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Title: Letter from Montgomery Meigs to Spencer Baird

Date: June 23, 1879

Location: I-Original-1879-1

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Professor Baird Wash DC June 28th 1899

My dear Professor

B
I enclose a study for a Check building
building to contain a College Museum &
Scientific Collection. Offices for Professors
Chemical & Physical Laboratories &
a Library of 20 or 3000 volumes on
the walls. A considerable increase of introduction
of detached book cases in middle of floor-

The museum is in Rear & is 50 x 60 ft
with a central hall 60 ft in height & 40
ft square in plan supported on brick Col-
umns - Larches -

On three sides of this central hall is a gallery
20 feet wide. 20 ft high at its outer wall
27 ft high next the central hall covered by a
lean to Roof of iron I Beams with fire proof
covering & tin outer covering -

The cover of the Roof of Central Hall is made of
cast I iron Beams filled in with brickwork
The ceiling and glass lights in its walls is
of I iron Beams with fire proof covering.

On the South East side of the building is a 2 story
 edifice 20 ft wide. The lower story of 10 ft high
 the upper of 20 ft high. The 2^d floor the roof
 of I in beams - with incombustible ceiling &
 the roof as one all the roof, the ceiling outside
 with time -

All the walls are of brick. The part is paved with
 selected but not pressed bricks. Ceiling is black
 merlans - with bands of black & some
 decoration of glazed colored bricks -
 Ceiling plain brick work -

A light iron gallery at level of 20 ft above floor
 surrounds the inside of the central hall.
 Another light gallery at 11 ft above pavement of
 Hall & museum runs along the wall of the
 front building under the hall & just across
 the Chemical & Physical Laboratories
 without passing through the library.

The Library is 40 x 20 x 20 ft in volume
 dimensions. It is covered by a double stair-
 case of brick from the vestibule of entrance
 the 8 ft gate in the rear of the museum ad-
 mits - except for all large exhibits to come

In addition, some doors-

The windows of museum are off above having
and so that (long cases of exhibits can be placed
against the walls, under the windows as well as at
any other part of their walls -

The pavement of the museum by the Scientific
building is of asphalt or of Brick or tile
and in cement mortar -

The whole interior except the columns is
tiled with 2 cent cement brown
rough mortar with about many in color
in distress or lime wash color to suit the
taste of owners. A band where the exhibits
placed a lining against the walls

The columns $2 \frac{43}{100}$ ft at top $2 \frac{86}{100}$ ft at
bottom in diameter are of carefully selected
hardwood and in cement mortar resting on a joint
at base $1 \frac{1}{2}$ ft of altitude one course of Brick has
been above & below it in mortar of ^{cement} ~~lime~~
sand a cement keystone. The two courses
begin at right angles to each other as found in
present situation of the shaft -

The safe load of each of these columns is

because the actual load is very much less than this -

The shafts are plastered smooth & the keeles outline or gutters & also dry then plaster is covered with muddled paper & varnished. The top of the column is of brick plastered - the base is a cast iron base filled with concrete of brick & cement - as plaster work would be chipped & defaced in this situation.

The building is supposed to be plain theophanes to be of good material one cast of cement & the used with very 2 casting time in making the water theophant - To be certainly the most -

No estimate of work to be allowed to the work to be done by contract labor full estimated tenders to a price of 15000 - In this way it can be built for 15000 - The cases for exhibits the history of the building to be not included in this estimate -

There are 6 offices 2 large barometers the library the museum - what is all that I understand to be from other works

pm

The drawings show that the walls are hollow
 The inner face with wall being separated
 by the masonry of the wall & there filled with
 air or non-conductors of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches with
 occasional slender tie bolts two per foot of
 the wall length - The blaster of the canal
 on the back with a slight protrusion
 about cause the destruction of most burned
 building -

All the window & door frames are of wood
 2 inch thick - The end double glazed
 to keep out heat & cold -

Aluminum & a chimney stack are the products
 of on the structure for heating of low pressure
 steam also flues in the office to
 carbonaceous to carry off fumes of charcoal
 & other furnace fires -

When details I have not laid down
 in the drawings -

W. C. ...

23 June 1879