

1873.
—
VICTORIA.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

REPORT

OF

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON THE EXTENT AND CHARACTER OF THE
FURTHER ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED AT THE PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Ireland QUEEN, Defender of the Faith :

To our trusty and well-beloved the Honorable ALEXANDER FRASER, M.L.C.,
the Honorable WILLIAM HENRY FANCOURT MITCHELL, M.L.C.,
the Honorable JOHN O'SHANASSY, C.M.G., M.L.C., the Honorable
SIR FRANCIS MURPHY, Knight, M.L.C., the Honorable THOMAS
FERRIER HAMILTON, M.L.C., the Honorable CHARLES MAC MAHON,
M.P., the Honorable JOHN ALEXANDER MACPHERSON, M.P., the
Honorable WILLIAM BATES, M.P., the Honorable WILLIAM
MOUNTFORD KINSEY VALE, M.P., and the Honorable MICHAEL
O'GRADY, M.P.

GREETING :

Whereas the Governor of our Colony of Victoria, with the advice of our Executive Council thereof, has deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to consider and report on the extent and character of the further accommodation required at the Parliamentary Buildings: Now know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have constituted and appointed and by these presents do constitute and appoint you, ALEXANDER FRASER, WILLIAM HENRY FANCOURT MITCHELL, JOHN O'SHANASSY, SIR FRANCIS MURPHY, THOMAS FERRIER HAMILTON, CHARLES MAC MAHON, JOHN ALEXANDER MACPHERSON, WILLIAM BATES, WILLIAM MOUNTFORD KINSEY VALE, and MICHAEL O'GRADY, to be our Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid: And We do by these presents give and grant unto you, or any three or more of you, full power and authority to call before you such person or persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any information upon the subject of this our Commission, and to enquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever: And We will and command that this our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you our said Commissioners, or any three or more of you, shall and may from time to time, and at any place or places, proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment: And We do hereby appoint our trusty and well-beloved ALEXANDER FRASER to be Chairman of you our said Commissioners: And lastly, We direct that you do, with as little delay as possible, report to us under your hands and seals, your opinions resulting from the said enquiry.

In testimony whereof We have caused these our letters to be made patent and the seal of our said Colony to be hereunto affixed.

Witness our trusty and well-beloved cousin the Right Honorable JOHN HENRY THOMAS VISCOUNT CANTERBURY, of the City of Canterbury in the County of Kent, and BARON BOTTESFORD, of Bottesford in the County of Leicester, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Victoria, &c., &c., &c., at Melbourne, this sixth day of January, One thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, and in the thirty-sixth year of our Reign.



CANTERBURY

By His Excellency's Command,

JAS. G. FRANCIS.

ENTERED on Record by me in the Register of Patents, Book 17, page 163, this ninth day of January, One thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

W. H. ODGERS.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS.

*To His Excellency SIR GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, Knight Grand Cross
of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George,
Governor, &c., of the Colony of Victoria, &c., &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, Her Majesty's Commissioners, whose hands and seals are hereunto set, have the honor to lay before you the following Report :—

1. Having been appointed specially to report on the extent and character of the further accommodation required at the Parliamentary Buildings, we have held ten meetings, and have made all due inquiries, to allow of our doing this definitely and with confidence.

2. The point first to be considered was whether a new Legislative Assembly Chamber would be absolutely required or not, as on this would depend entirely the plan of the new buildings to be erected. The great fault of the present chamber is defective ventilation, and all attempts to remedy this have hitherto been made in vain. On this subject both the Inspector-General of Public Works and the Government Astronomer were examined, and their testimony led to the conclusion that there is no necessity for erecting a new chamber.

3. To insure full and complete ventilation, the alterations and additions we recommend are :—

- (a) To clear away the division walls at present standing between the Council and Assembly chambers, and throw the entire space into a large hall 100 ft. in length by 47 ft. wide, crossing the corridor to the entrance vestibule.
- (b) To have a wide corridor extending across the front of both chambers and to either extremity of the new buildings.
- (c) To make such openings in the present roof of the Assembly chamber as will provide for the more rapid egress of heated air.
- (d) To clear away the obstructions in the existing corridor at the back of both chambers in order to admit cool air from the east, and in winter, if necessary, from the north.

It is considered that by these means ample ventilation will be secured.

4. The accommodation to be provided in the new buildings we recommend is as follows, viz. :—

On the basement.

Two offices 27 ft. by 22 ft.

Four „ 25 ft. by 22 ft.

Two „ 21 ft. by 14 ft.

Two „ 17 ft. by 14 ft.

Besides two messengers' rooms, two strong rooms, and about 16,000 cubic feet of storage room for papers.

On the principal floor.

Two committee rooms 39 ft. by 24 ft.

Two „ 27 ft. by 22 ft.

Two „ 25 ft. by 24 ft.

Besides two rooms each for the President of the Council and Speaker of the Assembly, and six rooms of smaller size.

On the upper floor.

Two committee rooms 39 ft. by 24 ft.

Two „ 27 ft. by 22.

And ten other rooms of smaller size ; also bath-rooms and closets for the Members. In the attics sixteen rooms of various size, to be devoted to any purposes required. The great hall, partly in the new building and partly in the old, will, as before stated, be 100 ft. by 47 ft., with an entrance vestibule of 40 ft. by 30 ft. And, should the plans and alterations in question be adopted, the approach will be by a wide flight of steps to a lofty portico facing Bourke street.

5. The cost of the buildings affording this accommodation, and faced with freestone, is estimated at about £90,000.

6. Finally, considering that the accompanying plans are calculated to afford sufficient accommodation to meet the wants of Parliament for some years to come, we beg to recommend their adoption. From an architectural point of view, the new buildings promise to be well suited to the commanding site which they are to occupy, and they are so planned as to admit of additions when required. As the testimony of Mr. Wardell and of Mr. Ellery was so conclusive on the main points to be considered, we did not deem it necessary to examine any other witnesses.

Dated this 4th day of June 1873.

ALEX. FRASER, CHAIRMAN,	(L.S.)
W. H. F. MITCHELL,	(L.S.)
JOHN O'SHANASSY,	(L.S.)
FRANS. MURPHY,	(L.S.)
THOMAS F. HAMILTON,	(L.S.)
C. MAC MAHON,	(L.S.)
JOHN A. MACPHERSON,	(L.S.)
WILLIAM BATES,	(L.S.)
WILLIAM M. K. VALE,	(L.S.)
M. O'GRADY.	(L.S.)

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS.

THURSDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 1873.

Present :

The Hon. A. FRASER, M.L.C., in the Chair ;	
The Hon. W. H. F. Mitchell, M.L.C.,	The Hon. W. Bates, M.L.A.,
„ Sir Francis Murphy, M.L.C.	„ J. A. MacPherson, M.L.A.,
„ T. F. Hamilton, M.L.C.,	„ W. M. K. Vale, M.L.A.
„ John O'Shanassy, M.L.C.,	

W. W. Wardell, Esq., and Frederick Johnson, Esq., were called in.

W. W. Wardell, Esq., examined.

W. W. Wardell,
Esq.,
13th Feb. 1873.

1. Can you produce the sketch of the proposed buildings ordered by the Commission at its last meeting?—Yes.—[*The witness produced the same.*]
2. What is the probable cost of that?—About £93,000.
3. Putting such a front as that to it?—Yes.—[*The witness produced and explained a second sketch.*]
4. Would it not be better to have lighting from the sides as well as from the roof?—That could be had in the present chambers.
5. The whole of the little closet committee room between the two chambers could be thrown into an open court-yard, or else into a great hall?—Yes, that could be quite easily done.
6. What objection would there be to having a new hall upon the south side instead of upon the north side; was there any particular reason for putting it upon the north side in this sketch?—No, except for convenience.
7. You say the present chambers could be lighted from the sides instead of entirely from the roof, by taking away the wall?—Yes.
8. If that could be done, and a good light thrown in, how would the ventilation be managed?—The ventilation would be improved by the windows on each side.
9. The apparatus down stairs could be taken away?—Possibly; but I think artificial ventilation will be found necessary in still, heavy weather.
10. If you took the wall away from the outside you would have the full effect of the sun upon the chamber?—I would propose to build the Ministers' room and their supporters' room on the other side of the court to the north of the chamber; that would shelter it.
11. Upon what does the weight of the roof of the Legislative Assembly chamber rest?—Upon the inner walls.
12. Has it ever struck you that the Library itself might be turned into the Assembly chamber and the Assembly chamber into the Library?—You would have completely to gut it, and to alter the roof.
13. Would it give the same accommodation as the present arrangement?—It would be about the same; it is rather longer.
14. If you take away those screens that now block up the passage at the side of the Legislative Assembly chamber, would you not get plenty of ventilation?—Much improved ventilation.
15. You would take away the water-closets on any plan?—Yes, certainly from their present position.
16. In the event of that plan being adopted—[*pointing to the second sketch produced*]—a great deal of the front work would be avoided?—This front could be used on either plan.
17. What would be about the cost of that?—I should think about £90,000; it is about the same area as the other.
18. What would you gain in that plan?—You would have the Assembly away from the outside of the building, and would complete the sides of the building by adding two rooms, and could finish the Library part hereafter.
19. Is the finish of that the same as this elevation—[*referring to the other sketch*]?—It could be the same elevation, but I should modify it.
20. What would be the height of this flight of steps in front?—About 10 feet.
21. The vaults underneath the Legislative Assembly chambers are higher than the ground towards Bourke street, and those vaults cover from 13 to 14 feet—the whole must be from 17 to 18 feet?—By the scale it is 15 feet.
22. Suppose you were to commence your ascent a long way out—like St. Peter's—you could get the incline very gradually?—Yes.
23. What would be the length of the incline from top to bottom?—It could be prolonged almost indefinitely. You could decrease the height by raising the roadway. It is 42 feet from the front to the gate upon the plan.
24. In 40 feet you could slope up with a flagged way, and raise it 3 feet easily?—Yes, quite easily.
25. Will you supply the Commission at its next meeting with a plan showing how better ventilation and light could be supplied to the existing chambers?—Yes; but I think the plan I could prepare by next Wednesday could only include the general groupings, the arrangement of details would be matter for after consideration.
26. You would propose to submit a plan of the front of the building?—I propose to submit a plan of the front of the building and a plan of the alterations I propose in regard to ventilation and arrangement.
27. You have, in one of these plans, something to propose for committee rooms; will you be good enough to observe the plan of the House of Commons in regard to committee rooms. In the present Houses

W. W. Wardell, Esq.,
continued,
13th Feb. 1873.

here the committee rooms have doors at each end, and there is a thoroughfare; there is no privacy at all, and that is not desirable for a committee. In these plans the rooms are dotted about in different places?—Those committee rooms are all entered from one corridor; but I understand it is most important that each committee room should have only one door, and should not be made a passage room.

28. And the witnesses should be put into some room where they could wait?—Yes.

29. And the committee rooms could open into a corridor, and that corridor could be a waiting room for the witnesses in connection with the committees?—Yes; but I think there should be waiting rooms.

30. Seeing that this is a warm climate, and that there 100 or 120 members, making, with servants and so on, about 250 persons about the Parliament House, baths are really needful in a place which becomes heated as the Parliament House becomes in hot weather, and baths should therefore be provided?—Yes; the plans that I am to prepare now will be upon the understanding that there is not to be a new Legislative Assembly chamber.

31. Will there be a new form of approach to the chambers instead of the present narrow flights of stairs?—Yes, a flight of steps like the Treasury, and one general approach.

32. What is your opinion of a way of getting proper ventilation to an Assembly chamber on the north side?—It will be covered; it will be built round.

33. Still it will be on the north side of the building?—Yes; but within the building there will be a court between it and a set of rooms north of it.

34. Do you think that you will get proper ventilation then?—Yes, I think it possible.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Thursday next at three o'clock.

THURSDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 1873.

Present:

The Hon. A. FRASER, M.L.C., in the Chair;	
The Hon. W. H. F. Mitchell, M.L.C.,	The Hon. J. A. MacPherson, M.L.A.,
,, T. F. Hamilton, M.L.C.,	,, W. M. K. Vale, M.L.A.,
,, Capt. Mac Mahon, M.L.A.,	,, W. Bates, M.L.A.
,, M. O'Grady, M.L.A.,	

W. W. Wardell, Esq., further examined.

W. W. Wardell,
Esq.,
20th Feb. 1873.

35. Are you prepared with the plans which at the last meeting you promised to furnish?—Yes, this is the plan—[*producing the same*]. This is the scheme I would recommend to improve the entrance without altering the Legislative Assembly chamber. I propose a large public hall, divided by screens, so that members could have a separate entrance into each House; the space now taken up by committee rooms is cleared away, and there is an area on each side so as to make ventilation with the windows possible; then, by adding the buildings shown at the sides, you have committee rooms and other necessary offices. I propose to put the bath-rooms and closets up stairs, to avoid any inconvenience from their being below.

36. How many committee rooms are there?—Ten; and then below there are the offices; the large hall opens upon the court in front of it.

37. Are the rooms the same size as they are now?—Much larger.

38. All the present lobbies are thrown into open spaces?—Yes, or made to communicate into open spaces.

39. What is the tinted part?—That is the building now in existence, all the white part is new.

40. What is the size of the large hall here made provision for?—120 feet long by 40 feet 8 inches.

41. What is the width of the present Assembly chamber?—It is about 55 feet long and 40 feet wide.

42. Could it not be made in such a way that it could be made an Assembly chamber?—I think not with the present arrangement certainly; the members of the Council pass through the hall as well as the members of the Assembly.

43. Then the public hall is merely an entrance hall?—Yes, that is all.

44. But if you construct a number of rooms outside the lobbies, what would be the use of clearing away the committee rooms?—Those present committee rooms are all made open spaces.

45. But cannot you have outside ventilation?—You cannot have it with this design.

46. This plan proposes to execute a larger amount of building than you have now, and leave the present Assembly chamber just where it is?—Yes, so far as its position is concerned.

47. Why cannot you make the present outside wall still the outside wall, throw it into arches, allow the outside ventilation to come in there, and have no rooms outside of it?—Then you have no committee rooms.

48. Then you get no ventilation to the outside air, say with windows for instance?—The ventilation with windows is only a very partial one; for instance, on very stormy days or very rainy days you could not use it, it is only on a limited number of days that you could get it.

49. But you could do as you do in a private house, shut up one room while you live in another?—You get no ventilation into any room while the air is still though you have all the windows open.

50. You would not perhaps if you put the building in a court?—No; and I do not believe there would be any if you built it in an open field. If you follow the plan proposed, of having arches, you would have the Assembly exposed to the sun, and you would have no wind except from the north.

51. If you put a good front to the building you would have plenty of room for offices?—I think it would be a great advantage to have a good public hall in the front.

52. Do you think you could ventilate the Assembly chamber sufficiently by means of open spaces, which would be where the lobbies are?—I think you could never entirely do away with the artificial ventilation; in hot still weather you must have it.

53. The Council chamber does not require ventilation?—They have fewer persons as an audience generally, and then they sit so much shorter time. This plan gives ventilation on all four sides. I believe it is not known by many people that the Assembly chamber is ventilated by windows in the roof. The great nuisance of the House at present is the position of the water-closets; they are put at the foot of the stairs, and the stair well becomes a sort of funnel to carry up the annoyance.

54. What is the size of the rooms?—25 by 29 ft., and the corner one 35 by 40 ft.
55. There is no passage through them?—No.
56. What is the estimated cost of that?—This is cheaper than the other one. The front building would cost £77,000, and the two sides and the rear about £78,000, making about £157,000 altogether in round numbers—that is, a reduction of about £160,000 upon the original plan.
57. What is the height of the pillars in the front elevation?—The same as those now in the front of the Library.
58. If you put that front up, are you compelled to continue the sides?—You could take off so much of it.
59. Are those pillars flush with the wall?—Some of them are three-quarter pillars, and the others are the front of the portico.
60. The portico is in the centre of the front?—Yes.
61. Are there any walls in the entrance hall?—No, only pillars with screens between them.
62. Are those pillars absolutely necessary?—No, not absolutely.
63. Is that freestone all round?—Freestone all round, finished in the same way as the Library front. A draught might easily be created in the areas by tunnelling through underneath.
64. Draughts created artificially are very objectionable?—No; there you would have a natural draught; you might get a draught in another way by making openings to the south underneath the committee rooms—make tunnels to feed the Legislative Assembly with the south wind.
65. Would it not be possible to utilize the lobbies for ventilation purposes, and to leave the present outside as it is?—The lobby space is all enclosed at present; what we propose to do is to make them quite open—take them away in fact.
66. Are not the pillars in the portico too close?—They are too close, but this is a mere sketch.
67. This plan involves the present Assembly chamber, and an expenditure of £157,000?—Yes, when completed.
68. And even with that a scheme of artificial ventilation would be necessary?—I think artificial ventilation would be necessary under any circumstances.
69. Even in a new chamber?—Yes, to provide for days when the air is stagnant outside.
70. But with windows open to the south and to the north and the wind going right through?—But when there is no wind outside at all you would get no air.
71. You would have to have something like pumps then?—Exactly so, you must have it.
72. Could you get accommodation for the committee rooms anywhere else than where you have proposed—in the basement, for instance?—There is large accommodation required for the departments of the House which is proposed to be provided in the basement; they want storage for papers very badly.
73. Is not there an immense quantity of space in the present Treasury department suitable for that, not used?—It is all filled.
74. There is a whole household accommodated in the basement of the Treasury; there is room sufficient to store papers for several years?—I do not know what space the messenger takes.
75. Then there will be space in the vaults of the new building for storage of papers for fifty years?—Yes, no doubt.
76. There is a church built for £16,000, it contains a large number—a mass of people—and it requires no artificial ventilation?—But then they are there only a very short time.
77. But look at the amount of building there is put upon your plan?—The accommodation there is what I was told was required.
78. How many different systems of artificial ventilation have been tried in the present chamber?—I could not say that. One that I thought was pretty successful was the one that was tried last; but the Speaker, Sir Francis Murphy, found the temporary engine that we used to force the air in such an annoyance that he stopped its being used, and I do not think, therefore, the present system of ventilation has had anything like a fair chance; still, no doubt, it is capable of improvement. My own opinion is that the better system would be the reverse one—that is, bringing the air in at the top and exhausting it at the bottom, instead of, as we do now, bring it in at the bottom and force it out at the top. The system has been tried with great success in Paris, and also in America.
79. You show upon that plan a number of committee rooms which you would have between the two buildings?—This is only one floor; each room is repeated, above and below.
80. What is the height of each room—is it as much as 17 feet?—You could get more than that, 17 to 20 feet easily.
81. If you were to clear away everything between the main walls of the two buildings, and make a great court roofed in, would it not give good ventilation to both the chambers and the Library, and all the buildings, by having windows opening into the court from the Assembly and Council chambers?—Yes, something of that sort is shown here.
82. What is the length of the distance between the two main walls of the chambers?—48 feet. This is very nearly the same idea, only not as wide, as that suggested in the question. I do not see any difficulty in carrying out the suggestion.
83. Would you not then get rid of the need of some of those buildings, and so reduce the expense?—I do not think the suggestion would reduce the expense at all.
84. But would you require so much building to the south, or would you curtail this plan?—Then you cut off some of the rooms.
85. Over the big hall, to give the front its proper elevation, there would be a space of 120 feet by 40 feet, which could be made into offices, making, say, fifteen large rooms; then below the approach there would be an immense amount of storage?—Yes.
86. If you take off the proposed additional building on the north and the south, and find accommodation over the great hall on the west, you would save a large amount of money?—Yes, something like £40,000.
87. Will you prepare for our next meeting fresh plans upon the suggestions that have been made to you to-day?—Yes, I will get it done.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Thursday next at three o'clock.

THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 1873.

Present :

The Hon. A. FRASER, M.L.C., in the Chair ;

The Hon. W. H. F. Mitchell, M.L.C.,
„ W. M. K. Vale, M.L.A.,The Hon. W. Bates, M.L.A.,
„ M. O'Grady, M.L.A.

R. L. J. Ellery, Esq., Government Astronomer, examined.

R. L. J. Ellery,
Esq.,
27th Feb. 1873.

88. You were asked to bring a sketch showing the currents of air circulating round the Parliament House?—No, I was asked to give information. I can, I think, give what is required from memory.

89. Could you hereafter give us a chart?—Yes.

90. Will you state to the Commission the currents, and the prevailing winds, and the period of the year at which they operate?—The prevailing wind through the year is northerly. I think we have 17 per cent. of all the wind from the north; and the next percentage is from the south.

91. Direct south?—Direct south. The north has the highest percentage of all; from the direct south next—that is, 16 per cent.; then will come the south-west.

92. That would be Bourke street?—Bourke street is about west-south-west. That direction represents about 14 or 15 per cent. of all the winds.

93. The north wind would be in much its largest proportion a day wind in the summer time?—It is the prevailing wind, day and night, in winter time; a very much larger proportion in the winter, and in spring too. We have, comparatively, a smaller proportion in the summer than at any other time of the year.

94. Then the percentage is larger, with regard to the north wind, in winter?—Yes, spring and winter.

95. The proportion is larger of the north over the south, then, 17 to 14?—Yes. Take the winter, it is 32 per cent. from the north against 5½ per cent. from the south.

96. What is it in the summer time?—It is just about the reverse of that. It is 9 per cent. from north, and 25 per cent. from the south.

97. Our object is to ascertain, chiefly, from what quarter the cool winds come in summer?—You have a greater number of hours of cool wind in the summer from west-south-west, south, and south-east.

98. Do they come in the night or in the morning?—They vary very much, but they usually commence between twelve and five o'clock; and they may go on all night, and perhaps for two or three days together.

99. But the evening wind here in summer is generally a south wind?—Yes, the larger proportion of it.

100. What amount of south-east winds are there?—South-east is 12 per cent. in the year; they prevail principally in the summer time.

101. And the south-west and west prevail generally in winter, along with north?—Yes. The present year is altering our averages greatly, for we have had such a large proportion of east, south-east, and north-east winds; but I do not take that into account, for it is an exceptional year.

102. Can you make us a plan showing the Parliament-house reserve and the main streets, and with the wind point upon it, and show the year's average, and show also separately the six winter months and the six summer months?—Yes; I can put a great deal of information down that way graphically about the winds. There is a distinction perhaps should be made, that a great many of our winds from all directions are only local winds. They do not come up with a back to them; and you often get a southerly wind which is hardly a cool wind. After a hot wind you may get a southerly wind that is not cold.

103. It is not a cold wind, but it is a cool wind?—It is cooler than the northerly wind, but still warm.

104. The winds that the Commission more particularly desire to be informed of are the winds prevailing from the 1st of April to the end of September, and more particularly as to the winds that blow after four o'clock in the afternoon?—Yes.

105. As a rule, the northerly wind after our winter begins is intensely cold?—Yes.

106. And in the winter the wind from the south is generally warmer than the wind from the north?—Yes.

107. Will you be good enough to give the information just asked for in separate months?—Yes.

108. Does the character of the northerly wind change before November?—Yes; we get warm winds in October, sometimes even in September a day that otherwise would be a warm day is made much warmer by a wind from the north; but it is not a hot wind.

109. That is when there is a hot sun?—Yes.

110. That does not affect after four o'clock in the afternoon?—No; the temperature falls directly the wind changes, or after sundown. There is another consideration: a building gets heated from being surrounded by heated air so many hours.

111. But that does not apply to that time of year, because the sun does not get any great power till twelve o'clock?—No. I was speaking of later in the year.

112. You refer to the period from October to March?—Yes. There is one point mentioned in the letter to me concerning admitting cool air after hot weather.

113. Have you any plan in your own mind?—Nothing beyond what is generally adopted now in modern buildings. Of course, if you want air artificially cooled, there are but two or three ways of doing it; but one great point is to get the cool air in not from near the ground, as is very often the case in public buildings here, but to get an in-draught of air pretty high up in the building, and let it in lower down. Very often they get air to supply a chamber from a low level, sometimes from underneath the floors, and along the lowest part of the building foundations, which is very objectionable.

114. Then you think the mode of ventilation from above is superior to the mode of ventilation from below?—Yes; I think the great thing is to get the in-draught received into the building at a moderate height from the ground, and let it be delivered into the chamber at a low level; not to receive any down draught from the highest points of the building, but to take it say at 20 or 30 feet from the ground.

115. Have you seen the mode adopted in the Assembly chamber for ventilating?—Yes, from the very first.

116. Then your view would be met if there were a central hall built opening to Bourke street ; if the air coming up the street came into the hall, and was draughted into the Assembly and Council chambers from windows 15 or 20 feet high ?—No ; the plan is to receive it high up in the building, and then bring it down a hollow wall or flue, and deliver it below. In the Houses of Parliament at home they have perforated basement walls and deliver it in cellars ; but there are great complaints about it ; they say, the floor being perforated, they get the dust blown up in their eyes ; the air smells differently, and is not so pure, if conveyed from the cellar.

117. Your views would be met by taking the air from Bourke street 20 or 30 feet from the ground ?—Yes, you get it cooler and freer from impurities.

118. If there were a long flight of steps from Bourke street up to the hall, and then windows to admit the air, would not that do it ?—That is not my idea.

119. But would not that ventilate the chamber, were there a large hall 20 feet, say, above the level of Bourke street, a current coming into the great hall from that, and the air taken into the Legislative Assembly and Council by windows ?—Yes, if admitted as I have pointed out.

120. Is the artificial ventilation now in use the same as they use in England ?—I believe the method is sometimes adopted.

121. You only agitate the air you are in, you do not get fresh air ?—Yes, and what fresh air you do get is not good.

122. Will you look at the Parliament buildings, and form an opinion upon it ; the idea of the Commission being at present to build a flight of steps as an approach ; to take out all that is between the two chambers, lengthen it, and make it a great entrance hall ; make it a receiving place for all ventilation ; there might be other subsidiary plans ; for instance, a cross passage taking the air from the Government domain across the river, and that would deliver the air at the same level ?—Yes, I will look at it.

123. Upon such a plan, would not the air go in from whatever quarter the wind blew ?—Yes ; the great point would be there to secure a proper circulation within the chamber. Then the method would be a very admirable one ; but you must secure enough entrance and exit space for four cubic feet per minute per individual, and then you have air nearly as fresh as if you were in the open air.

124. How fast does the air travel ?—That depends upon the shafts you made.

125. If this plan is carried out, will the House require any artificial ventilation ; we desire to do away with all the apparatus now in use ?—You will be bound to have some shafts.

126. But they need not be seen ?—They need not be seen ; they only need to go as high as the highest part of the roof.

127. That is for the exit of the air ?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

W. W. Wardell, Esq., further examined.

128. Have you prepared the further plans promised at the last meeting of the Commission ?—Yes ; I produce them.—[*The witness did so.*] These are the plans which were made in accordance with your request. This front—[*producing the former plan*]—is considerably curtailed. The committee rooms are grouped together, and the part between the two chambers is left an open court.

129. But there is a fault there. There is a break between the entrance door and the great hall between the two chambers ?—That is an oversight ; but there is not the slightest difficulty about remedying it.

130. Is there any difficulty in taking away the bits of building that cut up the area at the back, and so making a clean passage from north to south between the two chambers, and between them and the Library ?—I do not think there is any difficulty at all about it. This plan reduces the cost considerably of those buildings—the front building to about £63,000—it is saved in length.

131. Is that flight of steps something like the Treasury ?—Yes, something like it, except that it is flanged.

132. But there will be increased accommodation required ?—That can be put on after—it is shown dotted upon the plan ; but I have provided for three committee rooms—two above on the Assembly side, and a very complete space for storing papers on the other side of the new front. The space below the committee rooms is required for offices.

133. What is the length of the steps ?—Ninety feet.

134. You get six additional rooms on each side, that is, to each House ?—Six on each floor ; and a very good arrangement can be made up stairs for bath rooms and closets. It is all lighted from above, and practically in the open air. The great central court should be open to the air, with a double gallery all round.

135. But that would be objectionable in some respects ; for instance, in wet weather, persons going out of a hot room into a cold ?—Yes.

136. Could it not be roofed ?—It could. The difficulty would be to light and ventilate it well.

137. But that could be got over ?—No doubt it could.

138. It would increase the cost ?—Yes, it would somewhat. It must be remembered that the double galleries would protect you from the wet. But there ought to be a handsome roof there, and have it lighted by a clerestory.

139. You propose to take off the north lobby of the Legislative Assembly, and the offices above it and below ?—It can be done. I do not propose to do it now, but I show how it can be done. The black part is the part already built, the red is the addition.

140. The cost of the plan now brought forward, with the roofing of the great hall just suggested, might be compassed for about £70,000 to £75,000 ?—Yes, probably about that.

141. Will you prepare plans upon these suggestions next week ?—Yes.

142. Is the front plan altered at all ?—No, except that it is shortened.

143. Could not the number of columns be lessened, so as to give a grand entrance to the hall ?—Yes. I think I see the idea of the Commission, if they will leave it to me to work out.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Thursday next at three o'clock.

R. L. J. Ellery,
Esq.,
continued,
27th Feb. 1873.

W. W. Wardell,
Esq.,
27th Feb. 1873.

167. What is your estimate of the cost of this?—£63,000 for the front, and then there would be something for the hall, making in all something over £70,000. W. W. Wardell,
Esq.,
continued,
13th March 1873.

168. And for the £70,000 nothing is done but what is colored red upon the plans?—Yes.

169. If instructions were to be given you to-morrow morning, could you be ready with the plans within two months?—No, they would take a longer time than that.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Thursday, 27th instant, at three o'clock.

THURSDAY, 27TH MARCH 1873.

Present :

The Hon. A. FRASER, M.L.C., in the Chair ;

The Hon. C. Mac Mahon, M.L.A.,
,, W. M. K. Vale, M.L.A.,

The Hon. J. A. MacPherson, M.L.A.

William Wilkinson Wardell, Esq., Inspector-General of Public Works, further examined. W. W. Wardell,
Esq.,
27th March 1873.

170. The Commission desired you to prepare a modified plan ; have you done so?—Yes, and I beg to submit it.—[*The witness produced and handed in the amended plans.*] I have here an alternative plan to that, including all that part—[*pointing to the same*—] as before, but extending the front, by which you get a much larger amount of accommodation and improve the building. It entails an additional expense of about £35,000, and that seems to me to be money well laid out ; that, instead of being £139,000, would be £175,000—instead of spending at first £75,000, you spend £90,000 ; so that at present it is only an increase of £15,000.

171. How many more rooms would the alternative plan give?—Two on each floor more, that is, in the front, but the advantage of the plan is the arrangement at the sides.

172. You estimate the last plan now before us at £90,000?—Yes, the front part of it alone.

173. It is £90,000, instead of what?—Instead of £75,000.

174. But that plan involves an additional expenditure of £35,000?—This plan costs £15,000 more than that plan, so far as that goes ; the additions cost as much more, bringing the comparison of the whole thing up to £35,000.

175. How can there be an additional expense of £35,000 if the sides are the same?—But the sides are not the same.

176. What would be the length of the front—would it be 275 feet?—I think it is at least that.

177. How many extra rooms do you give us for the extra £15,000?—Twelve rooms and four attics. Another advantage of that plan is, that it provides now reasonably well for the President and the Speaker temporarily, and when the further additions are carried out there would be better provision still.

178. But it really provides a plan that leaves the £80,000 far in the future?—Yes.

179. And upon this plan you give even more facility for Mr. Ellery's plan of ventilation than we put before him?—Yes.

180. Have you any other elevations?—Yes, this is the front—[*producing the same*].

181. But that is not the enlarged front?—No. I think an addition above the middle of the front is desirable, not only architecturally, but also to have an opening there to get air in ; and there might be a very good promenade round the top of it, with a splendid view over the city.

182. There is no elevation of the more extended front?—It would be like that, only carried out.

183. What would be the proportion of the length to the elevation—the length is 275 feet, what is the height?—60 feet.

184. What is the length of the centre piece that is raised?—It is about 70 feet long.

185. What does that add to the cost?—Very little indeed, comparatively.

186. Is the roof carried up to the same height as the parapet?—No, there is a gallery there upon which you can walk ; it is exactly like a tower top, you can walk upon it.

187. How could the work be managed so as to allow of the business of the House being carried on—could it be done during a recess?—No, it could not be done during any one recess.

188. Could you do anything to relieve the present ventilation, about which everybody is complaining?—We can adopt some temporary measures ; I have no doubt that the business of the House need not be stopped.

189. Would it be possible to remove the kitchens from their present position?—I have no doubt it could be done, they could be placed up stairs.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned sine die.



SKETCH
DESIGN FOR COMPLETING PARLIAMENT HOUSES,
MELBOURNE.

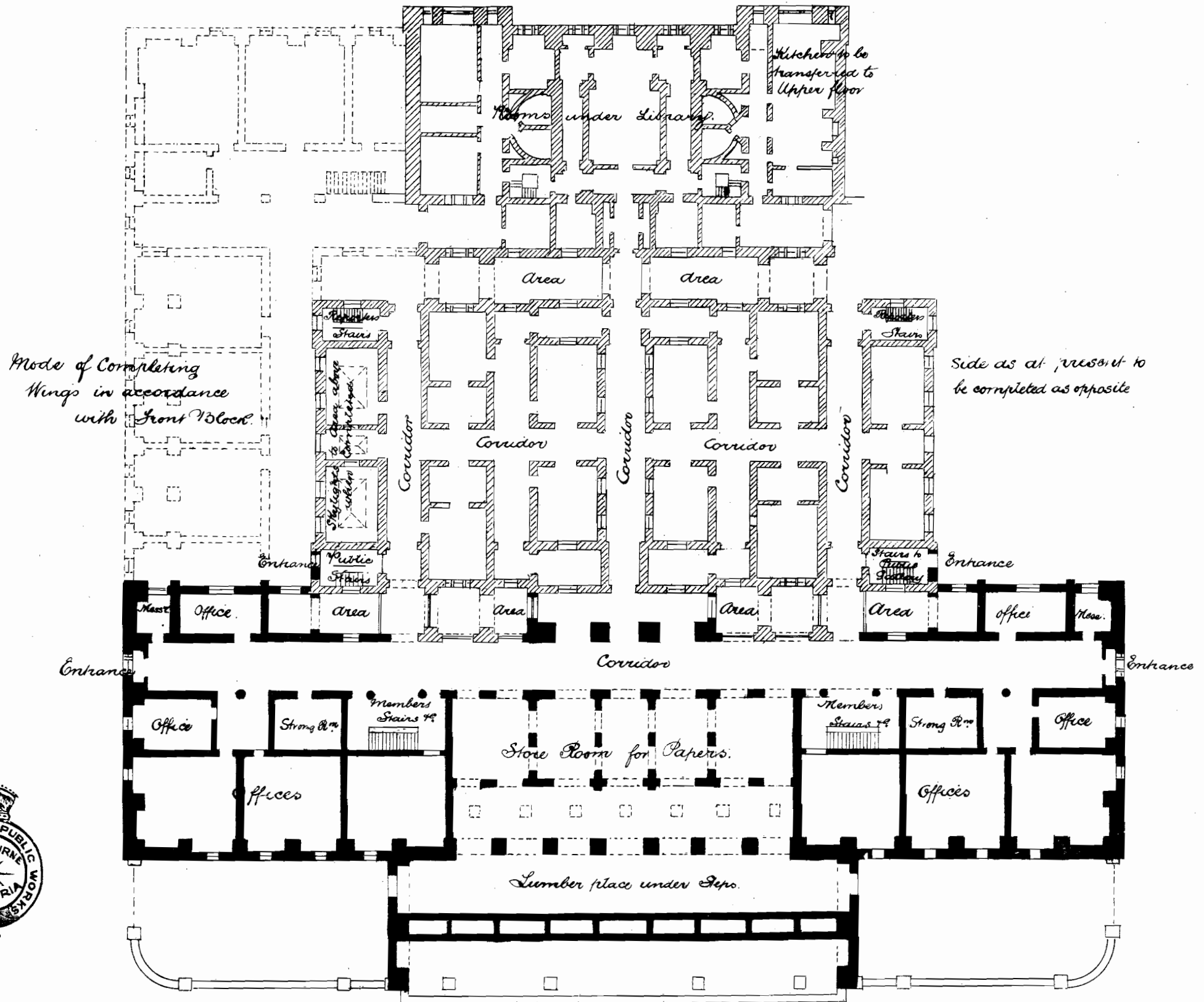
RECOMMENDED BY ROYAL COMMISSION.

Houses of Parliament

Design for Completion of Buildings as recommended by the Royal Commission

Design C^a

Drawing N^o 1.



Mode of Completing Wings in accordance with Front Block.

Side as at present to be completed as opposite



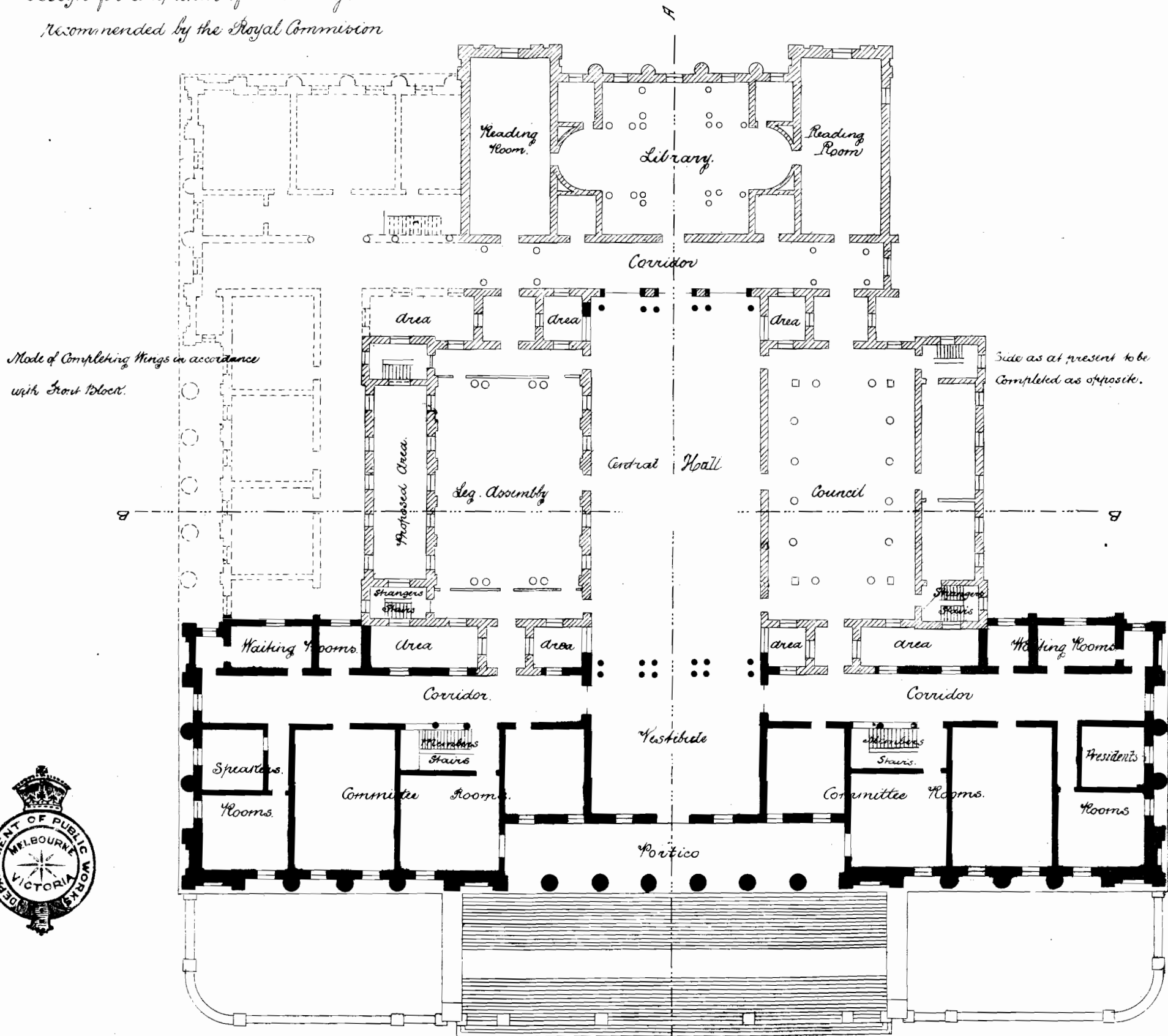
Note. Old portions hatched in. New colored black.

Plan of Basement.

Houses of Parliament

Design for Completion of Buildings as
Recommended by the Royal Commission

Design C^a
Drawing N^o 2



Plan of Principal Floor.

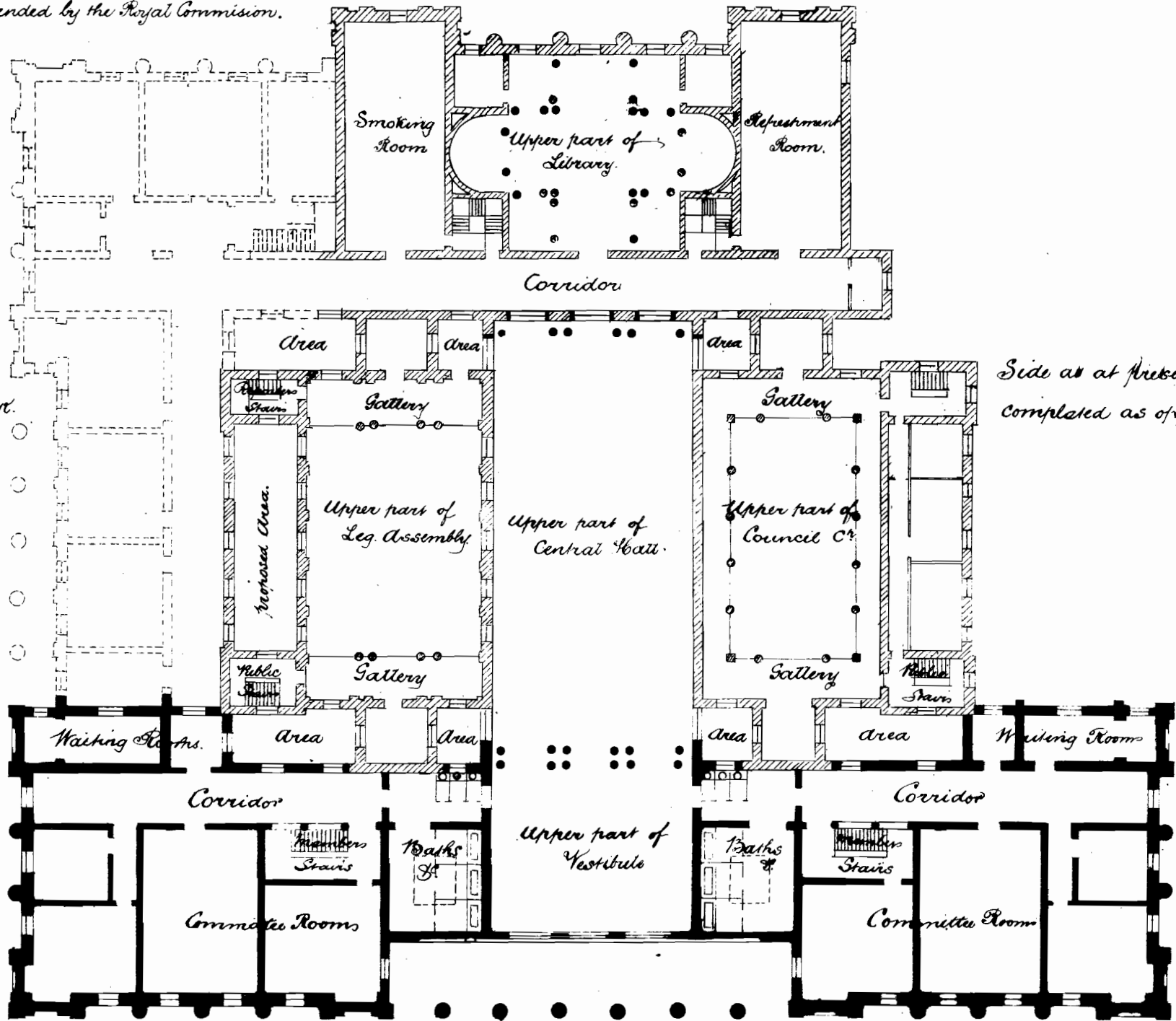


Houses of Parliament

Design for Completing the Building as recommended by the Royal Commission.

Design C.

Drawing No. 3.



Mode of Completing Wings in accordance with Front Block.

Side as at present to be completed as opposite.



Plan of Upper Floor.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE RESERVE

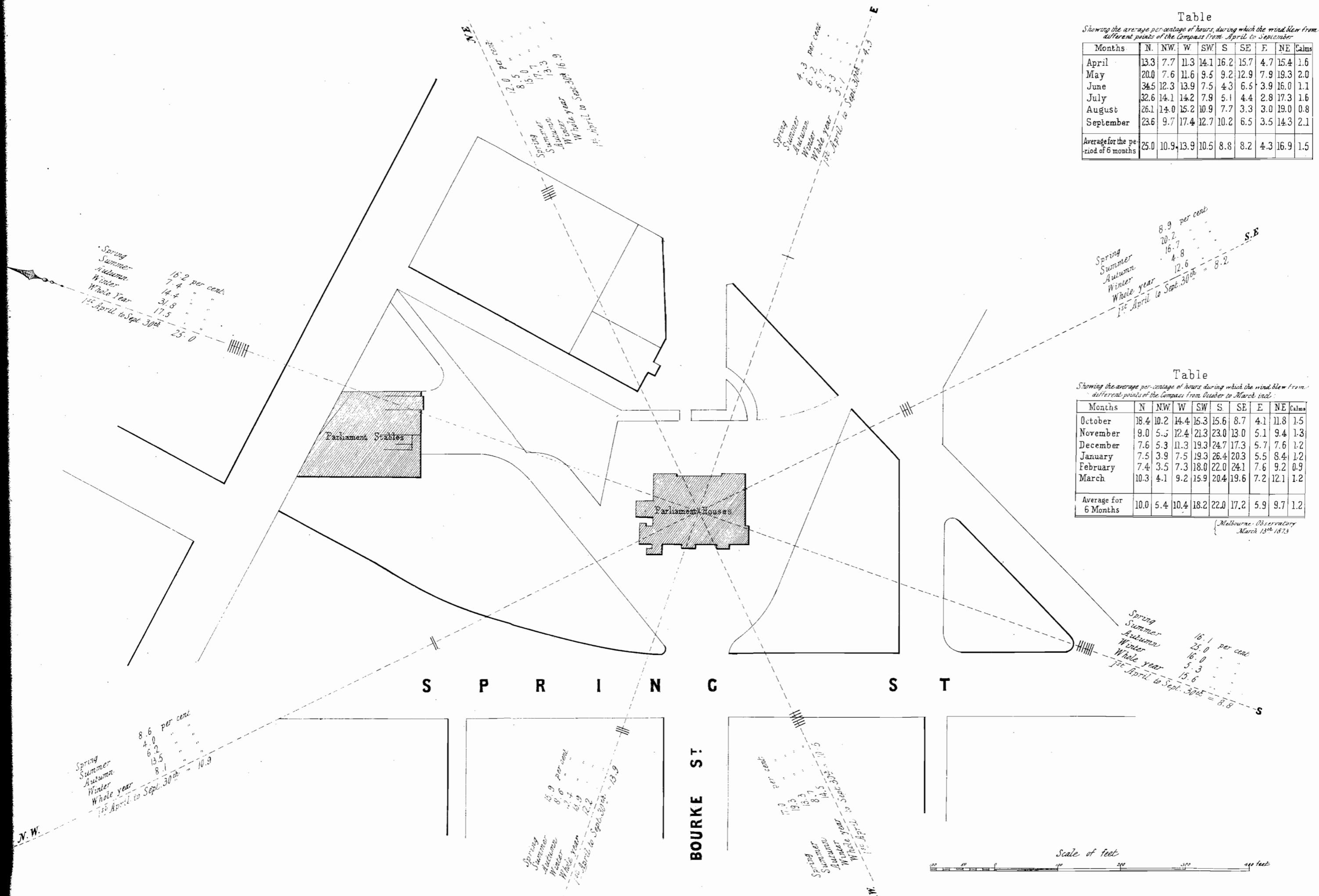


Table
Showing the average per centage of hours, during which the wind blew from different points of the Compass from April to September

Months	N.	N.W.	W.	SW.	S.	SE.	E.	NE.	Calms
April	13.3	7.7	11.3	14.1	16.2	15.7	4.7	15.4	1.6
May	20.0	7.6	11.6	9.5	9.2	12.9	7.9	19.3	2.0
June	34.5	12.3	13.9	7.5	4.3	6.5	3.9	16.0	1.1
July	32.6	14.1	14.2	7.9	5.1	4.4	2.8	17.3	1.6
August	26.1	14.0	15.2	10.9	7.7	3.3	3.0	19.0	0.8
September	23.6	9.7	17.4	12.7	10.2	6.5	3.5	14.3	2.1
Average for the period of 6 months	25.0	10.9	13.9	10.5	8.8	8.2	4.3	16.9	1.5

Table
Showing the average per centage of hours during which the wind blew from different points of the Compass from October to March, incl.

Months	N.	N.W.	W.	SW.	S.	SE.	E.	NE.	Calms
October	18.4	10.2	14.4	15.3	15.6	8.7	4.1	11.8	1.5
November	9.0	5.5	12.4	21.3	23.0	13.0	5.1	9.4	1.3
December	7.6	5.3	11.3	19.3	24.7	17.3	5.7	7.6	1.2
January	7.5	3.9	7.5	19.3	26.4	20.3	5.5	8.4	1.2
February	7.4	3.5	7.3	18.0	22.0	24.1	7.6	9.2	0.9
March	10.3	4.1	9.2	15.9	20.4	19.6	7.2	12.1	1.2
Average for 6 Months	10.0	5.4	10.4	18.2	22.0	17.2	5.9	9.7	1.2

Melbourne Observatory
March 13th 1873

Scale of feet
0 100 200 300 400 feet