



A GUIDE TO  
COLLECTIONS

INDUSTRIAL AND  
COMMERCIAL

A R C H I T E C T U R E



INDUSTRIAL AND  
COMMERCIAL

HAGLEY MUSEUM  
AND LIBRARY



*Philadelphia Saving Fund  
Society (center) and Reading  
Terminal (right), 1931*



## INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE AT THE HAGLEY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

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The revolutions in mass production and mass consumption of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries transformed the material world of modern America. The industrial and commercial buildings of that era expressed, in architectural form, the new images of progress and efficiency that characterized Victorian America and then the Machine Age and modernism. The research collections of the Hagley Museum and Library on business and technology are a rich resource for the study of the iconography and the built environment of modern commercial and industrial America. We invite the attention of architectural historians to our collections, and to the grants available to assist visiting scholars.

Hagley's collections contain significant documentation on many of the commercial and industrial structures that defined modern America, such as the skyscraper, the industrial plant, the department store, the office building, the railroad station, and the airport. Many major industrial sites are described in our collections, as well as some of the best-known buildings in America, including the Empire State building, Penn Station, the Pentagon, and the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society (PSFS) building.

The focus of the collection is on American topics, but there are also significant materials that permit comparison with European practice.

**BUILDING TYPES REPRESENTED  
IN THE COLLECTION INCLUDE:**

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*Allen Chair Co.,  
ca. 1900*

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aircraft factories               | Leather tanneries         |
| Apartment houses                 | Nylon factories           |
| Automobile factories             | Office buildings          |
| Banks                            | Oil refineries            |
| Bridges                          | Paper mills               |
| Chemical plants                  | Power plants              |
| Coal and ore processing plants   | Prefabricated housing     |
| Coke ovens                       | Railroad shops            |
| Company stores                   | Railroad stations         |
| Company towns                    | Rayon plants              |
| Defense plants                   | Retail stores             |
| Electrical factories             | Rubber and tire factories |
| Explosives factories             | Shipyards                 |
| Exposition buildings             | Skyscrapers               |
| Gasoline service stations        | Steel mills               |
| Grain elevators                  | Textile mills             |
| Hotels                           | Warehouses                |
| Hydroelectric dams               | Water works               |
| Industrial research laboratories | Worker housing            |
|                                  | World's Fairs             |



*Empire State  
Building, 1949*



## PRINTED MATERIALS

The imprints collection of approximately 200,000 volumes includes a wide range of material pertinent to the study of commercial and industrial architecture. Publications describe the planning and building of industrial and commercial structures and how they operated on a daily basis. There is considerable information on building materials, furniture, building systems, and design.

Of particular note are two microfilmed collections of rare insurance drawings totaling more than 3,600 images, primarily from the 1840s to the 1930s. These collections include both site plans and axonometrics with notes. The E. Hexamer & Company plates primarily cover the Philadelphia region. The Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies group of images is national in scope and has documentation on textile, aircraft, paper, automobile, tobacco, electrical equipment, and other factories.

Hagley possesses one of the nation's finest collections of trade catalogs, including ones that describe the full range of building types from industrial to domestic, and from component parts to prefabricated structures. The trade catalogs also contain specific information on mechanical equipment, hardware, furnishings, office equipment, and building materials. For a general guide to Hagley's trade catalogs, consult Nina de Angeli Walls, *Trade Catalogs in the Hagley Museum and Library* (1987).

Hagley has a distinguished collection of World's Fairs and exposition publications and ephemera. These include catalogs, guide books, pictorial volumes, pamphlets issued by exhibitors, and materials on the physical structures that housed exhibitions. Beginning with the London Crystal Palace of 1851, all the leading international expositions in Europe and North America are represented, along with numerous lesser ones. These collections are important sources of information on architectural history, including

the exhibits and buildings of major corporations (often created by leading designers such as Raymond Loewy, Walter Dorwin Teague, and Norman Bel Geddes), and the expositions' ties to urban planning.

Hagley also has an extensive set of trade journals, ranging from the general to the specialized. They contain information on building types, building materials, design, fireproofing, refrigeration, and lighting and heating systems. Several journals directed towards builders and contractors are especially useful.

Hagley's extensive collection of specialized technical encyclopedias and period textbooks describe standard practices in building and construction. Regional histories, atlases, city directories, industrial directories, and monographs on individual building types can supplement research on industrial and commercial structures.

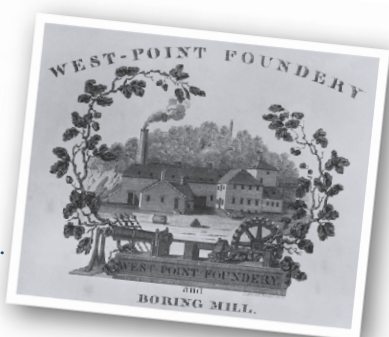
Imprints holds many publications issued by individual firms. They include firm histories, annual reports, company magazines, and promotional brochures, generally with illustrated views of industrial plants and offices.

The imprints collection also contains many published materials that discuss specific features of industrial and commercial architecture. Among the subjects covered are:

- ◆ Building materials (asbestos, concrete, terra cotta, etc.)
- ◆ Building systems (including electricity and plumbing)

*West Point Foundry  
and Boring Mill*

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- ◆ Civil, mechanical, electrical, and nuclear engineering
- ◆ Factory design and management
- ◆ Fire prevention
- ◆ Industrial archeology
- ◆ Interior design and office planning
- ◆ Materials handling
- ◆ Store fronts and window displays
- ◆ Studies of individual builders, architects, and designers



## ARCHIVAL AND PICTORIAL MATERIALS

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Hagley holds the country's finest collection of business records and corporate archives (25,000 linear feet). Many of these organizations built significant structures, employed prominent architects and engineers, and sponsored innovations in building materials and construction practices.

Included in Hagley's holdings are some original materials relating to the work of architects such as Daniel Burnham, Frank Furness, Cass Gilbert, Vincent G. Kling, William Lescaze, Kenneth M. Murchison, Edward Durrell Stone, and Lester Tichy of Raymond Loewy Associates. The work of architectural firms Graham, Anderson, Anderson, Probst & White, and Howe & Lescaze also are represented, along with the archive of Victorine and Samuel Homsey, Inc., one of the first husband and wife architectural practices in the U.S.

The business records at Hagley generally have correspondence and other written materials on design and construction of industrial and commercial facilities. Many of the collections include building and site plans, and the PSFS and Phoenix Bridge Company records contain full drawing sets. Some original furnishings for the PSFS building, designed by William Lescaze are at Hagley. Some collections also contain material promoting construction-related products such as steel, concrete, and plastics.



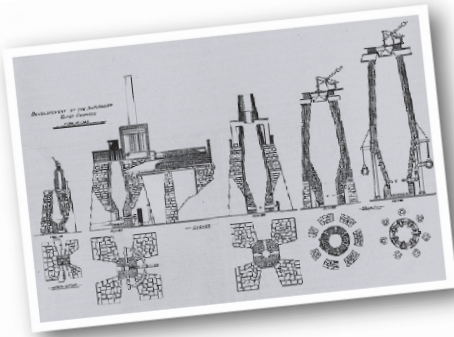
Hagley's holdings include the archives of the following major corporations and trade associations:

- ◆ American Iron and Steel Institute
- ◆ Bethlehem Steel Corporation
- ◆ Chamber of Commerce of the United States
- ◆ E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. (explosives, nylon, rayon, plastics)
- ◆ Joseph Bancroft & Sons Company (textiles)
- ◆ J. E. Rhoads & Sons, Inc. (leather tanneries)
- ◆ Lukens Steel Company
- ◆ MCI Communications Corporation, Inc.
- ◆ Maryland Steel Company
- ◆ Pennsylvania Power & Light Company
- ◆ Pennsylvania Railroad Company
- ◆ Philadelphia Saving Fund Society (PSFS)
- ◆ Phoenix Bridge Company
- ◆ Radio Corporation of America (Camden, New Jersey plant)
- ◆ Remington Rand (office interiors)
- ◆ Seagram Company Ltd.
- ◆ Society for the Plastics Industry
- ◆ Sperry Corporation (computers, defense)
- ◆ Strawbridge & Clothier (retail stores)
- ◆ Sun Oil Company (oil refining, service stations)
- ◆ Westinghouse Electric Corporation (Power Generation Divisions)
- ◆ Westmoreland Coal Company

*Philadelphia  
Saving Fund  
Society, ca. 1932*

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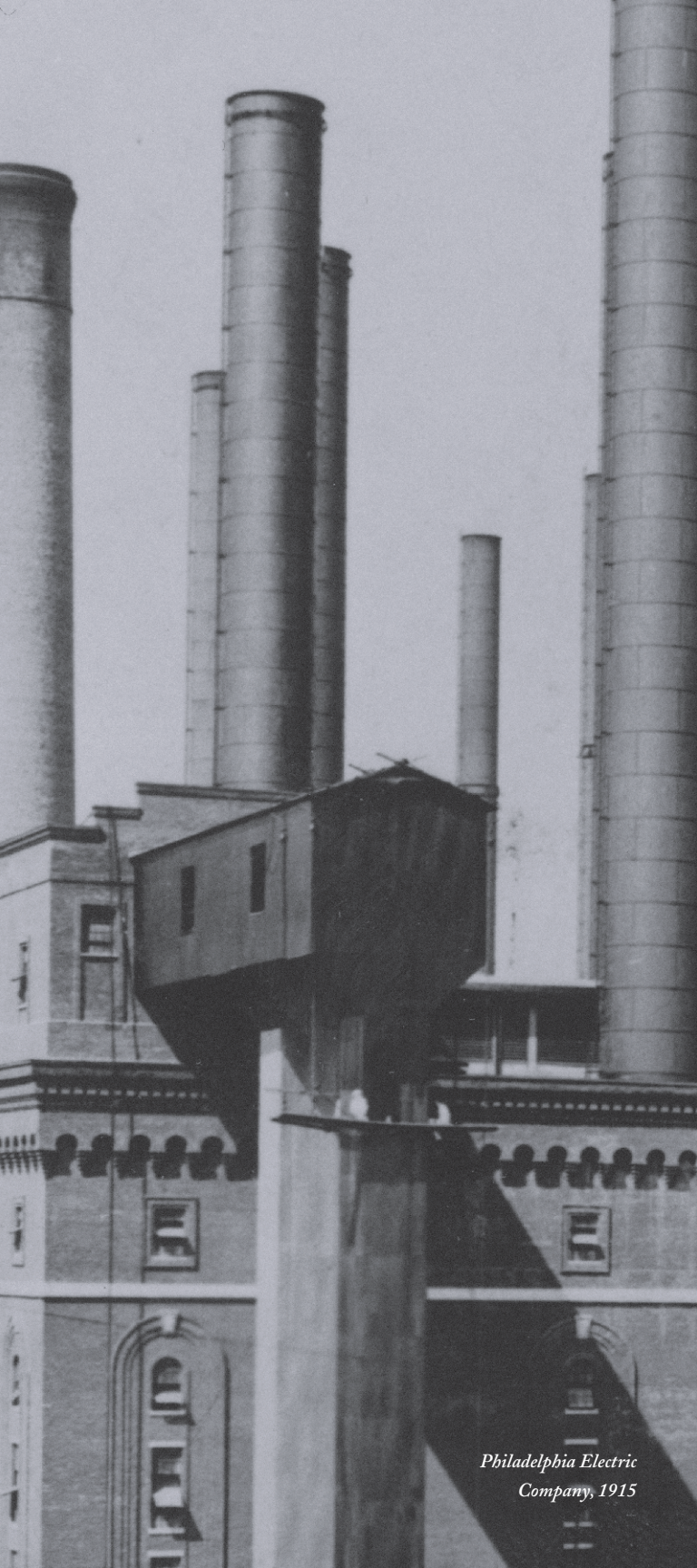


*Anthracite  
Blast Furnace*

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Many of the photographs in Hagley's extensive pictorial collection provide an especially rich source on commercial and industrial architecture. Firms routinely took pictures to document the engineering, design, and construction of buildings, and then photographed interiors, production processes, and employees in the work place. Among Hagley's major holdings are more than 100,000 photographs from the Sperry Corporation, 70,000 photographs documenting the iron and steel industry, 60,000 views of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Power Generation Divisions plant, and more than 20,000 images from the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Reading Railroad. The 5,000 photographs from the PSFS archive show many of its bank buildings, including the construction of its Philadelphia headquarters and views of the interior. Other commercial structures documented in Hagley's photographic collections range from gas stations to convenience stores. In addition to material from corporate archives, the Dallin Aerial Survey contains 15,000 aerial views of the Delaware Valley and adjacent areas, taken between 1925 and 1940.

Hagley also holds the papers of individual entrepreneurs, managers, and engineers. Some of these collections contain information on plant and building design. The records of general contractor John McShain are a particularly rich source. His extensive work included the Jefferson Memorial, the Pentagon, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and National Airport in Washington, D.C., as well as many churches, schools, and office buildings.



*Philadelphia Electric  
Company, 1915*



## GENERAL INFORMATION

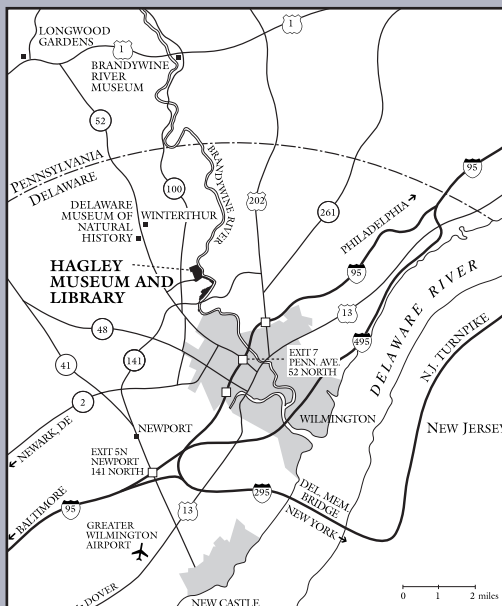
The Hagley Museum and Library is a nonprofit educational institution dedicated to the preservation and understanding of America's economic and technological heritage. Hagley is a member of the Independent Research Libraries Association. Its research collections are described on the Research Libraries' Information Network (RLIN).

The library is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except major national holidays) as well as the second Saturday of each month. First-time users will need to bring identification and register at the front desk.

Researchers interested in using the collections should contact Hagley's Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society regarding travel grants for visiting scholars. Some housing is available on the property. The Center also organizes periodic conferences, research seminars, and other programs.

For more information call (302) 658-2400 or visit our website, [www.hagley.org](http://www.hagley.org).

**Hagley Museum and Library**  
P.O. Box 3630 • Wilmington, Delaware • 19807-0630.



*Cover images:  
Blast Furnace,  
1921 (top) and  
Au Bon Marche,  
1927 (bottom)*

**Library directions from the intersection of Routes 100 and 141:**  
*Do not follow signs to Hagley Museum; instead take Route 100 north to the first traffic signal (Buck Road East) and turn right, pass through the stone gates at the bend in the road and follow the signs to the Library and Soda House. Visitor parking is provided in front of the Library.*