

FLAMES WRECKED NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Walls Left of Handsome Building Erected at Woodbury Only a Short Time Ago

Believed Blaze Originated in Boiler Room by Joists Taking Fire. Pride of County Seat

Special to The Inquirer.

WOODBURY, N. J., Dec. 19.—The William Milligan High School, a practically new institution that has been occupied just about a year, and cost, including the lot, about \$388,000, was burned early this morning, and the building, with all its handsome furnishings, is a wreck. Only the walls are standing, and it will be necessary to tear the greater portion of these down to rebuild, which will be done at once. There is an insurance of about \$50,000 on the buildings and furnishings.

From what can be ascertained the fire originated over the boiler in the engine room, which was on the extreme northwest end of the basement. The first floor joists were in close contact with the chimney, and it is supposed, according to Fire Chief A. W. Cattell, that sparks got on the wood work. It is also believed that the fire had been burning for about three hours, as when the firemen attempted to go in the front doors, the smoke was so thick that they were driven back.

Discovered Flames

Charles M. Garrett, who lives on New street, at the rear of the school house, was awakened by his wife. He saw a bright light in the engine room and knew there was a fire. He telephoned an alarm and firemen responded. Another alarm was sounded, and lines of hose were attached, but the pressure was so light that the stream would not reach far above the second story. Fire Chief Cattell telephoned to Camden, and ten minutes later Fire Chief Elfreth had an engine and Company No. 2 at the Camden terminal. In the meantime several firemen from Gloucester came, but there was little to do, except watch the fire. Several firemen attempted to go inside the building, and Foreman Edward Martin was injured by falling material, and Charles Graham, a Gloucester fireman, was knocked down by exploding chemicals in the laboratory.

A. A. Allard, the engineer, left the building last night about 5 o'clock, and is sure there was no smoke in the building at that time.

The school had sixteen rooms, including two recreation and a large assembly

room, with a chemical laboratory, and two gymnasiums. In the commercial room were ten new typewriters, and new and up-to-date desks. These were all purchased at the beginning of the school year. In the basement was a new manual training outfit, which arrived only last week, but not unpacked, and some of this will probably be saved.

Woodbury has over a hundred out of town pupils who come here, and when they arrived this morning, all jubilant over the approaching holidays, some of the girls cried.

The Board of Education held a meeting this afternoon and decided to open the four upper rooms in the academy, rent three more in Green's Block, two in the old Friends' School, and it is possible that the old Starr homestead on Broad street will be used.

Prisoners in a Panic

During the fire the prisoners in the county jail, which is within a hundred yards of the school, were thrown into a panic. They were all locked in their cells.

The men, who were under Fire Chief Elfreth, of Camden, and those who did good work in connection with the local firemen, were George Weight, Harvey Watson, William Elverson, Harry Hawkins, William Ladd, Chappis Lennox, Joseph Johnson, Josiah Savage, Augustus Dold and Arthur Wingate. The Gloucester firemen aided in every way possible.