Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of History Studies

From: Superintendent, Independence NHP

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Independence Hall, Part II; Supplement I, Independence Hall Lighting


Enclosure (1)
HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT PART II

SUPPLEMENT I

on

INDEPENDENCE HALL LIGHTING

Prepared by
Staff
Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

September 1966
HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
PART II
SUPPLEMENT I
ON
INDEPENDENCE HALL LIGHTING
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

APPROVAL SHEET

RECOMMENDED

Superintendent ___________________________ Date

Chief, Division of History Studies ___________________________ Date

Chief, Design and Construction ___________________________ Date

Regional Director, Northeast Region ___________________________ Date

APPROVED

Director ___________________________ Date
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CHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Prepared by Superintendent M. O. Anderson
NAME AND NUMBER OF BUILDING:

Independence Hall, Building No. 10
JUSTIFICATION:

In order to operate Independence Hall some sort of lighting is necessary. The requirements of the lighting system are varied. For interpretation it is desirable to provide illumination as nearly like what was present in the historic period as may be practicable. For the safety of all users of the building there must be special lighting at points of possible danger (stairs, door sills) and emergency lighting. There must also be special illumination for the Liberty Bell to make it visible to night visitors.

In this report are gathered together the historical and architectural data bearing on the lighting practices followed in historic Independence Hall. Based on these data, on the evidence of usage in other buildings, and on the necessities of the case (where there is no evidence), the furnishing recommendations have been made.

In order to permit installation of wiring during the rehabilitation of the building, the concluding recommendations are designed to cover all likely contingencies in respect to the location of electrical lighting fixtures. More precise definition of the fixtures themselves will be incorporated in the furnishing plans for each room.
CHAPTER II
HISTORICAL DATA

Prepared by Historian Miriam Q. Blimm
As dusk descended upon the members of the Pennsylvania Assembly sitting in session in the State House, and the business of the day was as yet unfinished, the Speaker would order "that Candles be brought in. And they were brought in accordingly." This was the established practice of the Assembly and is noted time and again in the Votes of the Assembly (Pa. Archives, 8th Series). The schedule of Assembly meetings meant that many sessions were held at those times of the year when darkness comes earliest, thus requiring the introduction of supplementary lighting late in the afternoon. In accordance with a provision of the charter, the Assembly convened each year on October 1. It adjourned after a very short session (often only a day or two) until late December or early January; they then held sessions for a month or two—at this time of year supplementary lighting would be needed on many dreary days even in the early afternoon. They reconvened in early May and met until the end of that month or the beginning of June. In late August or early September they met again and finally adjourned on September 30, the day before the provincial elections were held.

Like the Pennsylvania Assembly, the Second Continental Congress often met in the Assembly Room late in the afternoon, and evening sessions were not uncommon. In December 1776 Congress resolved that it would "meet two hours at least each evening, beginning at six o'clock, Saturday evenings excepted until the present state of their foreign affairs be fully considered." Committee meetings were also held at night.

The Constitutional Convention, however, met in the daylight hours. There was no rule in the beginning of the session about the time of
adjournment. On August 18 they passed a resolution to "meet punctually at 10 o'clock every morning (Sunday excepted) and sit till four o'clock in the afternoon." According to James Wilson the hour of adjournment was very strictly adhered to, "even if a member were in the middle of his speech." A few days later the hour of adjournment was changed to three o'clock. On August 23, 1787 the Pennsylvania Packet commended the delegates for their dedication and tireless efforts, and "the long time they spend in the deliberations of each day (sometimes 7 hours)." The reason behind the establishment of the rather early adjournment hour is unknown—very likely it had nothing at all to do with the matter of lighting, but rather with the heat of the Philadelphia summers.

The lack of documentary evidence of a chandelier having hung in the Assembly Room during the historic period cannot be taken as conclusive in itself owing to the dearth of specific information of fittings for the State House before the 1750's. (See Architectural Data (Chapter III) for information re: 18th century chandelier hanger.) In 1824 in preparation for the reception for Lafayette a chandelier was bought for the room. For most of the time between 1824 and 1955 a chandelier hung in the Assembly Room.

The central hallway of the State House might have been expected to have had illumination too. However, results of the architectural investigation prove that a chandelier was not installed until 1816 when Thackara put the medallion there. In 1837 City Council ordered "that the Lamp of the Passage in Hall of Independence be lighted with gas."
Chapter II
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The public balls, suppers and concerts held in the State House, generally in the Long Room, were occasions for the building to be "elegantly" and "grandly" illuminated. The King's birthday was celebrated "with the greatest Solemnity" with "a grand Ball at the Statehouse, at which were present upwards of one hundred Ladies, and a much greater Number of Gentlemen, who formed the most brilliant Assembly that had ever before been seen in this Province. The whole Company were elegantly entertain'd by his Honour there at Supper in the Long Gallery and every Thing conducted with the greatest Decorum, and to general Satisfaction." Besides the annual celebration of the King's Birthday, other official state celebrations and entertainments took place in the Long Room. The "Gentlemen of the Army" gave a "grand Entertainment and a Ball" during the French and Indian Wars. And there in 1771 the merchants of the city expressed their pleasure at the appointment of Richard Penn as Governor of the Province with "a very genteel entertainment," marked by "great festivity, mirth and humour"—all of which was enjoyed by more than 350 persons. Two years later the merchants attended Mr. Penn at the State House, expressed to him their thanks and appreciation for "the particular interest he has shown the trade of this Port." They enjoyed with him "an elegant entertainment" including many toasts, each accompanied by an artillery discharge, and music performed by a military band.

Assemblies such as these would necessitate not only sufficient lighting in the rooms of the second floor to enable hundreds of guests to enjoy the elegant dining, but also lighting of the tower stairway to permit access to the second floor.
In 1802 Charles Willson Peale removed the partition which, during the Revolution, the Assembly had erected at the eastern end of the Long Gallery to make a room identical in size with the Assembly Room below--then the meeting place of the Continental Congress. He thus reestablished the Long Gallery across the front and the two smaller rooms on the Square side and restored the second floor to its original arrangement. The problem of lighting the State House was a pressing one for Peale. Soon after establishing his famous museum there he wrote to his sons Rembrandt and Rubens in London that "glass Chandeliers should also ornament the 3 Rooms--5 to six of them might be sufficient with patent lamps in them." His final solution of the problem however was the use of five chandeliers in the Long Room as shown in his self-portrait "The Artist in His Museum" (Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts) and his son Titian's watercolor "The Interior of the Peale Museum" (Detroit Museum).

The evening illumination of the State House was an important feature of Peale's use of it. Lit with Patent Lamps and Candles, equivalent to the light of 220 Candles" it served as "a genteel 'promenade', offering both music and the still rare pleasure of walking by night in a brightly-lighted room." In 1807 Peale advertised his "NATIONAL MUSEUM and FASHIONABLE LOUNGE," and "the display of the MUSEUM by lamp light." There is among the Peale Papers in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania a volume of "Current Expenses" for 1808 to 1819 which contains entries which reveal much about the method he, in the early part of the 19th century, used to light the rooms.
Chapter II
Page 5

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>2 Chandeliers of 12 Bradford</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 Lamps made by Lead Crater and Co: in Fillbert St. at 4$</td>
<td>48.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 Bulb Glasses for Lamps</td>
<td>6.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>2 brass Lamps with 4 burners &amp;c</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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In 1816 Rubens Peale, now the manager of the Museum, introduced gas lighting into the steeple and second floor rooms. The gas, C. W. Peale hoped, would remedy the situation caused by the former lighting fixtures which emitted smoke and injured the Museum's collection.

Candles were the only means of illumination until the end of the 18th century when lamps were introduced. The rooms of the State House were lighted by candles--standing on desks, tables, perhaps even window sills. The candlesticks used in the State House during the historic period were varied in size, type and material. They included: "1 pair of large oval feet candlesticks, 3 pairs of small [oval feet candlesticks]," "3 pair of [small] Round [feet candlesticks]," all purchased for the Senate in 1790; "1 pr Steel Candlesticks" bought for the Senate in 1791, and "2 pr of Still [steel] Candlesticks," bought by the Assembly on November 26, 1778 from Lewis Grant. In August 1743 the Assembly purchased for its use a lantern for 5 shillings. Exactly how and where this was used is not known. However, the Council Chamber on the second floor where the Governor and his Council met, and later the Supreme Executive Council, had sconces in addition
to candlesticks. On March 14, 1777 Colonel Timothy Matlack, secretary of the Supreme Executive Council, purchased from Timothy Berratt "for the use of the Council"\textsuperscript{21} "1 Set of Plated Candlesticks 16.0.0" and "1 Pair Double Sconces 3.10.0."\textsuperscript{22}

Large and small purchases of candles frequently appear in the ledgers and journals of Pennsylvania government. All branches of the government were supplied with them. Both "Mould candles"\textsuperscript{23} and "spermacetti candles"\textsuperscript{24} were specified, but most of the entries merely list "candles." They were purchased both by the pound and by the box.\textsuperscript{25}

(See Appendix I for chart from Dobson's Encyclopedia, vol. IV, p. 94; Experiment to determine the real comparative value of burning Candles of different sorts and sizes).

It is impossible to determine precisely how many candles were used in the State House in a given period of time because the entries in the accounting records of the State did not always specify the quantity purchased or even the amount of payment made. The various officials of the state, however, did purchase candles at regular intervals. As an example--in November 1790 the State Senate purchased one box of spermacetti candles and, early in March of 1791, fifty-two pounds of candles.\textsuperscript{26}
1. **Pennsylvania Archives**, 8th Series, IV, 2908.


8. Ibid, Sept. 25, 1755.


10. Ibid, Sept. 20, 1773.


15. C. W. Peale to Linnaeus Peale, Apr. 21, 1816, C. W. Peale Letterbook, XIV, 33, American Philosophical Society.


26. Ibid.
Experiments to determine the real and comparative value
of burning CANDLES of different sorts and sizes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numb. of candles in one pound.</th>
<th>Weight of one candle</th>
<th>The time one candle lasted</th>
<th>The time that one pound will last</th>
<th>The expence in 12 hours when candles are at 6d. per dozen, which also shows the proportion of the expence at any price per dozen.</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oz. Dr.</td>
<td>Hr. Min.</td>
<td>Hr. Min.</td>
<td>Farthings and 100th parts.</td>
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<td>0 14</td>
<td>3 15</td>
<td>59 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>0 13 1/2</td>
<td>2 40</td>
<td>50 34</td>
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<td>44 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1 5 1/3</td>
<td>3 27</td>
<td>41 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>* 10 3/4</td>
<td>1 8</td>
<td>3 36</td>
<td>38 24</td>
<td>7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* 7 3/4</td>
<td>2 1</td>
<td>4 9</td>
<td>32 12</td>
<td>8.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>* 8</td>
<td>2 0</td>
<td>4 15</td>
<td>34 0</td>
<td>8.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 3/4 Mould candles</td>
<td>2 13</td>
<td>5 19</td>
<td>30 15</td>
<td>9.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mould-candle at 7s. per doz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 7/8</td>
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<td>42 39</td>
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<td>4 0</td>
<td>9 3</td>
<td>36 20</td>
<td>9.28</td>
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H. B. The time that one candle lasted was taken from an average of several trials in each size.
CHAPTER III

ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Prepared by Architects Penelope Hartshorne and
Lee H. Nelson
Central Hallway:

In the center of the ceiling, above the decorative medallion, fastened between two original joists is an oak block 7" x 1½" x 3 1/2" thick. In the center of the block a hole 1 1/2" d. is drilled, and connecting with it, slightly off center, is a second hole of the same size (see NHP-IND 3503 for location of block in the Second Floor framing system).

Apparently the several chandeliers dating from the early 19th century through the 1950's, initially used this block as a simple positioning collar, but it was later modified (with scabs) to carry the full weight of a chandelier. This is explained in greater detail below.

The nails used in fastening the block and its scabs were examined to determine whether this block was first installed in the 18th century or in 1816 when William Thackara installed a decorative plaster ceiling in the Central Hall, or at some later time.¹

The most important conclusion drawn from this examination is that no 18th century wrought nails were used in the assembly, nor are there any nail holes left unused from an earlier installation. We conclude that in the 18th century no lighting fixture hung in the Central Hallway from the center of the ceiling.

Illustration I. shows the evidence which helps to date the block and scabs within the span of the 19th century. The handsplit lath of the Central Hallway ceiling is fastened to the underside of the block with crudely made machine cut lath nails very similar to those used in the 1816 work in the Assembly and Supreme Court Rooms.

Central Hallway:

In the center of the ceiling, above the decorative medallion, fastened between two original joists is an oak block 7" x 1' 4" x 3 1/2" thick. In the center of the block a hole 1 1/2" d. is drilled, and connecting with it, slightly off center, is a second hole of the same size (see NHP-IND 3503 for location of block in the Second Floor framing system).

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Chapter III
ILLUST. 1

CENTRAL HALL CEILING - INDEPENDENCE HALL

Extant nail types: *Modern cut nails*

+ Machine cut nails, 3¼" long, shear marks on common sides, machine made heads, uniformly tapered shank, dates from the last half of the 19th century.

+ Early cut lath nails, machine made with crude eccentric head, irregular lengths, shear marks on opposite sides. Dates c. 1816.

---

No unaccounted for or moved nail holes in joists from any earlier usage.

Block beveled to insert easily from below.

Block fit tight enough to receive 1816 lath nails to:

- Original joints chiseled away to allow cut nails to penetrate block. There were P-10 cut nails "fastening each end of the block."

Scabs adjacent to joints fastened with cut nails probably supported a bar support from which to hang late 19th c. chandeliers - see WHC reg. 1635.

Other scabs added probably for chandeliers of 1820-50s.

Underside of block has only one set of lath stains from the 1816 ceiling still in place today. 1816 lath stops short of east hole, but west hole was drilled through lath, i.e. east hole was relocated in 1816.

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PLAN - SCALE 1½" = 1'-0"

SEE NW-IND 3503 FOR LOCATION
IN SECOND FLOOR FRAMING PLAN

April 1966
P. HARTEHORNE
L.H. NELSON
Chapter III
Page 2

This evidence shows that the block was installed along with the 1816 Central Hallway plaster ceiling. The block was simply lifted into place, wedged between the joists, the lath then nailed up into it. The fixture installed could not have been hung from this block because it was not secured to the joists. It probably served as a stabilizing collar for a lighting fixture. Since there is no evidence of any 1816 hanger within the floor thickness, the fixture had to hang from the structure of the second floor partition which ran east-west directly above this location. This fixture was probably the one referred to in 1837 as having been converted to gas.  

By 1854 it would have been necessary to either remove the fixture or rehang it from within the floor thickness, for it was in this year that the second floor east-west partition was removed, thus creating open floor above this fixture location.

Sometime, either in 1854 or at least within the last half of the 19th century, two scabs and the block were secured to the joists to take weight. The block and scabs were nailed with machine made cut nails 3 1/4" long. These nails are a type not made until the second half of the 19th century. To allow the nails sufficient penetration into the block, the sides of the joists were chiseled away to reduce their thickness at the nail locations. This was necessarily done with great care to avoid disturbing the decorated plaster ceiling medallion directly below. The

2That there was a partition in this location is borne out by the plan of the State House of 1824; the C.W. Peale self-portrait made between 1802-1823 with the Long Room in the background (INHP GN 17183); and the watercolor interior of the Peale Museum by Titian Peale (INHP 734).  

3“Ordered that the Lamp of the passage in Hall of Independence be lighted with gas.” Min. of Committee on City Property, 1836-38, Vol. 8 MSS Phila. City Archives, Aug. 14, 1837.
job was done carefully, for not one chisel mark can be seen on the
adjacent lath or plaster keys. Furthermore, care was taken in driving
the nails for no hammer blows struck the plaster keys.¹

The weight of the lighting fixture was thus transferred to this
well secured block, probably from a bar spanning the two scabs fastened
above the block -- the block thus took some of the weight but continued
to act as a collar to protect the ceiling medallion from vibrations or
side pressure caused by accidental swinging of the fixture.

It is possible that the second fixture was not installed until
after the Centennial, for in 1876 F. M. Etting published a photograph of
the room without any fixture.⁵

Before 1896 however, a chandelier had been installed. It can be
seen in a photograph of that year (INHP 1835). Stylistically this chande-
lier seems related to furniture produced circa 1880.

Since the evidence precludes an 18th century fixture at this lo-
cation, there must have been some other method of lighting this space.

Each Central Hall panel, stile, and impost pilaster was examined
for more than the casual dent, but there are no patterns of holes or dutch-
men which might indicate sconces or wall lanterns.

¹Plaster keys were broken off during the present examination to compare
the plaster texture with specimens from other areas of the same ceiling.
This examination showed that the plaster of the medallion area was identical
to the rest of the hand split lath and plaster ceiling, i.e. the medallion
dated from 1816.

⁵The History of Independence Hall, F. M. Etting, Boston 1876, facing page 186.
On both sides of the center archway leading to the Supreme Court Room (on the second intrados rail above the impost), there are from six to eight puttied holes (see Illustration 2). These holes form no consistent pattern, but the absence of similar evidence at the other two archways points to a unique use, discounting their use as part of the board partitions which closed all three archways from 1789-1896. An examination of the original framing at the Assembly Room doorway shows that the matching doorway installed in 1789 in the center Supreme Court Room archway, did not need any rough members which would have to be nailed into these intrados rails.\(^6\) We are unable to prove that these holes relate to a lighting fixture, and the exact appearance of such a fixture is not known, but it is possible that a lantern was suspended in the center of this archway from a pair of brackets and a "stay" attached at the center of the keystone return where there happens to be one small hole. A lantern in this position would have cast its light into both the Central Hall public passage and the spectator space of the Supreme Court Room, and could have been used prior to 1789 when these archways were closed off.

Assembly Room:

Drawing NHP-IND 3502 sheet 1 of 1, included here as Illus. 3, records a wrought-iron u-strap hanger found fastened with hand wrought nails to the original "truss" plate in the center of the Assembly Room ceiling. This hanger was one of a pair which in the 18th century suspended a rod and a lighting fixture.

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\(^6\) The Assembly Room doors are hung on paneled jambsh which with the soffit make a simple box like frame that was anchored to the brick walls (see NHP-IND 3344 sheet 2 of 3). In the case of the Supreme Court Room 1789 equivalent doorway, its prefabricated "box" frame would have been anchored to the adjacent pilasters by toe nailing the stiles surrounding the door into the pilaster stiles.
POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF A LANTERN ATTACHMENT
CENTRAL HALL - SUPREME COURT ROOM - CENTER ARCHWAY
INDEPENDENCE HALL

NORTH INTRADOS

SOUTH INTRADOS

Small hole in center & keystone return

Pitted holes in rails

APPROX. SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"

P. HARTSHORNE APRIL 1966
PORTION OF CENTER FLOOR PLATE, 1730'S LONGITUDINAL TRU

ARCHITECTURAL EVIDENCE DRAWING OF ASSEMBLY RM. CHANDELIERS

EAST END SECOND FLOOR, INDEPENDENCE HALL

BASIC DATA: PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PENNA.
CHANDELIER HANGER AS FOUND 1962-3

In the original negatives, 1959-60/61, Jan. 15, 1963, show hanger, still in place, as shown. Apparently hanger was moved to present position when hole was drilled C 1940's-50's (dated by cut nail shown above).
E, 1730'S LONGITUDINAL TRUSS PARTITION, SCALE: 3" = 1'-0"

PLATE REMOVED TO ACCOMODATE 1962 STRUCTURAL REHABILITATION.

F ASSEMBLY RM. CHANDELIER AND DOORWAY LOCATION

D FLOOR, INDEPENDENCE HALL
LENGTH OF EXISTING CHORD (INHP ACC. 15&B) SHOWN BELOW 5 X 10.3.

FLOOR BOARD JOINTS
ESTABLISHED BY NAIL HOLES.

RELATION OF FLOOR BOARDS TO
CUT OFF IRON ROOF NO. 8 FRAME
SEE INHP ON B40 A-B.

SECOND HANGER, EVIDENT
DETERMINED BY NOTCH

JOINT TOPS SPLIT OFF
CHANDELEUR HANGER.

SPAN ALIGNED WITH HOLES CUT
IN FLOORING SEE INHP NGS.
ON B352 A-B. HINGED WITH
CUT PANEL SHEAR MARKS ON
OPPOSITE SIDES Hand OR CEILING
MACHINE WAIST HEAD, VEST SMALLER,
TO FIT ASSEMBLY RAIL LATH NAILS.

SHAPED PLATES
INDICATE UNPLANNED
PARTITION.

ORIGINAL DISPOSITION OF CENTER FLOOR PLATE OF TRUSS PARTITION

SCALE: 54" X 10.3

EVIDENCE OF SECOND
HANGER, DETERMINED
BY NAIL HEADS,
SEE INHP ON B40 A-B.

HATCHET CUT IN SIDE

DIRT ACCUMULATION THROUGH
BUT JOINTS OF BOARD RE-
PLACING PARTITION IT50-012.

CENTER AREA HAND PLANED
POSSIBLY TO LET FLOOR BOARD
REPLACING PARTITION IT50 FIT
LEVEL. PLANE MARKS ARE UNDER STRAP

IRON STRAPS SEE
INHP ON B450 A-B.

IRON STRAP SEE
INHP ON B450 A-B.

SHELF MARKS

CENTER AREA HAND PLANED
POSSIBLY TO LET FLOOR BOARD
REPLACING PARTITION IT50 FIT
LEVEL. PLANE MARKS ARE UNDER STRAP

IRON STRAP SEE
INHP ON B450 A-B.

SHELF MARKS

CENTER AREA HAND PLANED
POSSIBLY TO LET FLOOR BOARD
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IRON STRAP SEE
INHP ON B450 A-B.

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IRON STRAP SEE
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IRON STRAP SEE
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POSSIBLY TO LET FLOOR BOARD
REPLACING PARTITION IT50 FIT
LEVEL. PLANE MARKS ARE UNDER STRAP

IRON STRAP SEE
INHP ON B450 A-B.
HPS-EO DC negatives 157.559, 60 and 61 were made of this hanger before it was unfortunately lost from the Historic Structures Branch salvage collection.

We can limit the installation of this hanger to the 18th century as all the known alterations made to the Assembly Room after 1800 used only cut nails of the latest manufacture. It would be highly unlikely for this particular attachment to have used hand-wrought nails after 1800.

This hanger is the only physical evidence of lighting fixtures found in the Assembly Room.

Supreme Court Room:

As noted earlier, both the Central Hall and Supreme Court Room may have been lighted prior to 1789 by a lantern hung in the center archway between the rooms.

Some evidence of possible 19th century fixtures was found on the impost pilasters flanking this center arch facing the Supreme Court Room. There are two 3" square dutchmen 4 1/2" up from the chair rail level. These holes were patched before 1896 for the dutchmen are to be seen in an 1896 photograph of this wall (DHP 1650). These patches are held with small machine cut sprigs of a style that was in use after c.1850.

There is no way to determine the original purpose or date of these holes -- perhaps they were cut for a gas fixture whose pipe fit between the vertical stiles behind the impost pilaster board. The size of the holes and the depth of cut seems unrelated to any known type of surface mounted 18th century fixture.
Two cruder puttied holes, one in each of the same pilasters 29" above the chair rail level, apparently were caused also by attachments in the 19th century. Adjacent to each hole was a broken off machine made cut nail with shear marks on common sides and slightly convex top and bottom plate surfaces, i.e. a nail used after c.1850. The fact that these nails were broken off implies that they were used by the fixture attached, and thus date the fixture as post-1850.

**Tower Stairhall:**

Absolutely no physical evidence of pre-1896 lighting fixture hangers exists at the center of the Tower Stairhall ceiling. Through this section of ceiling, every bell has been transported up to the steeple. However, this does not rule out the possibility that a large candlelighted lantern or chandelier may have once hung in this space to light the stairwell for evening entertainments on the second floor.

At the archway between the Tower Stairhall and Central Hall, four large screw holes are to be seen in the vertical face of the keystone,(see Illustration 4). In addition, two smaller holes are centered within the keystone return in the archway intrados. A lantern bracket and stay wire could have been fastened to these holes centered on the archway. Only one modern screw was found in the keystone return of the equivalent archway at the second floor level, showing that no such lighting fixture could have been hung in that position.
Chapter III
ILLUST 4.

POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF A LANTERN ATTACHMENT
TOWER STAIRHALL - CENTRAL HALL - ARCHWAY
INDEPENDENCE HALL

GROOVE BROKEN IN CENTER HALF ROUND
1" WIDE, 3/8" DEEP

ON CENTER DIMENSIONS

TOWER STAIRHALL KEYSTONE
ELEVATION
APPROX. SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"
(SEE EODC REG. 157.962)

TOWER STAIRHALL KEystONE
CENTRAL HALL KEYSTONE

18 3/4" TWO HOLES 9/16" D.
(SEE EODC REG. 157.963)
APPROX. SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"

P. HARTSHORNE, L.H. NELSON, APRIL 1966
There is no evidence other than these possibilities presently available. If, in future years, the occasion arises to strip the present finish plaster from the walls, any original plaster should be examined and its surface checked for evidence of wall sconces or wall lantern locations.

Second Floor Lobby, SE & SW Rooms:

Evidence of hanging fixtures having been attached to the attic floor joists is not apparent. To hang lighting fixtures at this floor would not necessarily leave any traces, for no more was needed than a rod spanning two joists between which hung the fixture.

However, in the case of the Lobby, we can say that no fixture hung at its center, because a large sectioned girder directly over this point has no hole bored through it to receive a centered hanger.

Wall fixtures would no longer be traceable with physical evidence for no partitions or outside wall finish plaster survive.

Second Floor Long Room:

The same lack of evidence of wall fixtures applies to this room as to all the other second floor rooms.

In the center of the Long Room, however, on axis with the center window and Lobby, a large ceiling girder has a 2 1/2" diameter hole bored through it. The date of this hole is not known. That it was for a lighting fixture we can be fairly certain. The precedent for a fixture in this location goes back to at least the era of the Peale Museum. Although we

7: (See the C.W. Peale self-portrait, and the Titian Peale watercolor of the Long Room. Both views indicate that Peale had installed five lighting fixtures in this room). The chandeliers shown in these views are actually on the east-west center line of the room. They appear to be south of this line due to the projection along the south wall of the stuffed bird display case.
cannot prove it, the hole may have been first bored in the 18th century to carry a fixture in the center of the Long Room. If there were other ceiling fixtures, no evidence has survived, but they too could have been simply hung from a bar spanning a pair of joists.

**Exterior Entrance:**

By 1798-9 both the north and south entrances to the State House had lanterns centered above them. William Birch shows these in his prints: *State House With a View of Chestnut Street... and Back of the State House...* J. L. Krimmel shows the Chestnut Street entrance lantern still in place as late as his painting "Election Day - 1815." Illustration 5, shows the holes left by the brackets which supported the lantern over the south entrance. At the north entrance no evidence would have survived the alteration of the doorway in 1815.
EVIDENCE OF A LANTERN AT SOUTH ENTRANCE
INDEPENDENCE HALL

ARCHITRAVE AT 7/8" X 1.0"
5 1/2" 1.5 1/2" 1 3/8" 4"

SOUTH ENTRANCE - INDEP. HALL

ARCHITRAVE OR LINTEL WITH LANTERN BRACKET EVIDENCE.

see NHP-IND 3050 for measured drawing of evidence.
see WM Bird engraving "Back of the State House, Philadelphia" 1799 for a view of lantern in place.

P. Halsey
April 29, 1966
CHAPTER IV

FURNISHING DATA

Prepared by Curator Charles G. Dorman
Assembly Room:

Despite the puzzling absence of any contemporary reference to a chandelier in the Assembly Room, the physical evidence described in Chapter III of this report leads inescapably to the conclusion that there was a chandelier in the eighteenth century. The most likely time for its installation would have been the early 1750's when the State House underwent a round of improvements including the erection of the tower and of the Library and Committee Room.

For the form of the chandelier we have one possible clue. There is in a private collection in Annapolis, Maryland, one arm of a glass chandelier of the period 1750-1770 which was exhibited in Long's Museum, Philadelphia, from about 1835 to 1885 as part of the original chandelier from the Hall of Independence. This history is plausible, though not provable.

We propose to illuminate the Assembly Room with a centrally hung electrified chandelier. For a more detailed discussion of the type of fixture, see the Furnishing Plan for the Assembly Room, Independence Hall.

The Supreme Court Room:

Lighting the Supreme Court Room must be done conjecturally, for we have neither documentary nor physical evidence to guide us. Since there were few, if any, evening court sessions, artificial lighting must have been minimal. It is perhaps significant that none of the court rooms portrayed in The Microcosm of London..., were supplied with chandeliers.
We recommend only that candlesticks be placed upon the Judge's Bench and upon the lawyer's table on the floor below it.

Central Hallway and Tower Stairwell:

Lighting in the central hallway is a public safety necessity. Happily, the investigations of architects Hartshorne and Nelson indicate that there may have been two hanging lanterns in this area in the historic period -- one at the arch leading into the tower, and another in the central arch of the Supreme Court Room.

Lanterns placed experimentally in these openings give just enough light for the visitor to see about him without destroying the eighteenth century effect.

For the south arch we suggest a mid-18th century English pentagonal frame brass lantern with clear glass panels. From English reference books we find that the interior fitting for a large hall lantern is much like a miniature brass chandelier, made to hold the required number of candles. Our hall light should have a simulated candle fixture of eight lights. The bulbs should be "candle flame" frosted, as available from North American Lamp Company, St. Louis, Missouri.

For the central arch of the Supreme Court Room, we suggest an octagonal mid-18th century English brass framed lantern with clear glass panels, this to be equipped to hold six electrified candles.

In the hallway and the stairwell supplemental lighting is required, as well as spot-lighting of the Liberty Bell. This is discussed in Chapter V.
Second Floor Landing and Lobby:

Neither documentary nor physical evidence has yet been found to indicate the manner in which the second floor landing and lobby of the State House were lighted during the historic period, 1775–1787. Negative evidence as seen in Chapter III, indicates that the lobby was not lighted by a centrally located fixture, nor was there a hanging lantern in the archway at this level.

All the original partition walls in the lobby have disappeared, so we do not have evidence of the use of wall lights, though this is a distinct possibility.

We recommend the use of a glass enclosed candlestick bracket, electrified. This was the solution for lighting a drafty hall in the 18th century. The position for this bracket is shown in Chapter V.

Council Chamber:

There is a tradition that when Richard Penn arrived as Governor in 1771, he provided new furniture for the Council Chamber in the Pennsylvania State House.

The only document thus far brought to light which mentions lighting fixtures in this room is an entry of March 14, 1777, when Colonel Timothy Matlack, secretary of the Supreme Executive Council, purchased from Timothy Berrett "for the use of the Council...." "1 Set of Plated Candlesticks 15.0.0" and "1 Pair Double Sconces 3.10.0." In this critical era, after the Declaration and shortly before the British occupation, the Council apparently burned as much "midnight oil" over Commonwealth problems as their conférences below in the old Assembly Room did over the problems of the confederation.
It is significant that in this period of inflation, and necessary economy on the part of the State, that silver plated candlesticks should have been ordered for the Supreme Executive Council Chamber. These were presumably in accord with the dignity of the new executive who had taken over the proprietary governor's office and its appointments. Whether the candlesticks and sconces replaced or supplemented earlier fixtures we do not know. In the absence of other information we propose to use electrified sconces and candles.

**Southeast Room:**

In the absence of any extant physical or documentary evidence for lighting devices purchased for or used in this room during the historic period, we propose to use live or electrified candlesticks on tables for visitor convenience.

**The Long Gallery:**

Charles Willson Peale, planning the lighting of his Museum in Independence Hall in 1802, initially suggested five glass chandeliers for the Long Gallery, but subsequently altered this to five metal patent chandeliers with glass inserts for wicks. This, it seems, was a latter day solution to a lighting problem that must have been faced by the Superintendents of the State House many years before.

The architectural evidence for the Long Gallery is discussed in Chapter III.
Beginning with a 1736 entertainment (before the room was even finished) we have frequent mention of social events in the Long Gallery at night at which sometimes hundreds of guests were accommodated.

We recommend that five electrified brass chandeliers be installed in the Long Gallery, centering upon alternate windows beginning with the center window.

The North and South Entrances:

In the historic period the north and south entrances to the Pennsylvania State House were lighted by bracket lanterns.

The lantern for the south door is shown in William Birch's 1799 View of the State House Garden, Philadelphia. The physical evidence for this can be seen in Chapter III. A change in doorways in the nineteenth century destroyed the physical evidence of a similar light above the north entrance, but its form can be seen in the documentary painting by J. L. Krimmel, "Election Day, 1815" (Winterthur Museum) and the engraving after it.

These lanterns should be replaced with electrified examples or reproductions.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

From the evidence provided in the foregoing chapters of this report, we can conclude that the Pennsylvania State House during the historic period contained both fixed and portable lighting equipment which was sufficient, in the eighteenth century, to make it possible to use the building at night.

To duplicate this real and conjectural arrangement and provide a limited amount of supplemental lighting will, we believe, effectively illuminate the building for interpretive purposes without creating undue hazards to the building and the visitor.

On May 10, 1966, temporary electrified fixtures were experimentally hung in two of the possible first floor locations suggested in the text of this report: the archway between the Central Hall and Tower Stairhall, and the center archway leading to the Supreme Court Room.

Glass walled lanterns were chosen as the type of fixture. Hallway spaces such as these were no doubt subject to strong uneven drafts, which would have extinguished any unprotected flame.\(^1\)

Eight simulated candles were used at the Tower Stairhall archway, and six at the center archway of the Supreme Court Room. The bulbs used were "Candle Flame," frosted, made by North American Lamp Co., St. Louis, Missouri.

\(^1\)Furthermore in 1804 it was resolved by the Philadelphia City Councils to "purchase a neat glass lanthorn, and have it suspended from the ceiling, in the most likely place, to light the stairs" in Old City Hall. This very likely followed earlier precedent for using such a fixture in an equivalent space. Minutes of the Common Council, Jan. 1803 - May 17, 1813 (MSS. Phila. Municipal Archives), p. 86
The light produced by the temporary electrified lanterns was judged from two standpoints: authenticity of light character, and providing the necessary light level for visitors.

The character of light was judged very good by staff members of the Museum Branch and Historic Structures. The bulbs produce a light very much like a candle flame, and in appropriate number for each lantern they and their glass reflections cast the kind of immediate brightness and uneven distribution portrayed by Pugin and Rowlandson in their early 19th century candlelit night view of the House of Commons.²

The light level produced is quite adequate for visitor traffic between these first floor rooms, remembering that it will be supplemented by individual candles on the tables of the Assembly Room and Court Room, and the chandelier in the Assembly Room. In the Tower Stairhall the electrified 18th century lantern illuminates correctly and adequately all the stairs up to the south wall landing. For the 18th century man, the lantern would have lighted his way safely to the second floor - largely due to the reflective power of the white plaster walls. For the 20th century visitor, however, it is agreed that low key supplemental light is necessary. We stress low key light so that it will not detract from the intended effect of the period lantern. We suggest that a small flood be directed toward the plaster ceiling from the east end of the second floor landing outside the railing. The intensity of this flood should be no more

²Opposite p. 189, Vol. I. The Microcosm of London, reprint of the original by Charles Scribner's Sons, London 1904. Our conclusion after examining early views and photographs of great European houses and public buildings is that great stairhalls were primarily lighted by exterior openings -- skylights or large windows. It is clear that the State House tower "Venetian" window was designed for this purpose. Where lanterns were used in these views, they hung lower than one would have expected. To tend them from a step ladder seems to have dictated the height.
than that produced by a 25 watt bulb -- the ceiling would then reflect enough light to be useful, but the visitor would be unaware of it as a source. Perhaps a double fixture can be designed to incorporate this small ceiling flood and a small spotlight focused on the north side of the Liberty Bell. On this same landing we propose to install a battery operated emergency light, which would be directed at the ceiling and light the exit route from the second floor.

In the second floor rooms we propose that the Governor's Council Chamber, the southwest room, be provided with electrified period wall sconces for which there is documentation. As the Long Room was used for evening entertainments, we recommend that five electrified period chandeliers be provided along the long axis of the room.

The Microcosm of London's early 19th century views of public rooms, show that where the function included evening use, lighting fixtures were provided. There was, however, a notable absence of fixtures where they were not necessary. Thus if the furnishing plans for the second floor southeast room do not document any 18th century evening use, then we suggest that only portable candlesticks be used where necessary.

The above mentioned 1804 City Council resolution for lighting the stairs and hallway of Old City Hall is also applicable for lighting the second floor Lobby of the State House. In addition to a lantern to light the Old City Hall stairs, there was to be provided "also a reflecting tin lamp, to be attached occasionally upon the partition at the head of said stairs..." Since the evidence in the State House second floor seems to
preclude the use of a hanging fixture, it is entirely possible that wall sconces illuminated this hallway and the stairs which lead up to the garret and steeple. We therefore recommend that an electrified sconce be provided for this room.

On the exterior of the building we recommend that electrically simulated oil lanterns on brackets be affixed over the Chestnut Street and Yard doors as they were portrayed by William Birch in 1798-9.

The accompanying sketch plans show the proposed locations of all period fixtures together with supplemental and emergency lighting.

It is further recommended that junction boxes be installed for the following electrified period lighting fixtures, which are listed below and schematically shown on the accompanying drawings. The installation of such junction boxes will enable certain phases of the restoration to proceed and will make it possible to introduce the actual fixtures at a later date:

1. Bracket lantern for north exterior doorway. Lantern to be attached to keystone over doorway. Junction box to be secured to bottom surface of old wooden lintel over doorway. Keystone and brick wall to be drilled for pulling wires from box. Junction box to be accessible by making new paneled transom (over exterior door) removable or hinged. MI cable to run behind interior woodwork and eastern pilaster to cellar in northeast corner of Central Hall (before hallway brick floor is lowered).

2. Bracket lantern for south exterior doorway. Lantern to be attached to architrave (below frieze) of entablature over the doorway. Weatherproof junction box to be mounted flush with architrave. MI cable to extend into building (thru masonry door opening) to secondary junction box in baseboard on south landing of Tower Stairhall.
3. Mid-18th century brass hall lantern for middle archway between Central Hall and Supreme Court Room. Lantern to be hung from rails at each side of paneled intrados. Small conduit to be installed between rail and masonry pier, and extend behind pilaster to junction box in baseboard below Supreme Court Room pilaster pedestal. Baseboard to have hinged access door so that "French" wires can be pulled through conduit when lantern is installed.

4. Mid-18th century brass hall lantern for archway between Central Hall and Tower Stairhall. Lantern to be hung from wrought hook screwed to south face of Keystone. Small conduit to be chased into plaster wall, extending vertically from top of Keystone to junction box in baseboard on top landing of main stairway, just east of doorway to second floor Lobby.

5. Mid-18th century English glass chandelier for Assembly Room. Chandelier to hang in center of ceiling, suspended from hanger between ceiling joists. Junction box and wiring was installed during restoration of Assembly Room.

6. Mid-18th century candlestick bracket (wall sconce) for second floor Lobby. Fixture to be attached to reconstructed west wall of Lobby. Fixture to be attached to reconstructed west wall of Lobby, about 6' above floor and about 2' south of doorway to Governor's Council Chamber. Conduit to extend from fixture to junction box in baseboard (directly below fixture), to provide for pulling "French" wires when fixture is installed.
7. A pair of mid-18th century English silver plated double sconces for Governor's Council Chamber. Fixtures to be installed on face of reconstructed wood paneling, one on each side of fireplace, about 6 feet above floor level. Junction boxes to be placed at floor level behind paneling (inside closets), directly below fixtures.

8. Five mid-18th century brass chandeliers for Long Gallery, English or Dutch in origin, consisting of two near identical pairs and a single near matching chandelier. Fixtures to be hung from Long Gallery ceiling as shown on the accompanying plan. Junction boxes to be secured to ceiling joists, above each fixture, for fixture connections, using "French" wire.

9. A junction box at the center of the Supreme Court Room ceiling to provide for a possible chandelier in that room.

10. A single receptacle for an electrified candle holder, to be surface mounted (near floor level) on the wood paneling in the northeast corner of the "Guard's Room" in the southwest corner of the Tower Stairhall.

11. A double receptacle for electrified candle holders, to be installed under a removeable or hinged access door in the middle of the floor in the Governor's Council Chamber (southwest room, second floor).

12. A double receptacle for electrified candle holders, to be installed under a removeable or hinged access door in the middle of the floor in the Secretary's Office (southeast room, second floor).

14. A junction box in the center of the ceiling of the Governor's Council Chamber, for a possible chandelier or lantern.

15. A junction box in the center of the ceiling of the Secretary's Office, for a possible chandelier or lantern.

In addition to the above listed period lighting, the following electrical equipment is recommended:

**Spotlights:** One special focused spotlight (for Liberty Bell) mounted between balusters on the third tread from the bottom of the western flight of steps in the Tower Stairhall. Junction box to be installed behind the third riser, with a hinged access door in the riser. One special dual spotlight (i.e. low intensity diffused spot for ceiling, and focused spotlight for Liberty Bell), mounted between the balusters, 6 feet-10" from the eastern end of the top stair landing (see drawing). Junction box to be installed in baseboard directly north of fixture, with a hinged access door to box.

**Emergency Lighting:** It is recommended that emergency lighting circuits be tied in with all electrified period lighting on the second floor, to eliminate the intrusion of modern emergency fixtures. Junction boxes for emergency lights in the Supreme Court Room can be installed behind the judge's rostrum, with the fixtures eventually mounted on the surface of the rostrum, aimed at the ceiling to provide reflected light into the Central Hall. Emergency lighting fixtures have already been provided for in the restored Assembly Room. One emergency light fixture is recommended for the Tower Stairhall, to be installed at the first baluster at the eastern end of the top stair landing, the fixture to be directed at the ceiling for reflected light.
Audio: Microphone jacks to be provided, 1) on the judge's rostrum of the Supreme Court Room, 2) in the fifth riser of the eastern flight of steps in Tower Stairhall (see drawing), and 3) the chair rail under the middle window sill of the Long Gallery. It is also recommended that the existing tape decks be moved to the eastern closet of the first floor Tower Stairhall to facilitate restoration of the "Guard's Room."

Switches: It is recommended that all switches for interior lighting be installed in a central switch panel to be located in the eastern closet of the first floor Tower Stairhall.

Receptacles for TV and general use: See accompanying plans.
Shelving for tape decks and amplifiers.

Existing audio speakers for tape decks to remain, but also to be tied into public address system.

Microphone jack to amplifier.

Glass chandelier.

Speaker jack on bottom riser each side of platform.

Brass lantern junction box on landing above.

Brass lantern (junction box at baseboard)

For electrical work completed, see NHP-IND 2401-B, sheet 7.

Electrical requirements determined when rear architectural features be made for at least:
10-20AMP single
3-50AMP
2-emergency lights
1-microphone jack
1-audio speakers

September 21, 1966
Lockable drawers / lockers for guides and guard's and a broom closet.

Switch panel for all lighting in 1st, 2nd floors.

Double sink / counter

Shelving for tape decks and amplifiers

Existing audio speakers for tape decks to remain, but also to be tied into public address system.

Microphone jack to amplifier

Brass lantern, junction box on landing above.

For Electrical Work Completed.

Switches for tape decks located ± 6' above floor on inside of door (south side).

Single receptacle in corner (near floor) for electrified period fixture.
Electrical requirements in this room to be determined when research is completed or architectural features. Allowance should be made for at least:

- 10 - 20Amp single receptacles
- 3 - 50 Amp
- 2 - emergency light fixtures to reflect off ceiling into Central Hall area
- 1 - microphone jack for audio
- 2 - audio speakers for public address system
KEY

- 20AMP single receptacles, 125 V
- 50AMP single receptacles, 250 V

Junction box
- microphone jack
- speaker jack
- ceiling fixture
- wall fixture

Switches for tape decks
- located ± 6'-0" above floor on inside of door (north side)
- single receptacle in corner (near floor) for electrified period fixture

Bracket Lantern

Lantern, junction in landing above

Junction box above, ceiling for possible future chandelier
Spotlight on library bell, and backlit spot to reflect off ceiling — 6'-10" from east wall. Emergency light.

Junction box for 12'8" beam.

Floor receptacle for period fixtures to be switched from main switch panel.

For Electric Work completed at East End of Second Floor. See NHP-IND 3401-B, sheet 7.

Five brass chandeliers and floor receptacle to be in common switch at main switch panel.

Speaker jack in baseboard. Microphone jack in chain rail.

September 21, 1966
Spotlight on Liberty Bell
and, local spot to reflect off ceiling - 6'-10" from east wall.

Emergency light

Floor receptacle for period fixtures to be switched from main switch panel.

Spotlight on Liberty Bell on 9th tread, junction box in riser.

For Electric Work completed at East End of Second Floor
See: NHP-IND 3401-B, sheet 7
2nd fl.

- Junction box
- Microphone jack
- Speaker jack
- Ceiling fixture
- Wall fixture

Floor receptacle for period fixtures and wall sconces to be on common switch from main switch panel.

Junction box for possible future chandelier in Supreme Courtroom

Wall sconces. Junction boxes for wall sconces to be inside closets.

Second floor emergency lights to be tied in with period lighting fixtures.

Speaker jack in baseboard.
Microphone jack on chair rail.
KEY

= 20AMP single receptacles, 125 v
= 20AMP single floor receptacles, 125V
= 50AMP single receptacles, 250V
= Junction box
= microphone jack
= speaker jack
= ceiling fixture
= wall fixture


Floor receptacle for period fixtures and wall sconce to be in common switch from main switch panel.

Wall sconces.

Junction boxes for wall sconces to be inside closets.

Second floor emergency
Safety, but not distinct from period lighting effect.

Recommended Lighting for Restoration of Hallways and S...
Low intensity, diffused spot reflecting off ceiling, to raise general illumination for visitor safety, but not distract from period lighting effect.

Spot lights installed 6' 10" from East wall
Emergency lights at East wall.
Diagram of Hallways and Stairs – Independence Hall

May 1966