

MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL

Monday, January 8, 1872

OUR FINEST PUBLIC BUILDING

## Description of the Market Street School House

## A Model.

This schoolhouse is situated on the north-west corner of Third and Market Streets, the lot being 145.8 square; the building is 71X96 feet, three stories high, built of brick, with stone sills and string courses. The exterior is finished in a bold and simple style, at once in harmony with the purpose of the structure. The cornice is supported by brackets of massive proportions and the treatment of the capping of the third story windows, the perforation of the cornice frieze, and the breaks and pediments of the cornice, under the architectural effect of the structure, are exceedingly effective. The principal front is on Market street. The commanding front entrance, with the large central window of the second and third stories, give great character to the edifice. Indeed, we must say, the great end to be desired in the erection of every building has been strikingly exhibited. The design at once speaks it a schoolhouse and nothing else, and while it is evident that no money has been squandered on decorations and architectural display, still it is admitted on every hand that the Market street schoolhouse is by no means an unimportant contribution to the architectural embellishment of our city, and a structure of which every citizen can be proud.

Teachers and visitors will enter the building by the front entrance; the girls by the east gate; the boys by the west gate. From these gates a broad brick pavement leads to a double flight of stone steps which communicates with the side entrances. The area of playground is ample and well arranged, and the lot is so graded that it will ever be dry and solid under the hundreds of little feet that will make the most of the play intervals of study.

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The interior is divided into twelve schoolrooms--four to each story--separated by wide and spacious halls. Connected with each school-room there is a wardrobe room. The school-rooms are completely separated from each other by spacious halls or passageways. The stairs are located at the ends of the main hall; on the platform of the main stair-case, between the first and second stories is located the principal's room, and on the platform between the second and third stories is the library; below the principal's room on the first floor is the male teachers' wash-room, above the library is located the female teachers' wash-room. Such is the general arrangement of the interior. Each school-room is 26x33 feet; 14 feet high, with two entrances--one for visitors, opening direct on the main hall and the other into the wardrobe room being the entrance for the scholars. The room is lighted by five windows on two sides; on the remaining two sides are the blackboards. The walls are wainscoted with yellow pine varnished boards, alternating wide and narrow. The teacher's platform is 6x8 feet, raised so that the teacher will command a full view of the scholars at their desks. The windows are lofty and carried near the ceiling, for the purpose of ventilation. The ventilation, however, is not dependent upon this system of securing fresh air, or passing off of the foul atmosphere. Over the adjoining wardrobe rooms there is an air-chamber, 26x5x5, communicating with the schoolroom by two openings 3x5 feet, furnished with Venetian blinds, rolling slats, which can be opened and shut at pleasure. This air-chamber is connected with the large ventilators on the summit of the roof by an air-shaft with a separate shaft, to each school-room. At the top of the air-shafts are trap-doors, which can be thrown open in summer, so as to draw a rapid current of air through the schoolroom, or, during the winter can be closed so that only the impure air is drawn off. There is also in the rear of the teacher's desk, a cold air-flue, controlled by a valve register, to furnish the teacher with a full supply of fresh cool air during warm and oppressive days. It will thus be seen that not only has provision been made to secure ventilation as a matter of health but also on the score of comfort.

The wardrobe rooms attached to each school-room are 6x21 feet, 9 feet high, connecting on one side by a door with the school-room, and on the other with the cross hall

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On one side there are sixty pigeon-holes for the scholars hats, lunch-baskets, etc. Each one is numbered so that the scholars can at once find the one appropriated to them. On the other side is an umbrella-rack, with water trough at the bottom five feet long to receive the drip of umbrellas on rainy days. Adjoining the umbrella-rack is a basin with an ample supply of water from a tank in the roof.

At the end of the wardrobe-room is the teacher's private apartment 5x6 feet.

The two schoolrooms on the third floor fronting on Market street have double sliding doors, made to run back into the wall so that the two school rooms and intervening hall can be thrown together, making an apartment 33x66 feet.

The principal's room is so arranged that while in his seat he can command a full view of the stairs, the first and second story halls, and the rear portion of the playground. Each schoolroom has a speaking tube communicating with the principal's room.

The washrooms for male and female teachers are provided with all requisite conveniences, and a full supply of water.

The furnace and coal room is arched over with brick to render it perfectly fireproof. There will be four large first-class hot air furnaces connected by hot air pipes with each of the school rooms. The staircases are skillfully arranged to guard against accidents. At no place can a scholar fall more than seven steps, platforms being introduced so that the ascent is easy and safe. We were struck by the pervading neatness of the finish of the interior. No money has been expended in ornament or useless work, and yet the tone of the interior finish is elevating and in good taste, calculated to have a beneficial influence upon the minds of the scholars.

Such are the leading features of Memphis first regular schoolhouse. Its completion will be hailed with delight by one and all. On every hand we hear the praises of the school board for this step in the right direction.

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The whole school board with their popular and cultivated chairman deserve the gratitude of fathers, mothers and citizens generally for their determination to advance the cause and raise the standard of education in our midst. The commissioner from the First ward has secured the "well done" of all in North Memphis for his unremitting labors in their behalf, and the building committee--Dr. C. Fenner, N. J. Wiggin and Dr. Bateman--have crowned themselves with lasting honor in so ably carrying out the trust committed to their hands. There is possibly no one in Memphis so keenly alive to the value of a high standard in the educational interests involved in the public schools of Memphis as Dr. Fenner. But few know the time and labor bestowed by him with the architects in maturing the best possible plan that should embody comfort convenience and good taste, on the one hand, and on the other, produce a building that should meet every demand of the teacher and scholar. He has done his work faithfully ably assisted by his active and untiring associate, Mr. Wiggin, and now he has the proud satisfaction that his labors have received the unanimous approval and thanks of every one by the uniform assertion that Memphis has one of the best schoolhouses, as to plan, apartments and fitness and yet the cheapest building for the money expended, ever erected in our city.

The building was planned and erected under the supervision of Messrs. Jones & Baldwin, architects. The contract was entered into May 13, 1871, with Messrs. Juniper and Wylie, contractors, who have faithfully complied with their agreement. The subcontractors are as follows:

O. H. P. Piper & Co., bricklayers.  
 Mr. Campbell, plasterer.  
 Phil. Mallon & Co., plumbers.  
 Mr. Atkinson, painter  
 J. L. Eichburg, tinner and heating furnace worker.

The total cost of the building, with the grading of lot pavements, etc., is \$45,000. It will accommodate from eight hundred and fifty to one thousand scholars.