

“New Missouri Marble Mill”

(F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., Carthage, Missouri)

Stone Magazine

Vol. XLVI, No. 11, November 1925, pp. 674-676

Excerpts from the article:

“The growth of the marble industry in the United States can be illustrated in no better manner than in reviews of various marble centers, producing districts and finishing plants in all parts of the country. From small openings producing blocks to meet local demand and from tiny shops where a few slabs were finished by hand the industry has grown to gigantic proportions. Marble has come to be known as the product of certain states and these commonwealths have achieved fame because of them. Italy has its Carrara, American has its Missouri, Vermont, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Massachusetts and other marble producing centers and each exerts its influence in the markets and is known in architectural and art circles for its particular varieties of Nature’s chief decorative material....”

“The Carthage district is one of the three great marble producing sections of Missouri, the others being in Greene and Ste. Genevieve County....”

This article, which begins on the next page,
is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

Peggy B. Perazzo
Email: pbperazzo@comcast.net
April 2016

New Missouri Marble Mill

THE growth of the marble industry in the United States can be illustrated in no better manner than in reviews of various marble centers, producing districts and finishing plants in all parts of the country. From small openings producing blocks to meet local demand and from tiny shops where a few slabs were finished by hand the industry has grown to gigantic proportions. Marble has come to be known as the product of certain states and these



Office Building and Drafting Department of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., Carthage, Mo. Constructed Entirely of Colonial Grey Veined and Colonial Grey Veinless Marble.

commonwealths have achieved fame because of them. Italy has its Carrara, America has its Missouri, Vermont, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Massachusetts and other marble producing centers and each exerts its influence in the markets and is known in architectural and art circles for its particular varieties of Nature's chief decorative material. When Missouri was the scene

of pre-Civil War strife its grand old mansions were built of local stone, while the interiors contained Missouri marble mantle pieces and floors. Carthage was known throughout the state for its quarries, but it was not until the methods of quarrying and finishing underwent a change with the advent of machinery that the city and district attained nation-wide prominence in the marble market. Among the names that have come to be associated with marble is that of Steadley.

The Carthage district is one of the three great marble producing sections of Missouri, the others being in Greene County and Ste. Genevieve County. The industry in these centers took a decided jump in 1923 when production increased fully fifty per cent being valued at more than \$1,000,000 for the first time. Another increase was shown during 1924 and with construction above all previous records 1925 will show even better results for the state.

In 1898 F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., opened a small quarry at Carthage and in a modest way began to take out marble. The company's equipment consisted of two gang saws, one derrick and one channeler. An inventory taken this month shows that this firm is operating one of the largest marble quarries and most modern plants in the United States. This great quarry and plant is self contained in that it operates its own water system, machine shops and does its own repair work. The Steadley property consists of three hundred acres of proven quarry land, insuring an almost inexhaustible supply of the several varieties of marble marketed by the firm. These are Colonial Grey Veined and Colonial Veinless marble, both being trade marked names. The company operates two saw mills twenty-

four hours per day, one equipped with twelve gang saws and other with six saws with room for two more when required. The storage yard consists of a steel tramway one thousand feet long with two thirty ton cranes. The cranes are operated day and night so that the gang saws may be reloaded as soon as they have finished sawing a block. The finishing plants, one for the finishing of interior marble and other for machine work, such as planing moulds and turning columns for heavy exterior work, are operated for the convenience of customers and contractors.



Interior of new marble finishing plant of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., devoted exclusively to finishing marble for interior work.

(photo captions) "Office building and drafting department of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., Carthage, Missouri. Constructed entirely of Colonial Grey Veined and Colonial Grey Veinless Marble." & "Interior of new marble finishing plant of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., devoted exclusively to finishing marble for interior work."

This great quarry and plant, an industry itself, shows the increasing demand for marble for both exterior and interior construction and decorative work. It has been builded upon a faith in marble as Nature's most durable decorative material and upon the faith that the public, knowing its value, will demand it in ever increasing quantities. The supply is inexhaustible and with the facilities of the quarrymen, such as the Steadley plant illustrated, the demand can be met without delay to a job in any part of the country.

The Steadley quarry is opened up along a face two thousand feet long, which insures a supply of sound blocks at all times. The quarry equipment consists of six forty ton derricks, twelve channeling machines, two air compressors, six air drills and two blacksmith shops for sharpening steel. The waste is taken care of by crushing plants adjoining the quarry. All of the buildings on the property are fire-proof, the mills, office building and smaller buildings being built of Colonial Grey Marble with metal roofs and concrete floors. The entire plant is electrically operated from connected motors of twelve-hundred horse power.

Colonial Grey Marble is sold throughout the United States and Canada and some shipments have been made abroad. Some of the buildings of recent construction in which it has been used include the Straus Building, The New Union Station and the Federal Reserve Bank Building, all in Chicago; The Federal Reserve Bank Building, Cleveland, Ohio; Federal Reserve Bank Building, New York City; The Walbridge Building, Buffalo, N. Y.; The Harkness Memorial, Yale University; Jones Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Cass High School, Detroit, Mich.; South Side High School, Toledo, Ohio; Elks Club Buildings at Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, and Portland, Oregon; The Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.; St. Joseph's Hospital, Louisville, Ky.; United States Government Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.; Catholic Shrine, Washington, D. C.; W. R. Rust Building, Tacoma, Wash., and the Mid-Continent Building, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

These buildings are but a few of the more prominent structures in which this marble has been used. In addition to shipments for jobs of this character, there are the smaller consignments in slabs and blocks for dealers and marble contractors, who do their own finishing. The Steadley

Company, as shown by the illustrations of the mill building and interior, is equipped to handle contracts of magnitude, furnishing the finished stock ready for the marble contractor or builder to set. Such a plant obviates the necessity of having to resort to age old methods of cutting and carving the marble in make-shift sheds on the job. The Steadley quarry and plant illustrate another development in the marble industry and that is the storage of sufficient varieties to



Stock Yard and Crane-way of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., 1,000 feet long and equipped with two thirty ton cranes.

meet all emergencies and insure prompt delivery of either blocks, slabs or finished stock in quantity and without the delay of quarrying. In its one yard between the ways of the cranes there are stored hundreds of blocks of Colonial Grey Veined and Colonial Grey Veinless marble, each block tested for soundness and graded as to quality. In the quarries the supply is being added to constantly and as the block piles diminish they are replenished. The quarry face is one



Exterior of new mill of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., constructed of Colonial Grey Veined and Veinless Marble with steel roof, window frames and equipped throughout with concrete floors, making it absolutely fireproof.

(photo captions) "Stock yard and crane of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., 1,000 feet long and equipped with two thirty ton cranes." &"Exterior of new mill of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., constructed of Colonial Grey Veined and Veinless Marble with steel roof, window frames and equipped throughout with concrete floors, making it absolutely fireproof."

of the longest now being operated any place in this country. It is an open quarry, the marble deposit laying just beneath a thin strip of earth, which reduces stripping operations to a minimum. Six forty ton cranes are operated in the quarry to lift out the marble blocks loosened by the twelve channeling machines and air



Section of Quarry of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., showing derricks and channeling machines and quarry face.

drills. When it is considered that this quarry, one of several in Missouri, has been developed to such a high standard of mechanical perfection with a period of a quarter of a century it would seem to indicate that the marble industry was firmly established and that marble was as much a necessity in the building material field as materials of the so-called common variety, such as brick and lumber, steel and tile.

(photo caption) "Section of quarry of F. W. Steadley & Co., Inc., showing derricks and channeling machines and quarry face.