

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) (Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Philadelphia
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Carpenters' Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC: Carpenters' Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 320 Chestnut Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 3rd	
STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42	COUNTY: Philadelphia	CODE: 101

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia	STATE: Pennsylvania
STREET AND NUMBER: 320 Chestnut Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia	
STATE: Pennsylvania	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Philadelphia City Hall	COUNTY: Philadelphia
STREET AND NUMBER: Broad and Market Streets	
CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia	
STATE: Pennsylvania	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (2 photos, 1936)	FOR NPS USE ONLY
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress/Annex	
STREET AND NUMBER: Division of Prints and Photographs	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	
STATE: D.C.	

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Philadelphia
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected in 1770-73, Carpenters' Hall is one of the finest examples of late Georgian public building architecture in the United States. Designed and constructed by Robert Smith, the hall is a two-story brick building with central pedimented pavilions projecting north and south which gives the structure a Greek cross plan. The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond with dark glazed headers. The gable roof is crowned by a central octagonal cupola with chimneys located at the east and west gable ends. Large windows are framed by classical surrounds with white shutters accenting the lower level. The north entrance has broad high steps leading to a pedimented double doorway with a fanlight above. This decorative wooden door with engaged Doric columns was installed in 1791 to finally complete the building. Above this, three roundheaded windows set above false balustrades, rest on a white beltcourse and small molded cornice. The pediment itself is ornamented by a Greek fret band which also runs along the entire cornice of the building.

Inside, the first floor is occupied by a large meeting room which occupies the entire area with the exception of a small entrance hall. A lightly molded cornice with Greek fret band surrounds the main center hall. On the south, two fluted Ionic columns form a screen between the center room and small hall of the pavilion. These are repeated in the north but are engaged in the wall which divides the entrance and stair hall from the main room. Mantels on the east and west walls have broken pediments over an eared overmantel decorated with delicate moldings.

This area is occupied today by a small museum and souvenir stand which detracts somewhat from the interior as does the modern tile floor. The upper floor houses a library installed in 1854 when the building underwent its first restoration, and rooms for the custodian.

BOUNDARY

The exterior boundary of Carpenters' Hall is marked by a white fence which separates the property from the Independence National Historic Park, beginning at a point on the south side of Chestnut Street 60' west of Orianna Street; thence 140' in a southerly direction; thence 25.5' eastward, thence 115' south, thence 66' west, thence 115' north, thence 26' east, thence 140' north; thence 14' to the point of beginning as described in the agreement with the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the act of Congress approved June 28, 1948 (62 Stat. 1061), entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Independence National Historical Park."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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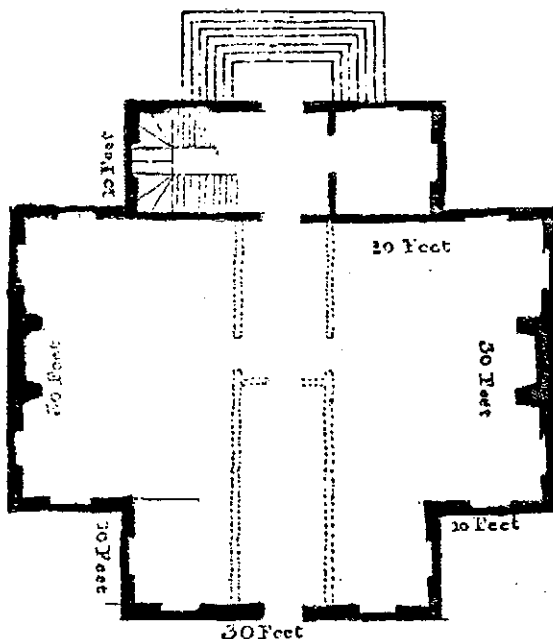
STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Philadelphia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description



First floor plan of Carpenter's Hall showing central hallway partitions removed soon after construction, from Historic Philadelphia, p.96.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1770**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Carpenters' Hall, erected in 1770-71 by the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia is one of the finest examples of late Georgian public architecture in the United States. In the form of a Greek cross with four projecting gable ends and gracefully proportioned octagonal cupola, Carpenters' Hall exterior exemplifies the reserved but sophisticated design which made Philadelphia the handsome center of the American Colonies and early Republic. The building itself served as a meeting place for the First Continental Congress in 1774, as a hospital for both British and American troops and as the temporary office for both the First and Second Banks of the United States. Privately owned within the Independence National Park, Carpenters' Hall contributes to the total complex by preserving in part the original architectural cohesiveness of the area, providing a rare survival of a unit of Colonial public buildings.

HISTORY

The Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, probably the oldest builder's organization in the United States, was founded in 1724. Fashioned after trade guilds of England, the most famous of which is "Worshipful Company of Carpenters' of London", its members tended from the outset to be master carpenters rather than journeymen, who shared the duties of the architect and contractor of today. As a result, the members of the Carpenters' Company were responsible for much of the design and construction of the city. Edmund Woolley, builder of the State House, John Harrison, responsible for much of Christ Church, and Robert Smith, builder of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and the Carpenters' Hall itself are only a few of the many craftsman who wielded much control in the building industry and helped to shape the city.

The oldest existing records show that as early as 1763 the Company was contemplating building a meeting hall. In 1768 a lot was acquired and by 1770 they were ready to build. Shortly after they bought the land, the Company voted to sell a third of the Chestnut Street frontage. From this and subsequent developments it appears that the Hall was always planned to head up a narrow court, flanked by buildings to be leased for rent. The placement of buildings in the middle of a city block was not uncommon in Philadelphia where the full exploitation of lots was possible only by development of the interior areas.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carpenters' Hall File, Philadelphia Historical Commission, City Hall Annex, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
 Cousins, Frank, and Riley, Philip, M., The Colonial Architecture of Philadelphia, Boston, 1920, pp. 8, 148, 210-12.  
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952, pp. 517.  
 Peterson, Charles, "Carpenters' Hall," Historic Philadelphia, Philadelphia, 1953, pp. 96-128.  
 Tatum, George B., Penn's Great Town, Philadelphia, 1961, pp. 20, 30, 36-37, 42, 46, 157.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		UTM 48.487360.4421770	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **.75 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Patricia Heintzelman, architectural historian, Landmarks Review Project; original form done by Charles Snell, 1967**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service**      DATE: **8/30/74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1100 L Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      CODE: **11**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National     State     Local

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) **Landmark**

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation: **April 15, 1970** date

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) **Boundary Certified:**

Date: **October 23, 75** date

ATTEST: **Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys** date

Boundary Admined: **7/2/75** date

Keeper of The National Register: **7/2/75** date

Director, O.I.P. date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

