



NEWSLETTER

THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

Vol 9, No 3 June, 1965

SAH NEWS

President H. Allen Brooks, University of Toronto, has announced his appointments to the standing SAH committees. The Nominating Committee will be chaired by William H. Jordy, Brown University, with the following members: Richard G. Carrott, University of California, Riverside; A. Henry Detweiler, Cornell University; Henry Millon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Winston R. Weisman, Pennsylvania State University. Recommendations for the committee's consideration should be passed on to Professor Jordy, Art Department, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. The Book Award Committee, for the Alice Davis Hitchcock Book Award, consists of Thomas J. McCormick, Chairman, Vassar College, (Poughkeepsie, N. Y.), Carroll L. V. Meeks, Yale University, and Alan Gowans, University of Delaware. . . .
Reminder: This year's summer tour will be in Chicago, Illinois, August 19-22, with headquarters at the St. Clair Hotel. Co-Chairmen are Marion Card Donnelly, and Barbara Wriston, Art Institute of Chicago. . . . For the 1966 Annual Meeting in New York City, James M. Fitch, Columbia University, has been appointed Local Chairman.

CHAPTER NOTICES

Chicago At the Chapter's June 10 meeting, the following officers were elected: President, John W. Parker, Vice President, Norman Atwood, and Secretary-Treasurer, Joseph Benson.

Philadelphia On Saturday, May 15, eighty SAH members and guests enjoyed an all-day tour of the early architecture of Lancaster, Pa., as guests of the Lancaster Branch, AIA. The program, arranged by architect William G. Heim, and SAH members Gerald Lestz and Mrs. Richard Gerstell, started with a morning walking tour of the early areas of Lancaster, followed by a lunch at the Hamilton Club, where the Society was greeted by George B. Coe, Mayor of Lancaster, and other officials. After a slide talk on Lancaster County architecture by Gerald Lestz, the tour went by bus to the newly restored General Hand House, "Rockford," and "Wheatlands," President Buchanan's home. On August 28, the Chapter will be host to the Thornton Society of Washington for a tour of Philadelphia architecture.

ORGANIZATIONS

The First Ohio Conference on Historic Preservation was held in Columbus, Ohio, on May 14-15, sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society, the Architects Society of Ohio, the National Trust, and the Association of Historical Societies of Ohio. Among the speakers were several SAH members, including Charles E. Peterson, Stephen W. Jacobs, H. Roll McLaughlin, James D. Van Trump, and Robert C. Gaede. . . . Also held in May was the First South Carolina Landmark Conference, sponsored by the National Trust, in cooperation with several local historic and preservation groups. . . . In St. Augustine, Florida, from June 10-13, the Pan American Symposium of Preservation and Restoration of Historic Monuments was co-sponsored by the Pan American Union, the National Quadricentennial Commission, and the National Trust. SAH members among the speakers were William J. Murtagh, George Kubler, Mrs. Randolph Burgess, Ernest A. Connally, and Earle W. Newton, who was responsible for the organization of the meeting.

This summer the Historic American Buildings Survey, of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, will have several projects in the East to record historic buildings for its archives at the Library of Congress. A survey of the Southern Maine will be carried on by F. Blair Reeves, University of Florida, in cooperation with Ambrose Cramer, AIA Preservation Officer and other Maine groups. The project office will be in the Portland Museum of Art, John Pancoast, Director. In Lansing, Michigan, Harley J. McKee, Syracuse University, will survey central Michigan, working in cooperation with Richard Frank, AIA Preservation Officer, and the Michigan Historical Society, William Alderfer, Director, with an office at Michigan State University. J. William Rudd, University of Cincinnati, will continue HABS recording in the Chicago area, with the assistance of Earl H. Reed, acting for the national AIA Preservation Committee, and local organizations, particularly the City of Chicago. An office will be at the University of Illinois at Chicago. A small project in the Virgin Islands will be undertaken by Osmund R. Overby, University of Missouri, working in cooperation with the Virgin Islands National Park, and Frederik C. Gjessing, Resident Architect.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Joseph Watterson, FAIA, who recently resigned as Editor of the Journal of the A.I.A. to write and teach, has been named recipient of the AIA's 1965 Edward C. Kemper Award for significant contributions to the architectural profession. . . . The following SAH members were Honored by the American Institute of Architects with Fellowships at their Convention held this month in Washington, D. C.: Giorgio Cavaglieri, Joseph Esherick, Philip C. Johnson, Lee B. Kline, Arch Reese Winter, and Karel Yasko. An Honorary Fellowship was conferred upon Frederick Gutheim for "distinguished service to the profession" . . . Architects L. Bancel Lafarge and Edgar Tafel have been named representatives to the Fine Arts Federation of New York by the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter. . . . Wendell Cole, Stanford University, is on the Editorial Board of a new magazine, Theatre Design and Technology. . . . Henry Francis du Pont, H. F. du Pont Winterthur Museum, has received an honorary D. F. A. from Pratt Institute. . . . Richard H. Howland, Smithsonian Institution, received an honorary D. F. A. from his alma mater, Brown University. . . . Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., Pittsburgh, Pa., has been appointed Editor of the Pennsylvania Professional Engineer. . . . Necrology: Henry Edwards, University of Florida and Elizabeth McCausland, New York City.

PUBLICATIONS

The American Association of Architectural Bibliographers; Papers V. 1, 1965, under the editorship of William B. O'Neal, University of Virginia has been issued. This first hard bound volume includes "Henry-Russell Hitchcock: The First Thirty Years," compiled by James H. Grady and edited by Mr. Hitchcock; "Walter Gropius: A Bibliography, Part I," compiled by Caroline Shillaber; "Writings By and About Philip C. Johnson, Part I," compiled by William B. O'Neal; and "Early Virginia: Books and Original Sources," compiled by Frederick D. Nichols. Copies may be obtained from the American Association of Architectural Bibliographers, Fayerweather Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

Recently noted publications and articles of architectural history interest:

Three Towns, Copenhagen, 1965, The Royal Academy of Fine Arts. Traces the historical development of three Virgin Island towns - Charlotte Amalie, Christiansted, and Fredericksted from a planning and architectural viewpoint. Available from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Attn: Ole Svensson, Kongens Nytorv 1, Copenhagen, Denmark, \$4.00, postpaid.

Chicago's Famous Buildings, Edited by Arthur Siegel, Chicago, 1965 - University of Chicago Press. \$1. A photographic guide to the city's architectural landmarks, and other notable buildings, made possible through grants from the Graham Foundation and the City of Chicago.

F. Blair Reeves, "An Architects Treasure Island - A Saddleback Survey of the Significant Buildings of San Juan Bautista," in AIA Journal, May, 1965. p. 33-8.

Among the currently available publications from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., are several of the series "Contributions from the Museum of History and Technology": Philip W. Bishop, "The Beginnings of Cheap Steel" (1959) . . . Ivor Noel Hume, "Excavations at Rosewell, Gloucester Co., Va." (1962) . . . Robert M. Vogel, "Elevator Systems of the Eiffel Tower 1889" (1961), "Tunnel Engineering" (1964) and "The Engineering Contributions of Wendel Bollman" (1964).

Copies of the booklet prepared at the time of the 1964 August Tour, Portsmouth, N. H. (Architecture Near the Piscataqua) may be obtained from Strawberry Banke, Inc., Portsmouth, N. H.

The first comprehensive history of the historic preservation movement in the United States, from its early origins to the beginning of Colonial Williamsburg has been released. Presence of the Past, by Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., Principia College, with an introduction by Walter Muir Whitehill, has been published by Putnam.

EXHIBITIONS

The Irish Georgian Society has organized an Exhibition of Architectural Drawings, which will be held in the Municipal Gallery, Parnell Square, Dublin, this August and September, writes Desmond Guinness. A catalogue is available from the Irish Georgian Society, Leixlip Castle, Co. Kildare, at \$1.00

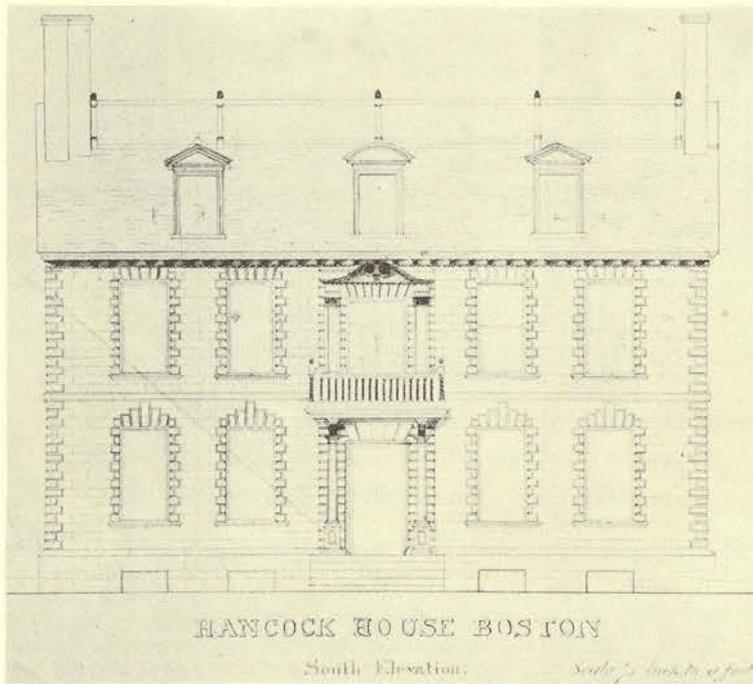
ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS - NEWS AND DISCOVERIES

by Moira Mathieson, Assistant Editor, Catalog of American Architectural Drawings

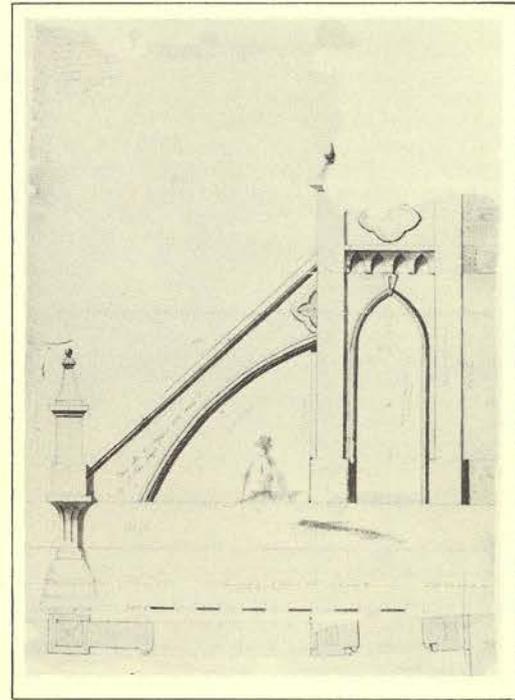
There has recently been a welcome new interest in architectural drawings in the United States. Among architectural historians, of course, the importance of drawings has always been appreciated, but this has not been so with many of the people responsible for the care of drawings. Even in some University libraries, architectural drawings receive very cavalier treatment - uncataloged and stored in rolls. In architects' offices, drawings of early jobs, which may date well back into the 19th century, are usually carelessly stored, and where drawings are in the care of the building owners they may have even less attention and their existence be completely forgotten. When work on the Catalog of American Architectural Drawings started in November 1964 the editors found several instances of owners of drawings who expressed great surprise when they discovered that someone was interested in these neglected pieces of paper and more than one prepared to treat them with greater respect in the future. Fortunately, there are many institutions where the value of architectural drawings has been fully appreciated. During the past few months several important new groups of drawings have been acquired or discovered and these notes attempt to cover some of this news.

The first in point of time is a superb set of drawings of the Hancock House in Boston, which has just been acquired by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. The house itself, one of the great Colonial mansions, was built between 1737 and 1740 by Thomas Hancock and was demolished in 1863. Happily, in addition to the drawings some details of the actual structure have been preserved, the staircase being re-used in a house at Manchester and two capitals and balusters from the stairs and roof railing going to the Essex Institute. This group of six drawings is probably the first professionally made set of measured drawings of a historic building in the United States. According to Abbot Lowell Cummings, Assistant Director of the SPNEA, they were made between 1860 and 1863 by architect John R. Sturgis and include four elevations and two floor plans. The front elevation in particular, here reproduced, shows the astonishing richness of the entrance with the balcony and window over it, unusual at so early a date. One of the Hancock house's claims to fame is that so many architectural features appeared in it for probably the first time in America. Fiske Kimball used one of the measured drawings showing a side elevation of the house and also the floor plans in his 1927 book, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic.

The Peale Museum of Baltimore not only has a fine collection of drawings but has been instrumental in saving many drawings from the public records which would otherwise have been destroyed, including one which is almost certainly by Robert Mills, dated 1814, of an unexecuted design for a battle monument at North Point. Recently Director Wilbur H. Hunter, Jr. learned of a small hoard of Maximilien Godefroy's drawings for the Chapel of St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. They were first noticed by a local contractor, Francis Cox, when he was working on the restoration of the Chapel and he told Mr. Hunter of a number of drawings, wrapped in brown paper and labelled simply "Drawings of the Old Chapel." The drawings will be returned to the Roland Park section of the Seminary, where they were discovered after microfilming by the Museum, and a description of them will appear in the SAH Journal in an article by Dr. Robert Alexander, University of Iowa, the Godefroy "biographer". The 20 sheets include drawings of the organ case, which no longer exists, as well as details of the exterior and of the columns, and a drawing of the cross for the Chapel. We illustrate one of the drawings of the



John Sturgis' measured drawing of the Hancock House, made between 1860 - 1863, recently acquired by the SPNEA. Probably the first such American drawings of an historic building. Photo: SPNEA



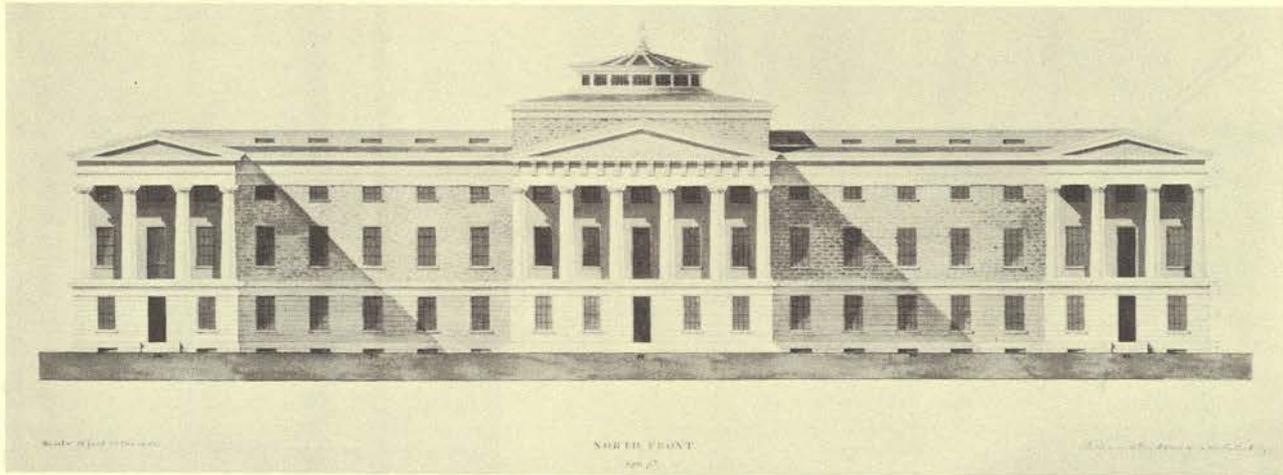
Drawing for the Chapel of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, by Maximilien Godefroy, 1806. Photo: Peale Museum

flying buttresses which supported the upper part of the facade. Godefroy left France after the rise of Napoleon to become, in 1805, the first professional teacher of architecture in Baltimore and possibly in America, when he was appointed professor of civil and military architecture at St. Mary's College. He designed the Chapel for the Seminary which, in spite of its name, has no connection with the College, in 1806 and it is believed to be the first neo-Gothic Church building in the country.

Among the totally unexpected drawings which have been discovered recently are a large collection of 1833-4 belonging to the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. Photographic copies have been made of 46 sheets by the Historic American Buildings Survey. The drawings include designs for a proposed extension of the main hospital building downtown and also for the Preston Retreat. A block plan shows the owners of the lots in the area between Eighth and Ninth, Pine and Lombard Streets, where the new hospital buildings were planned, and the drawings for these include schemes by William Strickland, John Haviland and Thomas U. Walter. The Preston Retreat drawings are by Thomas U. Walter, who was eventually responsible for the building at 20th and Hamilton Streets, as well as John C. Trautwine, William Kelly, John D. Jones, Thomas Stewart and Isaac Holden.

In Washington two other groups of drawings have recently been in the news and deserve mention. The first includes those prepared by Thomas U. Walter between 1858 and 1862 for the construction of the dome of the Capitol. All the drawings are signed by Walter and, with the exception of three sheets, they are being exhibited for the first time in the crypt of the Capitol and, with the addition of further show cases of explanatory diagrams and artifacts, will amplify and explain the model of the building already on show there. The drawings also include details of the pedestal of the statue and of one of the Corinthian columns in the peristyle, the coffering of the inner dome, and a section of the tholus with the interior staircase leading up to the base of the statue and drawings of the steel skeleton of the dome. Finally, there is a study showing the dome without the second stage; the high finish of this drawing suggests that it may have been prepared to show the effect of different designs. Not included in the present exhibition are three Latrobe drawings for the Senate wing which were recently discovered in the narrow gap between a wall and ceiling in that part of the Capitol and which have not yet been published. The second group consists of Alfred B. Mullett and Richard von Ezdorf's drawings for the 1871-88 State, War and Navy Building (now the Executive Office Building). These drawings are in the National Archives, but early this year a selection of them was mounted and shown at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of History and Technology, when it was possible to appreciate the great richness of the design. Ezdorf's drawings deserve to be better known and the exhibition should have served as a useful comment on the danger of plans such as that proposed some years ago, to alter the Executive Office Building to repeat the design of the Treasury Building on the other side of the White House, a proposal which was thought particularly appropriate because the plans of the two buildings are the same. A number of the drawings were reproduced in the General Services Administration's Historical Study No. 3 Executive Office Building (1964), along with the earlier schemes for the building by Robert Mills, William Strickland and Thomas U. Walter.

Perhaps the most important news is that Columbia University has just acquired Frank Lloyd Wright's personal collection of 122 drawings by Louis Sullivan from the architect's widow. Mrs. Wright transferred the drawings to President Grayson Kirk at a reception in New York last month. They will be deposited with the Avery Library, joining other drawings, books and manuscripts to form the largest collection of Sullivaniana anywhere. According to Avery Librarian, Adolf K. Placzek, this collection is the Library's finest acquisition, and offers important insight into the working of a great architect's mind. Sullivan gave the drawings to Frank Lloyd Wright in April 1924, only a few days before his death. Wright himself published 39 of them in his 1949 book, Genius and the Mobocracy, but the remainder have never been published or exhibited. The collection includes many freehand drawings for building ornament, the aspect of Sullivan's work which Wright



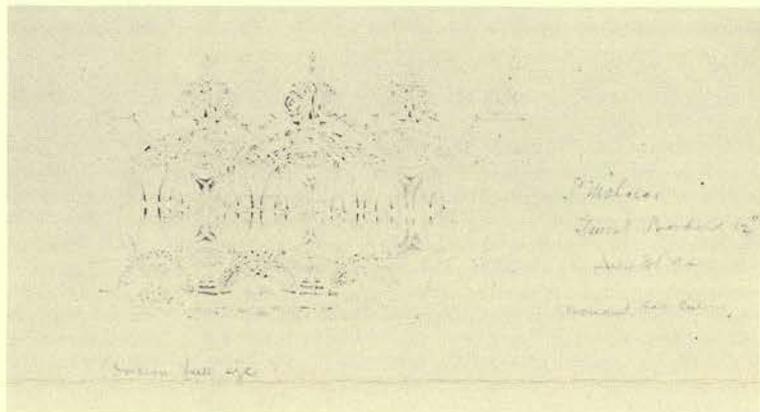
Unexecuted design by William Strickland for the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, c. 1833. Photo: HABS

considered the most typical and important. At a time when so many of Sullivan's buildings have been destroyed, it is particularly encouraging to have these drawings made available to the public. It is understood that Avery Library will arrange a significant exhibition of the drawings for the SAH meeting in New York next January. They cover Sullivan's early career, from the two years which he spent in Paris as a student through the period when Wright worked with him and his greatest buildings were designed. The earliest is an exercise for a fresco border, dated November 29, 1874 and there are a number of early sketches for the first McVicker's Theater in Chicago (1885), details for the Auditorium Building (1889) and for the carvings on the arch of the Getty Tomb (1890), for the Transportation Building at the Chicago World's Fair (1893) and the Guaranty Building in Buffalo (1895), as well as non-architectural subjects.

For the twentieth century, John Harbeson, FAIA, has announced that his firm, Harbeson, Hough, Livingston and Larson of Philadelphia will present their drawings by Paul Cret, to whose practise they succeeded, to the University of Pennsylvania Rare Book Library. The 300 drawings comprise the office files of Cret's work, as well as his writings.



Mrs. Frank Lloyd Wright presenting her late husband's collection of Louis Sullivan Drawings to Dr. Grayson Kirk, President of Columbia University.
Photo: Columbia University



Louis Sullivan's drawing of an ornamental detail for the St. Nicholas Hotel, St. Louis, 1894, recently acquired by Columbia University.
Photo: Columbia University

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Send the names of prospective members to Mrs. Rosann S. Berry, S. A. H., Box 94, Media, Pa., and a descriptive brochure (with application blank), indicating you have suggested them for membership, will be sent to each.

Name	Address
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