

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: District of Columbia	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: **Smithsonian Institution Building**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Smithsonian Institution Building**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **1000 Jefferson Drive, S.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**

STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: COUNTY: CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Smithsonian Institution**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Jefferson Drive, S.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: _____

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Recorder of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **6th and D Streets, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: _____

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The following description and history of the Smithsonian Institution has been abridged from a report by James M. Goode of the Smithsonian Institution, March 23, 1971. Sources for this paper came mainly from the Annual Reports of both the U.S. National Museum and the Smithsonian Institution and from documents in the Smithsonian Archives.

The Smithsonian Institution Building as erected in 1847-1855 consisted of five principal parts--central section, two wings, and two connecting ranges. There were also four principal towers (for occupation and use) and five minor towers (mainly for decoration--but useful in moving from one section of the interior of the building to another, as some contained stairs). Its dimensions were: length, east to west--447 feet and width: varying from 49 feet (at the ranges) to 160 feet (in the central section between the principal south tower and carriage porch on the north side). The East Wing was divided into two stories. The upper story was a suite of rooms for the family of the Secretary above which was an ample attic. The first floor was a large storage room for the exchange of scientific publications with other institutions and museums. The East Range was also of two stories. The upper one was divided into several small rooms for use in research relating to natural history. The first floor was used as a laboratory. Both East and West Ranges had an open walk running along the inside of the north wall. The Central-Section consisted of two tall stories and a basement (200 feet long, 50 feet wide, and total height 60 feet). The second story consisted of a large lecture room capable of holding 2,000 people, with two smaller rooms, one on either side (each 50 feet square). These latter rooms were used as a museum of scientific instruments and as an art gallery (mostly the Catlin portraits of American Indians). Both of these rooms were occasionally used as minor lecture rooms for meetings by scientific organizations. The first story consisted of an enormous room to be used as a museum. It remained empty in 1855 due to lack of exhibit cases. The ceiling of the room was supported by two rows of columns extending the entire length. Joseph Henry referred to this room in 1855 as "in appearance one of the most imposing rooms in this country." The floor of the middle part of this great hall was laid in cut stone - the remaining floor being of wood. The basement of the central section was used for the storage of fuel and lumber. The West Range of one floor only was in use in 1855 as a reading room. The West Wing also, commonly known as the "chapel," consisted of one floor only and was first used as a library.

The eight towers of the building form its most interesting exterior feature --they are all different in regards to height and design. Two towers are located on the north side of the middle of the central section. The higher north tower reaches an elevation of 145 feet. The south tower at the middle of the south side of the central section is a massive 37 feet square, including buttresses, and 91 feet high. At the northeast corner of the central section stands a double campanile, 17 feet square and 117 feet high to the top of its finial. At the southwest corner of the central section is an octagonal tower finished with open work above and at the southeast and northwest corners are two smaller towers. There is also a small tower at the northwest corner of the West Wing.

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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Smithsonian Institution Building on the Mall in Washington was built between 1847 and 1855 to house the Smithsonian Institution. The building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964 under the theme Science and Invention. In addition to the significance of the building in this field, it is also of major architectural importance as the finest remaining example of Norman Revival civil architecture in the country. It is the work of the architect James Renwick who also designed Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, and the Old Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington. Constructed of red Seneca sandstone, this building, with its many towers, buttresses, and crenellations epitomizes, despite extensive interior alterations, the Romantic movement in 19th-century American architecture and does much to leaven the neo-classical architectural scene along the Mall.

History:

The Smithsonian Institution Building was designed by the prominent New York City architect, James Renwick, Jr., and erected 1847-1855 on the Mall, near the present Independence Avenue and 10th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. It was built to house the Smithsonian Institution, which had been chartered by Act of Congress the preceding year, in 1846. The Smithsonian was established due to the generous bequest of approximately \$500,000 by James Smithson, English scientist and the illegitimate son of the Duke of Northumberland. By the terms of the will, Smithson's estate was to pass to his nephew (1829). The estate was then to become the property of the United States government should the nephew die without direct heirs. The United States actually acquired the funds when the contested bequest was settled in the British courts in London in 1838 after the death of Smithson's nephew. The new institution was not chartered, however, until 1846. The reason for the delay in establishing the institution was due to the endless debate in Congress over the future role of the institution.

The charter of the Smithsonian Institution stated that its governing body, the Board of Regents, should select a site for a building on the Mall or "the public ground in the city of Washington lying between the patent office and Seventh Street." Section Five of the same charter further stated that the Regents should "cause to be erected a suitable

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore, 1963), 105, 167; Fiske Kimball, American Architecture (Indianapolis, 1928), 114; Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans (New York, 1955) 131-132, 149; James G. Vanderpool, "Historical Development of Architecture in the U.S.A., 1632-1912," (N.P.S. Ms., 1966), 141 ; Talbot F. Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York, 1944), ; Hugh N. Jackson, ed., A Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C. (New York, Washington, and London, 1965), 42; Washington, D.C., A Guide to the Nation's Capitol (American

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 53' 19"	77° 01' 35"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Brown Morton III

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **2/8/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE **District of Columbia** CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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Smithsonian Institution Building

7. Description (1)

The interior of only three of the eight towers were used as offices and living quarters--the two central north towers and the central south tower. A large room in the south tower was used for the meetings of the Board of Regents. The two large north towers on the first floor contained a room for a staff member, the guard's room, and a staircase. The second floor was used for staff offices and the third floor for staff workrooms.

Soon after the completion of the building Congress voted \$15,000 to the Smithsonian Institution, in 1857, to pay for exhibit cases in the great hall (first floor of the central section) which were to house the government collections. These were immediately erected and placed in the building. In 1857 the West Wing, used as the library, was furnished with alcoves and balconies extending around three sides of the room. In 1858 balconies were erected on the north and south walls of the Great Hall--thereby doubling the amount of exhibit space. This was done to provide space for the collections transferred to the Smithsonian from the Patent Office that year. Extra space was also provided in the building by enclosing the open north sides of the East and West Ranges with "glazed sashes" in 1858.

As a result of the Great Fire of 1865, the principal south tower, the two principal north towers, the second floor, and the roof of the central section of the building were destroyed. The first floor was damaged from water and smoke.

This was the first of several major alterations which occurred from 1865 to 1915. Few rooms remain today as they were built in 1855. Only the Great Hall of the central section, the West Range, the West Wing, and the present far west room of the third floor of the central section (present Woodrow Wilson Library) which shows the original second floor level and ceiling height, remain today.

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Smithsonian Institution Building

8. Significant ⁽¹⁾

building, of plain and durable materials and structure, without unnecessary ornament, and of sufficient size, and with suitable rooms or halls, for the reception and arrangement, upon a liberal scale of objects" The items to be exhibited were specifically confined to the fields of natural history, art, and objects of "foreign and curious research." The Regents were also directed to arrange for the new building to include a chemical laboratory, library, art gallery (mainly portraits of American Indians), and lecture rooms.

Soon after the act establishing the Smithsonian Institution was signed into law on August 10, 1846, by President James K. Polk, the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian appointed a building committee to investigate possible designs for the new building. A notice to architects, inviting competitive designs, was published in the Washington newspapers on September 22, 1846. The committee, consisting of Robert Dale Owen, Mayor William W. Seaton of Washington, and Gen. J.G. Totten, visited several major American cities and examined their most prominent recent public buildings and conferred with a number of architects. At a meeting held November 30, 1846, this committee reported that from thirteen plans submitted to them they had unanimously selected two, both by James Renwick, Jr., of New York City. It is known that Owen G. Warren, Isaiah Rogers, and John Notman, were architects whose plans failed to win approval in the competition. Renwick's design which was selected was the simpler and less ornate of the two which the Regents chose--in Norman or Lombard style of architecture. The building was to be a "modern" version of a 12th century Norman castle. The Regents formally adopted Renwick's design on January 23, 1847. During 1847, Renwick constructed a cardboard scale model of the proposed building, which has been preserved and is on display in the Great Hall of the Smithsonian Institution Building.

James Renwick, Jr. (1818-1895, was born in New York City, the son of James Renwick, a professor of engineering at Columbia College. He graduated from Columbia College in 1836 at the age of 17 and immediately joined the engineering staff of the Erie Railroad.

His first important building was Grace Church in 1843-1846 in Manhattan. He was self-trained as an architect but immediately became famous as the architect of New York's wealthiest and most fashionable church. The climax of Renwick's career as a designer of churches came with his being commissioned to design St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City in 1853. The original plans and drawings of the Smithsonian Institution Building can be found in Hints on Public Architecture by Robert Dale Owen (with the assistance of James Renwick, Jr.). The Building Committee at first decided to erect the building in white marble. They investigated various marble, granite and sandstone quarries at 25 sites near Washington, D.C., especially in Baltimore County and Montgomery County in Maryland. The stones investigated underwent many tests in presses for durability. The stone selected

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Smithsonian Institution Building

8. Significance (2)

was brown sandstone, from Seneca Creek, on the Potomac River, in Maryland, 23 miles from Washington. This stone was chosen for its beauty of color, durability to the weather and cheapness to procure. Another important factor was that great expense would be involved in cutting marble and granite since they are very hard. The Seneca sandstone, although soft, was found to harden rapidly after exposure to the air for several months. The cost of marble per cubic foot was then 70 cents, while sandstone was only 20 cents.

After the location of the building was finally decided for the south side of the Mall, at Tenth Street, in March 1847, the preparation for erecting the building went forward rapidly. A great procession was held for the laying of the cornerstone on May 1, 1847, in which President Polk, the Cabinet, the Diplomatic Corps, and Members of Congress marched from the City Hall at Judiciary Square to the White House and on to the Mall.

The architect, James Renwick, Jr., and his assistant architect for this building, Robert Mills, directed the erection of the structure. The firm of James Dixon and Co. (James Dixon of Washington, D.C., and Gilbert Cameron of New York) received the lowest bid for construction of the building in March 1847 for \$205,250. Dixon, however, retired from the firm in June of that year. The building was to be finished five years later, in March 1852. Renwick made a monthly visit to Washington. He received a salary of \$1,800 a year with an additional \$300 for travel expenses. Mills received \$1,000 yearly. The building ultimately cost over \$300,000 because of additional outlays for both fireproofing and interior finishing.

The East Wing of the building was completed by April 1849, allowing the Secretary, Joseph Henry, to take residence on the second floor with his wife and family. The West Wing was next occupied in December 1849 by the Library. By late 1849 the roof was finished on the entire building--although the towers were as yet only half constructed.

Many changes were made to the interior during the period of construction. The building was designed before the actual activities of the new institution had been decided upon. For instance, both the West Wing and West Range were intended originally by Renwick to be used as art galleries. The first Secretary, Joseph Henry, was responsible for recommending changes in both the size and location of many of the rooms shown in Renwick's original plans of 1847. Henry was critical of the elaborate style of the structure--which he felt wasted both space and money. The lighting in much of the building was also inadequate. The building did prove to be expensive to maintain--elaborate repairs were constantly being made to the roof as soon as it was completed in 1855. Henry made many useful changes for saving interior space--such as eliminating the pair of

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Smithsonian Institution Building

8. Significance (3)

large staircases at the main door on the north and placing one staircase near the north door inside one of the north towers.

A serious delay in the construction of the building occurred on February 26, 1850, when a large section of the center of the interior fell into the basement. A close inspection revealed that the woodwork of the interior of the central section had been poorly constructed. The materials themselves were also of inferior quality. The result of this accident was a major change in the construction of the center of the building. It was decided by the Building Committee that all of the woodwork of the center section should be removed and that area completely fireproofed. This extra work cost an additional \$44,000. The roof of the center sections was at that time already completed in wood and plaster and was not fireproofed.

During 1851 all of the exterior of the structure was completed. In 1852 Renwick's work was completed and he withdrew from further consultation on the building. At this point Capt. B.S. Alexander of the U.S. Engineers Corps assumed the responsibility of directing the completion of the interior. In 1853 Gilbert Cameron signed a contract to complete the interior details. The Building Committee decided at this time to place a large lecture room in most of the second floor of the central building. The entire building was completed in 1855. The complete cost of construction far exceeded the original estimate--\$318, 727.

The danger of fire was constantly before the eyes of the Secretary and the Regents. As early as 1852 the central section was changed from a wooden interior to that of a more fire-resistant interior in the midst of construction of the building. Every precaution was made to prevent fire--no smoking was permitted in the building, no open lights could be carried, buckets and barrels and hoses were located in many areas of the entire structure. A watchman inspected the rooms every night for fire also. These precautions were unsuccessful, however, for the worst fire in the history of the Institution occurred on the night of Tuesday, January 24, 1865, in the central section. It spread instantly from the attic into the second floor and into the two north towers and the south tower. In this fire were destroyed all of the original papers of James Smithson, the founder, 80,000 letters relating to the early history of the Institution (Henry's files), a collection of scientific inventions, and 200 oil portraits of American Indians belonging to the artist, J. M. Stanley of Detroit. Also completely destroyed were the libraries of the Episcopal Seminary of Alexandria, Virginia, and of the town of Beaufort, South Carolina. These libraries had been seized by Union troops during the Civil War and deposited for safekeeping at the Smithsonian by the Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton. The fire began after workmen incorrectly inserted an iron stove pipe into the second floor ceiling connecting not with the chimney but directly

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8. Significance (4)

into the attic. For several days the hot air and smoke had emptied into the attic rather than the chimney, thus starting the fire.

The general renovation following the fire of 1865 was carried out by Adolph Cluss, Washington architect, from 1865 to 1867. The Arts and Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution was also designed by Cluss with his new partner, Paul Schulze, in 1879 (with advice from Gen. Montgomery Meigs).

The burned-out roof of the Smithsonian Institution received a temporary cover from the Quartermaster General's Corps in 1865. The damaged north wall of the south tower was removed by Cluss and rebuilt. Cluss erected an inside lining or additional wall of brick nine inches thick on this tower and the two north towers for greater strength, as they were badly cracked. Many of the high narrow windows of these towers were also bricked up to strengthen the walls. The 30 foot top section of the south tower was removed and rebuilt. This tower, formerly of four stories, was rebuilt into six stories. A pair of broad iron staircases on either side of the northdoor replaced the single stair in the northeast tower. Circular windows were cut in the south tower for extra light. In 1867 the roof of the central section was finished, under the temporary covering, with iron trusses and a slate covering. The entire central section had been rebuilt and reoccupied by 1867. An important change was the use of the first floor room in the south tower as an extension of the central museum. These various reconstruction costs during the period 1865-1867, came to \$119,528.

In 1869 the West Range and in 1871 the West Wing were turned into exhibit areas. Further changes came in 1871 when the first floor of the East Wing and East Range (both used then as laboratories) were changed into Smithsonian offices. This was the first of several steps which resulted eventually in concentrating the Smithsonian offices in the east end of the building. The former laboratories were moved into the basement.

Congress appropriated \$50,000 in 1883 for the fireproofing of the East Wing and East Range and the work was carried out by the firm of Cluss and Schulze. The offices in these two areas were moved into the Great Hall and a shed was erected to the south of the building for storage of materials, while the renovation was being carried out.

In 1885-1886 Congress again granted another sum, this time \$21,500, for installing telephones, a passenger elevator, speaking tubes and other improvements to complete the renovation of the east end of the building. In 1884 a third and fourth floor were added to the East Wing (with the addition of a new pitched roof to replace the lower original flat roof) and a third floor added to the East Range. A room for containing the archives of the Institution was created in the East Wing's fourth floor

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Smithsonian Institution Building

8. Significance (5)

in 1895. In 1891 Congress granted \$25,000 for fireproofing and a new iron roof with slate for the West Wing. In 1895 the lighting of the East Wing was improved in part of the first floor by enlarging the window frames and replacing the small diamond panes by single sheets of glass. This was also done in the Secretary's office on the second floor and to several rooms on the third and fourth floors of the East Wing. Electric lights were installed in 1895 for the first time in the building--in the East Wing. The power plant was housed in the basement of the south tower to operate the lights.

About 1900 the wooden floors of the Great Hall were removed and a new terrazzo pavement was laid. Also a tunnel was constructed to the new (1879-1881) Arts and Industries Building. The Great Hall in 1900 contained dozens of large wooden and glass exhibit cases of birds. These extended from the columns of the center aisle to the outer walls, forming alcoves, each lighted by a single window. Extending through the central aisle were a series of tall cases for the display of mollusks. Balconies, 15 feet wide, and 8 feet above the floor, extended around the four sides of the Great Hall; they were broken by entranceways in the center of the room on both the north and south sides.

The room which served as the vestibule for the south door in the Great Hall, 25 feet by 23 feet, was converted into a Children's Museum. It was given a mosaic floor, green walls, with the ceiling decorated with paintings, glass cases containing birds, and aquariums "chosen to excite the wonder of children." The room was designed by Washington's first interior decorator.

The West Range and West Wing were fitted with wooden and glass exhibit cases for insects and fish by 1903. These areas remained little changed until 1915. In that year unfortunately three bays on both east and west ends of the Great Hall were detached to create additional office space. In 1902 an Art Room was created in the East Wing on the second floor; at that time a cast of portions of the Parthenon frieze was installed along the walls of the room, still on the walls today.

Few changes were made to the building until the 1960's after the last major alteration of 1915. In 1968-1970 the architectural firm of Chatelain Samperton and Nolan, of Washington, completed the drawings for a major renovation. The general contractors were Grunley-Walsh Construction Co. of Rockville, Maryland. Changes made to the building during this period included the following:

1. Central air-conditioning installed throughout the building.
2. Fourth floor added to the central section of the building.

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8. Significance (6)

3. Peaked roof added to the central left north (which had been burned and never replaced after the 1865 fire) tower.
4. Third floor was divided into an octagonal foyer and offices, in the central section.
5. New slate roof added on central section.
6. Right stairs added adjacent to main entrance at north towers to match left staircase.
7. Staircase erected in Northeast tower of central section.
8. Bookcases in Chapel reduced in width by 5 inches.
9. Chapel converted (or West Wing) into a restaurant.
10. West Range converted into a lounge.
11. Balcony erected on two sides of the extreme west end of the third floor of the central section.
12. Pent house added to the roof of the East Range to house mechanical equipment for circulating the air.
13. Two large mechanical rooms constructed immediately adjacent to the main south tower below the basement level.
14. Elevator placed in Southwest tower.
15. Elevator placed in South Tower.
16. Glazed glass placed in rose window, central section, extreme west end.

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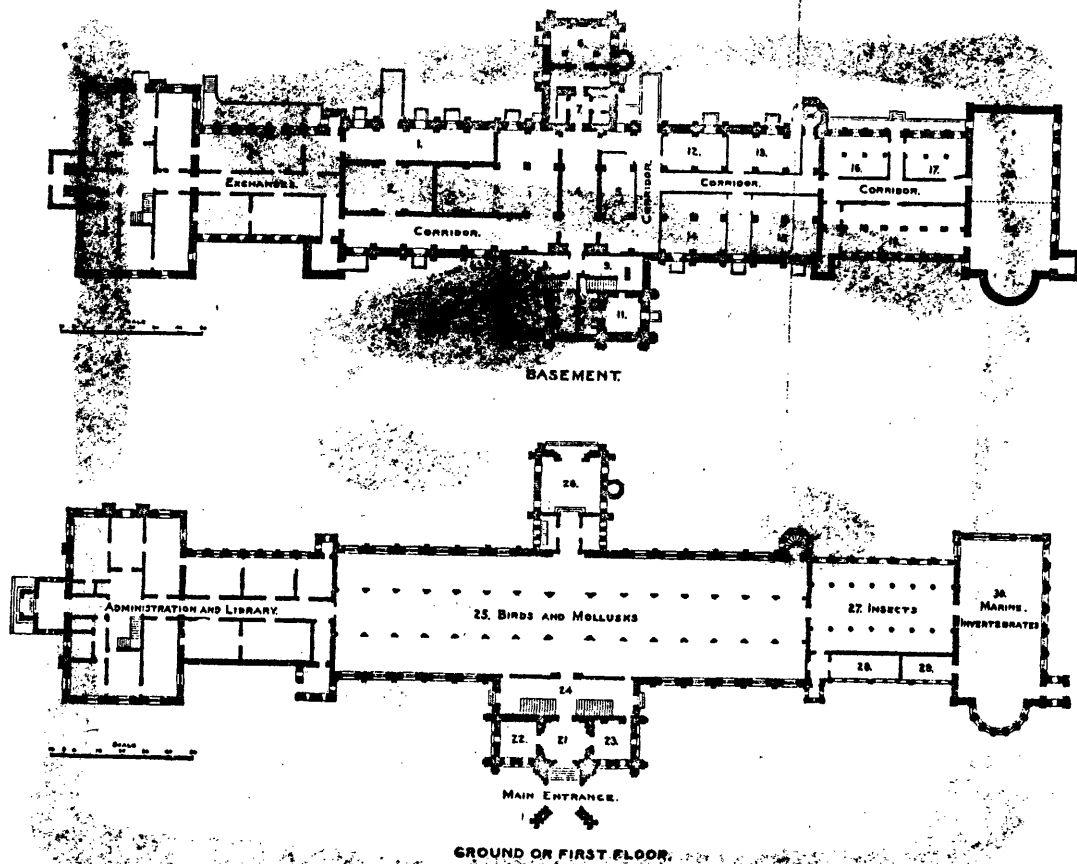
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Smithsonian Institution Building

Basement and First Floor Plan ca. 1900



PLAN OF BASEMENT AND FIRST FLOOR, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BUILDING.

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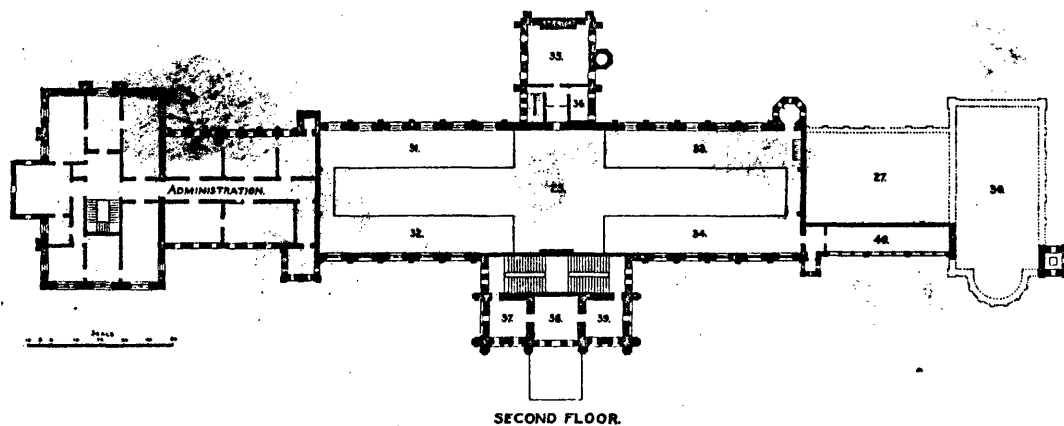
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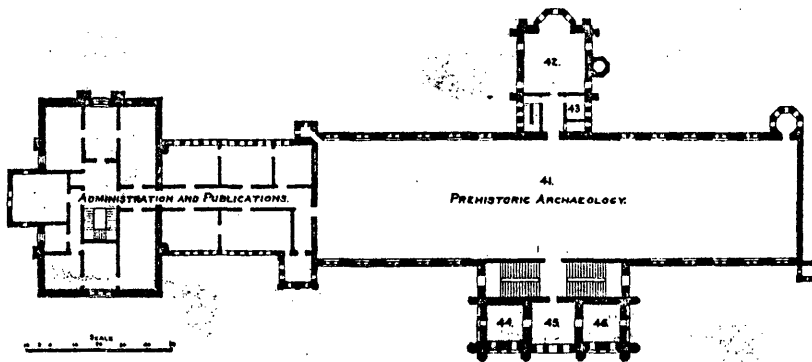
(Number all entries)

Smithsonian Institution Building

Second and Third Floor Plan ca. 1900



SECOND FLOOR.



THIRD FLOOR.

PLAN OF SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION BUILDING.