

Church of the Holy Cross  
Eighth and Grand Streets  
Troy  
Rensselaer County  
New York

HABS No. NY-6257

HABS  
NY  
42-TROY  
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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42-TROY  
10-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

HABS No. NY-6257

Location: Eighth and Grand Streets, Troy, Rensselaer County, New York.

Present Owner: Private

Significance: The Church of the Holy Cross was founded by Mary Warren in the early 1840's. Under the direction of Mary Warren's son, Nathan B. Warren, the church nave was built from designs by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1844. The chancel addition, by Richard Upjohn, was completed in late 1848 and dedicated in January, 1849. In 1846, the Church of the Holy Cross instituted the first full choral service in an Episcopal church in the United States. In the full choral service, the psalter, creed and responses of the English Cathedral Service are chanted by the choir while the officiant intones his part. In 1863, the Mary Warren Free Institute was built adjoining the church to the south in order to further religious and musical instruction in the Episcopal Church.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1843-1848. Letters in the A. J. Davis Collection of the New York Public Library Manuscript Room, dating from June 24, 1843 to November 20, 1844 and from the Richard Upjohn Correspondence, Box 3, 1847, chronicle the work on the church.
2. Architect: Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892); Richard Upjohn (1802-1878); Henry Dudley.
3. Original Plans and Construction: There is a design for the original Davis plan in the collection of the New York Historical Society (data page 4). The discrepancy in the name on the document 'Chapel of Ease' has not been explained. The original concept seems to have involved a vestibule in the west entry under the belfry, a simple nave without side aisles, transepts, and choir stalls east of the transepts before the altar. A second drawing in the collection (data p.5) shows a cross-section of the the east wall with the proposed altar painting by Robert Weir, the end wall and roof truss. A more detailed delineation of the roof truss can be seen in a third drawing by Davis (data p.6). A drawing in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art shows a sketch for setting of the memorial tablet to Mary Warren (data p.7).

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Richard Upjohn's Plan Book (1846-1854) in the collection of the Avery Library, Columbia University, contains a number of drawings for the additions to the church:

January 29, 1848	Plans of the chancel to scale 1/8"=1'.
April 1848	8 general plans Transverse section of chancel Various designs for windows, doors, door jambs, corbels, pulpit, altar table, sedelia, roof timbers and altar screen
June 20, 1848	Plan of doublet window
June 21, 1848	Plans of chancel showing circular window and alteration of altar
June 21, 1848	Plan of Sacrarium

An article in the New York Ecclesiologist, vol. 1, January 1849, describes the new church as having a chancel eighteen feet wide and nineteen feet deep, with a sacristy on the north side, a nave sixty feet by twenty-four feet, a tower at the west end, fourteen feet square, an organ chamber forming a small transept on the north side of the nave and a corresponding transept with doorway and circular windows on the south side. (For a copy of the article see field records for this site).

4. Alterations and additions: In 1857 the rectory was built. In 1859, the present tower and ante-chapel, with black walnut open screen dividing ante-chapel from nave, were added (Henry Dudley, architect) and the belfrey re-sited.

The Mary Warren Free Institute was built in 1863.

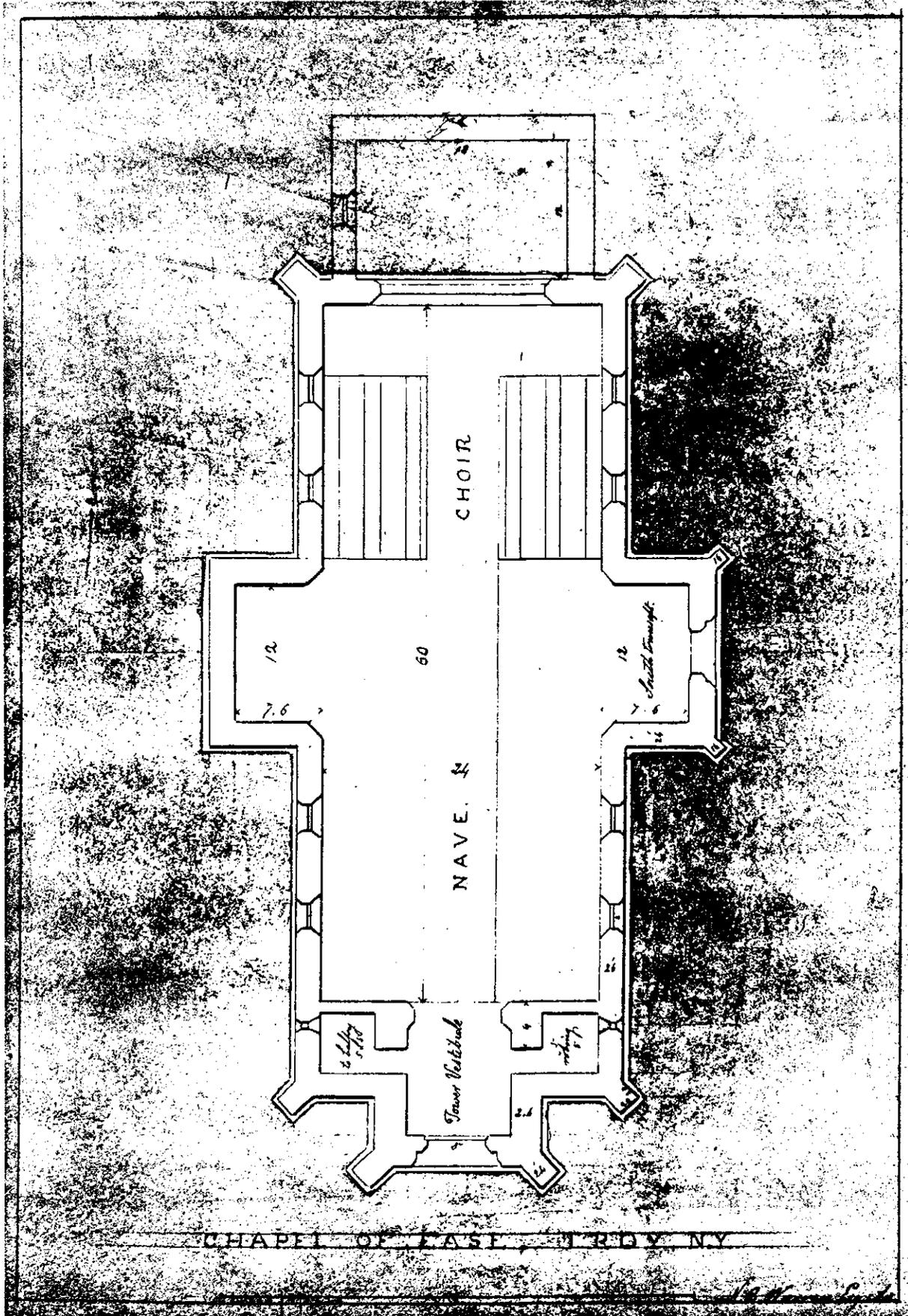
B. Historical Context:

The Church of the Holy Cross was founded by Mary Warren in the early 1840's. Her son, Nathan B. Warren, carried on the building project, employing Alexander Jackson Davis to design the original church in 1843, Richard Upjohn to expand the chancel in 1848, and Henry Dudley to complete the proposed additions to the ante-chapel suggested by the Ante-Chapel at New College, Oxford, England. The altarpiece for the original church, representing "The Evening of the Crucifixion", was presented to the church by Robert W. Weir, Professor of Drawing at West Point. The Bible was given by Amos S. Perry, a resident of Troy, and the prayer books were an offering from the Clergy of Northern New York who gave them as an expression of sympathy for the death of the founder and respect for her family's continuation of the enterprise.

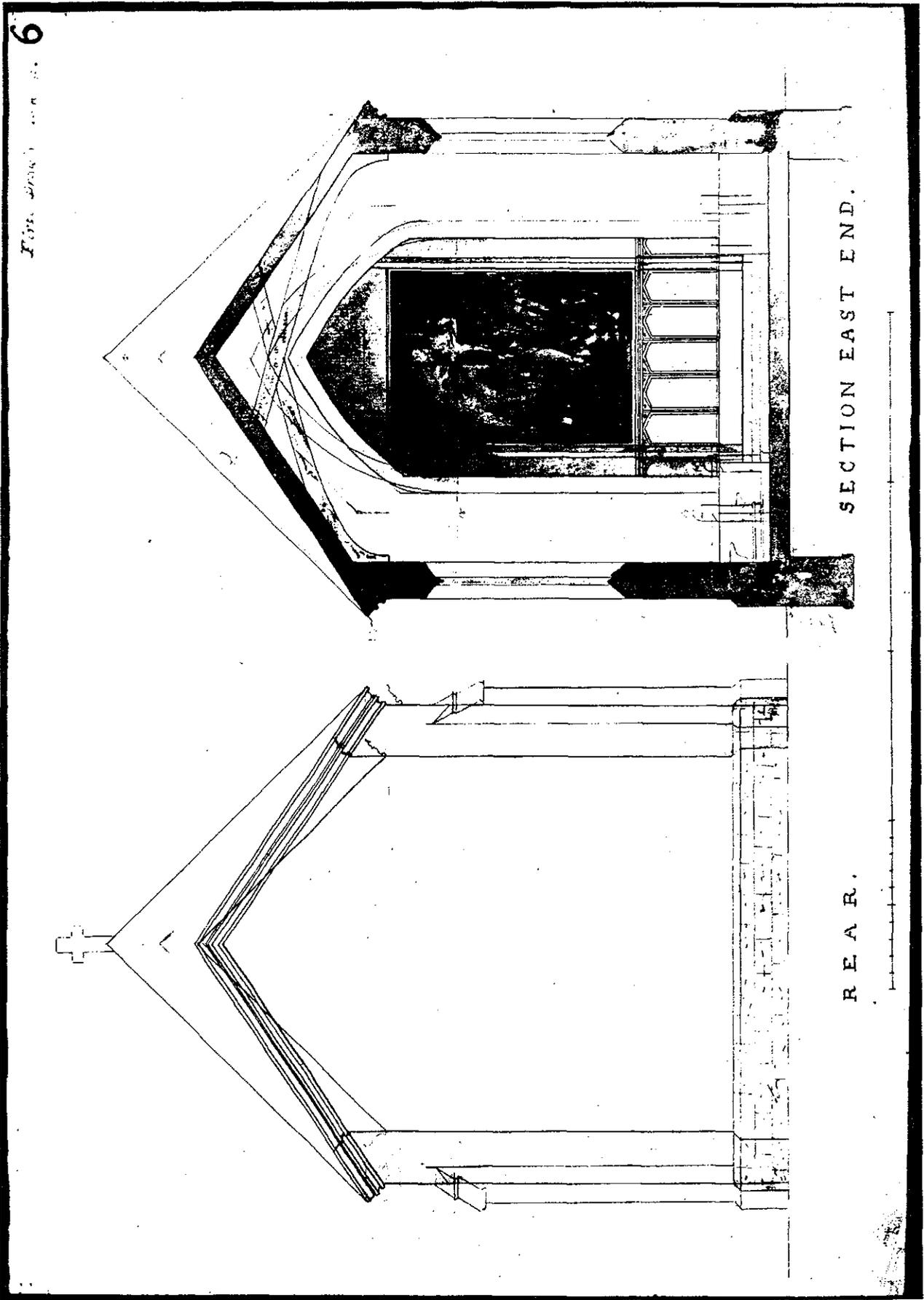
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The first rector of the church, the Reverend John Ireland Tucker, held that office for fifty years. During this time he was prominently identified with Episcopal Church music. He was editor and/or author of prefaces for The Hymnal, With Tunes Old and New (1873), The Service Book of Anglican Chants and Gregorian Tones (1878) and The Hymnal, Revised and Enlarged (1894) which became popularly known as the 'Second Tucker.' During his administration, the Church of the Holy Cross instituted the first full choral service in an Episcopal church in the United States. The impact of religious music on the congregation must have been of increasingly important concern to the Warren family and the Church of the Holy Cross; in 1863 the Mary Warren Free Institute was completed, adjoining the church on the south, and dedicated to the teaching of religion and church music.

Prepared by Eleni Silverman  
Historian, HABS (04/18/84)  
from research by W. Phelps Warren  
compiled from 12/67 to 4/69.



Collection of the New York Historical Society, New York City.  
For photocopy of original see Field Records.



Collection of the New York Historical Society, New York City.  
For photocopy of original drawing see Field Records.

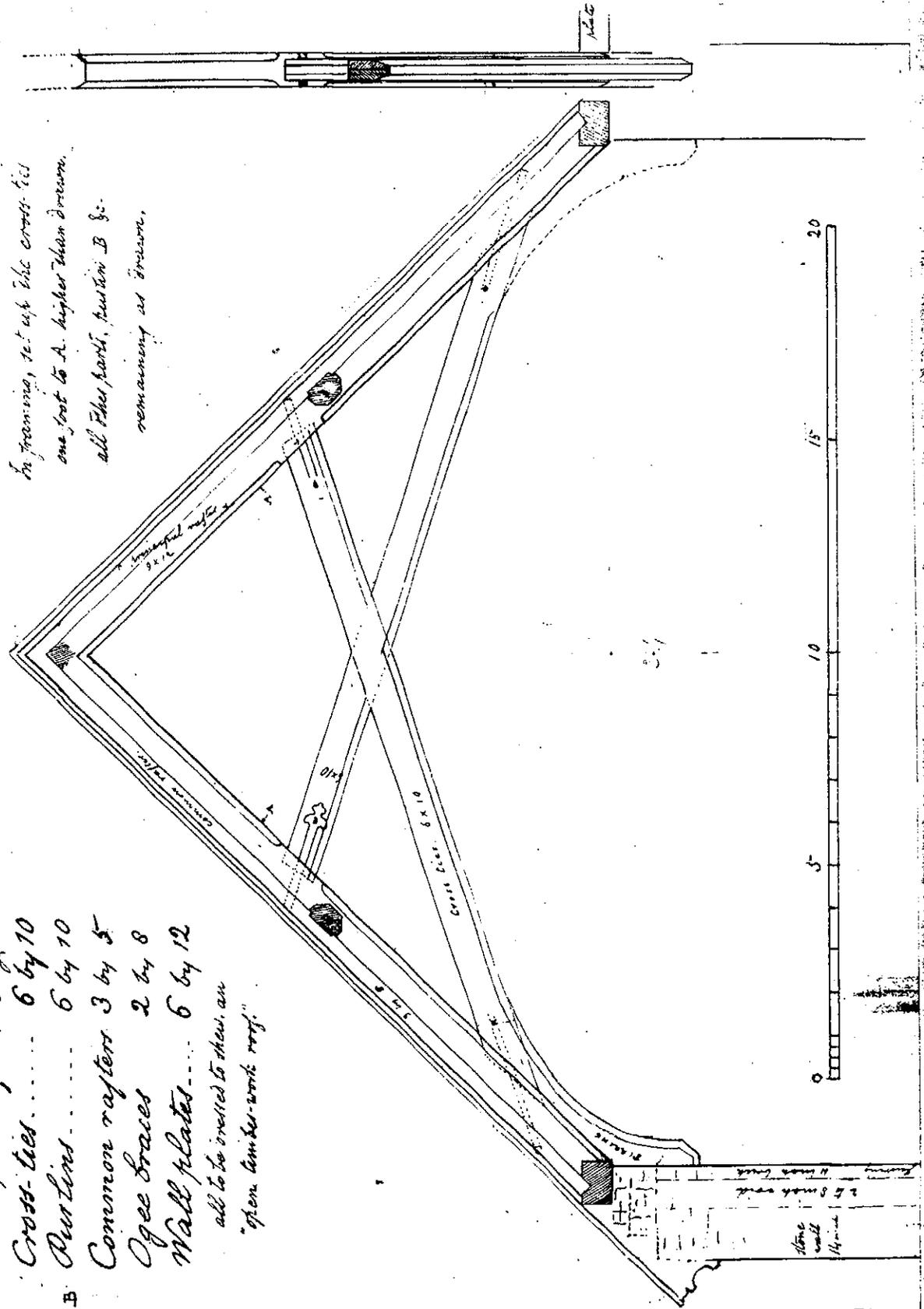
*Original  
Drawing  
No. 9*

**TRUSS OF ROOF 2 FT. TO 1 INCH**

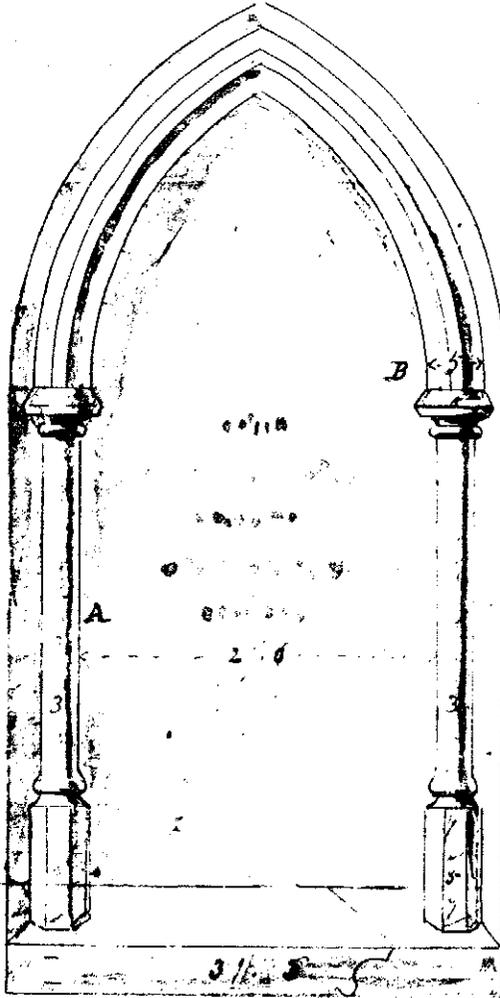
- Ridge Pole..... 7 by 7
- Principal Rafters, 9 by 12
- Cross-ties..... 6 by 10
- Roof Lins..... 6 by 10
- Common rafters 3 by 5
- Oblique braces 2 by 8
- Wall plates..... 6 by 12

*all to be dressed to show, an  
"open timber-work roof."*

*In framing, set up the cross-ties  
one foot to A. higher than shown.  
all other parts, position B & C  
remaining as shown.*



to be reduced 3 feet by 6  
outside of the splay

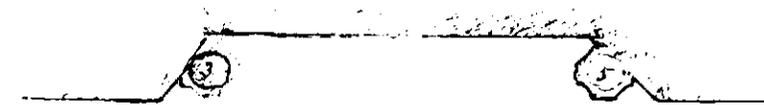


Stab. 2.9 by 5.9 2-9

6 ft.

4 ft. 8

2-0



plan at A

plan at B

with 1/2 ft. scale.

Warren tablet in niche Ch. Ch. Troy.