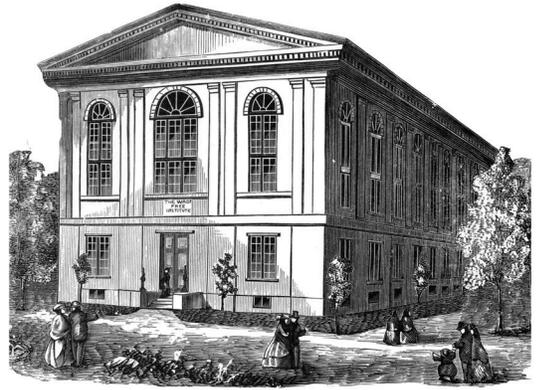


THE WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE OF PHILADELPHIA.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS IN OUR BUILDING



The Wagner Free Institute History Scavenger Hunt

Follow the questions through the building to learn about the history of the Wagner and its building.

Answer questions 1 and 2 using information found on the plaques in the entryway.

1. William Wagner had a vision for the Institute's new home and hired this architect, who later designed Philadelphia's City Hall, to draw the design in 1859. John McArthur, Jr. (AIA plaque)
He designed a free-standing classical revival building on the highest point between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. The building is set back from the street to ensure uninterrupted light for the exhibition hall.
2. The new building was inaugurated on May 11, 1865. What year was the building designated a National Historic Landmark? 1990 (NHL plaque)

Answer questions 3 and 4 using information found in the main hallway.

3. Before officially incorporating the Wagner Free Institute of Science on March 9, 1855, William Wagner offered free lectures in a 'cabinet' he built on the grounds of his country estate Elm Grove.
The Institute's first home, from 1855-1859, was Spring Garden Commissioner's Hall (History panel)
4. When this building opened in 1865, the area was still quite rural. However, the hustle and bustle of the city was quickly making its way north. One of the earliest professional baseball fields was just south east of the building. You can see the Wagner in the background of a game being played on October 30, 1865 between these two teams Philadelphia 'Athletics' and Brooklyn 'Atlantics' (Baseball print)

Answer questions 5 and 6 in the lecture hall. Walk to the left and go to the back of the lecture hall.

(Please complete these questions when a lesson is not in session.)

5. The Lecture Hall, modeled after the one in James Renwick's recently opened Smithsonian Institute, originally had narrow wooden benches. In 1895, the benches were replaced by the folding wood and iron seats you see today. What were the wire racks under the seat used for? Hat storage
(Hint: There are 2 black ones set on top of the cabinet to the right of the lecture table.)
6. William Wagner, whose portrait hangs to the right of the large projection screen in the lecture hall, lectured in Geology and Mineralogy in 1865. He believed in supplementing lectures with specimens and images to better engage the students. He encouraged all his professors to use lantern slides to illustrate their lectures. The Wagner's current lantern slide projector, from 1914, was manufactured by Bausch & Lomb

Now head up to the museum.

~OVER~

