

HABS. NO. PA-1395

Carpenters Hall
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS
PA
51-PHILA
229-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
PA-1 District

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

1974
FOLIO 100

Carpenters' Company Hall
(Carpenters' Hall)
320 Chestnut Street and Carpenters' Court
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1398

HABS
PA,
SI-PHILA,
229-

Addendum to:

Carpenters' Hall
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
PA,
51-PHILA
229-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CARPENTERS' COMPANY HALL

HABS No. PA-1398

(Carpenters' Hall)

Addendum to:

Carpenters' Hall
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

Location: 320 Chestnut Street and Carpenters' Court, Philadelphia,
Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

The following quotation is an insurance survey for the Carpenters' Hall,
issued April 1811 by the Mutual Assurance Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"SURVEY, For the Carpenters Company of the City & County of Philadelphia.
Their new four Story Brick house, Situate on the Southwest Corner of Chestnut
Street & Carpenters Court, between third & fourth Streets, -- Dimensions
26 feet by 44 feet. First Story, 1 Room, occupied as a book store, neatly
Shelv'd with a wood Cornice over d^o. plain mantle, washbd^s 7 windows cased,
2 Arch head windows, A neat arch head Venetian door with fan & side lights,
-- 2 walls lined.

Second Story, 1 Room, washbd^s & windows cased. 2 walls lined, --
A part of the Second floor open with painted handRails & ballusters
around, --

Third Story, 1 Room, plain mantles, washbd^s & windows Cased, --

Fourth Story, 2 Rooms, finished Similar.

Loft not plaistered, Trap door, Roof hipt & pitcht four ways.

Back Building, 14 feet 6 inches by 27 feet, three stories high, --
In a part of this building are 3 flights open newell painted Rampt handRail
Stairs, Close String, a neat Arch head Venetian door with fan & sidelights,
Other part -- First Story, 1 Room, plain mantle, washbd^s & windows cased.

Second Story, 1 Room, Similar with Closets.

Third Story, 1 Room, Similar to Second Story

Loft - not plaistered, Trap door, ---- 2 floors narrow heart pine, other
floors heart pine bd^s. Glass 84 lights 13 by 20 - 72 d^o. 12 by 18 - 92 d^o.
12 by 15 - 60 d^o. 18 by 16 - 84 d^o. 12 by 12 & 36 d^o. 10 by 12 inches, --
party walls 9 inches. Board partitions, -- Materials good & well Built.
Brick ash holes, -- West a three Story Brick house, South a two Story
Brick Building, with which it Communicates & which is insured in the
Contributionship Insurance Company, -- water plenty.

\$2000		April 1811	Philip Justus
Brick House	\$1400		
Backbuildings	<u>600</u>	\$2000 @ 3 ¼ per Cent	\$68
		Policy & Incidental Expenses	<u>6</u>
			\$74

Sbove is a Gneral Survey of the Premises as now insured
Philad. June 11. 1811
for the Carpenters Company
David Flickwir"

In 1912 the Carpenters' Company, owner of the Carpenters' Hall, hired a Philadelphia architect, Herbert C. Wise, to produce measured drawings of their building. Mr. Wise produced nine sheets of drawings and wrote a description of the building. The sheets included the following:

- Sheet No. 1: Plan of Cellar and Attic, 1/4" scale (linen tracing)
- Sheet No. 2: Plan of First and Second Floors, 1/4" scale (linen tracing)
- Sheet No. 3: North and South Elevations, 1/4" scale (linen tracing)
- Sheet No. 4: Portion of North Elevation, 3/4" scale (linen tracing)
- Sheet No. 5: Cupola and South Gable, 3/4" scale (linen tracing)
- Sheet No. 6: Stairway, 3/4" scale (linen tracing)
- Sheet No. 7: Various Details, half-full size scale (bond paper)
- Sheet No. 8: Various Details, half-full size scale (bond paper)
- Sheet No. 9: Various Details, half-full size scale (bond paper)

A copy of Mr. Wise's written description is reproduced below. The drawings are not included with the description, except for two drawings which do not show sheet numbers.

The Cellar walls average full 19" in thickness, and are of stone, except where brick has been employed in forming the vault, coal-bunkers, and chimney foundations. Whitewash has been applied directly on stone and brick. Six cast iron columns have their bases set on stone, the top of which is level with the brick floor, which covers the entire Cellar. The base course at grade is of sandstone set on edge and flush with the brickwork immediately above it. The First Floor doorsills are of sandstone with marble thresholds added, outside platforms and steps are of granite.

The heads of the Cellar windows on the North Elevation, and that of the Cellar window below the window facing South from the South-east corner of Assembly Hall, are of stone heavily painted; elsewhere they are segmental arches of brick. In the flanking walls to the steps entering the Cellar on the South are two stone blocks, one on each side and bearing the following inscriptions:-

On the East—

"And I heard a voice from Heaven
saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the
dead which die in the Lord from
henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that
they may rest from their labours."

On the West—

"The Soul, of origin divine,
God's glorious image, freed from clay,
In Heaven's eternal sphere shall shine,
A star of day."

The water table, a short distance above the First Floor, consists of two courses of moulded brick, and above this level the exterior walls of the two storeys are of brick 13" thick, on the inside of which plastering has apparently been applied direct without the intervention of stripping or other material. The walls of the four gables are of brick 9" thick. The north gable is entirely obscured by a sign announcing to passers-by on Chestnut Street, the name of the building and the institution of the Company. The brick walls behind the balusters under the three Second Storey windows have been painted white. The stretcher bricks measure 8-1/4" to 8-1/2" face, 2-1/8" high, the dark glazed headers scant 4"; and the bond is as shown in lower right-hand portion of Sheet No. 4. Five courses of brick, measured vertically, equal 12-7/8".

Two wood girders, 14-1/2" wide and approximately 13" high run east and west over the cast iron columns in the Cellar. Secured to these girders are 3" x 6" oak joists upon which unmatched floor boards full 1" thick are laid. On these boards, in turn, cement has been laid and then the encaustic tiles forming the entire finished first floor.

The Cellar windows contain double casement sash 1-1/4" thick, swinging in. Outside of these are gratings of 1" x 1" wrought iron framed into 1-1/2" x 3/8" iron, and formed in the design shown on Sheet No. 8.

The First and Second Storey windows are entirely cased inside and outside. The brickwork outside is covered by an architrave 6-1/2" wide whose outer moulding projects from the wall 2-1/2". The sash are 1-3/8" thick. The architrave inside is 6-7/8" wide and projects from the finished plaster distances varying from 1-1/8" to 1-13/16". Side rails of sash are 1/4" wide, lower rails 2-7/8", meeting

rails 1-3/8" high, and wains 1" wide. Shutters are of solid type built up of three thicknesses, and are moulded as shown on accompanying sheet.

The original doors are tenoned through and pinned .

The stairway is fully shown on Sheet No. 6. The square member of the balusters appearing in upper runs is absent on the first run upward from the First Floor, this member here being round. The square member probably existed here, and injury to some of its exposed corners may have led to the member being deliberately cut round along this portion of the stair most exposed to the public.

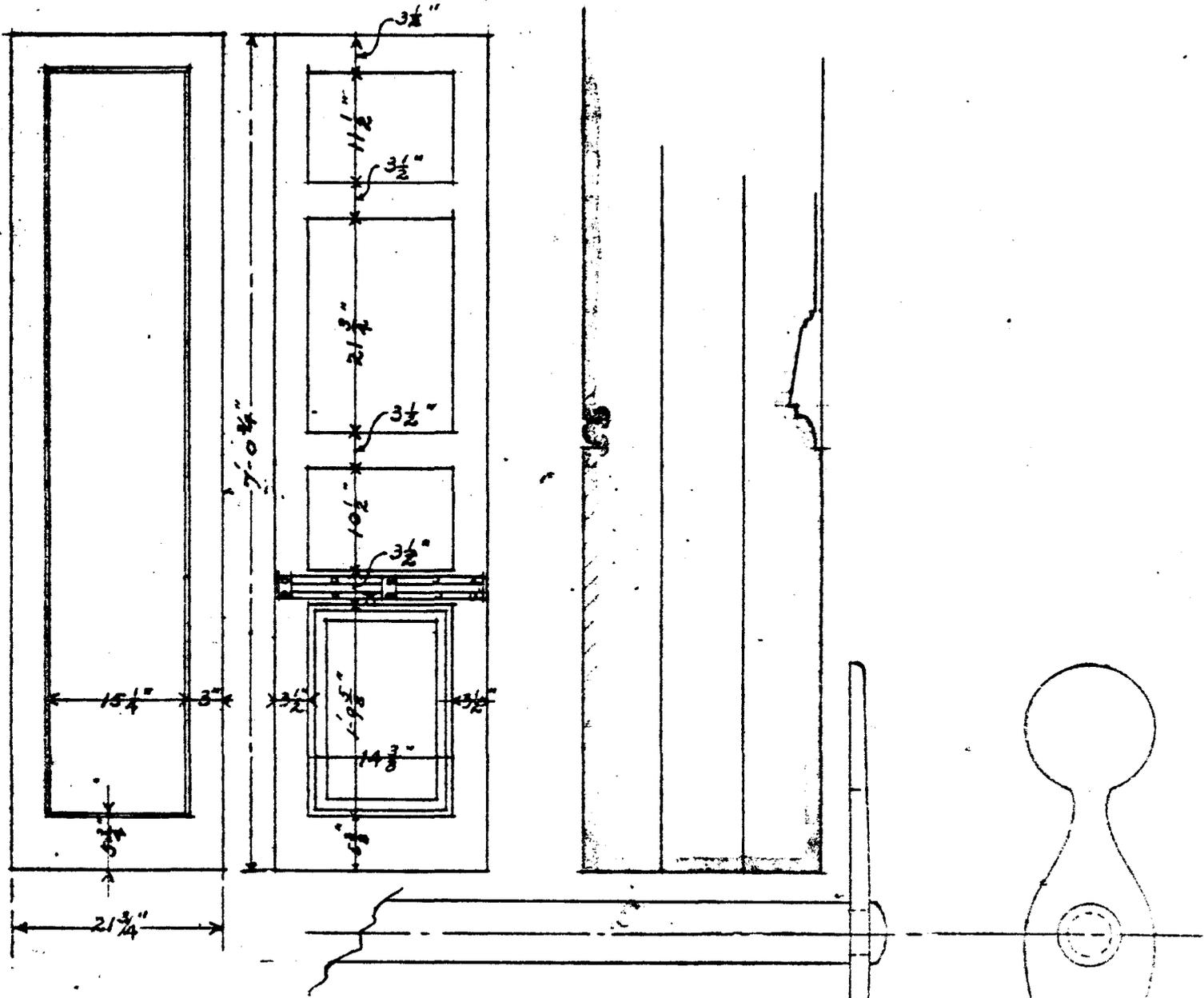
The Entrance Lobby, and the Stair Hall throughout is wainscotted. The Assembly Room is not, but an effect of wainscot has been produced by frescoing. The erection of modern book-cases in the Library and Hall (2nd Floor) has prevented a clear observation of original conditions in these rooms, but on examining the back of the book-case above the the east side of the Library a truss is observed occupying the partition between the Library and the Second Storey Corridor. It is likely that a similar truss occupies the partition between the Corridor (Hall) and the Parlour and Living Room east thereof.

There is no plastering anywhere in the Cellar or the Attic. Matched and beaded wood lining of 3" widths covers the ceilings of Halls and the soffits of Stairway. With the exception of these portions and those concealed by book-cases, where conditions are not known, the building is plastered throughout. The wall of Stairway Hall is painted and frescoed above the wainscot. The walls and ceiling of the Assembly Room are more elaborately frescoed. Over the South Doorway appears the inscription:—

"Within these Walls, Henry, Hancock, & Adams Inspired the Delegates of the Colonies With Nerve and Sinew for the Toils of War."

In the four corners of the frescoed ceiling appear the portraits of Washington, Adams, Henry and Hancock. Woodwork is grained yellow relieved with dark brown.

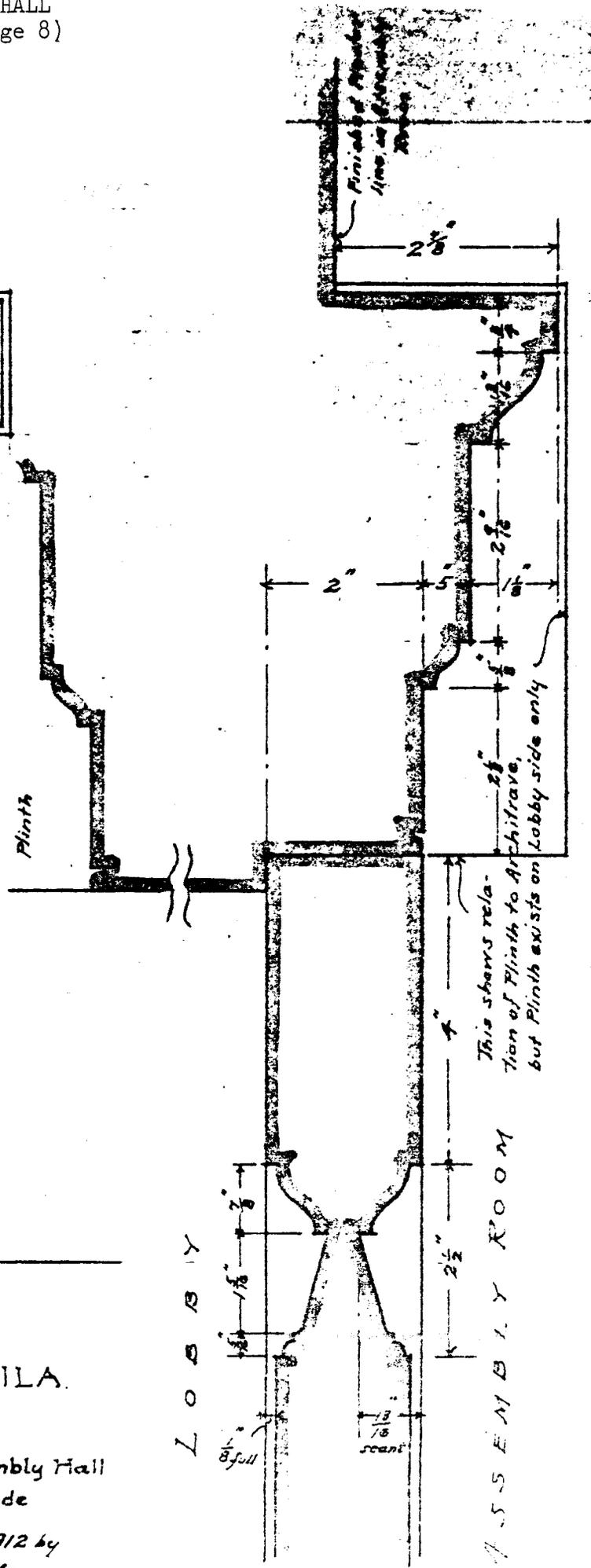
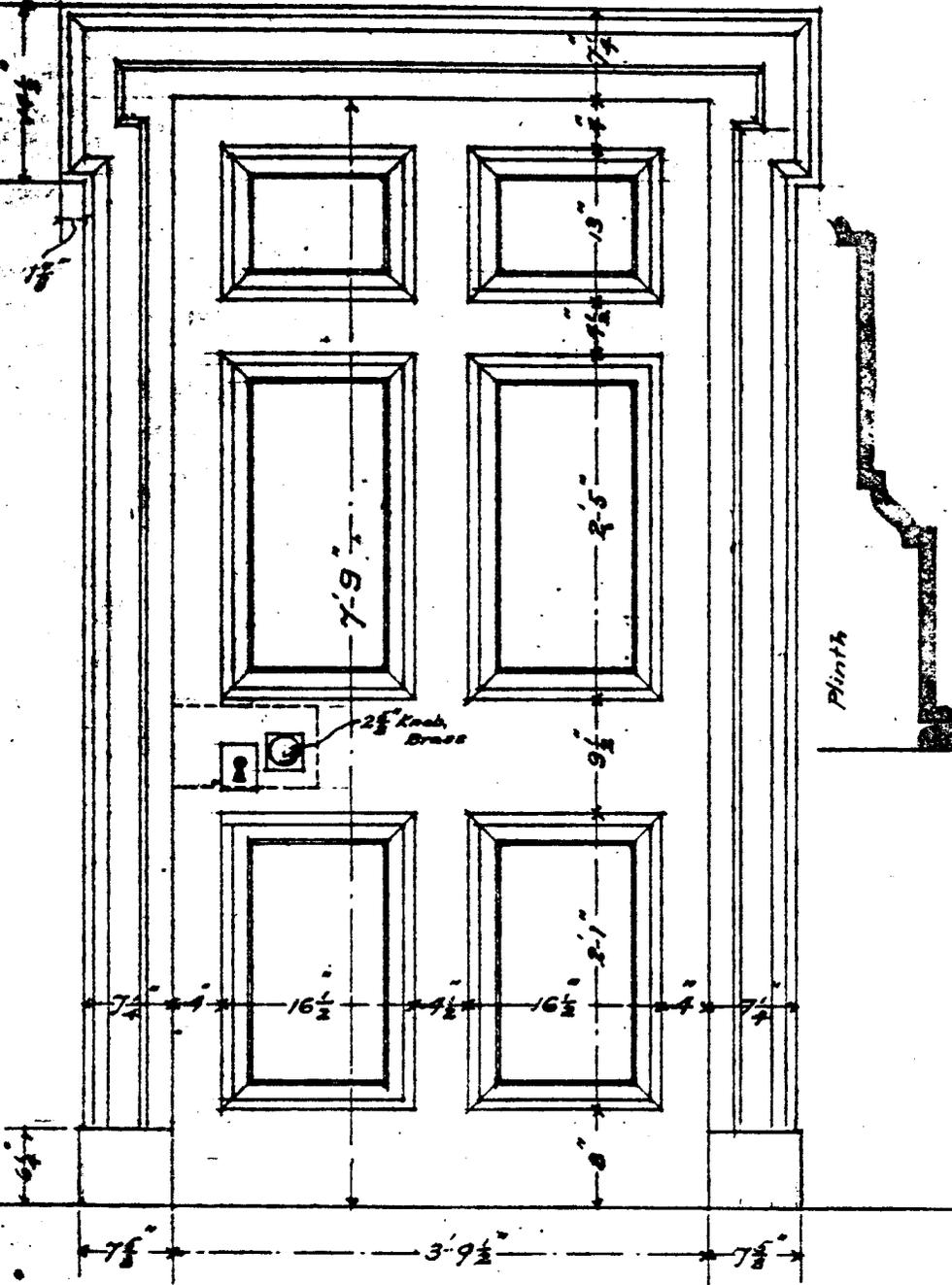
One of the columns of the Assembly Room has been found by applying calipers to be slightly elliptical, and there are many other small discrepancies between portions of the building obviously intended to be alike. On the finished drawings produced by this survey, an average of such variations has been adopted, the dimensions standardized, and that symmetry obtained which has ever been one of the distinctive features of Carpenters' Hall.



• CARPENTERS' HALL • PHILA. •
• WINDOW SHUTTERS •

Measured November 1912 by
Herbert C. Wise.

Scales $\frac{3}{4}$ " & 6" = one foot.



CARPENTERS' HALL, PHILA.
 DOORWAY

between Entrance Lobby and Assembly Hall
 seen from the North (Lobby) Side

Dotted Lines indicate
 case rim lock on south
 12" x 6 3/4" x 1 3/8"

Measured November 1912 by
 Herbert C. Wise

Scales: 3" and 6" = one foot

ADDENDUM TO:
CARPENTERS' COMPANY HALL
(Carpenters' Hall)
Independence National Historical Park
320 Chestnut Street & Carpenters' Court
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-1398
PA,51-PHILA,229-

HABS
PA
51-PHILA,
229-

PAPER COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

ADDENDUM TO:
CARPENTERS' COMPANY HALL
(Carpenters' Hall)
Independence National Historical Park
320 Chestnut Street & Carpenters' Court
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-1398
HABS PA,51-PHILA,229-

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001