

of the sacrilegious outrage by any editor of any public journal, save only by him who is now committing his recollections to paper.¹⁶

Haviland's connection with the interior restoration (or remodelling) was noticed by the press early in 1830, when repairs and renovations of the second floor were being made for the accommodation of the United States Court.¹⁷ In the following year a letter to the editor signed "Philadelphia" indicates that the improvements had extended to the Assembly Chamber itself:

I visited the Hall of Independence a few days since and, seeing it in confusion, after inquiring the cause, I ascertained that, under the direction of a committee of the Councils of the city, it was undergoing repairs in order to render the appearance similar to that which it bore when our ancestors there assembled on the 4th of July, 1776. On the east end of the room, fronting the entrance to the room on the west, it is proposed to fix, in a place set apart for that purpose, the Declaration of Independence with the fac similes of the signers painted on canvas.¹⁸

A draft of an undated letter from the architect quoted herewith gives an idea of what was intended.

Thos. Kittera Esqr.

Sir

In compliance with your request I have examined the Hall of Declaration of Independence with a view of reinstating it with its original Architectural embellishment from the best information I can obtain it appears that the Mayors Court room resembles in its general finish and expression its corresponding room the Hall of Independence there was a gallery supported by small columns on the western side together with a Chair and its minor embellishments on the eastern side the exact detail and proportions I find it impossible to obtain either from recollection or drawings of sufficient authority to recommend their reinstatement, the materials we have are in good taste and corresponding with the Architecture of the Vestibule & Stairway and occupies nearly the whole finish the lost part are so trifling and inconsiderable that although it might add a feature that would complete the portrait it would only encumber the room with a useless and defective member.

Your subscriber therefore respectfully recommends the reinstating the room with the general finish of pilasters entablatures—pedestals and dressing of Windows similar to the contour and proportions and style of the Mayors room and Vestibule which was the original finish of the room at the period of the Declaration of Independence.

Your subscriber further reports that the estimated cost of the before described alterations would be about one thousand dollars complete

respectfully Sir
Your M^r
John Haviland¹⁹

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These notes do not solve all the problems concerned with the physical fabric of Independence Hall—in fact, they give rise to new ones. The intention here is to announce the existence of some of the new source material. It will be necessary to do considerable rewriting of the standard histories.

There were at least five major restorations of this building within one hundred and fifty years after the Revolutionary War. The building, though still attractive, is a veritable jungle, archaeologically speaking. Our

thanks go out again to Horace Wells Sellers, who made such a valuable collection and probably knew the building better than anyone since Edmund Woolley himself.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives, Eighth Series* (Harrisburg, 1931), Vol. III, 2154.

2. *Ibid.*, 2213, 4 (January 18, 1733/4). The building was variously called State House, Stadt-House and Province Hall.

3. Frank M. Etting, *An Historical Account of the Old State House* (2d ed.; Philadelphia, 1891), 191.

4. The wings—as actually erected in the 1730's and joined to the main structure by arcades or "piazzas" in the 1740's—did not follow the Parchment Plan.

5. Donated by Lester Hoadley Sellers, A. I. A., of Radnor, Pa.

6. Afterwards identified at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP), as Penn MSS, Vol. I, Accounts, 32.

7. Not much is known of Woolley. Joseph Jackson gave his life span as 1696-1771 without citing his sources.

8. *Archives*, III: 2155, 2195, 2233, 2245, 2260, 2264, 2265, 2337, 2604, 2605, IV:3144. The turret mentioned was evidently the one shown on the Parchment Plan. It stood on the flat of the roof and held a bell. The "balcony" presumably was an exterior feature on the south front used for addressing the people in the Yard which disappeared when the tower was added on that side.

9. *Archives*, 3316.

10. Original contained in *HSP, Norris Papers (MSS), Miscellaneous Accounts, Small Account Books*.

11. The entertainment bill "for raising the Bell Frame and putting up the Bell" dated April 17, 1753 is itemized in *Etting*, 30.

12. H. M. Pierce Gallagher, *Robert Mills* (New York, 1935), 12.

13. HSP, *Stauffer Collection*, XIV, 991. The Sellers Collection has a photocopy of the first page of a printed legislative bill (No. 216., Feb. 14, 1811), otherwise unknown. The bill passed March 24, 1812, *Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1812), V, pp. 340, 341.

14. *Stauffer Collection* (Text by Thompson Westcott) XXX, 2393. The source of this information is not cited.

15. Agnes Addison Gilchrist, *William Strickland* (Philadelphia, 1950), 78, 79.

16. *Recollections of the Life of John Binns* (Philadelphia, 1854).

17. Poulson's *Advertiser*, February 25, 1830.

18. *Ibid.*, October 8, 1831.

19. *Haviland MSS*, as above. These papers have recently been placed on deposit at the University of Pennsylvania Library, where they can be consulted.

FRANKLIN ON FRONTIER PLANNING, 1787

Benjamin Franklin was perhaps the most observant and well-informed American of his time. The method of laying out New England towns for their better defense—as described in the following letter to Samuel Elbert, Governor of Georgia—is a new one to us. Can any of our readers identify examples?

Philada. Dec. 16, 1787

Sir,

I received by Mr. Dromgoole the Letter your Excellency did me the Honour of writing to me the 2d of November past, and am much concern'd to hear that a War between the State of Georgia and the Creek Indians was unavoidable.

During the Course of a long Life in which I have made Observations on public affairs, it has appear'd to me that almost every War between the Indians and Whites has been occasion'd by some Injustice of the latter towards the former. It is indeed extremely

imprudent in us to quarrel with them for their Lands, as they are generally willing to sell, and sell such good Bargains: And a War with them is so mischievous to us, in unsettling frequently a great Part of our Frontier, & reducing the Inhabitants to Poverty and Distress, and is besides so expensive that it is much cheaper as well as honester, to buy their Lands than to take them by Force.

Your State would, I imagine, be much more secure from the Mischiefs of Indian Wars, if you imitated the Mode of Settlement in the New England States, which was to grant their Lands in Townships of about 6 Mile square to 60 Families. These first chose a Spot for their Town, where they clear'd a Square of perhaps 20 Acres, round which they fix'd their Houses 15 on a Side all fronting inwards to the Square; so that they were all in sight of each other. In the middle of the Square they erected a House for publick Worship and a School, stockaded round as a Fort for the reception & Protection of their Women & Children in Case of Alarm. Behind each House was first a Garden Plot, then an Orchard, and then a Pasture for a Cow or two, & behind all outwards their Corn field. Thus situated one House could not be attacked without its being seen & giving alarm to the rest, who were ready to run to its Succour. This discourag'd such Attempts. Then they had the Advantage of giving Schooling to their Children, securing their Morals by the Influence of Religion, and improving each other by civil Society & Conversation. In our Way of sparse and remote Settlements, the People are without these Advantages, and we are in danger of bringing up a Sett of Savages of our own Colour. (Albert Henry Smythe, ed., *The Writings of Benjamin Franklin* [New York, 1905-7], IX: 626, 7.)

CALIFORNIA PREFABS, 1850

We collect information on early prefabricated buildings and would be glad to have data from our readers.

In the exciting days of the Gold Rush most of the world's port cities seemed to be building ready-made houses for shipment to California. The *Pennsylvania Inquirer* mentions two operations in this highly speculative field. On January 15, 1850, it noticed the "Graham House" on Kearney and Pacific Streets, San Francisco, nearly completed. This was a wooden building 62' x 100', four and a half stories high (bar room 45' x 75'). The frame was sent out from Baltimore.

On the following February 16 a project on the Southwark waterfront of Philadelphia is described in the same newspaper:

California Houses.—We were shown, yesterday, a number of frames of houses, intended for California. They have been made by Mr. Charles M'Intire, at his establishment, George street, below Shippen, and are constructed of the best material, and made in an admirable manner. In size they are twenty by forty feet, and will be two, and two and a half stories high, with substantial iron roofs. Mr. McIntire has now about forty of these houses completed and they are being put together in George street, and on a lot north of the Swede's Church. They are then taken down and carefully fixed up, preparatory to shipment on board the ship *Zenobia*, barque Sarah Boyd, and other vessels.—Thus far, Mr. McL. has made about one hundred frames, and has contracts for others . . .

CONCRETE BLOCKS, HONOLULU, 1870's

The Kingdom of Hawaii was not annexed until 1898, but it had been under strong American influence for

nearly a century before that. Honolulu Harbor was discovered at the end of the eighteenth century by an English ship and quite a town developed there while California was still part of Mexico and our Northwest Coast was held by Indians. By the 70's, American-style buildings had replaced the native-style grass houses in the center of the city and some interesting, if minor, chapters in architectural history were being written between the old waterfront and the mission church at Kawaiahao.

Among the remarkable features of Honolulu there remain three concrete block structures erected in the early 1870's. These were in their time some of the most notable in the city. We were surprised to find this type of masonry in use so early and report here some pertinent facts gleaned from newspapers of the time.

It should be explained that building materials have always been scarce in those islands. The only workable stone found generally is coral from the surrounding reefs and this is too coarse in texture to cut for decorative detail—especially the kind of detail popular with the Victorians.

Artificial stone, or cast concrete blocks, was tried with success. The first use in the Hawaiian Islands was to trim the corners of a stone sugar house at Waihee Plantation on the island of Maui in 1863 or 1864.¹ Concrete blocks were used again in the same limited way for an addition to Castle & Cooke's Honolulu store (1869) and one or two schoolhouses built by the Government.² Early in 1870 the English architect and builder J. G. Osborne,³ who had handled the erection of the Castle & Cooke store the year before, introduced the novelty of whole walls of this material. The Honolulu Post Office, which is still standing at the corner of Merchant and Bethel Streets, has its four walls of concrete blocks. Today we know little about the project except that the blocks were cast on the site.⁴ The Government's own paper, the *Hawaiian Gazette* said:

THE NEW POST OFFICE—Considerable interest is evinced by our citizens in the New Post Office, now being built of concrete by Mr. Osborne, which, although it has been used here in some instances to a limited extent in building, has never before been the sole material in the erection of a building. Any doubts which may exist as to its adaptability will be dispelled by an examination of the blocks and pillars already completed, as well as by reference to those experienced in the use of the same material in Europe and the United States . . .⁵

This two-story building of rusticated blocks was completed at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars.⁶ According to the *Gazette* the community considered the building an ornament to the town and concrete to be "one of the very best materials for this climate."⁷ Osborne also introduced concrete sidewalks here and concrete curb stones "hard as flint."⁸ The Post Office was a civic lion for many years and its concrete walls are still in sound condition.

The building of the Hawaiian Hotel, downtown pre-