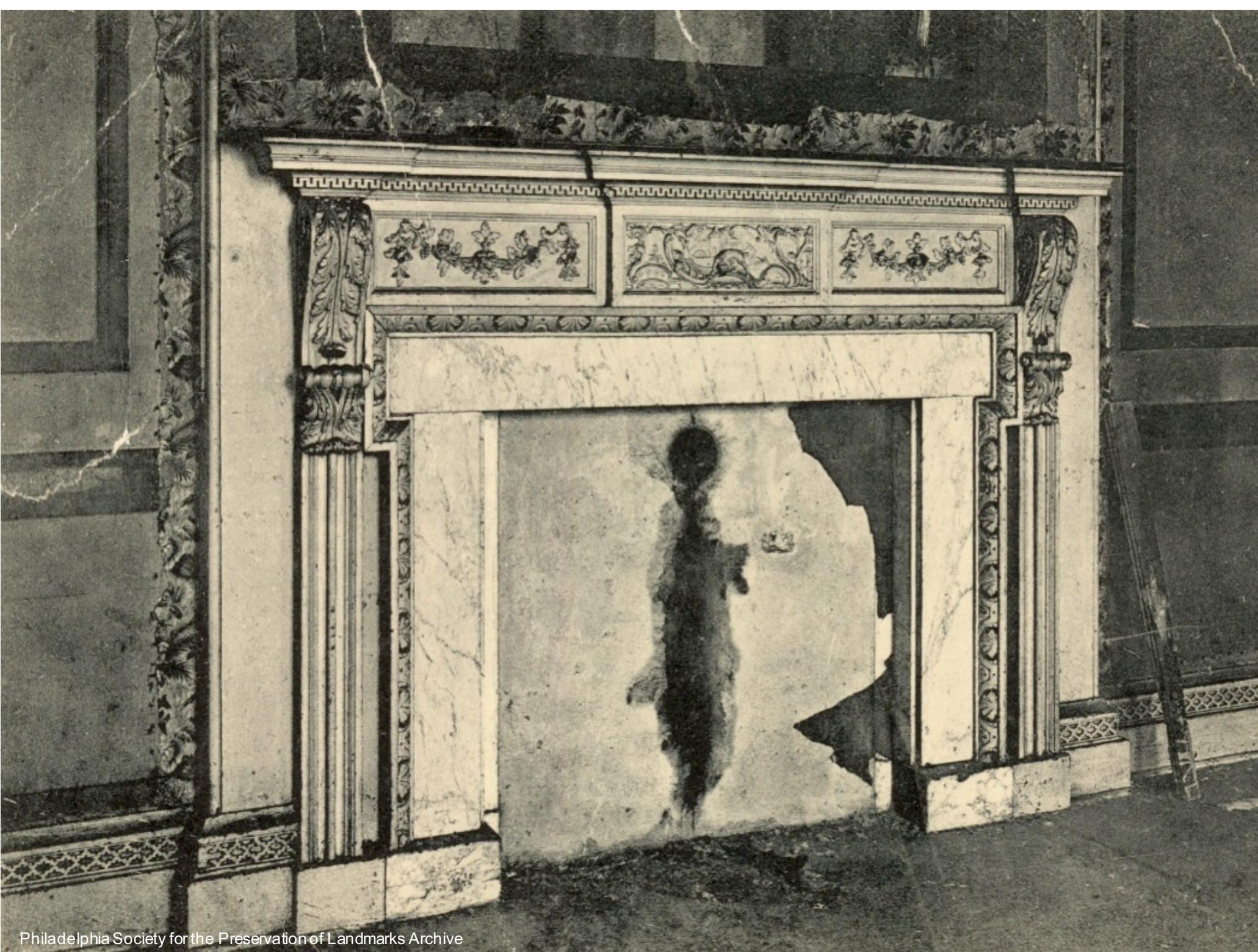


Series No 5 "Old Colonial"

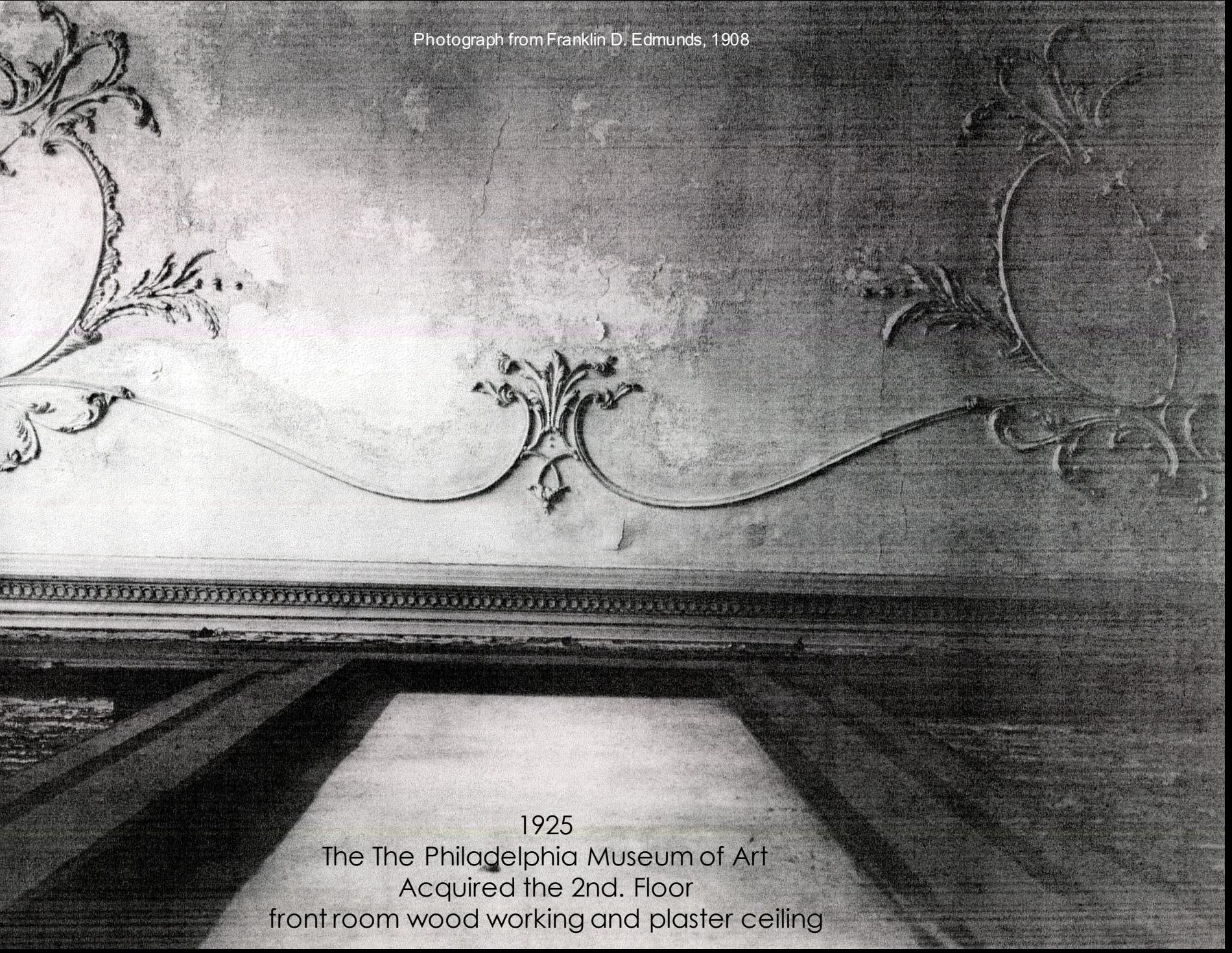
Powell House, 244 So 3rd. St., Built in 1762, Philadelphia.
The Hall.



Photograph from Franklin D. Edmunds, 1908



Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive

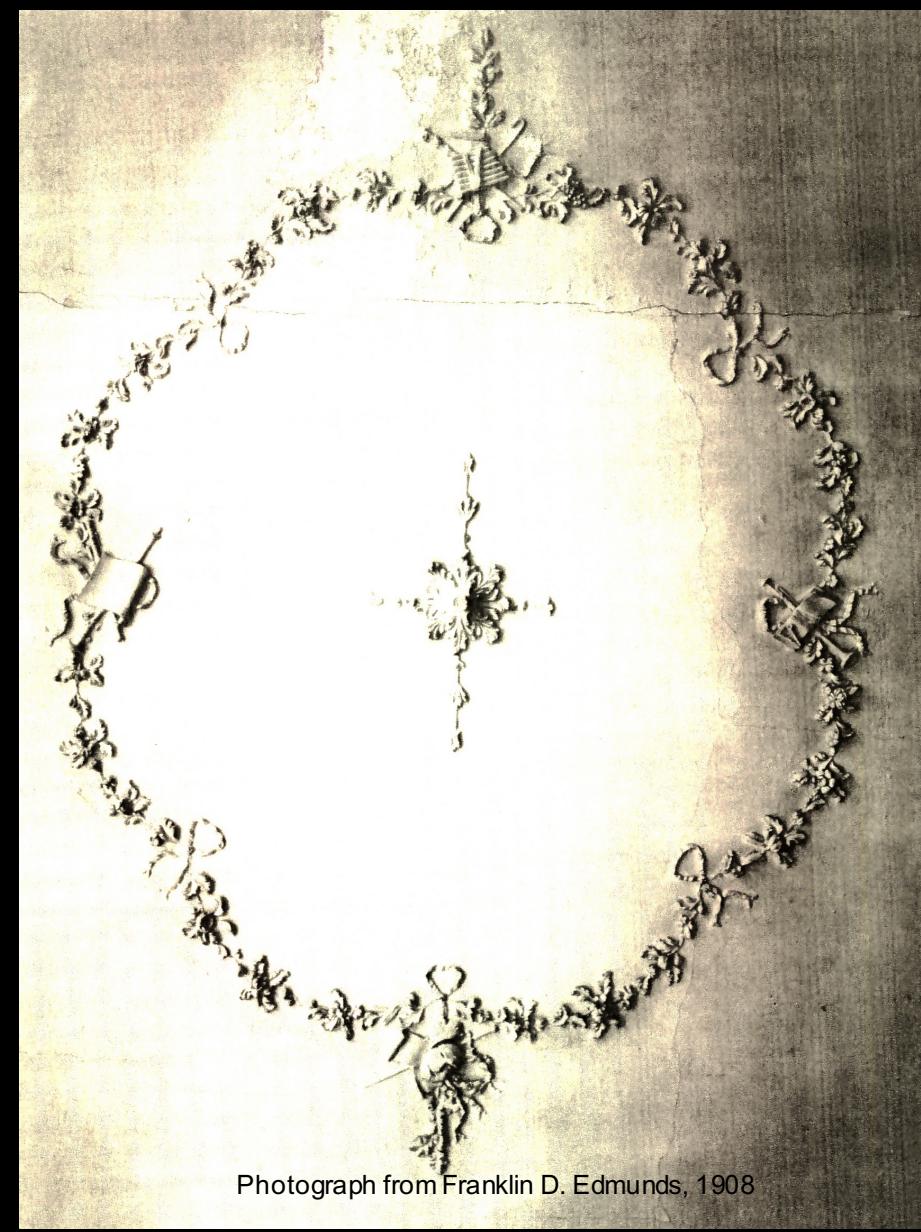


Photograph from Franklin D. Edmunds, 1908

1925
The Philadelphia Museum of Art
Acquired the 2nd. Floor
front room wood working and plaster ceiling



Photograph from Franklin D. Edmunds, 1908



Photograph from Franklin D. Edmunds, 1908

Works: 243, 245 & 247 S. ORIANA ST.



Wolf Klebansky

Importer, Exporter and Jobber in All Kinds of

Russian and Siberian Horse Hair and Bristles

Manes and all Kinds of Animal Hair Supplied to the Curled Hair Trade

Also Manufacturer of Drawn Hair for the Supply of Brush Manufacturers and
Hair Cloth Weavers

246 SOUTH THIRD STREET

Philadelphia, Pa. June 5, 1927

Cable Address
"KLEBANSKY, PHILADELPHIA"

CODES USED

WESTERN UNION
5TH EDITION
BENTLEYS

L. D. BELL 'PHONE, LOMBARD 18-82
L. D. KEYSTONE 'PHONE, MAIN 9080
CLOSED ON SATURDAYS

The Pennsylvania Museum
Memorial Hall Fairmount Park
Philadelphia, Pa.

Attention: Mr. Fiske Kimball

Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of your esteemed of the 3rd inst. and
noted contents carefully.

With reference to the removal of the plain boards from
the front room on the second floor of 244 S. 3rd Street, we
would prefer to take the matter up with you personally if possible.

Inasmuch however as our place of business is closed until
Wednesday next owing to our Holidays, we will appreciate if
you will communicate with us after that date by telephone. We
feel certain that we will be able to arrange matters to our
mutual satisfaction, thus with best personal regards, we are,

Very truly yours,

AAR/LS

Not before Monday

Promise to replace with plain boards while

The removal is going on

Will send down old mantelpiece

Nothing more to be taken except from
front room



To be returned without fail
to Fiske Kimball,
Director, Pennsylvania Museum of Art

DECEMBER 27, 1930

ARCHITECTS MOVE TO SAVE MANSION

Group Meets Today to Lay
Plans for Preservation of
Powel House

NEW SOCIETY IS PLANNED

Members of the Philadelphia Chapter, American Institute of Architects, will meet this morning to discuss plans for saving from destruction the Powel Mansion, 244 South 3d street, one of the oldest houses in the country and scene of much of the fashionable life of Colonial times.

The meeting will be held in the offices of Sydney E. Martin, 17th and Sansom streets. The house and the one at 246 South 3d street are owned by Wolf Klebanaky, head of a horse-hair and bristle manufacturer's corporation. Mr. Klebanaky for many years has paid taxes and other maintenance costs on the Powel Mansion without any return. He announced recently that he would raze the buildings and use the site for a garage.

Yesterday a delegation, headed by H. Louis Duhring, of 1309 Locust street, visited the Powel Mansion with a view to preservation and restoration, and announced a plan to raise funds to purchase both buildings, restoring the eighteenth-century garden which was formerly one of the most famous features of the Powel Mansion. It is also planned to transform the building into a museum.

"One of the things which we will discuss at this meeting," Mr. Duhring said, "is the formation of a society for the restoration and preservation of many of the city's neglected but historically interesting buildings. At present, most of our famous buildings are cared for by various societies, but there is no organization interested in the subject as a whole."

A committee for the survey of all old buildings in all sections of the city will be formed, Mr. Duhring said, with plans for their preservation. Funds for this purpose will be raised through popular subscription.

Among those who visited the mansion yesterday were Miss Frances A. Wister, John Barber, J. Stogdell Stokes and John S. Schwacke, president of the Philadelphia Chapter, American Institute of Architects.

Public Ledger, December 27, 1930

With the kind assistance of Harry Boonin

HISTORY ORGANIZATION TAKES OVER POWEL HOUSE

Title to the Powel residence at 244 South 3d street, lot 30 by 180 feet, in which President George Washington was frequently entertained, and to which he makes several references in his diary, passed last week from Mildred E. Thiele, together with the adjoining dwelling, 248 South 3d street, lot 24 feet 8 inches by 133 feet, to the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, which will restore the dwelling and convert the adjoining lot into a garden. Both properties were purchased several weeks ago by Mildred N. Thiele from Wolf Klebansky, who had acquired the Powel House, 244 South 3d street, formerly known as 258 South 3d street, from the heirs of L. Theodore Salaignac, in December, 1904, for \$7000. L. Theodore Salaignac had acquired the property in January, 1886, from the estate of Isaiah Hacker for \$14,000. Several other owners intervened between Isaiah Hacker and the Powel heirs, who sold the property late in the eighteenth century.

The house is one of the best preserved specimens of Colonial architecture in Philadelphia. The drawing room was removed several years ago and presented to the Philadelphia Art Museum on the Parkway, where it is on exhibition. This is the first purchase of a historic site made by the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks. When Washington made his visits to the house the adjoining property owners were Thomas Willing, Benjamin Chew, William Rawle, John H. Brinton, John B. Wallace and Thomas Cadwalader, all of whom joined in a deed recorded in Deed Book I. C. No. 9, page 508, under date of December 10, 1800, reserving a ten-foot strip of ground extending in front of their dwellings which could never be built upon.

POWEL MANSION

Editor Everybody's Calendar. Was the old Powel mansion on South Third or Fourth streets used as the White House for Presidents Washington and Adams?

E. C. P.

The famous Powel house, at 244-46 South Third street, has often been called the first White House. This designation may have arisen because during the Constitutional Convention of 1787 Washington (who became President in 1789) was a frequent guest there. Samuel Powel was the Mayor of Philadelphia in 1775, the last Mayor in Colonial times and the first Mayor under the new United States Constitution in 1789. His wife was Elizabeth Willing, daughter of Charles Willing and sister of Thomas Willing, both Mayors of Philadelphia at different times.

The Powel House was built in 1759 and was purchased by Samuel Powel in 1769 from Captain Charles Z. Steedman. Its original owner, John Adams, later President, wrote in his diary:

"Dined at Mr. Powel's with many others; a most sinful feast again! Everything which could delight the eye or allure the taste; curds and creams; jellies, sweetmeats of various sorts, twenty sorts of tarts, fools, trifles, floating islands, whipped sillsibus, etc., etc. Parmesian cheese, punch, wine, porter, beer, etc."

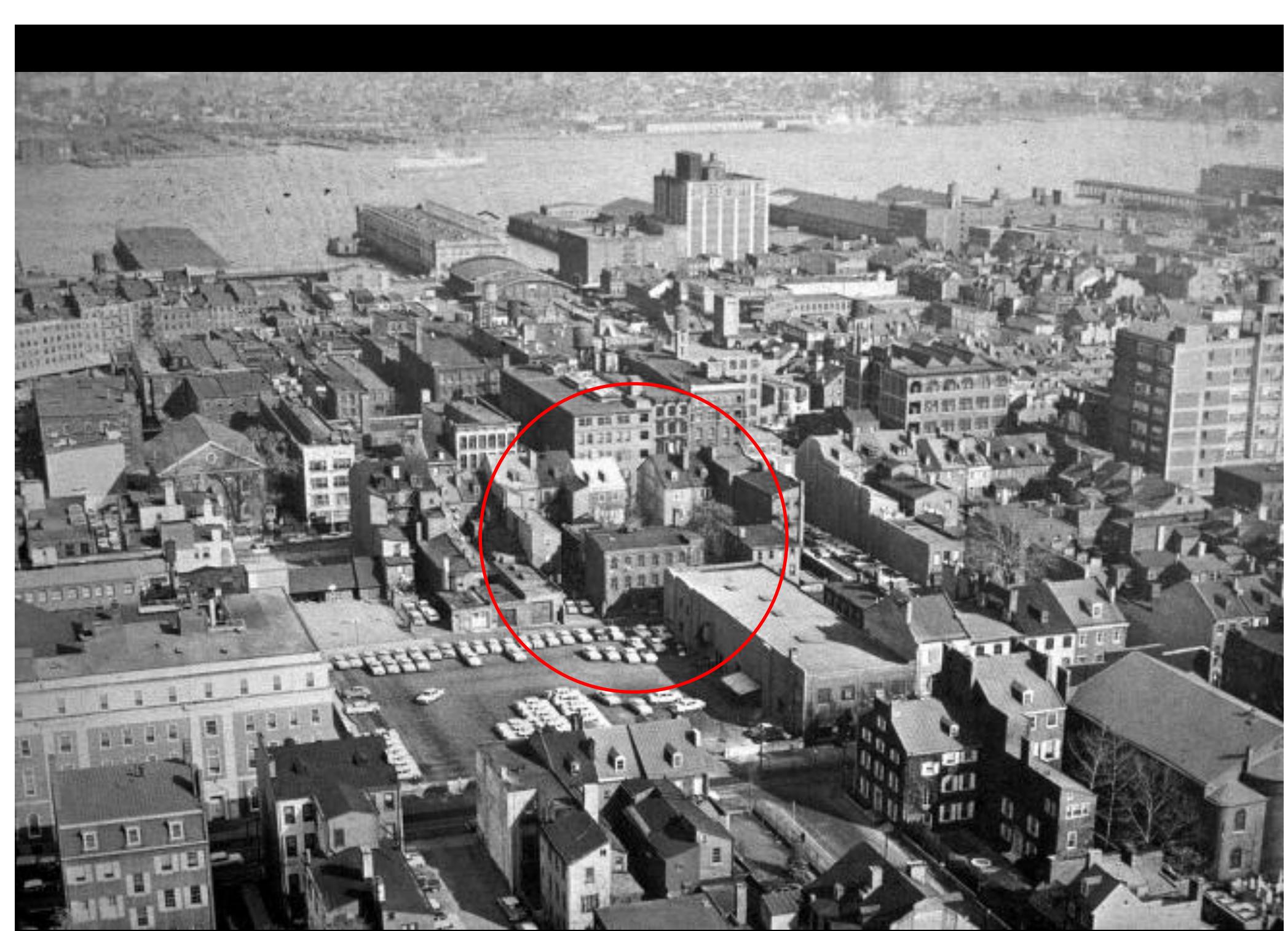
January 16, 1931

Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive: Powel House Scrapbooks





Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive



Photograph with assistance of Dr. David Brownlee

IN LOVING TRIBUTE
TO

FRANCES ANNE WISTER

THROUGH WHOSE UNTIRING EFFORTS
THE RESTORATION OF THE POWEL HOUSE
WAS MADE POSSIBLE

THE POWEL HOUSE COMMITTEE
THE POWEL HOUSE BRIDGE AND TEA COMMITTEE
JEPHTHA ABBOTT CHAPTER D.A.R.
1931 1956



Photograph & Plaque : Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Tribute

Philadelphia Society
For the Preservation of Landmarks

The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks was founded in 1931 by Miss Frances A. Wister and a group of citizens concerned about the impending destruction of Powel House, the home of Philadelphia's "patriot mayor," Samuel Powel.

Built in 1765, the Powel House was one of colonial Philadelphia's most beautiful and elegant homes. American patriots and foreign ministers alike, from Washington to Lafayette, gathered there to enjoy hospitality at its most gracious.

The Landmark Society's belief in the importance of preserving the Powel House and its lovely garden has been more than justified by the delight of the thousands who visit the mansion each year. Philadelphia is proud to cite the achievements of the Landmark Society in restoring this beautiful and historic home, and extend this official Tribute in recognition.



James D. Tate
Mayor

Fredric R. Mann
City Representative





Flag raising at the Powel House. Feb. 21th (Presidents Day, 1932)

Feb. 20- 1932
Raising Powel House Flag. Presented by Mr. Geo. S. Putterman

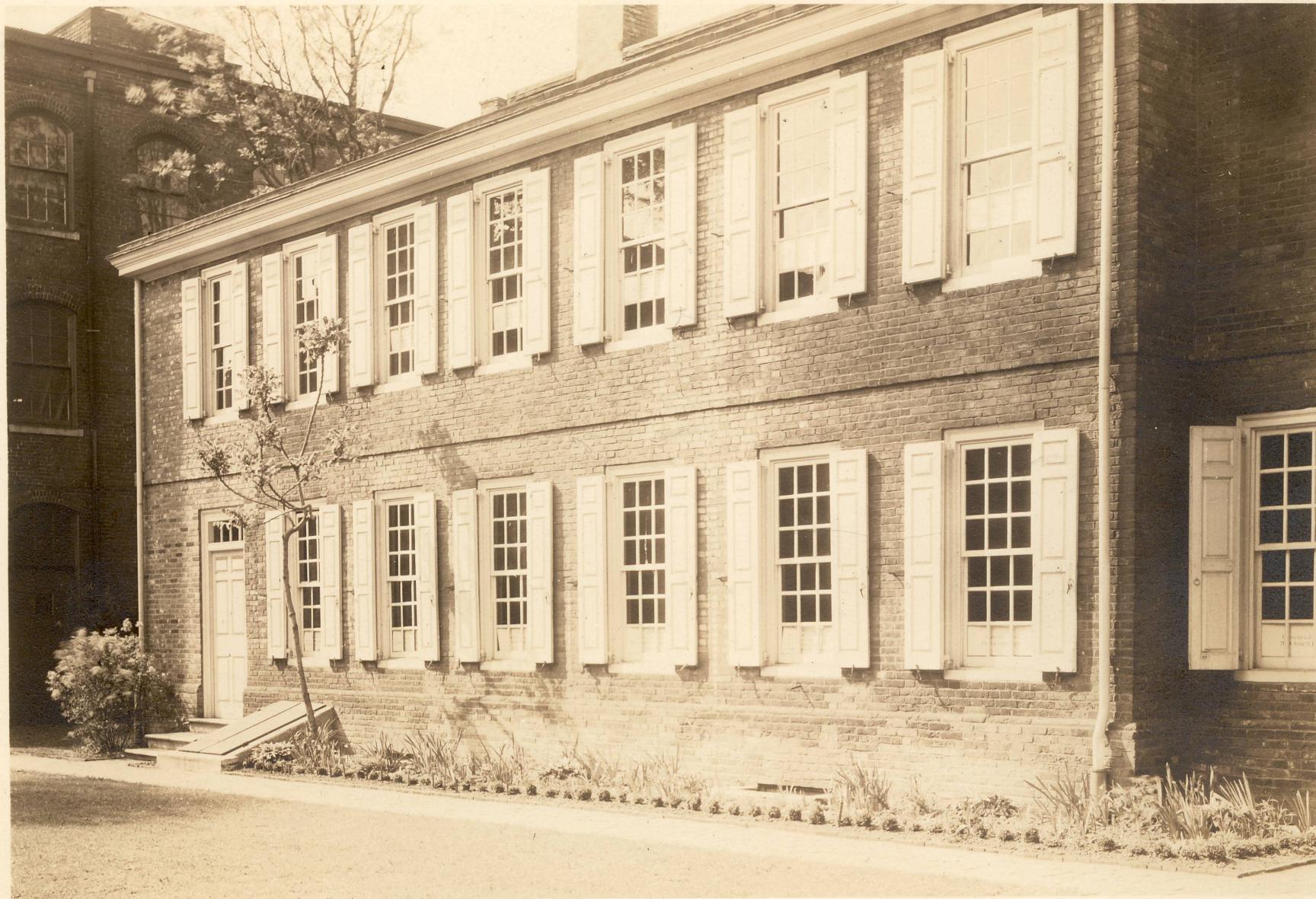


Flag raising at the Powel House. Feb. 21th (Presidents Day, 1932),
John Cadwalader, Mrs. George Patterson (dog), H. Louis Duhring

ALTERNATE SUGGESTIONS
FOR REAR STAIRS
ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO
THE POWELL HOUSE
* 244 S. 3rd St.
Phila. Penna.



Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive





pt 1116
abutting



Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive

Record
Sun. Feb. 17, 1935
PHILADELPHIA

duPont and C.

TAKING PART IN PAGEANT



—Photo by Record Staff Photographer.
MRS. JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, of Berkley rd., Merion, will represent an old miniature of Mrs. Samuel Powel, whose house is being restored by the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, at the Valentine party to be given by the Colonial Dames at their clubhouse on Lettmer st., Thursday.



POWEL HOUSE LUNCHEON AIDES—From left, Mrs. Leslie N. Moxon of Wayne, Miss Maeryn Stradley of Radnor, Mrs. Robert S. Murch of Strafford and Mrs. Harbour Mitchell Jr., of Wynnewood, were aides at the Powel House annual luncheon at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel last Friday. Some 425 guests attended the luncheon. The fashion show was presented by Thomas Neil Crater fashion director of John Wanamaker Store. Mrs. William G. Martin was the chairman of the luncheon. The luncheon was sponsored by the Powel House Preservation Committee, of which Mrs. Henry M. Waits Jr. is the president.

(Carole Springer Photo)



Tea and Bridge Committee

Annual Powel House Fundraising
Fashion Show

February 2-1960

Bulletin 2/25/60



MEETING ON SOCIETY HILL: Plans for annual bridge and tea January 30 at the Bellevue-Stratford to benefit Powel House are made by (from left) Mrs. Joseph Vallery Wright, of Penn Valley; Mrs. Edgar D. Paul, of Wynnewood; Mrs. George Stuart Patterson, of 1823 Delancey place, and Mrs. Haig H. Pakradooni, Jr., of Wynnewood. The 18th century mansion at 244 S. Third st., was the home of Samuel Powel, first mayor of Philadelphia under the new United States.



ng a gabfest while preparing for the
e card party and tea held early in
the Bellevue-Stratford, are (left to

right) Mrs. Myron E. Leslie, Mrs. Francis R.
Masters, Jr., Mrs. Clayton B. Wentworth, Mrs.
Norman J. Greene, Jr., and Mrs. William M.

Deuber. They represent the younger members
who served as aides at the party, preceding
which they were luncheon guests of Mrs. Nor-

man Joy Greene. The restoration of the Powel
House has been conducted by the Philadelphia
Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.

FEB. 26, 1935

EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER—PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY,

ON FASHIONABLE COMMITTEE FOR BRIDGE PARTY NEXT MONTH



Ledger Photo

MRS. JOHN HAMPTON BARNES, MRS. HARRY WALN HARRISON, MRS. JOHN W. GEARY, MRS. GEORGE STUART PATTERSON
AND MRS. A. J. DREXEL PAUL

Take time for a hand of bridge as they discuss plans for the bridge party and tea to be given on Monday, March 11, at the Warwick,
for the benefit of the Powel House Committee of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.

Fashion Show to Help Restore Powel

By Josephine Arader

FASHION has always had a hand in history. Now the ruffled glove is lending a helping hand.

An advanced showing of spring

and resort fashions will be presented tomorrow afternoon in the Wanamaker auditorium for the benefit of the Powel House, one of the most beautiful of Philadelphia's historic landmarks.

This colonial mansion at 244 S. 3d st. was the home of our city's pre-Revolutionary mayors. Samuel Powel, patriot, mayor and connoisseur purchased the house in 1769 when it was considered the finest town house in the city.

A fine example of Georgian architecture, Powel House was an important center of social activity in colonial days.

Washington never slept there. But according to records he was a frequent visitor and danced in

the great second floor 20th wedd

THE he
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Philadelphia
Preservati
founded.
bought Pe
restoration

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Vice ch
Williams
Lukena. M
is treasure

Mrs. Ne
as chairm
Powel Ho
fashion sh





Mrs. Henry M. Watts, Jr. (left), of Society Hill, is seated next to Philadelphia Museum of Art president Mrs. John Wintersteen at luncheon-fashion show. Mrs. Watts is chairman of the Powel House committee of Philadelphia Society for Preservation of Landmarks.

Seltzer 2
Arts 3
News 3
Year's events 6

The Philadelphia Inquirer living

Gowns you can waltz in

Do they hear a waltz? Models rehearsing for the Jan. 28 luncheon and Fashion Presentation to benefit historic Powel House might well be listening for the echoes of waltzes that rang out often during the 1700s when some of Philadelphia's most fashionable parties were held there.

The Powel House Preservation Committee will be staging the luncheon at the Ben Franklin Hotel. Fashions for the show, including the designer gowns pictured here in Powel House, are from the John Wanamaker store. Purchase of a ticket (\$16) will help the committee continue to furnish and maintain the house and keep it open to the public. For tickets or information, phone LA 5-1499.



CITY Philadelphian

JANUARY, 1966



Powell House, Philadelphia, 1768, some-
thing and wallpaper are not original to the

*Metropolitan Museum
of Art, New York.*

To Preserve History

Women Rally To Collect Funds For Powel House



Mrs. Henry M. Watt, Jr., chairman of Powel House Committee, wearing a robin's-egg-blue and brocade gown by Oscar de la Renta, now at Nan Duskin, is shown in the Ballroom of the famous colonial house. Reflected in the ornate mirror is a magnificent 18th century Irish Old Waterford Crystal chandelier.

■ Powel House at 244 S. 3rd st., now open to the public, is one of the great examples of Colonial architecture in Philadelphia. Behind its fine period door is a large mansion furnished with authentic 18th century furniture and accessories. The entire house gives the impression that Mayor Powel and his family still reside there.

Mrs. E. FISHER RIVINS, President,
given in honor of Mr. Levis, presi- owned by the Landmarks Society.



THE POWEL HOUSE COMMITTEE
requests the pleasure of your company
at a
Garden Party
on
WEDNESDAY, MAY TWENTY-FIRST
from four until six-thirty o'clock
at
THE POWEL HOUSE
Two Forty-four South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

\$5.00 Donation
Includes Tea
Cocktails a la Carte



R.S.V.P.



Needlework Exhibition

Annual Powel House Fundraising



SOME PRIZEWINNERS IN EXHIBIT OF NEEDLEWORK OF TODAY



BEGINNER, but already a prizewinner, Miss Bertha Von Moschzisker displays her needlework which was awarded a ribbon in the exhibit for the benefit of historic Powel House



BACKGAMMON board, an excellent example of modern needlework by Mrs. F. Corlies Morgan, also caught the fancy of the judges at the exhibit of Needlework of Today

Lester photo



NEEDLEWORK EXHIBIT OPENS

Miss Martha B. Newkirk, of 914 Clinton Street, is seen examining the third annual Exhibition of Needlework of Today and Miniature Rooms and Objects, which opened today in the John Wanamaker store, where it will continue to November 19. Proceeds of the exhibit will be turned over to the Philadelphia Society for Preservation of Landmarks to be used for restoration of Powel House, 244 South Third Street

EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER—PHILA

Quilt, Started by Pioneer Settler, 93, Is Being Finished by Phila. Women



The ancient art of quilting has been revived for the exhibition of needlework in the Wanamaker Store Art Galleries. Working daily at their quilting frame may be seen (clockwise from left) Mrs. Thomas R. White, Mrs. F. P. Albright, Mrs. D. D. Wolf, Mrs. F. E. Foertsch and Mrs. William H. Monroe.

Ledger Photo

An antique quilting frame containing the quilt which a pioneer Illinois woman started when 83 years old, and which is now being completed by Philadelphia women, is one of the interesting features of the exhibition of needlework and antique and modern dolls now being held in the Wanamaker Store Art Galleries by the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks. The exhibition will be continued through Thursday.

The quilt on the frame in the present exhibition is "Pandora's Box," a simple pattern used in the often days by young girls making

their first quilt. It was used by Mrs. Elizabeth K. Lambert because she "was getting old" and "wanted something simple."

Mrs. Lambert was a pioneer of Pamfield, Ill., and one of the first settlers in Du Page County, Illinois. Their nearest doctor was in Chicago. He kept Mrs. Lambert supplied with stock drugs and she rode horseback many miles while, caring for the sick as best she could until the doctor arrived.

At the age of 83 she pieced this quilt for her granddaughter, Grace Alice Monroe. Four years later she died from a broken hip. Today, years after the quilt was pieced, it is being quilted by Mrs. Lambert's granddaughter (and many other women) for her daughter, Mrs. William H. Monroe, mother of Grace Alice.

The quilting frame was presented to the Germantown Historical Society by Miss Frances Richardson and Mrs. Wireman, and was owned by Miss Richardson's grandmother, Mrs. Hannah Yarmail Richardson, who died in 1916, and before that by her mother, Mrs. Hannah Haines Thompson Yarmail, born 1786, and died 1822.

The art of quilting is as old as needlework. Cave women padded skins with moss and sewed or quilted them with bone needles. In Colonial days quilting was used on dresses as well as bed covers. Today quilting is in vogue on hats, pillows, purses, in brooches on hats, pillows, purses and even evening clothes.

Aiding Powel House Restoration



Mrs. Harrold E. Gillingham, of Germantown, working on a piece of needlepoint to be exhibited at the third annual exhibition of needlework which will be held at Wanamaker's Art Galleries, November 9 to 19, under the auspices of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.



ON COMMITTEE FOR NEEDLEWORK EXHIBIT
Mrs. Harrold E. Gillingham, of Germantown, cataloguing one of the miniature desks that will be shown at the exhibition of "Needlework of Today and Miniature Rooms and Objects," to be held in November under the sponsorship of the Powel House Committee. Mrs. Gillingham is chairman of Museum Loans Exhibits

Evening Ledger
Friday July 10th

THIS ROOM
RESTORED BY THE
BRIDGE AND TEA COMMITTEE
AND THE
NEEDLEWORK EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

1938

THE WINDOWS RESTORED
IN MEMORY OF
THOMAS FISHER

AND
MIERS FISHER

BY

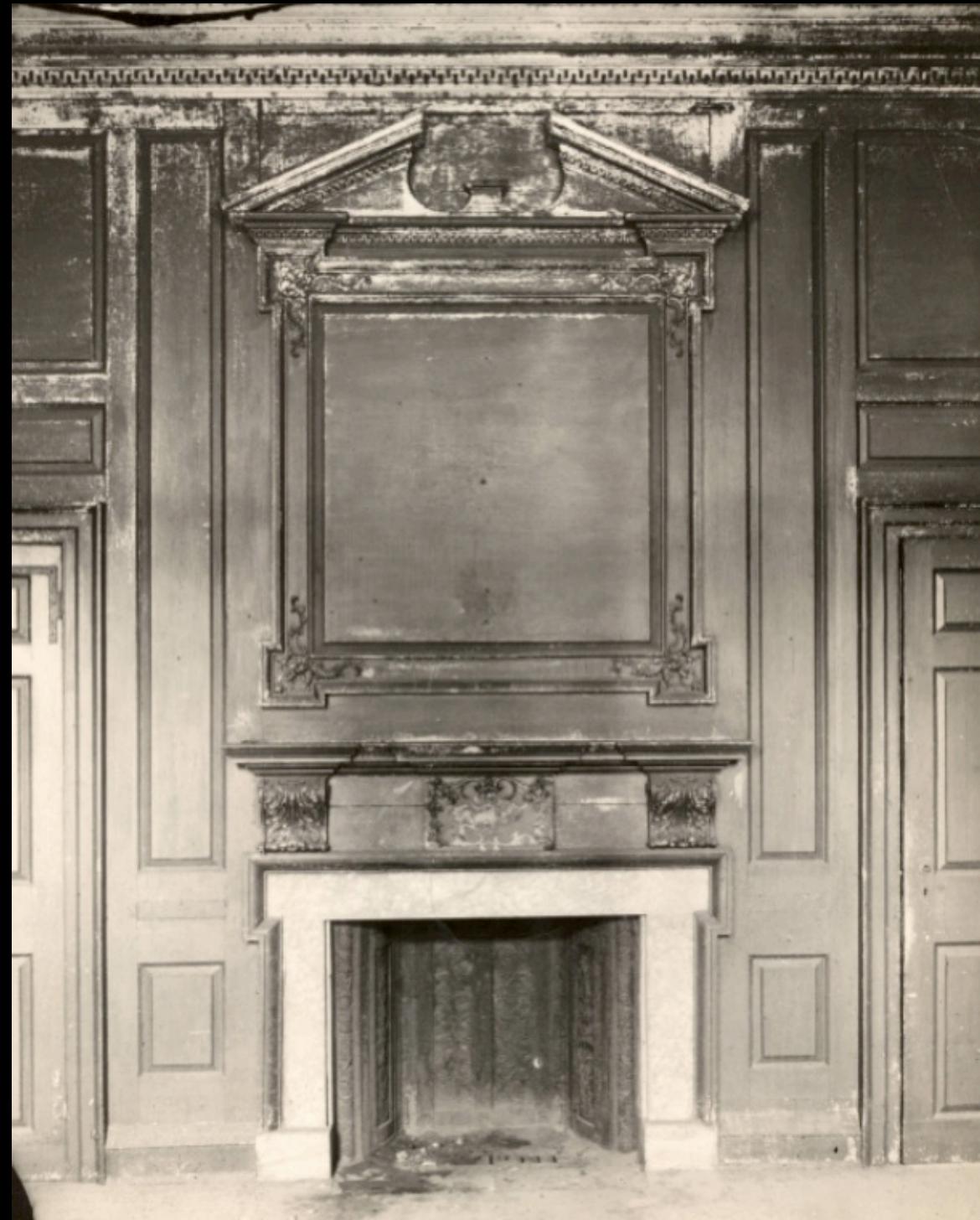
LYDIA FISHER WARNER

1938



ON COMMITTEE FOR NEEDLEWORK EXHIBITION
Mrs. Alexander D. Irwin, of 2014 Delancey Place, and Mrs. George H. Houston, of the
Barclay, discuss plans for the fourth annual exhibition of Needlework of Today, to be
held in the Wanamaker Art Galleries, from November 8 to 18, inclusive

Withdrawning Room



Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive: From Metropolitan Museum of Art NYC

THIS ROOM RESTORED BY
THE BRIDGE AND TEA COMMITTEE
THE NEEDLEWORK EXHIBITION COMMITTEE
AND THE GIFTS OF FRIENDS

1937

THE MANTEL BREASTING RESTORED
BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
MAGNA CHARTA DAMES

IN MEMORY OF

ETHEL NELSON PAGE LARGE

PRESIDENT • 1929 TO 1934

1937

THE NORTHWEST WINDOW RESTORED
BY THE MODERN CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

1938

THE SOUTHWEST WINDOW RESTORED BY
JEAN KANE FOULKE duPONT

1940

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER



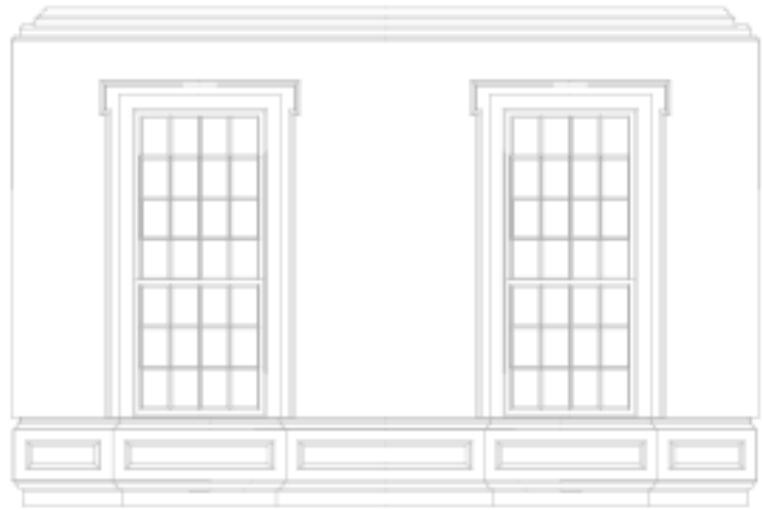
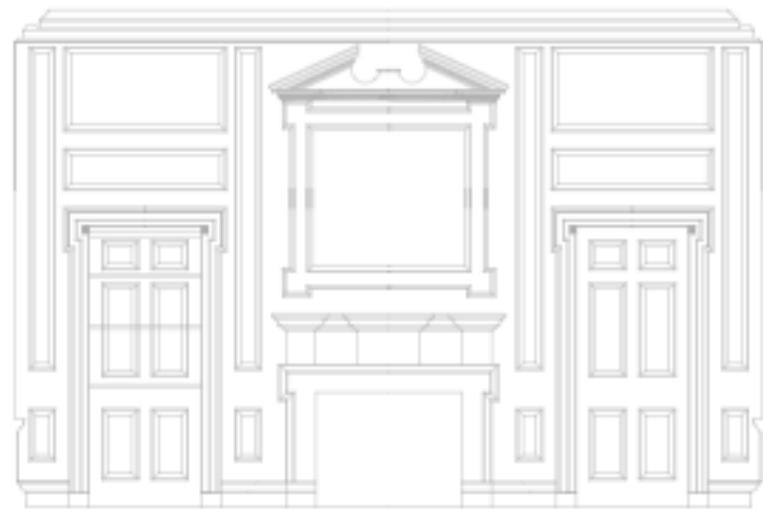
THREE SPONSORS FOR THE NOVEMBER EXHIBITION OF DOLLS AND NEEDLEWORK
Mrs. John B. Thayer, 3d; Mrs. George Stuart Patterson and
Mrs. Robert E. Strawbridge, attending a meeting of the com-
mittee which is completing plans for the annual exhibit opening

on Nov. 8 in the John Wanamaker Art Galleries. The exhibition
will continue through Nov. 18. This will mark the fourth anni-
versary of the event, given for the benefit of the Powel House.

Dining Room

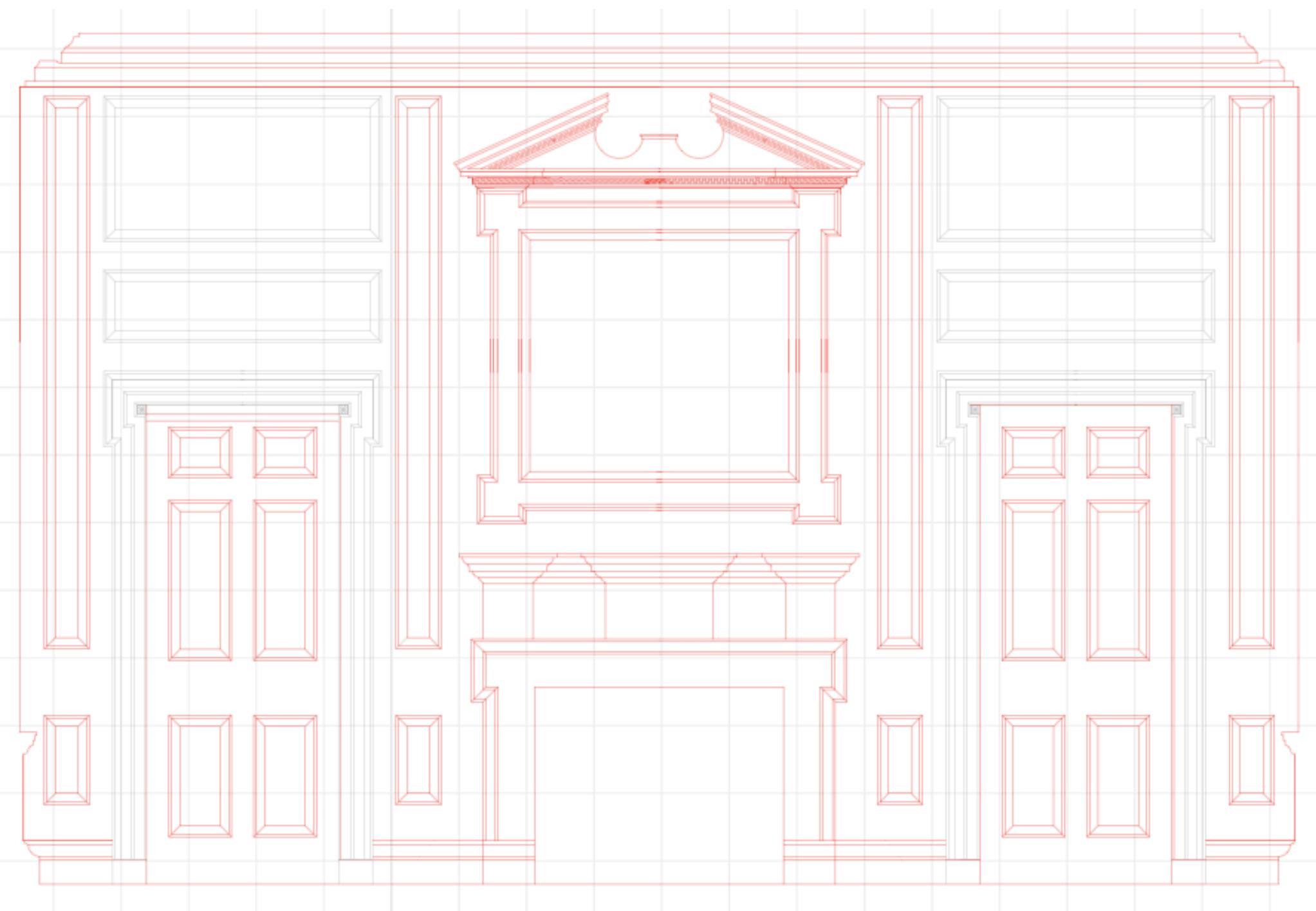


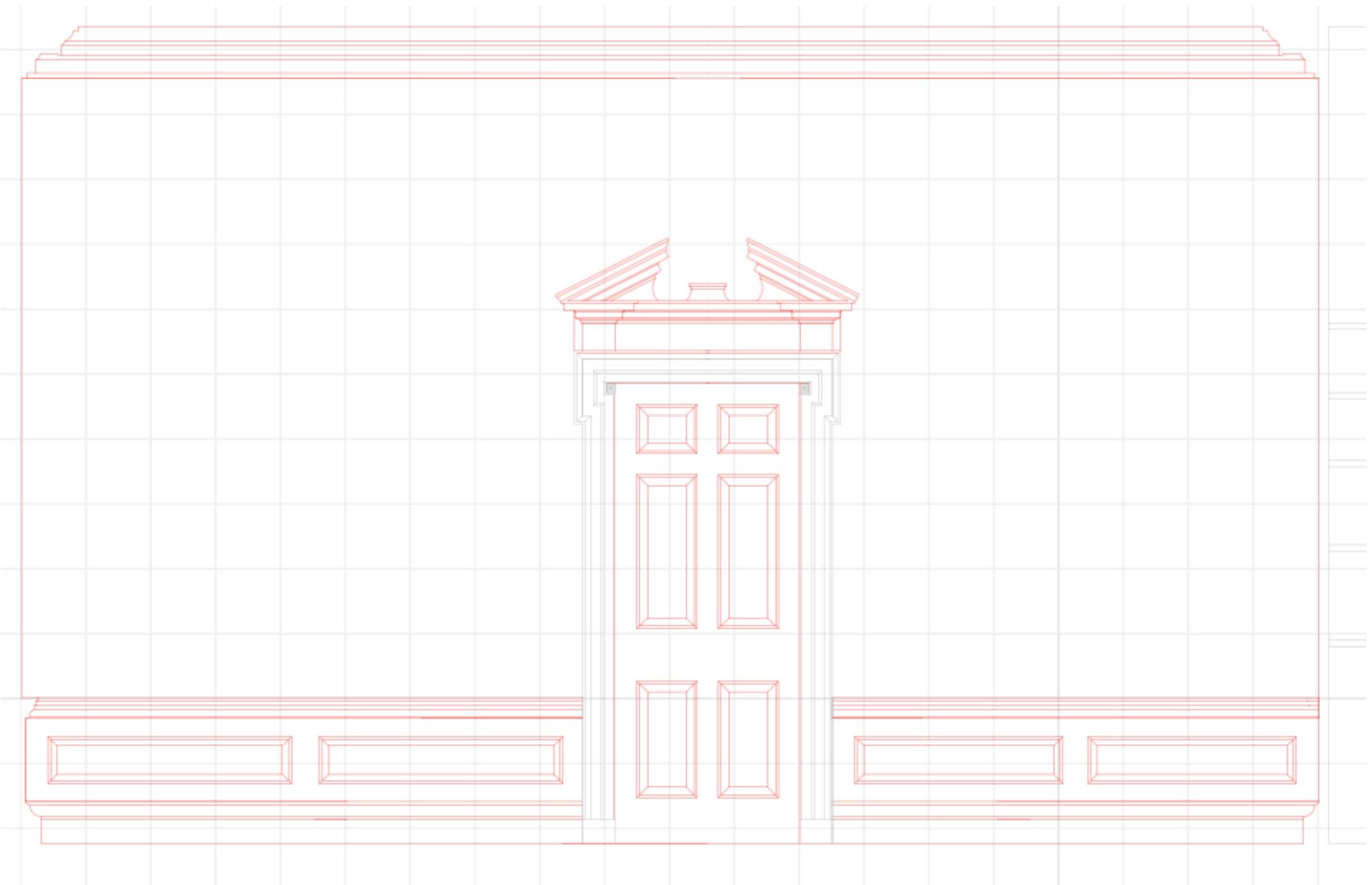
Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive

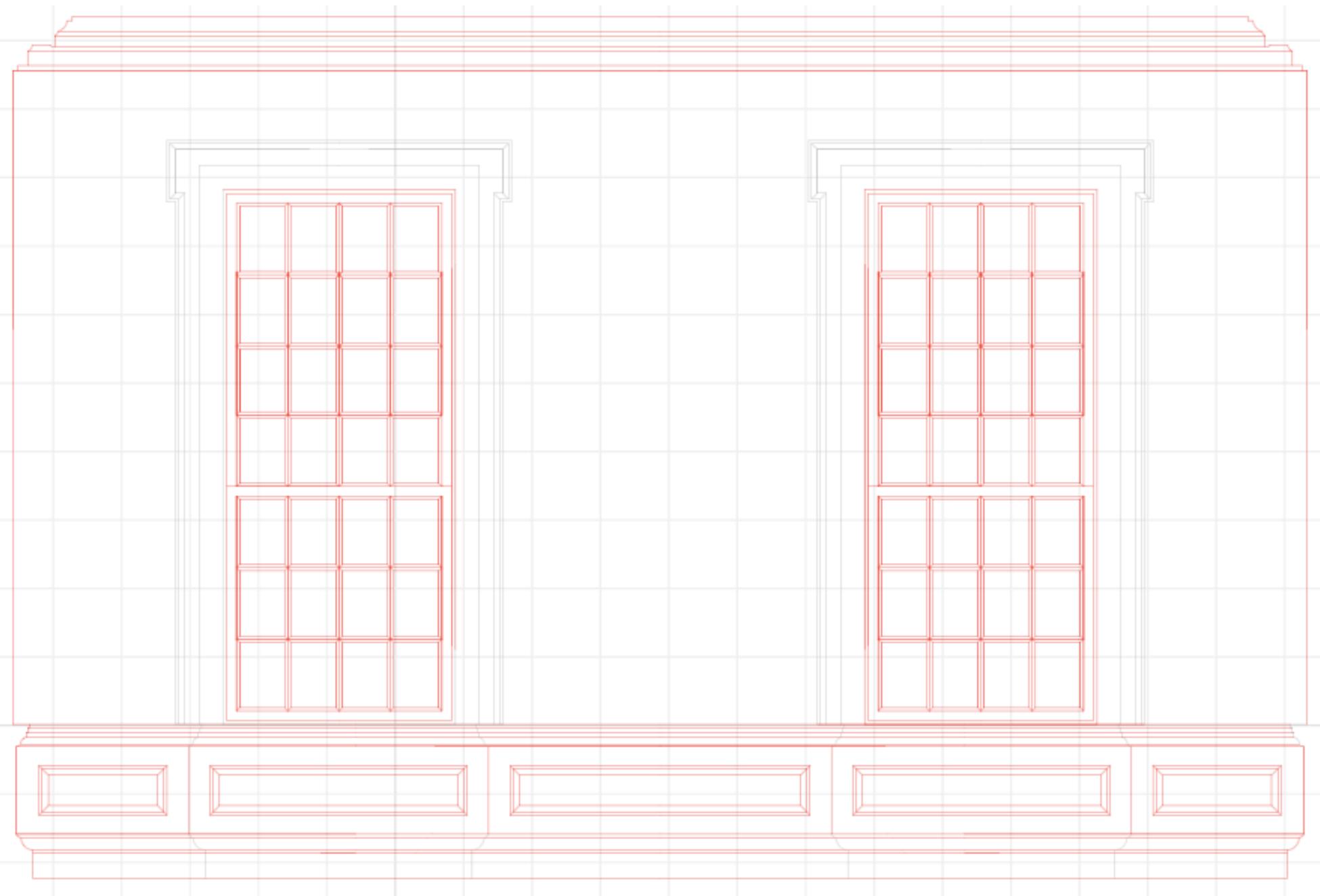


DINING ROOM

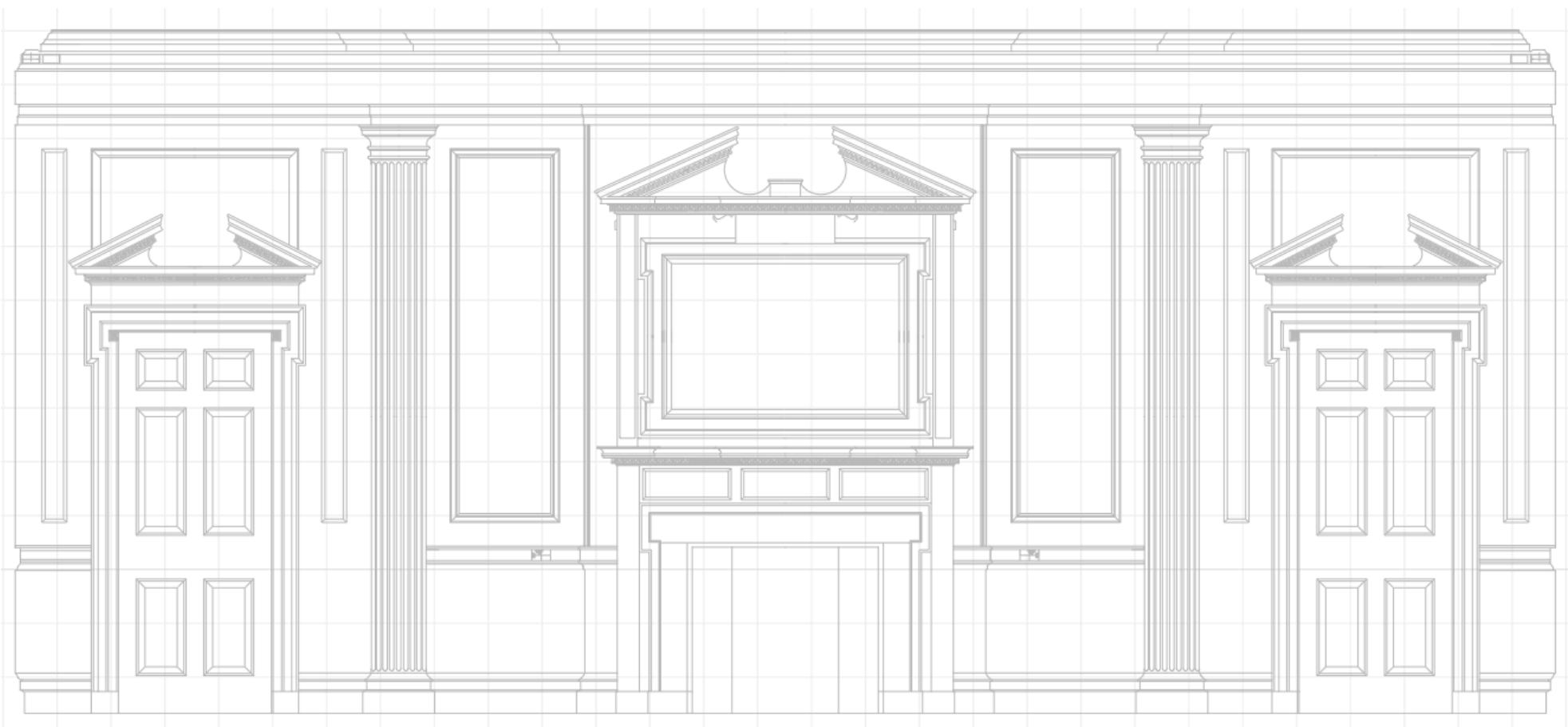
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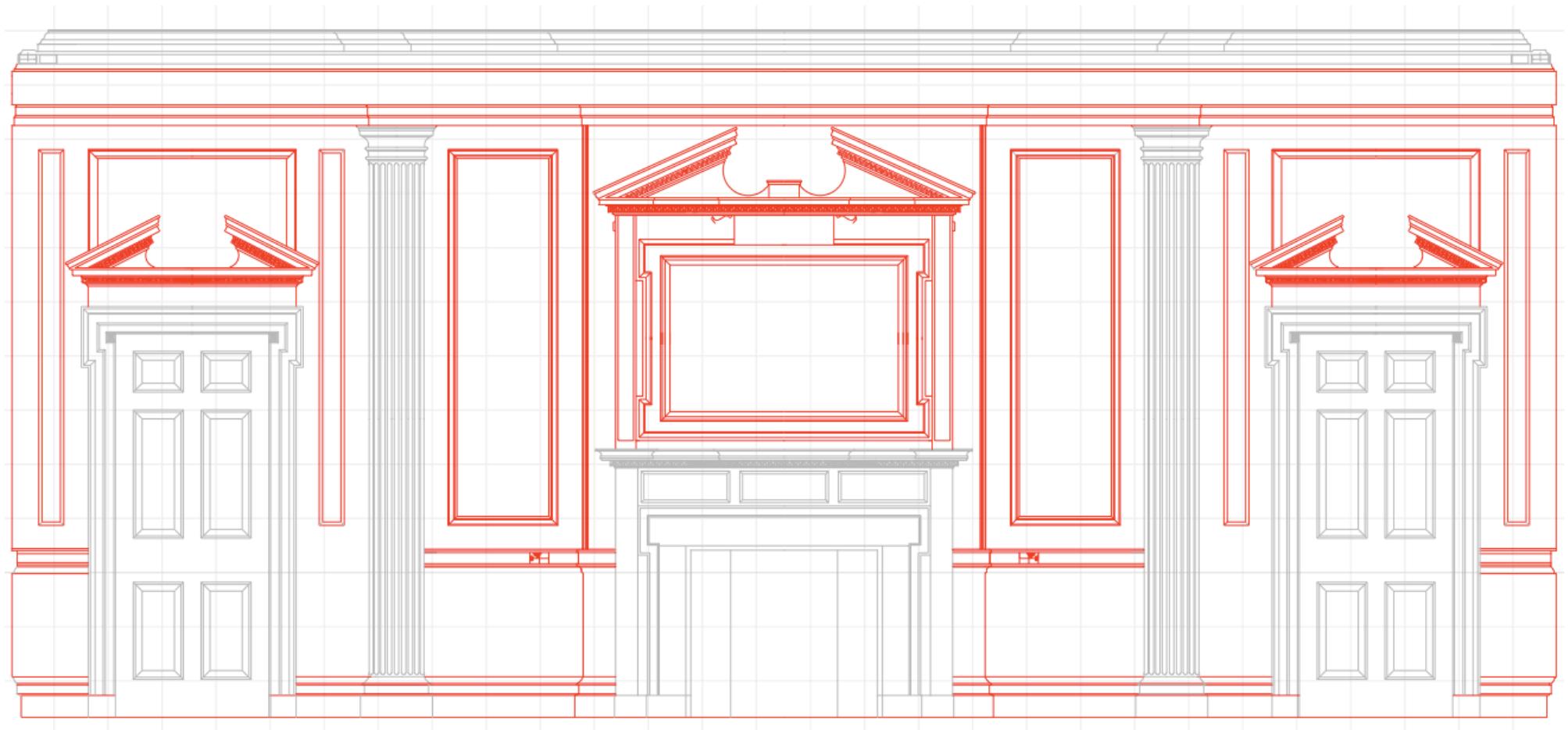






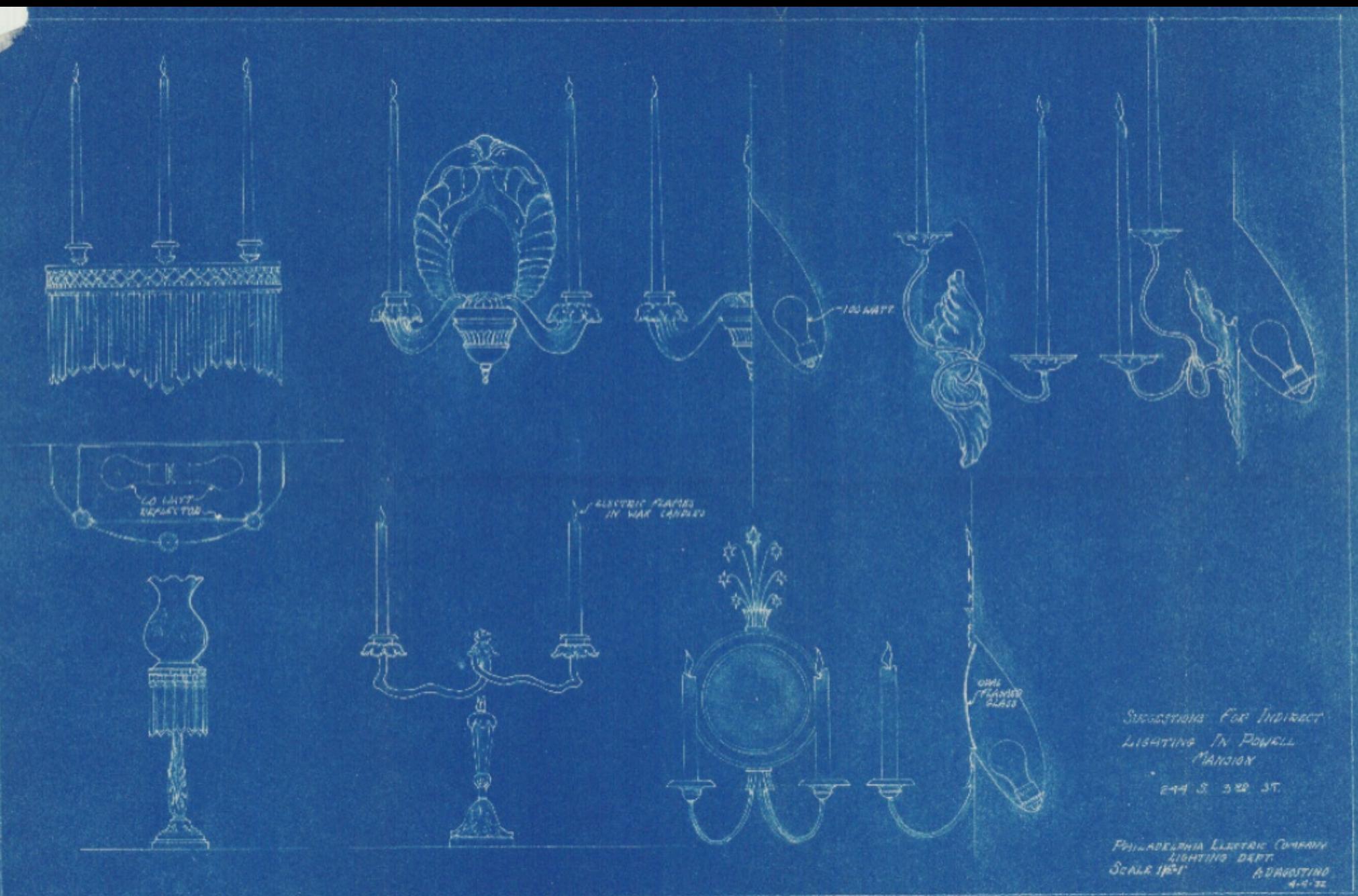








Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive

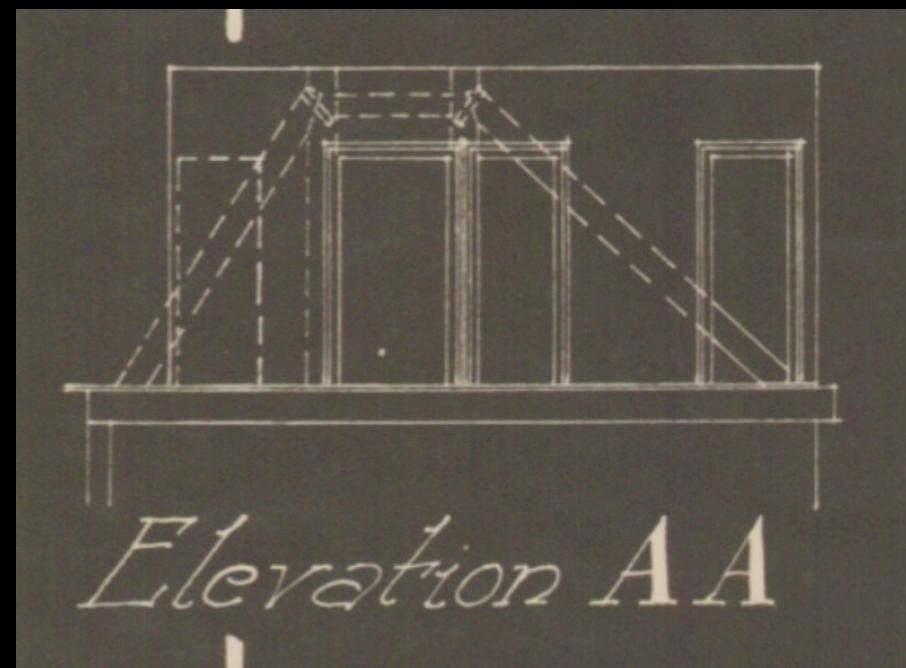
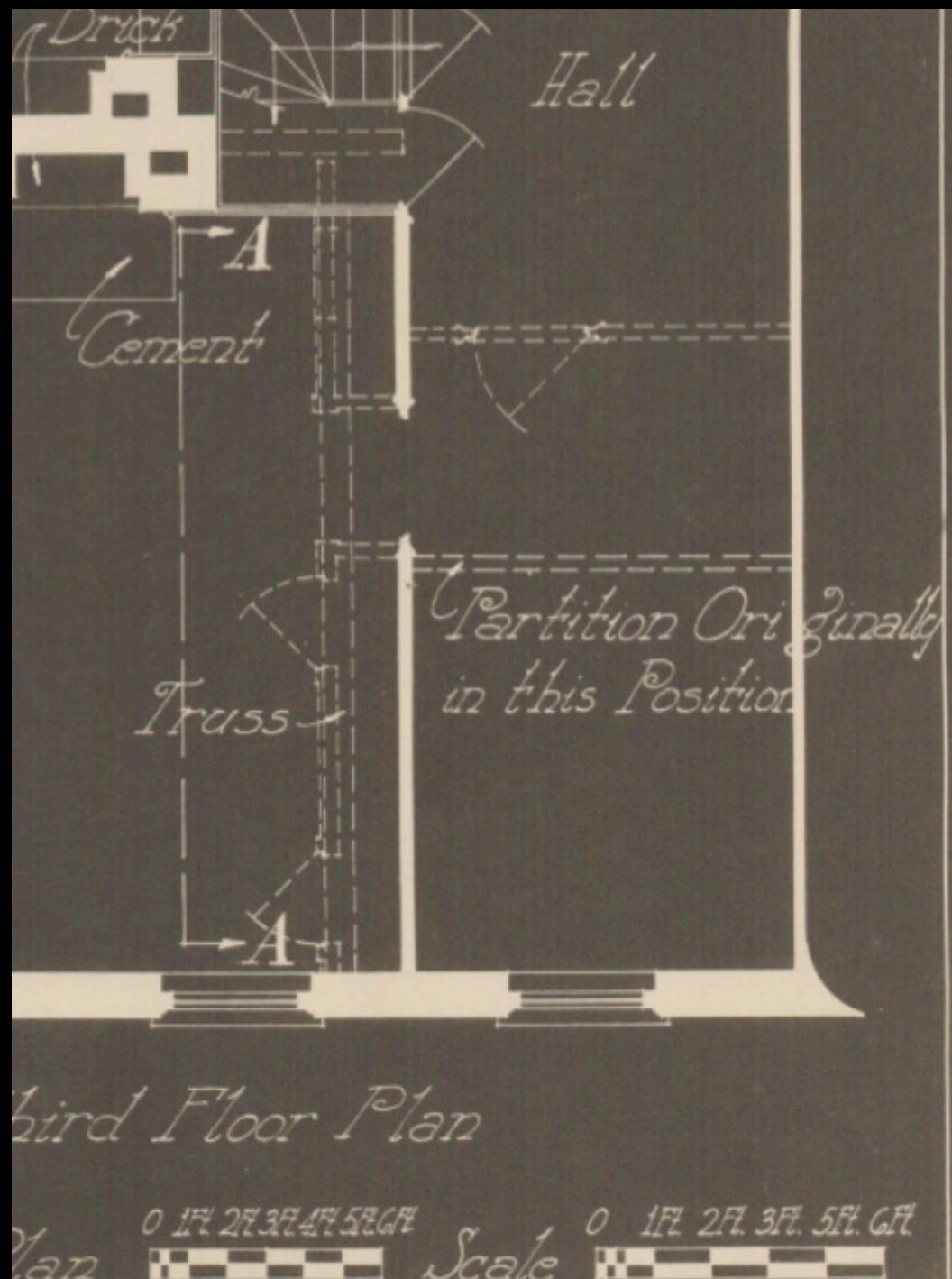


Suggestions for Indirect lighting in Powel Mansion. April 4, 1932



Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive





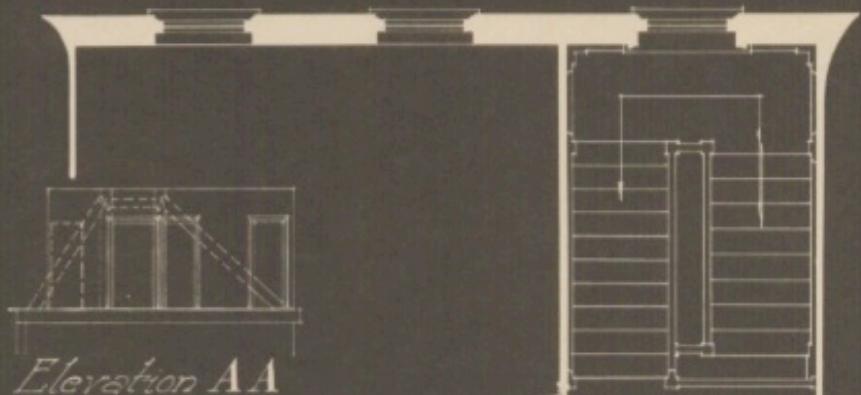


End Elevation Third Floor Partition Front Room

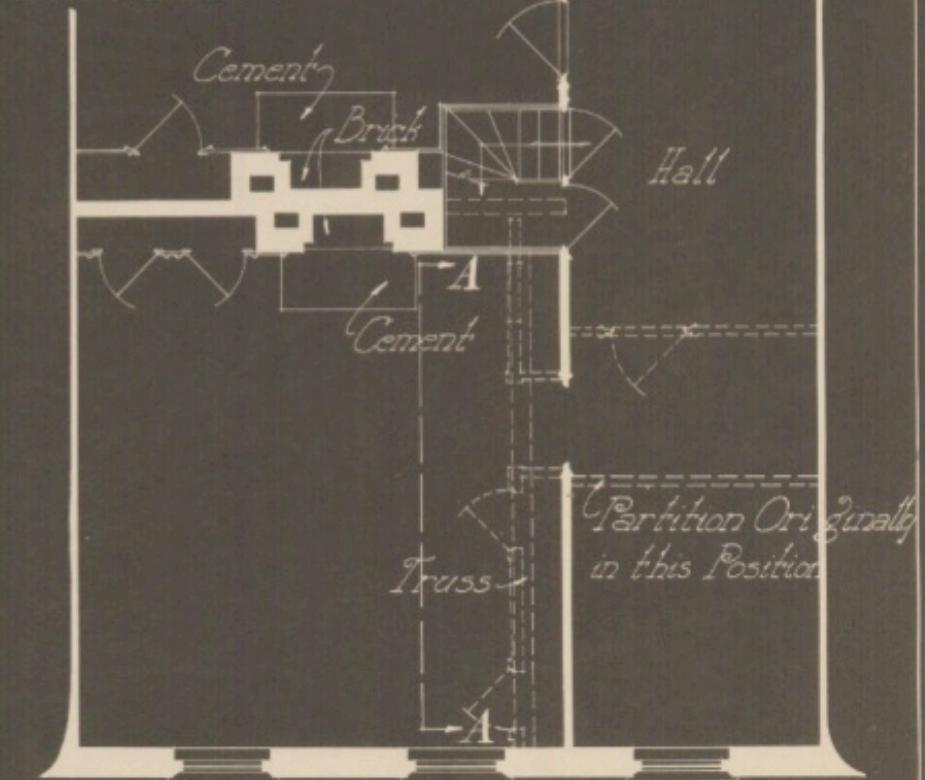


End Elevation Third Floor Rear Room

*POWEL HOUSE
244 South Third Street
Philadelphia*



Elevation AA

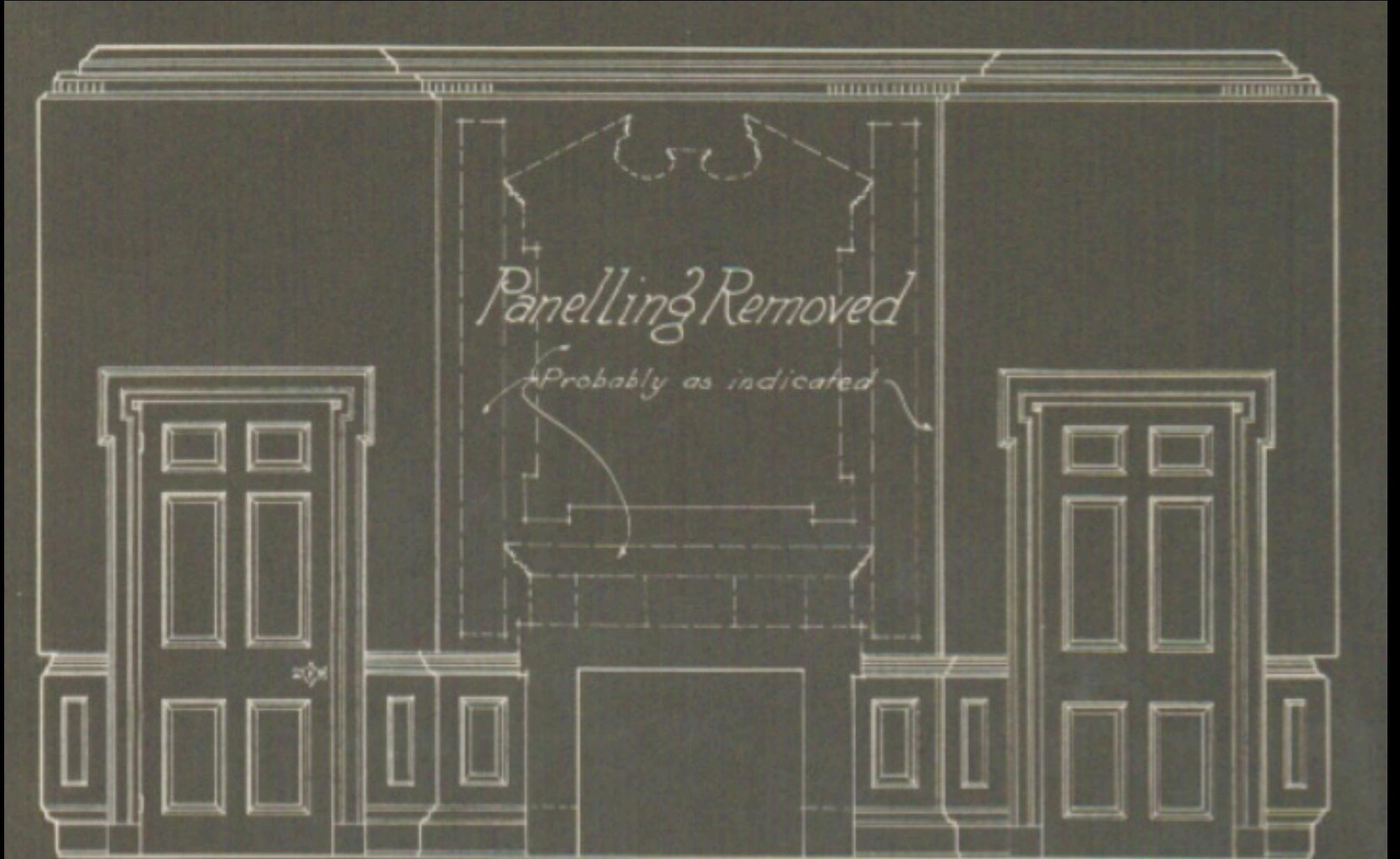


Third Floor Plan

Scale of Plan 0 17' 27" 37' 57" 67' 67" Scale 0 17' 27' 37' 57' 67'



Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks Archive

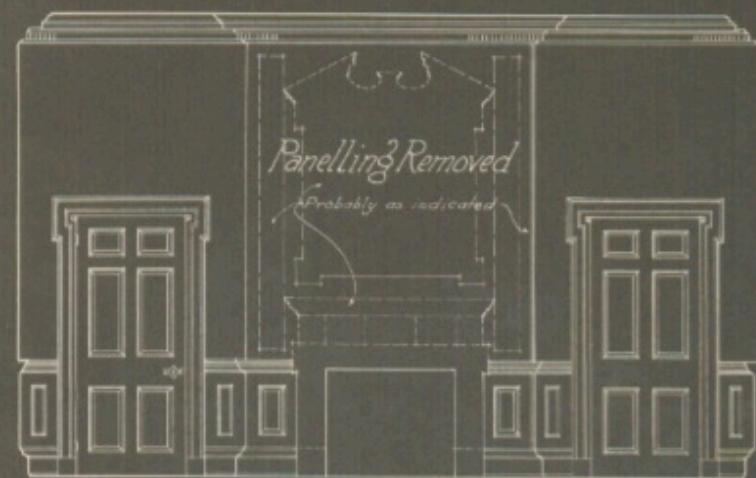


15

Panelling Removed

Probably as indicated

West Side



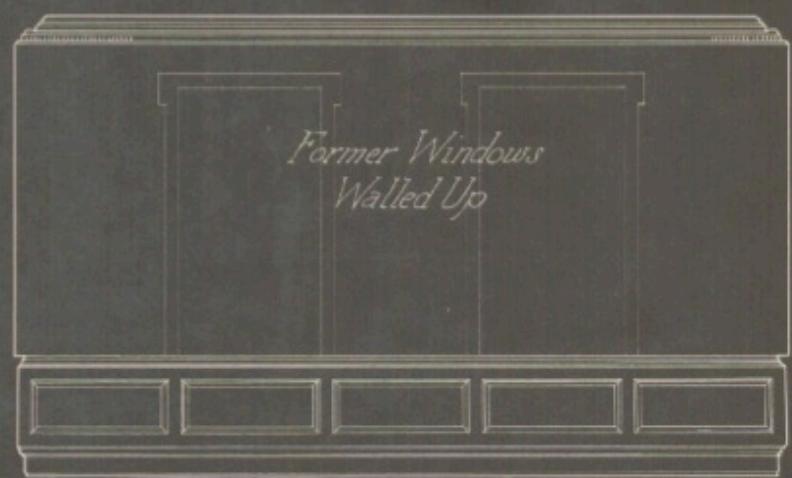
West Side



North Side



East Side



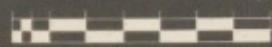
South Side

POWEL HOUSE
244 South Third Street
Philadelphia

Reception Room First Floor Front

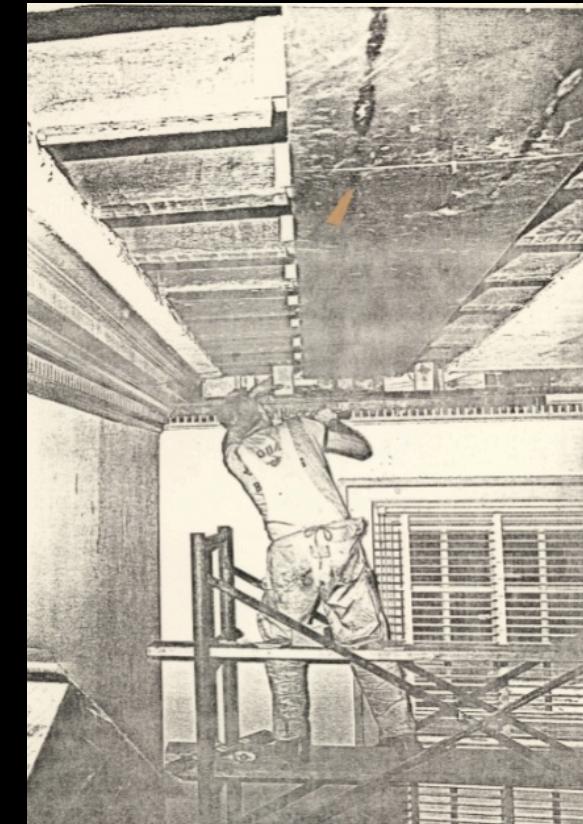
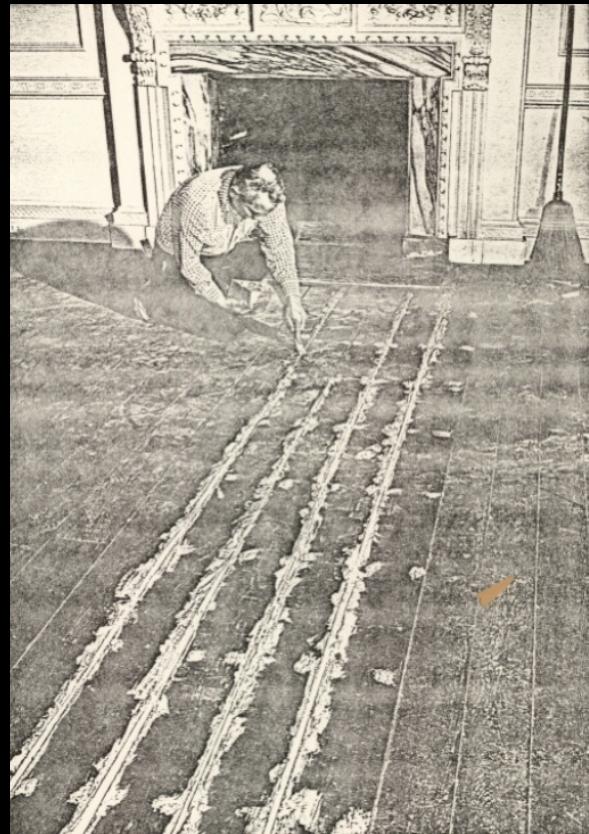
0 1ft 3ft 5ft 7ft

Scale



Measured & Drawn by George B. Roberts

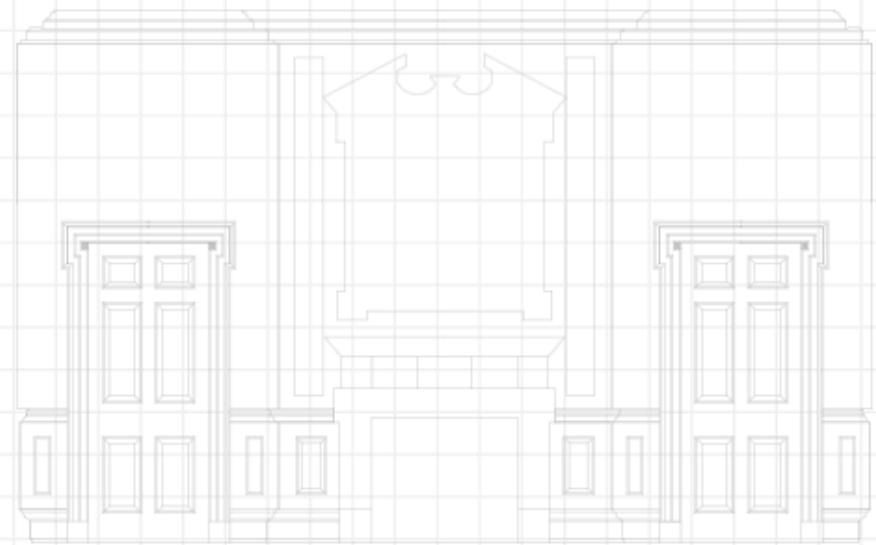




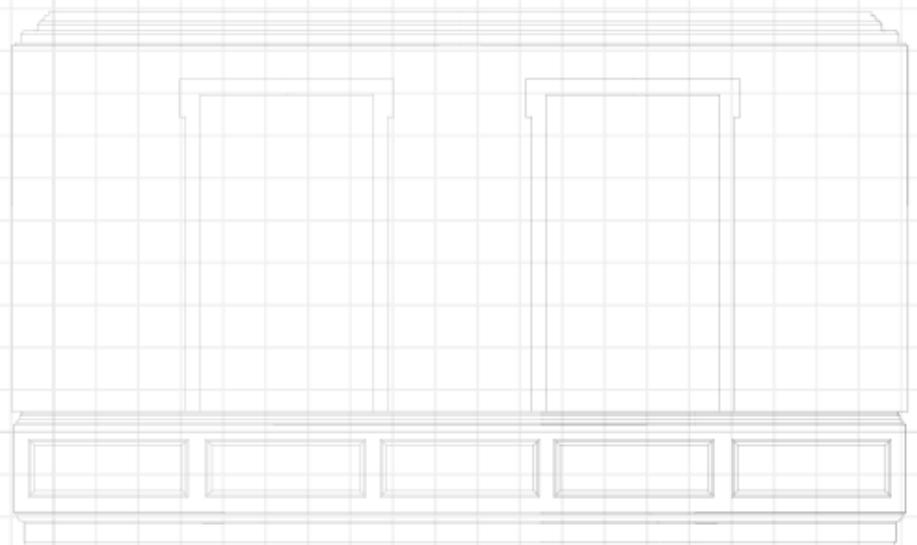
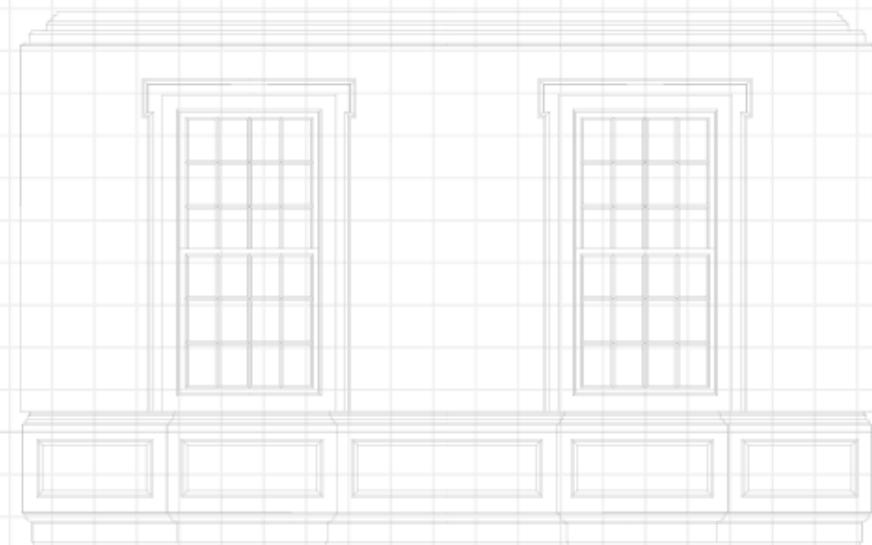
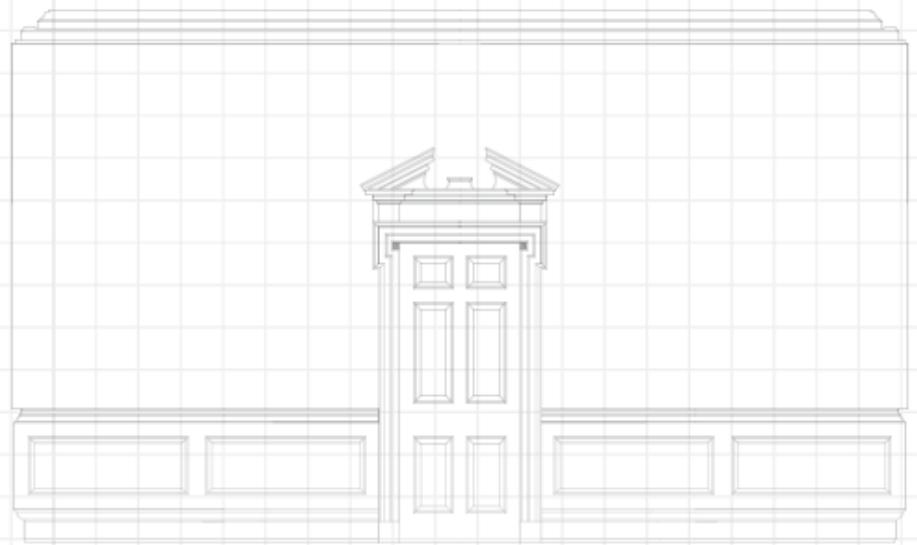
(7) A carpenter fits spacers between the joists. Both spacers and joists rest on an oversized steel plate welded to the bottom of the I-beam. Later angle irons, fastened with bolts and lag screws, bonded joists and spacers. (Photo 3/6/78)



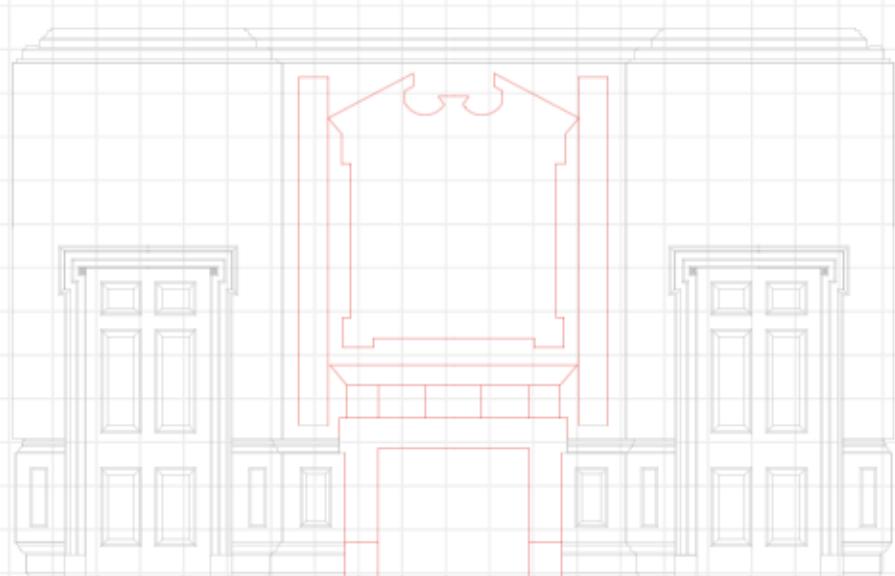
(9) A plasterer applies a rough coat to the ceiling of the reception room, while a carpenter (right) removes the sag in the dentils prior to replacing them on the north wall of the reception room.



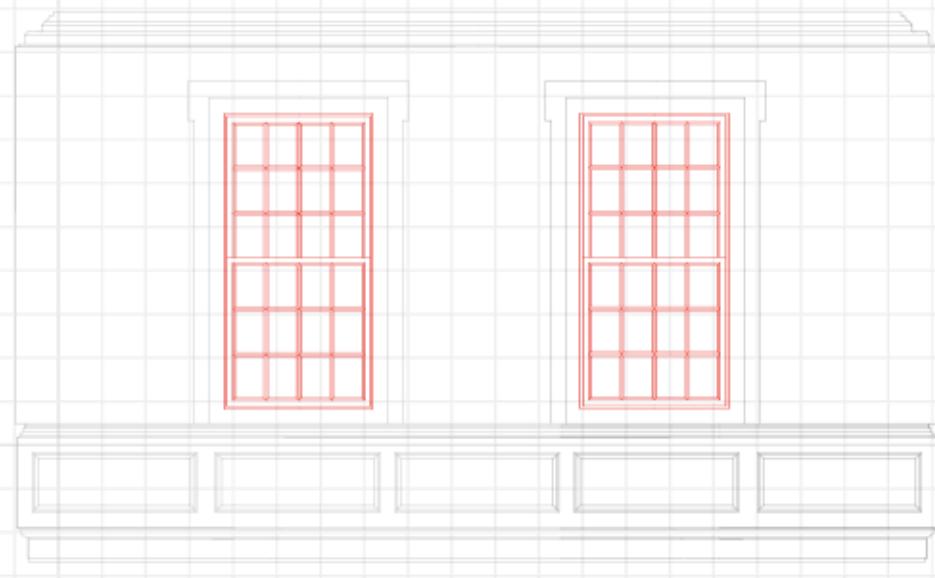
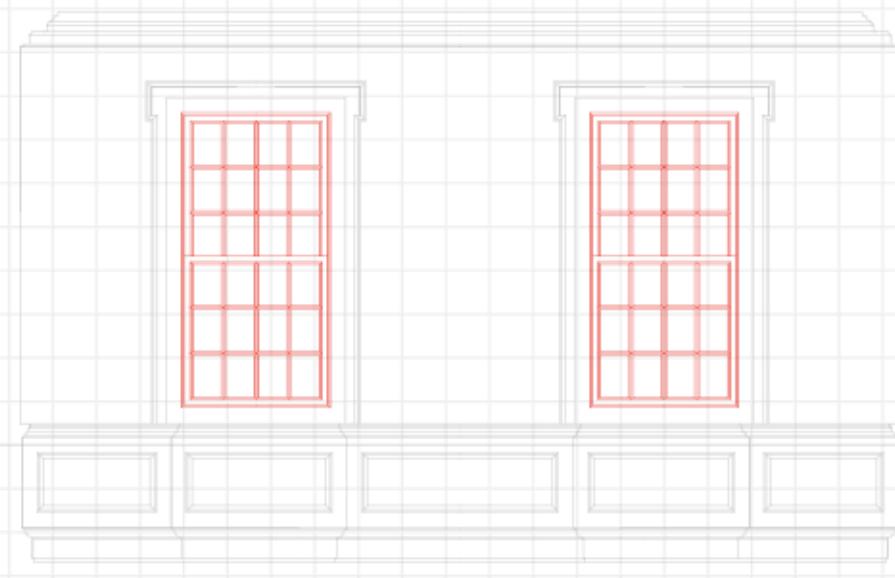
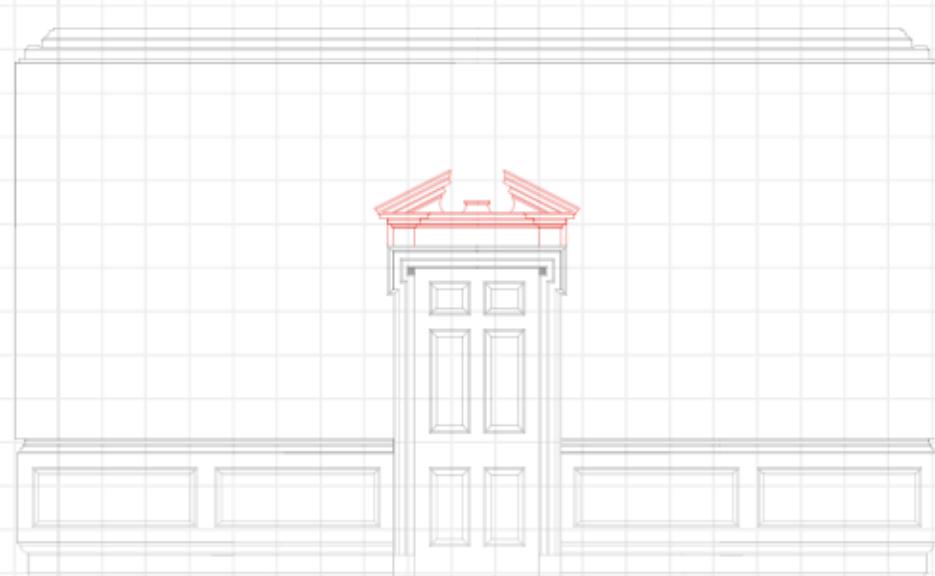
Original Pennsylvania Pine floor



RECEPTION ROOM



Original Pennsylvania Pine floor



Part II. Powel House & Society Hill Redevelopment

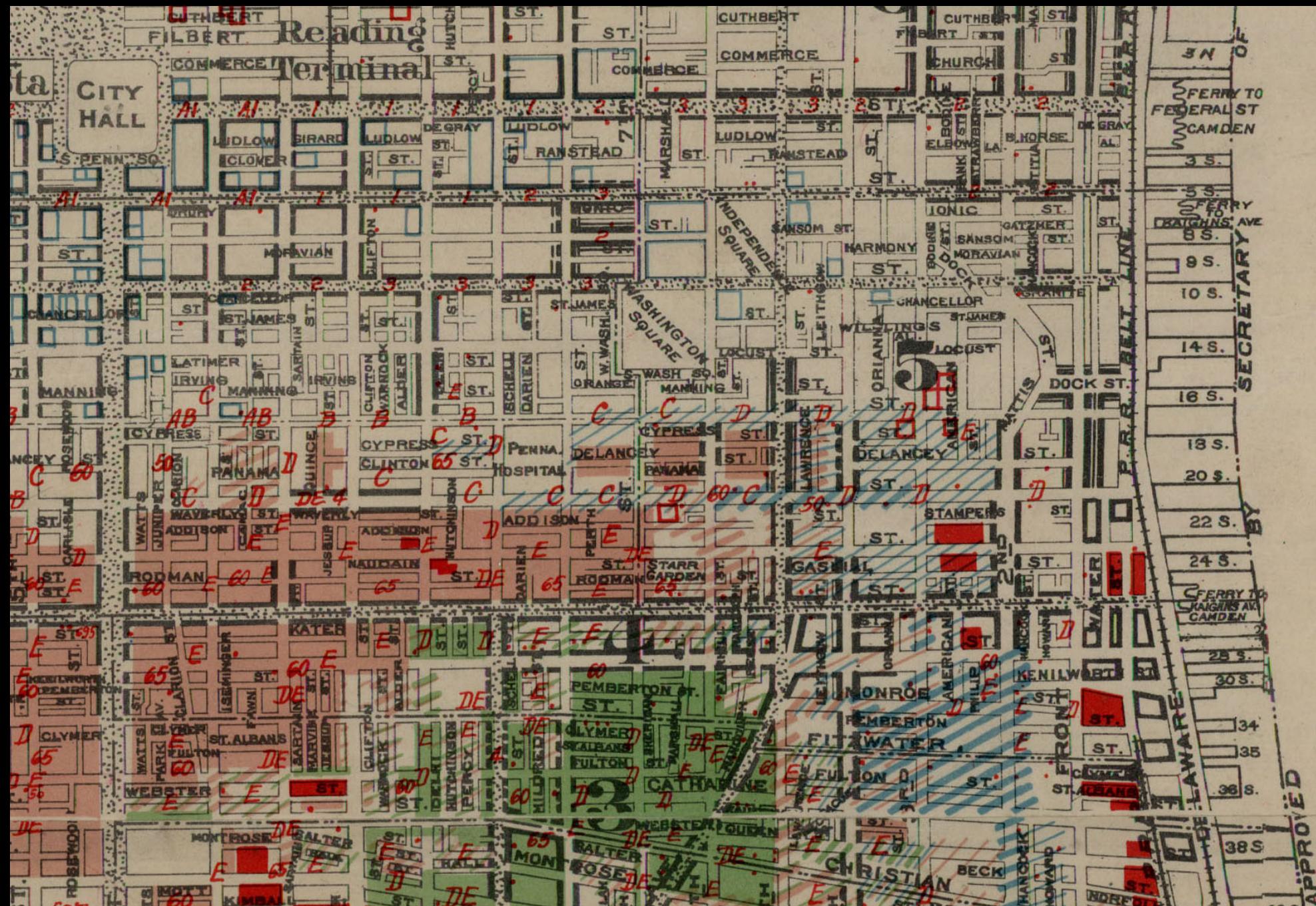
Thoughts on Preservation



Photograph with assistance of Dr. David Brownlee

Table 5.3. Selected demographic data for Society Hill in 1950 and 1980 (Source: Cybriwsky 1986, p. 29)

Demographic feature	Society Hill	Percentage City of Philadelphia	Society Hill	Percentage City of Philadelphia
	1950	1950	1980	1980
Population	6,982	0.3% of the total city	5,213	0.3% of the total city
Average family income	18,600 US \$	62.9% of what an average Philadelphia family earned	41,412 US \$	Increase of: 252.7%
Percentage with high school degree	23.9%	--	91.8%	--
Average home value	5,224 US \$	--	168,300 US \$	Increase of: 716.2%
Percentage of houses without running water	24.1%	--	0.7%	--

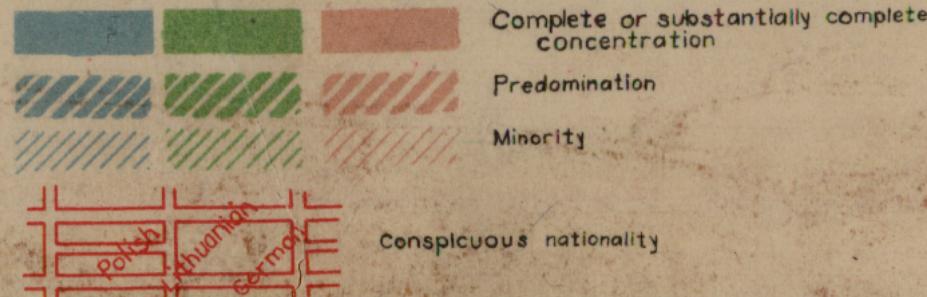


J. M Brewer Survey of Philadelphia, Racial and Ethnic Concentrations Map, 1934

Legend for maps in the
J.M.BREWER SURVEY of PHILA.

I. Racial Concentrations

Jewish Italian Colored



2. Location Ratings

A = Highest class residential

B = Upper middle class "

C = Middle class residential

D = Lower or working class "

E = Decadent

AB, BC, CD, DE = Intermediate to above

Business block (retail)

Highest class central retail

First class retail (i.e. dept stores, large chain stores etc.)

Second class retail (good chain store location).

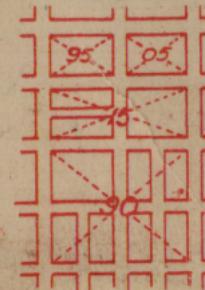
Third class retail (fair business location).

Fourth class retail (very mediocre location).

Fifth class or very poor business

Wholesale business block.

3. AGE.



Approx. date of development

(Dotted lines show area referred to by placement of age figure.)

4. Real Estate Sales Prices (as inferred in a)



Approx. location of property sold and price in hundreds of dollars.

5. Industrials



Heavy industrial of type tending to control character of neighborhood.

Industrial affecting but not controlling character of neighborhood.

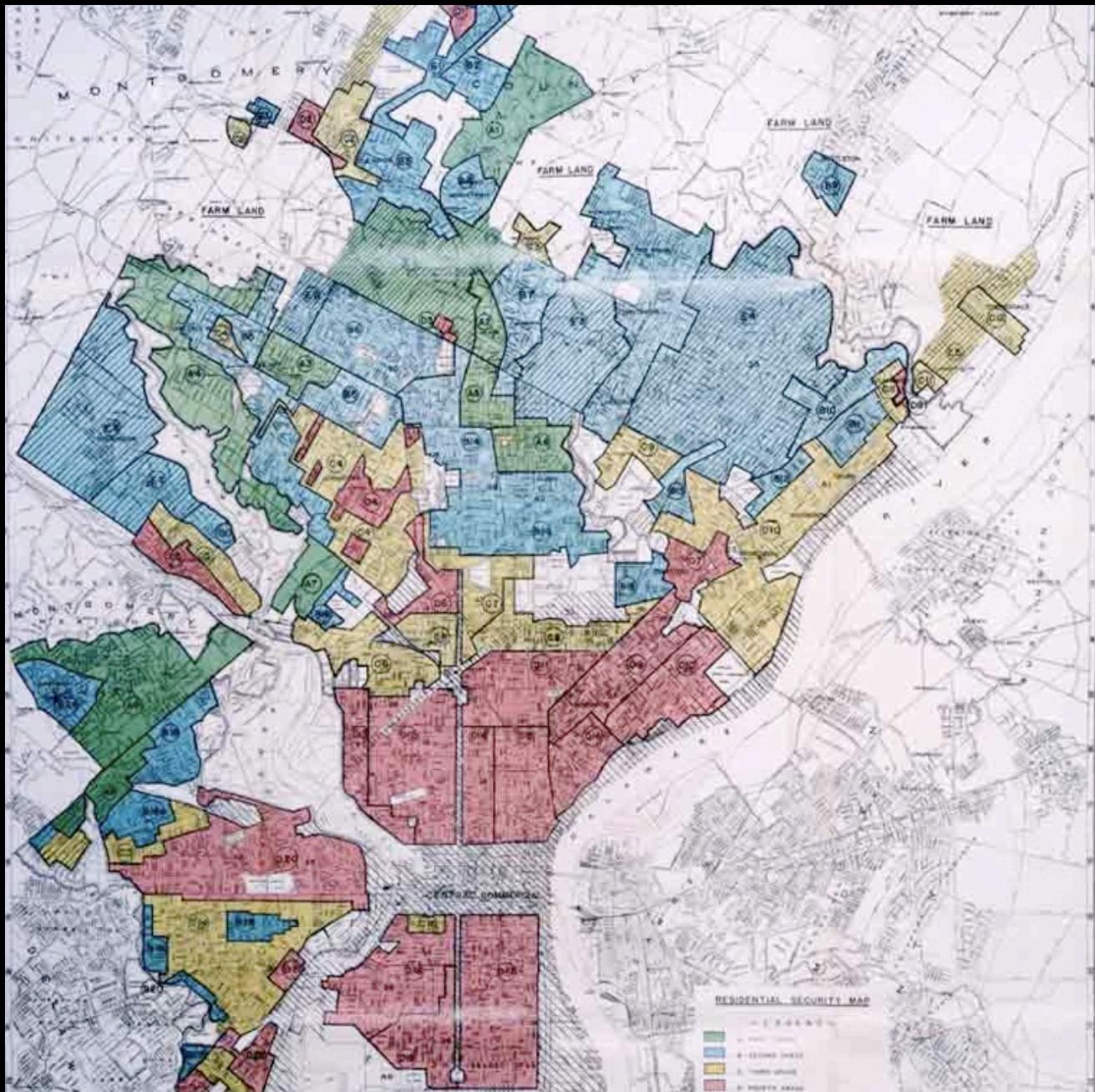
Small industrial or commercial of no less than 1000 employees on location.

Office buildings, department stores & prominent theatres.

Arterial highways or streets.

Note:- All location ratings and racial concentrations quoted are the opinion only of J.M.Brewer after careful investigation of the location.

J. M Brewer Survey of Philadelphia, Racial and Ethnic Concentrations Map, 1934



Home Owners Loan Corporation, Philadelphia Map showing "desirability of home ownership", 1937

Group Seeks Backers To 'Save' Society Hill

By THOMAS WERNER
Of The Inquirer Staff

The restoration of Society Hill as a first-class residential quarter will be complete within six or seven years, but it will must be determined which way that restoration goes: toward a semblance of its original Colonial elegance, or "modern" and meaningless neighborhood.

The prediction was made by Frederick Hemsley Levis, center city investment counselor whose avocation is the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.

STEP UP CAMPAIGN

In the wake of the society's annual meeting, Levis revealed that the group is planning to take a new tack in its fight to preserve the city's oldest and most historic dwellings.

This decision to step up its campaign happily coincides with the 200th anniversary of society's most cherished session and most successful project: the Powel House at 244 1/2 st.

Instead of snarling from a distance," Levis told some 200 members at the annual meet-

"we are going to try to down with the planning commission and redevelopment people and try to work something out."

The Powel House, Levis related, was the rallying point around which the society was

informed in 1931. The house — in deplorable condition at the time — was saved. The city remained intact, to the historians' claim.

1964
benefit of a number of buildings since then.

Today, it has 1200 members, more than ever before, and its leaders detect a change. They feel public opinion is beginning to favor them.

'MORE WILLINGNESS'

"In the past," Levis said, "city officials have looked down on us as laymen not to be taken too seriously. It may have made us a bit less willing to listen than we should have been.

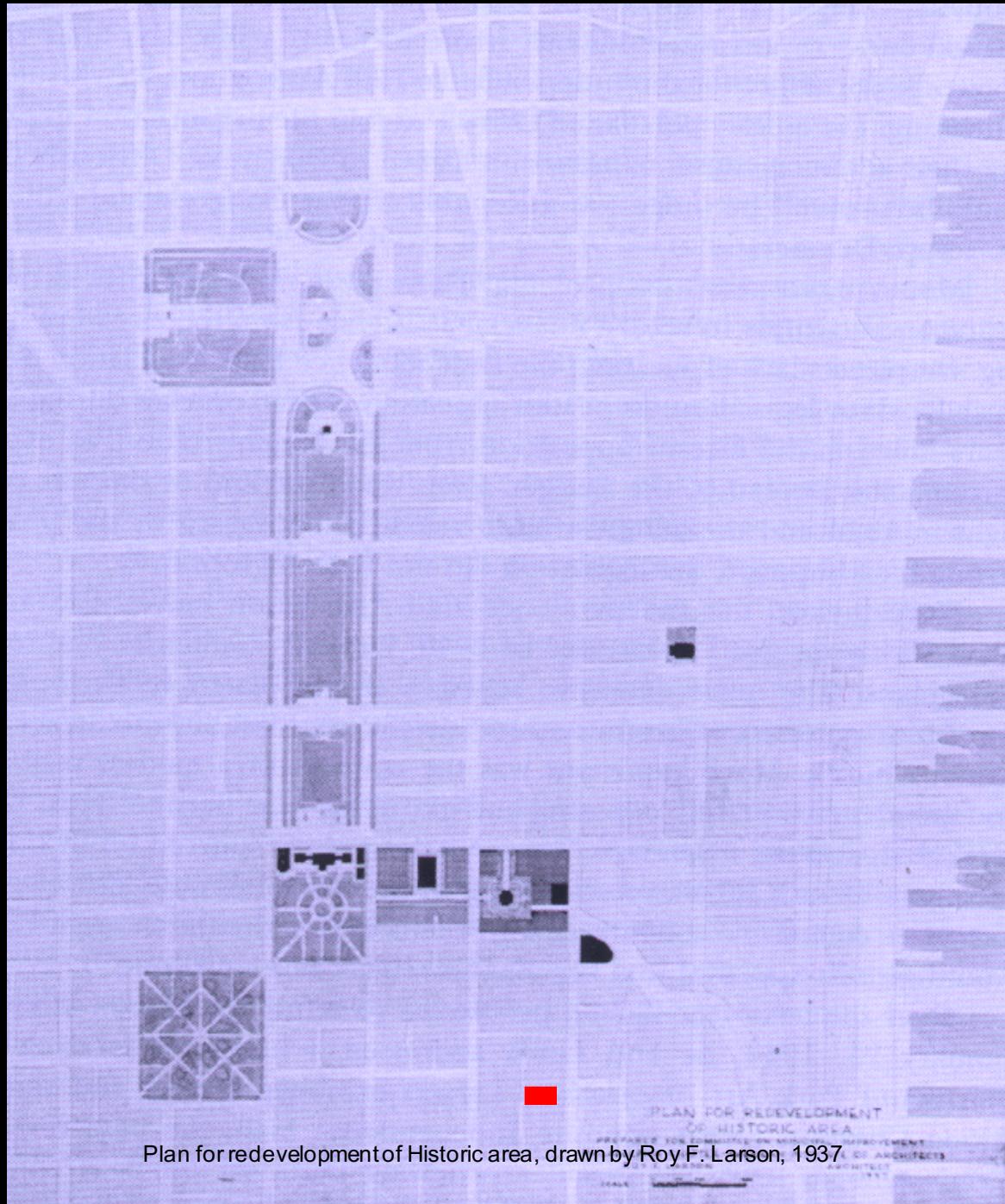
"However, we have detected more of a willingness to listen. We hope only that we can join with the planners in a cooperative effort. We don't want controversy."

One drawback to the society's effectiveness, Levis said, is its minuscule annual budget, less than \$15,000.

But even with that severe fiscal limitation, the society has poured several times its annual operating budget into the Powel House, mostly through appeals to persons with some knowledge of the building's background.

Samuel Powel, for whom the house is named, was mayor of Philadelphia for only two years. But they were two crucial years: 1775-1776 and 1789-1790. Washington slept there — more than he slept in any other building excluding his home, many historians claim.

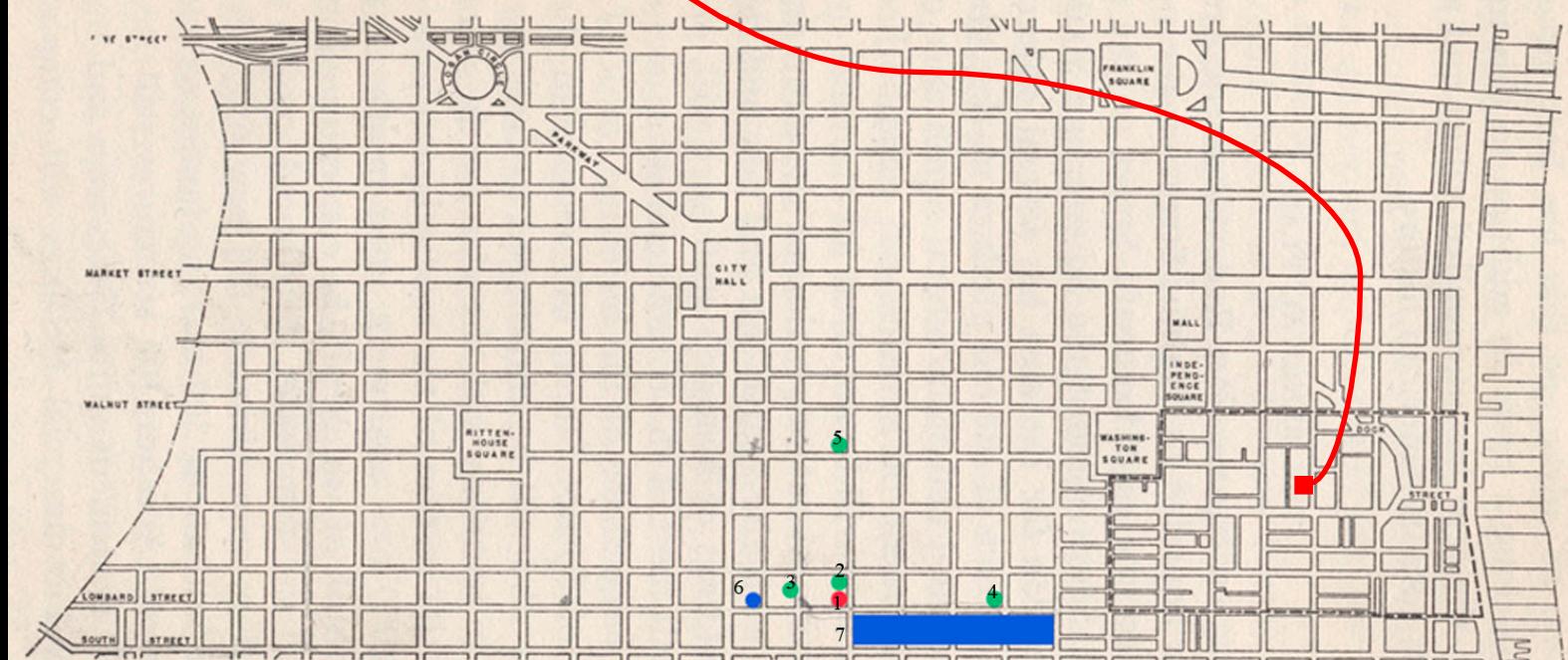
The Philadelphia Inquirer
Monday, January 25, 1965



Plan for redevelopment of Historic area, drawn by Roy F. Larson, 1937



CENTRAL DISTRICT AND THE SOCIETY HILL REDEVELOPMENT AREA



Sunday **TODAY**

The Philadelphia Inquirer
Magazine
August 8, 1965



Society Hill Garden

TODAY

Sunday

The Philadelphia Inquirer
Magazine
February 21, 1965



**The Luxurious
Powel House:
Washington
Dined There**

Pages 2, 8, 9

**Just As
Cute
As Mom**

Pages 16-17

**Very Special
Budget Recipes**

Pages 22-23

Labor Of Love





Photograph with assistance of Dr. David Brownee





Photograph with assistance of Dr. Paula Spilner: Landmarks Walking Tours Slide Archive



Photograph with assistance of Dr. Paula Spilner: Landmarks Walking Tours Slide Archive



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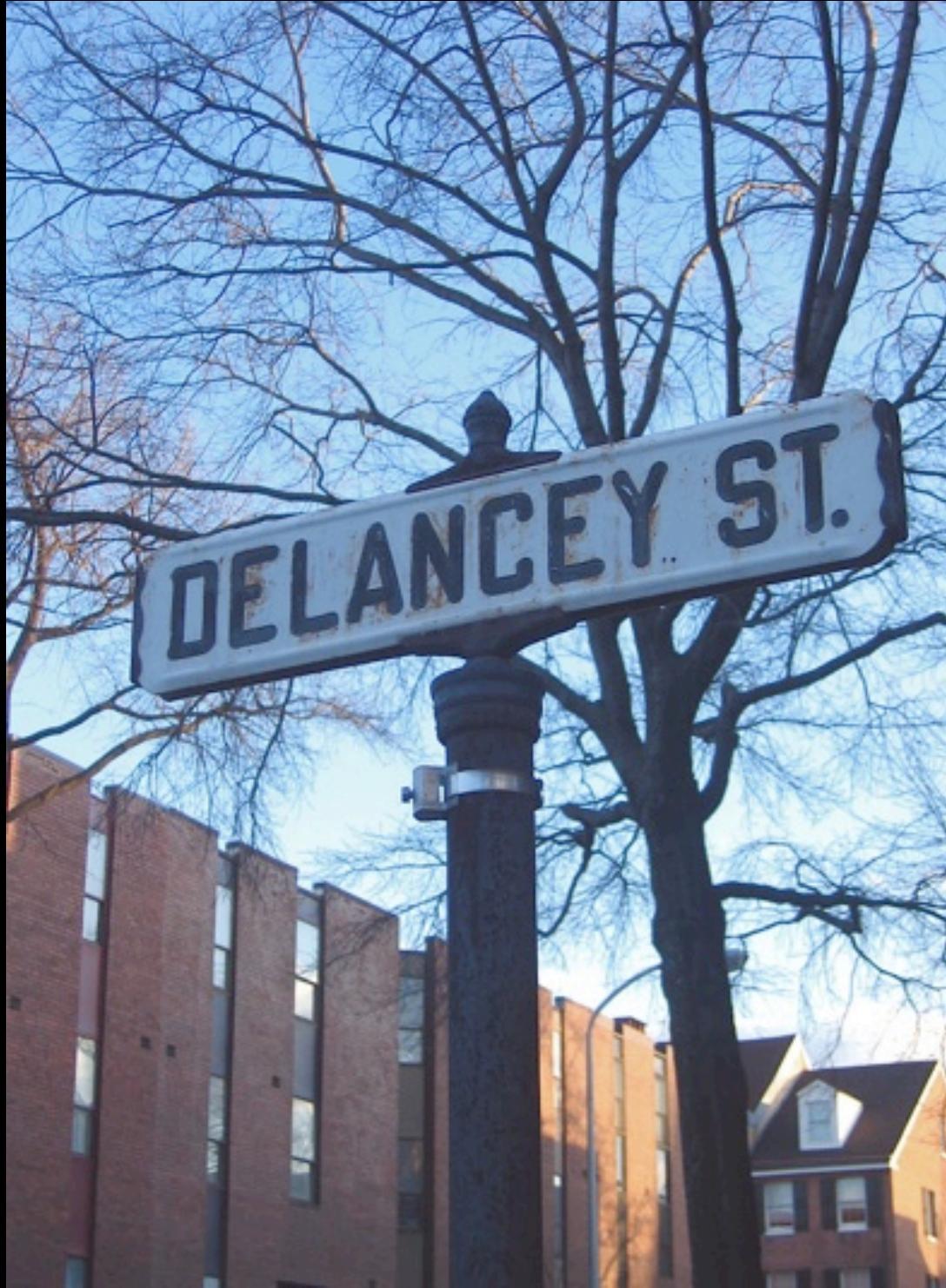


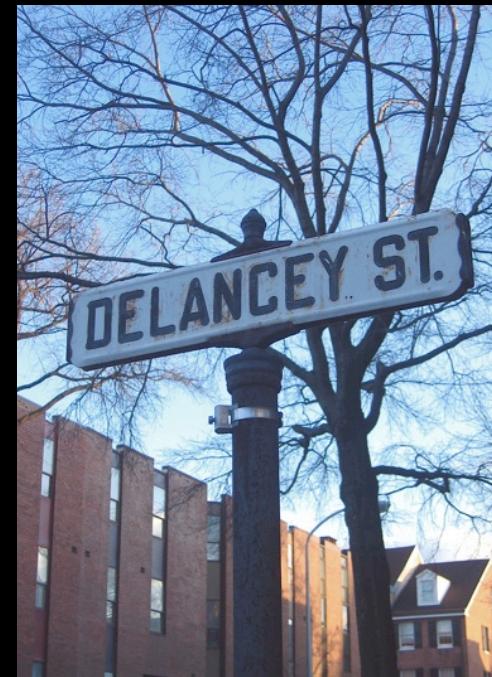












100 lifetimes of research

1. The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks: The History and Impact on the Philadelphia Preservation Movement.
2. Life and Impact of Ms. Frances Anne Wister.
3. Role of women, minorities and marginalized sub-cultures in the historic preservation movement of Philadelphia.
4. The Social History of Society Hill
5. The Washington Square east Redevelopment Process and results. Greenbelts vs density.
6. The role of the Powel House in the re-development of Society Hill.
7. Immigrant Populations and the impact of Society Hill redevelopment.
8. The inclusion of the ordinary and the discarded in preservation.
9. Historic interpretation as a “decorated shed”.
10. History and impact of Elizabeth Willing Powel and women on the forming of the nation.