

**BUILDINGS REGULATED IN PHILADELPHIA**  
**Act of Apr. 11, 1856, P.L. 319, No. 341**  
AN ACT

Cl. 11

To provide for the better regulations of Buildings in the city of Philadelphia.

Section 3. Party walls not to be built upon wooden girder; exception

No party or division wall shall be built upon a wooden girder, except in the case of a party alley wall, where the alley shall not exceed four feet in width; and the act to which this is a supplement shall not be taken to prohibit wooden girders over piazzas, or any opening not exceeding six feet. All privy wells, or other wells, or cesspools, near buildings, coming within the provisions of said acts, shall be securely arched or covered with stone. Every chimney shaft of such buildings shall be carried up in brick or other incombustible material, to a height of not less than three feet above the juncture of any part thereof with the roof.

The trenchers for the foundation walls shall be at least three inches below the surface of the cellar floor; and the ends of all joists of adjoining buildings shall be separated by an interposed brick and grouted with mortar. 1856, April 11, P.L. 319, Sec. 3.

Section 4. Dangerous walls to be inspected upon written request of two citizens

It shall be lawful and is hereby made the duty of the building inspectors, to inspect all walls and supports of buildings deemed dangerous, on the written request of any two citizens, upon giving forty-eight hours written notice of such intended visit to the owner thereof, or his agent; and if the same be found insufficient and dangerous, to order the removal or such alteration thereof as they may deem necessary for safety. 1856, April 11, P.L. 319, Sec. 4.