

# VESTIGES OF STADHOLDERS

## RESIDING AND RULING IN THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE BINNENHOF

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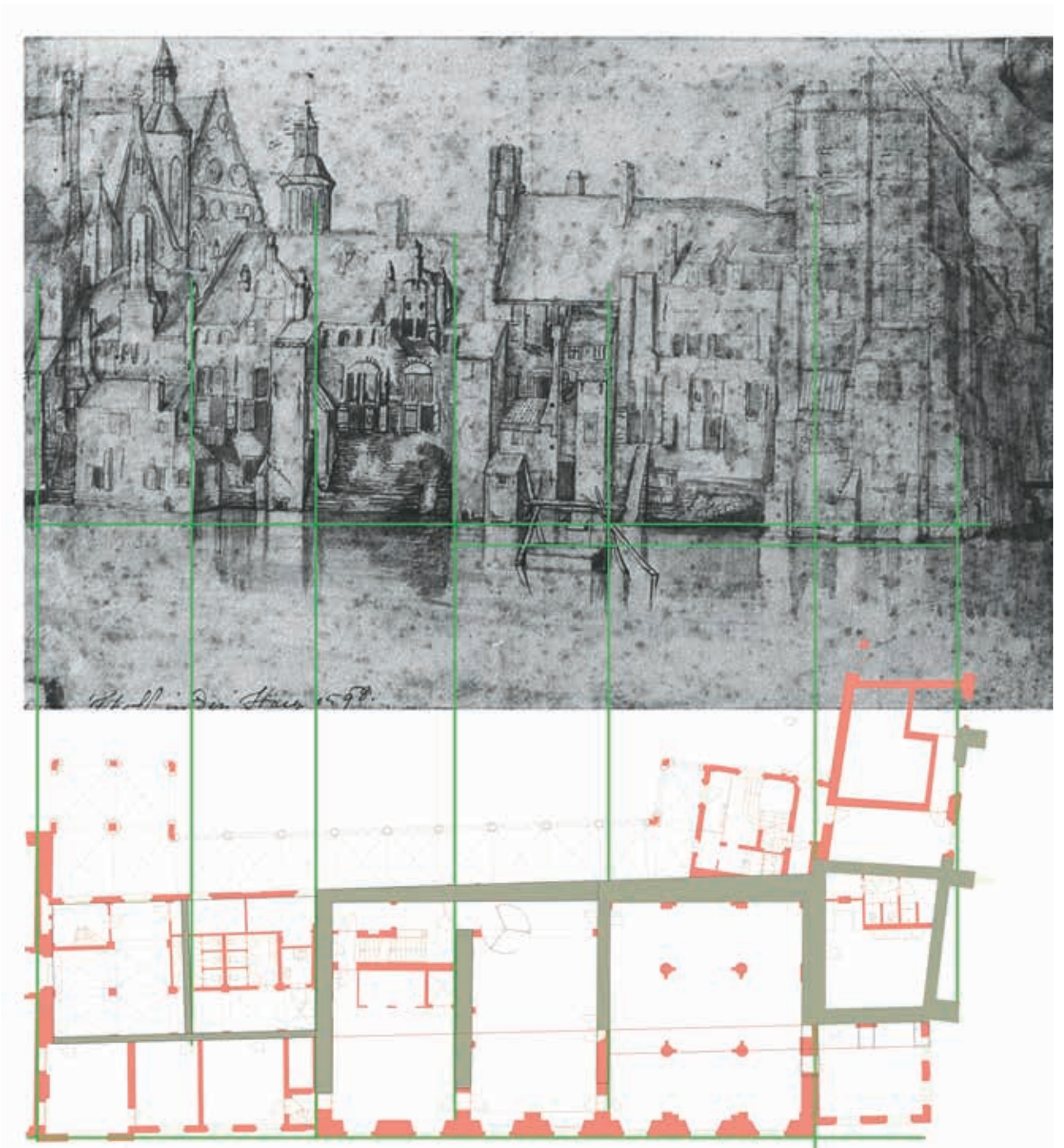
In the middle of the fourteenth century a 'knight's house' made its appearance in the northwest corner of the Binnenhof.<sup>1</sup> It consisted of a western Buitenhof wing and a northern Hofvijver wing. The latter adjoined the Court Chapel (1289), which separated this complex from the count's residence on the eastern side. From the middle of the fifteenth century this

north-western side of the Binnenhof was occupied by the stadholders. However, at the end of the century the ground floor was also used by the Council of Holland, the predecessor of the States of Holland.

This article describes the spatial development of the Stadholder's Quarter through the centuries. This includes the extensions built during the period of the Republic (1588-1795), which eventually took in the entire west side of the Binnenhof. Central to this story is the power struggle between the stadholders and the States of Holland, which is reflected in the design and layout of the buildings and has never previously been presented in this way. The starting point was provided by the existing literature on the Binnenhof, together

▲ 1. Drawing by Simon Frisius after Hendrick Hondius (I), of the view of the Binnenhof and the Hofvijver in 1621, including the extension on the Buitenhof side and the wall of the Prinsentuin (Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, originally three drawings; here a combination of the middle and right sheets, adapted by the author)





2. Detail drawing from 1598 attributed to Claes Jansz Visscher, superimposed on the existing basement situation; in grey the possibly late medieval sections of wall (Cultural Heritage Agency, adapted by author)

with building archaeological studies recently carried out for the Central Government Real Estate Agency in preparation for the current renovation.<sup>2</sup> These studies were hampered by the fact that the buildings were still in use during the investigation and – due in part to earlier renovations – were partially clamped and plastered over. Nevertheless, by combining building history data with visual, map and archival materials it proved possible to reconstruct a more nuanced picture of the building history than we had hitherto had.<sup>3</sup> We

follow the evolution of the Stadholder's Quarters from the construction of the late medieval knight's house all the way through to the new buildings added in the 1960s, a development in which an important role was played by the stadholders and the States of Holland, who managed to leave their mark on the complex over a long period of time. The successive building phases referred to in the text are represented on a plan of the complex on page 60 (fig. 12).

## MEDIEVAL REMAINS

The earliest depictions of the Binnenhof show in its northwest corner a large building with several stories and a roof, above a basement that manifests as a lower ground floor seen from the artificial lake known as the Hofvijver.<sup>4</sup> On the east side were two volumes beneath a saddle roof and an interconnecting section adjoining the Court Chapel: the Hofvijver Wing. The left volume, which had two Flemish facades, is thought to have been added in 1520 as a kitchen with storerooms.<sup>5</sup> On the other side of the corner building was another wing with stepped gables that projected above the roof and, at ground level, an opening in the form of the Middenpoort gate: the Buitenhof Wing. A comparison of a 1598 drawing of this complex viewed from the Hofvijver with the current floor plan indicates the possible presence of parts of the fourteenth-century walls (fig. 2).<sup>6</sup> Large bricks discovered here support this date.<sup>7</sup>

In 1522 Charles V appointed Antoine I of Lalaing (1480-1540) stadholder of Holland and Zeeland. After the looting of The Hague by Maarten van Rossum in 1528, the stadholder was instructed to restore order. It is possible that the decision to renovate the Midden-

poort occurred that time. Its architecture, with both late gothic crockets and corbels with Renaissance grooved band ornamentation, can be dated to around 1530-1540 (fig. 3).<sup>8</sup>

## PRINCE MAURITS

In 1585 Prince Maurits (1567-1625) was designated stadholder of Holland and Zeeland. He was the first member of the House of Orange to take up residence in the Binnenhof. The old knight's house did not meet the prince's requirements and so in around 1592 the States of Holland and West Friesland commissioned the building of a new tower house. Construction commenced in 1598, or a few years earlier, and in 1604 this 'new structure' was fitted out (fig. 1).<sup>9</sup> The tower has six floors: a basement, ground floor and four upper floors. It is likely that the old masonry of the knight's house was used for the basement and even part of the ground floor. One consequence of this is the slightly trapezoidal floor plan. Maurits was set on a tower house, not so much from a defensive standpoint, but more as an indication of status. With its massive square buttresses and, unusually for that time, a flat roof – as belvedere – it certainly fulfilled that function.<sup>10</sup> On the



3A. Detail of one of the corbels of the Middenpoort, on the side a grooved band motif (the 'slashes') (author's photo, 2108)

3B. The Middenpoort (later Stadhouderspoort) from c. 1530-1540 as it currently stands in the garden of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. The present gateway in The Hague is a copy from 1879-1880 (author's photo, 2018)





4. Claes Jansz Visser (II), drawing of the Binnenhof on the occasion of the beheading of Johan van Oldenbarnevelt (Rijksmuseum Amsterdam)

Binnenhof side the Mauritsstoren (Maurits' Tower) had an octagonal stair tower and a timber gallery.

Maurits saw himself as the successor of the Counts of Holland stadholders. The States of Holland took a different view. In 1581 they had assumed the legislative powers of Filips II and saw themselves as 'ruling as a count' to whom the title to the buildings in the Binnenhof and the immediate surroundings belonged. The States were presided over by the government prosecutor.<sup>11</sup> Since 1586 that office had been filled by Johan van Oldenbarnevelt (1547-1619). During the Twelve

Years' Truce (1609-1621) the tension between Maurits and Van Oldenbarneveltdt escalated. Following a conflict in 1618 Maurits had his adversary arrested and condemned to death. On 13 May 1619, Van Oldenbarneveltdt was duly executed on the Binnenhof (fig. 4).

As a result of this act the power struggle between the stadholder and the States had for the time being worked out in the prince's favour, but spatially they were condemned to one another. As in the knight's house, part of the ground floor of the new tower was used by the States of Holland, along with several other



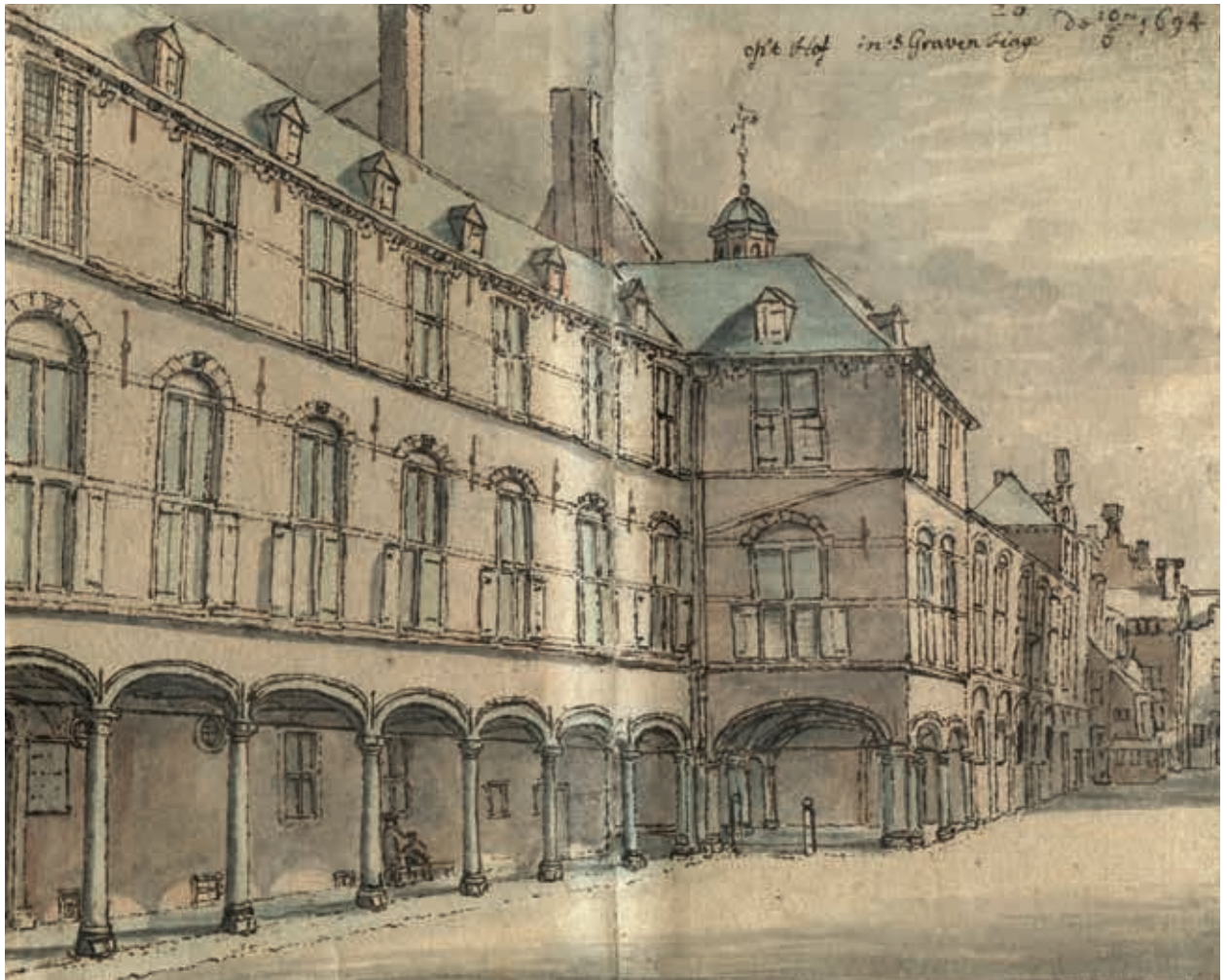


official bodies such as the Representative Councils and the Secretariat of Holland. The upper floors were occupied by Maurits and his family. Two years after inheriting the title Prince of Orange in 1618, Maurits sought to improve his accommodation.<sup>12</sup> In 1620-1621, there arose next to and to the south of the section containing the Middenpoort (thereafter known as Stadhouderspoort) a new wing totalling nine bays (fig. 3 and fig. 12, building phase 4). On the Binnenhof side the new wing had a gallery of blue and grey stone.<sup>13</sup>

#### FREDERIK HENDRIK

In 1625 Maurits died and was succeeded by his half-brother Frederik Hendrik (1584-1647), who had recently married Amalia van Solms (1602-1675). Hendrik was keen to confirm his standing in Europe and to this end built a number of large country houses, including Huis ten Bosch (1645-1651). He renewed the stadholders' claim to the Binnenhof and commissioned several alterations to the Hofvijver wing and also had an apartment for his wife built on the Court Chapel side. In 1632 he extended the Mauritsstoren on the Hofvijver





5. Valentijn Klotz, drawing of the Binnenhof in 1694, with the cabinet of Mary Stuart in the avant-corps on the second floor (The Hague Image Library)

side. The stair in the inner angle between the two wings was also built at this time. According to the writer G.G. Calkoen, this was a new ‘perron’ (set of entrance steps) up to the second floor, but it is more likely to have concerned a minor modification.<sup>14</sup>

In early 1635 two fires broke out in the Mauritsstoren in quick succession, after which the northern annexe was enlarged and renovated in 1635-1637 (fig. 12, building phase 5).<sup>15</sup> After the renovations, Frederik Hendrik had a suite of rooms on the first floor of the Buitenhof Wing, consisting of a cabinet, two antechambers and a reception room. Amalia’s apartment on the floor above consisted of a cabinet, cloakroom, two antechambers and a bedroom. In 1639-1640 the buildings between the Mauritsstoren and the Court Chapel were modified for their son, the future Willem II (1626-1650), who wed Mary Stuart (1631-1660) in 1641.<sup>16</sup> The cabinet she would use after her arrival in 1642 was part of a new section next to the the Court Chapel side, work on which had commenced in 1632. It was linked to the new stone gallery commissioned in 1639 to replace the

old timber gallery. This new section consisted of a two-room apartment above the pre-existing kitchen and on the Binnenhof side a cabinet in a corner avant-corps (fig. 5).<sup>17</sup> On 20 February 1644 fire broke out in this new apartment destroying a large part of the adjoining Court Chapel but causing little damage to the apartment itself.

After Willem II became stadholder in 1647, he held his receptions in the Stadholder’s Quarters, probably in the living rooms on the Buitenhof side. Owing to his sudden death on 5 November 1650 he spent little time there. Eight days later his son Willem III (1650-1702) was born. Amalia van Solms moved to the Oude Hof on Noordeinde, but Mary Stuart, the ‘Princess Royal’, remained living in her apartment with cabinet in the corner avant-corps right up until her death in 1660.

#### FIRST STADHOLDERLESS PERIOD

The death of Willem II ushered in the first stadholderless period (1650-1672). The States of Holland and West Friesland seized the opportunity to increase their

influence, both in the Republic and in the Binnenhof. In July 1651 they resolved that the position of stadholder would no longer be hereditary, and that no new stadholder would be appointed. Two months later they requested a 'more appropriate and distinguished' assembly room.<sup>18</sup> On 3 October 1651 the States of Holland took the decision to build a new assembly room. To make a statement, they deliberately chose to build between the Mauritsstoren and the quarters of the Princess Royal, retaining the gallery on the Binnenhof but demolishing a section of the recently (1639) realized part of the apartment above the kitchen.

The plans envisaged a prominent building with a 'certain projection' on the Hofvijver side, for which part of the Stadholder's Quarters would be sacrificed. Johan de Witt (1625-1672), a member of the building committee, presented the first plans on 3 February 1652 and it was on this basis that the architect Pieter Post (1608-1669) set to work. Construction, which commenced in June 1652, was from the outset under the supervision of Pieter Arentsz. Noorwits (c. 1612-1669). The structural work, which made use of existing load-bearing walls, was completed in 1655 and that date was carved into the door to the large hall. A chamber for the executive council of the States of Holland (now Noenzaal) was created on the ground floor and on the floor above a double-height assembly room for the States of Holland, flanked by a staircase and ante-chamber (now a refreshment room) (fig. 12, building phase 6). The finishing and fitting out of the new building took a further twelve years.<sup>19</sup>

#### STADHOLDER/KING WILLEM III

After 1672 the balance of power shifted in favour of the stadholder once more. In June of that year the Republic was attacked simultaneously by England, France and the bishoprics of Munster and Cologne. The States appointed Willem III (1650-1702) captain-general for the duration of a single campaign. Once all the enemy troops had withdrawn from the country in late 1673, Willem III was finally appointed stadholder. In 1677 he married Mary II Stuart (1662-1695). The couple would not have been frequent residents of the Binnenhof, spending most of their time in their palaces in Buren, Dieren, Breda and Honselaarsdijk. Nonetheless, like his predecessors, Willem III considered it of great political importance to consolidate his status in the Binnenhof.

In 1678, in compensation for the lost space on the Hofvijver side, the Buitenhof Wing was extended by four bays, making a total of thirteen bays on that side (fig. 12, building phase 7). The extension entailed a ground-floor kitchen with a basement below and on the upper floor private rooms consisting of a bedroom with cabinet. These rooms matched the existing layout: on the first floor for the prince and on the second for his wife.<sup>20</sup> What remained of the original rooms in the Hofvijver Wing were still accessible via the gallery on the Binnenhof.<sup>21</sup>

Owing to his obligations in England following the Glorious Revolution of 1688, Willem was not a regular resident of the Binnenhof until after 1691. Following the death of Mary II Stuart in early 1695, he had a man-



6. The Hof van Albermarle, built on the Buitenhof c. 1690 and renovated c. 1730. Left the southwestern corner of the new Stadholder's Quarters and in the foreground the square where the Prinsentuin had previously been located, shortly before demolition in 1915 (The Hague Image Library)



sion built on the southern edge of the Prinsentuin for his favourite, Arnold Joost van Keppel (1670-1718), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Albemarle, thenceforth known as the Hof van Albemarle (fig. 6).<sup>22</sup>

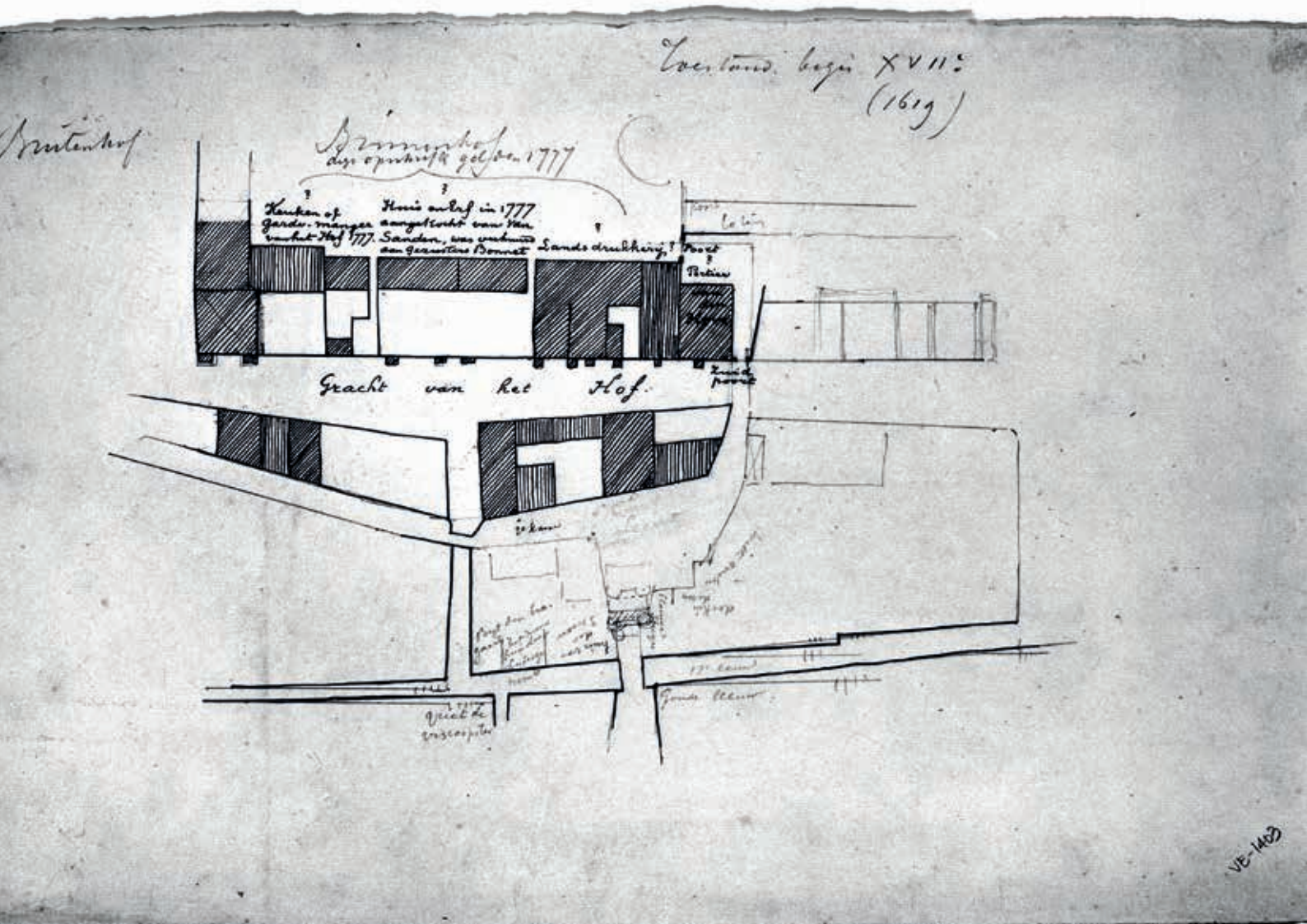
**WILLEM IV**

The death of Willem III in 1702 ushered in the second stadholderless period during which the stadholder's rooms remained empty. The States of Holland used the ground floor of the Buitenhof wing for accounting and secretarial services.<sup>23</sup> In 1747, just as in 1672, the threat from French troops (War of the Austrian Succession) prompted the appointment of a member of the House of Orange – Willem IV (1711-1751) – as captain-general of the United Provinces of the Netherlands. That same year he was proclaimed hereditary

stadholder of the Republic. In 1734 he married Anna van Hannover (1709-1759). The couple moved into the Buitenhof wing in late 1747 but found the quarters on the small side for their royal household, numbering 53 individuals, and their entire staff, totalling 183.<sup>24</sup> Instead they were given the use of the Hof van Albemarle.<sup>25</sup> Entertaining took place in the mansion belonging to Willem Bentinck (1704-1774) at number 7 Lange Voorhout. The neglected official residence was surveyed in 1747.<sup>26</sup>

In 1748, the architect Pieter de Swart (1709-1772/3) was asked to draw up a plan for rehabilitating the 'oude krog' (old ruin). He produced a large-scale and a modest renovation plan, as well as a plan for an entirely new building. In all three plans the Buitenhof side was to be transformed into a French palace. The Stad-

7. Reconstruction of the Binnenhof buildings before the renovation in 1777, based on data from 1619. In the southeast corner (top) the inscription 'Keuken of Garde-manger [kitchen or larder] van het Hof 1777' and left of that 'Huis en Erf in 1777 aangekocht van Van Sanden, was verhuurd aan Gezusters Bonnet' [house and land purchased in 1777 from Van Sanden, previously leased to sisters Bonnet] (possibly used as a coffee house). The source and maker of this drawing are unknown (Cultural Heritage Agency)



VE-1423



houderspoort would disappear in favour of a new ground-floor passageway. The staircase in the inner angle of the courtyard would become a secondary stair, while a large new ceremonial staircase was conceived in the middle of the long Binnenhof wing.<sup>27</sup> Willem IV's untimely death in 1751 meant that none of the plans could proceed. Anna van Hannover, who continued to live in the Stadholder's Quarters until her death in 1759, was in charge of affairs of state. During her regency De Swart was commissioned to design a new stadholder's staircase in the inner angle of the Binnenhof. It was built in 1752-1753 and exists to this day (fig. 12, building phase 9).<sup>28</sup>

In 1766 Willem V (1748-1806) came of age and a new dining room was created for him.<sup>29</sup> A year later he married Wilhelmina van Pruisen (1751-1820). Her reception room on the second floor acquired a new stucco ceiling in around 1770, which would be dismantled again in 1879.

#### NEW-BUILD FOR WILLEM V

Where his father had failed, Willem V succeeded. On 27 July 1776, the States of Holland decided to commission new Stadholder's Quarters to be built in the southwest corner of the Binnenhof. There, in the middle of the southern perimeter was a gateway with a bridge over a moat known as the 'Beek' (Brook). The gateway had originally been called the south gate or 'cokenpoirte' ('kitchen gate'), later the Hofpoort. In that corner of the Binnenhof, in addition to a brick kitchen building, there were a number of more or less detached buildings, including a coffee house (fig. 7). Various administrative functions of the States, such as that of Collector General, were accommodated on the ground floor of the Binnenhof wing and in some of the free-standing buildings.

Before the new buildings could be realized, space had first to be created. The States had already decided back in 1765 to build the Government Printing House to the west of the Hofpoort, which occurred a year later (fig. 12, building phase 9). Building archaeological research has shown that the old buildings from the mid-seventeenth century were not completely demolished at that time but were combined behind a new facade on the Binnenhof.<sup>30</sup>

In 1776 the coffee house on the Binnenhof was purchased.<sup>31</sup> The new Stadholder's Quarters were situated between the existing connecting corridor (long room) between the old Stadholder's Quarters of 1678 and the Hof van Albemarle, and the recently built Government Printing House on the east side. The new complex consisted of three sections: a volume for formal receptions with a ballroom and richly ornamented stone facade fronting the Binnenhof, on the newly vacant plot; an apartment for the stadholder on the site of the afore-

mentioned corridor, with a facade fronting the Buitenhof; and a service wing (the Cingelhuis) south of the Beek.<sup>32</sup> The water was overarched at that point and the toilets were located above this vaulting. To compensate the demolition of spaces previously used by the States of Holland, the latter seized the opportunity to realize a new building a little further on: a new Comptoir-Generaal (money office) was built east of the Hofpoort in 1777.

Pieter de Swart having died in 1772 or early 1773, a new architect, Friedrich Ludwig Gunckel (1743-1835) was engaged to oversee the construction of the new Stadholder's Quarters.<sup>33</sup> He had been involved in the renovation of the Court Chapel (1770-1772) as De Swart's assistant. There are three known sets of design drawings for the new Stadholder's Quarters.<sup>34</sup> The first contains only unbuilt designs; the second, from 1777, is a further elaboration of those designs, including the apartment for the stadholder in the angle between the old and new Stadholder's Quarters (fig. 8). The third set is mainly interior designs but includes a drawing of the final situation shortly after 1789 (fig. 9). Earlier drawings show a second stair on the overarching, but in this plan the stair plus a small cabinet has been moved slightly southwards over the Beek. In this drawing we can also see the kitchen extension that was added at the last moment. Shortly after construction commenced an ensemble of three small houses Hofsingel, with a common facade and roof, were purchased and added to the complex (fig. 10). The stadholder's apartment occupied the site of the long gallery demolished in 1780, while the service wing was built on the site of the original service wing of the Hof van Albemarle (fig. 11).

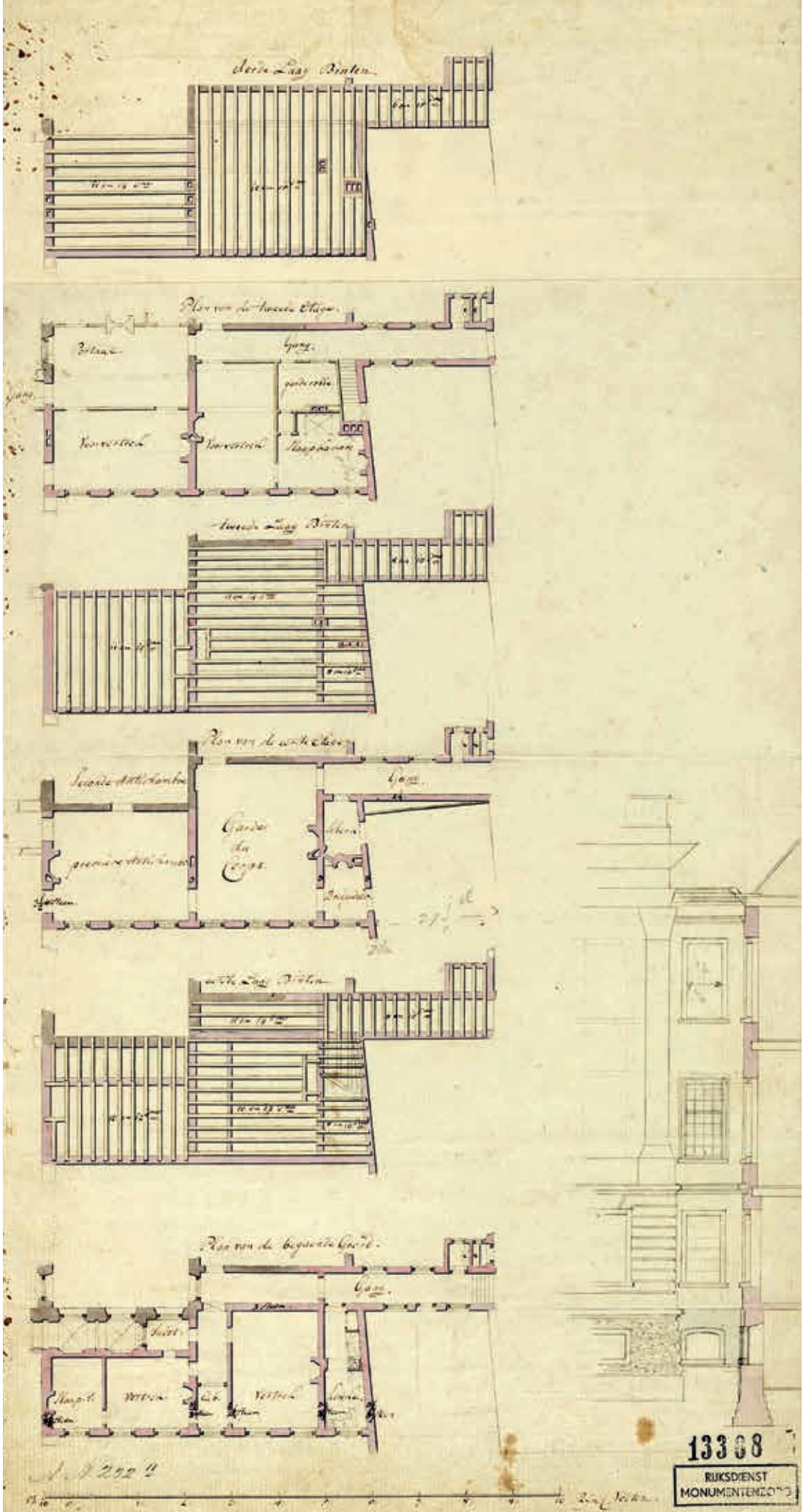
The new Stadholder's Quarters comprised on the ground floor left a main guardhouse and behind those storerooms. In the right-hand avant-corps was a vestibule and access to the main staircase. On the main floor there was a 'large room' (ballroom) on the courtyard side and at the front the large dining room flanked on the right by a small dining room. Both avant-corps contained antechambers (on the right the Second Antechamber). The rear wing, in the Cingelhuis, housed the most important members of the royal household, including the house steward and the Lord Chamberlain.

As already noted, the apartment of the stadholder, with basement and (service) entrance onto the Buitenhof, was built on the west side. On the ground floor there were rooms either side of a central corridor. This was probably where the stadholder's chamberlain lived. This corridor led via a right-angled turn to the Hof van Albemarle and had a toilet midway above the overarching of the Beek. It was the mirror image of the toilet extension in the formal section of the new

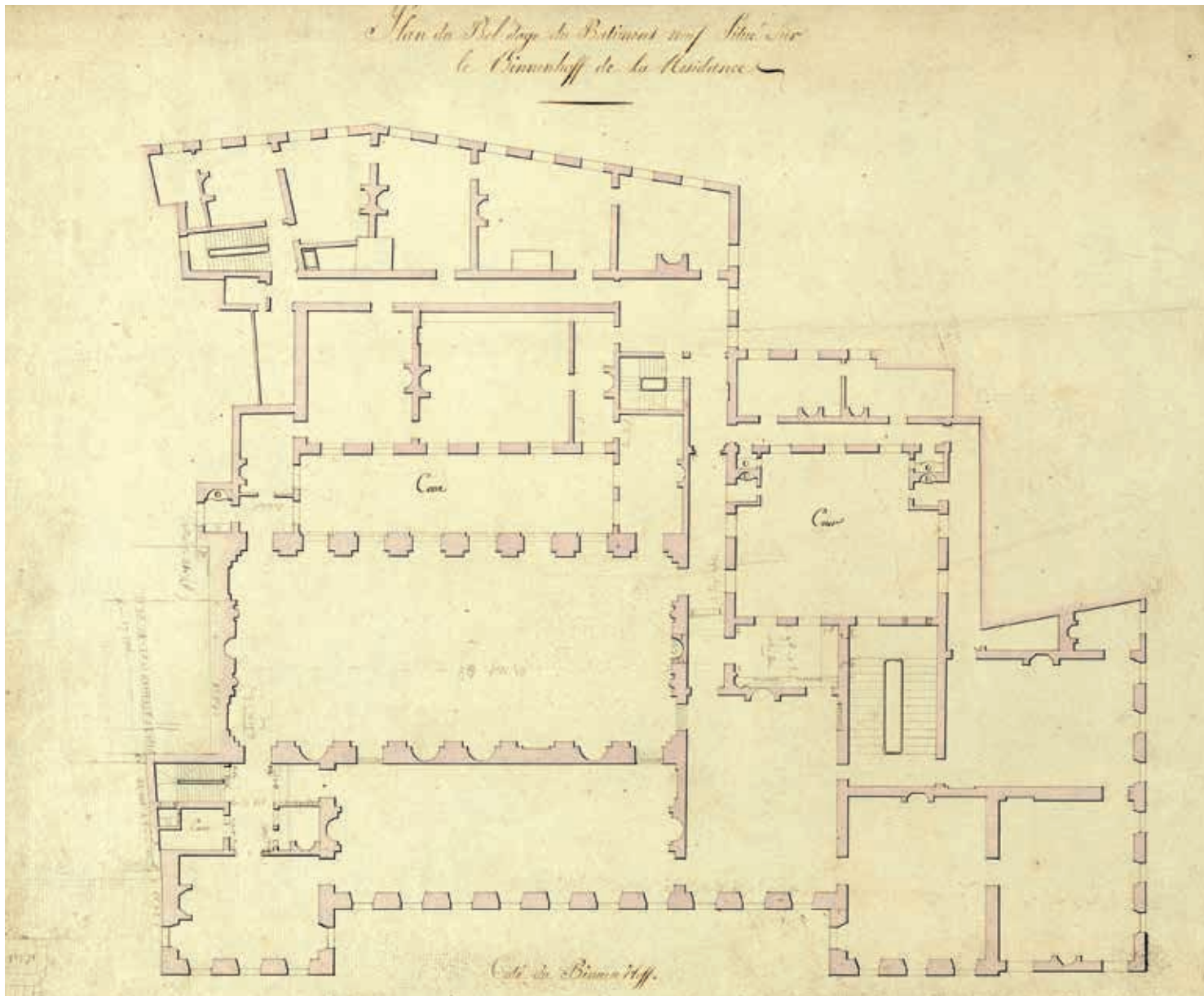


8. Plan of the ground, first and second floors of the stadholder's apartment with corresponding floor joists.

It is evident that the apartment on the right has a corridor to the toilet above the Beek. North is left (Cultural Heritage Agency)







9. Plan of the first floor as built, probably shortly after 1789. The kitchen extension is top left, the cabinet on the right above the Beek with adjoining small staircase, and bottom right the stadholder's apartment (main floor). North is at the bottom (Cultural Heritage Agency)

Stadholder's Quarters on the other side of the over-arched Beek (fig. 11b). On the main floor of the apartment there was the First Antechamber on the north side with adjoining room for the bodyguard, a cabinet for the brigadier and a pouring room. The second floor, with a portal, two front rooms and a bedroom, was connected with the eastern apartment in the formal section. Together these two sections probably contained the private quarters of the stadholder.

On 25 February 1777 the plans were sufficiently advanced for the first tender to be issued.<sup>35</sup> A good three months later there followed tenders for carpentry, brickwork, stonemasonry, plumbing and painting. In 1782 a plan was drawn up for the 'decoration of the halls and rooms for the layout of the main floor of the

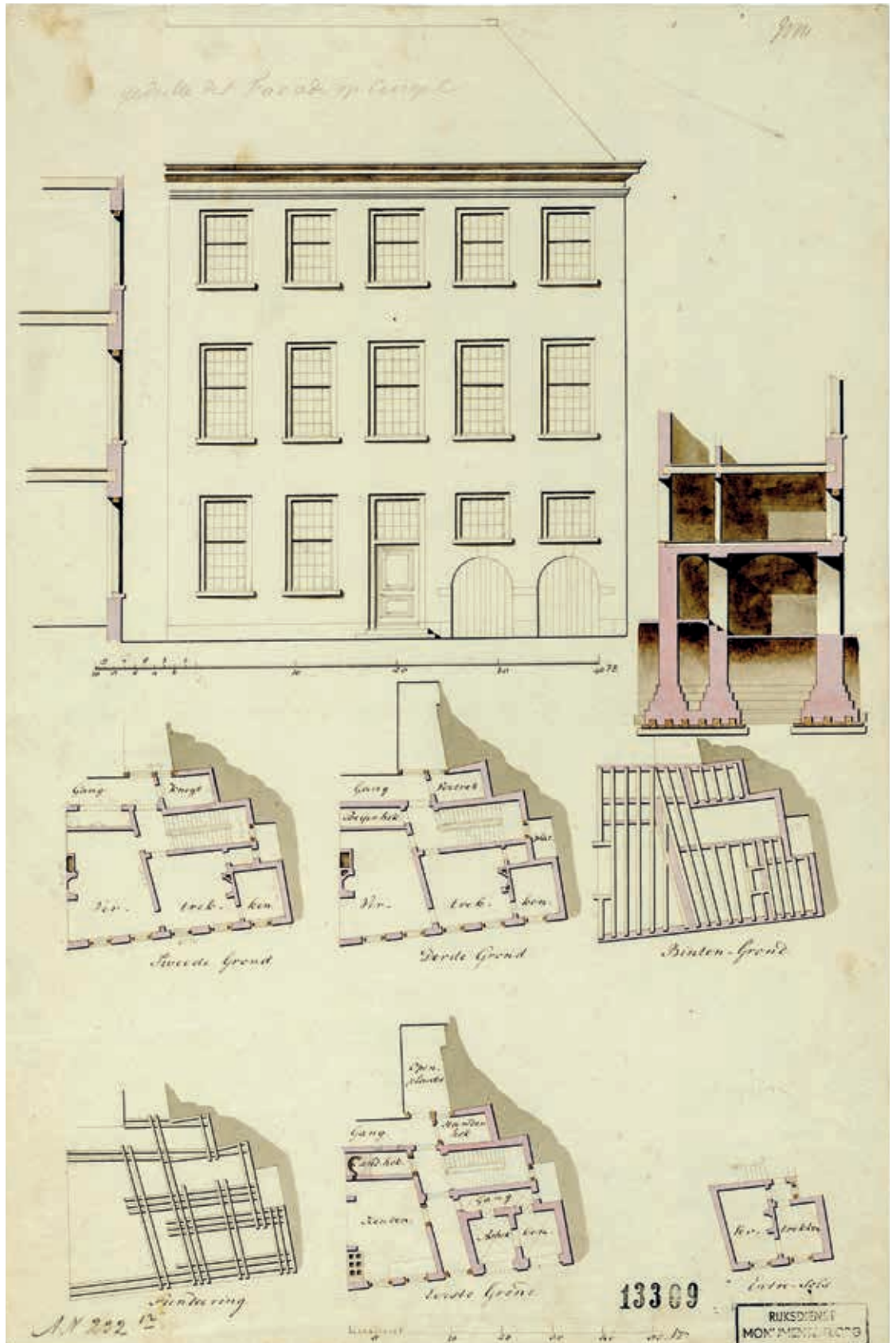
new building of the Stadholder's Quarters'.<sup>36</sup> In 1789 'both dining rooms and the cabinets next to the ballroom and behind the large dining room ... [were still in need of] floors, ceilings, plastering, painting and gilding'. The new Stadholder's Quarters were not completed until 1792.<sup>37</sup>

#### NEGLECTED AND RESTORED

Stadholder Willem v did not get to enjoy his new quarters for very long. On 18 January 1795, in the face of rapidly advancing French forces, he fled to England and life in exile. In April 1796 the ballroom was fitted out as the meeting room of the Batavian Republic. In 1806 the Kingdom of Holland was created with Louis Napoleon (1778-1846) as its king. The former ballroom

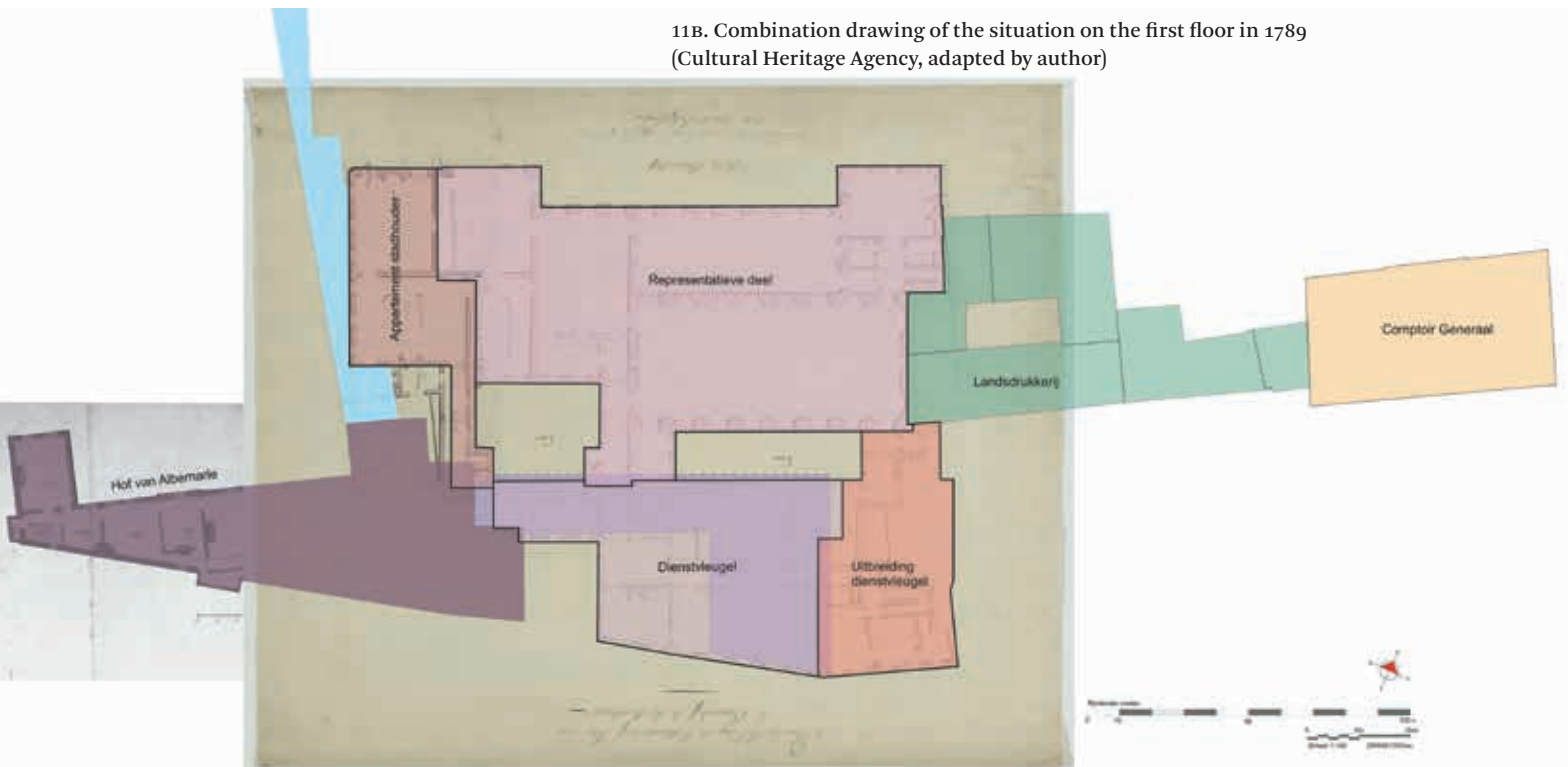


10. Plan from 1789 of the kitchen extension showing ground, first and second floors. The ash sheds on the ground floor have arched openings on the Hofsingel side. (Cultural Heritage Agency)





11A. Combination drawing of the situation on the first floor before the renovation in 1777  
 (Cultural Heritage Agency, adapted by author)



11B. Combination drawing of the situation on the first floor in 1789  
 (Cultural Heritage Agency, adapted by author)





12. First floor (main floor) of the western part of the Binnenhof in 2022, before the current renovation commenced (Central Government Real Estate Agency and BiermanHenket, adapted by author)

served as throne room, but not for long. After just two years Louis Napoleon took up residence in the town hall of Amsterdam, known ever since as the Palace on the Dam. On 11 May 1808 a royal decree ordered that ‘all unnecessary ornaments be removed from the palace’, meaning the new Stadholder’s Quarters. ‘Unnecessary ornaments’ was taken to mean all mirrors, marble chimney pieces, painted canvases, decorations, panelling, doors, blinds and wall coverings. Some of these interior elements were used to furnish the Palace on the Dam, some were put in storage.<sup>38</sup> The new Stadholder’s Quarters were turned into a school for military cadets.

Following the departure of the French in 1813, King Willem I (the son of stadholder Willem V) decided not to live at the Binnenhof anymore. But so as not to lose all his influence there, he established his King’s Office in the Binnenhof.<sup>39</sup> The buildings in the Stadholder’s Quarters were in a deplorable condition. The first alterations were carried out in 1818 under the supervision of the Controller of National Buildings, Adrianus J. Noordendorp (1780-1833). In 1828 the ballroom was altered by installing a drum with skylight in the middle of the roof.<sup>40</sup>

The Stadholder’s Quarters were in an even worse state. A few repairs were carried out at the beginning of the nineteenth century, but to little effect. In 1848 it was rumoured that the Buitenhof wing would be demolished and replaced by a new administrative centre. Nothing came of these plans.<sup>41</sup> Looking back it is a wonder that the Buitenhof wing still exists. The situation was marginally better on the Hofvijver side, not least because the States of Holland’s building was structurally sound.

In the period 1879-1883 the Court Chapel and the old Stadholder’s Quarters were comprehensively restored and refurbished.<sup>42</sup> The roofs on the Buitenhof side were completely renewed, as was the intermediary section between the States of Holland building and the

Court Chapel. In fact, little remained of this intermediary section apart from the cabinet of Mary Stuart (Princess Royal). The gallery along the Binnenhof was radically restored (which is to say, rebuilt in its old form).<sup>43</sup> During the next renovation of the Binnenhof in 1913-1915, the 1881 staircase to the east of the Statenzaal was replaced by the current ceremonial hall at first floor level (fig. 12, building phase 14).<sup>44</sup> Equally radical was the demolition in 1915 of the Hof van Albemarle to make way for a traffic corridor between Buitenhof and Spui.<sup>45</sup> The resulting ragged edge in the southwest corner was not repaired until the construction of the Kortenhof wing in 1960-1963 (fig. 12, building phase 15).

## CONCLUSION

The last word on the history of the Binnenhof has not been written. New and relevant details will continue to emerge, including during the current renovation. During those works, additional building history and archaeological research will be carried out. The results of past building history research have been compared with the known historical data in words and images, whereby historical drawings and plans of the current situation were digitally superimposed to elucidate the spatial development of the complex.

This article focuses on the Stadholder’s Quarters, part of which was appropriated by the States of Holland during the first stadholderless period as their own new meeting chamber. The stadholders were later compensated with an extension southwards where eventually wholly new – though briefly used – Stadholder’s Quarters were realized. Interestingly, the stadholder’s 1814 ballroom housed the directly elected House of Representatives until 1992, whereas the meeting chamber of the States of Holland has since 1849 been the home of the indirectly elected Senate. Somehow it feels as if it should have been the other way around.<sup>46</sup>

## NOTES

1 G.G. Calkoen, ‘Het Binnenhof van 1247-1747’, *Die Haghe. Bijdragen en mededeelingen* 3 (1902), 35-182, especially 48, 56, 149.

2 The following reports are relevant to this article: J.H. Heijenbrok and G.H.P. Steenmeijer [De Fabryck], *Binnenhofcomplex. Voormalige Hofkapel, Bouwhistorisch Onderzoek*, Utrecht 2018; F. Franken and P.C. van der Heiden, *Tweede Kamercomplex Binnenhof. Cultuurhistorisch onderzoek, acht hotspots*, The Hague 2019; R. Stenvert and S. van Ginkel-

Meester, *Stadhouderlijk Kwartier Binnenhof Den Haag. Cultuurhistorisch onderzoek met waardestelling* (BBA-rapport; 812), Utrecht 2018; idem, *Algemene Zaken Binnenhof Den Haag. Cultuurhistorisch onderzoek met waardestelling* (BBA-rapport 832), Utrecht 2019; idem, *Tweede Kamercomplex bouwdelen TK-A en TK-B Binnenhof’s Gravenhage. Cultuurhistorisch onderzoek met waardestelling* (BBA-rapport; 893), Utrecht 2021.

3 Two reports underpin this article: Stenvert and Van Ginkel-Meester 2018, and Stenvert and Van Ginkel-

Meester 2021 (note 2).

4 C. Dumas, *Haagse stadsgezichten 1550-1800. Topografische schilderijen van het Haags Historisch Museum*, Zwolle/The Hague 1991; A. de Klerk, *Bouwen aan de Hofstad. De geschiedenis van het bouwtoezicht in Den Haag 1250-1900, in sociaal en cultureel perspectief*, Delft 1998 (cover).

5 Calkoen 1902 (note 1), 103. A Flemish facade is an upright stone roof dormer at gutter height, often featuring a window surrounded by ornamentation.

6 Here, too, it must be borne in mind that all the spaces have been plastered,



and conjectures are based solely on the thickness of the walls (in combination with other sources). For the attribution of the drawing, see Dumas 1991 (note 4), 18.

- 7 Large (Romanesque) bricks in Flemish bond,  $29 \times 13 \times 7$  cm, ten-course height 80-86 cm. The exact extent of medieval masonry is difficult to determine owing to the renovation of the outer leaf and clamping of the elevations during the restoration of 1879-1883.
- 8 Stenvert and Van Ginkel-Meester 2018 (note 2), 24. There are mason's marks on the original sandstone surround, now to be found in the garden of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. The date on the information panel in Amsterdam – 'circa 1600' – is incorrect.
- 9 The new tower is already depicted in the drawing in fig. 2, dated 1598.
- 10 The flat roof had a lead covering (nowadays zinc).
- 11 Since 1621 the holder of the office of government prosecutor had been known as the Grand Pensionary.
- 12 Maurits inherited the title from his older half-brother Philips William (1554-1618), after which he was known as Maurits of Nassau.
- 13 Calkoen 1902 (note 1), 128 and note 126.
- 14 Calkoen 1902 (note 1), 129; P.C. van der Heiden, *Raad van State. Binnenhof 1, 's-Gravenhage. Bouwhistorische verkenning*, 's-Gravenhage 2008, 3. This would certainly not have been a genuine perron, like the current eighteenth-century steps on this spot, but rather an alteration of the old octagonal spiral staircase to turn it into a slightly roomier spiral staircase on a square base, with landings on each floor. A similar spiral staircase dating from 1638 can still be found in the Balckeneindehuis at number 18 Dunne Bierkade. Further research into the remains of this inner-angle stair at basement level is still ongoing.
- 15 Calkoen 1902 (note 1), 129.
- 16 The names are confusing. Mary Henriette Stuart, the wife of Willem II, is henceforth referred to as Mary Stuart, and Mary II of England, the wife of Willem III, as Mary II Stuart.
- 17 P.C. van der Heiden, *Kabinet Mary Stuart I. Geschiedenis, constructie & technische staat van de schilderijen Binnenhof 22 's-Gravenhage*, 's-Gravenhage 2013, 7.
- 18 J.J. Terwen and K.A. Ottenheim, *Pieter Post (1608-1669). Architect*, Zutphen 1993, 163-172.
- 19 Terwen and Ottenheim 1993 (note 18); see also P.E. Spijkerman (ed.), *Eerste Kamer. Reflecties over de Vergaderzaal van de 'Chambre de Réflexion'. Ter gelegenheid van de ingebruikneming op 5 september 1995 na de restauratie en renovatie 1994-1995*, 's-Gravenhage 1995. The roof construction over the States of Holland chamber is remarkable for its relatively large span. Post probably had access, via Van Campen and Huygens, to Italian architectural treatises, including those of Serlio and Palladio, and based his design for the roof on them. See also R. Stenvert and E. Orsel, 'Jacob Roman, een innovatief ontwerper?', *Bulletin KNOB* 117 (2018) 2, 58-79. The roof construction merits further research.
- 20 Van der Heijden 2008 (note 14), 3.
- 21 After a fire in 1678 in the brand new apartment of Mary II Stuart on the second floor, her bedroom was refurbished with a richly decorated ceiling painted by Theodoor van der Schuer (1634-1707). After its removal in 1879, this ceiling, with a central section of  $305 \times 506$  cm., hung in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, but since the latest restoration it is no longer on display.
- 22 He exhibited part of Mary II Stuart's porcelain collection there. After the mansion's sale in 1730 it was converted into lodgings for the Vijf Steden van het Noorderkwartier (Five Cities of the Northern District).
- 23 Calkoen 1902 (note 1), 136.
- 24 F.H. Schmidt, *Pieter de Swart. Architect van de achttiende eeuw*, Zwolle/Zeist 1999, 83.
- 25 The Five Cities of the Northern District were politely but urgently requested to look for another building, which they found on the Kneuterdijk (now part of the Council of State). At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Hof van Albemarle became part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 26 Jan Jehes's 1999 reconstruction drawings of that survey can be found in Schmidt 1999 (note 24), 84, 86.
- 27 Schmidt 1999 (note 24), 89-105.
- 28 Schmidt 1999 (note 24), 146-147.
- 29 P. van der Heijden and D. Valentijn, *Interieurs van het Binnenhof. Verscholen erfgoed in beeld*, The Hague 2018, 72-81.
- 30 Stenvert and Van Ginkel-Meester 2021 (note 2), 38-39, 372-401.
- 31 C.E. Zonneville-Heyning, 'Enkele kanttekeningen bij de inrichting van de nieuwe vleugel van het Stadhoudelijk Kwartier', in: *Nederlandse kunstnijverheid en interieurkunst. Nederlands Kunsthistorisch Jaarboek* 31 (1980), Haarlem 1981, 410-422, esp. 410.
- 32 It is impossible to determine with any certainty whether the second section did indeed contain the stadholder's private quarters, but we do know that it was designed as a separate section. It corresponds roughly to the current section of the Council of State in the old House of Representatives complex.
- 33 Also spelled Gunkel. Born in 1743 in Krofdorf in the small German principedom of Nassau-Weilburg, he had studied architecture in Giessen and Paris. He probably arrived in The Hague in 1767, where he worked as assistant to the stadholder architect Pieter de Swart. After the latter's death Gunkel became the principal architect of the House of Orange. He died in The Hague in 1835.
- 34 The National Archives contain a set of fourteen sheets, generally dated 1776 (National Archives 4.OPG, H299). The Cultural Heritage Agency (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, RCE) has a second set of twenty drawings from 1777 and later (Image Library RCE AT-0019 to AT-0038. The drawings themselves bear the pencilled number AN 232 1 to 20). Also in the possession of the RCE is a third set of drawings from circa 1789 (Image Library RCE VE-1409 to VE-1429). Cf. R.J. van Pelt, 'Het Binnenhof als speelplaats voor architecten', in: R.J. van Pelt and M.E. Tiethoff-Spliethoff (eds.), *Het Binnenhof. Van grafelijke residentie tot regeringscentrum*, Dieren 1984, 137-152, although only the first set of drawings is mentioned.
- 35 Final responsibility for the construction lay with the controller-general of fortifications for Holland, Cornelis J. van der Graeff (1734-1812). Day-to-day supervision was in the hands of the architect F. L. Gunkel and the Controller of Royal Domains, Govert van der Linden, assisted by Johan van Westenhout (c. 1754-1823).
- 36 G. Rosa de Carvalho-Roos, 'Binnenhof 1a-3: van "Nieuwbouw" tot "Oudbouw"', in: P.E. Spijkerman (ed.), *Tweede Kamer. Van doolhof naar Eenheid. Ter gelegenheid van de ingebruikneming op 22 februari 1996 na de restauratie en renovatie 1994-1996*, 's-Gravenhage 1996, 17-49, especially 24. More extensive but with more of a focus on the interior is: T. Rosa de Carvalho-Roos, 'Hoe houdt de stadhouder het? Een speurtocht naar het decor waartegen het dagelijks leven van de stadhouders Willem IV en Willem V zich afspeelde in de Stadhoudelijk Kwartieren van het Haagse Binnenhof', *Oud-Holland* 116 (2003) 3/4, 121-223.
- 37 Zonneville-Heyning 1981 (note 31).
- 38 It is known for certain that at least one chimney piece from the Binnenhof was installed in the Palace on the Dam; Rosa de Carvalho-Roos 1996 (note 36) 36 and Rosa de Carvalho-Roos 2003 (note 36), 124-125.
- 39 D. Smit, *Het belang van het Binnenhof. Twee eeuwen Haagse politiek, huisvesting en herinnering*, Amsterdam 2015, 103.
- 40 See also: Spijkerman 1996 (note 36).
- 41 L. van Tilborg, *Nooit gebouwd Den Haag*, Amersfoort 2019, esp. 56-62. Smit 2015 (note 39).
- 42 Remarkably, a small section of the chapel roof construction dating from the time of the 1688 extension survived. Stenvert and Van Ginkel-Meester 2019 (note 2), 274.

- 43 See also: Spijkerman 1995 (note 19).  
 44 Van der Heijden and Valentijn 2018 (note 29), 130-136.  
 45 One of the stucco ceilings and a mantlepiece from a different room found a new home in the 1915-1917 extension of the Colonial Office modelled on plans

- by Knuttel (TK-C). R. Stenvert and S. van Ginkel-Meester, *Uitbreiding Koloniën & Grenadierspoort Binnenhof Den Haag. Cultuurhistorisch onderzoek met Waardstelling*, Utrecht 2019 (BBA-report 866), 63, 68-69, 162-165.  
 46 In the first period between 1815 and

1848 members of the Senate were appointed by the monarch, thereafter they were elected by the Provincial Council. See also Smit 2015 (noot 39).

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## VESTIGES OF STADHOLDERS

### RESIDING AND RULING IN THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE BINNENHOF

RONALD STENVERT

In anticipation of the current major restoration of the Binnenhof, the home of the Dutch parliament, building historians conducted research into this historically important complex of buildings in The Hague. This article focuses on the western part of the complex and the role played there by the stadholder and the States of Holland. In the northwest corner of the Binnenhof, an L-shaped Knights' House arose in the middle of the fourteenth century with a residence for the stadholder on the first floor while the ground floor was used by the States of Holland.

In 1585 Prince Maurits took up residence in this part of the Binnenhof and to underline his status had a tower built on the northwest corner (completed 1604). Later he had his accommodation expanded (1620-1621). His successor Frederik Hendrik further expanded the accommodation with an extruded corner containing private quarters for his son William's wife (Mary Stuart). With the death of William II in 1650, the first stadholderless period (1650-1672) began. The States of Holland seized on this opportunity to reinforce their claim to the buildings by demolishing part of the recent expansion on the Hofvijver side and building a prominent new meeting place.

As a consequence of the war with the French in 1672, William III became stadholder and to compensate for the lost space he commissioned an expansion of the

complex on the south side (1677-1678). After the death of his wife Mary II Stuart, he had a stately house built for his favourite, the 1st Earl of Albemarle, on the south edge of the Prinsentuin in circa 1695. William's death in 1702 ushered in the second stadholderless period until the threat of war in 1747 led to the appointment of William IV as stadholder. At this point the accommodation at the Binnenhof was deemed to be too small for the court and plans for a new palace were drawn up.

What his father had been unable to achieve, William V accomplished. Existing buildings in the southwest corner made way for new stadholder quarters, but not until the States of Holland had built a new Comptoir-Generaal (money office) a little further away in 1777. In 1779 work on new quarters commenced. They consisted of a representative section in the Binnenhof, an apartment for the stadholder with an entrance on the Buitenhof and a service wing – the Cingelhuis – on the south side. The latter replaced the service wing of the Court of Albemarle. The new accommodation was finished by 1792, but just three years later William V was forced into exile, after which the newly formed Batavian Republic turned the ballroom into a meeting room, which served as the chamber of the House of Representatives from 1814 to 1992. The chamber of the States of Holland has been in use by the Senate since 1849.