



The Smithsonian Institution Building (SIB)- also known as the Castle - is a singular building with few historical or typological peers. Located on the south side of the National Mall in downtown Washington, D.C., the building today symbolizes the Smithsonian Institution (SI) and is its most recognized, built artifact. It was designed by James Renwick, Jr., under the direction of the Smithsonian's first Secretary, Joseph Henry of the Institution. When completed in 1855, the building housed all the Smithsonian's operations including, research and administrative offices, lecture and exhibition halls, a library and reading room, chemical laboratories, storage areas for specimens, and living quarters for Joseph Henry and his family. It has served as the headquarters of the Smithsonian Institution since then. As each successive Secretary redefined the Smithsonian's mission and managed its growth to its current more than 12 million square feet of facilities, the building's interior spaces have undergone many modifications. It is furnished, in part, with antiques that are part of the Smithsonian collection. In 1965, the National Park Service (NPS) designated the SIB a National Historic Landmark (NHL) for its significance as, "the finest example of Norman Revival civil architecture in the country". It was listed as both a seminal example of mid-nineteenth century American architecture and for its association with the history of science and scientific discoveries in the United States during the nineteenth century. In 1971 the National Park Service listed the SIB on the National Register of Historic Places (NR)

Purpose and Methodology

The Smithsonian Institution commissioned this Historic Structure Report (HSR) to prepare treatment recommendations for the SIB that will guide future physical changes while preserving the building's historic character. The report complies with the Smithsonian Directive 418 on Historic Preservation Policy, which incorporates the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Treatment of Historic Properties.

In consultation with Smithsonian Architectural History and Historic Preservation staff and other experts:

1. Intensive research was conducted of the archival drawing files in the library of the Architectural History and Historic Preservation Division (AHHP) of the the Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations (OFE), the Smithsonian Archives, including the Joseph Henry papers, and records of Regents' meetings.
2. The results of the research were documented in narrative and graphic formats, to include: a general description of the architectural character, history and architectural style of the SIB; dating of building elements; description of major changes; building materials; and structural systems. Changes to the original historic structure were diagrammed in a series of schematic chronology drawings.

3. The significance of the building was reassessed and redefined, and its Period of Significance was established.
4. Changes made to the significant fabric of the building were identified and documented, the existing condition of the original configuration, fabric and finishes were evaluated, and treatment recommendations were made.
5. An annotated research guide to the SI's SIB collections was produced.

The results are this HSR volume, a separately-bound Appendix volume, and an electronic folio of plans and drawings.

This Historic Structures Report is a key tool to facilitate preservation management of the SIB - "the Castle" – arguably the Smithsonian's preeminent historic facility. Consistent with the spirit of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the information contained herein is intended to encourage stewardship, so the "Castle" can stand as a reminder of the founding purpose of the Smithsonian Institution, and enable thoughtful changes that respond to its continuing evolution. Prior to any undertaking, a plan to avoid, minimize, or mitigate effect should be developed and provided to the Architectural History and Historic Preservation Division for review and comment .

The objective is to turn to this document to become fully informed when considering actions and reaching decisions, so as to avoid damaging historic materials and not compromise the building's integrity.

Statement of Significance

The SIB is nationally significant for its associations with the history of science and scientific institutions, museums, and education in the United States during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (NHL Criteria 1, NR Criteria A, association with historical events and trends). It is significant also for its association with several prominent scientists in U.S. history, including Joseph Henry, Spencer Fullerton Baird, Samuel Pierpont Langley, and Charles Doolittle Walcott (NHL Criteria 2, NR Criteria B, association with nationally significant individuals). The building is also important as one of the premiere examples of mid-nineteenth century romantic architecture, and as a seminal work of master architect James Renwick, Jr. (NHL Criteria 4, NR Criteria C, architecture and engineering). In addition, the building is significant for its incorporation of innovative fireproof floor construction methods (NHL Criteria 4, NR Criteria C, architecture and engineering).

Primary Period of Significance, 1847-1910

From 1849 through the present day, the SIB has been the SI's administrative headquarters. The building's Primary Period of Significance – the period when the SIB reached its apogee and when its appearance and functions were most closely linked to the broad range of the Institution's activities – spanned the years from 1847 to 1910. In 1910, when the SI opened its third, purpose-built building, (the National Museum - now the National Museum of Natural History), the SI significantly changed the SIB's programming; most of the building's primary exhibit functions were removed and new functions were inserted. These changes

brought about substantial physical alterations to SIB's public spaces.

The SIB is a collaborative architectural expression. The building's Romanesque Revival design was influenced by the English-Norman style concept for a new national institution espoused by noted American Architect Robert Mills, and the aesthetic preference of Regent Robert Dale Owen and his geologist brother David Dale Owen. The picturesque assemblage of a central block, flanked by similarly scaled wings, ornamented with hierarchically arranged towers to disguise the symmetrical building mass, was James Renwick's unique interpretation. Its plan was shaped largely by Joseph Henry's functional program, which evolved along with the Institution during a lengthy construction period that spanned a destructive fire. Renwick's replacement, Barton Alexander, designed its innovative fireproof floor structure, and the galleries surrounding the nave of the Lower Main Hall which were characteristic of this exhibition space, the Institution's first, from its opening until the second decade of the Twentieth Century. First hired to repair damage that resulted from the fire, Adolf Cluss, a Washington architect familiar with fireproof construction, modified finishes while maintaining the prevalent northern Romanesque aesthetic of the founding vision. Over the next twenty-five years, Cluss added fireproof floors and ceilings to protect collections and scientists in the West Wing and Range, and replaced the Henry apartments in the two-story East Wing and Range with offices on four- and three-stories respectively for the administrators of a growing Institution. The Twentieth Century removal of the galleries by the firm of Hornblower & Marshall altered the plan and

proportions of the Lower Main Hall, destroying the northern Romanesque conception of the building's main public space.

General Treatment Recommendations

Preservation and restoration of the building's character-defining features, spaces and elements is key. Throughout the SIB, listed architectural features, elements, materials, and details and their spatial character should be preserved/restored. Repairs of materials should consider minimizing the degree of intervention; when limited replacement is necessary, in-kind or compatible substitutes that convey the visual appearance of the original material are recommended. New interventions should be executed to avoid or minimize adverse effect, and they should be implemented to be either invisible or executed in an aesthetic vocabulary sympathetic to the original construction. Missing features would be recreated if forms and details can be reconstructed based on documentary evidence.

The exterior of the SIB, the Lower and Upper Main Hall, the East and West Wings and their Ranges should be restored to their appearance during the period of significance. Secondary spaces, such as the Apparatus room on the second floor of the South Tower, and the North Tower offices, may be rehabilitated to new uses. Renovation areas are either utilitarian, or so completely altered that they contain little or no remaining architectural fabric and so there is more flexibility in treatment of these areas.

When actions are planned, *Chapter 5 : Treatment* should be consulted to evaluate if they could effect significant characteristics, features, and/or materials.

Condition Assessment and Specific Treatment Recommendations

In general very little of Renwick's unaltered design for the interior remains. The exterior is primary what remains of Renwick's design.

Within the Primary Period of Significance (1847-1910), the exterior most closely represents the post-Cluss appearance with the reconstructed East Wing and walled-up tower windows. The interior is representative of the Institution's evolution during the era. The spaces, multiple stories, and fireproof construction of the East Wing and Range are the result of Cluss' accommodation of the expanding administrative functions directed by Spencer Baird in a single part of the building. The Lower Main Hall, West Wing and Range, with their proportions, center and side aisles, clustered columns and ornamental plaster that are characteristic of ecclesiastic architecture intended for a secular civic institution, represent both Renwick and Cluss designs and the Institution's foray into exhibitions. The Upper Main Hall, as one large open space, realizes Robert Dale Owen's plan for the space.

Resources spent through the years have only been successful in keeping the public and significant spaces attractive, and in permitting emergency repairs to keep the Castle operational. The building's decline, particularly of infrastructure, is due to aging components and assemblies, widespread obsolescence of systems, and short term renovation decisions made in face of immediate needs. Locations and types of deterioration, documented holistically in reports issued in 1989, 1993, and 2002,

continue unabated in many cases in 2008-2009.

Using definitions from OFEO's Facilities Maintenance Program, preservation/restoration activities can be categorized as Priority 3 (Predicted work that should be funded within 1-4 years in order to sustain system or building operability); Priority 4 (projects that can be deferred 3-4 years without undue risk of failure, or that would be of minor or moderate impact if failure occurred), and Priority 5 (can be funded 5 or more years out without risk or to enhance historic integrity).

Holistic replacement of the roof, gutters, and rain leaders should be a priority, because moisture is infiltrating to corrode these assemblies, and is also damaging the finishes.

The lightning strike of 2005 to the Southwest Tower is evidence enough that the SIB protection systems are inadequate. A new comprehensive system, designed with visual aesthetics in mind, should be implemented as soon as possible. Use of the "Rolling Ball" method to develop a protection design will likely result in the most minimal effect on the historic appearance.

The majority of the exterior stonework is original and in satisfactory condition. However, random failing of mortar joints and spalling of the Seneca Red Sandstone blocks continues to be a problem. The current maintenance approach of annual systematic field observations and focused repairs of the stonework should be continued.

There are a number of windows on the east face of the East Wing that remain from the Period

of Significance. The clerestory windows on the north and south faces of the West Range look remarkably like those seen in photos from the period, although there is documentation that references their replacement in 1915. Further research and investigation should be undertaken prior to any undertaking which affects these assemblies. To retain the remaining historic windows extensive re-construction - Dutchman repairs, replacement of muntin, and addition of interior storm sash - will be required. These measures would arrest the building's deterioration, preserve extant historic architectural fabric, and increase energy efficiency. The majority of windows are modern and in poor condition. Their existing sash, frames, and sills will need to be replaced with new assemblies to replicate original profiles using 1-inch insulated glass.

System degradation and failures from accumulated deferred maintenance is widespread and severe, and is . damaging the historic fabric of the building. Total replacement of the mechanical system - chilled and hot water, steam service, HVAC - is a high priority. The use of natural light and ventilation to create an economical, "sustainable" systems approach will likely minimize the potential adverse effect of this type of extensive action.

A systematic project to address items such as stair railings, area of rescue assistance, signage, hardware, and elevator access is desirable, but becomes urgent in a major renovation. ADA access to all spaces should be considered (Regent's and 3rd floor East Range). New egress paths and exit access-ways should also be considered (from West wing). Because this is a historic building, alternatives

to full code compliance are recommended where compliance would unnecessarily compromise the integrity of the historic building.

Recommendation for On-Going Documentation

Using the notes, bibliography, and annotated research guide that are incorporated in the HSR, further archival research may be pursued to gain additional insight into the SIB's development, and to answer specific research questions about the building's physical attributes, as they arise. Findings of additional research and physical investigations should be filed as supplements to the HSR's initial volumes. In addition, consistent records of all subsequent physical alterations made to the building should be recorded as supplemental material to the SIB's HSR. The record may consist of annotated drawings and narrative summaries of work completed. This is especially important when restoration is the recommended preservation treatment. Administrative decisions that affect the function and use of the building should also be recorded.

In Conclusion

The SIB deserves special attention, not only because of its historic architectural and institutional significance, but also because it is the public's doorway to, and the symbol of, the Smithsonian Institution. The result will be an impressive historic structure worthy of the Smithsonian and the Nation that meets 21st century standards and provides visitors, guests, and staff with an appropriate introduction to the whole of the Institution.

Research Methodology

The research methodology followed parameters set by the Smithsonian's Architectural History and Historic Preservation Division (AHHP). During the initial project scoping, research collections to be assessed to the fullest extent possible within time and budgetary constraints were identified. Under contract to SmithGroup, as overall project coordinators, the architectural historians for the HSR - History Matters, LLC - were directed to focus its research efforts on the Smithsonian Office of Architectural History and Historic Preservation's (AHHP) "Building Files" for the SIB (SIA Accession 09-007). In addition, SI requested that History Matters evaluate other Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) records for additional data not already incorporated into the AHHP Building Files. These were transferred from the Office of the Curator of the Castle to the SIA at its Capital Gallery facility. These records contain substantial primary and secondary documentation on the SIB covering its planning, construction, reconstruction, and alterations and repairs from the 1840s through the 1990s.

From October 2008 through February 2009, History Matters undertook archival research to document the building's construction (1846-1855), its physical evolution from the time of its completion (1855-2008), and the events and persons influential in the building's history. Researchers reviewed forty nine (49) document boxes of material and extracted relevant historical data on the design, planning, construction activities that impacted the SIB. With the assistance of the archivists at SIA, History Matters' Principal Investigator evaluated the SIA collections

to identify archival material with substantial data relevant to the study of the physical evolution of the SIB. During this first phase of the research, History Matters determined that substantial research and primary material existed for the period from 1846 to circa 1940. Accordingly, a major focus of the remaining research was to identify materials that could shed light on later periods. This led to a careful search of SIA records from that period that focused on collections related to or created by Smithsonian divisions responsible for buildings and construction activities. The search resulted in the identification and evaluation of the research potential of thirteen (13) relevant collections. Of these, seven (7) were accessed and data collected and inputted into the SIB Master Building Chronology.

The data was formatted as an Excel spreadsheet intended to serve as a working chronology of events. Selected key primary source documents, images, and photographs were collected and organized in an appendix of "Key Reference Documents" – intended to provide a ready reference for the Smithsonian Institution's staff accompanied by a SIB-centered *Research Finding Guide*. (see Appendix volume.)

Sources

Most useful were the Annual Reports of the Smithsonian Institution and National Museum, and articles in periodicals and newspapers. For most of the Annual Reports, History Matters relied on the references collected in the SI AHHP's "Building Files" (SIA Accession 09-007); typically, the information in this collection included direct quotations from the original sources. For the period between circa 1880 and circa 1925, the full texts of many of the Annual Reports were consulted, as they are available online through Google Books. The most valuable periodicals and newspapers used were *Science*, *Smithsonian* magazine, *New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*.

Government documents that were published in volumes one and two of *The Smithsonian Institution: Origin and History* (1901) also proved useful. These volumes include Congressional documents relating to the Smithsonian for the period between 1835 and 1899.

Major secondary sources consulted include books about the history of the SI and related topics; the "Chronology of Smithsonian History" and "Smithsonian History Bibliography" found in SIRIS; finding aids for collections in the SIA; and selected websites. Heather Ewing's *The Lost World of James Smithson* (2007), Paul Oehser's *The Smithsonian Institution* (1983), Geoffrey Hellman's *The Smithsonian: Octopus on the Mall* (1967), were the most histories of the Smithsonian Institution that History Matters used in the research for the Historic Background and Context, although several factual errors were discovered in Oehser's book and Hellman's work. History Matters attempted to verify significant pieces of information

from these books using other sources. Other notable secondary sources included A. Hunter Dupree's *Science and the Federal Government* (1986) and *The Castle* (1993) by Cynthia R. Field, Richard E. Stamm, and Heather P. Ewing.

The "Chronology of Smithsonian History" was generally used to identify significant events in the history of the SI and the SIB and to verify dates (e.g., appointments and resignations of Secretaries, construction of new Smithsonian buildings). In some cases, History Matters relied on the summaries provided in the Bibliography of Smithsonian History, particularly when the summary provided a sufficient level of detail or the original document was difficult to obtain; in instances where the article appeared to be of particular importance, the original was obtained when possible. Finding aids to archival collections in the SIA were typically used to provide background information on SI bureaus and museums and on significant Smithsonian officials and employees. The use of information available on websites was generally limited to sites produced by the organization being researched and online exhibits and articles produced by SIA or AHHP.

The extent to which primary sources were used varied according to the availability of secondary sources on a particular topic and ease of access to relevant primary sources. For instance, because there are several secondary works on the Smithson bequest and Joseph Henry's tenure as Secretary of the Smithsonian, few primary sources were consulted on these topics. In contrast, for the research on Samuel P. Langley and Charles Doolittle Walcott's terms as Secretary, there were few secondary works with

detailed information on the activities in the SIB, and full-text versions of annual reports for the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum were available online through Google Books; consequently, the research for this section made greater use of primary sources.

Organization

Primary - textual records, photographs, and drawings - and secondary sources were utilized by History Matters to compose the *Developmental History and Space Narratives* sections. These sources were used to organize the narrative and to develop general chronology of major events in the history of the Smithsonian and the SIB. The Historical Background and Context is organized chronologically. After an initial discussion of the Smithson bequest and the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution, the narrative is divided into sections that are based on the terms of the Secretaries of the Smithsonian Institution. The decision to organize the narrative by Secretary reflects the SIB's consistent role as the headquarters of the Institution's administration. Each Secretary's vision for the Institution shaped the development of the Institution as a whole and affected the use of the SIB.

The selection of which Secretaries to group depended on the level of impact that a particular Secretary had on the Institution and the SIB, and the extent to which policies and projects carried over from one Secretary's term to another. For example, activities during the tenure of the Institution's second Secretary, Spencer Baird, were covered in a separate section because Baird brought a substantially different vision and perspective to the Smithsonian

Institution from either his predecessor (Joseph Henry) or his successor (Samuel P. Langley). Likewise, several major projects that began under Secretary Langley were completed under Secretary Walcott (e.g., new Natural History Building, Freer Gallery of Art and National Gallery of Art), and both Secretaries were involved in aeronautical research; consequently, the terms of Langley and Walcott are discussed in a single section. The five Secretaries who have served since 1984 were grouped and covered in less detail than earlier Secretaries, primarily because these Secretaries' terms were deemed too recent to gain sufficient historical perspective in order to evaluate these time periods as thoroughly as earlier periods.

The material of those two initial sections, collected photos and drawings, *The Castle – An Illustrated History of the Smithsonian Building* by Cynthia Field, Richard Stamm, and Heather Ewing (Smithsonian Institution Press 1993), and visual surveys conducted by SmithGroup (as part of an Existing Conditions survey and Report completed in April 2009), were the basis of the collaboratively developed *Evaluation of Significance* and *Treatment* sections.

The HSR benefited from editorial comments by Sharon Park, Associate Director of the AHHP, Richard Stamm, the Curator of the Castle, Christopher Lethbridge, Architect/Project Manager, OPPM, Amy Ballard, Historic Preservation Specialist OPPM, and Michelle Spofford, Architect and Planning Manager, OPPM.

Executive Summary

Based on the intensive research and the defined Period of Significance contained in the HSR, the SI can now update the SIB's National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination. In this way, the SIB's national significance will be more readily understood and recognized.

The intent of the HSR is that it becomes a living reference document that captures newly discovered historical data and the findings of future physical investigations. It is recommended that all future research findings, physical investigations, and physical alterations should be filed as supplements to the HSR's initial volumes. The record may consist of annotated drawings and narrative summaries of work completed. This is especially important when restoration is the recommended preservation treatment. Administrative decisions that affect the function and use of the building should also be recorded.

The *Master SIB Building Chronology* (Microsoft Excel document; 1,687 entries) was created as a research tool to bring together much of the primary source data on the SIB. The *Chronology* can be easily expanded as new information is discovered. It can be expanded by converting it into a database format and creating keyword tags to facilitate its use as a search engine and an analytical tool.

Using the notes, bibliography, and annotated research guide that are incorporated in the HSR, further archival research may be pursued to gain additional insight into the SIB's development and to answer specific research questions about the building's physical attributes as they arise.

Recommendations for Future Research 1.3

Specifically, other than in the HSR, little has been written about the SIB's 1968-1970 building-wide renovation. The same is true for the SIB's 1987-1989 VIARC renovations. To enable future researchers to construct a concise account of the programs and work that was completed; it is recommended that SIA and OFEO consolidate their voluminous records for each period. The SIA accessions listed below are the major collections that are relevant to this work.

Accession 88-007 Office of Design and Construction, Project Files, 1982-1985

This accession consists of project files from the Construction Division, Office of Design and Construction. Materials include prints and drawings, contracts, specification, cost estimates, and correspondence with contractors. Box 3 contains a file related to office modifications in the Woodrow Wilson Center (Project #8532116)

Accession 91-114 Office of Design and Construction, Project Files, circa 1970-1990

This accession consists of project files documenting the renovation or improvement of facilities for the Smithsonian museums. Included are prints, architectural drawings, specifications, correspondence (primarily with contractors), payroll sheets, estimates, progress and inspection reports, photographs, etc. Boxes 3, 13, 17, 19 – ODC project numbers including Flag tower roof renovation, Fire protection implementation phases, etc.

Accession 98-130**Office of Physical Plant, Project Files and Drawings, 1982-1996**

Consists of project files for renovation and reconstruction activities of the Office of Physical Plant, including memoranda, correspondence, photographs, prints and drawings, and other materials pertaining to each project. Box listings show Project Number, Project Name, and Facility. Includes SIB projects, including oversized records of 1988 window restoration, 1988 repointing of the façade, and small-scale projects for individual rooms or offices. Boxes 44, 46, oversize drawings.

Accession 98-178**Office of Physical Plant, Director's Records, 1980-1995**

Box 1 contains info on SIB.

Accession 99-011**Office of Plant Services, Director's Records, 1982-1988**

Consists of Director's subject files pertaining to Smithsonian building projects and services. Included are reports, memoranda and correspondence. Box 1 contains a folder titled "SI Building (5002)."

Accession 04-078**Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations, Director's Records, 1979-2002**

This accession includes the records of William W. Brubaker, Director, 2001- , with earlier records documenting the activities of Robert L. Siegle, Director, Office of Facilities Services, 1987-1994.

Material includes correspondence, memoranda, and notes; budget summaries; quarterly program review; prints and drawings; building repairs and restoration information; audits; site agreements for special events; survey information; photographs of architectural models and drawings; and reports. Restricted until 2018.

In addition, the Institution's financial records may contain detailed information on who executed particular projects, where materials were acquired, and how much was paid for work and materials. These potentially useful records are described below.

Record Unit 93**Fiscal Records of the Smithsonian Institution, Federal, 1847-1942**

When the government's natural history and ethnology collections were transferred to the care of the Smithsonian Institution beginning in 1858, Congress provided an annual allowance of \$4,000 for their support. The Smithsonian provided for any additional costs necessary to maintain, preserve, and document the collections from its private funds. From 1870 to 1871, Congress appropriated \$10,000 annually for the maintenance of the collections, which became part of the United States National Museum (USNM). Beginning in 1872, Congress began appropriating funds for the "Preservation of Collections," which, along with later appropriations for "Furniture and Fixtures," and "Heating, Lighting, Telephonic and Electrical Service," constituted the major congressional appropriations for the United States National Museum. Other major congressional appropriations were made for "International Exchanges," "American Ethnology," "National

Recommendations for Future Research 1.3

Zoological Park," and "Astrophysical Observatory," as well as for exposition functions and other temporary needs of the Institution.

These records include ledgers, account books, bills, daybooks, journals, receipted vouchers, records of payment, requisitions, cash books, and other fiscal records documenting the Smithsonian's congressional appropriations. These records deal with the financial affairs of the following Smithsonian bureaus: United States National Museum, Astrophysical Observatory, Bureau of American Ethnology, National Zoological Park, United States National Herbarium, and the International Exchange Service. Other projects of the Institution and its bureaus, such as the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature, are also documented.

Record Unit 100 Fiscal Records of the Smithsonian Institution, Private, 1846-1959

The private funds of the Smithsonian Institution are those derived from nonfederal sources. Over the years, these sources have included the original bequest of James Smithson and numerous other bequests and gifts from other benefactors. Private funds are managed separately from congressional appropriations, although both funds may at times support the same activities.

These records include daybooks, ledgers, receipts, journals, registers, statements, and other financial records documenting the management of the private funds of the Smithsonian.

Other record units that may contain relevant information include:

Record Unit 549 Office of Public Affairs, Photographs of Smithsonian Staff and Subjects, circa 1968-1983.

May include images of the SIB.

Record Unit 371 Office of Public Affairs, The Torch, 1955-1960, 1965-1988.

May include images of the SIB.

Potential Sources for Future Research at Non-Smithsonian Repositories

During the course of the research, some outside research institutions were identified that may yield additional data. These include the following depositories.

Columbia University Libraries, New York City

Two collections at the Columbia University Libraries may contain information about James Renwick, Jr. and the SIB. The first is the Renwick Family Letters and Manuscripts 1794-1916 (*Ms Coll\Renwick family*) located at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>). The collection is comprised of 310 items in three (3) boxes and one (1) portfolio, most of which concern Professor James Renwick, Sr., father of the architect of the SIB. The collection also includes 68 letters written by SIB architect James Renwick, Jr.

The second collection is the Selma Rattner collection located at the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library. The Selma Rattner Research Papers on James Renwick, 1856-2001 collection (identifier 2005.006) contain 35.5 linear feet of primary and secondary research materials on the Renwick family, the buildings designed by James Renwick, Jr., and other related subjects. Rattner, an architectural historian, lectured and published articles on Renwick, but never wrote a full biography. (<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/avery/index.html>)

Series 9 of the collection includes two boxes of research material related to the Smithsonian Institution. Some of this was collected by Rattner from the SIA. Series 10 relates to other Washington, DC-related topics.

Kiplinger Washington Collection

The photographic collection contains 31 images related to the Smithsonian, including sixteen images of the SIB. (<http://www.kiplinger.pastperfect-online.com>)

Architect of the Capitol

Drawings

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Records Center maintains a Drawing Card Index that was created to index all AOC project drawings. The index records the drawing number, title, date, scale, and past location information for each drawing created by the AOC. The index is organized by building name with subheadings for project type (e.g., flooring,

equipment, structural). The AOC's drawing collection contains 3 drawings of the chapel (West Wing) roof when it was reconstructed in 1891.

Textual Records

Other Public Buildings, 1837-1976 (Record Group 40; Art & Reference, Series 40.3: Subject Files; 17.5 linear feet)

This series consists of correspondence, reports, photos, newspaper clippings, and vouchers pertaining to public buildings and structures other than the Capitol complex that the AOC oversaw or for which the AOC consulted.

Box 22

Smithsonian Institution

Correspondence (and notes), 1860-1957

General Information, Repairs Part I, 1854-1892

General Information, Repairs Part II, 1892-1897 (and notes from 1965)

Other collections held at the AOC Curator's Office that may have relevance to the SIB. These include the Architect's Letterbooks, 1867-1920 (Accession No. 493-7; Record Group 40: Art & Reference, Series 40.1: Architect's Letterbooks; 3.5 linear feet). Architect of the Capitol Edward Clark's (AOC 1865-1902) correspondence may include information that pertains to Clark's involvement with the SIB. The Letterbooks are also available on microfilm (Series 40.1, reels 4-31), and a shelf list is available at the Curator's Office of the AOC.

Recommendations for Future Research 1.3

The Historical Society of Washington, DC (DCHS)

The Kiplinger Research Library of the Historical Society of Washington, DC (DCHS) is located in the Carnegie Library building at Mount Vernon Square. The Library's collections contain photographs, archival materials, published sources, and objects that relate to Washington, DC history. Most of the collections can be searched through the library's online catalog. (http://www.historydc.org/Do_Research/research.asp).

The online finding aid includes over 700 entries related to the subject: "Smithsonian Institution." Many of these are photographs and many are likely duplicated in the AHHP Photo Collection. However, a few unique images were identified in a quick survey of the results, including a 1950 photograph of a monument dedicated to Daguerre on the Smithsonian Grounds (Call number WY 3343.47). Black and white and color photographs, slide duplicates, and scans of the images must be ordered from DCHS/Kiplinger Library.

National Archives and Records Administration

Cartographic and Architectural Section Master Architectural List

Record Group 79—Smithsonian Grounds, Washington, DC, no date (NCP Numbered)

Record Group 77—Smithsonian Institution, 1866 (Dr. 156-26/27)

Record Group 66—Smithsonian Institution, no date (DC Area)

Record Group 77—Smithsonian Institution, 1841 (6 items) (Civil Works Map File)

Record Group 77—Smithsonian Institution, 1841 (Cons. 58)

Record Group 77—Smithsonian Institution, 1841 (Cons. 90)

Record Group 121—Smithsonian-National Museum, 1841

Records of the Smithsonian Institution, Record Group 106, 1871-1952

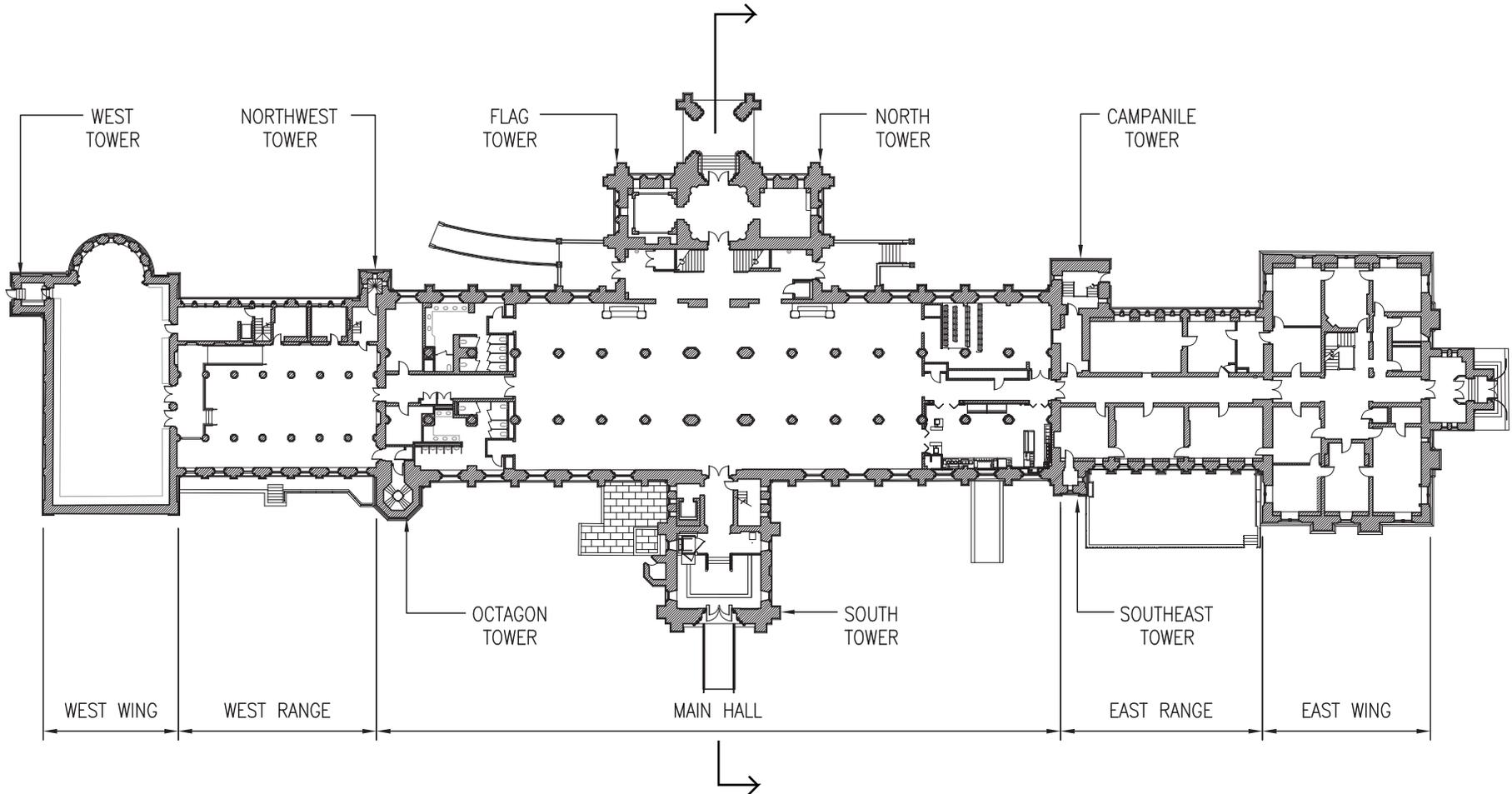
May contain information relevant to the SIB.

New York City Public Library's Digital Gallery, NYC
www.nypl.org/digital

The New York Public Library's Digital Gallery contains 60 images of the SIB, mostly nineteenth century stereoscopic views.

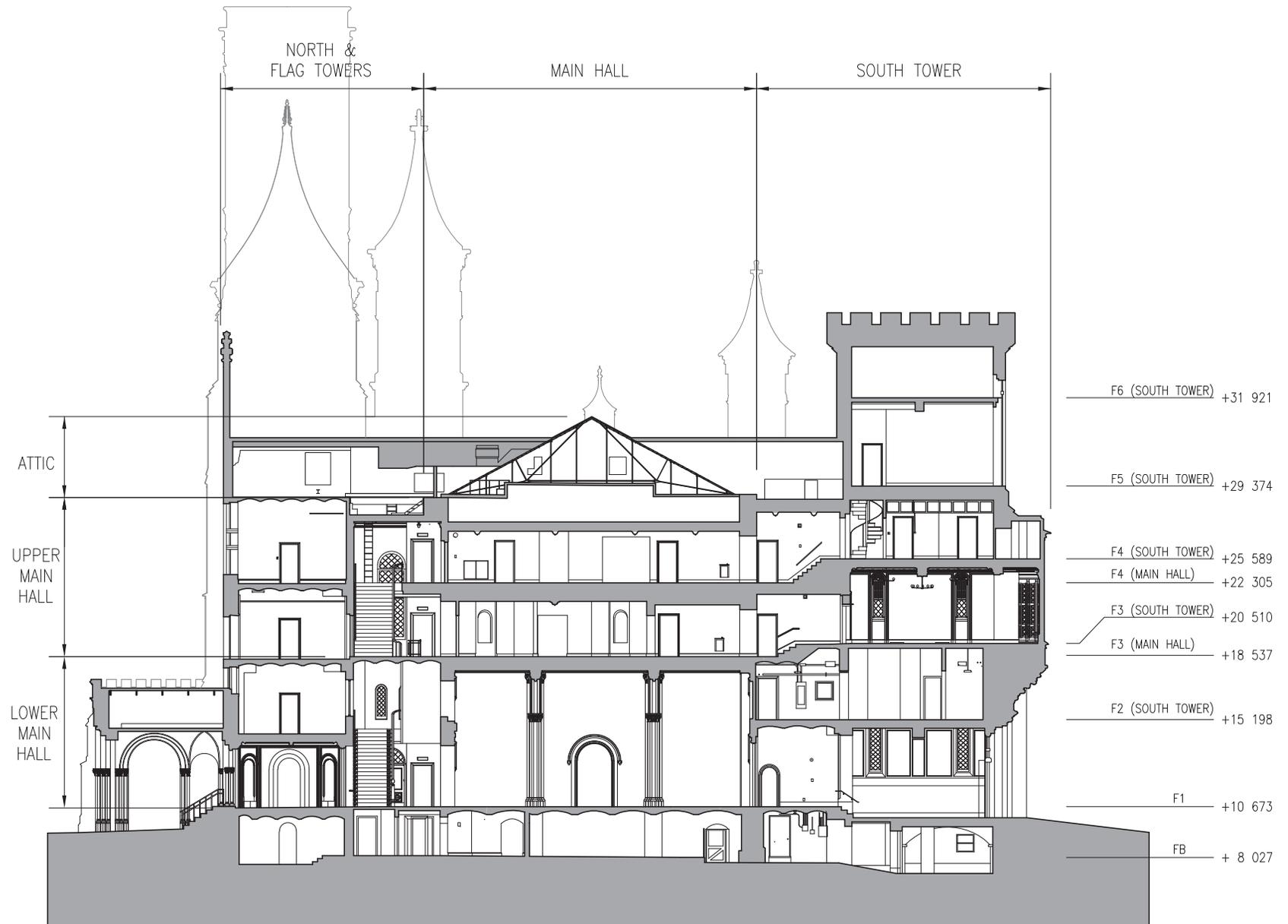
Nomenclature Diagram

The drawing below represents the terminology used to describe major portions of the building and is referenced throughout the following document.



First Floor Plan

Building Nomenclature 1.4



North / South Cross Section : Looking East