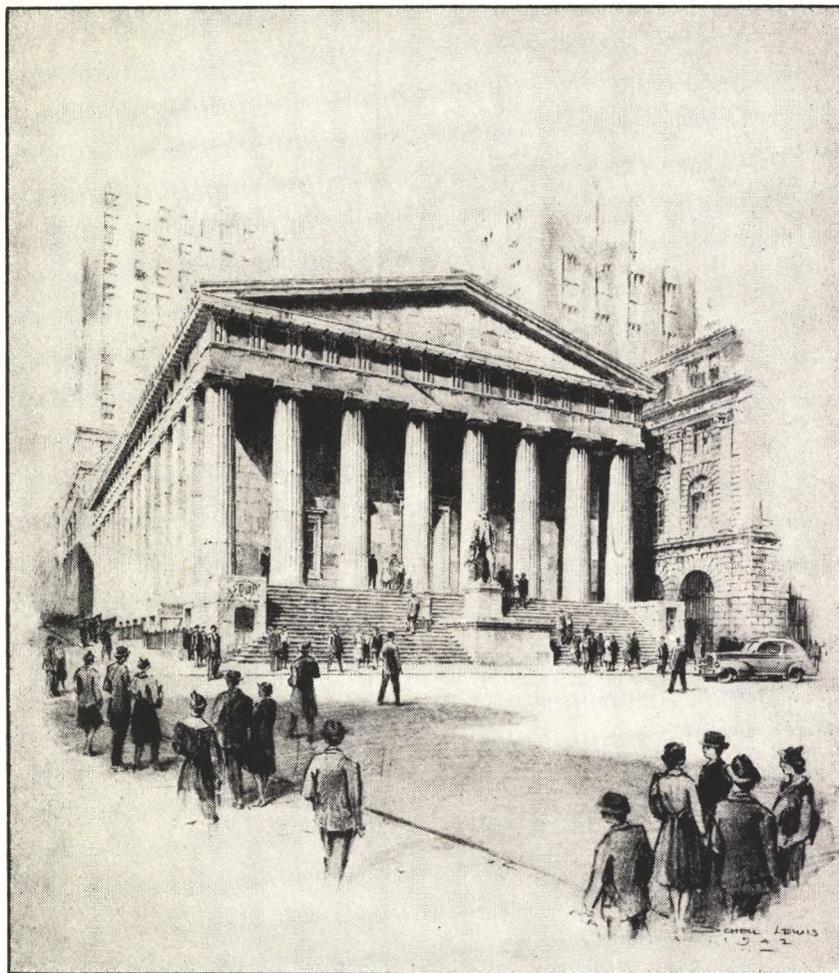


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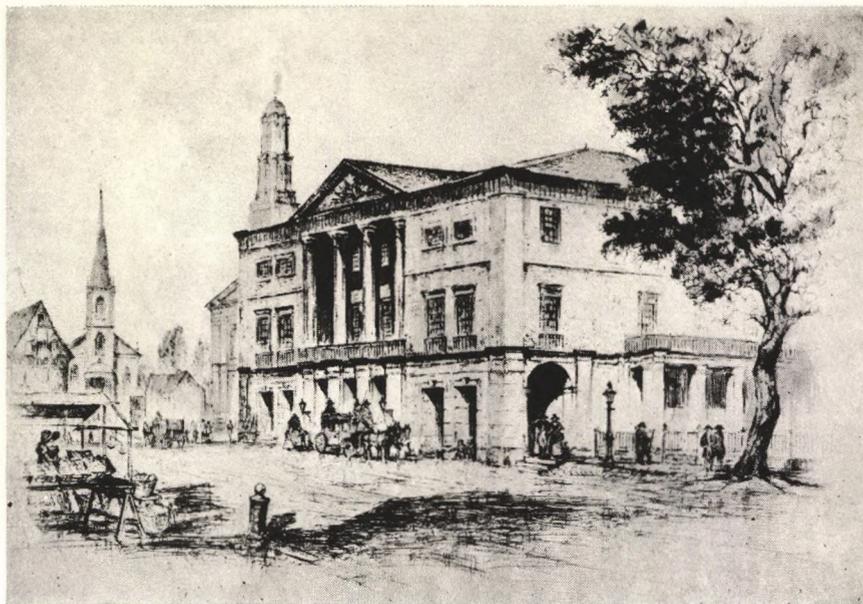
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Fed Hall projects fol



The Federal Hall Memorial

Seat of the Founding of the Government



FEDERAL HALL 1789

ANTON SCHUTZ

The Federal Hall Memorial



THE Federal Hall Memorial Associates were organized, as a body of citizens, to promote the reconstruction and preservation of the Sub-Treasury Building, standing at the corner of Wall and Nassau Streets, opposite Broad, for purposes of historic commemoration. They believe that it will be helpful, at this time, to publish an outline of their plans.

The Sub-Treasury Building, itself dating from 1835, stands exactly upon the site of the old City Hall, dating from 1699—which became Federal Hall, the first capitol of the United States, under the Constitution, and about which, for many years pivoted the great incidents of history within the city.

At this place and within the older building, the Government of the United States was established, and here it remained through its formative period. Here, on April 30, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the Nation's first President.

Though divested of its former important government uses, the Sub-Treasury continues to stand, not only as the destined memorial of all the great events that have passed on and about its site, but as the dignified and impressive center of the city's Financial District. Without it, Wall Street and its neighborhood would seem strange and different.

It is the purpose of this brochure to review the extraordinary events of history grouping about Federal Hall, to trace the story of the Hall itself, and to report the action already taken toward preserving its memories for all time.

To assist the student of history, there is appended a complete chronology of the two hundred and fifty years, through which the events covered have been distributed. The incomparable incidents of the Federal period are given, however, in greater detail and with more elaboration, in the pages immediately ahead. These are summarized also in a bronze tablet attached by the Associates to the building structure.

The Continental Congress in the Hall

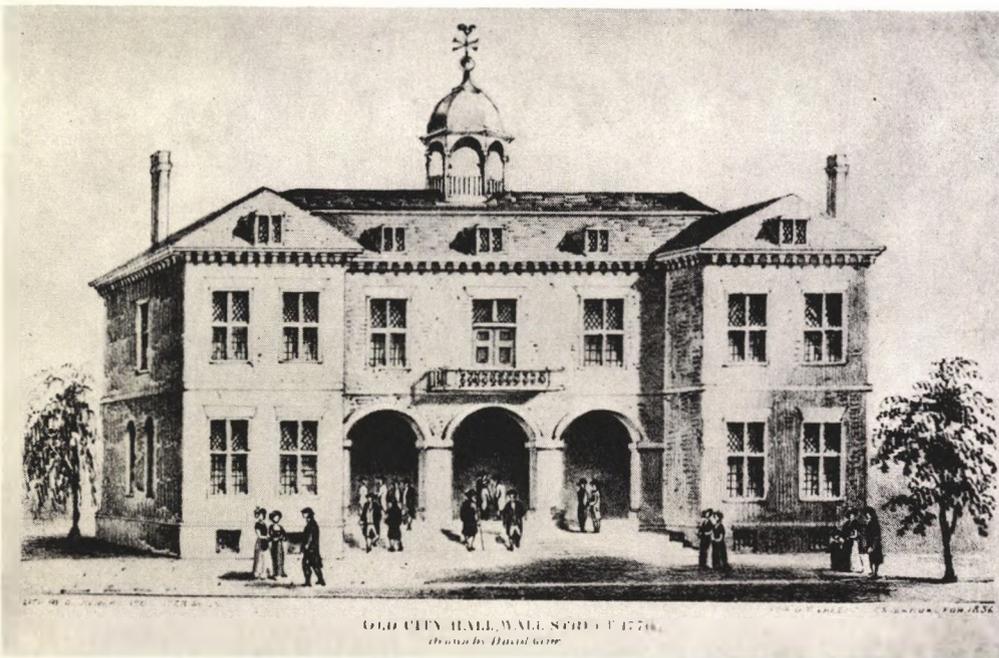
For nearly six years—from December 1784 to August 1790—New York was the Capital of the United States.

In 1784 the Continental Congress—then the national governing body—after moving its headquarters, successively, from Philadelphia to Princeton, to Annapolis and to Trenton voted to make this city its permanent seat, and proceeded to take up its labors here.

Coincidentally, it voted to accept the offer of the city government to place at its disposal, as its Capitol Building, as much of the City Hall “together with such other buildings as might be considered necessary for its accommodation.” Its occupancy of the old Building commenced therefore at once.

On September 18, 1788, Mayor James Duane laid before the Common Council the act of the Continental Congress designating the city to be continued as the nation’s Capital under the Constitution: The Council, thereupon, resolved:

“That the whole of the City Hall . . . be appropriated for the accommodation of the General Government . . . and that this Board will provide means for defraying the expenses of putting the same in proper order and repair.”



City Hall 1701-1788

The alteration of the Building was begun three weeks later, under the direction of Major Charles Pierre L'Enfant, afterward designer of the new city of Washington, whom the Council had appointed as architect.

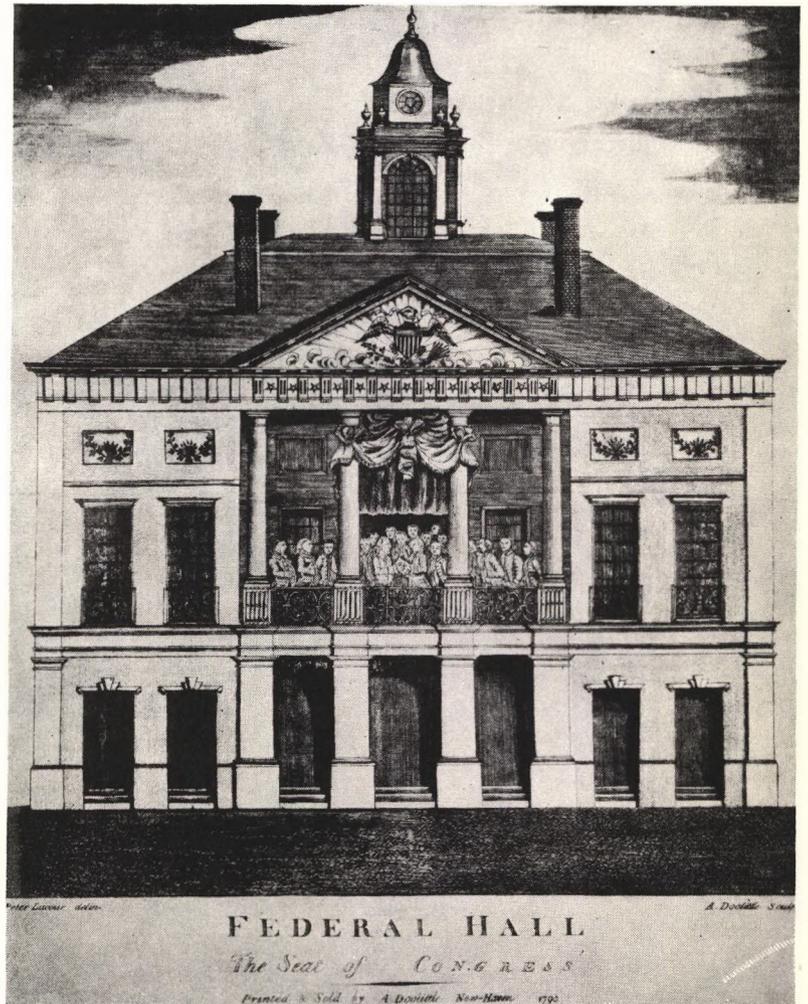
Under this authority, the Building was largely reconstructed, with new extensions at the northern end and a general overhauling of the interior. Among other changes made was the arcading of the second floor above the Wall Street sidewalk, leaving open the portico upon which, a few months later, the Inauguration was enacted.

The effect of the whole, notably in the designing of the two legislative chambers—for the Senate and House of Representatives—was rarely beautiful and well worthy of the part it was shortly to play in history.

It was thereupon first proclaimed as Federal Hall. The date for the assembling of Senators and Representatives was set for March 4, 1789.

The Election and Inauguration of Washington

The members, however, came in slowly, and it was not until April 6, 1789, that a full quorum was in attendance. The electoral votes of all the states were then counted, and George Washington was, by unanimous choice, elected President. It was April 23, after the formal notification at Mount Vernon, that he reached the city, landing from a barge at the foot of Wall Street. Here he was greeted in picturesque surroundings by both Houses of Congress, and by the Governor and both legislative houses of the state.



Inauguration 1789

On April 30, 1789, Washington was inaugurated as President, amid scenes of liveliest popular excitement. Dressed in brown homespun, and standing on the balcony of Federal Hall, facing a multitude that filled to overflowing both Wall and Broad Streets, and crowded the housetops, he repeated after Chancellor Livingston, the Oath of Office and kissed the Bible. The Chancellor waved his hat to the people and exclaimed: "Long live George Washington, President of the United States." Thunderous rounds of cheers were given, while the President bowed and then entered the Senate Chamber, where he delivered his Inaugural Address.

Before the end of the morning came the solemn procession of the entire company, afoot, to St. Paul's Chapel for the service of thanksgiving.

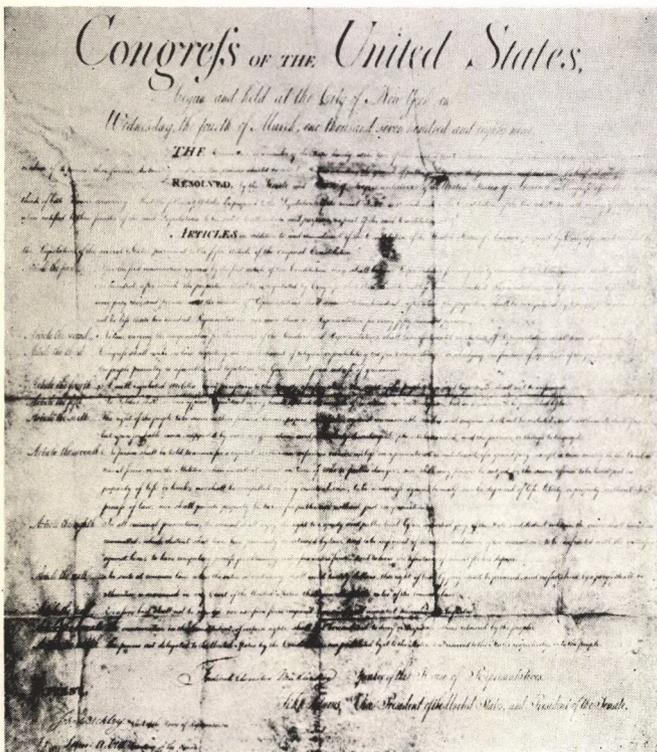
That day has been remembered as one of the most renowned in the history not only of America but of the world.

The Events Following

The events attending the foundation of the Government came in quick succession. First in order, the creation of the great executive Departments and the selection of their heads: Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury, General Henry Knox as Secretary of War, Edmund Randolph as Attorney General, and Thomas Jefferson, upon his return from France, several months later, as Secretary of State. Co-incidentally the organization of the Supreme Court with John Jay as first Chief Justice; and the submission and discussion of Hamilton's great Reports upon the financial and industries of the country.

In the Legislative Chambers, came the introduction and passage on September 25th, of the ten amendments to the Constitution, constituting the immortal Bill of Rights, and their submission—in communications signed by Washington, as President, John Adams, Vice-President, as President of the Senate, and Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House—for ratification by the States.

The long list of acts pertaining to the operation and first functioning of the administration followed from day to day. The Government of the United States had become an active reality.



Original Copy of the Bill of Rights

Washington and his Cabinet aides, as well as the leaders in Congress, from all parts of the Country, as the knitting together of administration and community proceeded, became distinguished figures in the daily life of the city, while the courses of Government followed freely on.

In August of 1790 the Congress, after a long parliamentary struggle, voted to establish, as the permanent Capital, the newly created city of Washington, thus ending the twenty months of New York's capital experience.

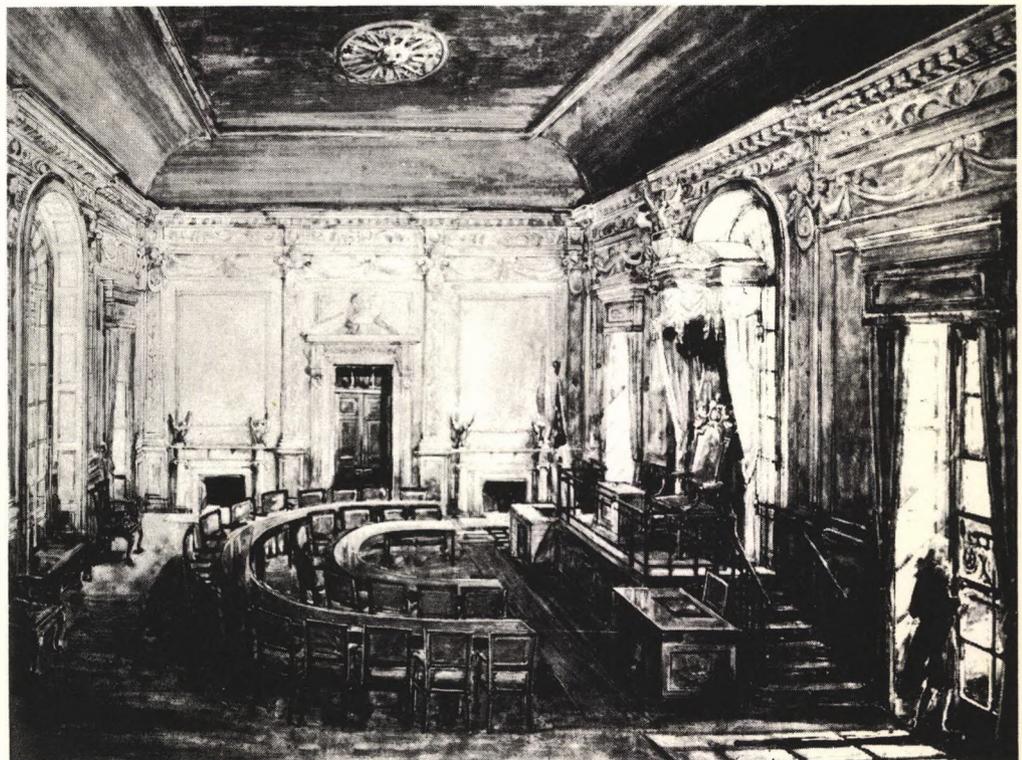
The Place of Federal Hall

A specific word as to the Federal Hall, as the Capitol Building: The "Second City Hall," which became Federal Hall, was the immediate successor of the ancient structure at 71-73 Pearl Street, first known as the "Stadt Huys" and later as the "First City Hall." This house was built by the Dutch West India Company, as a city tavern, in 1642. In February, 1653, the City Council voted to hold all of its sessions there and the tavern became an incidental accessory.

In 1697 the old Dutch Building was adjudged unsafe by the then British city rulers, and a Committee was appointed to pick a site and start the construction of a new and much more expansive City Hall. The site proved to be at Wall and Nassau. On the 12th of May, 1700, the Earl of Bellomont, Governor of the Province, wrote home from Boston to Johannes de Peyster, former Mayor, "I am glad the new Town House is so far advanced," indicating a commendable rate of progress in bringing the future Federal Hall into being.

In February, 1702, the first city departments moved in.

In 1753 the famous trial of John Peter Zenger and his triumphant acquittal, upon charges of libel, was held here, and the rights of a free press secured in America.



*Senate Chamber in
Federal Hall*

In 1754 a body of patriotic citizens established here the city's first public library, the "Society Library," still extant.

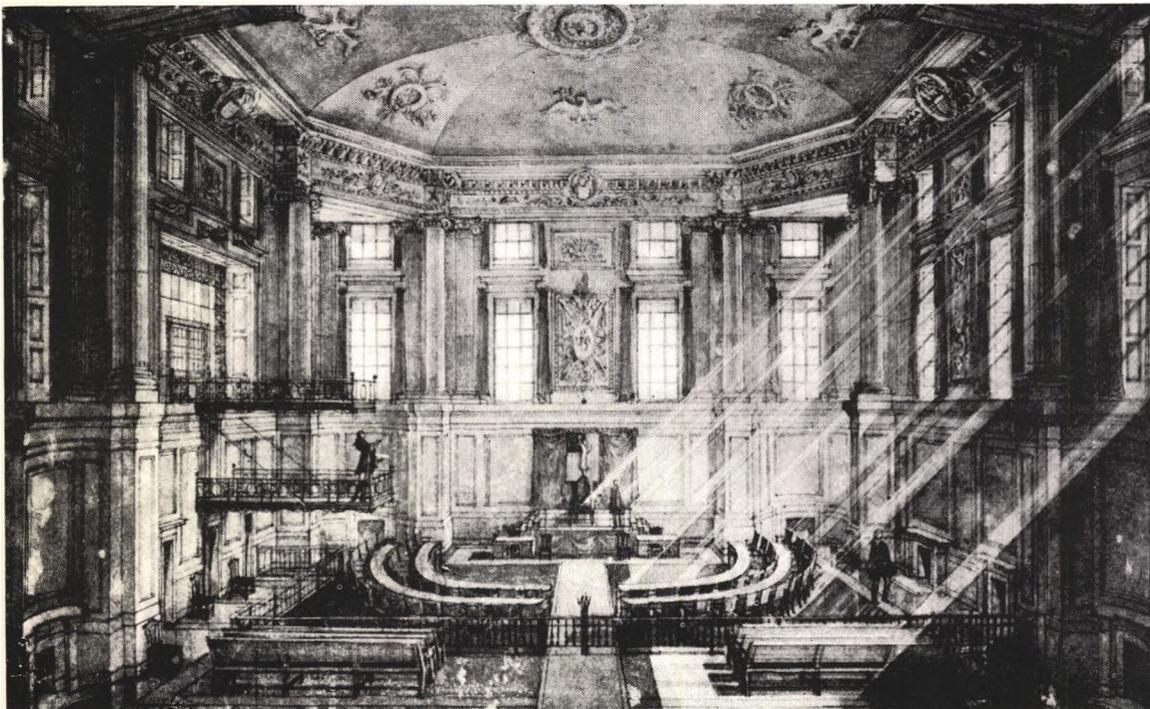
In October, 1765, the Stamp Act Congress, attended by delegates from all the colonies, was held here, and the first address to the British House of Commons was adopted, denouncing the Act, to be shortly followed by its repeal. Ten years later the famous "Tea Meetings" were also held here, leading directly to the calling of the First Continental Congress, at Philadelphia.

1784-1789

The interim action of the Continental Congress, during the period between its coming to New York, in December, 1784, and its displacement by President Washington's administration in 1789, covered many matters of outstanding importance.

Chief among these was the framing of the calls for the Annapolis and the Philadelphia Constitutional Conventions, the authority for both of which was voted in New York. The completed draft of the Constitution, prepared by the Philadelphia body, was in an incredibly short space of time returned to the Congress at New York and forwarded by it to the thirteen states for their consideration. When, in 1788, after the final adoption of the Constitution through the approval of eleven of the states, preparations were at once made for the occupancy, by the new President and Congress in the remodeled "Federal Hall."

On July, 1787, the North West Ordinance was enacted, under which the government of the territories north west of the Ohio River, comprising the five most populous of the modern midwestern states, was organized, with a clause, later added, prohibiting slavery within any part of the area.



*House of
Representatives*

The Final Phase

After the passing of what we have termed the Federal period, and on the departure of the Government on its journey South, Federal Hall was reinstated as headquarters of both the state and city governments, until in 1798 the one proceeded to Albany, while the other, in 1812, moved on to the "Third City Hall," the present structure in City Hall Park. Following these two further departures, the old Hall, after a hundred and thirteen years of service, began, literally to crumble, until it was removed wholly, to be shortly succeeded, on the traditional site, by the new Federal Buildings.

The new Custom House, the Sub-Treasury of later years, when in 1842 it was completed, was pronounced one of the most beautiful public structures in the country. It cost slightly over a million dollars, a great sum for that day. The building, as most New Yorkers know, occupies the entire block along Nassau Street from Wall to Pine—a greater ground area than that actually occupied by Federal Hall, though embracing the whole Hall site. Designed as a Doric reproduction, its lines are classic and its walls are massive. It served as the Custom House until 1862 when it became the Sub-Treasury and the center of the Government's fiscal operations in the East. From December, 1920, to October, 1924, it housed the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The Call for a Memorial

At various times during the past half century the erection in New York of a suitable Memorial to Washington, and the foundation of the Government, has been urged. Largely because of the domination of the Treasury Building and the constant flow of the current business transacted there, nothing came of any such proposal.

The single memorial contribution of note, wholly of private origin, was the noble statue of Washington, the work of the sculptor, J. Q. A. Ward, given to the Government by the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York on November 30, 1883, the centenary of Evacuation Day, and standing at the place of the Inaugural scene.

When, after the removal from the Sub-Treasury of all Federal business of importance, it became known that the entire ground area of the site, the assessed valuation of which was carried on the city's books at \$7,250,000, had been placed on the Government's real estate sales list—interest in the subject revived.



Washington Statue - 1883

The year 1939, bringing the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Inauguration of Washington, apparently altered this situation. The Government instead of disposing of its highly valuable property on a commercial basis, proclaimed through the Secretary of the Interior, at the meeting held on the Sub-Treasury portico, on the morning of April 30, that the site would be held indefinitely as a "NATIONAL HISTORIC SHRINE," the details of its use as such to be determined later. This action must be classed as fine and patriotic, and certainly as most encouraging, for it marked the first great step in the process of salvaging the property and conserving it for Memorial purposes.

Immediately afterward a definite movement for the use of the Building after rehabilitation as the seat of a permanent memorial began to take form. In May of 1940 the Federal Hall Memorial Associates were organized. Shortly afterward the Government, again through the Secretary of the Interior, made a general contract with the Associates, under which a large part of the interior of the Building was leased to them for twenty years. At the same time a promise was given to lease the remaining parts, as soon as circumstances might permit. In this state of partial possession by the Associates the Building stands today, apparently removed from danger, but awaiting its ultimate fate.

Plans of the Associates

The Associates have undertaken as their part of the plan ahead:

(1) To take over and use the areas assigned to them by the lease, operating in all of their acts under the able and highly intelligent supervision of the National Park Service.

(2) To start the new uses by establishing on the ground floor, a public Museum, devoted to Washington and his contemporaries, and open to the public. The popularity of this now operating Museum is evidenced by the fact that in the six years since it was initiated 745,555 visitors have been checked. There are over 1,000 separate objects on display, most of them on loan, and including the entire noteworthy collection of Mr. Messmore Kendall.

(3) To devise plans for the presentation to the Government for the reconditioning of the outer stone-work—parts of which have deteriorated—and for the complete alteration of the interior; and

(4) Generally, to secure the adaptation of the structure to full memorial stature.

At the outset, as they prepared to survey the physical and artistic qualities of the Building, the Associates secured the gratuitous services of two groups of Architects, Sculptors and others; the architects led by Eric Gugler, the sculptors by Paulanship. They have had the benefit, constantly, of the advice of these gentlemen.



ARCHITECT'S DESIGN
FOR PROPOSED SHRINE ROOM

The Development Plan

Plans now approved by the National Park Service and the Federal Hall Memorial Associates call for the restoration of the Rotunda or "Dome Room" as the central feature or shrine of the Memorial. This is by far the most outstanding room in size, architectural beauty and interest. It is proposed to treat this room as an exhibit within itself, preserved as a fine example of Greek Revival architecture. It will be a focal point to the museum as a whole, its beauty, dignity and simplicity setting the frame of mind of visitors.

Few changes need be made to the Dome Room. Few exhibits will be added. The central exhibit will be the great section of brownstone on which Washington stood in taking the oath of office. This will be placed in the center of the Rotunda on a block of fine, white marble, the whole enclosed by an appropriate ornamental barrier. Gilded inscriptions, quoting from Washington's inaugural address and other notable writings of the Founding Fathers, will ornament the walls. Appropriate stands of colors will be displayed between the four groups of columns.

For the large rooms in the rear of the building, on the first, second and third floors there are planned exhibits telling the story of major events and developments associated with this site during a period of over three centuries. One of these rooms, the west room on the second floor, has already been developed as a memorial to John Peter Zenger, who was imprisoned, tried and acquitted in the old City Hall on this site.

Other exhibits, still to be installed, will illustrate the meeting here of the Stamp Act Congress in 1765; the meetings here of the Continental Congress during its later years when it passed the Northwest Ordinance and other basic legislation and called the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia, and the meeting here of the First Congress under the Constitution in 1789.

Together with the inauguration of George Washington as the first President of the United States; the establishment of the great administrative departments of State, War, and Treasury; the creation of the Supreme Court and the office of Attorney General; the passage by the Congress of the first ten amendments to the Constitution, constituting the Bill of Rights, will make a dramatic historical exhibition. One room, it is planned, will tell the story of George Washington in New York, with emphasis on the beginnings of the great presidential office.

The Associates feel that they are preparing the way for an exercise of public spirit that will go far toward repairing the neglect and inattention that has deferred the fulfillment of a patriotic obligation for a hundred and seventy-five years. They trust that their efforts may meet with general public approval.



NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
**FEDERAL HALL
MEMORIAL**

SITE OF OLD FEDERAL HALL,
FIRST AMERICAN CAPITOL
UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.
HERE MET THE STAMP ACT CONGRESS,
THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY AND
THE CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATION.
HERE WAS ADOPTED
THE NORTHWEST ORDINANCE.
ON THIS SITE, IN 1789,
WASHINGTON WAS INAUGURATED AND
THE CONGRESS, THE CABINET AND
THE SUPREME COURT WERE ORGANIZED.
HERE CONGRESS ADOPTED
THE BILL OF RIGHTS.
ON MAY 26, 1939, THIS SITE AND
THE BUILDING NOW STANDING UPON IT
WERE ESTABLISHED IN PERPETUITY
AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SHRINE.

ERECTED 1940 BY
FEDERAL HALL MEMORIAL
ASSOCIATES

NATIONAL
PARK
SERVICE



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Federal Hall Chronology

- 1697-99 Erection authorized as the "Second City Hall," successor to the Dutch *Stadt-Huys* of 1642.
- 1700 *February 4*—First use by Court of General Sessions.
- 1735 *August 5*—Trial of John Peter Zenger for libel; his exoneration, won by Andrew Hamilton of the Philadelphia bar, establishing freedom of the press in America.
- 1754 *October 21*—Opening of the First Public Library in the city—the "New York Society" Library, still extant.
- 1765 *October 7*—The Stamp Act Congress assembled, sitting for three weeks and resulting in the address and petition to the House of Commons that brought about repeal of the act.
- 1773 *December 18*—The great "Tea Meetings" and adoption of the resolutions first calling for a Continental Congress.
- 1776-83 Occupation by the British and desecration of the Hall.
- 1783 *November 25*—British evacuation and reestablished American possession of the Hall.
- 1783 *November 25*—Council of the Southern District of New York—called by Governor Clinton.
- 1783 *December 15*—Establishment of New York, as the first American city chartered after the war; Senator James Duane appointed Mayor.
- 1701-85 Throughout this period used as Government House both of the city, and the State.
- 1785 *January 11*—The *CONTINENTAL CONGRESS*, first meeting held in New York.
- 1787 *February 21*—Resolution by the Congress, calling for the Federal Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia, and providing for the selection of delegates from the states.
- 1787 *July 15*—Adoption by the Continental Congress of the "North West" Ordinance, organizing and providing a government for the Territory west of the Ohio, now comprising the five great Mid-Western States.
- 1787 *September 28*—Completed Federal Constitution transmitted to the State Legislatures for ratification.
- 1788 *September 17*—Common Council, following the selection of New York as the first Capital of the United States, offers the City Hall as the first Capitol Building.
- 1789 *March 4*—The new Constitutional Congress called into session.
- 1789 *April 6*—The first session held, and the electoral votes received and counted, showing the unanimous choice of George Washington as President.
- 1789 *April 23*—Washington arrived in the city, disembarking at the foot of Wall Street on the East River.
- 1789 *April 30*—The *inauguration* of Washington. The memorable inaugural Thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Chapel.
- 1789 *July 27*—By Congressional enactment, the Department of State created; placed under the direction of Thomas Jefferson as Secretary, upon his return from France, several months later.
- 1789 *August 6*—The first bill was passed by Congress, the general revenue bill, after which John Lamb was appointed first Collector of the Port of New York.

- 1789 *August 7*—Department of War created, and General Henry Knox, on September 12, appointed Secretary.
- 1789 *September 2*—The Treasury Department created and Alexander Hamilton, on September 11, appointed Secretary.
- 1789 *September 24*—The Supreme Court of the United States created, with John Jay, on September 26, appointed the first Chief Justice.
- 1789 *September 25*—The Bill of Rights adopted, fourteen copies of which were on September 28, engrossed, signed by President Washington, Vice-President Adams as President of the Senate, and Frederick Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House, and transmitted by the President to the Legislatures of the states for ratification. The eleventh of the states, including Vermont, ratified on December 15, 1791, making the ten constitutional amendments comprising the Bill of Rights, from that date, part of the fundamental law.
- 1790 *April 10*—The first patent law and on May 31, the first copyright law enacted.
- 1790 *July 5*—The President authorized to purchase land for the Military Academy at West Point.
- 1790 *July 16*—The City of Washington, still to be constructed, chosen as the permanent Capital.
- 1790 *August 4*—The Coast Guard created.
- 1790 *August 13*—The last Congressional event at the Hall—the ratification of the Creek Indian Treaty, with representatives of the tribe, led by Col. Alexander McGillivray, in attendance, and President Washington as their host.
- 1790 *August 30*—President Washington left the city, departing again by barge to New Jersey, from Macombs private wharf, 39 Broadway.
- The occupancy of the Hall again reverted to the City and State Governments.
-
- 1796 *November* —The *State Legislature* met for the last time at Federal Hall, departing for the new Capitol at Albany.
- 1804 *November 20*—The New York Historical Society founded, in the Picture Gallery.
- 1807 *November 17*—As the result of negotiations conducted at the Hall, and through concerted action of the Federal and city governments, provision was made for the construction of new fortifications for the protection of the city, at the Battery, replacing the old Dutch and English fort, torn down in 1790. Land for the new "Battery," later named "Castle Clinton," for the Mayor, DeWitt Clinton, was ceded to the Government and work begun.
- 1811 *August 12*—The New York City Government moved to the present City Hall.
- 1812 *May 13*—The old Hall sold and the structure moved by August 10.
- 1816 *May 13*—The site re-acquired by the United States Government for the Temporary Custom-House.
- 1832 *May 13*—Plans for the permanent Custom-House—announced by the Secretary of the Treasury.
- 1842 *February 23*—Occupation of the new Federal Building.
- 1862 —Moving of the Custom-House to lower Wall Street and re-designation of the earlier building as the Sub-Treasury.
-
- 1939 *April 30*—The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the beginnings of the Federal Government—with the proclamation of the site and building as a National Historic Shrine.



Federal Hall Memorial Associates, Inc.

FEDERAL HALL NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Wall and Nassau Streets

New York 5, N. Y.

Digby 4-3830

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