

ALL AGREEMENTS CONTINGENT UPON STRIKES, ACCIDENTS AND OTHER CONDITIONS BEYOND OUR CONTROL.
QUOTATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

File
Wm. J. Wilson
A. O. WILSON STRUCTURAL CO.
INCORPORATED
**STRUCTURAL STEEL
ORNAMENTAL IRON**
CONCORD AVE. & SMITH PLACE
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

April 23, 1942

Mr. Warren MacDonald
Department of Building Inspection
Portland, Maine

RE: Qualification of Welder for Woolworth Store.

Dear Sir:

We have had welding specimens made and tested at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as per our letter of April 14th and your reply of April 17th. We are enclosing a copy of the report of the test made by Dr. Murray of the Institute. Dr. Murray thought the welds good in appearance, but he thought it best, and we agree, that we have the Building Inspector look at the samples and see for himself, so we are sending up separately the two specimens made.

Specimen #1 was made by Samuel Greenspoon and Specimen #2 by John O'Sullivan.

We trust that these will meet your requirements of qualification, and if the appearance is satisfactory, would you kindly send us as soon as possible a letter approving the welders so we may complete our file.

Very truly yours,

A. O. WILSON STRUCTURAL CO.

By *A. O. Wilson, Jr.*

ACW JR:A
Enc.

TELEPHONES
OFFICE: KIRKLAND 6900
RESIDENCE: KIRKLAND 2709

W. M. MURRAY

ROOM 1-321

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
U. S. A.

REPORT OF WELD TESTS

FOR

A. O. WILSON STRUCTURAL CO.

40 Smith Place,
Attention: Mr. A. O. Wilson, Jr.

Cambridge, Mass.
April 22, 1942

Material Tested: Welded steel (specimens
similar to those used for
City of Boston qualification tests)

Date of Tests: April 21, 1942

Specimen No.	Maximum Load (lbs.)
1	147,300
2	123,600

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. Murray
W. M. Murray

✓ Inspec Copy Woolworth
Permit

none

April 17, 1942

A. O. Wilson Structural Co.,
Concord Ave. & Smith Place,
Cambridge, Mass.

Subject: Qualification of Welders for
Woolworth Store.

Gentlemen:

Your letter of April, 14th.

Our Building Code (Section 310-e) provides that welders working on joints in which are involved rationally determined tension, compression or shear, whether in field or shop, shall furnish certification as to their experience as welders together with records of tests of specimen welds by an authoritative testing agency; and that types of test specimens and methods of tests shall be in accordance with Part II of Tentative Standard Qualification Procedure of the American Welding Society.

Certainly Massachusetts Institute of Technology is acceptable as an authoritative testing agency, and I should like to have with their report their opinion of the results of the tests.

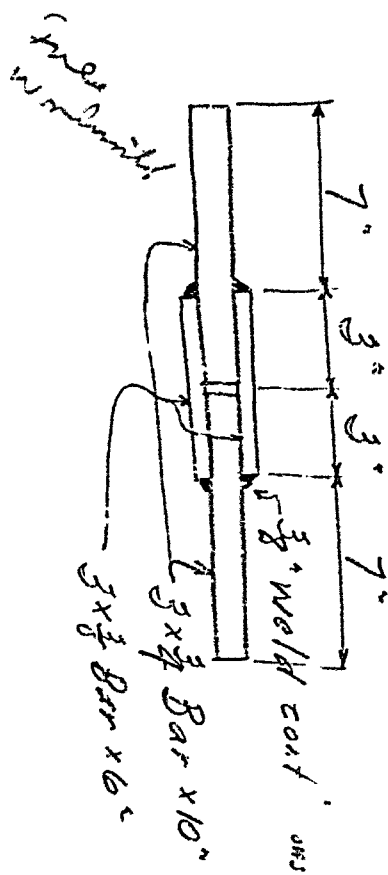
No doubt the M.I.T. people are thoroughly familiar with the provisions of the standard procedure of the American Welding Society and would follow it anyway. If all of your welds are in a flat position we will not require tests for any other position.

Very truly yours,

CC Cleverdon, Varney & Pike

V. M. ...
Inspector of Buildings.

4/14/42



A.O. Pruden, Structural Co.

ALL AGREEMENTS CONTINGENT UPON STRAIGHT ACCIDENTS AND OTHER CONDITIONS BEYOND OUR CONTROL
QUOTATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

A. O. WILSON STRUCTURAL CO.
INCORPORATED

**STRUCTURAL STEEL
ORNAMENTAL IRON**

CONCORD AVE. & SMITH PLACE
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

April 14, 1942

Mr. Warren McDonald
Dept. of Building Inspection
Portland, Maine

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of a copy of a letter from you to Cleverdon, Varney & Pike regarding inspection of welders working on the roof trusses for the Woolworth store.

Our welders are all well trained in structural welding, and we would be glad to comply with any test you think correct. Our standard test is that used by the City of Boston. We have the welder make a test piece as shown on the enclosed sketch and this test is pulled until it breaks at the laboratories at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The test should sustain about 100,000 lbs before breaking and should break clean.

We will use two welders on the trusses and all shop welding will be made in a flat position. If this test is satisfactory to you, we will have two test pieces made and pulled, and have a copy of the laboratory test sent to you. If you would further like to see the test samples, we would send those to you.

Kindly reply by return mail so that we can satisfy you as quickly as possible.

Very truly yours,

A. O. WILSON STRUCTURAL CO.

By *A. O. Wilson Jr.*

Enc.

ACW:JP:A

42/138-I

April 2, 1942

Cleveland, Vermay & Pike
46 Cornhill,
Boston, Mass.

Subject: Request for waiving requirement
for certification of welders on the roof
trusses for proposed Woolworth store.

Gentlemen:

I am without authority to waive this requirement for certification.

I am sure the structural steel company which is to fabricate the roof trusses, or roof truss joists, will find that they can comply with this requirement.

As a matter of fact the suggestion in your letter that there is a large turnover in welders, leads me to believe that this is just the time when extra care should be taken. There is quite a sentiment in these days that most anything should be allowed to go "on account of the war situation," and while I am not inclined to be reactionary, I do hold the belief that those of us intrusted with the safety of buildings ought to be very careful how we cut loose from all of our moorings.

It seems obvious to me that the steel fabricating company must certainly can find time to have tests and specimens made by each welder working on these trusses. If they wish to go ahead and have the trusses welded before the certification is secured from a competent testing outfit, that would be their privilege. If they are not willing to go ahead on that basis naturally there is some question about the quality of the welding. Of course, with this shop holding I am willing to take the word of the steel company of your organization that the men who were certified actually did the welding upon these Woolworth trusses. That seems as far as I can go.

We have a statement of design covering the general design of the building, but your attention is also called to the following statement in the Building Code (Section 510-c-1) "The person, firm or corporation performing such design (the design of welding of structural steel) shall furnish a statement of design signed by the individual who has been responsibly in charge of such design or checking of it." If the general statement of design does not cover the design of the welded joints of these trusses, will you be kind enough to see to it that we do get a statement of design from the individual who has either designed the original joints or has thoroughly checked them, and the statement of design should bear upon it some indication of the licensing or capability of the individual who signed it?

Very truly yours,

Inspector of Buildings

W/HCD/W

Copy for Brown Construction Co.
Copy for Mr. L. Mowll, Jr.

4228

CLEVERDON, VARNEY AND PIKE
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
46 CORNHILL
BOSTON

HERBERT S. CLEVERDON
EDWARD A. VARNEY
WALDO F. PIKE

CHARLES E. GREENE
MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

March 25, 1942.

Mr. Warren McDonald
Inspector of Buildings
Room 21, City Hall
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. McDonald:

The structural steel company, now beginning to fabricate the roof truss joists for the proposed Woolworth Store Building, reports that they are unable to employ any certified welders.

You may recall that you wrote to the Woolworth Company, and called to their attention that certification of welders would have to be filed with reference to the fabrication of these roof trusses.

We have checked into the present conditions in this complete area and find that practically none of the structural companies have been able to keep any certified welders, since every one of them leaves and gets himself a job in the shipyards, etc.

The structural steel company is willing to give you a letter stating that every roof truss joist fabricated for this job will be checked and tested by them. In view of the stringent war conditions, will it be possible for you to waive the ruling in the Building Code and accept a letter such as mentioned?

We will appreciate your advice in this matter.

Very truly yours,

CLEVERDON, VARNEY AND PIKE.

BY: *Edward A. Varney*

EAV:h

RECEIVED

MAR 26 1942

DEPT. OF FIRE & U.S.
CITY OF PORTLAND

CLEVERDON, VARNEY AND PIKE
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
46 CORNHILL
BOSTON

HERBERT S. CLEVERDON
EDWARD A. VARNEY
WALDO F. PIKE

CHARLES E. GREENE
MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

April 1, 1942

Mr. Warren McDonald
Inspector of Buildings
Room 21, City Hall
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. McDonald:

We wrote you on March 25th relative to the
matter of welding of bar joist trusses for the roof con-
struction of the proposed F. W. Woolworth Store Building.

The fabricator is now at a point where he wants
to proceed with his shop welding.

May we have a reply from you as soon as possible?

Yours very truly,

CLEVERDON, VARNEY AND PIKE

BY: *Edward A. Varney*

EDWARD A. VARNEY

EAV:B

Sept. 11441-1

February 23, 1942

Brown Construction Co.,
562 Congress Street,
Portland, Maine

Subject: Building permit for
erection of certain attached build-
ings and construction of new building
for F. W. Woolworth Co. at 540-544
Congress St. and 39 Free Street

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is the building permit covering general construction
as above, this permit for general construction being issued at the
request of the Construction Department of F. W. Woolworth Company
before plans and specification have received a detailed check in this
office, and subject, of course, to full compliance with the Building
Code as it appears to apply after the check has been made.

Very truly yours,

Inspector of Buildings

WJH/H

CC: J. Henry Hines Est.
157 High Street

F. W. Woolworth Co.
120 Tremont Street
Boston, Mass.
Arch. Dept.



APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Class of Building or Type of Structure Second Class

Permit No. 914

Portland, Maine, February 10, 1912

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, PORTLAND, ME.

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to ~~work~~ alter ~~in~~ the following building ~~and~~ ~~the~~ equipment in accordance with the Laws of the State of Maine, the Building Code of the City of Portland, plans and specifications, if any, submitted herewith and the following specifications:

Location 512-544 Congress Street Within Fire Limits? Yes Dist. No. 1
Owner's or Lessee's name and address J. Henry Rines Estate, 157 High Street, Portland, Me. Telephone 5140
Lessee F. W. Woolworth Co., 120 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
Contractor's name and address Brown Construction Co., 542 Congress St. Telephone 2-3993
Architect F. W. Woolworth Co. Cleverdon, Varnum & Pike, 723, 16 Cornhill, Boston, Mass. Plans filed yes No. of sheets 5
Proposed use of building Store No. families
Other buildings on same lot
Estimated cost \$ 200,000. Fee \$ 150.00

Description of Present Building to be Altered

Material brick No. stories 4-1 Heat Style of roof Roofing
Last use Stores, offices and apartments No. families

General Description of New Work

To demolish two four story buildings on Congress Street with one story additions on Free Street and
To demolish two and a half story brick lodging house with detached garage at 95 Free Street
To build in this location a two story brick building with one story portion on Free Street
app. 32' x 170' - all as per plans submitted
To be equipped later to cover wet pipe sprinkler system for entire building

It is understood that this permit does not include installation of heating apparatus which is to be taken out separately by and in the name of the heating contractor.

Details of New Work

Is any plumbing work involved in this work? yes
Is any electrical work involved in this work? yes Height average grade to top of plate
Size, front depth No. stories Height average grade to highest point of roof
To be erected on solid or filled land? earth or rock?
Material of foundation Thickness, top bottom cellar
Material of underpinning Height Thickness
Kind of roof Rise per foot Roof covering tar and gravel only
No. of chim. 1 Material of chimneys brick of lining tile
Kind of heat steam Type of fuel coal Is gas fitting involved?
Framing lumber - Kind Dressed or full size?
Corner posts Sills Girt or ledger board? Size
Material columns under girders Size Max. on centers
Studs (outside walls and carrying partitions) 2x4-16" O. C. Girders 6x8 or larger. Bridging in every floor and flat roof span over 8 feet. Sills and corner posts all one piece in cross section.
Joists and rafters: 1st floor , 2nd , 3rd , roof
On centers: 1st floor , 2nd , 3rd , roof
Maximum span: 1st floor , 2nd , 3rd , roof
If one story building with masonry walls, thickness of walls? height?

If a Garage

No. cars now accommodated on same lot , to be accommodated
Total number commercial cars to be accommodated
Will automobile repairing be done other than minor repairs to cars habitually stored in the proposed building?

Miscellaneous

Will above work require removal or disturbing of any shade tree on a public street? no
Will there be in charge of the above work a person competent to see that the State and City requirements pertaining thereto are observed? yes
By J. Henry Rines Estate
F. W. Woolworth Co.
Brown Const. Co.

INSPECTION COPY

Signature of owner

By Edmond S. Brown

Permit No. 42/198 P

Location 540-544 Cypress St.

Owner F. W. Woodruff Co.
Hering Rents Etc.

Date of permit 2/26/42

Notif. closing-in

Inspn. closing-in

Final Notif.

Final Inspn. 2/22/42

Cert. of Occupancy issued 2/22/42

NOTES

3/20/42 - No work started.
4/1/42 - Remodeling work
on 5th floor started.
5/28/42 - Remodeling work
on 4th floor completed.
6/1/42 - Work on 4th floor
completed. Work on 5th
floor at a standstill.
6/15/42 - No change.
8/28/42 - Work not to be
done at this time.
10/29/45 - This building
was not built under
this permit so all
plans pertaining
to it have been destroyed.

For plans of building
as built see Permit
45/1375-AJS



APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

JAN 27 1938

Class of Building or Type of Structure Second Class

Portland, Maine, January 26, 1938

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, PORTLAND, ME.

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to erect alter install the following building structure equipment in accordance with the Laws of the State of Maine, the Building Code of the City of Portland, plans and specifications, if any, submitted herewith and the following specifications:

Location 542 Congress Street Ward 5 Within Fire Limits? Yes Dist. No. 1
Owner's or Lessee's name and address F. W. Woolworth Company, 542 Congress St. Telephone _____
Contractor's name and address Cover Telephone _____
Architect's name and address _____
Proposed use of building Store and offices No. families _____
Other buildings on same lot _____
Plans filed as part of this application? yes No. of sheets 1
Estimated cost \$100. Fee \$.75

Description of Present Building to be Altered

Material brick No. stories 4-1 Heat _____ Style of roof _____ Roofing _____
Last use Store and offices No. families _____

General Description of New Work

To excavate and construct concrete duct from basement ceiling level to 1st floor level and construct above that galvanized metal duct up through roof with small air metal connectors on roof to house exhaust fan. A new duct to vent hood of gas-fired appliances in kitchen will connect in basement to new concrete duct.

It is understood that this permit does not include installation of heating apparatus which is to be taken out separately by and in the name of the heating contractor.

Details of New Work

CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY
REQUIREMENT IS WAIVED

Height average grade to top of plate _____
Height average grade to highest point of roof _____
Size, front _____ depth _____ No. stories _____
To be erected on solid or filled land? _____ earth or rock? _____
Material of foundation _____ Thickness, top _____ bottom _____
Material of underpinning _____ Height _____ Thickness _____
Kind of Roof _____ Rise per foot _____ Roof covering _____
No. of chimneys _____ Material of chimneys _____ of lining _____
Kind of heat _____ Type of fuel _____ Is gas fitting involved? _____
Corner posts _____ Sills _____ Girt or ledger board? _____ Size _____
Material columns under girders _____ Size _____ Max. on centers _____
Studs (outside walls and carrying partitions) 2x4-16" O. C. Girders 6x8 or larger. Bridging in every floor and flat roof span over 8 feet. Sills and corner posts all one piece in cross section.
Joists and rafters: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____
On centers: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____
Maximum span: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____
If one story building with masonry walls, thickness of walls? _____ height? _____

If a Garage

No. cars now accommodated on same lot _____, to be accommodated _____
Total number commercial cars to be accommodated _____
Will automobile repairing be done other than minor repairs to cars habitually stored in the proposed building? _____

Miscellaneous

Will above work require removal or disturbing of any shade tree on a public street? no
Will there be in charge of the above work a person competent to see that the State and City requirements pertaining thereto are observed? yes
F. W. Woolworth Company

Signature of owner By: F. P. H. H. H.

INSPECTION COPY

Ward 4 Permit No. 38792

Location 542 Congress St

Owner F. W. Woodworth Co

Date of permit 1/27/38

Notif. closing-in

Inspn. closing-in

Final Notif.

Final Inspn. 2/17/38

Cert. of Occupancy issued None

NOTES

1/27/38 - This work
to provide vent from
hoods over range and
from steam table
dish washing ma-
chine. Opens of gas
ranges are vented
to masonry chimney
A.S.

2/17/38 Work nearly
completed A.S.



APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Permit No. _____

Class of Building or Type of Structure Second Class

Portland, Maine, August 10, 1936

To the INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS, PORTLAND, ME.

The undersigned hereby applies for a permit to ~~erect~~ alter install the following building structure equipment in accordance with the Laws of the State of Maine, the Building Code of the City of Portland, plans and specifications, if any, submitted herewith and the following specifications:

Location 540-542 Congress Street Ward 4 Within Fire Limits? yes Dist. No. 1

Owner's or Lessee's name and address F. W. Woolworth Co., 120 Tremont St., Boston Telephone _____

Contractor's name and address Frigidaire Sales Corp., 25 Elandford St., Boston, Mass. Telephone _____

Architect's name and address _____ No. families _____

Proposed use of building _____

Other buildings on same lot _____

Plans filed as part of this application? _____ No. of sheets _____

Estimated cost \$ _____ Fee \$ _____

Description of Present Building to be Altered

Material _____ No. stories _____ Heat _____ Style of roof _____ Roofing _____

Last use _____ No. families _____

General Description of New Work

To ~~install~~ install refrigeration equipment in connection with soda fountain and lunch counter.
as per plans submitted.

It is understood that this permit does not include installation of heating apparatus which is to be taken out separately by and in the name of the heating contractor.

Details of New Work

Size, front _____ depth _____ No. stories _____ Height average grade to top of plate _____
Height average grade to highest point of roof _____

To be erected on solid or filled land? _____ earth or rock? _____

Material of foundation _____ Thickness, top _____ bottom _____

Material of underpinning _____ Height _____ Thickness _____

Kind of Roof _____ Rise per foot _____ Roof covering _____

No. of chimneys _____ Material of chimneys _____ of lining _____

Kind of heat _____ Type of fuel _____ Is gas fitting involved? _____

Corner posts _____ Sills _____ Girt or ledger board? _____ Size _____

Material columns under girders _____ Size _____ Max. on centers _____

Studs (outside walls and carrying partitions) 2x4-16" O. C. Girders 6x8 or larger. Bridging in every floor and flat roof span over 8 feet. Sills and corner posts all one piece in cross section.

Joists and rafters: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____

On centers: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____

Maximum span: 1st floor _____, 2nd _____, 3rd _____, roof _____

• story building with masonry walls, thickness of walls? _____ height? _____

If a Garage

to be accommodated on same lot _____, to be accommodated _____

commercial cars to be accommodated _____

repairing be done other than minor repairs to cars habitually stored in the proposed building? _____

Miscellaneous

require removal or disturbing of any shade tree on a public street? no

urge of the above work a person competent to see that the State and City requirements pertaining thereto

F. W. Woolworth Co.
Frigidaire Sales Corp.

Signature of owner By: _____

Ward

Permit No. _____

Location

Q-2-1erf

Date of permit

Netif. closing-in

Inspn. closing-in

Final Notif.

Final Inspn.

Cert. of Occupancy issued

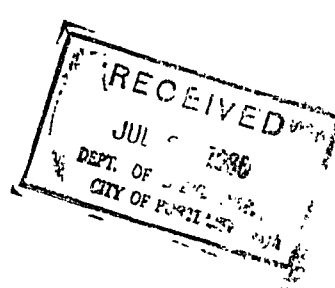
NOTES

NOTES

*Rule
not conflict*

JACOB H. BERMAN
EDWARD J. BERMAN
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW
85 EXCHANGE STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE

July 22, 1936



Mr. Warren McDonald,
Inspector of Buildings,
Portland, Me.

My dear Mr. McDonald:

Let me thank you for writing me so fully about the
Dr. Roberts - Woolworth Co. situation. It clarifies the situation to a
considerable extent.

Sincerely yours,

JHB:D

July 21, 1956

File: P.36/235-

Mr. Jacob H. Berman,
85 Exchange Street,
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Berman:

Replying to your letter of July 18th concerning the alterations of the Woolworth store beneath the office of Dr. Roberts, the dentist, I am afraid I can help but little concerning this operation.

Georgins & Clark, contractors for F. W. Woolworth Company, secured the building permit to make alterations in the store, these alterations including a complete replacement of the store front on Congress Street. This replacement involved taking out practically all, if not all, of the old supports of the Congress Street front wall of the building that formerly existed in the first story, and replacing these supports with especially manufactured pipe columns and steel girders overhead. In performing this particular operation, it was, of course, necessary to shore up the front wall of the building, remove the old supports around the show windows, but the masonry when necessary to get the steel girders into their intended and necessary location, insert the steel and remove the shores.

I had no indications of trouble on the job until I received a call from Dr. Roberts about a week ago asking me to come up there since the building was apparently cracking and settling and he was fearful that it was not safe. I went up and he recounted to me his experiences which were harrowing, no doubt. The wall paper on the ceiling over his office appeared to have buckled to some extent, he saying that it was perfectly smooth before the work commenced. There were some cracks in the plaster of the walls evident, but they did not appear to be serious. He said that after the alterations they were unable to open their front windows and a carpenter had to come to ease the frame so that the sash would go up and down.

I could see nothing extraordinary about the situation and could see no cracks in the outside of the front wall of the building to indicate any hazard whatever. I doubt if the cracks or other defects that seem to develop could be attributed to poor workmanship on the part of the contractors.

I know you will pardon my doing some reasoning about the matter, which is largely none of my affair. It is my impression that there was a canopy over the Congress Street sidewalk during the alterations. If this was the case and any liquid was spilled from Roberts' windows, it must have dropped onto the roof of the canopy and thence to the sidewalk.

Mr. Jacob H. Berman—2

July 21, 1936

The average person would question the good sense of putting a bottle of acid or any other dangerous liquid on or near the sill of an open window on the Congress Street front even though no alterations were going on. When they were cutting out masonry or working upon the supports of the front wall, however, I can easily imagine that there was vibration enough to cause such disturbance to anything in contact with the wall above.

When Dr. Roberts was talking with me, I wondered if he did not have a claim against the owners of the building or the Woolworth Company, because the work which was so unpleasant to the Doctor and his patients was not confined to the hours when the offices above would be normally closed.

If there is any further information that you think I can give, I should be glad to have you notify me.

Very truly yours,

McD/H

Inspector of Buildings

File: P.56/298-I

July 8, 1936

F. W. Woolworth Company,
123 Tremont Street,
Boston, Massachusetts

Attention Mr. H. Grundman

Gentlemen:

With relation to the vent for the gas-fired appliances in your store now under alteration at 542 Congress Street in this City, the matter of installing this large vent close to the woodwork of the first floor has been taken up with the Chief of the Fire Department as requested by your Mr. Wright.

Chief Sanborn is very ^{much} opposed both to the proposition of putting this vent close to any combustible material and also very much opposed to the proposition of installing sprinkler heads in the vent pipe itself.

Irrespective of temperature tests that the local gas company may make of this vent under actual operation, we shall be unable to approve any such arrangement as you propose.

Please work out some alternate arrangement which complies with Building Code requirements and with the usual rule of safety and submit to this office for approval without delay. In the meantime we desire that you shall not under any circumstances connect gas-fired appliances up to the arrangement that you have proposed.

I am extremely sorry that this question has arisen just at the time that you want to put your equipment into operation, but I have supposed right along that you were still intending to connect these appliances to the metal stack originally shown on your plans, and that you intended to furnish a guarantee from the manufacturer of the appliances to the effect that the temperatures in the metal stack or duct would not exceed 550 degrees Fahrenheit.

I want to assure you of our cooperation, but we are unable to approve any such arrangement as now suggested.

Very truly yours,

HCD/H

Inspector of Buildings

Filer P.36/293-I

May 26, 1936

F. W. Woolworth Co.,
120 Tremont Street,
Boston, Massachusetts

Attention Mr. H. Grundman

Dear Sir:

With relation to the problem of sprinkler heads in the show windows of your store at 540-546 Congress Street in this City. After a conference with the Chief of the Fire Department, it has been decided that open sprinkler heads in both the Congress Street and Free Street show windows will be satisfactory with valves controlling the supply of water to these open heads close to either entrance door. The Chief of the Fire Department thinks that both of these valves should be sealed in a closed position.

It is my understanding that the automatic sprinkler contract is separate from the general contract and if this is the case the contractor should apply for a separate permit from this Department. When the application is made please have the contractor supply a supplementary sketch showing the arrangement of open sprinkler heads in the show windows and the location of the controlling valves for approval of the Fire Department.

Very truly yours,

McD/H

Inspector of Buildings

P.S. If desired the permit for installation of the sprinkler equipment may be handled by amendment to the original construction permit secured by the general contractor.

C.S. WOOLWORTH,
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
S.D. MILLER, PRESIDENT
F.M. KIRBY, VICE PRESIDENT
A.L. CORNWELL, VICE PRES & TREAS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
WOOLWORTH BLDG. NEW YORK N.Y.

DISTRICT OFFICES
ALBANY, N.Y. MANHATTAN, N.Y.C.
ATLANTA, GA. MINNEAPOLIS MINN
BOSTON, MASS. PHILADELPHIA, PA
CHICAGO, ILL. ST LOUIS, MO
CLEVELAND, O. SAN FRANCISCO CAL
DENVER, COL. WICKES-BARRE, PA

J.B. HOLLIS
MANAGER BOSTON OFFICE

CABLE ADDRESS: "GRONICON" NEW YORK



F. W. WOOLWORTH CO

BOSTON OFFICE

120 TREMONT STREET

BOSTON, MASS.

C.W. DEVO, VICE PRESIDENT
PAUL HOFER JR., SECY & ASST TREAS
J.T. LEFTWICH, ASST SECY - TREAS
C.H. LOVELL, ASST SECY

FOREIGN COMPANIES
F.W. WOOLWORTH & CO LIMITED
LONDON ENGLAND
F.W. WOOLWORTH CO OF FRANCE
PARIS, FRANCE
CALAIS, FRANCE
F.W. WOOLWORTH CO GMBH
BERLIN GERMANY
F.W. WOOLWORTH CO LIMITED
TORONTO, CANADA

REFERENCE FILE HG/K

April 29, 1936.

Mr. Warren McDonald,
Building Inspector,
City Hall,
Portland, Maine.

Dear Sir:-

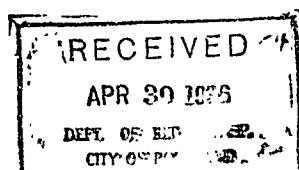
I have been informed by Mr. Wright of a question regarding the flue for ventilating the Kitchen in which there was a question about the B.T.U. input in the ranges and oven that we propose to install in the kitchen of our Portland, Me. store.

We have just had a conference with the manufacturer's representative of the equipment that we are installing and we find from his experience it will not be necessary to be concerned by the heating or fumes from these ranges and ovens. The ranges and oven are not directly connected to the ventilating system, but indirectly vents into the vent system, there being about 18" to 2 ft. of space between the top of the outlet on the ranges and the bottom of the hood. This will give ample opportunity for these fumes mixing with the air from the basement, thereby lowering the temperature of the fumes from the ranges and ovens, and from past experience in other installations have found that this arrangement will not in any way cause excessive heat in the duct that could be considered a fire hazard. Further, the bottom of the hoods are protected with a baffle plate on which any grease will adhere, and can be cleaned and also with a fusible link damper in the duct. The equipment, however, has a total B.T.U. input of 350,000 per foot of which 64,000 is on open burner. That is the peak or total load, altho we want to advise that only on rare occasions the full load would be on.

We hope you will see your way clear to let the work go thru as specified and hoping this explanation is clear, we remain,

Yours truly,
F.W. WOOLWORTH CO

BY: *[Signature]*
Construction Dept.



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intend to sprinkler. The extension of the sprinkler system to cover this new basement would hardly prove excessive in cost, and we are puzzled to understand the basic reasoning which seems to justify spending money on a fire wall and fire door, which can hardly have any other results than to increase your fire insurance rates over those that would obtain if you left out the fire wall and fire door and extended the sprinkler system.

It is true that the Building Code does not require the new basement to be sprinklered, and you may well ask what our interest is in it, but this seems to be a part of the entire sprinkler problem in the building. We are unable to separate it from your request for permission to eliminate the sprinkler heads over the show windows.

However, I am taking the matter of omission of sprinkler heads over the show windows up with the New England Insurance Exchange, and I shall attach great weight to their opinion. In the meantime I would suggest that you make your alternate prices, including and omitting these sprinkler heads, and advise me as soon as possible what good reason you may have for not using the diethylene glycol arrangement other than the one which clearly indicates that you do not like sprinkler systems generally.

Very truly yours,

McD/H

Inspector of Buildings

File: P.56/293-I

May 18, 1936

F. W. Woolworth Co.,
120 Tremont Street,
Boston, Massachusetts

Attention Mr. H. Grundman

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of April 23, 1936 relating to the question of ventilating the gas-fired kitchen equipment in the Woolworth Store in this City, I regret very much that we are forced to be rather indefinite about this venting equipment.

As explained to Mr. Wright the question of venting gas-fired appliances has been more or less the subject of debate for several years, and I am informed by the American Gas Association that this Association is recommending, even now, certain changes in the Underwriters requirements for venting such appliances.

Our Building Code is quite explicit in this regard, but I hesitate to force you to comply precisely with it in this new installation of yours and then perhaps find in a short time that you have been required to make arrangements which turned out to be unnecessary and perhaps even undesirable.

Our Building Code at present provides that every gas appliance having a rated maximum input in excess of 50,000 B.T.U. per hour shall be connected to a masonry flue. This was the original Underwriters recommendation. The Underwriters have since changed their recommendation, however, and now require that vents from appliances shall be required to be connected to a masonry flue only when the stack temperatures exceed, at the outlet of the draft hood, 550 degrees F.

I believe that I have authority to say to you that no masonry flue connection will be required, if the stack temperatures at the outlet of the draft hood, or perhaps in your case at the point where the horizontal duct enters the vertical duct will never exceed 550 degrees F. From your description of the arrangement which you will have beneath your large hood and because of the large cross-section and long run of the horizontal duct, I am inclined to believe that the maximum temperatures where the horizontal duct joins the vertical duct would be much smaller than 550 degrees, but I have no way of establishing this fact.

Would it not be a good scheme to make this matter of stack temperatures the responsibility of the people from whom you are buying the gas-fired appliances and let them guarantee, giving me a copy, that the temperatures at the point named will not ever exceed 550 degrees. If they cannot give this guarantee, it would seem best

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for you to go ahead and build a masonry chimney; or perhaps some arrangement might be made to connect your ducts to the large masonry stack which is not a great distance from your proposed vertical duct.

Very truly yours,

McD/H

Inspector of Buildings