

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND

Third: We have no stairways, or only a few steps where stairs do occur, which very materially effects the cost in view of the fact that stairways usually cost about three times as much per cubic ft. as plain classroom construction costs per cubic ft.

Fourth: There is very little load on the walls above the foundation wall, thereby making it quite possible to use an 8" wall broken with pilasters, thus considerably reducing the cost of masonry. This cost effects both the cost of masonry and the steel supporting the masonry.

Fifth: We have found by experience that a one story building erected as nearly as possible on a level site is the least expensive type of construction, and we therefore do not provide any rooms in the sub-floor or basement, except the boiler and fuel room, unless the grade is such that rooms can be provided on one or more sides of the building with little or no excavation.

Sixth: By statutory requirement fire escapes must be provided for the multiple story type of school building whereas on the single story type this is entirely unnecessary, as the buildings are practically 100% fire and panic safe, which eliminates another item of cost.

Seventh: The cost of getting materials to the second floor and higher in the multiple story type of construction is a material item of increased cost for this type of construction. This applies both to the masonry and timbers. The higher a building is constructed there is a corresponding increase in cost in getting the materials in place.

The above represents the chief points in connection with increased costs, as we have found them, in the multiple story type of construction as contrasted with the single story type of construction.

I want to make very clear that the above comparisons, as well as the comparisons on the enclosed chart, must be made with the thought very definitely in mind that the buildings are similar in quality of construction. It would be absurd to make a statement that either type of building is more or less expensive than the other without qualifying the statement to the effect that they are to all intents and purposes similar in quality of construction and materials incorporated in the construction; but on the basis of the investigations which we made in 1924 and as outlined above, in our mind there is no question as to the relative cost of the two types of construction, keeping in mind the fact that similar qualities of construction and materials are employed.

Relative your second question with reference to the cost for maintaining this office, and the total value of buildings erected from plans furnished by this Department, I wish to say that the cost/^{has} varied over a period of years from 1920 to 1925, due to the fact that we have occasionally added an additional man to the division. In 1920 I alone was working the program on a part-time basis. In 1921 an assistant was added. In 1922 an additional assistant was added. In 1925 a third assistant was added. The operating expenses for 1925, representing