

Philadelphia Hose and Steam Fire Engine Company
be and the same is hereby removed.

CHARLES B. TREGO,
President of Common Council.

Attest—WM. F. SMALL,
Clerk of Common Council.

O. P. CORNMAN,
President of Select Council.

Approved January 27, A. D. 1860.

ALEXANDER HENRY, *Mayor of Phila.*

AN ORDINANCE

Authorizing the Committee on City property to Designate a Location
for the Skaters' Club House.

SECTION 1. The Select and Common Councils of
the City of Philadelphia do ordain, That a lot of
ground in Fairmount Park, of not more than forty
feet in width by sixty feet in depth, be appropriated
to the use of the Skaters' Club, on which to erect a
building for a safe and convenient deposit of their
apparatus used for rescuing persons from a watery
grave. Said lot to be designated by the Committee
on City Property, and its use, together with the
Skaters' Club, shall be subject to all the provisions
of an Ordinance appropriating a certain portion of

said Park for the erection of boat houses, approved
January 9th, 1860: *Provided*, That the plan of the
building shall be approved by the Committee on City
Property.

CHAS. B. TREGO,
President of Common Council.

Attest—J. BARCLAY HARDING,
Clerk of Select Council.

O. P. CORNMAN,
President of Select Council.

Approved January 28, A. D. 1860.

ALEXANDER HENRY, *Mayor of Phila.*

RESOLUTION

To offer a Reward for the murderers of Henry Gauker.

RESOLVED, By the Select and Common Councils of
of the City of Philadelphia, That the Mayor be au-
thorized to offer a reward of five hundred dollars for
the arrest and conviction of the murderer or murder-
ers of Henry Gauker, a German, on Sunday morning,
22d inst., at the bridge on Third street over the
Cohocksink Creek, below Franklin street, in the Six-
teenth Ward.

CHAS. B. TREGO,
President of Common Council.

Attest—GEORGE W. MOONEY,
Assistant Clerk of Select Council.

O. P. CORNMAN,
President of Select Council.

Approved January 31, A. D. 1860.

ALEXANDER HENRY, *Mayor of Phila.*

No. 14 BOAT HOUSE ROW

(Philadelphia Skating Club, not Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club)

Susan Anderson
2449 Perot St.
Phila. Pa. 19130

1 May 1980

No. 14 Boat House Row is a grey stone, detached building, standing below the Lemon Hill mansion between the Schuylkill River and East River Drive. It was built in 1861 by the Philadelphia Skating Club, rented in the 1930's to the Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club and sold to that rowing club in 1961. It is probably the oldest extant building¹ on what is now called Boat House Row, although there were other structures along the river bank before the present buildings were built.²

The Philadelphia Skating Club was organized in 1849 and was a leader in the sport of ice skating which was tremendously popular in the United States in the nineteenth century.³ Ice skating was probably the club's primary activity, especially among the majority of members, but club members also acted as a kind of icy water patrol for the Schuylkill in winter; whenever they skated, they were required "to wear its badge, a small silver skate...and to carry a small reel of stout twine, which could be thrown to skaters who had broken through the ice."⁵ The Club also owned equipment such as life boats, flags, ladders, axes, hooks, grapnels and drags appropriate for rescuing unlucky ice skaters.

The Club apparently had talked, as early as 1849, about finding or building a club house on the banks of the Schuylkill. At one point, sometime before 1856, it had selected a site and asked the City for permission to build a club house, but the request was refused. Club members remained alert, and in Minutes for _____, the Executive Committee noted that "for years past the Club has contemplated the erection of a house on the banks of the Schuylkill.../and at this time/ there would be no difficulty in procuring a house for the club early in the summer of 1860."⁷ The committee also said that such a building was timely and needed

as we are about changing our constitution for the purpose of electing ladies as members of the club, and it appears that it would be only just for us to provide some comfortable place for them to repair when becoming cold from being on the ice, as well as providing a comfortable place for ourselves, and a safe and convenient deposite for our apparatus, which is now becoming cumbersome.

Records do not tell why the Executive Committee felt that the time was ripe for approaching the City about a site and building, but the plans moved ahead swiftly. The subsequent contacts with the City, the selection of the site and the architectural plan or design of the building are inter-

because work on
SAP Park Row
started

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twined. On January 11, 1860, the

Committee on Club House reported that they had presented to councils a petition asking for the privilege of erecting a club house on Fair Mount Park. Also that they had met the Committee on City Property and submitted to them a plan for our house.

On January 28, 1860, an ordinance of Common Council authorized the City's Committee on Public Property to designate a location for the Skaters' Club House..."on which to erect a building for a safe and convenient depository of their apparatus used for rescuing persons from a watery grave."¹¹ The Committee on City Property was also empowered to approve the final plan for the building. The Club's Committee on Club House reported that they had selected the site for the House on Fairmount Park Thursday, March 22, 1860."¹² On March 27, 1860, the Club presented their plan to the City Committee on Public Property and "on motion, the Committee granted permission to build the house in Fairmount Park according to the plan presented and approved by Messers Sidney and Adams."¹³

At the Club meeting on September 26, 1860, it was officially resolved that:

the Club build a house on Fair Mount Park, the size of the ground granted by the city. The cost of said house not to exceed the sum of \$3,000.

a Committee of seven be appointed to be styled the Building Committee...authorized to receive proposals for building the club house, award the contract, and superintend the construction...amended as follows that the contractor for building the house shall be a member of the club.

the Treasurer be authorized to issue the certificates of stock...

The Building Committee appointed was headed by E.D. Yates ^{13a} and included William S. Andrews and J.C. Sidney. Apparently also by Sept. 26, 1860, actual specifications for the new building had been produced because at that meeting, members were asked to

examine and adopt the plan for the club...Mr. Andrews then made some explanations in reference to the drawings and after a general examination by the members...

the general plan was adopted.

The site finally chosen was a promontory at a bend in the Schuylkill River, near a spot variously called Turtle Rock (where the Sedgely light house now stands) or 'Pratt's Point.'¹⁵⁻⁶ In those days it was also apparently "a few feet above the frame boat house, farthest west on the park front."¹⁴

Identifying the architect of the Club house is a topic of its own. (See Attachements "A" and "B" for a beginning). Popular secondary sources (e.g. Teitleman and Webster) indicated that the architect is not known. The History of the Club states flatly that James C. Sidney was the architect.¹⁷ Club documents of the time point to Sidney and to William S. Andrews, both practicing architects, referring to them individually in various places as 'the architect.' Finally, the Committee on City Property's approval on March 27, 1860 refers to the architectural plans of "Sydney and Adams."¹⁸

*OR THE
LACK PLAN?*

From my reading of the documents, I think that Sidney (who was in partnership with Andrew Adams in 1859 and 1860) was connected with the City in some way and was, either as a club member or in his duties with the City, responsible for the overall design of the building, while Andrews fleshed in the details (specifications, lockers etc.) and supervised the actual construction.

After the various approvals had been gained, the Club was ready to build. Both Samuel Sloan, a prominent Philadelphian architect and author of several books on style in the 1850's, in his Model Architect and James Sidney (one of the forementioned architects of the skaters' building), in his own small book on style, American Cottage and Villa Architecture, recommend that the contract for all work be given to one builder.^{18a} Sidney also recommends developing very complete specifications and says the

the proprietor as well as the architect should carefully study the specifications, as disappointments and misunderstanding frequently occur in consequence of different fixtures and arrangements not meeting the views of the owner.

The Club's Building Committee apparently followed the first recommendation and on Oct. 18, 1860 awarded a contract to E. Bender & Co. (or Bender and Poulterer, contractors) for \$3,200.^{18b} (This estimate was \$50 more than the lowest, but the Club had stipulated that the builder of the new building must be a Club member, which presumably Bender was). The strategy of awarding one major contract did not however forestall disagreements. On June 12, 1861

the Club held a stormy special meeting to discuss an additional bill from Mr. Bender for \$765.62 for extra work on the walls.^{18c} Several motions and amendments were made and defeated; Mr. Bender refused to sign a release; side issues were dragged up and thrown in. The matter ended with the Club refusing to pay for the extra work.

The contract had called for completion of the house by Dec. 15, 1960 (two months after signing!). It wasn't completely finished until May 1861, although the Club had partly occupied it from April 1861. The total cost, including the stock books (\$13.05) (which recorded the 499 shares of stock sold at \$10 per share) and the account books (\$17.87) was \$4,873 (well above the \$3,000 specified in the original resolution).

The Minutes of Jan 18, 1862 record expenses. Mr. Bender received \$3,334.79 (previously on Nov. 13, 1861, William Andrews had received \$90 for "making drawings, specifications and superintending...club house on Fair Mount Park.") The Building Committee's summary statement says that the "piles for the foundations were driven and the foundation's walls built by the Club" but the attached account shows that two bills were paid for driving piles (\$284) and building foundation walls (\$156.79), perhaps to members. The account shows that three kinds of stone were purchased: stone from Fair Mount Park \$92.30; falls stone \$229.10 and Leiperville stone \$67.92. Other expenses included gilding the ball of the flag staff (\$1.25), measuring walls, day labor (\$2.81 - \$52.81), painting and repairing barge boat broken by carpenter allowing a column to fall against it. (\$12); purchase of: a copper ball for the flag staff (\$3.50), and a weather vane (\$9.50), granite steps (\$65), refreshments for the masons (\$1.75); 4 tons of coal to dry the plaster (\$18) and fire insurance (\$41.50) The hardware and iron work came from Field and Hardie (\$67.20) and Moon and Perot (iron railing on slip - \$64.17).

The building was completed in April; the skating season was over. The Executive Committee recommended that a grand opening be held on the first skating day of the fall, but the Log Book does not mention any special festivities.

The Skating Club's House on the River was designed in the Italianate style.¹⁹ One might wonder today why a skating club house would be patterned after an Italian villa, but at the time, there were theories and rules of style and design which could have suggested this as the appropriate style. Samuel Sloan, in his Model Architect, describes styles of the day that an architect, builder or 'protractor'²⁰ might chose. These styles include Gothic, 'debased' Gothic, Norman Gothic, Italiana (plain or ornamented), cottage, etc. The architect would consider the site (flat or hilly), and the location (in a city, three - five miles from a town, in a small village or in the country) and select a style appropriate to the situation.²¹ The actual use of the building - its program - doesn't seem to have been of great importance.²² Sloan saw the Italianate as appropriate for a site "not in the depths of the forest, but near some frequented highway within a few miles of the city."²³ In choosing between a plain Italianate villa and a more irregular or ornamented one, Sloan felt that "a level country (dictates that) the design is more regular and symmetrical."²⁴

Sidney held an opinion similar to his more famous colleague. He was actually more explicit about site and style. He felt that the Italianate was best adapted to "smooth, level spaces... and (to) where the idea of quiet and ease alone prevails... This style is also, from its horizontal lines, very appropriate in some situation on the banks of rivers, where the site is not very elevated and where it is required to place the house at no great distance from the water."²⁵ With opinions like these, Sidney, (already identified as one of the architects of the Skating Club's building probably its primary one) undoubtedly was responsible for deciding to build the new club in the Italianate style.²⁶

The building is a very good example of a plain Italianate design. It is of grey stone cut into well-defined asymmetrical blocks. It has two parts - a semi-octagonal section on the north and a larger rectangle section on the south (river) side, giving it a somewhat irregular look favored by aficionados of the picturesque styles at the time. Its windows are hinged and sashed, with arched hoods, and, on the river side, there are floor-to-ceiling windows opening onto a veranda. It has very gently sloping, hipped roofs and a wooden cuppola (de rigueur if a villa did not have a companile or belltower). An insurance policy dated 1891²⁷ describes the "roof all covered with tin. A heavy wooden bracket cornice with large and frieze all around also a balustrade around the south part of the roof 3' high with plain balusters... a wooden verandah on the S.W. front on the River...with a railing or balustrade 3' high

A guide book to the Centennial Exposition in 1876, notes that it was "ornamented with a handsome cupola and a flag staff fifty-five feet high." 28-a

All of these features are identified as 'Italianate' by both Sloan and Sidney. The building is simpler than most of the designs shown in Sloan's Model Architect, except for a few rural cottages which were to be built of vertical frames. It corresponds most closely with Sloan's "Plain Villa" which was a brick, rough cast building with a simple plan, a hall running the full extent of the house, a center entrance, floor-to-ceiling windows and a cupola with balustrade.²⁹

The house fits Sidney's theories and designs more tightly, as might be expected. Most of Sloan's buildings were rough cast. Sidney felt that stone was the "most desirable as well as the most rural looking...(and) should be employed wherever the expense of obtaining it is not too great." Stucco or rough cast should be used only if the stone was of poor quality.

"Where stone is sufficiently good for the purpose and the colour suitable, in my opinion the best fronts are made by using roughly dressed stone and pointing with cement...the stone should be of the best quality, of good size and the pointed joints made fine. In all cases of pointed work, the hoods of windows, sills, and ornamental work connected with stone, should be of the same material dressed smooth." The Skating Club's building fulfills these dictums.

The interior of the building included a basement of one room with a cement floor and three pairs of sliding doors opening out onto the river bank; a first floor with a central hall, a toilet room, a room for the Board Surgeons, a waiting room for the men and a large room spread across the south portion of the building - a ladies waiting room; and a cupola with three windows. A resolution of Nov. 14, 1860 in the Minutes left "the furnishing of the rooms of the club house ... to the Executive Committee with full power to act." The life-saving apparatus - ladders, hooks, axes, caution flags, life lines, blankets, grapnels, drags and the life boats which were small and light, weighing about 100 pounds so as to be run over the ice or into the water - were all stored in the basement.

FOOTNOTES

1. Edward Teitleman and Richard W. Longstreth, Architecture in Philadelphia, Cambridge, MA., MIT Press, 1974, p. 119 dates the building at C1869. Richard J. Webster, Philadelphia Preserved, Phila., Temple University Press, 1976, p. 228 dates it at 1855. Skating Club minutes show that the building was begun in 1860 and was completed in 1861. Neither Teitleman or Webster date any extant building on the Row earlier than 1861.
2. Joseph Jackson, Encyclopedia of Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Pa., the National Historical Asso., 1931, Vol. I, p. , says that there had been rowing clubs with headquarters on the Schuylkill since 1831. These would have been on private land, since the City did not purchase the Lemon Hill, including the east river bank of this area, until 1844. In 1856, according to one observer, these buildings included at least two ice houses, a brick boat house and another "huge structure of wood," as the following account by C.S. Kegree describes.

Early one afternoon, a month since, about the first of May and after the time as fixed by Councils for the tenants to leave had expired, we visited these grounds; crossing from Fairmount we reached the entrance; it was barred and boarded up, and on the fence was posted the following:

"NOTICE: ----ALL PERSONS ARE FORBID TRESPASSING ON THESE PREMISES."

We found the tenants engaged with their crops as they had been in years past; we found on the site of one ice house destroyed by fire, another huge structure of wood, rebuilt subsequently to the date of that six months' notice; still further up we found another ice house, erected on the river bank during the last winter, and everywhere were unmistakable evidences of a continuous and to be continued possession. We found on the ground refused for more legitimate uses by the councils, nay, on the very spot which they refused to the Skating Club for the erection of their little house¹ (and properly, because at the time they had but a questionable authority to do so,) there had just been erected another brick boat house, from which the lessee, now holding over, presumably derives rent.

3. Philadelphia was a great center for ice skating and is considered the father (mother?) of American Skating. The Philadelphia Skating Club is the nation's oldest skating club. A combination of factors, including warm winters, the need for more reliable ice space and probably a location more convenient to its members, led the Club in the 1930's to move from its Schuylkill River Club house and build a new, indoor rink in suburban Ardmore, Pa.

1. C.S. Kegree, Lemon Hill, Phila. :Cressy and Markley, 1856. (no pagination).

4. The daily logs of activity and weather during the skating season record some wonderful 'skates' up the Schuylkill and Wissahickon with fine dinners at hostelaries and moonlight skates back to Fairmount.
5. "One Hundred Years of the Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society." Phila. Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society, 1949. p.6
6. Kegree, op. cit. The City had bought the Lemon Hill tract and the land along the Schuylkill River in 1844, but was apparently unsure about its real authority in the area. Kegree and contemporary pamphleteer surveying the area noted that "on the very spot which they /i.e. City/ refused to the Skating Club for the erection of their little house...there had just been erected another brick boat house, from which the lessee, now holding over, presumably derives rent."
7. Phila. Skating Club. Minutes 1849-1874, p.
8. Ibid
9. Ibid.
10. Philadelphia Skating Club, Minutes.
11. Ordinances and Joint Resolutions of the Select and Common Councils of the Consolidated City of Philadelphia, January first to December thirty-first, 1860. Phila., William W. Harding, 1866.
12. Philadelphia Skating Club, op cit.
13. Report from the Clerk of Select Council, copied in Skating Club Minute book.
14. Philadelphia Skating Club, Log Book, entry for Mar, 22, 1960.
15. The land originally belonged to the Lemon Hill estate built by Robert Morris. After his unlucky financial ruin, the estate was bought by Henry Pratt, a Philadelphia merchant, and its "grounds became known as "Pratt's Garden." (Handbook of Fairmount Park, published by Park Commission, 1891 p.13). The City bought the land in 1844 and in 1847 leased it for ten years at \$600/year. ~~In 1840, the City bought the Sedgley estate up river from Lemon Hill and in 1855, the whole area was dedicated to public use.~~
16. Frederick Graff, Consulting Engineer, in a letter to Theodore Cuyler, Esq. Chairman, Committee on City Property, dated Oct. 12, 1857. (Found in Sketch of Fairmount Lemon Hill(binder's copy)
17. Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society, "One Hundred Years of the Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society," 1949. p.6
18. Philadelphia Skating Club, Minutes, entry March 27, 1860.

20
1856

19. Several histories and guidebooks of the era of the Centennial refer to the building as Italianate, so presumably this was a significant point to contemporaries.
20. 'Protractor' was Sloan's term for the person who hired the architect or contractor to construct a building.
21. "Hillside and plain, grove and river bank, each and all convey a meaning which can never be disregarded without a sacrifice of architectural taste, of propriety, and generally of comfort... We do not look for the Swiss cottage against the flat horizon of a prairie land, nor among the high Alps for the casemanted villa of southern France or Italy." (p.26)
22. Although certainly the Victorians of the time were more in touch with site, environment and intended use than previous classicists and later Neo-Classists. Sloan maintains that "the first step (for the architect) is to form the ground plan of the design...(and) the next thing is to adopt a style. In doing this, both the peculiarities of the plan, the locality, and the purpose of the building, have to be taken into consideration." (Model Architect, p.) But the pattern books of the day, including Sloan's, indicate the use of the building was not as weighty a factor as its location and site in determining style.
23. Samuel Sloan, Model Architect, N.Y. Da Capo Press, 1975, p.12
24. Ibid. p.31
25. James C. Sydney, American Cottage and Villa Architecture N.Y.: Appleton and Co., 1850 (Book has no pagination)
26. Club members themselves do not appear to have been concerned with the buildings style. The Minutes show that there was much discussion about getting approval from the City to build, and then with selecting a site and finally with working with the builder and accounting for all costs, but there are no references to the buildings design or style.
27. Philadelphia Contributorship, Policy No. 13630 for Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society, Dec. 10, 1891.
28. The tin roofs and balustrade are now gone; the verandah has been replaced by a redwood balcony.
29. Sloan, op city. Design XI, Plate XLVIII.

Additional Footnotes

- 13a. Edward Yates was Secretary of the Club for many years and was probably the person most responsible for pushing the Club to build the club house on the river. At a meeting on Dec. 14, 1849, he reported to the club that "the old Humane Society (was rumored to be) going out of business and donating their funds to charitable institutions." (The Club took the hint and delegated its officers to "ascertain ... if a part of the funds could not be appropriated toward building our house." The Club's History says that Yates actually paid a "considerable part of (the cost of the House) from his own funds." (p. 6) The City Directory in 1860 lists him as a clerk with an office at 34 N. 5th St. and a home at about Tenth St. and Spring Garden.
- 28a. Fairmont Park and the International Exhibition in Philadelphia Illus. Centennial Edition presented by John Baird, Sons & Co. Phila., Claxton, Parnsen & Heffelfinger, 1876. p.23.
- 18a. Sidney, whose book is generally more pragmatic than Sloan's more famous volume, recommends one builder because it is cheaper and easier. "Each mechanic will consider that he deserves as much profit as anyone principal builder" and dealing with only one person "saves trouble." Sloan actually includes a long sample contract in his book, filled in with anonymous names like Jane and John Doe, Richard Roe et al.
- 18b. Philadelphia Skating Club, Minutes, Jan. 8, 1862.
- 18c. The meeting opened sedately with a report by "Mr. Sullenders /of the/ Committee on Skates for the Emperor of the French /who/ reported that they were finished and would soon be shipped."

James C. Sidney and William S. Andrews, Philadelphia Architects

- I. James C. Sidney first appears in the Philadelphia City Directory in 1849. He calls himself a civil engineer. In 1850, he published a book (or an article, first of a series) called American Cottage and Villa Architecture, published by Appleton in N.Y. In 1851, his home address is listed as Camden. In the 1853 and 1854 City Directories, he appears in partnership with Neff as engineers and architects. (Most drawings in American Cottage & Villa Architecture were credited to Sidney and Neff.) Neither man appears in the Directory of 1857.

In 1858, a design competition for Fairmount Park was held, although the area had not yet officially been set aside for park purposes. Sidney apparently entered this and won, because Webster says "The proposal of Sidney & Adams was adopted, but the coming of the civil War seems to have prevented its completion" (op. cit. p. 225). In 1859, Sidney reappears in the City Directory with Andrew Adams as a partner in Sidney and Adams, architects and engineers. This partnership lasted two years. In 1861 Sidney appears with Frederick C. Merry as rural architects, engineers and surveyors, a partnership which lasts four years. Beginning in 1862, Sidney also lists himself individually as an architect, and he does not seem to have a partner again. He is last listed in 1881.

Presumably, three generations of Sidneys appear in the Directory. In 1859, J. Sidney, occupation gentleman, is listed living with J.C. Sidney at 841 Marshall St.. J. Sidney does not appear again. Much later, in 1880, Arthur M. Sidney, architect, appears at J.C. Sidney's home address on North 17th Street. He is probably a son and appears only once.

In summary, James Sidney's career spanned thirty-two years in Philadelphia. He was originally a civil engineer and then an architect. This combination of engineering and architecture was apparently not unusual in mid-nineteenth century Philadelphia. Henry Schwartzman was a City-employed engineer who designed many buildings in the Centennial Exposition of 1876. Also the definitions, criteria and training of these two professions in mid-century was apparently fluid.

From Skating Club records, Sidney seems to have had some connections with City government, possibly as an engineer and/or member of the City's ommittee on City property. He was obviously interested in what became Fairmount Park through his work with the Skating Club House and his submission of a landscape design for the new park.

- II. William S. Andrews appears first in the City Directory in 1856 and lived and worked Philadelphia until 1886. He lists himself as architect and apparently did not form any partnerships. He may have worked on the United States Naval Asylum on Gray's Ferry Avenue. Webster lists five architectural drawings of the asylum by "W.L. Andrews 1843" (op. cit. p.187) W.L. and W.S. Andrews may be the same. (Written - script - l's and s's are quite similar in the 1850's and could be misread) but further work needs to be done here.

ATTACHMENT "B"

The Roles of J.C. Sidney and W.S. Andrews, Architects in Designing the Club House of the Philadelphia Skating Club.

The history of the Skating Club, on the occasion of its one-hundredth birthday, states that James Sidney was the architect of the building. (History, p.6) Sidney seems to have had some connection with the City. (Fairmount Park was not made a separate entity until 1867). The entry in the Club's Log Book for March 22, 1860 reads "cold, considerable ice in the gutter this morningThe Executive Committee and Mr. Sidney the architect of Fairmount Park, met this afternoon to select a site for the club houseand on Tuesday, the 27th, the plan and site for the house was unanimously approved of by the committee (on City Property), after consulting with the architect of the Park. Mr. Sidney being present at the time and informing the Committee that he approved of both." (Obviously, from the dates above, the Club's log has been edited). Also copied in the Club's Minutes was this motion

of the City's Committee on City Property of March 27, 1860. On motion the Committee granted permission to build the house in Fair Mont Park according to the plan presented and approved by Messers. Sidney and Adams."¹

William Andrews also appears in Skating Club documents as the architect of the building. On March 14, 1860, the "Committee on club house had been completed (sic) by Mr. William J. Andrews 'architect' and was now on the table for examination by the members of the club..... Mr. Yates moved to amend that the general plan of the house be accepted, leaving the size and general arrangements to be hereafter decided upon by the Executive Committee" (motion adopted, March 14, 1860). On March 22, 1861, Mr. Andrews presented a drawing for the closets and drawers for the members and Board Surgeons room in club house." On November 13, 1861, the Club considered a bill for \$90.00 from Andrews for "making drawings, specifications and superintending for Club House on Fair Mont Park."

Finally, on January 8, 1862, the Building Committee made its final accounting of "the costs of the building and the names of the parties furnishing work, materials etc..../and asked that the Committee appointed to superintend the erection of the club house be discharged." The Building Committee, then listed, was the original one of October 26, 1860

¹ City Directories list Sidney in partnership with Andrew Adams as architects-engineers in 1859 and 1860. Sidney and Adams had also apparently submitted a design for the soon-to-be Fairmount Park in the City's design competition of 1856. According to Webster, "The proposal of Sidney and Adams was adopted but the coming of the Civil War seems to have prevented its completion." (p.143).

with Yates as Chairman and Sidney and Andrews as members. At the same meeting, "Col. Page moved that a vote of thanks be returned to Messrs. William S. Andrews and James C. Sidney for plans and specifications etc. of club house."

Both men have been members of the Skating Club. There were several reasons to suspect that they were members.

1) They may have been club members, part of the general passion for ice skating that many Americans, particularly Philadelphians, in the nineteenth century seemed to feel for the sport of ice skating.² Another, more famous, contemporary Philadelphian architect, John Stewardson, was a skater who died in a "tragic skating accident (which) ended (his) career in his thirty-ninth year."³ Sidney also, as mentioned above, was clearly interested in the new park lands and perhaps, was drawn to the Skating Club for this reason.

2) Both Sidney and Andrews are listed as members of the Club's building Committee throughout the period. The Club seems to have had a fairly literal sense of esprit d corps. (It had passed a resolution saying that the builder-contractor of the new club must be a club member, and it held to this rule despite the fact that a non-member submitted a lower construction bid.) Unfortunately, there are no membership records available for this period, according to the secretary in the Club's headquarters in Ardmore Pa. today. Thus, it is possible that the Executive Committee invoked the same membership rule for the architect of their new building as they did for its principal contractor.

On the other hand, the two architects may have been drafted into a kind of honorary club membership. There is evidence that the Club, particularly Mr. Yates, was politically savvy. For example, Club Minutes for Dec. 14, 1849, report that "C.D. Yates called the attention of the club to the fact of the old Humane Society going out of existence and donating their funds to charitable institutions. When on motion the officers of the club were appointed a committee to wait upon Mr. Alex Derbyshire, the Treasurer, for the purpose of ascertaining if a part of the funds could not be applied towards building our house." (This of course, eventually happened. The skating Club merged with the Humane Society and was officially incorporated as the Philadelphia Skating Club and Humane Society in 1861. The Club's History says, however, that the Society's money went to Pennsylvania Hospital.) (p.6)

In another example of political awareness, the Club's History reports that "when the Sedgley Estate adjoining the Pratt Estate was purchased by the City in 1851, the Society contributed \$100. This was made the basis of an application to City Court for a site to build upon. The club did not want to build its house on the Sedgley land. It had asked to build on the Lemon Hill (Pratt) frontage but had been turned down once. The Sedgley pledge was probably a move to insure a more favorable decision from the City when the Club next asked to build. Club records show that in 1859, the Club treasurer was still trying to collect contributions towards the \$100 donation."

With these approaches in mind, it seems possible that if J.C. Sidney was an influential person in the City's structure, with powers to approve and disapprove sites and designs, the Club - particularly Mr. Yates - could well have waived rules and put such a key person on its Building Committee, or drafted him into club membership.

². Luna Lambert, American Skating Mania, Wash., Smithsonian Institution, 1976 passim.

³. Tatum, p. 120