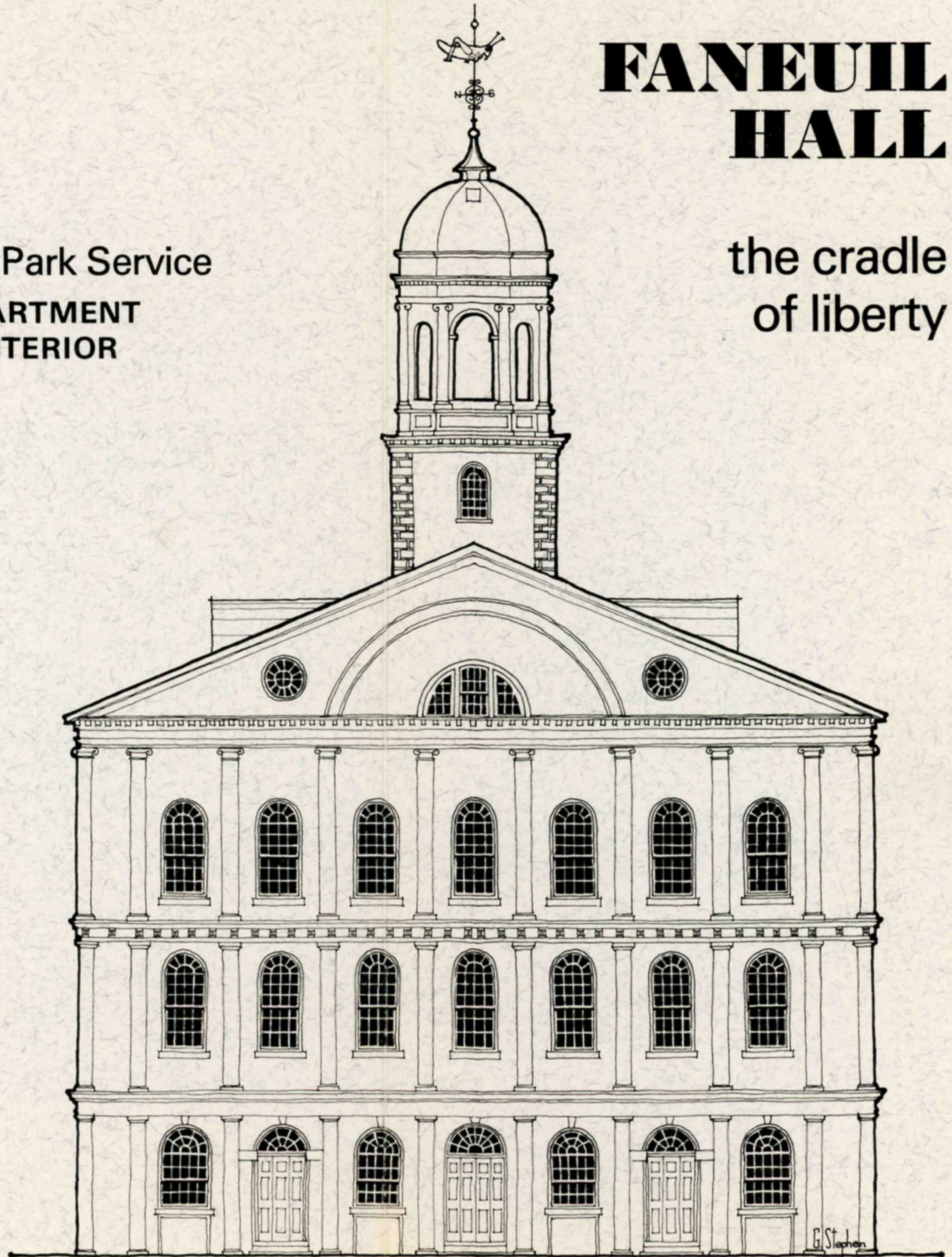




National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF THE INTERIOR

# FANEUIL HALL

the cradle  
of liberty



Boston National Historical Park

## Faneuil Hall — the cradle of liberty

Faneuil Hall was built in 1742 and given to the Town of Boston by Peter Faneuil, a wealthy French Huguenot merchant, for use as a public market house and town hall. For nearly eighty years the hall was the site of the Boston Town Meeting — the most direct and democratic of all civic institutions, and perhaps the most responsible for reaffirming in the people the principles of equality and self-determination.

During the decade and a half prior to 1775, no other building assumed a more important role in the American Revolutionary movement than Faneuil Hall. For it was here, under the leadership of James Otis, Samuel Adams, and others, that the town meetings became the center of organized resistance against British oppression. It was here, in the “Cradle of Liberty,” that the spirit of the American Revolution was born — “In the hearts and minds of the people” — long before the War of the Revolution began at Lexington and Concord.

The hall was rebuilt and enlarged to its present size and appearance in 1806 by Charles Bulfinch, Boston’s most famous native architect. Throughout the last century, Faneuil Hall was a favorite meeting place and popular forum for the advocates of humanitarian, political and social reforms, such as the abolition of slavery, Women’s Suffrage, and the Temperance movement. And today, just as the markets still flourish in the floor below, the meeting hall continues to serve as a market for the free and open exchange of ideas. Faneuil Hall stands today as a living memorial to the principles of resistance to oppression and freedom of speech.

Today, Faneuil Hall and six other historic sites on Boston’s Freedom Trail are included in the Boston National Historical Park. While the City of Boston continues to own and maintain the hall, the National Park Service is pleased to be able to provide interpretive and other visitor services on the second floor. The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts maintains their Armory and Museum in the top floor of the building. It is hoped that through the cooperative efforts of these groups, your visit to Faneuil Hall will be meaningful and enjoyable.

