NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Architectural Check List of Historic Buildings in the Philadelphia Area

The architectural remains of the early settlement of Philadelphia and the surrounding districts, particularly during the eighteenth century, are probably the most important in quantity, and the equal in quality, of those of any great American city. Several well-known factors contributed to the city's position in this regard. Situated in a particularly fertile countryside, and at the confluence of two great rivers, Philadelphia early became a great seaport, and before the Revolutionary War was the second city in the British Empire. Later it became the capital of the new nation. These developments gave it a pre-eminence that led to an influx of the finest craftsmen in the Colonies. The racial diversity of its early settlers also produced a corresponding diversity in architectural expression which, during the entire course of the eighteenth century, stimulated activity in building and led to the erection of many unusually interesting edifices.

Widespread interest in eighteenth-century American buildings first appeared about 1898 with the publication of The Georgian Period, edited by William Rotch Ware. This led to many subsequent surveys of historic buildings. Among these may be mentioned Ralph Clarke Kingman's New England Georgian Architecture (1913); Lois L. Howe's and Constance Fuller's Old New England Colonial Details (1913); Joseph P. Sims' and Charles Willing's Old Philadelphia Colonial Details (1914); Donald Millar's Some Colonial and Georgian Houses (1915); The White Pine Series (1916–1931); Philip B. Wallace's and William Allen Dunn's Colonial Ironwork (1930); their Colonial Churches and Meeting Houses (1931); and Great Georgian Houses (1933). These are all primarily books of measured drawings, some of which are amplified by photographs and have a more or less technical character.

In addition, many works have been published which have a more general appeal, in that they give the history of various buildings and
forms and are usually well illustrated with photographs. Some of these relate to the development of American architecture as a whole, as in the case of Fiske Kimball's outstanding *American Architecture* (1928), and the earlier chapters of Talbot Hamlin's excellent volume in the "Pageant of America" series, *The American Spirit in Architecture*. Other such works relate to particular cities. Of those pertaining to Philadelphia, the best is undoubtedly the *Portrait of a Colonial City*, by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, published in 1939.

The desirability of a systematic, national survey of our architectural heritage had long been apparent, but it is doubtful if the national government could have undertaken it had not the need for unemployment relief provided the necessary funds under the Civil Works Administration in 1933. At the same time, the great number of unemployed architects and draftsmen supplied a highly trained personnel. This program proved so successful that in 1934 a permanent organization known as the Historic American Buildings Survey was established by agreement between the National Park Service, the American Institute of Architects and the Library of Congress. The following excerpt from the Historic American Buildings Survey catalog published in 1941 furnishes in brief form the purpose and method of this survey:

The Historic American Buildings Survey aims at the creation of a permanent graphic record of the existing architectural remains of early dwellers in this country. The historical value of such a record is self-evident, the urgent need for it at the present time scarcely less so. For aside from the constant toll of fire and decay, the constant environmental changes of our rapidly developing civilization swiftly and inevitably wipe out the records of our past. Throughout the country scores of significant landmarks are annually being destroyed. The Survey has no power to arrest this destruction, but by making full and accurate records it can make possible a mental and material reconstruction for the present and future generations.

In order to cover the country as thoroughly and rapidly as possible, the organization of the American Institute of Architects has been adopted. This body comprises 71 chapters, dividing among them the whole area of the United States and its territories. For each chapter area a district officer is selected, fitted with antiquarian interest and architectural experience to conduct the Survey within his district. These officers are then called upon to prepare, with the aid of advisers chosen within and without the architectural profession, duplicate card indices of local structures which are considered most worthy of recording. One set of regional cards is kept by each district officer, the other forwarded to the Federal headquarters of the Survey established by the Branch of Plans and Design, National Park Service, in the United States Department of the Interior.
The following check list was begun by the writer while District Officer of the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1935, in an attempt to cover the local field and to see what had been surveyed and what remained to be done. It is believed to be the first attempt to enumerate carefully and to classify the existing records for Philadelphia and the surrounding district, in such a way that a reader may find in one place a record of all the measured drawings which are known to exist for any given building. References to sketches, photographs, and descriptive accounts, are added to the list of drawings for the sake of completeness.

The most important actual survey drawings forming the sources of information are the “Old Philadelphia Survey” conducted by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects from 1931 to 1932, and the “Historic American Buildings Survey” prepared under the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, between 1935 and 1940. Other sources exist, but they are not of equal significance with those first mentioned. These other sources are to be found in drawings prepared by, or in the collections of (a) The City Architect; (b) The Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; (c) The Fairmount Park Commission; (d) The Philadelphia Chapter previous to 1932; (e) The Historical Society of Pennsylvania; (f) and certain drawings in the possession of private individuals and institutions.

The check list is preceded by a Key to Abbreviations. At the end will be found a list of buildings of sufficient importance, either architecturally or historically, to warrant their being surveyed, but of which, so far as is known, no adequate records exist.

It is believed that this check list, so far as buildings covered by measured drawings is concerned, is complete. The compiler has taken many years to gather the data, and it is to be hoped that they may furnish a nucleus of information and lead, in less troubled times, to a continuation of the important work of preparing careful survey drawings of the many remaining worthwhile subjects.

Philadelphia

Joseph P. Sims
Key to Abbreviations

Arch. Record  
Architectural Record, published by F. W. Dodge.

Col. Ch. & Meet. Hses.  

Col. & Georg. Hses.  

Col. Hses.  

Col. Int.  
Colonial Interiors, edited by Leigh French, Jr. (New York, 1923).

Col. Iron.  

Drawings prepared by the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments of the Philadelphia Chapter of the A.I.A. In the Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Circle.


Fair. Pk. Com.  
Drawings in possession of the Fairmount Park Commission.

Georg. Pd.  

Great Georgian Houses of America, edited by the Editorial Committee (New York, 1933).

H. S. P.  
Drawings in the possession of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

The Historic American Building Survey drawings are on file in the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Old Col. Arch. Dets.  


Old Phila. Surv.  

Phila. Chapt. A.I.A.  

Philadelphia Chapter A.I.A., Year Book, with proper date given for each reference.

W.P.A.  All Works Progress Administration drawings are on file in the Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Circle.


Check List

Academy of Music (1857), Broad and Locust Streets. Drawings in possession of the Academy of Music.


Andalusia (1750-1830), State Road, Torresdale, Bucks County. Port. Col. City.


Augustus Lutheran Church (1743), Montgomery County, also known as Old Trappe Church. 10 photos Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.; Col. Ch. & Meet. Hses.

Barclay House (1791), 422 S. Front St. 6 drawings & 4 photos, Old Phila. Surv.; Georg. Pd.


Blair House (1806), 6105 Germantown Ave. 7 drawings, 4 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.


Bolton Farm (1687-1790), Fallsington Road, Bucks County. Port. Col. City.


Bonsall House (1745), 1009 Darby Road, Darby. 6 drawings, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.


Burholme Park, Central Avenue and Cottman Street. 50 drawings, W.P.A.

Cannon Ball Farm (1698), Penrose Ferry Road. 10 drawings, 5 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.; Port. Col. City.

Carlton (1705–1836), Indian Queen Lane, Germantown. Port. Col. City.


Centennial Hotel (1810), S. W. Cor. Franklin and Vine Streets. 1 photo, Old Phila. Surv.


Cherry Street, No. 319. 2 drawings, 2 photos, Old Phila. Surv.

Chew House. See Cliveden.


City Hall (Old) (1789), 5th and Chestnut Streets. 25 drawings, City Architect, 1918.


Commercial Exchange, Front and Audubon Streets. 3 drawings, Old Phila. Surv.


Covered Bridge (early 19th cent.), Thomas Mill Road, Wissahickon. 1 drawing, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.


Cuthbert Street (18th Cent.), between Front and Second Streets. 1 photo, Old Phila. Surv.

Darby Road, No. 1009. See Bonsall House.


Dickinson House (1792), 318–320 S. 3d Street. 10 drawings, 3 photos, Old Phila. Surv.
Eastern State Penitentiary, Fairmount Avenue. Wash drawing by Haviland, 1826, in H. S. P.

Elfreth's Alley (18th Cent.), now Cherry Street, between Front and Second Streets. 17 drawings, Old Phila. Surv.


Fairmount Water Works (1822), present Aquarium. 23 drawings, Old Phila. Surv.


Fort Mifflin (1798), near Penrose Ferry Road. 7 drawings, 9 photos Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.

Franklin Institute (Old) (1826), 15 S. 7th Street. 7 drawings, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.; 1 photo, Old Phila. Surv.

Free Quakers Meeting House (1783), 5th and Arch Streets. 2 drawings, 2 photos, Old Phila. Surv.; Col. Ch. & Meet. Hses.


Friends Meeting House (1713), Radnor. Col. Ch. & Meet. Hses.

Front Street, 14 North. 1 photo, Old Phila. Surv.

Front Street, 778 South. 5 drawings, 3 photos, Old Phila. Surv.


Germantown Academy (1760), School House Lane and Greene Street. 17 drawings, 3 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.

Girard College (1847), Philadelphia. 4 drawings by Walter, and by Koecker after Walter, in H. S. P.


Glebe House (1698), Old River Road, South Philadelphia. 14 drawings, 2 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.


Gowen House, Mt. Airy. Photos, Arch. Record (June, Nov., 1921).


Harrison House, Point No-Point, Frankford. 2 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.


Holy Trinity P. E. Church (1858), Walnut Street and Rittenhouse Square. Lithographed plan by Notman in H. S. P.


Hopkinson House (1790), 338 Spruce Street. 5 drawings, 3 photos, Old Phila. Surv.


Industrial Arts, School (1824), Broad and Pine Streets. Port. Col. City.


Keyser House (1738), Germantown Avenue and Tulpehocken Street. 7 drawings, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.

Krider's Gun Shop (1757), N. E. Cor. 2d and Walnut Streets. Photos, Old Phila. Surv.

Lardner House. See Lynfield.


Letitia Street House. See Penn House.

Lilacs, The (1805), W. Fairmount Park. 4 drawings by E. R. Purves.

Livezey House. See Glen Fern.


Marble Hall (late 18th century), near Plymouth Meeting. 2 drawings by Robert R. McGoodwin.

Market Head House. See Second Street Market.

Mathers Mill, Mathers Lane between Skippack and Bethlehem Pikes. 5 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.


Merchants’ Exchange (1832), Dock Street, 3d and Walnut Streets. 4 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.


Moore Hall (1722), Schuylkill Township, Chester County. Port. Col. City.

Morris House (1784), 225 S. 8th Street. 9 drawings, 10 photos, Old Phila. Surv.; Georg. Pd.; Port. Col. City; photos, Arch. Record (Feb., 1920).


Moyamensing Prison, Philadelphia. 3 drawings by Walter and Koecker in H. S. P.

Norriton Presbyterian Church (1698), Norriton. Col. Ch. & Meet. Hses.


Ottinger House (1743), Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown. Drawings by L. H. Duhring.

Paschall House (Swedish), 69th and Paschall Avenue (now Jewish Synagogue). Port. Col. City.


Penn House (1703-15), formerly on Letitia Street, now on Lansdowne Drive, W. Fairmount Park. 4 drawings by E. H. Pedersen, 1931; 12 drawings, W.P.A.

Pennington Street (Water and Race Streets). Photo, Arch. Record (Feb., 1920).
Pennsylvania Hospital (1755-96), Pine Street between 8th and 9th. 20 drawings, 9 photos, Old Phila. Surv.; Georg. Pd.; Col. Iron.; photos, Arch. Record (April, 1921).


Pennypack Baptist Church, (1774-1805), Bustleton. Col. Ch. & Meet. Hses.

Philadelphia Club (1838), 13th and Walnut Streets. Plans in possession of the Club.


Physick House (early 19th century), 321 S. 4th Street. 1 photo, Old Phila. Surv. Pont Reading House (1683 and later), Havertford Road, Ardmore. Port. Col. City.

Port Royal (1762), Frankford. 7 drawings, 5 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.

Potts House. See Washington’s Headquarters at Valley Forge.

Powder Magazine (1808), near Penrose Ferry Road. 2 drawings, 5 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.


Presbyterian Church, First (1821), Washington Square, demolished about 1938. 15 drawings, 4 photos Old Phila. Surv.; Col. Ch. & Meet. Hses.

Price House, Germantown. White Pine Series.

Providence Meeting House (1814), Media. Col. Ch. & Meet. Hses.

Randolphe-Rawle House. See Laurel Hill.


Ridgway Library. Georg. Pd.

Rittenhouse Homestead (1707), Wissahickon Drive, Fairmount Park. 7 drawings, 1 photo, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.


St. Andrew’s P. E. Church, now St. George’s Greek Orthodox. Plan designed and etched by Haviland, 1812, in H. S. P.


St. James’s Church, 132 S. 22nd Street. Photos, Arch. Record (Nov., 1922).


Schoomac Park (1714), Ridge Road, Roxboro. Port. Col. City.


Second Street, 204 N. (18th century). 1 drawing, Old Phila. Surv.
Singley House. See Bellaire.
Smith’s Folly (1765), Falls of Schuylkill. Port. Col. City.
Springbank (1730), Wissahickon Avenue, Germantown. Port. Col. City.
State in Schuylkill (1812), on Delaware River above Andalusia. Drawings in possession of Club.
Swedish Log Cabin, Lower (17th Cent.), on Darby Creek. 7 drawings, 4 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv.
Sweetbriar (1797), W. Fairmount Park. 14 drawings, Old Phila. Surv.
Trinity Church, Oxford (1711), Fox Chase. 6 drawings, 2 photos, Hist. Amer. Bldg. Surv.; Col. Ch. & Meet. Hses.
United States Naval Home (1833), Grays Ferry Road. Floor plans in possession of Naval Home.
Wakefield (1798), Lindley Ave. and 20th Street. Port. Col. City.
Waln Grove (1772), Frankford (extant?). Port. Col. City.
Wharton House (1795), 336 Square Street. 6 drawings, 3 photos, Old Phila. Surv.; Port. Col. City.
Wister Tenant House. See Grumblethorpe.
Woods House (1783), Front and Lombard Streets. 10 drawings, 7 photos, Old Phila. Surv.
Workman Place (1748), Pemberton Street West of Front Street. 3 photos, Hist. Am. Bldg. Surv., 1937.

List of Buildings Not Yet Adequately Recorded

Andorra Inn (1756), Butler Pike at Germantown Avenue.
Billmeyer House (1727), 6505 Germantown Avenue.
Blackwell House. See Stamper House.
Cathedral, Roman Catholic SS. Peter and Paul, 18th and The Parkway, 1845-1865.
Concordville House (1742), Delaware County.
Covered Bridge near Valley Forge.
Engles, Jacob, House (1758), 5938 Haines Street, Germantown.
Evans House (1785), 322 Delancey Street.
Frankford Arsenal, Frankford.
Frankford Avenue (1736), 8100, Holmesburg.
Friends Buckingham Meeting House (1768), Bucks County.
Friends Meeting House (early 19th Cent.), Frankford.
General Greene Hotel, Buckingham, Bucks County.
General Wayne Inn (1704), Montgomery Pike, Merion.
Gilbert Mill, near West Chester.
Great Valley Mill, Paoli.
Greenland, near Woodside Park (18th Cent).
Hergesheimer House, West Chester.
Ionic and S. American Streets (1692). Said to be oldest house in Philadelphia.
Jolly Post Tavern, Frankford Pike.
King of Prussia Inn (1769), King of Prussia near Valley Forge.
Marble Hall, near Plymouth Meeting House.
Mechanics Bank (1837), 3d Street south of Market Street.
Miller House (1750), Powder Mill Park, Delaware County.
Musical Fund Hall (1824), Locust Street above 7th Street.
Oak Tree Tavern, Montgomery County.
Oaks, Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County.
Octagonal School House, Diamond Rock near Valley Forge.
Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, 49th and Market Streets.
Perot Morris House (1772), 5442 Germantown Avenue.
Plymouth Meeting House, Plymouth Meeting.
Preston Retreat, near The Parkway.
Primitive Hall, Chatham, Chester County.
Quaker Meeting House (1837), 6th and Noble Streets.
Red Lion Inn (1730), Torresdale.
Ross, Betsy, Home (18th Cent), 239 Arch Street.
St. Clement’s P. E. Church, 20th and Cherry Streets.
St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church (1732), Willings Alley, between 3d and 4th Streets.
St. Mark’s P. E. Church (1849), Locust Street west of 16th.
St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church (1763), 4th Street below Spruce.
St. Peter’s Church near Paoli, Chester County.
Schuylkill Arsenal (1799), Grays Ferry Road.
Second Street, 414 N. (18th Cent).
Sparks Shot Tower (1808), Front and Carpenter Streets.
Stamper House, 224 Pine Street.
Tacony Park House, Tacony.
Trevose (1685), Bensalem Township, Bucks County.
Ury House (1654–1790), Pine Road, Fox Chase.
Varnum, General, Headquarters, Valley Forge.
Walnut Street Theatre (1809), 9th and Walnut Streets.
Washington’s Headquarters, Lansdowne.
Wissinoming Park House.
Wynnestay (1689–1700), 52d and Woodbine Avenues.