



Historic Furnishings Report
SALEM MARITIME
THE SALEM CUSTOM HOUSE
National Historic Site/Massachusetts

HISTORIC FURNISHINGS REPORT
THE SALEM CUSTOM HOUSE
SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

by
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PREFACE

An Analysis of Historic Occupancy section was not written for this report. Previous documents already cover the subject matter: the Historic Data Section of the Custom House Historic Structure Report by Charles W. Snell (1977) and the Historic Structure Report Architectural Data Section by Orville W. Carroll (1977).

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

The Salem Custom House is part of the original Salem Maritime National Historic Site established in 1937 by an act of legislation to preserve and interpret the rich maritime heritage of the port of Salem. Entered on the List of Classified Structures as number 01257, the structure is designated management category A, Must Be Preserved. The Salem Custom House is also listed in the National Register.

Previous planning documents relevant to the structure:

Scope of Collections, Salem Maritime National Historic Site (1986)

Master Plan, Salem Maritime National Historic Site (1978)

Historic Structure Report, U.S. Custom House and Bonded Warehouse at Salem, Historic Data Section, Salem Maritime National Historic Site (1977)

Historic Structure Report, The Custom House-Bonded Warehouse, Architectural Data Section, Salem Maritime National Historic Site (1977)

Interpretive Plan, Salem Maritime National Historic Site (1973)

OPERATING PLAN

Three rooms in the Salem Custom House are recommended for refurnishing which include the first floor Collector's Business Office and the second floor Collector's Private Office and Room.

On the first floor visitors will have access through the Business Office to the rear Document Room. A barrier will prevent visitors from going behind the business counter.

On the second floor visitors will view the Collector's Private Office from the front hall doorway; likewise the Collector's Private Room from the rear stairway door. For both rooms a barrier will be placed about three feet inside the room to allow visitors an adequate view.

The Division of Historic Furnishings, Harpers Ferry Center will be responsible for acquiring and installing all original and reproduction items needed to supplement the Custom House collections. The North Atlantic Preservation Office will be responsible for paint and trim for the Custom House interiors reflecting a pre-1937 appearance.

HISTORICAL DATA

EVIDENCE OF ROOM USE AND FURNISHINGS

Chapter I - 1819-1853

The majestic Salem Custom House, built 1818-1819 in the classical Federal style was the center of U.S. Treasury Department Custom operations for the Salem district for more than 118 years. The port of Salem, with the Salem Custom House as its focal point, played a prominent role in the mercantile and maritime history of the United States, especially in the late 18th and early 19th century.

The Custom House interior finishes were not completed in the initial construction of 1819 due to cost overruns. The entire first floor was finished, but only one room on the second floor, the southeast Collector's Private Office received interior finishes.¹ The other three second floor rooms remained in an unfinished state lacking plaster, woodwork, and paint until 1854.

Our knowledge of the early furnishings in the Custom House is sketchy at best. Very little evidence has been uncovered and references indicate that most, if not all, of the furnishings were privately owned by the Custom House employees.

The earliest Custom records found for Salem date to 1772, when Custom collection was performed by English agents for His Majesty's government. An inventory lists furnishings used, and although from an earlier period than the 1819 Custom House and operated by a different government, the document is a valuable resource. Listed are a large bookcase, a chest for papers, large desk, four chairs, fire tools, three joined stands, oval table, and a case for papers with lock. Also listed were money scales, stationery, seals, and marking tools.²

An inventory dated 1799 for the Salem Custom House is our first reference to the operation as conducted by the U.S. Treasury Department. Although still not a reference to the 1819 buildings, the inventory is valuable because it indicates that the U.S. Government provided the tools and equipment needed to perform the duties of revenue collection, but not furniture. Listed are lead weights, steelyards, boats and sail, oars, hydrometers, thermometers, iron brands, money scales, measures, ensign and pendant, but no chairs, desks, or stationery.³

Following construction of the Custom House in 1819, furniture was moved from the old Custom House to the new. On July 31, 1819, the Collector paid the firm of Alden and Ames "for carting three loads of furniture from the old Custom House to the new at \$1.50 per load."⁴ Most of this furniture was likely the private property of Custom House employees, and not government property.

On October 11, 1819, a Franklin fireplace was purchased for \$11 and installed, along with a "soapstone back log" and fire grate for \$5.⁵ Later, on March 2, 1820, the Collector purchased two iron fire fenders from William Ropes for \$10.⁶ Exactly where these items were installed is unknown, but the most likely rooms are the second floor Collector's Private Office or the first floor Collector's Business Office.

Additional acquisition records record the purchase of tools, instruments, and stationery. On December 1, 1820, a hydrometer was purchased from Ebenezer Bowditch for \$12, and on June 24, 1820, a supply of stationery including manifests and permits was purchased from Warwick Palfray by Collector Wm. Lee.⁷

A "Book of Forms, of Accounts, Abstracts, Returns & etc" dated 1820 found in the Essex Institute Custom House papers includes many of the standard printed office forms used by the Custom Service, including the standard form for Return of Public Property, i.e., inventory. The full title reads "Lists of the Public Property remaining in the district of _____ in the State of _____ on the 31st December,

Illustration 1.

"List of the Public Property" form for use by Custom House Collectors, 1820.

LIST of the Public Property remaining in the district of _____ in the state of _____ on the 31st December, in the year _____ exclusive of the forms and instructions furnished from the Treasury Department, for conducting the public business, and of Cash and Custom House bonds.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTICLES.	IN WHOSE CHARGE PLACED.	REMARKS.
3 strikes, 2 pair of coal tubs, 12 half bushels,	Under care of <i>Measurer.</i>	
13 triangles, 10 beams, 25 dishes, 104 chains, 7 levers, 400 fifty-six pound weights, 3 twenty-eight, two fourteen pound weights,	Under care of <i>Weigher.</i>	
One Revenue Boat, oars, volumes of laws of the United States,	Under charge of the collector.	
One thermometer, One hydrometer, volumes of laws of the United States,	In the care of the surveyor, or inspector of the revenue.	
volumes of laws of the United States,	In the care of the naval officer.	

Collector's Office, District of _____

A. B. Collector.

in the year ____, exclusive of the forms and instructions furnished from the Treasury Department for conducting the public business, and of Cash and Custom House bonds."⁸ On this form are standard printed entries for measuring and weighing devices, boats, oars, thermometers, hydrometers, and volumes of Laws of the United States. No entries were printed for furniture or supplies, presumably because the Treasury Department owned little or none during this period.

A 1837 Salem Directory lists a total of 24 employees in the Salem Custom House, including: Collector, Deputy Collector, Naval Officer, Deputy Naval Officer, Surveyor, 6 Weigher and Gaugers, 11 Inspectors and 2 Boatmen.⁹ Salem at this time was obviously a very active port of entry.

The most famous employee of the Salem Custom House was undoubtedly novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne, who served as Port Surveyor from 1846 to 1849. Hawthorne occupied the first floor southwest room, and wrote of the Custom House, its officers, furnishings and general condition in his most famous work The Scarlet Letter (1850). He referred to his own office on the first floor as "cobwebbed and dingy with old paint; its floor is strewn with gray sand, in a fashion that has elsewhere fallen into long disuse . . . it is easy to conclude, from the general slovenliness of the place, that this is a sanctuary into which womankind, with her tools of magic, the broom and mop, has very infrequent access. Hawthorne went on to describe "in the way of furniture [his office] there is a stove with a voluminous funnel, an old pine desk with a three-legged stool beside it, two or three wooden bottom chairs, exceedingly decrepit and infirm; and--not to forget the library--on some shelves, a score or two of volumes of the Acts of Congress, and bulky Digest of the Revenue Laws. A tin pipe ascends through the ceiling and forms a medium of vocal communication with other parts of the edifice."¹⁰

Hawthorne described the Collector, General James Miller, a hero in the War of 1812 "as much out of place [here] as an old sword . . . among the inkstands, paper folders, and mahogany rulers on the Deputy Collector's desk."¹¹ Later, he described the rooms on the second floor

as unfinished without plaster or paneling because of cost overruns during the construction of 1818-19.

A floor plan of the Salem Custom House drawn by Charles A. Putnam March 14, 1853, shows the first floor room assignments and dimensions (Illustration 2). The Collector's Business Office was split into two rooms at this time, with a floor safe shown in the southeast corner of the smaller northeast room. The safe rested directly over a brick arch built in the basement to support the extra weight. No fireproof closet mentioned in the original 1818 Custom House plans is evident. The surveyor occupied the first floor southwest room, and the weigher and gaugers, the northwest room.¹²

Floor Plan and Room Assignments 1818-1853

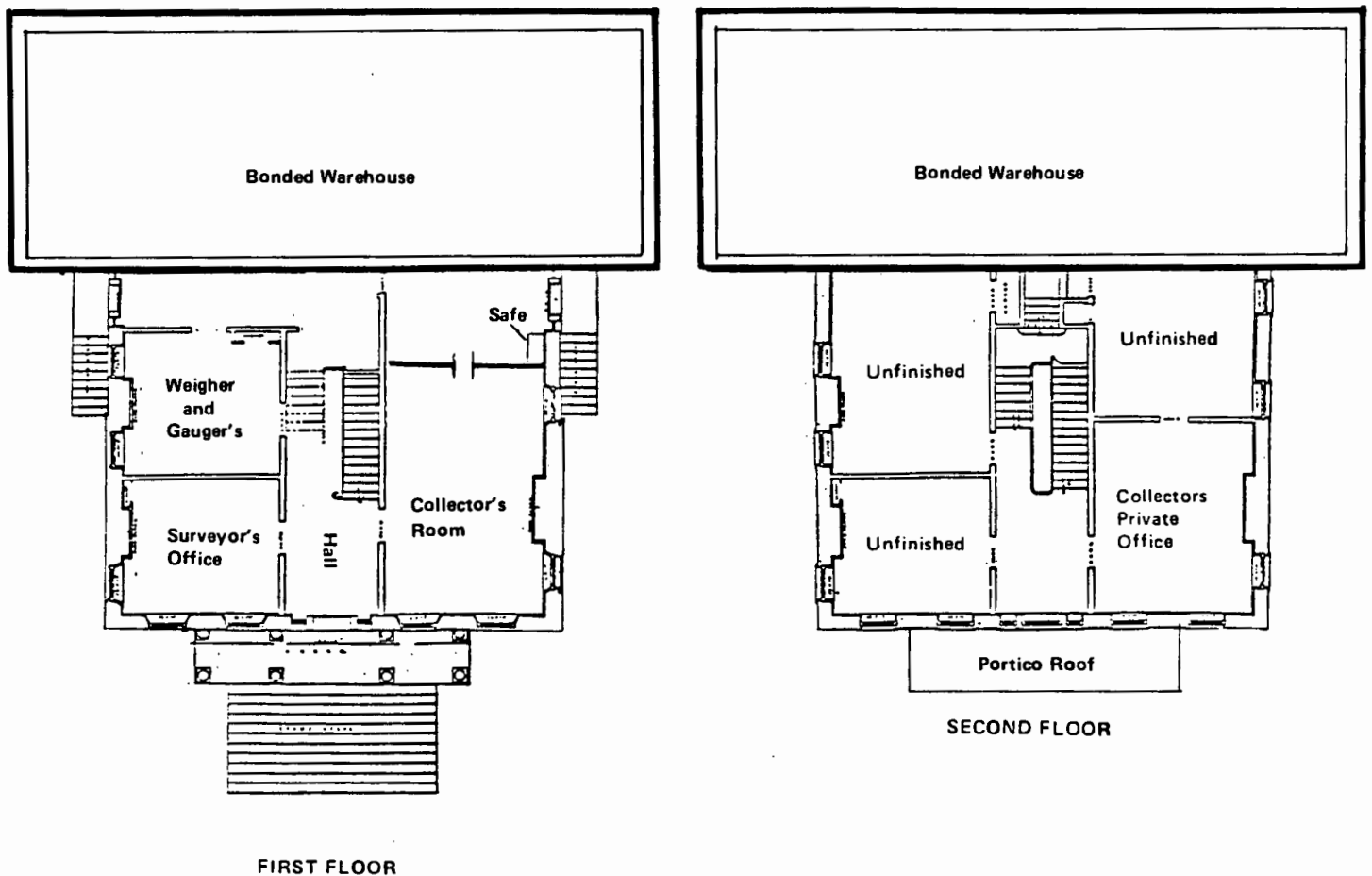
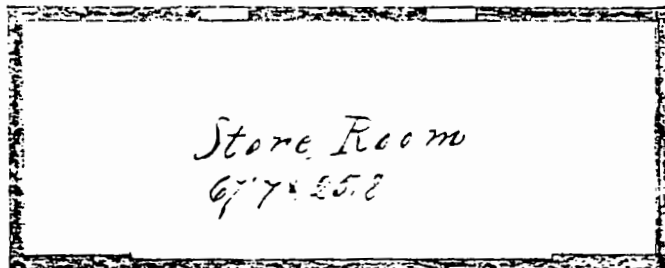


Illustration 2.

A plan of the Salem Custom House surveyed and drawn by Charles A. Putnam, March 14, 1853.

Orange Street

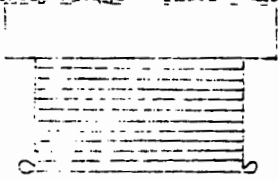
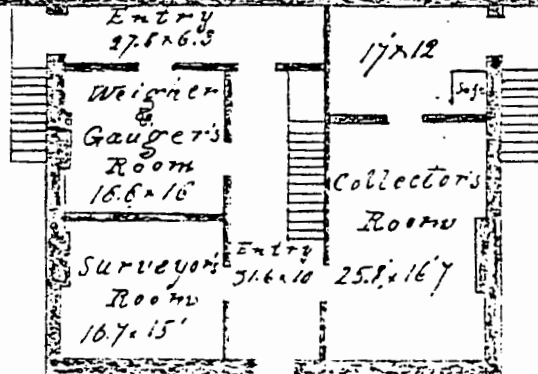
200.2'



7'8"

30'2"

192.4'



82.7'

28.6'

Derby Street N 72° E

FOOTNOTES

1. Charles Snell, "Historic Structures Report, U.S. Custom House and Bonded Warehouse at Salem," typescript 1977, National Park Service, p. 257.
2. Essex Institute, U.S. Custom House Papers, uncataloged section.
3. Ibid.
4. William B. Hoyt, Jr., "Report on Research at the Custom House," National Park Service, typescript, Salem Maritime NHS, p. 6.
5. Orville Carroll, "Historic Structure Report, U.S. Custom House, Salem," Furnishing Plan Section, 1977, National Park Service, p. 3.
6. Essex Institute, U.S. Custom House Papers, uncataloged section.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Snell, p. 217.
10. Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter (Philadelphia: Henry Altemus, 1850), p. 13.
11. Ibid, p. 34.
12. Copy in SMNHS files.

Chapter II - 1854-1865

On March 17, 1852, a group of concerned Salem citizens petitioned Congress to appropriate funds for the "completion and necessary repair of the Custom House building" which in their view had fallen into disrepair.¹ Congress responded favorably and under the direction of Ammi B. Young, the first major renovation of the Salem Custom House occurred in the years 1853 and 1854.

The Custom House renovation was all encompassing, including both exterior and interior work. Judging from the records, little funds were spent between 1819 and 1853 for routine maintenance, especially painting.

On the first floor, major changes were seen in the east room. The partition wall between the two Collector's Business Offices was removed creating one large room. An entirely new fireproof room for document storage was created off the north end of this room from an area in the bonded warehouse. This new area was outfitted with built-in cabinets, including shelves, drawers, closets and pigeon holes, all grained in imitation of live oak or maple. A new stove provided heat for this otherwise "fireproof" area.

The enlarged Collector's Business Office received a new safe, gauge rack, case of drawers, cabinet, and mantle. The old safe of 1819 was discarded. The Surveyor's Office received a new built-in bookcase with drawers in the recess north of the chimney and a new closet on the west wall.

Three rooms, southwest, northwest and northeast, on the second floor left unfinished from 1819, were lathed, plastered, trimmed out, and painted. Each received a soapstone mantle. At least four rooms in the Custom House received wallpaper during the renovations of 1853-54 but we do not know which.

The extensive work performed in 1853-54 resulted in a number of new room assignments for employees. By 1855, on the second floor, the northeast room was occupied by the Naval Officer, the southeast room continued as the Collector's Private Office, the southwest room became the Weigher and Gauger's Room, and the northwest room became the Inspector's Room. On the first floor, the old Weigher and Gauger's Room, northwest, became the office of the Deputy Collector.

A post-1854 photograph of the north end of the Collector's Business Office shows the room as it appeared until the renovations of 1872-73 (Illustration 3). Furnishings seen include a wardrobe and counter with drawers, the cabinet of 1854 on the west wall, a square cabinet, foot stool, one stand-up clerk's desk, a spindle back armchair, and a table or desk in the foreground. A paneled door seen on the far right is believed to be that of the 1853 safe. The floor lacks any covering and the walls appear to be painted or even bare plaster.

The earliest document found that refers directly to furniture in the Custom House is a July 19, 1858, letter from Collector William B. Pike to the Secretary of the Treasury stating how the present furniture was in effect being ransomed from the previous Collector:

Not one article of furniture now used in the Custom House belongs to the Government, but it has been purchased by incoming officers of the outgoing ones, ever since the organization of the Revenue District. The desks, chairs, tables, and drawers in the Collector's Department belong to my predecessor, and I have been obliged to hire them off him since I have been in office and he now wishes to remove them or for me to buy them: some of which articles would be as serviceable as newer articles. But such is the aspect of the rooms in the Custom House as it regards furniture that is not respectable in the eyes of the merchants or others who transact business here. A few new articles of furniture, with such as are in good condition belonging to my predecessor, can doubtless be purchased . . . as above suggested.

In a follow-up letter on September 4, 1858, Collector William B. Pike sent the Secretary of the Treasury cost estimates to purchase furniture from the previous Collector:

<u>Collectors Office:</u>	7 chairs @ \$3.	\$21.00	<u>Room Occupied by</u>
	desk	12.00	<u>Surveyor & Storekeeper</u>
	table	8.00	Double desk
	case of shelving	5.00	covered in cloth
		<u>\$46.00</u>	6 chairs @ 2.
			One small table
			covered w/cloth
			<u>5</u>
			\$37

<u>Large Business Room and Naval Officers</u>	Large double desk	\$37.00	<u>Room Occupied by</u>
	Sundry articles		<u>Inspectors, Weighers,</u>
	from E.F. Miller	50.00	<u>Gaugers</u>
	6 chairs @ 2.50	15.00	one long table covered
	2 long tables cloth		4 chairs
	covered @ 8.50	17.00	<u>23</u>
		<u>\$119.00</u> ³	\$225.

No record has been found regarding the recommendation to purchase, and it is assumed that it did not occur.

On April 8, 1861, Collector Willard P. Phillips reported to the Secretary that the current employees on hand included:

- 4 Permanent Inspectors
- 2 Temporary Inspectors
- 2 Weighers and Gaugers
- 1 Clerk
- 1 Measurer
- 1 Boatman

It is interesting to note no mention of the Custom House officers, i.e., Collector, Deputy Collector, Naval Officer, and Surveyor.⁴

Additional information regarding furniture is gleaned from a memo from Collector Phillips to the Secretary dated August 8, 1861, in which he stated, "I send you herewith the schedule of property belonging to the United States pertaining to this office. The furniture has been purchased by the various Collectors since 1789 and left here by them for their successors. Its value is very little. So far as I can learn the government has not purchased furniture for this office . . . I do not

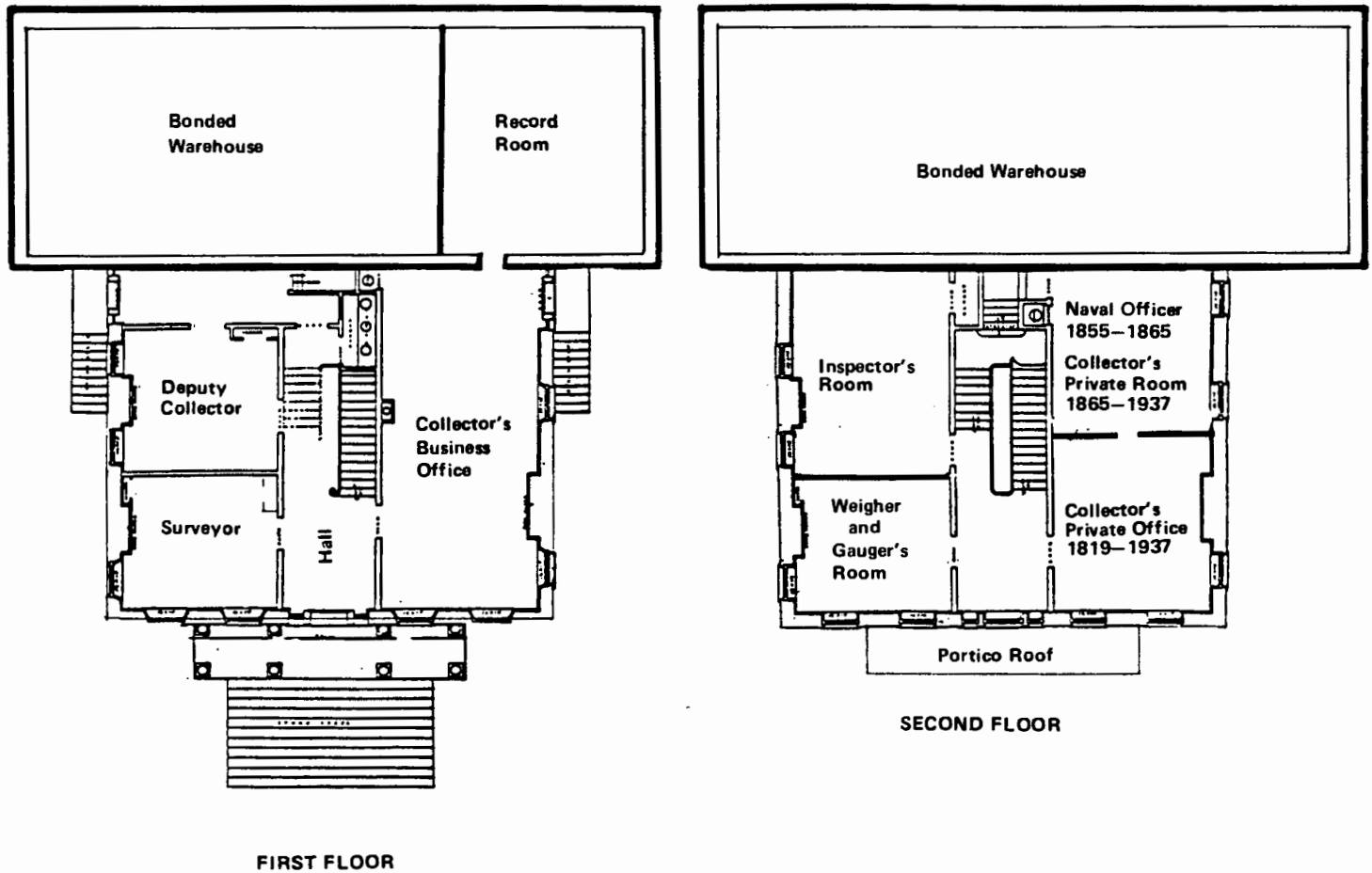
Illustration 3.

The Collector's Business Office, sometime 1853-1873.



find that the schedule of public property has ever before been rendered from this office, and it may be therefore, that this schedule does not embrace all which it ought. It does, however, embrace all of which I know."⁵ Listed were 54 volumes of record books but no furniture.

Floor Plan and Room Assignments, 1854-1865



FOOTNOTES

1. National Archives, Petition dated April 21, 1851, Citizens of Salem and Beverly to Secretary of Treasury, Thomas Crown. RG 121, Entry 26, Box 1072, Microfilm Roll 1, vol. 1, pp. 1-5.
2. National Archives RG 56, Microcopy 174, Reel 62, Letter July 19, 1858, Collector Wm. B. Pike to Secretary Treasury.
3. Ibid., Letter September 4, 1858, Collector Wm. B. Pike to Secretary Treasury.
4. National Archives, RG 36, Bureau of Customs, Salem, Mass. Letters Sent, Box 1, E-411, Letter, April 8, 1861.
5. Ibid., Letter August 8, 1861.

Chapter III - 1866-1880

By 1868, dwindling activity in the Port of Beverly resulted in a consolidation of Custom Service jurisdictions. A letter dated April 1, 1868, from Deputy Collector Osgood in Salem to the Treasury Department stated "the Office of Surveyor of Beverly was abolished on February 28, 1865," and "all enrollments are now at Salem."¹

We catch another glimpse into room use at the Custom House when on May 12, 1870 Collector Charles W. Palfray notified the Secretary of the Treasury:

There are six rooms which are occupied by the following named officers,

1 Collector	2 rooms
1 Deputy Collector	1 room
1 Surveyor	1 do
1 Weigher & Gauger	1 do
6 Inspectors	1 do
1 Porter and Manager	_____ 2

The eleven listed employees contrasts dramatically with twenty-four listed in 1837 and underscored the decline of Salem as a major port of entry. The offices of Naval Officer and Deputy Naval Officer were eliminated by 1865.

In November 1870 Deputy Collector Osgood commented on the Report of Public Property for the six months ending June 30, 1870, "Most of the property has been so many years in use that the time of purchase, date of authority to purchase or cost cannot be given as we have no means of ascertaining those facts. A large portion of furniture and desk furniture in this Custom House is the property of the various officers which accounts for the small number of articles under these headings."³

We assume that prior to 1872 the rooms of the Custom House were illuminated with candles, as they are the only form of artificial light seen in the purchase records. Once each year the port collector was required

to submit to Washington an "estimate of probable costs for supplying fuel, light and water" for the next year. 1872 was the last year candles were listed.⁴

Collector Palfray commented on lighting in the Custom House in a letter to the Secretary October 30, 1872, saying, "During the short days of fall and winter we are obliged to use candles and cannot by their use get a proper and sufficient amount of light besides increasing the risk of fire. We require no expensive fixtures but simply the introduction of the gas in the cheapest possible manner."⁵ Palfray received authorization to have a gas system installed and the work was performed November-December 1872. Gas was supplied from a main in front of the Custom House at Derby Street. Fourteen bracket lighting fixtures were purchased from Daniel F. Staten of Marblehead, Mass., for \$85, along with two noiseless Argand burners with porcelain shades.⁶ The two swing brackets listed among the fixtures were perhaps for the Collector's Business Office.

The second major renovation of the Salem Custom House occurred in 1873. Newly appointed Collector Charles Odell assumed his position that year and soon made strong recommendations to his superior in Washington for interior and exterior repairs. In a letter dated April 16, 1873, he stated:

The interior of the building is a disgrace to the Government. Whitewash and paint seem to have been utter strangers to the walls and woodwork throughout the building. The Collector's Room is sadly deficient in desks, and furniture and in everything required for the proper transaction of business. There is no provision made in the office for the care and preservation of the various record books & c. and the blanks furnished by the several departments are necessarily thrown here and there--on tables, chairs and even on the floor, for the want of a suitable place to keep them. It seems to me almost a wonder that the business has been transacted with any degree of accuracy or cleanliness. . . . No repairs of any kind have been made in the interior of the building since the days of the administration of President Pierce.

Collector Odell requested authority to spend up to \$2,550 for necessary interior and exterior repairs, and the Secretary of the Treasury concurred.⁸ Because a large amount of work was involved, a Superintendent of Repairs was appointed to supervise the work, Major Benjamin Perley Poore of the Newburyport, Mass., Custom House.

Following an initial inspection of the Custom House, Poore reported to A.B. Mullett, Supervisory Architect of the Treasury Department on June 7, 1873, "It is very spacious and is almost destitute of furniture, almost all of what little there is being the private property of the officials." Poore recommended that new furniture be purchased for all the rooms of the Custom House along with carpeting and cocoa matting. Construction of a large business counter for what he called the Deputy Collector Room (Main Business Office) was also recommended. Mullett approved the proposal and an extensive interior and exterior renovation followed.⁹

Exterior work included masonry repair, painting, and roof repair. Interior work included plaster work, wall painting, and graining the woodwork to copy the "light oak" graining of 1854. The floors of the halls and stairways were oiled and the interior doors numbered. Four rooms had wallpaper removed.

In later correspondence, Benjamin Perley Poore outlined to Supervisory Architect Mullett his proposal for the acquisition of new furniture including:

Collector's Office:	Table Desk Lounge Rotary Chair 6 Chairs Hat Rack - all black walnut
Collector's Private Room:	Lounge Table 6 Chairs Bookcase - all black walnut

Naval Officer's Room:	Desk Table Swivel Chair 6 Chairs Hat Rack - all oak
Inspector's Room:	Ditto
Surveyor's Room:	Ditto
Deputy Collector's Room:	Ditto plus two oak Stools Oak Table
Weigher and Gauger's Room:	6 Arm Chairs Hat Rack ¹⁰ - all oak

Judging from the purchase records, not all of Poore's recommendations were followed, and less furniture was actually procured.

During the month of November 1873 Poore made a total of six trips to Boston to purchase new furniture for the Custom House.¹¹ A large business counter was constructed for the Main Business Office on the first floor by T.J. Gifford at a cost of \$600, and a patent turntable installed atop for the large books that had to be signed by the masters of vessels. Also purchased from Gifford was a case for gold scales (\$20), a table for a copy press (\$25), and a bulletin board of ash and black walnut (\$20).¹²

Floor coverings and window shades were acquired from the Willard Goldthwaite Co. Brussels carpeting was purchased for the Collector's Office and Private Room on the second floor and the offices of the Deputy Collector and Surveyor on the first floor. The other rooms, including the halls, Collector's Business Office, Inspector's Room, and Weigher and Gauger's Room received cocoa matting. Thirteen buff window shades were also purchased along with four small rugs.¹³

The largest lot of new furniture was purchased from the firm of Lawrence, Wilde & Hull during October and November 1873 in the amount

of \$1,142.00. Included were thirty-four chairs, seven tables, eleven desks, five lounges, three hat racks, two stools, eight rotary chairs, eight bentwood chairs, a wardrobe and a bookcase.¹⁴

Interesting to note is that the best quality furniture, that of black walnut, all went to the Collector's Private Office and Collector's Private Room. The other offices received lesser quality furniture made of oak.

A gas chandelier with globes was purchased from the Tucker Mfg. Co. for \$25 for the second floor Collector's Private Office on October 14, 1873.¹⁵ The fixture remained there in use until removed and sold in 1905.

The large bookcase purchased in 1854 in the Main Business Office was retrofitted with new cubbyholes of various dimensions for stationery supplies and forms. A plan showing the dimensions of each opening survives.¹⁶

The only reference to specific pieces of government-owned furniture in the Custom House prior to the large purchases of 1873 is a letter from Benjamin Perley Poore to the Secretary of the Treasury November 15, 1873, in which he requests permission to dispose of old furniture "in the most delapidated condition." Included were three desks, three tables, six chairs, and one wardrobe. Permission was granted and the items sold for \$6.¹⁷

The officials of the Salem Custom House celebrated the completion of the extensive 1873 renovations and refurnishing by holding a public open house there on November 13, 1873. The Salem Gazette published an article November 14 describing the recent improvements in detail, and of interest to us is the description of the second floor Collector's Office (southeast) which states there were portraits of both Major Joseph Hiller, first Collector of the port of Salem (1784-1802), and past Collector General James Miller (1825-1849). Also reported was an "old fashioned" brass fire set and fender along with a plaster bust of President

Lincoln.¹⁸ The portraits and plaster bust survive to this day in the Custom House.

The Salem Observer of November 15, 1873, also reported on the newly refurbished Custom House, and commented on the sparsity of the room interiors prior to 1873, "Nearly all the furniture belonged to the officials who had been obliged to purchase it in order to perform their duties. What did belong to the government could have been removed in a hand cart."¹⁹

At the close of the open house a letter from Superintendent of Repairs Benjamin Perley Poore was read aloud in which he ceremoniously turned over the keys to the Custom House to Collector Charles Odell.²⁰

The renovation and refurnishing of 1873 represents a watershed in the history of the Custom House interior, and a major shift in how the building looked to employees and visitors alike. Although carpets, curtains, and shades were thereafter replaced as they wore out; walls

Floor Plan and Room Assignments 1866-1880

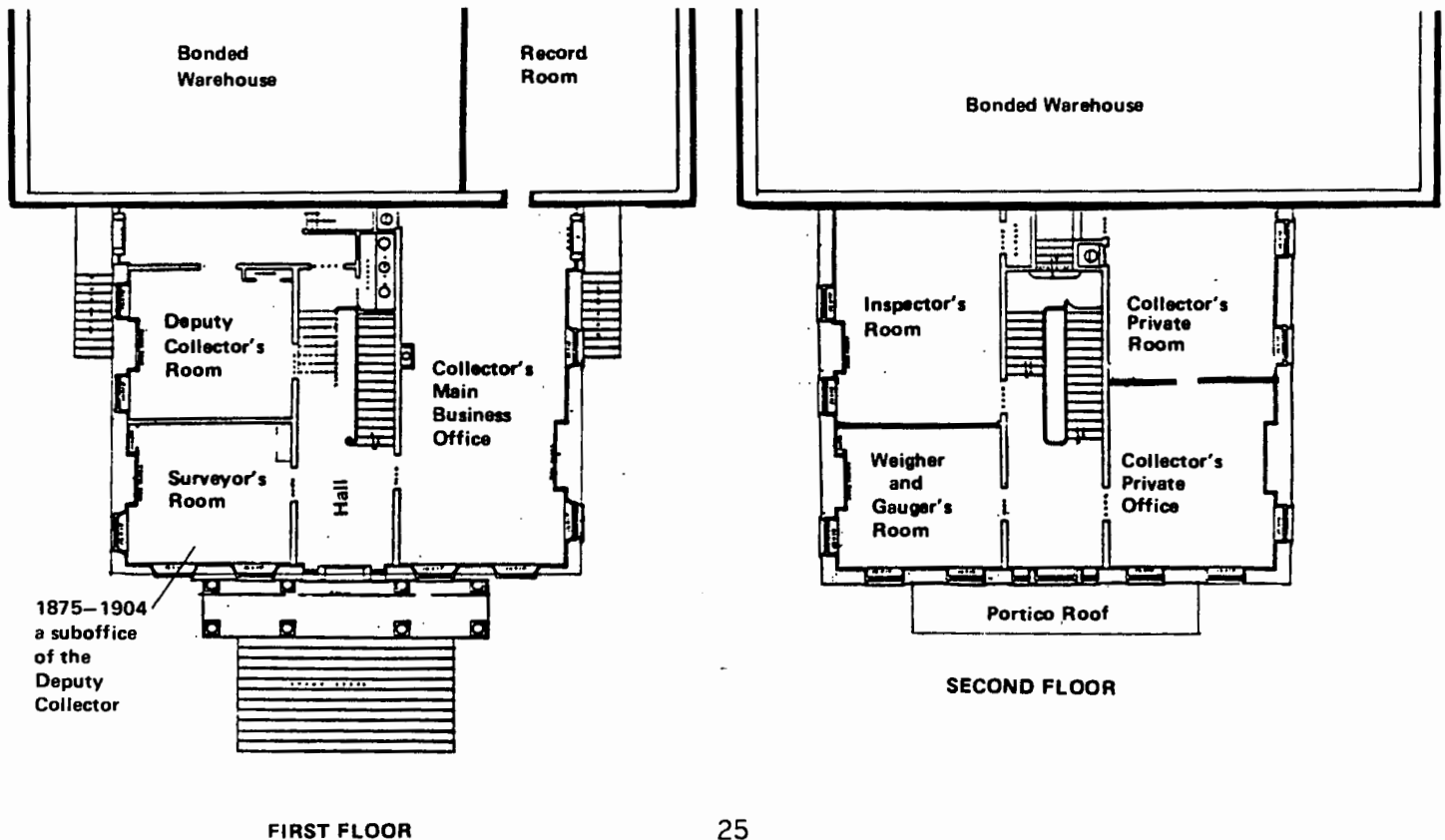
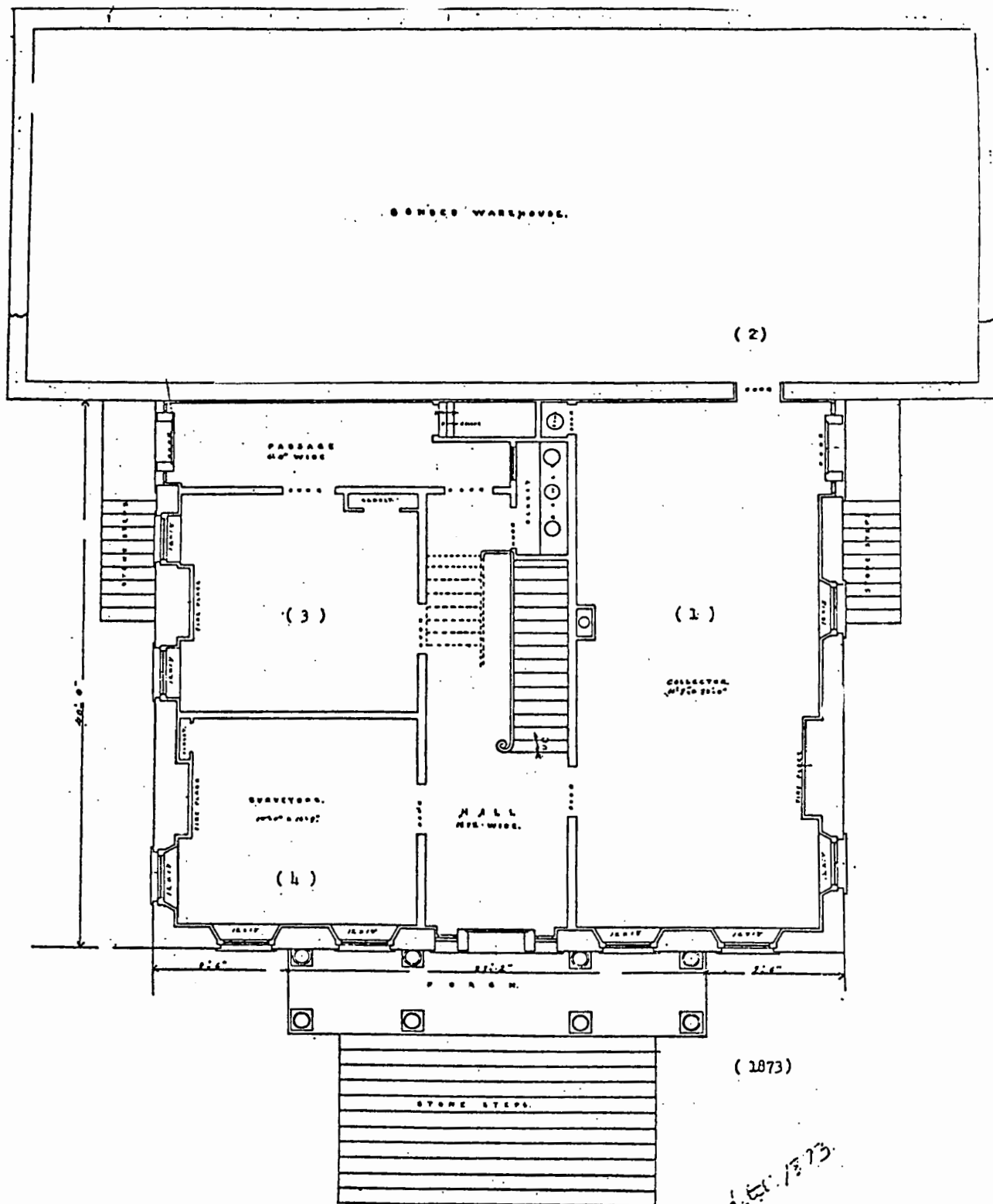


Illustration 4.

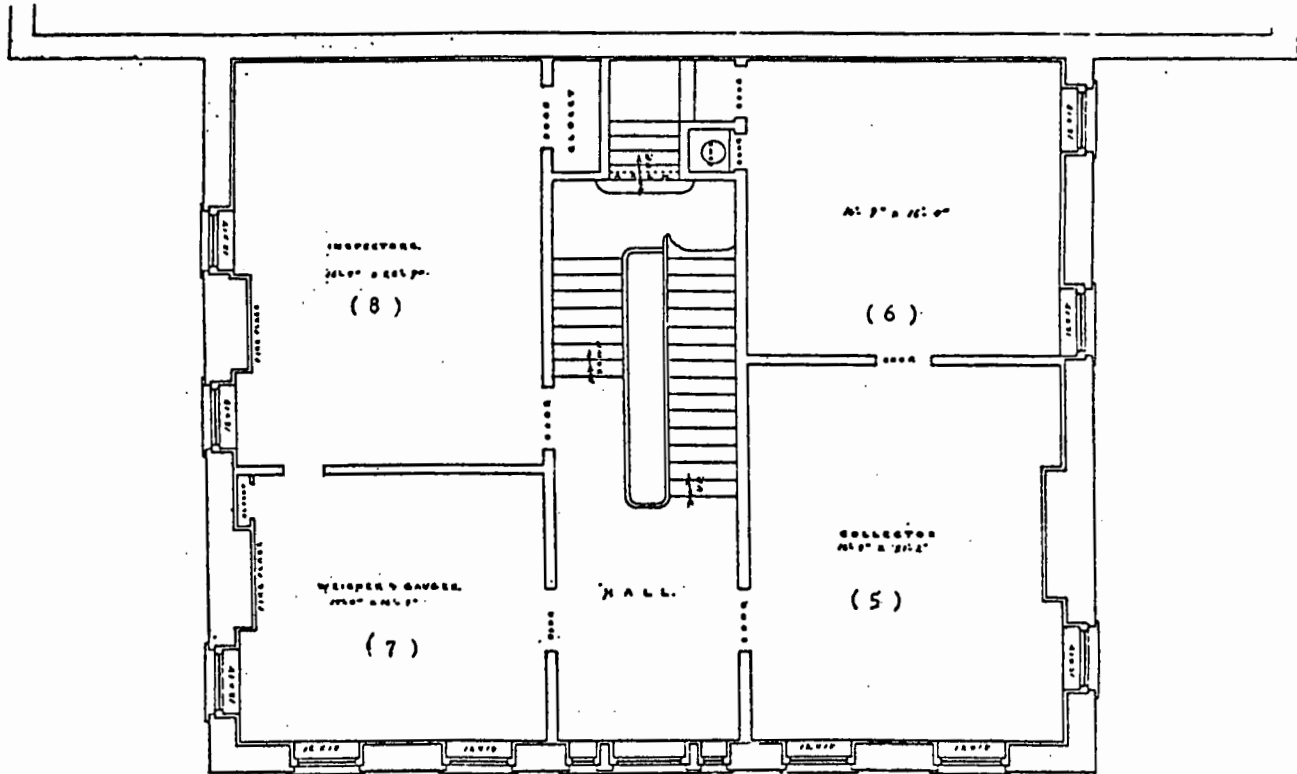
Floor plan and room assignments, first floor, 1873. Drawn by Bruce and Copeland, Architects, Salem, Mass.



PLAN OF PRINCIPAL WORKS
 HEIGHT OF STORY 14'

Illustration 5.

Floor plan and room assignments, second floor, 1873. Drawn by Bruce and Copeland, Architects, Salem, Mass.



PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR.
 HEIGHT OF STORY 12'6" IN CLEAR.

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

SEEKING CHANGES AND/OR
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

(1873)

June 1873

and trim spruced up with an occasional coat of paint; and odd pieces of furniture purchased here and there, the changes made in 1873 and the furniture purchased at that time are central to our understanding of the rooms through the remainder of the Custom Service occupancy to 1937.

On April 18, 1879, Special Deputy Collector J. Frank Dalton requested permission from the Secretary to spend \$15 to take up and clean carpets and matting that were installed in 1873.²¹

FOOTNOTES

1. National Archives, RG 36, Bureau of Customs, Salem, Mass. Letters Sent, Box E-411, Book 3, Letter April 1, 1868.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., Box E-411, Book 3, Letter November 26, 1870.
4. National Archives, RG 121, Entry 26, Reel 1, Vol. II.
5. Ibid., pp. 114-115.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid., pp. 138-142.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid., pp. 150-154.
10. Ibid., pp. 189-191.
11. Charles Snell, "Historic Structures Report, U.S. Custom House and Bonded Warehouse at Salem," typescript 1977, National Park Service, p. 419.
12. National Archives, RG 121, Entry 26, Reel 1, Vol. II, pp. 247-9.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid, p. 253.
15. Ibid., p. 201.
16. Orville Carroll, Historic Structure Report, The Custom House-Bonded Warehouse, Furnishing Plan Section, Salem Maritime NHS, 1977, p. 5.
17. National Archives, RG 121, Reel 1, Vol. II, p. 214.
18. Ibid., p. 218-219.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. National Archives, RG 36, Bureau of Customs, Salem, Mass. Letters Sent, Box E-414, Book 4.

Chapter IV - 1881-1900

Minor repairs undertaken in 1881 for the Custom House included the removal of worn carpet and floorboards in the Collector's Business Office and the installation of a new hard pine floor.¹ For a number of years thereafter no covering adorned the floor in this room, and routine scrubbing and varnishing sufficed.

A report issued by the Collector for the year 1882 estimated the cost for repairs to furniture as:

reseating 12 chairs @ 1.00	\$12.00
repairing 5 chairs @ .50	2.50
repairing and cleaning clock	2.00
repairing and cleaning furnaces	<u>10.00</u>
	\$26.50 ²

Most likely the many cane-seated chairs purchased in 1873 were ill-suited to the rigorous use by Custom House employees and visitors.

Window curtains were purchased twice for the Custom House during the period 1881-1900. In June 1883 nine curtains and fixtures were bought, and on April 6, 1887, curtains were acquired for the Collector's Office (4), Deputy Collector's Office (3), Surveyor's Office (2), Collector's Private Office (4), Weigher and Gauger's Room (3), Inspector's Room (2), and Halls (3). By 1893 all the curtains were worn out and dropped from the record of public property.³

By 1886 the Custom House had again fallen into disrepair, and a letter from Collector Richard Dodge to the Secretary on April 28 described the "poor state" of the interior and exterior of the building. Dodge recommended structural repairs, painting, and the purchase of a new tapestry carpet for the Deputy Collector's Room and oilcloth carpeting for both the Inspector's Room and the Weigher and Gauger's Room.⁴

After the position of Port Surveyor was abolished in 1875 the Deputy Collector made use of the Surveyor's Room in addition to his own office on the west side of the first floor. Collector Dodge requested in November 24, 1886, authority from the Secretary to cut a doorway between the Deputy Collector's Room and the Surveyor's Office to allow the Deputy Collector easier access to the books shelved there.⁵ Permission was granted and the doorway cut.

On December 8, 1886, Custodian Dodge reported to the Secretary that every piece of furniture in the Custom House was in use.⁶ A week later, on December 17, 1886, Dodge requested authority to drop from the public record as worn out and useless:

Collector's Office:	4 window curtains cuspidor spittoon arm rest, etc.	July 9, 1883
Deputy Collector's Office:	rug mat 3 window curtains 1 arm rest	November 1873 July 9, 1883 July 9, 1883 July 9, 1883
Surveyor's Office:	2 window curtains	July 9, 1883
Weigher and Gauger's Room:	chair	November 1873
Inspector's Room:	desk chair	November 1873 November 1873

Permission was granted and the items sold.⁷

In March 1887, the firm of Almy, Bigelow and Washburn of Salem charged the Custom House \$6.93 to "clean and fit old carpeting" and "tap, beat and steamed" which we assume to mean tapestry carpet beat and steam cleaned. We are unsure which rooms this voucher references.⁸

On March 25, 1887, a large pine and oak bookcase was purchased from John Kimball for the Collector's Business Office and installed against the north wall where the old wardrobe and counter previously stood.

Measuring fully 11' high, 2'2" deep, and 10' wide, the bookcase bears the signatures of its makers, Henry W. Kimball and Caleb K. Lord along with the date March 8, 1887.⁹ Having 18 adjustable shelves the case was intended to hold ledgers, books, and supplies for the Custom House employees.

Purchased in April 1887 were a number of furnishing items including:

Collector's Office:	water cooler stand 2 cuspidors
Collector's Private Office:	4 Smyrna rugs @ \$4
Deputy Collector's Office:	office chair 2 Smyrna rugs
Weigher and Gauger's Room:	oilcloth carpet
Inspector's Office:	oilcloth carpet
Hall:	umbrella stand \$3

Also purchased at this time were eleven mats and a water cooler.¹⁰ Before the oilcloth was laid down in the Inspector's Room and Weigher and Gauger's Room the floor edges were stained and varnished.¹¹

Window screens first appear in the inventory list June 9, 1887, with the purchase of thirteen from the Goldthwaite, Bixby & Co. for \$1.50 each for:

Collector's Office	4
Deputy Collector's Office	3
Surveyor's Room	2
Collector's Private Office	2
Weigher and Gauger's Room	2

The screens were walnut frames with stretched wire mesh.¹²

On June 24, 1887, the Deputy Collector's Room received a new tapestry carpet and the Surveyor's Office a slightly less expensive carpet.¹³ The floor edges for both rooms were stained and varnished prior to carpet installation.¹⁴

Custodian Dodge requested authority from the Secretary on August 20, 1887, to drop from the public record items worn out and useless in the Custom House including:

Collector's Office:	stool water cooler letter clip 2 paper weights	November 1873
Collector's Private Office:	3 rugs	November 1873
Deputy Collector's Office:	carpet cuspidor 2 paper weights	November 1873 worn out
Surveyor's Office:	carpet	November 1873
Weigher and Gauger's Room:	lounge	November 1873 ¹⁵

Permission was granted by the Acting Secretary and the items sold. Another request from the Collector to drop property was sent on November 1, 1888, that included numerous small pieces of miscellaneous office supplies and equipment.¹⁶

A photograph of the Surveyor's Office (first floor SW) c. 1890 survives in the collections of the Essex Institute (Illustration 6). Seen in the photograph is a tapestry carpet and scatter rug purchased in 1887 and a group of furniture from the 1873 purchase including two desks, one table, two bentwood chairs, one side chair, and one rotary chair. A reed wastepaper basket in the foreground is likely the private property of an employee, as none are listed in the public property records for this room. The roller window shades are drawn at the windows, probably to create even lighting for the photographer.

A grouping of plants in earthenware pots on the window sill and a number of papers casually tacked to the plaster wall adds a touch of humanity to this otherwise stark business office.

Illustration 6.

Photograph, Surveyor's Office, first floor, c. 1887-1904.



On November 9, 1888, Custodian Dodge requested authority from the Secretary to have the Deputy Collector's Room supplied with gas line and lighting.¹⁷ We are unsure what work was actually performed.

Custodian Dodge reported to the Secretary on February 12, 1889 that the Custom House employees included:

- 1 Inspector, Weigher, Gauger
- 4 Inspectors
- 1 Janitor

Again, the officers of the Custom House were not included in the report.

By 1889, more furniture was put aside by the employees as worn out and useless. On June 13, Custodian Dodge declared two chairs in the Collector's Business Office, purchased November 1873, worn out and requested authority to drop them from the public record. On the same day, Dodge also notified his superiors in Washington of his intention to move four Smyrna rugs purchased April 6, 1887, from the Collector's Office to the Collector's Private Office.¹⁹

The only known historic photograph of the Custom House second floor survives in the Collections of the Essex Institute (Illustration 7). The c. 1891 image shows the Collector's Private Room and Office furnished with items originally purchased in 1873. The bold oriental-style carpet is laid wall-to-wall in both adjoining rooms with smaller Smyrna carpets placed at the doorways. In the Collector's Private Room (foreground) are seen a library table, hall rack, and four upholstered chairs we know originally had caned seats. The Collector's Private Office seen through the open doorway has one side chair, a walnut desk, one rotary chair, and a lounge. A sample of the carpeting survives in the SMNHS collections.

On November 1, 1892, a number of window shades were purchased from the Wm. G. Webber Co. including:

4 Collector's Office
3 Deputy Collector's Office
2 Surveyor's Room
5 Collector's Private Room
3 Weigher and Gauger's Office
2 Inspector's Room
5 Hall

These shades, purchased at a cost of \$22, replaced the shades purchased in 1873. These in turn wore out and were dropped from the public record November 18, 1903.²⁰

In 1891, fifteen chairs and two stools were repaired for \$17.00, and the clock in the Main Business Office repaired for \$5.²¹ This is the first reference to a clock in the Main Business Office. Although not referred to by name in this reference, later references cite a "Willard banjo clock" in the Main Business Office, and we assume it is the same clock. The clock, dating c. 1812-20, survives in the SMNHS collections.

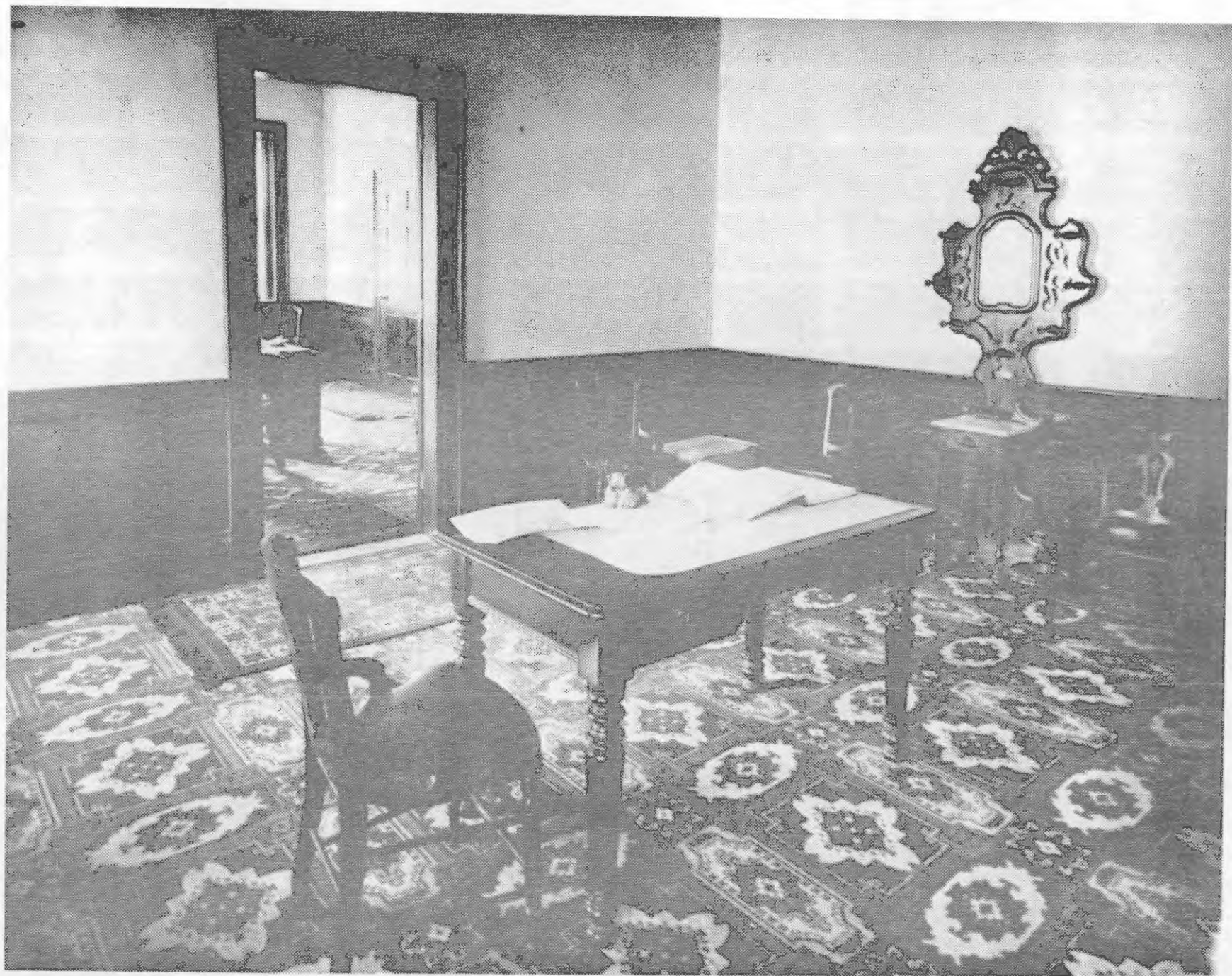
The water cooler in the Collector's Business Office was an item of constant use, and therefore often replaced. The cooler purchased April 6, 1887, for \$6.50 was dropped from the record June 14, 1895.²²

It appears that the Surveyor's Office on the first floor occupied by Nathaniel Hawthorne from 1846 to 1849 was a tourist attraction as early as the 1890s. In a letter dated January 14, 1896, the Inspector of Public Buildings, E.M. Condon, wrote to Supervisory Architect J.K. Taylor "Nathaniel Hawthorne's 'Scarlet Letter' has made this building--in which he occupied an office as surveyor from 1845 to 1849--famous, and the custodian informs me that during the summer months and in fact throughout the year people from all over the Union visit the building to look at the room which he occupied. It is still kept in the same condition in which it was left by him."²³

On January 25, 1896 Custodian William C. Waters notified the Secretary of the Treasury of the work force currently employed at the Custom House. Included were: Collector, Deputy Collector, three Inspectors, Custodian,

Illustration 7.

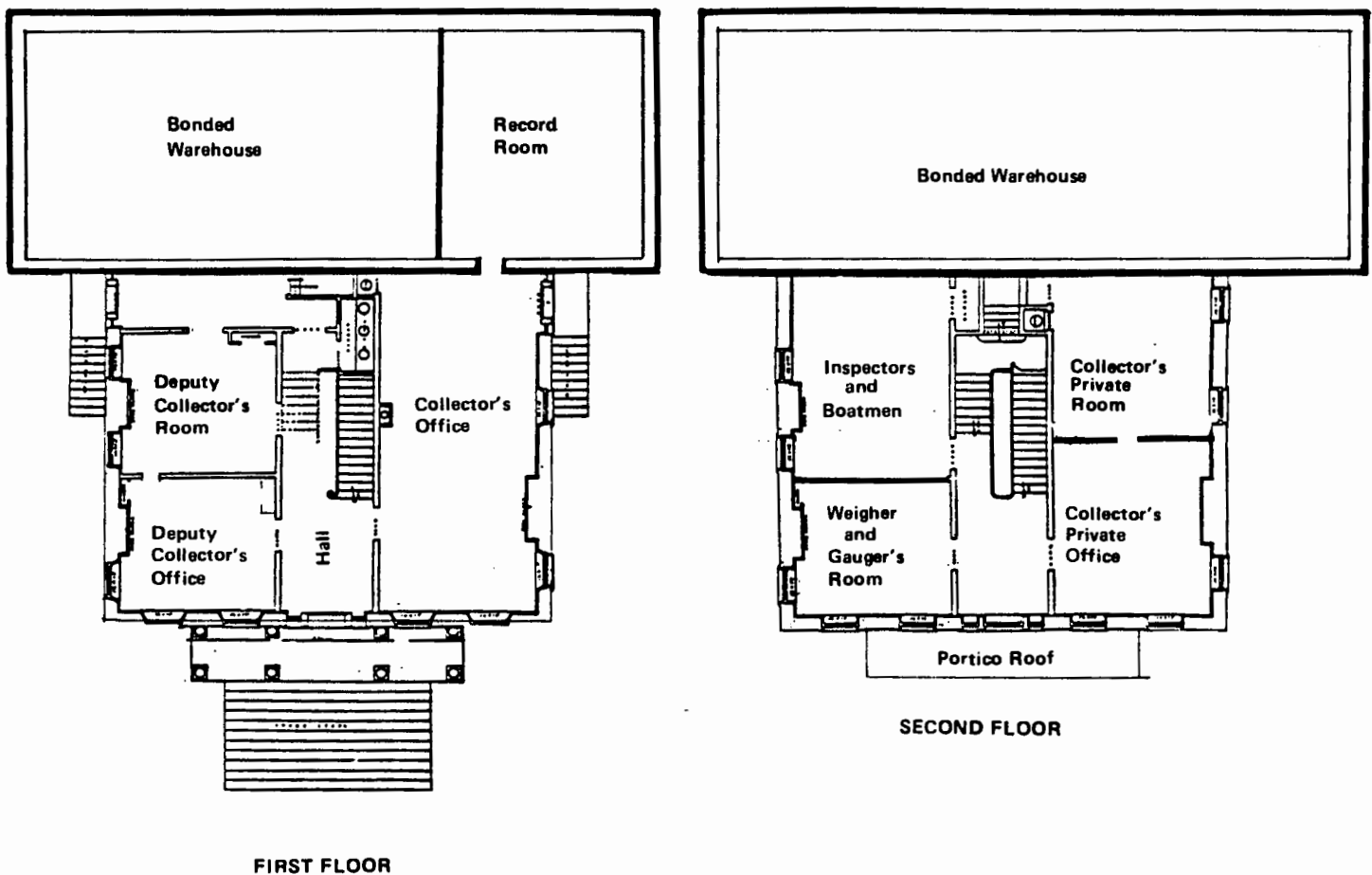
Collector's Private Room, second floor, 1891.



Boatman, and a Janitor. Noticeably absent from this list are the positions of Port Surveyor, abolished 1875, Naval Officer, abolished 1865, and Weigher and Gauger.²⁴

On August 23, 1898, four bentwood chairs were purchased for the Custom House; two each placed in the Collector's Office and Deputy Collector's Office. Also purchased was a bookcase for the Deputy Collector's Office (\$25), two revolving chairs for the Collector's Office, and another water cooler.²⁵

Room use for this period was described as illustrated below in a May 12, 1899, memorandum from Custodian John Daland to the Supervisory Architect:²⁶



On June 9, 1900, another group of window shades was purchased for \$1.00 each for the following rooms:

Collector's Office	4
Deputy Collector's Office	3
Surveyor's Office	2
Collector's Private Office	5
Weigher and Gauger's Room	3
Inspector's Room	2
Hall	5 27

FOOTNOTES

1. National Archives, RG 121, Public Buildings Service, Office of the Supervisory Architect, Letters Received, 1852-1900, Custom House, Salem, Mass., at Suitland, Maryland. Letter, November 12, 1881, Entry 7, Microfilm Reel 1, Vol. 3, p. 431-432.
2. National Archives, RG 3, Bureau of Customs, Letters Sent, Salem, Mass. Box E-411, Book 5.
3. Record of Government Property at the Custom House 1890-1910, pp. 1, 6, 6½, 29½, 54½, 4½, 106½, 116½. Original at Salem Maritime NHS, Salem, Mass.
4. National Archives, RG 121, Letters Received, Microfilm Reel 1, Vol. IV, p. 469-573.
5. National Archives, RG 121, Entry 7, Box 80.
6. National Archives, RG 36, Bureau of Customs, Salem, Mass. Letters Sent, Box 2, E-411.
7. Ibid.
8. Essex Institute, Custom House Papers, Box 73, Document 11073, March 7, 1887.
9. Orville Carroll, Historic Structure Report, The Custom House, 1977 Furnishing Plan Section, p. 14.
10. Essex Institute, Custom House Papers, Documents 11056, 11055, 11062, 11070.
11. Orville Carroll, Historic Structure Report, p. 37.
12. RG 121, Microfilm Reel 1, Vol. V, p. 700, 724. Suitland.
13. Orville Carroll, p. 37.
14. RG 121, Reel 1, Vol. V, p. 709-710.
15. RG 36, Box 2, E-411.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.

20. Essex Institute, Box 74, Document 12709, October 14, 1892.
21. Essex Institute, Box 74, Document 12314, 12341, 12342, 12343.
22. RG 36, Box 2, E-411.
23. RG 121, Microfilm Reel 1, Letter January 14, 1896.
24. RG 36, Box 2, E-411.
25. Record of Government Property at the Custom House 1890-1910, p. 3, 10.
26. RG 121, Microfilm Reel 1.
27. Record of Government Property at the Custom House 1890-1910, p. 4, 11.

Chapter V - 1901-1919

The first years of the new century saw no major changes in the Custom House interior. A program of building repairs undertaken in 1901 dealt mainly with exterior work. Interior work included the repair of plaster on the first floor and the touch-up of woodwork.

On March 30, 1901, Collector Daland reported to the Supervisory Architect that the venetian blinds had been taken down and repaired. We assume the reference is to exterior blinds as no other reference to interior venetian blinds is found in the records.¹

The most significant event of the year 1901 appears to be the hookup of the Custom House to the Salem City Sewer System at Derby Street. Custom House employees and unwary pedestrians previously endured years of maintenance problems with a cesspool in front of the building.

Another tidbit of information regarding the safe in the Collector's Business Office is found in the records for 1901. A new key was purchased for the safe for \$2.00 to replace a broken one. This indicates the safe was either key-and-combination operated or simply key operated.²

A photograph of the Custom House exterior c. 1901-1905 clearly shows roller window shades in use, even in the second floor hallway. The shades appear to be a darker color, possibly buff or green (Illustration 8).

David M. Little assumed the Office of Collector for the Beverly and Salem Custom District in January 1904 and soon thereafter called for a renovation program, stating the building was in "a rather delapidated condition."³

A letter from Superintendent of Construction Charles Unsted to the Supervisory Architect on January 22, 1904, described the furnishings in

many of the Custom House rooms: the Main Business Office had a large safe, two long record filing cases, and a long working counter besides two individual desks for clerks. The floor in this room was so dirty it resembled "an iron foundry." Room 3, the Deputy Collector's Office, and Room 4, the Surveyor's Office were both carpeted to within two feet of the wall. On the second floor, Room 5, the Collector's Main Office (SE) had a very old faded carpet and a gas chandelier in need of repair and relacquering. The Collector's Private Room, Room 6, had an old carpet that was "unsanitary" and "should be sold," and no gas lighting. Room 7, the Weigher and Gauger's Room had a floor covered with dirty, black oilcloth. Room 8, the Inspector's Room, was black from smoke and in need of repainting.⁴ An extensive renovation of the Custom House exterior and interior followed for the remainder of 1904.

Officers at the Custom House began to notice that many papers and documents relating to Nathaniel Hawthorne's term as Port Surveyor (1846-1849) were damaged or missing. Collector Little commented in a letter to the Secretary on January 28, 1904, "Many of the papers have been mutilated by someone in search of autographs, especially those of the late Nath'l Hawthorne. I also find papers bearing the signature of Mr. Hawthorne offered for sale by some of the dealers in curiosities in Salem. On inquiry the dealer interviewed told me he bought them of a former Collector now dead."⁵

On January 10, 1904, Collector Little requested authority to drop from the record:

Collector's Private Office:	Chandelier	November 1873	\$25.00
Deputy Collector's Office:	Carpet Rug	June 24, 1887	\$21.41
	2 Rugs	April 6, 1887	\$ 8.00
Surveyor's Office:	Carpet Rug	June 24, 1887	\$19.34
Weigher and Gauger's Room:	Carpet	April 6, 1887	\$28.00
Record Room:	Stove ⁶		

Illustration 8.

Custom House exterior, 1901-1905, showing use of window shades.
Courtesy of the Essex Institute.



The Custom House inventory of January 1904 is one of the most complete furnishings records found thus far. Recorded along with each item is the location in the Custom House, the date for authority to purchase, and in some cases, the purchase price.

One of the major changes in the Custom House for the year 1904 included new maple flooring for the Main Business Office, Surveyor's Office, Deputy Collector's Room, first floor Hall, and Collector's Private Office.⁶

On March 7, 1904, an electric generating plant was installed in the basement of the Custom House, and electric lights placed in rooms throughout the building.⁷ Included were:

Collector's Office	10
Record Room	3
Deputy Collector	4
Deputy 2nd Room	4
Deputy's Closet	1
Collector's Private	8
Weigher and Gauger's Room	3
Inspector's Room	4
Hall	10
Wash Room	1
Attic	3
Cellar	<u>7</u>
	58 ⁸

During 1904 much of the Custom House trim that was previously grained was painted white. In the basement, a new heating system made the stove in the fireproof room no longer necessary and it was removed. The new furnace circulated hot water to new cast iron radiators located throughout the building.

On September 14, 1904, a new desk was purchased for the Collector's Private Office for \$66.96, as were desks for the Collector's Office, \$16.56, and Deputy Collector's Office, \$49.60. The Collector's Office also received a new rotary chair for \$13.68. A month later on October 14, 1904, a new carpet rug (\$26.56) and two rugs (\$4.26) were purchased for

the Deputy Collector's Room, and the Surveyor's Room received a carpet rug (\$24.48) and two rugs (\$4.29).⁹

Purchases of new floor coverings continued in December 1904 with the acquisition of linoleum for the Weigher and Gauger's Room (\$36.50) and a carpet (\$101.34) and two rugs (\$8.19) for the Collector's Private Office.¹⁰

On January 10, 1905, Collector Little requested permission of the Secretary to drop from the record and dispose of:

Collector's Private Office:	Chandelier	November 1873	
Deputy Collector's Office:	Carpet Rug	June 24, 1887	\$21.41
	2 Rugs	April 6, 1887	\$ 8.00
Surveyor's Office:	Carpet Rug	June 24, 1887	\$19.34
Weigher and Gauger's Room:	Carpet	April 6, 1887	\$28.00

Permission was granted and the items sold.¹¹

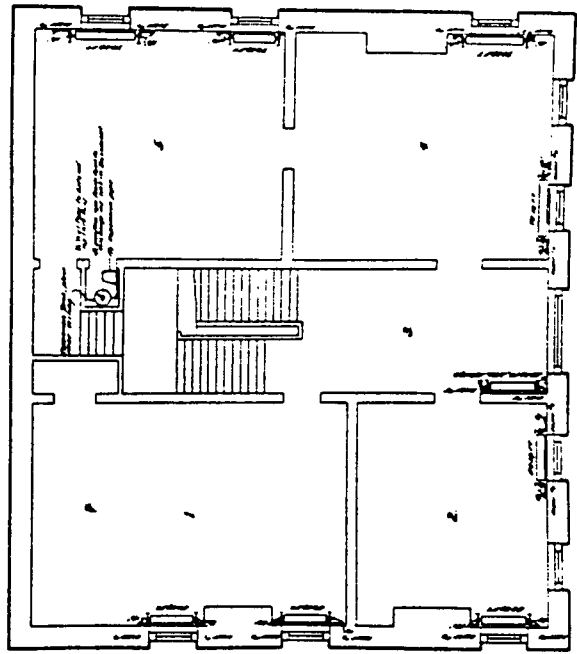
During the next few years a variety of office furnishings were purchased. On August 28, 1907, a rotary bookcase was bought for the Deputy Collector's Office for \$10.56. In January 1908 twenty-six new window shades were purchased for the entire Custom House for \$17.51. On July 17, 1908, three rotary chairs (\$19.47) and six office chairs (\$27.48) were purchased for the Collector's Office, and on August 12 a blank case was purchased for the Deputy Collector's Office (\$51).¹²

On March 12, 1909, Collector Little notified the Secretary regarding room use in the Salem Custom House:

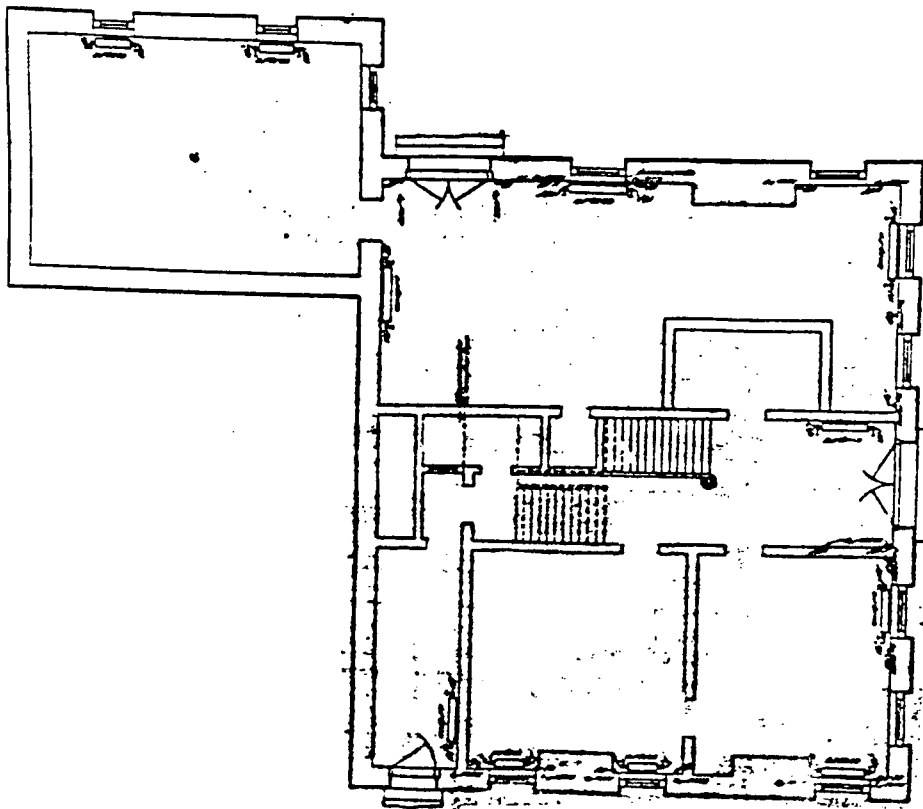
Collector's Private Offices, 2 rooms, 21'x17', 16'4"x17'
Deputy Collector's Offices, 2 rooms, 16'7"x14'7", 16'4"x15'10"
Record Room
General Business Office
Weigher and Gauger's Room 16'7"x14'10"
Inspector's Room 22'6"x16'8"¹³

Illustraton 9.

First and Second Floor Plans Showing 1904 Heating System.



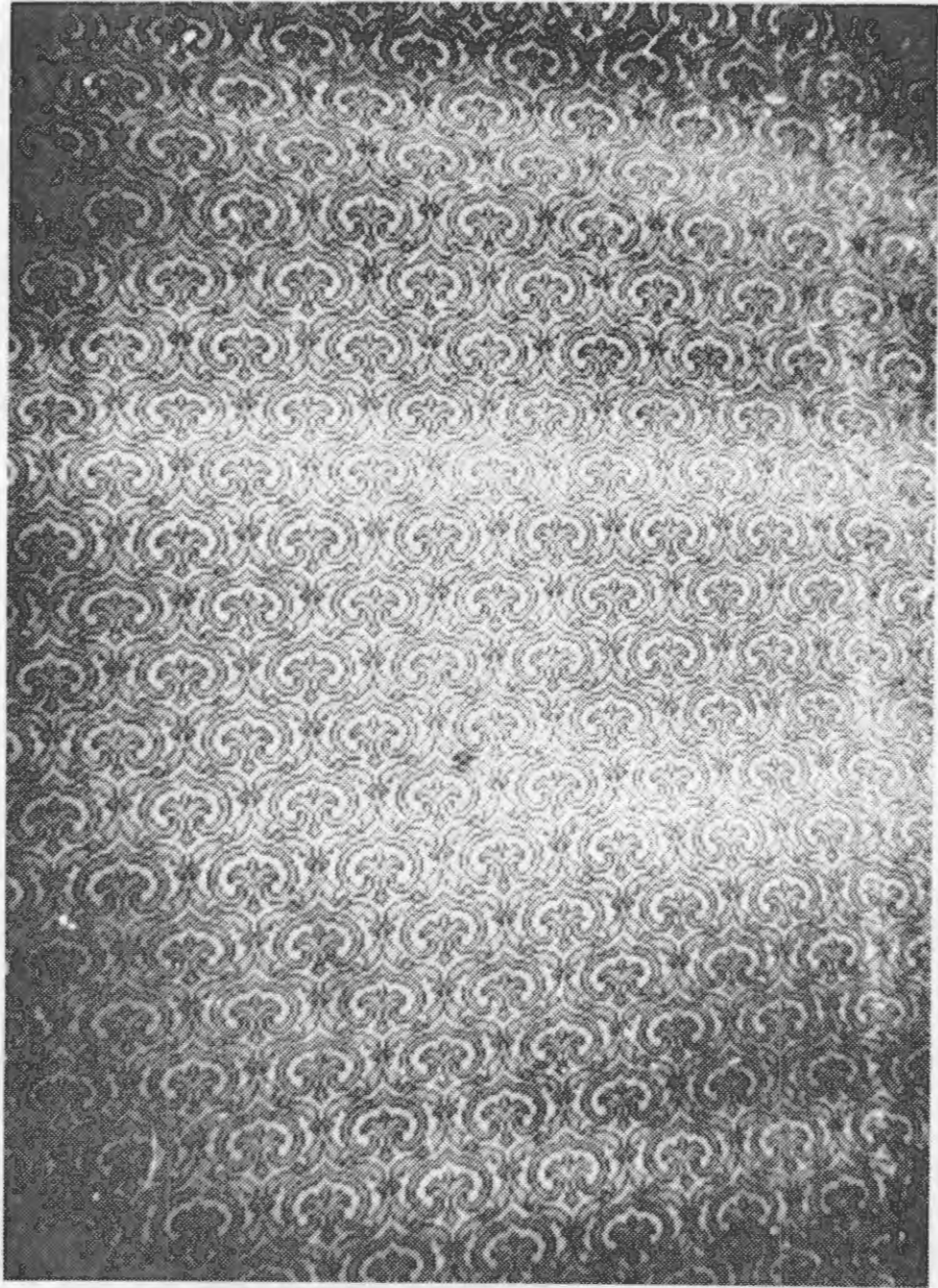
Second Floor Plan
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



First Floor Plan
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

Illustration 10.

Custom House carpet, 1904.



In July 1909, \$2.00 was spent to clean and repair the Custom House clock, presumably the early 19th century Willard banjo clock in the Main Business Office.¹⁴

On June 29, 1910, the Deputy Collector's Office received a typewriter chair for \$5.45 and on July 18, an oak typewriter desk. Both were purchased from W.B. Moses & Son of Washington, D.C.¹⁵

A departmental letter sent to the Salem Custom House Collector on July 26, 1912, designated the second floor, Room 1 (NW), as a Civil Service Examination Room, and soon thereafter furnishings were purchased for that function. On August 7, 1912, thirty coat hooks were bought from Jules A. Gourdeau of Salem. On August 27, the Supervisory Architect in Washington ordered a new clock from the Seth Thomas Clock Co., No. 21, oak case for \$11.25, and twenty-five bentwood chairs, No. 13, oak @ \$1.89 each from the Derby Desk Co. of Washington, D.C. To complete the furnishings for the room, twenty-five oak tables, No. 12-N, were ordered from the Bourn-Hadley Co. of Templeton, Mass., @ \$3.95 each on September 17, 1912.¹⁶

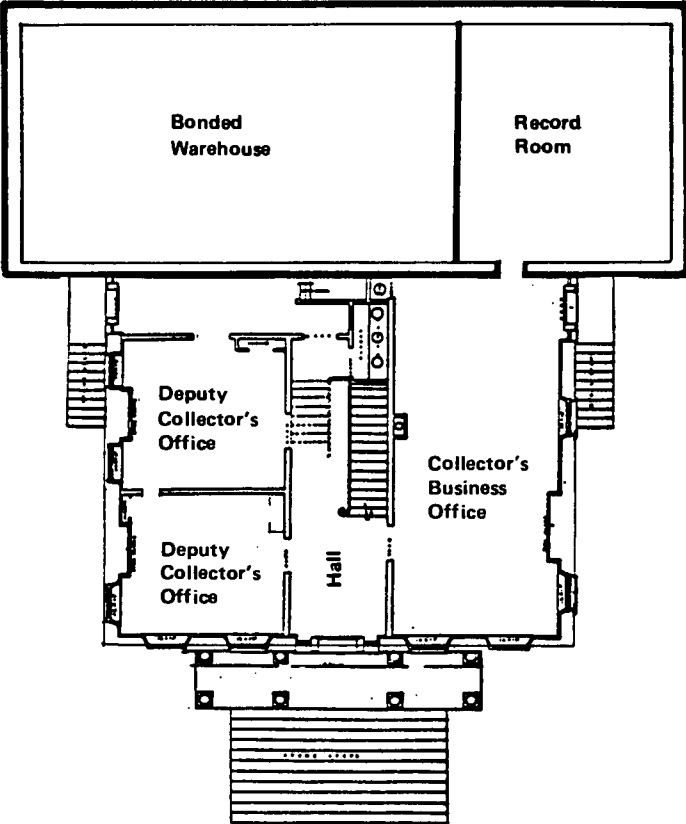
On July 1, 1913, the Custom district of Salem and Beverly was abolished after 127 years of revenue activity. Thereafter Salem was a Port of Entry under the supervision of a Collector-in-Charge in Boston.¹⁷

A room inventory taken in c. 1913 survives in the Custom House records, but it is less complete than the 1904 inventory, and therefore less valuable.

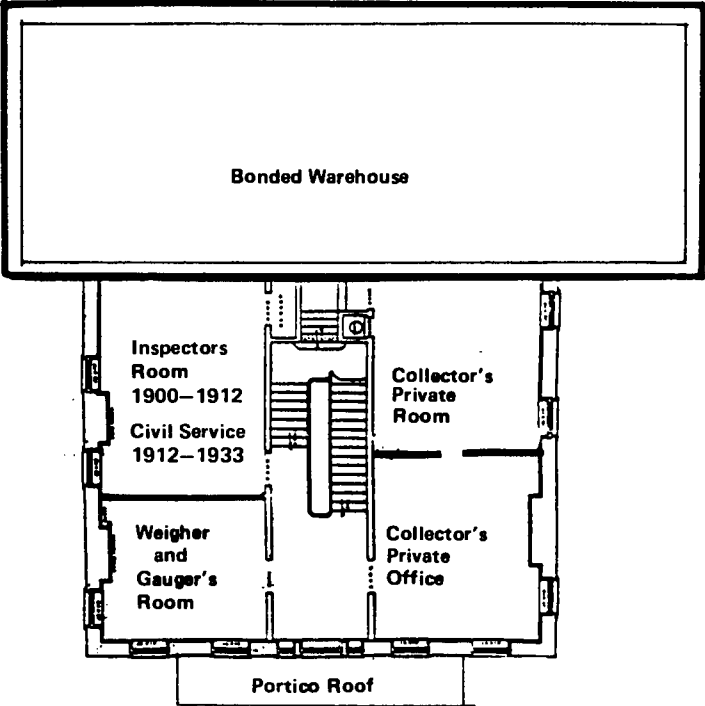
A wooden card catalog file was purchased from the Globe-Wernicke Co. of Washington, D.C., on September 30, 1916 for use in the Deputy Collector's Office. A clock was repaired on November 6, 1917 at the Custom House, but we do not know if this was the clock in the Main Business Office or the Civil Service Examination Room.¹⁸

On November 12, 1917, Inspector Julian Morton of the Salem Custom House notified the Supervisory Architect in Washington that only four people, including the Janitor, occupied the Custom House.¹⁹

Floor Plan and Room Assignments 1901-1919



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

FOOTNOTES

1. National Archives, RG 121, Public Buildings Service, Office of the Supervisory Architect, Letters Received, 1852-1900, Custom House, Salem, Mass., at Suitland, Maryland. Microfilm Reel 2, Vol. VIII, p. 43-45.
2. RG 121, Microfilm Reel 1, Vol. VII, pp. 1126-1127, 1134-1136.
3. Ibid., p. 1150.
4. Ibid., pp. 1151-1162.
5. Ibid., pp. 1173-1174.
6. Charles Snell, "Historic Structures Report, U.S. Custom House and Bonded Warehouse at Salem," typescript 1977, National Park Service, p. 178.
7. Record of Government Property, p. 12½.
8. Ibid., loose page, stationery dated December 27, 1903, no other date, under Lights Electric.
9. Ibid., p. 12½.
10. Ibid.
11. RG 121, Microfilm Reel 2, Vol. VIII, pp. 43-45.
12. Record of Government Property, p. 29.
13. RG 121, Box 5 1/8, Suitland.
14. RG 121, Microfilm Reel 2, Vol. IX, pp. 174-5.
15. RG 121, Box 950, Letters Sent, Chiefly by the Supervisory Architect, 1888-1912.
16. RG 121, Box 548.
17. David Little, "A Documentary History of the Salem Custom House", pp. 272-3.
18. RG 121, General Correspondence, Box 548, Suitland.
19. Ibid.

Chapter VI - 1920-1937

Following the renovations of 1901 and 1904 the Custom House building again fell into disrepair. Custom activities dwindled considerably after the breakup of the Salem-Beverly Custom District in 1913.

On December 1, 1920, both clocks in the Custom House were repaired, the Willard clock in the Main Business Office and the Seth Thomas clock in the Civil Service Examination Room.¹

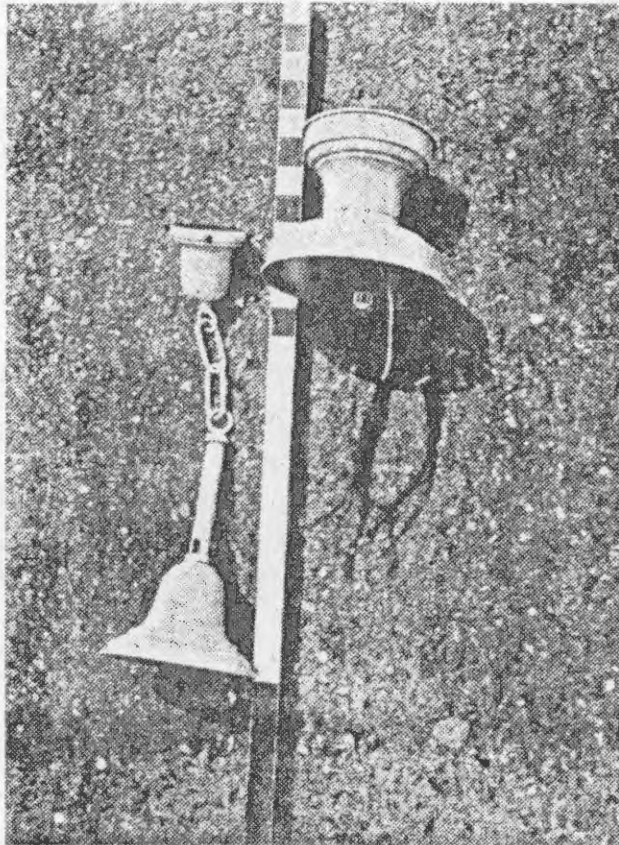
An article that appeared in the Salem Evening News June 16, 1922, bemoaned the poor condition of the "abject and forbidding" Custom House, including the outbuildings and fences.²

Soon thereafter another article appeared in the Salem Evening News that reported an upcoming renovation for the Custom House "to be restored to its original beauty." Special mention was made of the first floor Nathaniel Hawthorne room "to be preserved as nearly as possible as when the distinguished writer used it." Further along an interesting comment regarding the Custom House employees is noted, "The entire work force now consists only of Special Collector Sullivan, Inspector Connolly and Janitor Hanscom." An extensive renovation followed that included new lighting fixtures for many of the Custom House rooms.³

Four years later on March 22, 1926, Custodian William Sullivan reported to the Secretary of the Treasury on room use in the Custom House. Rooms 2 and 3 on the first floor were used for typewriting and clerical work by the Deputy Collector-in-Charge and his assistant, and Room 1 on the second floor was used as a Civil Service Examination Room. Rooms 2, 4, and 5 on the second floor were unoccupied. The building was clearly at low ebb of its utility to the Custom Service.⁴

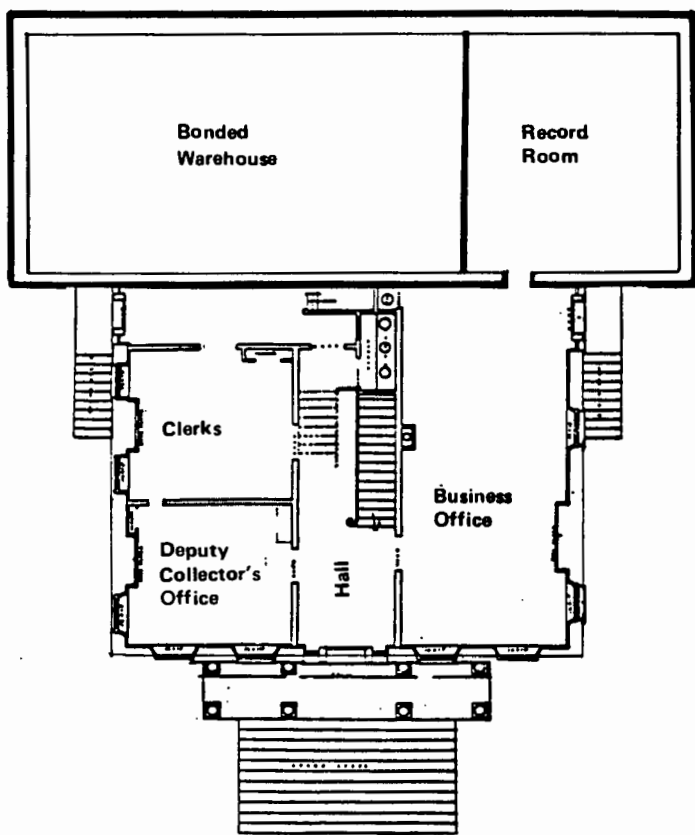
On June 4, 1926, another set of 26 roller shades was purchased for \$61.35 for the Custom House windows, replacing the previous set purchased January 1908.⁵

Illustration 11.
Light Fixtures of c. 1922.

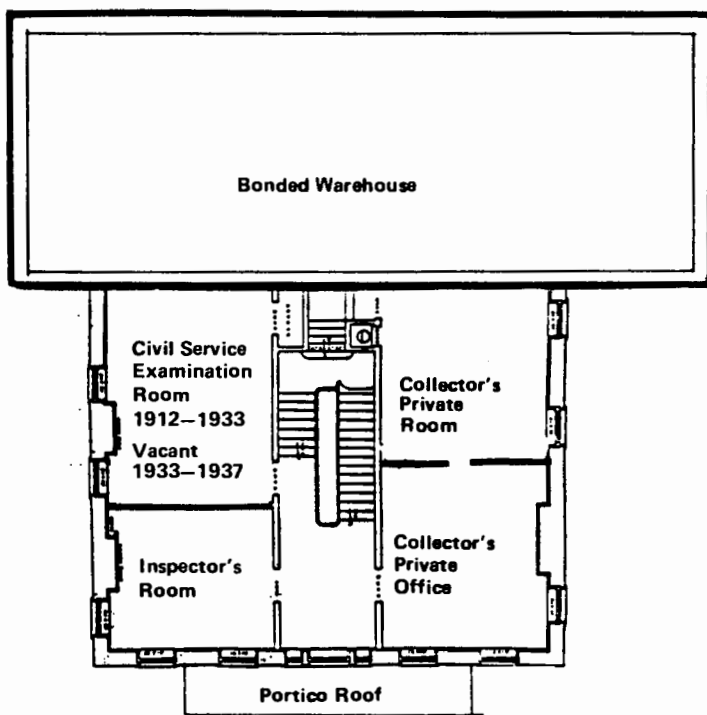


Fourteen On-In-A-Minute chair seats were purchased November 9, 1927, to replace worn out cane seats original to many of the 1873 chairs.⁶ In a further indication of the slowdown of Custom activities at Salem, the Collector declared surplus a large nine-drawer table desk on November 16, 1929, that was transferred to the Athens, Ohio, Post Office on January 30, 1930.⁷

A set of floor plans drawn of the Custom House for the Treasury Department in August 1930 included some interesting interior details (Illustrations 9 and 10).⁸ The first floor plan provided layout details for the Collector's Business Office such as locations of the 1854 safe, 1854 cabinet, 1887 bookcase and large counter of 1873. The room assignment was as follows:



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

On January 12, 1932, Custodian D.F. Connolly submitted to the Supervisory Architect a voucher for \$3.00 to repair the clock in the Civil Service Examination Room.⁹

By mid-1933 a decision was made to move the function of the Civil Service Examination Room from the Salem Custom House over to the Salem Post Office. A letter from the Executive Officer to the Custodian of the Custom House on August 17, 1933 instructed him to transfer to the post office, 25 Civil Service tables, 25 bentwood chairs, and 2 coat hook strips from the Custom House second floor.¹⁰ The Seth Thomas clock was left behind and remains to this day in the Custom House collections.

A letter from the Custom House Inspector to the Supervisory Architect on November 17, 1933, stated "only two Custom's employees and one fireman laborer were employed at the Custom House."¹¹

On September 25, 1934, the window roller shades were again replaced. Twenty-four new shades supplanted those purchased eight years earlier.¹²

On May 1, 1935, \$5.00 was spent to repair the Willard banjo clock, presumably in the Main Business Office.¹³

It is interesting to note that the Custom House was still purchasing firewood in small amounts in the 1930s. A voucher dated August 20, 1935, records the delivery of three cords of wood for \$36 which must have been used either in the fireplaces or coal furnace. Two cords of firewood were likewise purchased in fiscal year 1937.¹⁴

On October 29, 1935, the Treasury Department instructed the Custom House Custodian to get rid of items stored in the basement, including:

- 1 Carpet
- 6 Desks
- 2 Rotary Chairs
- 4 Bentwood Chairs

Illustration 12.

Custom House floor plan, first floor, 1930.

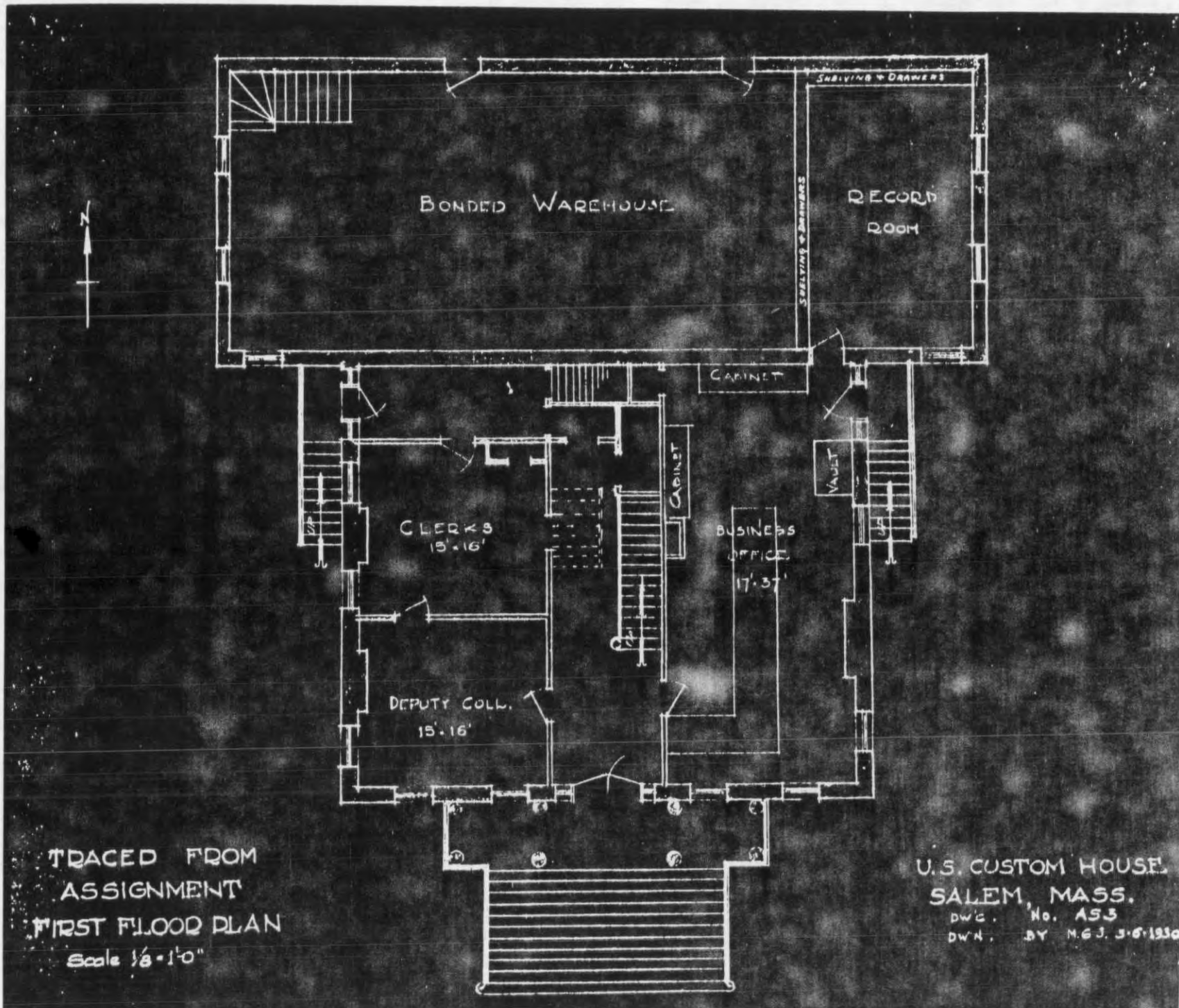
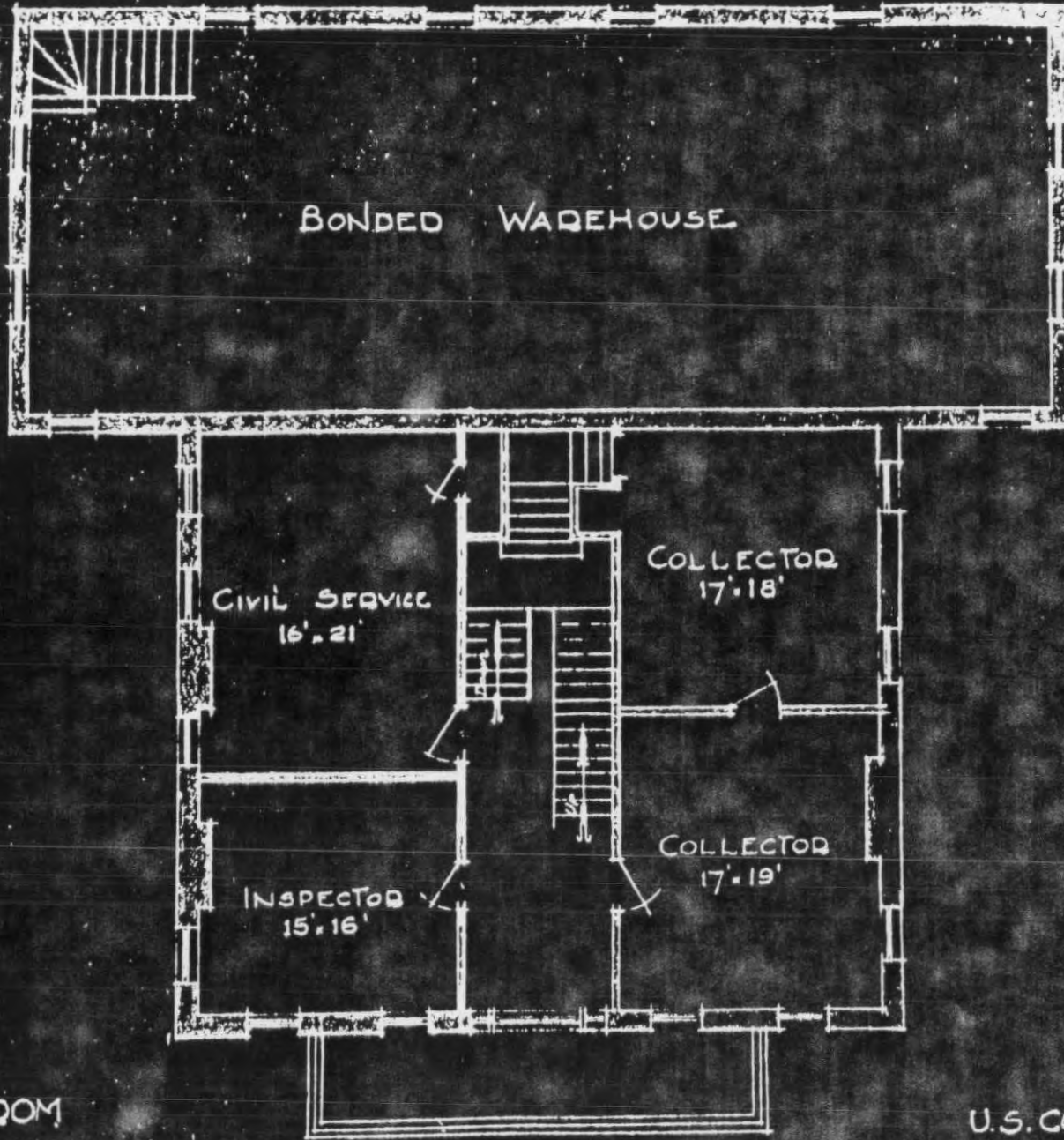


Illustration 13.

Custom House floor plan, second floor, 1930.



TRACED FROM
ASSIGNMENT
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE
SALEM, MASS.
JWG No. A54
DWN. BY MGJ 3-8-30

2 Carpet Rugs
4 Rugs
1 Stamp Rack
1 Fire Screen
3 Steel Door Mats
1 Seth Thomas Clock
8 Fire Extinguishers
1 Snow Remover
8 Shovels
1 Rake ¹⁵

Fortunately the clock and other pieces were not removed and still remain in the Custom House.

On June 30, 1937, the Custom Service turned over the Salem Custom House to the National Park Service.

FOOTNOTES

1. National Archives, RG 121, Public Building Service, Office of the Supervisory Architect, Letters Received, 1852-1900, Custom House, Salem, Mass., at Suitland, Maryland, Box 548.
2. Salem Evening News, Massachusetts, June 16, 1922, p. 5.
3. Ibid., June 29, 1922, p. 3.
4. RG 121, Box 1702.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Custom House-Bonded Warehouse Assignment Plans, by M.G.J. for The Treasury Department, 1930. Copy in SMNHS files.
9. RG 121, Box 1702.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. RG 121, Box 4811.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.

FURNISHING PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Sufficient documentation is cited in this report to justify refurnishing four rooms in the Salem Custom House: the Collector's Business Office (1st floor), the Collector's Private Office (2nd floor), the Collector's Private Room (2nd floor), and the Civil Service Examination Room (2nd floor).

Unfortunately, refurnishing the Civil Service Exam Room is not feasible because the original desks and chairs for this room are no longer extant and no photographs for the room have been discovered.

The Recommended Furnishings for the other three rooms that follow date to the early 20th century to coincide with the 1904 and 1913 inventories. Over 90% of the objects documented to these rooms survive in the Custom House collections. The interior trim and finishes reflect the 1904-1937 period and are historically compatible with the recommended furnishings.

Historic refurnishing for the Deputy Collector's Room, Surveyor's Room, Weigher and Gauger's Room and the Inspector's Room is not recommended for two reasons: 1) redundancy, furnishings for these rooms duplicate those for the Collector's Private Office and Room; and 2) conjecture, the exact historical location for furnishings in these rooms is unknown given the lack of photographic and physical evidence.

Insufficient evidence was found for the Surveyor's Office during the occupancy of novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne (1846-1849) to warrant refurnishing. It is therefore suggested that Hawthorne be interpreted through exhibitry in the first floor southwest room.

COLLECTOR'S BUSINESS OFFICE c. 1904

Safe - Purchased 1854 for \$600. Discarded by the NPS in 1953. Two doors, key operated, decorative trim on door panels, on wheels, grain-painted decoration. Approx. 4'6"x6' high x 2' deep.

Documentation - Historic photograph Illustration 2, Property Record Book, 1904 inventory

Source - Acquire antique

Location - East wall on soapstone base

Soapstone Hearth - Purchased 1854, 4'10 3/8" x 3'6 5/16" x 4" thick

Documentation - 1854 renovation specifications

Source - Acquire

Location - East wall

Cabinet - Purchased 1854, white pine, grained in imitation of live oak, two glazed doors over eight drawers, interior remodeled in 1873

Documentation - Historic photograph Illustration 2, Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection, no number

Location - West wall

Counter - Purchased 1873 from T.J. Gifford & Co. at \$600, large L-shape design with turntable, drawers and sloping desk area, oak and walnut.

Documentation - 1873 design drawing, Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection, no number

Location - West side of room

Bookcase - Purchased 1887 from John E. Kimball Co., oak and pine, three pairs of glazed doors, 10' wide

Documentation - Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection, no number

Location - North wall

Ledgers, Papers, etc. - for bookcase, cabinet, tables and desks, various styles

Documentation - Purchase records

Source - Acquire period ledgers and reproduction papers

Location - Bookcase, cabinet, tables and desks

Clock - Willard banjo type, unknown purchase date but probably between 1820 and 1849

Documentation - Record of Government Property, correspondence 5-1-1935, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection

Location - East wall above fireplace

Window Shades - Four, purchased June 9, 1900, buff color, spring roller type

Documentation - Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory, 1937 photograph

Source - Acquire reproduction

Location - Windows

Copy Press - Purchased April 2, 1861, cast iron type

Documentation - Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection, either #1792 or #1793

Location - North end of room on table

Table for Copy Press - Purchased November 12, 1873 from T.J. Gifford Co. for \$25

Documentation - November 1873 Purchase Records, Record of Government Property

Source - Exact identification of this table unknown, but it is believed to be one of seven tables now in the Custom House Collections, use SMNHS #1987

Location - North end of room in front of 1887 bookcase

Tables - Two purchased November 1873, oak and walnut, turned legs

Documentation - November 1873 Purchase Records, Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection, #1946, #1947, third has no number

Location - One along west wall and one along south wall

Desks - Purchased October-November 1873 from Lawrence, Wilde & Hull, oak, turned legs, bank of drawers down one side

Documentation - 1873 Purchase Records, Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection, #2687, #1657

Location Along east wall

Revolving Chairs - Two purchased August 23, 1898 for \$10, with cushions

Documentation - Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - Acquire antique, or use one from 1873 #1958

Location - One at each desk

Chairs - Seven purchased October-November 1873, comprising oak spindle back armchairs with solid seats, oak spindle back armchairs with cane seats, from Lawrence, Wilde & Hull

Documentation - October-November 1873 Purchase Records, Property Record Book, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection 1 (no #) solid seat, 1 (no #), #2689, #1627, #1625, #1984, #1989 cane seats

Location - Along all walls

Chairs - Two bentwood, purchased August 23, 1898, cane seat, loop back, marked Heywood Bros., Gardner, Mass.

Documentation - Purchase Records, Property Record Book, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection, #2766, #2765

Location - East wall

Stool - Purchased October 1873 from Lawrence, Wilde & Hull, rotating seat
Documentation - Purchase Records, Property Record Book, 1904
inventory

Source - Neither of the two 1873 rotating stools survive, use SMNHS
(no #) a non-rotating version instead

Location - In front of sloping desk section of counter

Hat Tree - Purchased October 1873 from Lawrence, Wilde & Hull, oak. A
total of three were purchased at this time, two @ \$16 each and one @
\$18. Two survive in the SMNHS collection, one of walnut and one of
oak

Documentation - Purchase Records, Property Record Book, 1904
inventory

Source - SMNHS collection, #3102

Location - Inside counter door

Water Cooler - Purchased August 23, 1898, replacing that of 1887

Documentation - Purchase Records, Property Record Book, 1904
inventory

Source - Acquire, original missing

Location - On water cooler stand

Water Cooler Stand - Purchased 1887 for \$13.80

Documentation - Purchase Records, 1904 inventory

Source - Original missing, use SMNHS #2688

Location - South wall

Gold Scale and Case - Purchased November 1873

Documentation - Purchase Records, 1904 inventory

Source - Possible loan from Treasury Department or Custom Service,
or acquire

Location - Counter

Cuspidors - Two purchased April 6, 1887, Agate No. 8

Documentation - Purchase Records, 1904 inventory

Source - Acquire

Location - On floor next to desks

Letter Scale - Purchased 1863 for \$3.50

Documentation - Property Record Book, 1904 inventory

Source - Acquire or possible loan from Treasury Department or
Custom Service

Location - Counter

Books - Regulations Custom Inspector 5 volumes June 19, 1893

Downing, U.S. Tariff 1897 April 23, 1898

Vandegrifts, U.S. Tarrif 1899 May 6, 1898

Vol. Custom Regulations July 26, 1900

Vol. Cat. Books and Blanks June 16, 1902

Documentation - Property Record Book, 1904 inventory

Source - Acquire

Location - 1887 bookcase

Ink Stands - Seven in all, two purchased September 28, 1903, two
purchased September 10, 1900, and three purchased August 14,
1896, glass and cast iron, various styles

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - SMNHS collection #2548, #2545, #2546, #2547, #2544 and
acquire

Location - On desks and counter

Pen Racks - Six, purchased February 5, 1887, probably cast iron type

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - At desks and counter

Penholders - Twelve, purchased September 9, 1901

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Two at each pen rack

Tumblers - Six, clear glass, pressed, purchased for \$.30 July 1, 1904

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Water cooler stand

Water Pitcher - Clear, pressed glass, purchased April 27, 1903 for \$.25

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Water cooler stand

Waste Paper Baskets - Five, purchased July 1, 1904, two for \$2.00, three for \$2.25

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Next to desks and counter

Ink Pads - Two, purchased September 28, 1903

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Counter

Erasers - Four, two purchased September 28, 1903, two purchased September 10, 1900

Documentation - Record of Government Property, either rubber or knife type

Source - Acquire

Location - At each desk and counter

Letter Files - Fourteen, two purchased September 9, 1901, twelve purchased @ \$15 December 31, 1899, and two Shipmans letter files purchased April 14, 1899

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Cabinet of 1887

Rubber Stamps - Ten, hard rubber, purchased November 29, 1897

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Desks and counter

Thermometer - Wall type, purchased July 11, 1896

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Wall

Rulers - Three, purchased March 13, 1888, October 31, 1891 and September 19, 1889

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Three desks

Paperweights - Four, purchased March 13, 1888, iron or glass

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - One on counter, three on desks

Letter Clip - Purchased March 13, 1888, brass or iron type

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Desk

Sponge Cups - Four clear glass, purchased October 31, 1891

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Counter and three desks

Tin Folders - Two, purchased September 19, 1889

Documentation - Record of Government Property

Source - Acquire

Location - Counter and one desk

Radiators - Three, c. 1904, cast iron with raised floral designs overall,
reinstalled 1977

Documentation - Original radiators found in the Custom House

Source - Custom House Collections

Location - One on south wall, one on east wall, one on west wall

COLLECTOR'S PRIVATE OFFICE AND ROOM, 1904-5

Carpet - Purchased December 23, 1904, for \$101.34, wool, sewn together
in 27" strips, wall-to-wall, marked on back "U.S. Treasury
Standard"

Documentation - Record of Government Property, 1904 Inventory,
1913 Inventory, original full-size carpet for south room only
survives in the SMNHS collection

Source - Acquire reproduction, exact copy of original

Location - Wall-to-wall, both rooms

Window Shades - Five purchased June 9, 1900, buff color, @ \$1.00 each,
spring roller type

Documentation - Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - Acquire reproduction

Location - Five windows

Bookcase - Purchased November 1873, walnut, two glazed doors over two drawers

Documentation - Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - SMNHS collection #1953

Location - Marks on old carpet from this room indicate the bookcase was located on the north wall of the southeast room to the east of the doorway

Chairs - Twelve, purchased October 1873 from Lawrence, Wilde & Hull @ \$8.00 each, walnut, Renaissance style, cane seat, pierced splat

Documentation - Acquisition Records, Record of Government Property, 1891 photograph

Source - SMNHS collection #1982, #1635, #1998, #1981, #1997, #1985, #2263, #1980, #1983, #63, #1637, #1628

Location - Six in each of two rooms

Rotary Chair - Purchased October 1873, cushion back and seat

Documentation - Acquisition Records, Record of Government Property, 1891 photograph

Source - SMNHS collection #1959

Location - Next to desk, south room

Light Fixtures - Two, electric, purchased c. 1922, dated 1921, two types either with hanging chain or attached globe

Documentation - Original fixtures found in the Custom House

Source - Acquire

Location - Center of ceiling in each room

Desk - Purchased September 14, 1904, for \$66.96, possibly the same nine-drawer desk that was subsequently transferred to the Athens, Ohio, Post Office on Jan. 30, 1930

Documentation - Acquisition Records, Record of Government Property, Inventory of 1913

Source - Original missing, use SMNHS collection #1986 instead

Location - Center of south room, facing south

Hat Rack - Purchased November 1873, from Lawrence, Wilde & Hull for \$18, pierced walnut, center mirror, umbrella holders

Documentation - Acquisition Records, Record of Government Property, 1891 photograph

Source - SMNHS collection #1949

Location - North room, center of west wall

Lounges - Two purchased October 28, 1873, from Lawrence, Wilde & Hull @ \$55 each, upholstered

Documentation - Acquisition Records, Record of Government Property, 1891 photograph

Source - SMNHS collection #1950, #1951

Location - South room west wall, north room north wall

Tables - Two purchased October-November 1873 from Lawrence, Wilde & Hull, turned legs, one table with two drawers, the other, with one drawer

Documentation - Acquisition Records, Record of Government Property, 1891 photograph

Source - SMNHS collection #1948, #1960

Location - #1948, center of north room facing south
#1960, north room, east wall

Wardrobe - Purchased October 28, 1873, from Lawrence, Wilde & Hull for \$40, walnut, two flat panel doors above two drawers

Documentation - Acquisition Records, Record of Government Property

Source - SMNHS collection #1610

Location - North wall, north room, east end

Rugs - Total of four, two purchased April 6, 1887, @ \$4 each from Edwin R. Ide, 6'x3', Smyrna type, two purchased December 23, 1904, @ \$8.19

Documentation - Acquisition Records, Record of Government Property, 1891 photograph

Source - Acquire

Location - Inside each doorway

Cuspidore - Purchased April 6, 1887 from Edwin R. Ide @ \$1.25, Agate

No. 8

Documentation - Acquisition Records, Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - Acquire

Location - Floor, south room, next to rotary chair

Window Shades - Five purchased June 9, 1900, @ \$1. each spring roller type, buff color

Documentation - Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - Acquire

Location - Windows

			<u>Purchase Date</u>
<u>Books</u> -	<u>Laws of the U.S.</u>	25 vols	
	<u>Revenue Laws</u>	6 vols	
	<u>Government Salary Table</u> , pamphlet		6-5-1897
	<u>Supplemental To Revised Statutes</u> , pamphlet		3-20-1902
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u>	27 vols including	
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1879	2 vols	1895 2 vols
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1880	2 vols	1896 2 vols
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1881	2 vols	1897 1 vol
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1882	2 vols	1898 1 vol
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1883	2 vols	1899 2 vols
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1884	2 vols	1900 1 vol
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1885	2 vols vol 23	1901 2 vols
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1886	1 vol	1902
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1887	vol 24	1903
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1888	2 vols	
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1889	1 vol	
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1890	2 vols	
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1891	2 vols	
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1893	2 vols vol 27	
	<u>U.S. Statutes At Large</u> 1894	2 vols	
	<u>Supplemental to Revised Statutes</u>		October 1881
	<u>International Marine Conference 1889</u>	3 vols	

Documentation - Record of Government Property, 1904 inventory

Source - Acquire

Location - Bookcase

Clothes Brush - Purchase date unknown, perhaps the private property of the Collector, wooden handle, approx. 8" long

Documentation - 1891 photograph

Source - Acquire

Location - Hat rack shelf, north room

Ledger - Leather bound, approx. 10"x15"

Documentation - 1891 photograph

Source - Acquire

Location - Center table, north room

Blotter - Desk type, approx. 30"x36", light color

Documentation - 1891 photograph

Source - Acquire

Location - Center table, north room

Inkwell with Pen Rack - Inverted glass font, metal base

Documentation - 1891 photograph

Source - Acquire

Location - Center table, north room

Ledger and Papers - Approx. 10"x12" ledger, assortment of loose papers

Documentation - 1891 photograph

Source - Acquire

Location - Desk, south room

Portrait - Oil on canvas, General James Miller, Collector 1825-49, gilt frame

Documentation - Salem Gazette article November 13, 1873

Source - On loan from Essex Institute

Location - Above fireplace, south room

Portrait - Oil on canvas, Major Joseph Hiller, first Collector of the Port of Salem, 1784-1802, framed

Documentation - Salem Gazette article November 13, 1873

Source - SMNHS collection #163

Location - East wall, north room

Plaster Bust - Abraham Lincoln, marked "Lincoln" and "L.W. Volk Sculptor 1860, Patent June 2, 1860"

Documentation - Salem Gazette article, November 13, 1873

Source - SMNHS collection, no #

Location - On table, north room, north wall

Brass Fire Tool Set and Fender - Purchase date unknown, possibly 1820-1850

Documentation - Salem Gazette article November 13, 1873 mentions an "old fashioned" brass fire set and fender

Source - Acquire

Location - South room, fireplace hearth

Radiators - Four, cast iron with raised floral designs overall, installed 1904, two in each room

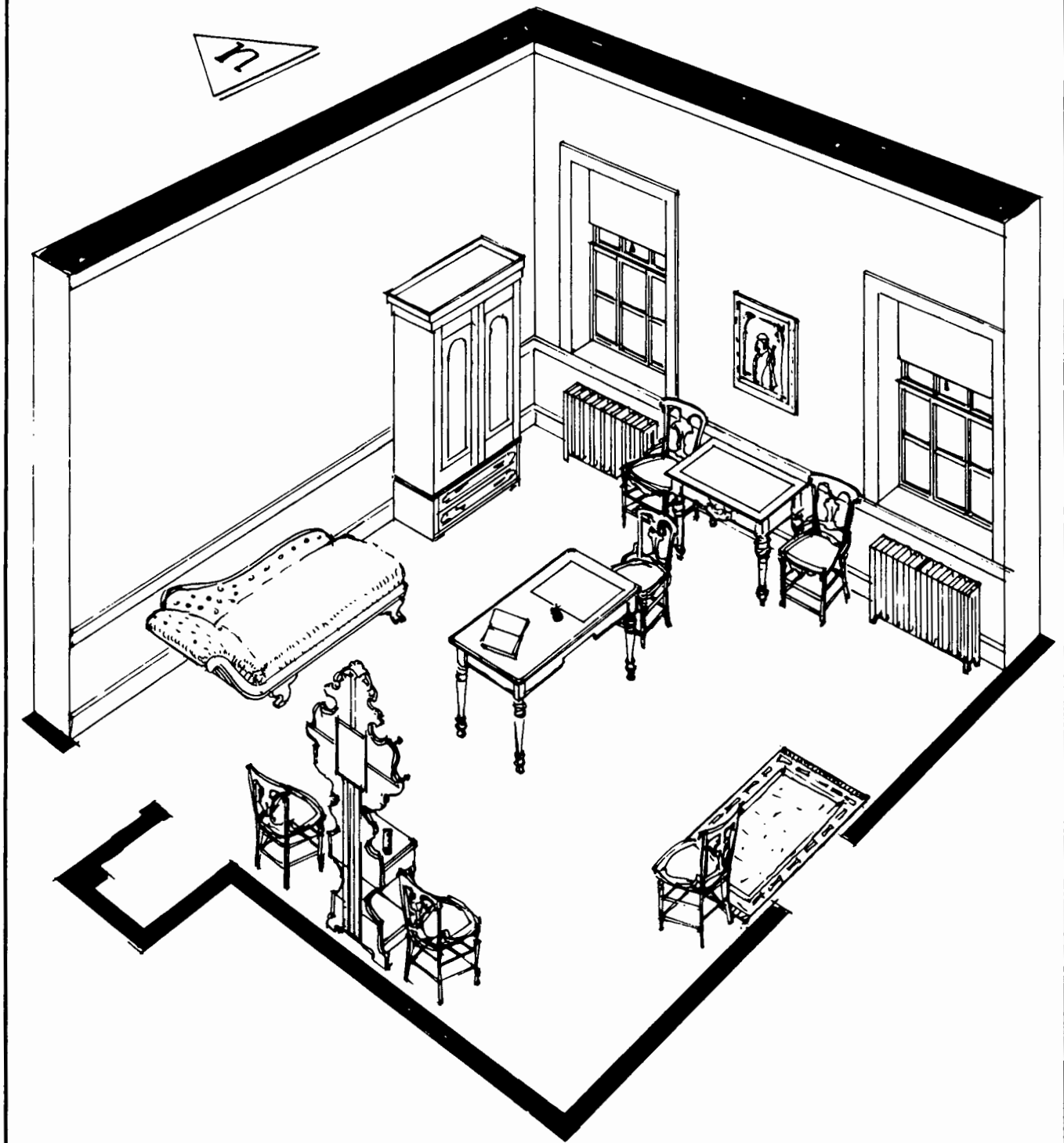
Documentation - Original radiators from other rooms of the Custom House

Source - Custom House collections, acquire if necessary

Location - North room, two on east wall

South room, one on south wall, one on east wall

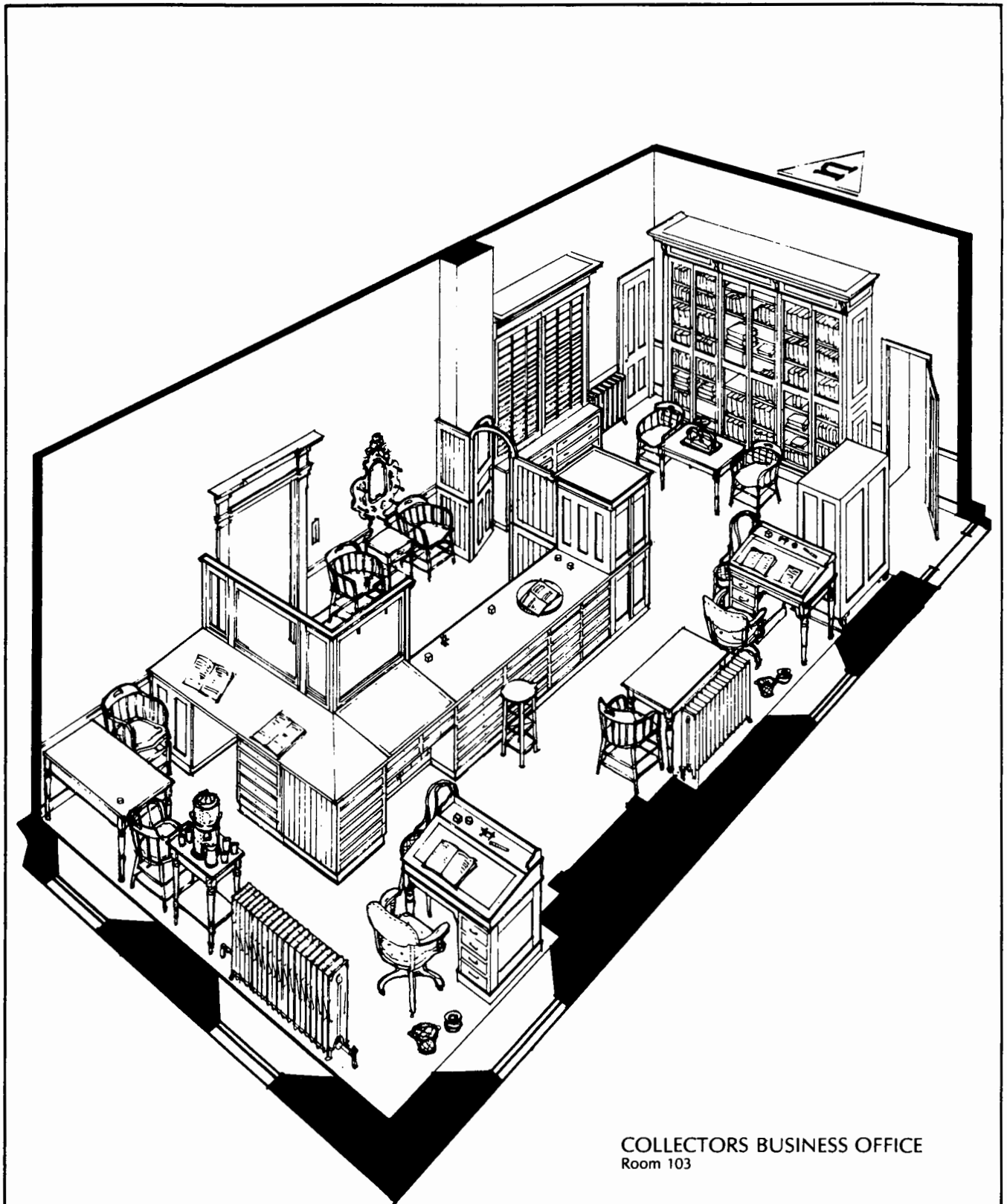
WORKING DRAWINGS



COLLECTORS PRIVATE ROOM
Room 207



COLLECTORS PRIVATE OFFICE
Room 203



COLLECTORS BUSINESS OFFICE
Room 103

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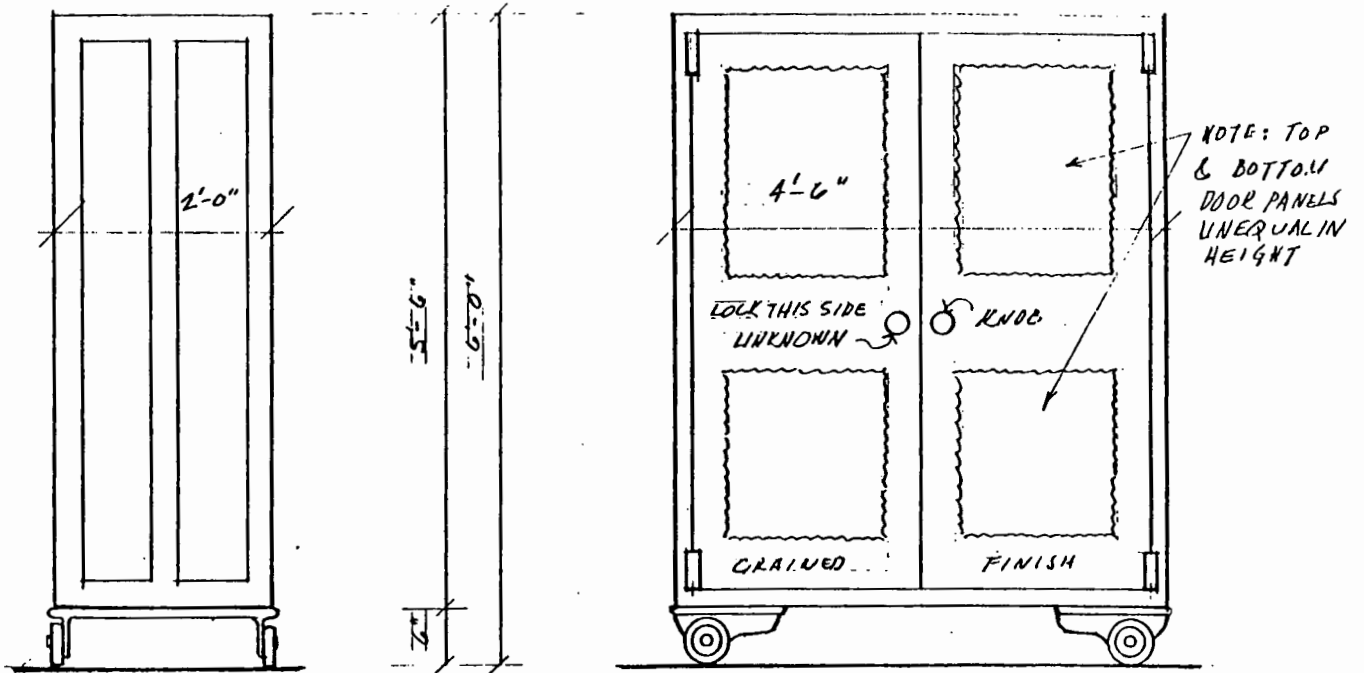
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U.S. Department of Treasury. No. 89 Record of Government Property at the Custom House 1890-1910. Salem Maritime National Historic Site.

APPENDIXES

A: CONJECTURAL DRAWING OF 1853 SAFE ORIGINALLY IN THE COLLECTORS BUSINESS OFFICE. DRAWN BY ORVILLE CARROLL



SIDE VIEW

FRONT VIEW

VIEW OF PROPOSED FLOORSAFE FOR COLLECTORS BUSINESS OFFICE.

CUSTOM HOUSE-SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE, MASS. DEC 2-15-78
SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"

DESIGN BASED ON PHOTOGRAPH NOS. 18-52 & 8A-1 FOUND IN JAMA FILES

B. PURCHASE RECORD, GAS CHANDELIER FOR THE COLLECTORS PRIVATE OFFICE, OCTOBER 14, 1873 FROM THE TUCKER MFG. CO.

The United States,

To Tucker Manufacturing Co. *11*
to the U.S. Treasury - applied at
of Public Buildings of the Custom House
 On account of the appropriation for the
 at Salem, Mass.

DATE. 1873.	DESIGNATION.	APPLICATION.	AMOUNT.	
			Dollars.	Cents.
Oct 14	Collectors Room, 1 Chandelier Salem Custom House 7 Lbs		668 ⁴ / ₁₀₀	25

I CERTIFY that the articles above enumerated have been received and the services performed; that they were necessary for, and have been or will be applied to, the ^{reconstruction} reconstruction of the Custom House in Salem under instruction of Sept 30, 1873, and that the prices paid were just and reasonable.

Correct
 J. A. Mullin
 Supervising Architect.
 RECEIVED *20/10* this 14th day of October, 1873,
 from Thomas J. Hobbs Disbursing Clerk the sum of Twenty Five Dollars,

in full payment of the above account.

\$ 25.

Tucker Mfg Co
 (SIGNED IN DUPLICATE)
 Duplicate R & Jap Trus

D. PURCHASE RECORD, CARPETING, GRASS MATTING AND WINDOW SHADES, NOVEMBER 12, 1873 FROM WILLARD GOLDTHWAITE CO.

The United States.

To Willard Goldthwaite Co. *111 1/2*
Washington

On account of the appropriation for the *Interior and* *the Custom House*
at *Salmon Falls*

DATE 187 .	DESIGNATION.	APPLICATION.	AMOUNT.	
			Dollars.	Cents.
	6 Brown Shals with Linn		14	69
	128 yds <i>Woolen</i> <i>Shal</i>		100	128 63
	19 yds <i>T. Brussels</i>		150	29 50
	" " <i>Hand & Laid</i>		15	29 15
	135 <i>Lining</i>		12 1/2	16 88
	Labels on Register			86
	9 Buff Shades		2 1/2	24 50
	" " "		190	760
	1 set 300 + <i>Range</i> 700			31 00
				545 06

I CERTIFY that the articles above enumerated have been received and the services performed; that they were necessary for, and have been or will be applied to, the *Construction* of the *Custom House* at *Salmon Falls*, and that the prices paid were just and reasonable.

Salmon Falls
Council

J. M. Milton
Superintendent

Ben. Peckham
Subt of Register.

Received *Salmon Falls* the *12th* day of *Nov*, 187 *3*
from *Thomas J. Hobbs, Deputy Clerk*, the sum of *Five hundred forty five and 6/100* Dollars,
in full payment of the above account.

\$545.06

Willard Goldthwaite Co.
Duplicate

E. PURCHASE RECORD, FURNISHINGS, NOVEMBER 12, 1873 FROM THE T.J. GIFFORD CO.

(FORM 2.)

The United States,

To *T. J. Gifford & Co.*

On account of the Appropriation for the ^{repairs} ~~construction~~ and repairs of the ^{Custom House} ~~Custom House~~ at *Salem, Mass.*

DATE 1873	DESIGNATION.	APPLICATION.	AMOUNT.	
			DOLLARS	CENTS
	<i>Patent Iron Table & desk</i>	<i>Business office</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>00</i>
	<i>Case for Gold scales</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>00</i>
	<i>Table for Copying press</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>00</i>
	<i>Rebuilding Back Room</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>00</i>
	<i>Filling & painting fixtures</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>25</i>
	<i>Partition boards</i>	<i>Main Hall</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>00</i>
			<i>187</i>	<i>25</i>

I CERTIFY that the articles above enumerated have been received and the services performed; that they were necessary for, and have been, or will be, applied to the ^{repairs} ~~construction~~ of the *Custom House* at *Salem, Mass.*; and that the prices paid were just and reasonable.

CORRECT:

J. P. Milton
Supervising Architect

Ben. Poley Rowe
Supt. of Repairs

RECEIVED, *Salem*, this *12th* day of *November*, 1873,
from *Thomas J. Hobbs, Dir. of Cl. Bk.*, the sum of
One hundred and Eighty seven $\frac{25}{100}$ Dollars,
in full payment of the above account.

(SIGNED IN DUPLICATE.)

\$187 $\frac{25}{100}$

T. J. Gifford & Co.

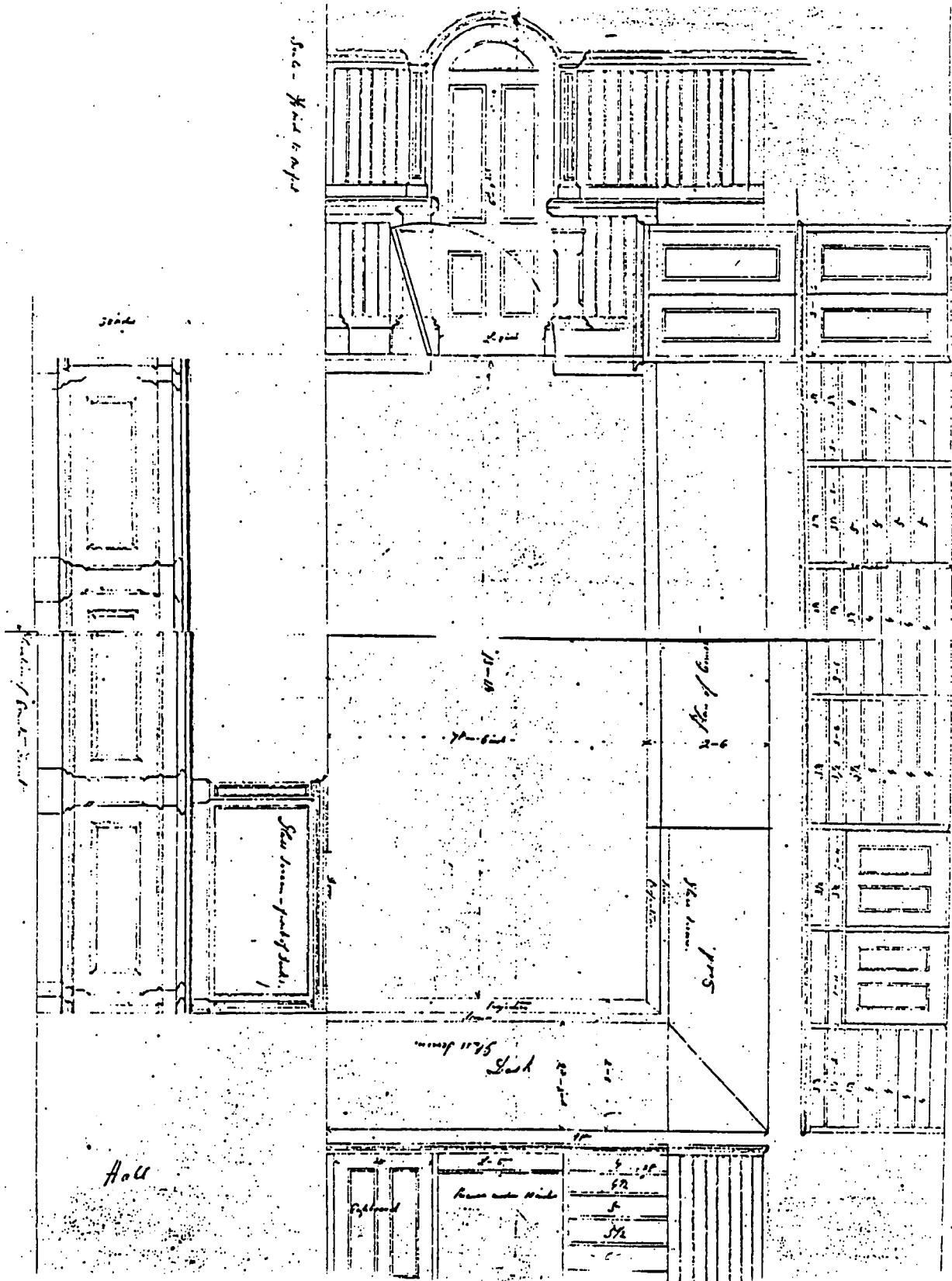
Paid by check on

No. , dated

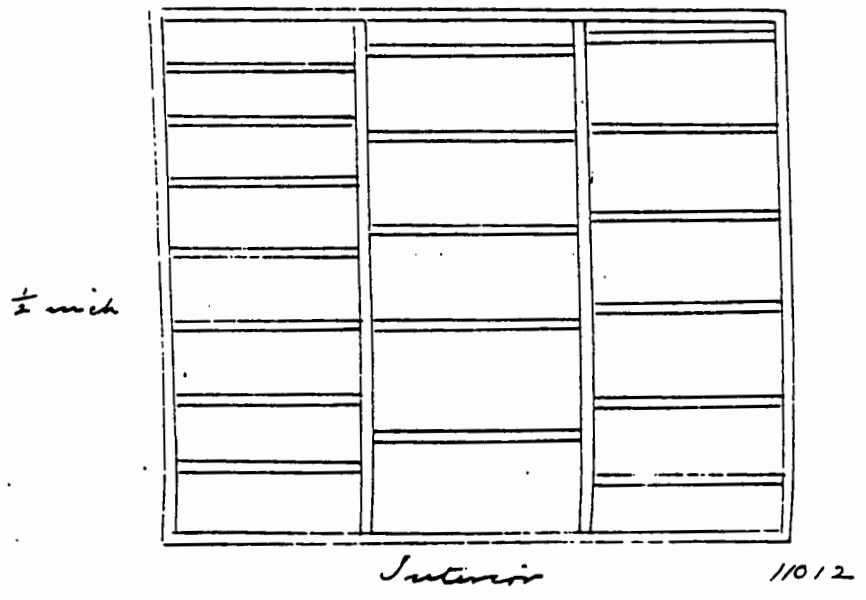
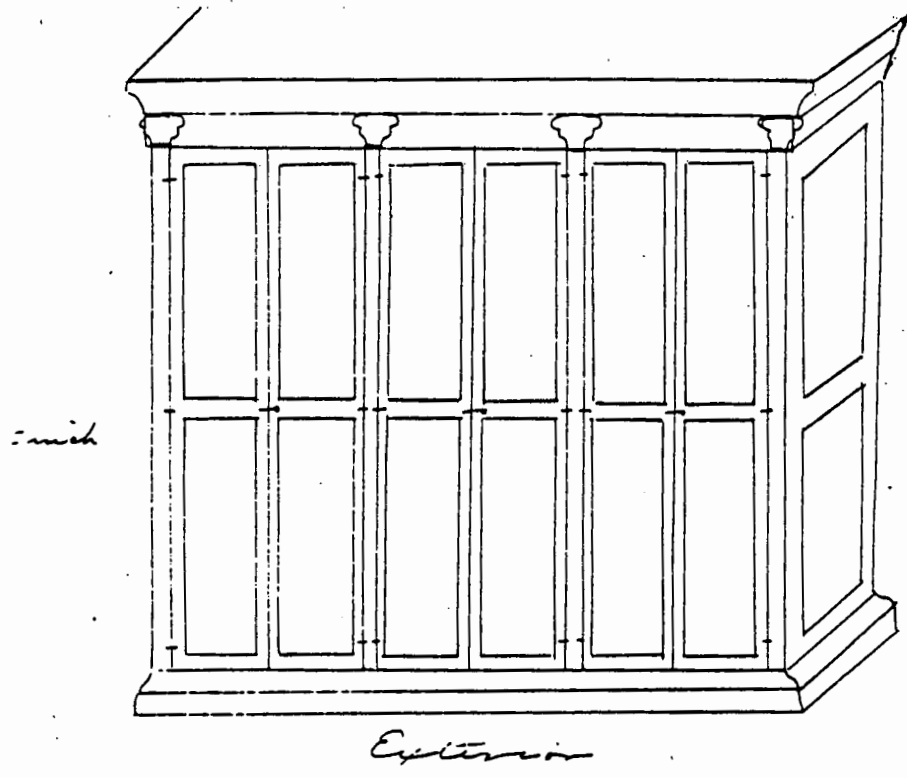
, 187

Duplicate

F. PLAN OF 1873 COUNTER INSTALLED IN THE COLLECTORS BUSINESS OFFICE, SUBMITTED BY BENJAMIN PERLEY POORE



G. EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR ELEVATIONS, BOOKCASE FOR THE COLLECTORS BUSINESS OFFICE BY JOHN KIMBALL, MARCH 25, 1887



H. PURCHASE RECORD, FURNISHINGS, MARCH 12, 1887 FROM EDWIN R. IDE

(DUPLICATE.)

(CAT. No. 116.)

APPROPRIATION:
FURNITURE AND REPAIRS OF FURNITURE FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS, 1887.

The United States,

To Edwin R. Ide, D.

DATE. 1887.	ARTICLES AND LABOR FURNISHED.	AMOUNT.	
		DOLLARS.	CTS.
March 26	For 75 yds Oil Cloth Carpet & Lining @ 1.00 yard	75	00
"	" 21 Scotch Holland Curtains @ 1.25	26	25
"	" 6 Supreme Rug 6' x 3' @ 4.	24	00
"	" 1 Rattan Seat 3' x 3'	3	50
"	" 1 Coin " 3' x 3'	3	00
"	" 1 do " 3' x 2"	1	40
"	" 7 do mats 4' x 2 1/2' @ 2.50	17	50
"	" 1 Rubber mat 3 1/2' x 3'	7	50
"	" 1 Walnut Swivel top office Chair	20	00
"	" 6 Cushioners, Azate No 8 @	7	50
"	" 1 Water Cooler with furniture	6	50
"	" 1 Walnut Umbrella Stand	3	00
		195	13

47 4/41
28
75

CERTIFY that the articles and labor as above stated have been furnished for use of the United States
at San Francisco at San Francisco
that they were necessary for, and have been or will be applied to, use in the said building; that the prices charged are
just and reasonable, and authorized by Department's letter of March 12, 1887.

APPROVED: R. F. Brown Custodian.
Assistant Secretary.

RECEIVED this _____ day of _____, 1887, from THOMAS J. HOBBS, Disbursing
Clerk, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C., the sum of _____

_____ Dollars, in full payment of the above account.
\$ 195 13
(SIGNED IN DUPLICATE.) Edwin R. Ide

Paid by check on Assistant Treasurer U. S., New York, No. _____, dated _____, 1887.

NOTE.—All bills must be made in duplicate, and be receipted by some person authorized to sign the firm-name. Unless bills are correctly receipted before presentation they must, under the law, be referred to the accounting officer for settlement before they can be paid, which delays the transmission of the draft from ten to fifteen days.
(No. 3-1-81-2,000.)
B. O. ... San Francisco March 6 1887

I. CUSTOM HOUSE INVENTORY OF 1904. SALEM MARITIME NHS

DUPLICATE,

Cat. No. 171 G.

CUSTOM HOUSE,

SALEM, MASS.

David H. Little

Custodian

INVENTORY

OF

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Other than
Furniture and Fixtures
IN THE

CUSTOM HOUSE,

SALEM, MASS.

Date *January*, 1904

1884

DUPLICATE.

Oct. No. 111 C

To be used only in connection with the property

INVENTORY OF PUBLIC PROPERTY in the CUSTOMS HOUSE Building, at SALT SPRING MASS. on the _____, 190

NUMBER OF PIECES	ARTICLE	OFFICE	DATE OF ACQUISITION	COST	PRESENT CONDITION	REMARKS
1	Chair	Collectors Office	August 15, 1890			
1	Hammer	"	"	.60		
1	Ice Pick	"	"	.25		
1	Veal Piece	"	Nov 29, "			
1	Relic's Toph	"	Oct 31, 1891			
1	Hand Saw	"	August 18, 1892	1.25		
5	Regulations Customs Inspector	"	June 19, 1893			
1	Hammer	"	July 1, 1894	.90		
1	Saw	"	"	.87		
1	Screwdriver	"	"	.25		
1	Drawings U. S. Tariff	"	April 27, 1890			
1	Proceedings U. S. Tariff	"	May 6, 1890			
1	Vol. Cont. Books and Blanks	"	June 24, 1890			
1	Pack	"	April 15, 1899	.25		
12	File Boxes	"	Dec 31, 1899	16.00		
1	Box & handle	"	April 16, 1900	.91		
1	Hammer	"	"	.65		
1	Hatchet	"	"	.65		
1	Vol. Custom Regulations	"	July 26, "			
2	Flags Revenue 5x8	"	April 23, 1902			
1	Flag Revenue 2 1/2 x 4	"	"			
1	Block Plane	"	12, "	.85		
1	Vol. Cont. Books and Blanks	"	June 16, "			
2	Flags National 5x8	"	May 11, 1903			
25	Vol. Laws of the United States	Collectors Private Office	unknown			
6	Vol. Revenue Laws	"	"			
1	Vol. Government Salary Table	"	June 5, 1897			
1	Vol. Supplemental to Revenue Statutes	"	August 20, 1902			
27	Vol. United States Statistics	"	Sept 21, 1903			
27	Vol. Supplemental to Revenue Statutes	Lodging Collectors Office	Nov 1, 1891			
1	Vol. Digest of decisions	"	Dec 22, 1884			

INVENTORY OF PUBLIC PROPERTY in the _____
 on the _____, 190

Wash. D. C.

NUMBER OF PIECES	ARTICLE	OFFICE	DATE OF ACQUISITION FOR SERVICE	COM.	PRESENT CONDITION	REMARKS
1	Vol Laws Relating to Public Buildings	Deputy Collector's Office	April 15, 1897			
1	Vol Massachusetts Statutes	"	Dec 19, 1868	4.25		
24	Bedlocks	"	Nov 28, 1890			
1	Vol Supplemental Revised Statutes	"	July 10, 1892			
1	Vol Custom Regulations	"	Sept 3, 1892			
1	Vol Supplemental Revised Statutes	"	" 25, 1893			
1	Vol Revised Statutes U. S.	"	July 6, 1895			
1	Vol Supplemental Revised Statutes	"	Dec 10, 1895			
1	Vol Index to Synopsis	"	Nov 9, 1896			
1	Vol Digest of Laws & Decisions	"	Jan 4, 1897			
1	Vol Index to Decisions	"	" 23, 1897			
1	Vol Regulations to R. H. V.	"	" 31, 1897			
1	Vol Government Voluntary Letter	"	March 25, 1897			
1	Vol Supplemental to Revised Statutes	"	April 15, 1897			
1	Vol Supplemental to Kansas Statutes	"	July 23, 1897			
1	Vol Customs Laws 1899.	"	Sept 16, 1899			
1	Vol Instructions to Customhouse	"	June 19, 1900			
1	Vol Customs Regulations	"	August 29, 1900			
1	Vol Supplemental to Kansas Statutes	"	Sept 19, 1900			
41	Vol Treasury Decisions	"	July 26, 1903			
20	Vol United States Watchdog Log	"	June 10, 1903			
1	Vol Essex County Directory	"	Sept 30, 1903	3.00		
20	Vol List of Vessels	"	Custom House			
3	Vol Annual Report Com of Nav.	"	Custom House			
1	Calipers	Weights & Measures Room	unknown			
2	Calipers	"	"			
2	Hydrometers	"	"			
2	Clubs	"	"			
2	Proof Glasses	"	"			
8	Rods	"	"			
3	Tools	"	"			

INVENTORY OF PUBLIC PROPERTY in the CUSTOM HOUSE Building, at SALEM, MASS.
on the 190

NUMBER OF PIECES	ARTICLE	OFFICE	DATE OF ACQUISITION FOR PURCHASE	COST	PRESENT CONDITION	REMARKS
1	Admeasurement Guide & Spring	Inspector's Room	July 1, 1891	1.00		
2	Admeasurement Poles 7/16"	"	"	6.00		
1	Admeasurement Pole 5/16"	"	"	1.50		
1	Admeasurement Sliding Rod 4/16"	"	"	5.00		
1	Admeasurement Sliding Rod 2/16"	"	"	3.75		
1	Admeasurement Square mfg.	"	"	2.00		
1	Wheelbarrow	Cellar	10, 1883	6.00		
1	Horse Reel	"	August 27, 1896	2.25		
1	Hoe	"	July 21, 1898	.33		
1	Screwdriver	"	"	.20		
2	Furnaces	"	Oct 17, 1903	208.00		
2	Bar Hole Doors (Furnaces)	"	" 23 "	34.00		
2	Boyer Sealed Weights	Sea Roof Room	unknown			
2	Boyer sealed Weights	"	"			
2	Boy standard Measures	"	"			
1	Standard measure	"	"			
4	Half Bushel Measures	Public Bonded Store	April 19, 1877	9.00		
3	Hand Saws	"	"	15.00		
2	Hoisting Tube	"	May 7 "	20.00		
1	Iron Truck	"	April 27, 1886	6.00		
1	Platform Scale	"	Sept 14, 1888	49.00		
4	Beams	Scale House	unknown			
3	Chests	"	"			
6	Hooks	"	"			
4	Pole	"	"			
5	Weights	"	"			
4	Scale Beams	"	"			
3	Platforms	"	January 24, 1882			
1	Keel Boat 2 1/2 ft. x 1 1/2 ft. x 1 1/2 ft.	Boat House	March 16, 1886	100.00		
1	Raft & Boat House	"	" 29 "	260.00		
1	Anchor	"	Oct 12, 1888	1.17		

INVENTORY OF PUBLIC PROPERTY in the Custom House Building, at SALT LAKE CITY on the 31st December, 1903

NUMBER OF PIECES	ARTICLE	OFFICE	DATE OF ACQUISITION OR PURCHASE	COST	PRESENT CONDITION	REMARKS
1	Book and Blank Case	Collectors Office			Good	
1	Clock	"			Fair	
1	Gold scale	"			Good	
1	Seal	"			"	
1	Vase	"	Dec. , 1864	600.00	"	
1	Copy Press	"	April 2, 1861	8.00	"	
1	Letter scale	"	Octo , 1863	3.50	Fair	
1	Official seal	"	" 6, 1869		"	
1	Compter	"	Nov , 1873		Good	
2	Wrecks	"	" , 1873		Fair	
3	Tables	"	" , 1873		Good	
7	Chairs	"	" , 1873		"	
1	Stool	"	" , 1873		Fair	
1	Hot-Tee	"	" , 1873		Good	
1	Gold scale and Case	"	" , 1873		"	
1	Book Case	"	Nov 25, 1887	226.00	"	
1	Water Cooler stand	"	April 2, 1887	13.80	"	
2	Cuspidors	"	" 6, 1887	2.50	Fair	
4	Window Screens	"	June 9, 1887	6.00	Poor	
2	Revolving Chairs	"	Aug 23, 1888	10.00	Good	
2	Bent Wood Chairs	"	" 23, 1888	3.50	"	
1	Water Cooler	"	" 23, 1888	2.00	"	
4	Window shades.	"	June 9, 1890	4.00	"	
1	Book Case	Collectors Private Office	Nov , 1873		"	
1	Carpet	"	" , 1873		Fair	
13	Chairs	"	" , 1873		"	
1	Chandeliers	"	" , 1873		Good	
1	Desk	"	" , 1873		"	
1	Hot-Tee	"	" , 1873		"	
2	Lounges	"	" , 1873		Poor	
2	Tables	"	" , 1873		Good	

INVENTORY OF PUBLIC PROPERTY in the Executive Office Building, at SAL
 on the 31st December, 1903

NUMBER OF PIECES	ARTICLE	OFFICE	DATE OF ACQUISITION FOR PURCHASE	COST	PRESENT CONDITION	REMARKS
1	Wardrobe	Collectors Private office	Nov 1893		Good	
4	Rego (Uganda)	"	April 6, 1887	18.00	Poor	
1	Chuspidor	"	" 6, 1887	1.25	Fair	
2	Window screens	"	June 9, 1887	3.00	Poor	
5	Window shades	"	" 9, 1900	5.00	Good	
5	Chairs	Deputy Collector's office	Nov 1893		"	
1	Desk	"	" 1893		Fair	
1	Lounge	"	" 1893		"	
1	Table	"	" 1893		Good	
1	Chair (office)	"	April 6, 1887	20.00	"	
2	Rego (Uganda)	"	" 6, 1887	8.00	Fair	
3	Window screens	"	June 9, 1887	4.40	Poor	
1	Carpet Rug	"	" 24, 1887	21.41	"	
1	Book Case	"	(Aug 23, 1898	25.00	Good	
2	Bent Wood Chairs	"	" 23, 1898	3.50	"	
3	Window shades	"	June 9, 1900	3.00	"	
1	Old Custom Regulations. 1899	"	Aug 29, 1900		"	
5	Chairs	Surgeons Room	Nov 1893		Fair	
1	Desk	"	" 1893		"	
1	Lounge	"	" 1893		"	
1	Table	"	" 1893		Good	
2	Window screens	"	June 9, 1887	3.00	Poor	
1	Carpet Rug	"	" 24, 1887	19.34	Fair	
2	Window shades	"	" 9, 1900	2.00	Good	
2	Chairs	Weights & Scales Room	Nov 1893		Fair	
2	Desks	"	" 1893		"	
1	Table	"	" 1893		Good	
1	Carpet	"	April 6, 1887	20.00	Poor	
1	Chuspidor	"	" 6, 1887	1.25	Good	
2	Window screens	"	June 9, 1887	3.00	Poor	
3	Window shades	"	" 9, 1900	3.00	Good	

To be used only in transferring property.

INVENTORY OF PUBLIC PROPERTY in the Custom House Building, at SALE
on the 31st December, 1903

NUMBER OF PIECES	ARTICLE	OFFICE	DATE OF ACQUISITION FOR PURCHASE	COST.	PRESERT CONDITION.	REMARKS
6	Chairs	Inspectors Room	Nov 1873		Bad	✓
3	Benches	" "	" 1873		Fair	✓
1	Table	" "	" 1873		Good	✓
1	Carpet	" "	April 6, 1887		Bad	✓
1	Brushidor	" "	" 6, 1887		Good	✓
2	Window shades	" "	June 9, 1900		"	✓
2	Chairs	Hall	Nov 1873		Fair	
1	Bulletin Board	"	Aug 27, 1881	10.00	"	
9	Cover Mats	"	April 6, 1887	21.90	Worn out	
1	Rubber Mat	"	" 6, 1887	7.50	Good	
5	(Window) shades.	"	June 9, 1900	2.80	"	
2	Cover Mats	"	March 20, 1902	6.00	"	
	Officine	Altie	April 14, 1889	10.00	"	
	Officine & Drawers (attached)	Fire Roof Room			"	
1	Stove	"			"	
2	Furnaces	Cellar	Octo 13, 1903	208.00	"	
2	Man Hole doors (Furnaces)	"	" 23, 1903	34.00	"	

Received the above papers
Dan Stillitt

Sheet No. _____

OFFICIAL REGISTER OF THE UNITED STATES. 1905.

Return of *Collector of Customs*

(SEE BACK OF THIS BLANK FOR INSTRUCTIONS.)

NAME	OFFICIAL TITLE	WHERE BORN.	WHENCE APPOINTED.			WHERE EMPLOYED.	COMPENSATION.
			STATE.	COUNTY.	CLASS. EMPLOYED.		
David M. Kittle	Collector	Dumfries	Mass	Essex	b	Salem	\$ 551.82
A. Frank Hitchings	Asst. Comm. Insp.	Salem	.	.	.	.	1400 per diem
Charles P. Luskomb	Inspector	.	.	.	.	.	200
William P. Moses	do	.	.	.	.	.	300
William J. Sullivan	do	.	.	.	.	.	300
Charles B. Taggard	Boatman	.	.	.	.	.	480.00 per annum
Charles O. Duzan	Boatman	.	.	.	.	.	1.00 per mo.

J. CUSTOM HOUSE INVENTORY OF C. 1913. SALEM MARITIME NHS

REGISTER OF COLLECTIONS AND DEPOSITS UNDER THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

DATE	FROM WHOM	DESCRIPTION	VALUE	RECEIVED BY	REMARKS
	skain office	1 book book blank one			
		1 Wallad book			
		1 safe	6.00	Jan. 1894	
		1 copy press	8	Feb. 1861	
		1 counter	10.00	Jan. 1870	
		2 desks			
		3 tables			
		7 chairs			not fit to use
		1 stool			good
		1 hat tree			
		1 book case	2.00	Jan. 1867	
		1 Water overboard			gone
		2 cupboards			
		4 wooden screens	8.00	Jan. 1867	fair
	captains	2 rocking chairs	10	May 27/96	
		2 leather chairs	8		broken
		1 water cooler			gone
		1 elec. light plant	270	Jan. 1904	good
		1 Hot Water Heating plant	1220	July 1904	
	copy bill	1 desk	16.5	Sept 1904	
	copy bill	1 rotary chair	13.66	"	
		12 draw desks	7.00	"	
	1 deputy office	1 case filing	4.00	Jan. 1905	
		3 rotary chairs	19.00	July 1908	
		4 office "	27.00	"	
		40 Elec light Bulbs			

ROOM INVENTORY TAKEN CA. 1913
CUSTOM HOUSE, SALEM MDS, M.D.C.
FROM SARA FILES

83- Jan 7 1900
106134 Nov 22/1904

REGISTER OF COLLECTIONS AND DEPOSITS UNDER THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

DATE	PLANNED USE	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL VALUE	REMARKS	DATE	REMARKS
	1 book case		2.25			Nov 1897	good
	1 chair		20.			Apr "	refined out
	4 rugs	non-cul	16			" "	"
	1 carpet	"	17			" "	"
	3 window screens	"	4.50			June "	"
	2 " " "	"	3			" "	"
	4 " " "	main	6.			" "	"
	3 " " "	ref.	3			" "	"
	1 book case	"	25			Aug 20/1898	good
	2 bentwood chairs		3.50			" "	"
	3 rotary chairs P. S. C.		10.			" "	fair
	3 bentwood chairs		3.50			" "	"
	1 shelving	main	10			Apr 11 1899	good
	Electric light plant		270			Mar 7 1901	good
	11 water kety		1272.40			July "	2 window screens June 1900 P 3
	1 desk P. S. C.		16.56			July "	"
	1 rotary chair P. S. C.		13.68			July "	"
	1 desk P. S. C.		49.50			Oct "	"
	2 carpet rug		136.55			" "	"
	2 rugs		4.28			" "	"
	1 stamp rack		4.95			Nov "	"
	12 draw rack		7.20			" "	"
	1 linoleum	cell office	36.50			Dec "	good
	1 shelving		82			June 1905	101.35
	1 storage case		56.50			July 1907	6.19
	3 rotary chairs	main office	19.47			July 1908	Dec 1906
	6 office	"	37.48			" "	" "
	1 fire screen	P. S. C.	4.			Nov 1909	" "
	1 steel door mate		10.50			Apr 1910	" "
	1 hyfante desk P. S. C.		21.63			May "	" "
	1 chair P. S. C.		5.45			" "	" "
	1 lock throw click C. S. Room		11.75			Aug 1912	" "
	1 case open shelving		50.			Feb 1913	" "

BOOK DIRECTORY TAKEN CA. 1913
 CUSTOM HOUSE, SALEM 1904, 1905,
 FROM DATA FILES

REGISTER OF COLLECTIONS AND DEPOSITS UNDER THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

DATE	DEPT. TO WHICH MADE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	DATE PURCHASED	CONDITION
	Dep. Coll. Office		4 chairs ✓	Jan 18 75	out
			1 desk ✓	"	good
			1 lounge ✓	"	out
			1 table ✓	"	good
		20	1 chair ✓	"	Fair
		7 50	3 window screens ✓	"	"
		25	1 book case ✓	Aug 25 1884 ✓	good
		2 50	2 bentwood chairs ✓	"	out
		49 50	1 desk ✓	Sept 11 1884 ✓	out
		26 50	1 carpet rug ✓	Oct 11 ✓	out
		4 25	2 mats ✓	" ✓	out
		4 95	1 chair rock ✓	Nov 11 ✓	out
		16 50	1 rotary book case ✓	Aug 11 1887 ✓	good
		51	1 blank case ✓	" 12 1888 ✓	good
			5 chairs ✓	"	out
			1 desk ✓	"	?
			1 lounge ✓	"	out
			1 table ✓	"	good
		3 ✓	2 window screens ✓	June 11 87 ✓	fair
		20 48 ✓	1 carpet rug ✓	Oct 11 1884 ✓	out
		4 29 ✓	2 mats ✓	" ✓	out
		4 ✓	1 fire screen ✓	Nov 11 1889 ✓	fair
		21 60 ✓	1 typewriter desk ✓	May 21 1890 ✓	good
		5 45 ✓	1 " chair ✓	" ✓	"

ROOM INVENTORY TAKEN CA. 1913
 CUSTOM HOUSE, 500'S
 FROM SPRING FILES

REGISTER OF COLLECTIONS AND DEPOSITS UNDER THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

DATE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	REMARKS	RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER	STORAGE ROOM AND OFFICE
	Shelves & drawers					
	Book block case					
	1 Willard clock					
	1 safe					
	1 copy press					
20	X chairs	20	chairs	at terminal		
	1 desk					
4	X lounge	4	lounges			
6	X tables	6	tables	office formerly used by		
	1 book case					
	1 carpet					
	12 chairs			storehouse		
	1 desk			office formerly used		
	1 hat tree					
X	2 lounge					
X	2 hat					
	1 wardrobe					
X	5 chairs					
6	X desks	6	desks	storehouse		
X	1 lounge					
X	1 table					
X	2 chairs					
X	2 chairs					
X	1 table					
X	6 chairs					
X	2 chairs					
X	1 table					
X	2 chairs					
	1 counter			main		
	2 desks					
	3 tables			sup. cell		
	7 chairs					
	1 stool					
	1 hat tree					

2025
12
29

PCN INVENTORY TAKEN CA. 1913
CUSTOM HOUSE, SALEM MASS, MASS.
FROM SAGA FILES

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS D-29 August 1968

