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International Exhibition. 1876 official catalogue

Machinery hall, annexes, and special buildings

United States Centennial Commission

Philadelphia, 1876

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No. 20. MACHINERY HALL.

Size, 360 by 1402 feet; annex, 208 by 210 feet.

Engineers and Architects, HENRY PETTIT, JOSEPH M. WILSON, *Philadelphia.*

Contractor, PHILIP QUIGLEY, *Wilmington, Del.*

Wrought and cast iron furnished by PUSEY, JONES, & CO., *Wilmington, Del.*

MACHINERY HALL is located west of the intersection of Belmont and Elm avenues, at a distance of 542 feet from the west front of the Main Exhibition Building, and 274 feet from the north side of Elm avenue. The north front of the building is upon the same line as that of the Main Exhibition Building, thus presenting a frontage of 3824 feet from the east to the west ends of the exhibition buildings upon the principle avenue within the grounds.

The principal portion of the structure is one story in height, showing the main cornice upon the outside at 40 feet from the ground, the interior height to the top of the ventilators in the avenues being 70 feet, and in the aisles 40 feet. To break the long lines upon the exterior, projections have been introduced upon the four sides, and the main entrances finished with facades, extending to 78 feet in height. The east entrance forms the principal approach from street-cars, from the Main Exhibition Building, and from the Pennsylvania Railroad depot. Along the south side are the boiler houses and other buildings for special kinds of machinery. The west entrance affords the most direct communication with George's Hill, which point affords the best view of the entire exhibition grounds.

The arrangement of the ground plan shows two main avenues 90 feet wide by 1360 feet long, with a central aisle between, and an aisle on either side. Each aisle is 60 feet in width; the two avenues and three aisles making the total width of 360 feet. At the centre of the building is a transept of 90 feet in width, which at the south end is prolonged beyond the Main Hall. This transept, beginning at 36 feet from the Main Hall and extending 268 feet, is flanked on either side by aisles of 60 feet in width, and forms the annex for hydraulic machines. The promenades in the avenues are 15 feet in width, in the transept 25 feet, and in the aisles 10 feet. All other walks extending across the building are 10 feet in width, and lead at either end to exit doors.

The foundations consist of piers of masonry. The superstructure consists of solid timber columns supporting roof trusses, constructed with straight wooden principals and wrought iron ties and struts. As a general rule, the columns are placed lengthwise of the building, at the uniform distance apart of 16 feet. The columns are 40 feet high to the heel block of the 90 feet span roof trusses over the avenues, and they support the heel of the 60 feet spans over the aisles at the height of 20 feet. The outer walls are built of masonry to a height of five feet, and above that are composed of glazed sash placed between the columns. Portions of the sash are movable

for ventilation. Louvre ventilators are introduced in continuous lengths over both the avenues and the aisles. The building is lit entirely by side light.

The motive power is furnished by a Corliss engine of 1400 horse power. There are eight main lines of shafting, extending almost the entire length of the structure, and countershafts are introduced into the aisles where needed. The hangers are attached at the height of 20 feet from the floor.

The annex for hydraulic machines contains a tank 60 feet by 160 feet, with depth of water of 10 feet. In this hydraulic machinery is exhibited in full operation. At the south end of this tank is a waterfall 35 feet high by 40 feet wide, supplied from the tank by the pumps upon exhibition.

The contract in the erection of Machinery Hall was made January 27th, 1875, and the building was begun forthwith, and finished October 1st, 1875. The cost was \$542,300. The exhibition area covers about 14 acres.

KEY TO THE NOTATION.

THE location of objects in the Machinery Building is shown by a letter and figure, indicating the nearest column of the building. The letters—A, B, C, to F—designate the successive ranges of columns, proceeding northward from the southern wall across the width of the building; the figures, the number of the column in each range, counting westwardly from the eastern wall, the entire length of the building, from 1 to 88. Thus C 5 is the column in the third range from the south, and the fifth from the eastern end of the building. The northwesternmost column is F 88.

The class of the classification (see page 13) to which each exhibit belongs is indicated by the small figures at the end of the line.