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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART II

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

THE RUM SHOP

Salem Maritime National Historic Site

Prepared by
Norman M. Souder
Architect
October 1964

for

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
Division of Architecture

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A P P R O V A L S H E E T

RECOMMENDED

Superintendent _____ Date _____

Robert E. Smith
Chief, EODC, Acting _____ Date 10-22-64

APPROVED

Regional Director, Northeast Region _____ Date 12-10-64

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
I.	FOREWORD	i
II.	EXISTING CONDITIONS - EXTERIOR	1
	A. Walls	
	B. Roof	
	C. Fenestration	
	D. Chimney	
	E. Cornices	
III.	EXISTING CONDITIONS - INTERIOR	
	A. First Floor	4
	1. Crawl Space	
	2. Floor	
	3. Walls and Ceiling	
	4. Stairway	
	B. Second Floor	5
	1. Floor	
	2. Walls and Ceiling	
IV.	RECOMMENDATIONS	6
ILLUSTRATIONS		

I. FOREWORD

The Rum Shop, located at the corner of Derby Street and Palfrey Court, is a part of the historic Salem waterfront. It is back in its original location after having been removed to a site in front of the Derby House.

At present the building is leased to a concessioner as a shop and living quarters, therefore, it is not feasible to undertake a thorough architectural investigation or restoration at this time. Much of the present fabric is of later periods than the original construction. Any work attempted now must be in the form of stabilization.

Deterioration of the floor structure and portions of the exterior siding and trim make stabilization of these portions necessary at this time. Extension of the central heating system to include the Rum Shop is also proposed.

A thorough investigation of the building for evidence of the design of the original structure should be done as soon as it is possible. When the architectural investigation is completed it should be incorporated into a supplement to this Part II, Architectural Data Section of the Historic Structures Report.

The Part I, Architectural Data Section was prepared by Architect Walton Stowell and submitted for approval by EODC on July 15, 1964.

Norman M. Souder
Architect
October 1964

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS - EXTERIOR

A. Walls

The Rum Shop, a two story frame structure, approximately 46 feet long and 18'-6" wide, is covered with clapboards.

The present foundation is granite block. The building was moved from its site to a location in front of the Derby House. In 1938 it was removed to its original site on the granite block foundation. The original foundation was obliterated by the structure occupying the site in the interim.

The four corners are trimmed with plain corner boards. The Derby Street facade follows the line of the sidewalk resulting in side walls of unequal lengths. A cornice extends across the front of the shop above the bay windows, and appears to be older than the existing bays and entrance. An early photograph indicates that the existing bays and entrance are not original.

B. Roof

The existing roof is asphalt shingle. The original roofing material is unknown. The low pitch of the roof would suggest sheet metal rather than wood shingles.

C. Fenestration

The first floor of the Derby Street facade is a late

period alteration. An earlier view of the building shows the door at the left corner in line with the former stair to the second floor.

The existing eight over twelve light window sash were recently installed. The three light modern sash on the Palfrey Court side of the building dates from the installation of the bathroom.

Two bay windows and center door placed on the first floor front date from the ca. 1927 modernization of the structure by the Society for the Preservation of Antiquities. Before actual restoration to the facade is done, it is hoped that other early views of the Rum Shop may be found to facilitate restoration to its correct period appearance.

In addition to the front entrance there is a door on the Palfrey Court side near the north corner. This is also a recent installation.

D. Chimney

The brick chimney, set within the building on the Palfrey Court side, is a modern addition. Structural evidence, as well as charring of the structural members due to a fire, indicate that the chimney was formerly located in the west corner of the shop.

E. Cornices

The eaves are trimmed with a simple box cornice. The rakes of the gables are trimmed with plain flat fascia boards.

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS - INTERIOR

A. First Floor

1. Crawl Space

The crawl space is entered by means of a trap door on the first floor, located near the rear of the building, just inside the Palfrey Court entrance.

The crawl space at present is filled with debris and storage material. Before intensive investigation or repairs are begun the accumulation will have to be removed.

An earth floored crawl space extends the length of the building. Due to lack of proper ventilation the joists at the bearing points show extensive dry rot and powder post beetle damage. It is recommended that the earth floor be covered with a vapor barrier and two inches of concrete.

2. Floor

The flooring on the first floor is of random width boards, varying from 9 to 14 inches. The bathroom floor is covered with linoleum.

3. Walls and Ceiling

The walls and ceiling are covered with boarding averaging 15 inches in width. On the walls the boarding is applied horizontally. The ceiling beams have been boxed in.

The first floor interior is painted white and is divided into areas by the concessioner's shelving.

4. Stairway

The existing stairway in the west corner of the building is not the original. There is structural evidence that an earlier stair rose along the southwest wall from the former front entrance.

B. Second Floor

1. Floor

The flooring on the second floor consists of random width boards, varying from 9" to 14".

2. Walls and Ceiling

Except for the front wall and a portion of the northeast wall which have been covered by the concessioner, the second floor walls are the exposed post and beam framing and sheathing.

The roof framing is exposed, and both wall and roof areas are whitewashed. The walls in the west corner have been repaired with modern 2 x 4 studding.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations for the stabilization of the Rum Shop.

1. Repair and replacement of damaged first floor joists, including installation of longitudinal beams to support the joist ends and prevent further sag of the floor at the midpoint. All wood in crawl space to be treated with pentachloraphenol.
2. Installation of air vents in the foundation walls to reduce decay of structural members.
3. The removal of debris in crawl space and the installation of a 2" concrete floor slab over a vapor barrier.
4. Replacement of exterior woodwork as follows:
   Replacement of vertical corner boards; replacement of the south cornice; replacement of clapboards on west, north and east sides as required.
5. Installation of a heating system by extending underground supply from the central heating system to the Rum Shop.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

Photograph showing the condition of one of the floor joists along the east wall in the crawl space. The bearing end of the old joist is infested with powder beetles. The dark joist adjoining the old one is a recent addition.

Photo: National Park Service
Keuhn, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 180.18

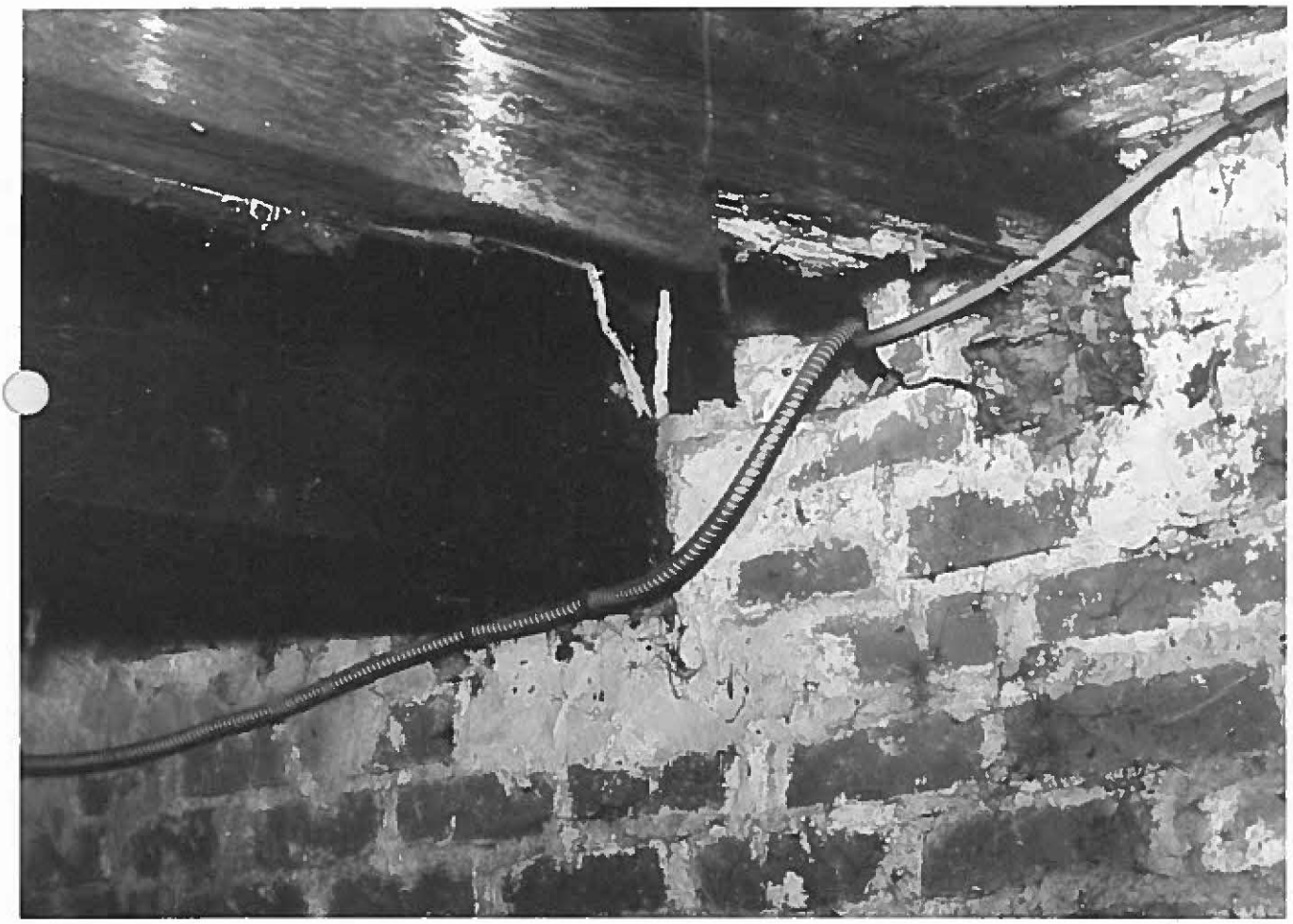

ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

The deteriorated condition of the joist and the crude patching of the floor support adjacent to the trap door framing near the rear of the building. The header framing the hatchway is at the right. Extensive repair and replacement of the floor framing is required.

Photo: National Park Service
Keuhn, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 180.19

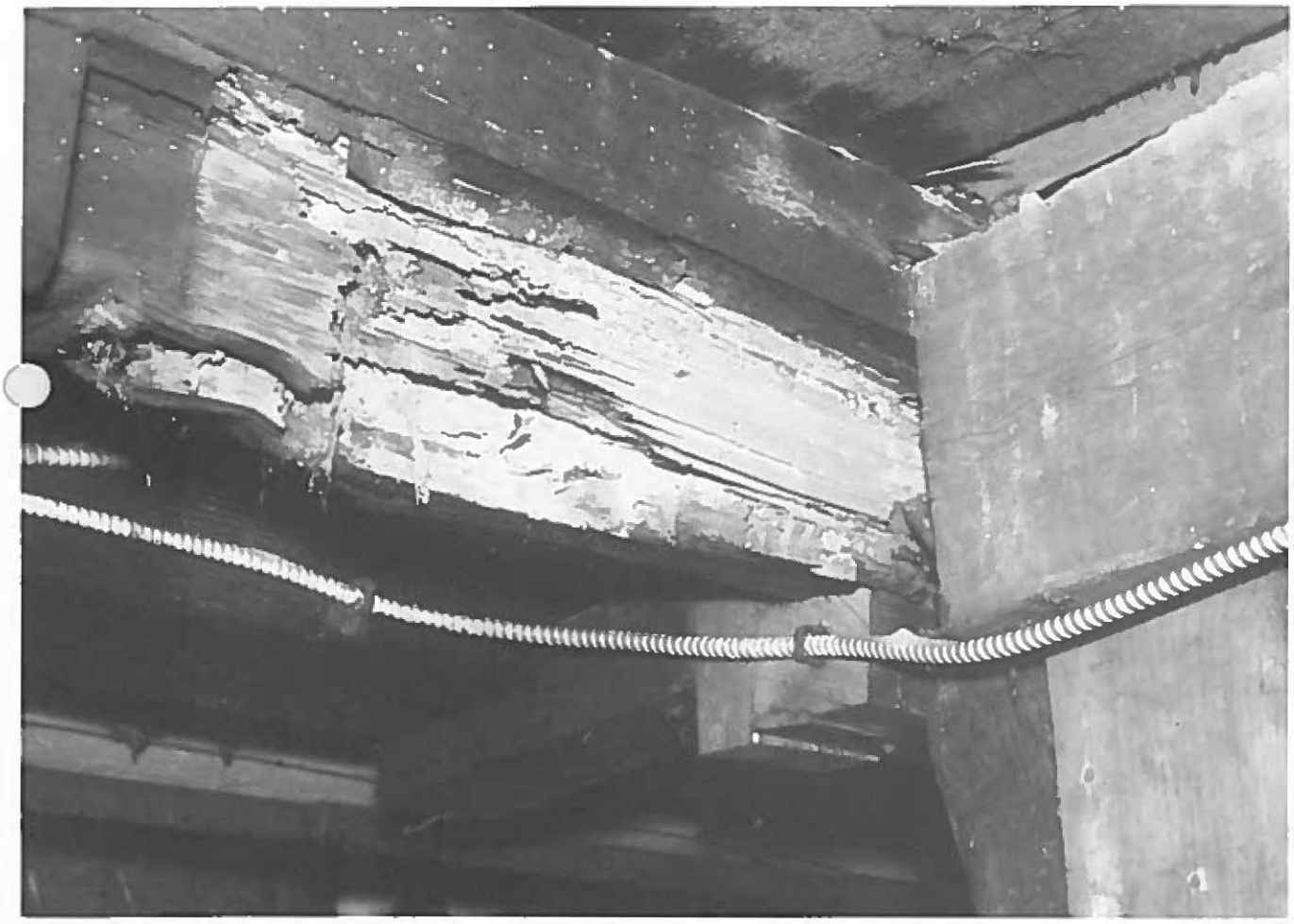

ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

An original post marking the second bay from the front of the building at the second floor level. The mortise indicates the location of a brace or girt. Further architectural investigation may show that this post marked the front wall of the original structure.

Photo: National Park Service
Keuhn, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 180.20

ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

A detail photograph of the west wall of the Rum Shop. The photograph shows the condition of the peeling clapboard siding and the window frame. The window frame is one of the few remaining original features of the building. Most of the existing frames are replacements.

Photo: National Park Service
Keuhn, June 1964

EODC Neg. No. 180.21