

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 177: 1922 (THE BRICK MANUFACTURERS' REPORT/ FIRE RESISTANCE OF BRICK WALLS)

By Richard Schulte

Included in the Report of the Common Brick Manufacturers' Association presented at the twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association held in 1922 were references to fire tests on brick walls. The following is the transcript of the Report:

Mr. D. Knickerbacker Boyd: Mr. Stoddard of our member the Common Brick Manufacturers' Association, had expected to be here and present a report, but could not come. As consulting architect of that organization, I would like to report briefly that the industry has been co-operating with the Bureau of Standards in fire tests on walls, in Washington, and with the Bureau of Standards in strength tests of walls, both under compression and transverse tests, in Pittsburgh. The industry has felt that notwithstanding the use of brick for thousands of years, too little information has been available as to the performance of brick work, and therefore in addition to conducting tests on brick as a material, they have been collaborating in conducting tests on the strength of brick walls. The industry also conducted an elaborate series of investigations with respect to the requirements for brick walls in buildings, and made that available to the Department of Commerce Building Committee. I would like to conclude by saying that the industry feels that it has done everything that it can to promote sound, fire-safe construction on an economical basis, and (quoting from its own document) it says, "This Association has always advocated the acquiring of the fullest data regarding the strength of brick work and the elimination of all unnecessary material in construction work."

[Text Omitted]

Mr. Boyd: I neglected to mention that the investigations in regard to brick work include tests for strength and fire on a newly developed hollow brick wall. This means the use of less material of the industry which advocates it, and I think it shows a high degree of unselfishness.

It should be noted that the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) was involved in fire resistance testing in the early 1920's. The Bureau of Standards was working on determining the fire resistance rating of basic materials and forms of construction, such as the fire resistance ratings of brick walls.

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Source: *“Proceedings of the Twenty-sixth Annual [NFPA] Meeting”*, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1922.