

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

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Twelfth Street Meeting House
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1944

- PA-1944-1 Photocopy of photograph, photographer unknown, before 1892.
City of Philadelphia Records Department, Photo No. 41097.
Original print in the Penrose Collection, Historical Society
of Pennsylvania.
VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST.
View was taken before 1892, when the addition of the Friends
Institute was made at the southwest corner. Note the William Penn
Charter School at right.
- PA-1944-2 Photocopy of photograph by William S. Vaux, Jr., 1902.
City of Philadelphia, Negative No. 9441-2.
ELEVATED VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST.
Original photograph was made in 1902 on a glass plate negative
by William S. Vaux, Jr. from the window of the office of George Vaux, IV
in the Grand Building. Reproduced courtesy of George Vaux, VI.
- George A. Eisenman, Photographer, 1971
- PA-1944-3 VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST ON TWELFTH STREET.
- PA-1944-4 EAST FACADE FROM TWELFTH STREET
- PA-1944-5 OBLIQUE VIEW OF SOUTH ELEVATION WITH FRIENDS INSTITUTE.
Looking west to the Friends Institute building, built 1892 and
enlarged in 1898.
- PA-1944-6 EAST YARD LOOKING NORTH ALONG TWELFTH STREET TOWARD MARKET STREET.
- PA-1944-7 OBLIQUE VIEW OF EAST ELEVATION LOOKING NORTH.
- PA-1944-8 DETAIL OF EAST ENTRANCE DOOR HOLD-BACK AND RECESS IN WATER TABLE.
- PA-1944-9 DETAIL OF FOOTSCRAPER AT EAST ENTRANCE.
- PA-1944-10 SOUTHEAST EXTERIOR CORNER.
During demolition large iron bars were found embedded in the south
brick walls about 11 courses above the water table. These were
possibly used to secure the roof structure of a shed which housed
the fire engine of the Relief Fire Company (see Articles of Agreement,
1815, papers of the Central Philadelphia Meeting), which specified
that the Engine House was to be situated at the northeast corner of
the lot. Perhaps at some later date the shed was moved.

- PA-1944-11 SOUTH (REAR) ELEVATION OF THE PHILADELPHIA SAVING FUND SOCIETY (PSFS) BUILDING WITH MEETING HOUSE CORNICE IN FOREGROUND.
- PA-1944-12 CELLAR, UNDER MAIN MEETING ROOM, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
Fire door of 1905 furnace in brick enclosure of possibly earlier origin. The "Eastern Section" of the Meeting House was provided a ventilating system with two furnaces in 1852. Gas was installed in the building in 1858.
- PA-1944-13 CELLAR, UNDER MAIN MEETING ROOM, LOOKING NORTH.
The 1909 hot air furnace with brick wall enclosure of possibly earlier origin. A hot air system of two furnaces was installed with ventilating ducts in the east end in 1852. There was a hot air system in the west end without ventilating ducts.
- PA-1944-14 CELLAR, CENTER BAY, LOOKING NORTH.
Ahead is the arched support of the furnace smoke flue traveling westward from the brick furnace centered under the main meeting room to the vertical flue at the partition between the two meeting rooms.
- PA-1944-15 CELLAR.
Underside of 1852 duct at east end of cellar. Note access panel. Note plaster on underside of duct and between joists.
- PA-1944-16 CELLAR, UNDER WEST MEETING ROOM, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
Discarded marble range top incorporated into a low brick partition. It is possible the range originally stood between the two brick walls beyond to the right. There appears to be a bricked-up fire box opening in the far wall. The fragments of the marble range top have been catalogued into the Architectural Study Collection of Independence National Historical Park. Dimensions recorded in Field Records.
- PA-1944-17 CELLAR, WESTERN BAY, LOOKING EAST.
Hand hewn ladder possibly preserved from the 1755 Greater Meeting House. The ladder is now stored at the Arch Street Meeting House.
- PA-1944-18 CELLAR, SECOND BAY FROM EAST END.
First floor joist studded with rose head nails in the pattern, "AC + IC 1755 +". "AC" is Abraham Carlisle, one of the carpenters of the Greater Meeting House built at Second and Market Streets in 1755. "IC" may be his apprentice Isaac or John Coates. See the account of the 125th anniversary of the Twelfth Street Meeting House written by Albert Savery.
- PA-1944-19 MAIN MEETING ROOM LOOKING SOUTH FROM GALLERY.
Note coved extension of gallery, erected when offices were built on gallery for the use of the Friends Service Committee in 1936. Note also the short stair balusters resulting from the wide modesty stair stringer provided for the women's side.
- PA-1944-20 MAIN MEETING ROOM, NORTHEAST CORNER.
The stairway against the north wall on the men's side is original to 1812-13. The glass vestibule partition was added in 1885. It is believed the east stair was added at that time.

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- PA-1944-21 MAIN MEETING ROOM LOOKING NORTHEAST FROM THE SOUTH END OF THE FACING BENCH.
The glass partition dates from 1885. The second floor offices were added in 1936.
- PA-1944-22 MAIN MEETING ROOM LOOKING WEST.
The balcony girders on all three sides were salvaged from the Greater Meeting House of 1755. They have number marks and surviving wrought nails at the 1755 arrangement of six columns. In 1812 the columns were relocated to avoid aisles and side doorways. A 1755 salvaged door post was reused in the framing of the 1812 balcony.
- PA-1944-23 MAIN MEETING ROOM, WEST SIDE, LOOKING NORTH.
Facing Bench or Ministers' Gallery. Note notches in bench backs for "weighty friends."
- PA-1944-24 MAIN MEETING ROOM, SOUTHEAST CORNER, LOOKING EAST.
Original Stair to women's side of youth's gallery.
- PA-1944-25 MAIN MEETING ROOM STAIRWAY IN SOUTHEAST CORNER.
Stairway seen from below showing lath and plaster fireproofing applied to framing before treads and risers.
- PA-1944-26 EAST ENTRANCE TO MAIN MEETING ROOM LOOKING NORTH.
The glass partition and stair to men's balcony date from 1885. Note the umbrella stand in the foreground.
- PA-1944-27 RECORDS VAULT UNDER STAIRWAY IN NORTHEAST CORNER OF MAIN MEETING ROOM.
It is not known when this vault was built. It has cavity walls.
- PA-1944-28 NORTH CENTER EXTERIOR DOORS IN MAIN MEETING ROOM.
Note original bolts and door closer pulley.
- PA-1944-29 MAIN MEETING ROOM, SOUTHWEST CORNER, LOOKING WEST.
South end of facing bench at right. View looks through to Room A (originally built for Women's Monthly Meeting Room, also referred to in later years as "the parlor").
- PA-1944-30 ROOM A (WEST ROOM), SOUTHEAST CORNER, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
The south exterior doors are at right. Note the door closer pulley and weight box still in place. The doorway at left leads to the Main Meeting Room. The overdoor paneling probably was added c.1892. Note the capped gas pipe to the right of the exterior doors.
- PA-1944-31 ROOM A (WEST ROOM), SOUTH SIDE, LOOKING EAST.
The two benches in the foreground were constructed with rose head hand wrought nails and are therefore likely to have come from the 1755 Greater Meeting House, which stood at Second and Market Streets until 1812. Similar benches are to be found at the Arch Street Meeting House. The light buff brick fireplace at left was added in 1892 along with the overdoor paneling
- PA-1944-32 ROOM A (WEST ROOM) LOOKING SOUTH.
The large window, paneled overdoors, fireplace and concealed steel girders were additions of 1892-99.

- PA-1944-33 ROOM A (WEST ROOM) LOOKINC SOUTHWEST.
The windows above the original Ministers' Gallery were raised in 1888 when inside toilet facilities were added on the other side of the west wall. Note the sloped window sills which provided more light. Also at the rear of the Meeting House a caretaker's apartment was added in 1908.
- PA-1944-34 NORTHEAST CORNER OF GALLERY IN MAIN MEETING ROOM LOOKING NORTHEAST.
Looking down from the 1936 raised gallery level to the old gallery level.
- PA-1944-35 SECOND FLOOR WEST ROOM LOOKINC NORTH.
The two trusses above this room date from 1812. They differ from the 1755 salvaged trusses in that they are made of pine rather than poplar, their numbering system differs, and they do not have pockets for joists. These two trusses were added to extend the plan of the building when it was re-erected in 1812.
- PA-1944-36 SECOND FLOOR WEST ROOM LOOKING NORTHEAST.
Furnace and fireplace flues rise within the chimney between the doorways.
- PA-1944-37 GARRET, SOUTH HALF, LOOKING WEST.
The trusses and joists date from the 1755 Greater Meeting House. When this building was being torn down in 1812, these trusses were incorporated into the new Twelfth Street Meeting House. The trusses and joists were all pit sawn. The lower strut of the truss center posts were added in 1812 with iron strapping tieing them into the older members. Many of the joist tenons broke off in the transfer for reuse, so ledgers were provided to support the joists in 1812. At the Greater Meeting House the space between the queen posts was the Monthly Meeting Room. Evidence still exists for its plaster walls and ceiling. The suspended wood air duct dates from 1852.
- PA-1944-38 GARRET, EAST END, LOOKING SOUTH.
Note the 1755 plaster marks on the inner sides of the queen posts but not on the 1812 center post. These plaster marks continue on the underside of the beam above the 1812 center post. The plaster marks and remaining rose head lath nails reflect the 1755 plasterwork of the Monthly Meeting Room. The flooring is 1755 salvage, pit sawn. The suspended wood air duct dates from 1852.
- PA-1944-39 GARRET TRUSS DETAIL.
Connection of a queen post (called "king post" in the 1755 account for scantling for the Greater Meeting House) and the bottom chord at the south side of the second truss from the east end. Note the rose head nails and plaster stains from the walls of the 1755 Monthly Meeting Room.
- PA-1944-40 CARRET TRUSS DETAIL.
The south queen post (called "king post" in the 1755 account for scantling for the Greater Meeting House) of the third truss from the east end. Note the numerals for assembling the truss members and the plaster marks from the 1755 Monthly Meeting Room.

- PA-1944-41 GARRET TRUSS DETAIL.
This view was taken to show that the "Rafters" (as called in the 1755 account for scantling for the Greater Meeting House) were first hewn with a broad axe and then sawn to size.
- PA-1944-42 GARRET, SOUTHWEST CORNER.
The roof rafters have been notched for shingle lath. In some places the notches and lath do not align. Attached to each joist are furring strips for the 1812 ceiling, allowing it to be lowered about one inch below the under surfaces of the joists. Note that the 1851 shingles were left in place when the 1873-74 tin roof was added.
- PA-1944-43 GARRET, SOUTHEAST CORNER.
Note the outlookers for the gable cornice and one of the four 1852 ventilating system plenums. The horizontal air duct to the right carried the exhaust air to the vertical flue. Not in view but just above the second floor ceiling louver were damper doors. The damper doors in the southwest and northwest corner plenums were batten doors with HL hand wrought hinges plus wrought nails. This hardware could have been reused from the 1755 youth gallery doors.
- Penelope Hartshorne Batcheler, Photographer, 1972
- PA-1944-44 MAIN MEETING ROOM, SOUTH SIDE GALLERY.
Under the flooring were sleepers used to elevate the 1812 raised floor sections. These sleepers were fashioned from the 1755 Greater Meeting House salvaged gallery railing. Note the initials and date: "EB 1788". Other graffiti has dates as early as the 1760s.
- PA-1944-45 MAIN MEETING ROOM COLUMNS.
Ends of gallery columns identified at the time of removal for transfer to the George School for re-erection. The stamp reads, "REMOVED FROM 12th ST. MTG HSE PHILA 1972".
- PA-1944-46 SECOND FLOOR CEILING FRAMING.
The 1812 furring strips are still in place, fastened to the undersides of the 1755 joists. The joists frame into the bottom chords of the 1755 salvaged trusses. Note the numerals, VIII (8), N (9), X (10), and XI (11) on alternate panels of the bottom chord of the truss. Between the reinforcing plates note the numeral VII (7), added for the 1812 installation
- PA-1944-47 DISMANTLING OF ROOF.
Removal of the first truss with crane and cradle. Note the reinforcing plates at the panel points. The rear of the PSFS building is beyond. Note that the face bricks of the entire Meeting House have been stripped off for reuse at the new George School site.
- PA-1944-48 REMOVAL OF FIRST TRUSS.
The first truss removed here rests on ground plates and awaits the similar placement of all the trusses for temporary storage. In the foreground are cut out sections of roofing also removed by crane. Note the 1873-74 standing seam sheet metal roof above the 1851 shingling. The roof pole gutters were in part made up of bench back rails.

Additional photographs of dismantling are filed with the field records.