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REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ERECTION

OF A

NEW NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING.

Printed by Order of the General Assembly,

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

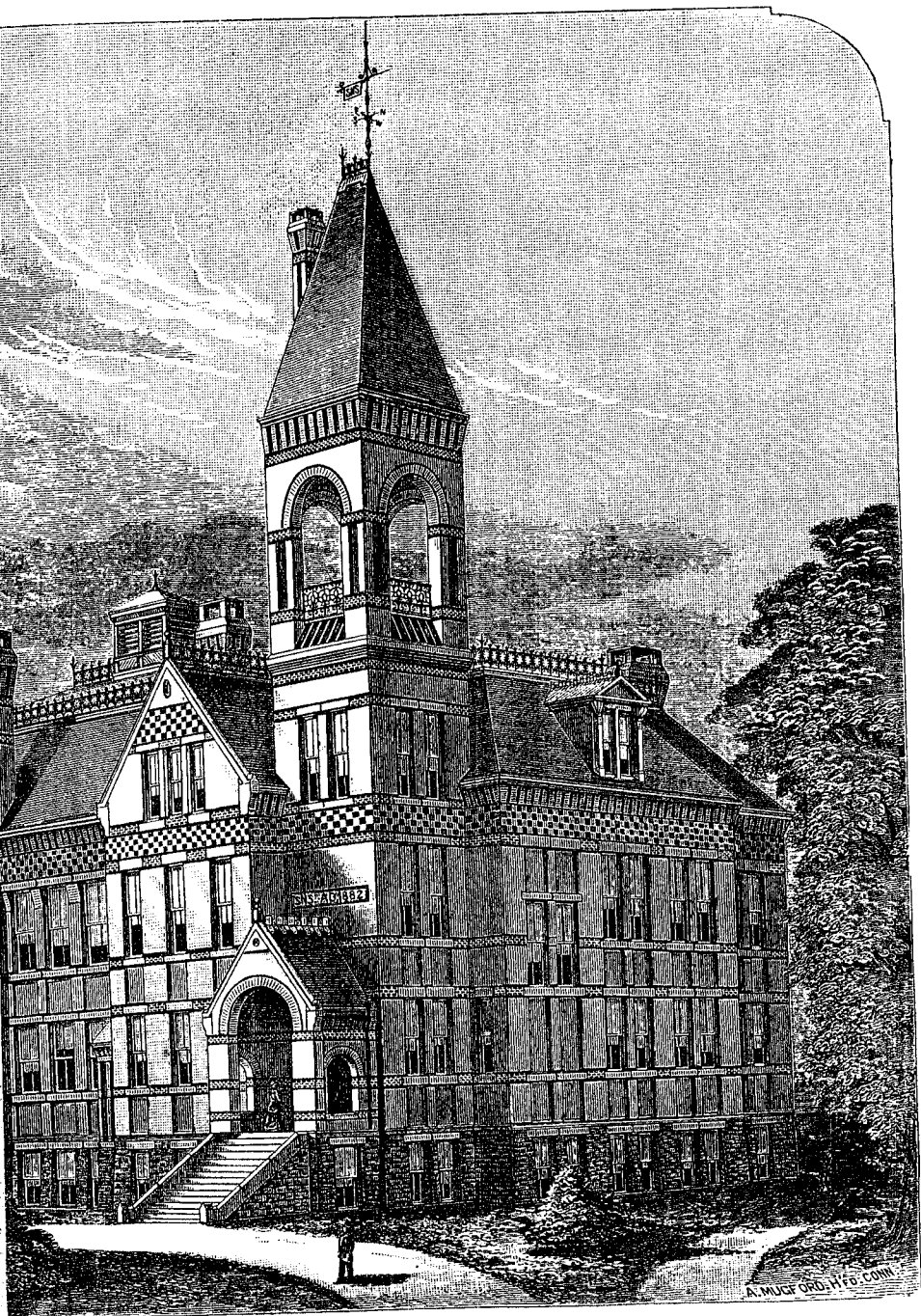
HARTFORD, CONN.:

THE CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD CO., PRINTERS.

1888.



NEW NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING, NEW BRITAIN, CONN.



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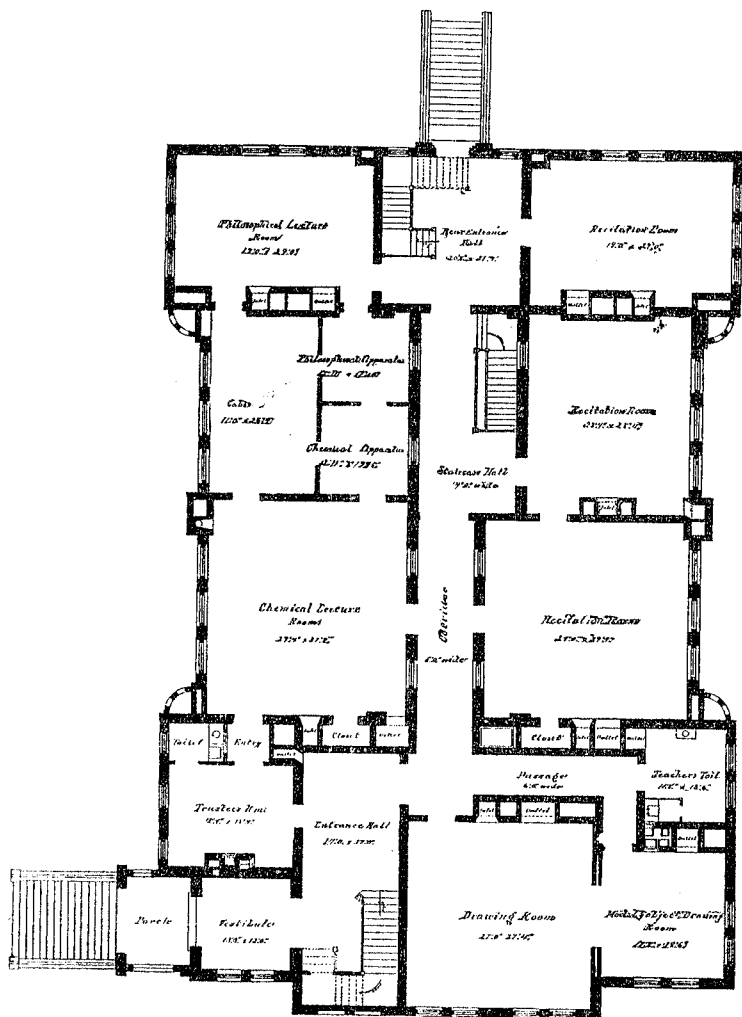
This is a detailed architectural floor plan of the second floor of the U.S. Custom House. The plan is oriented with a north arrow pointing towards the top of the page. The layout is complex, featuring a central corridor system that provides access to various rooms. Key areas include:

- Top Section:** Contains the "Metal School Room" (17.0' x 29.0"), "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0"), "Metal School Room" (27.0' x 19.0"), and "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0"). There are also "Metal School" rooms (12.0' x 12.0") and "Metal School" rooms (12.0' x 12.0").
- Left Side:** Features a "Metal School Room" (27.0' x 19.0"), "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0"), "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0"), and "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0").
- Right Side:** Includes a "Metal School Room" (27.0' x 19.0"), "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0"), "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0"), and "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0").
- Central Corridor:** A central corridor system runs through the middle of the floor, providing access to various rooms and stairs.
- Bottom Section:** Contains a "Metal School Room" (27.0' x 19.0"), "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0"), "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0"), and "Metal School" (12.0' x 12.0").

The plan includes numerous labels for doors, windows, and stairs, as well as dimensions for each room. The overall layout is designed to provide efficient access to various rooms and facilities.

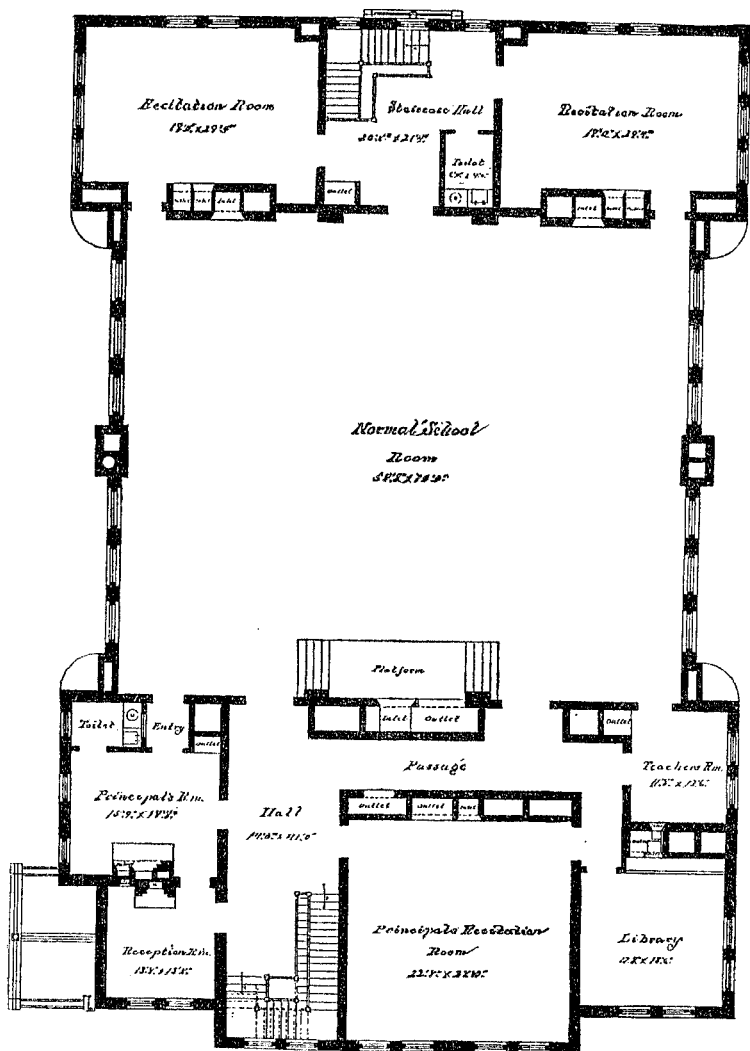
GROUND STORY.

PLATE II.



FIRST STORY.

PLATE III.



THIRD STORY.

State of Connecticut.

REPORT.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, January 15, 1883.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS M. WALLER, GOVERNOR OF
CONNECTICUT:

SIR,—The Board of Commissioners for the erection of a new Normal School building at New Britain, Connecticut, have the honor to report:

The commission at first consisting of GEORGE M. LANDERS of New Britain, CHARLES BENEDICT of Waterbury, and SAMUEL H. SEWARD of Putnam, were appointed by Governor Bigelow, on the 23d day of March, 1881, under and by authority of the annexed Joint Resolution of the General Assembly, at its January session, 1881.

Resolved by this Assembly: SECTION 1. That a committee of three persons be appointed by the Governor to procure plans, obtain a site, and erect a new building for the use of the State Normal School at New Britain.

SEC. 2. The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for that purpose, which shall be subject to the orders of said committee from time to time for work done and expenses incurred.

SEC. 3. Said committee shall not proceed to act until the town of New Britain has appropriated the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars for the same purpose, and made such sum subject to the order of said committee, or until said sum of twenty-five thousand dollars has been otherwise placed at the disposal of said committee on behalf of said town, and said town is authorized to appropriate said sum at a town meeting specially warned and held for that purpose.

SEC. 4. The plans and site selected by the committee shall be subject to the approval of the State Board of Education.

SEC. 5. When the new building is completed and occupied, said committee is authorized and directed to convey all the interests which the State has, or may have, in the land and buildings now used for the Normal School to the town of New Britain.

SEC. 6. All vacancies arising in said committee from any cause whatever shall be filled by the Governor.

SEC. 7. The entire expense of said site, plans, and buildings shall not exceed the sums herein authorized to be expended.

Approved March 22, 1881.

The town of New Britain at an early day made an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars, in pursuance of the provisions of the resolution, and placed the same at the disposal of the committee. The committee met at New Britain, March 28th, 1881, and organized by the choice of George M. Landers as chairman, and Samuel H. Seward as clerk.

For the next three months the committee, assisted by members of the State Board of Education, and by Professors Carleton and Sawyer of the State Normal School, were more or less actively engaged in examining plans for a suitable building. In pursuance of this object various normal schools in Massachusetts were visited, and critically examined. The question where in New Britain the building should be located was not answered without difficulty, owing to the various State, town, and individual interests to be considered. Early in July, however, a site was selected, and being approved by the State Board of Education, was purchased by the committee for \$18,000, and on the 15th of July, 1881, a warrant deed was taken to the State. The site selected is a commanding one, overlooking the city, yet easily accessible from cars, hotels, and the business part of the city, while from the north, east, and south parts of the building a delightful view extends for miles in every direction.

Having fixed the location, and decided generally upon the required accommodations, the committee, designating four architects of established reputation (to which number two were afterward added), requested from them architectural studies, and plans were received from each of them, and care-

fully examined and compared. In all of these proceedings, and before finally adopting any plan, the committee imperatively required, and insisted upon being satisfied by reliable and responsible estimates, that the cost of the building constructed in accordance therewith should come within the appropriation then at their command.

During this stage of the proceedings a vacancy was created in the board by the sudden and unexpected death of the Hon. Charles Benedict of Waterbury. On the return trip from a short visit to Europe, undertaken partly for business and partly for pleasure, he died at sea on the 30th of October, 1882. This is not the proper time and place to dwell on the noble character of the deceased. His eulogy has been written by loving and capable hands. But we who knew how kind and courteous he was in every act and deed, and how sound and wise and reliable was his judgment, felt a sense of personal loss when the news of his death reached us. His place in the social circle, the church, the city, and the State will long remain unfilled.

The vacancy thus occasioned in the board was filled by the Governor by the appointment of Frederick A. Gilbert, Esq., of New Haven, and the committee thus constituted, though necessarily delayed, went forward with the work. The plans submitted by Warren R. Briggs, Esq., of Bridgeport, though requiring several important modifications from the plans as first presented, met the approval of the State Board of Education, and were adopted by the committee. The building, as it now stands, is, as has been stated, a decided modification of the design originally submitted by the architect. It was found, after careful estimates had been prepared, that it would be impossible to retain the large exhibition hall provided for on the third floor in the original design, and complete the building within the amount appropriated by the Legislature. It was the unanimous opinion of the committee, as well as of the State Board of Education, that the expenditure of a large sum for the construction of a hall was not advisable, particularly as it was not essential for the working of the school. Its introduction was urged mainly on the

ground that it provided a place in which the yearly exhibitions of the school could be held. The committee did not consider this plea of sufficient importance, as suitable places can always be obtained for the purpose; therefore the architect was instructed to omit the exhibition hall. The other modifications, although radical, were happily so arranged that while a considerable reduction in the cost of the structure was secured, it was without in any way interfering with its practical utility. That portion of the building devoted exclusively to the school was retained intact; ornate detail was replaced by simple construction, and while the building may not, when completed, be as elaborate a piece of architecture as was originally intended, still the harmonious blending of hues and color, combined with a quiet massiveness, render it most attractive.

The site of the building possesses many natural advantages. The principal exposures are east, south, and north. The main entrance is located in the tower, which is situated at the northeast corner of the building. In general form the ground plan is a parallelogram, with projections at the corners. The entire length is 126 feet, and the width 85 feet. The height to the main corner line is 46 feet, and the extreme height of tower 108 feet. The building consists of three finished stories, with rooms in the tower; also a commodious attic. The foundations and underpinning are of Portland brown stone, the latter being nine feet high, and laid in what is known as rock-faced ranine ashlar. Above the underpinning the walls are of New Britain selected brick, relieved with bands and ornamental work of buff and black brick. All stone trimmings above the underpinning are of Ohio gray sandstone. The pitch roofs are of dark blue Bangor slate, and the decks of tin. The gutters are of galvanized iron, and the crestings of terra cotta and iron. All outside steps are of granite.

The ground floor level is about three feet below the grade-line, the window sills being above. The hat and cloak rooms, water-closets for both sexes, janitor's room, work room, and

boiler room are all on this floor. The boiler room is sunk some eight feet below the level of the others, in order to secure a good drip for all return steam pipes; it has an entrance of its own, and ample ash and coal bins—the latter so arranged that coal may be dumped directly into them from the cart. Model school rooms have also been arranged on this floor, which are designed as training rooms for the undergraduates. These have separate entrances, hat and cloak rooms, and water-closets connected with them, as it is intended to keep them completely isolated from the Normal School.

There is an entrance to the Normal School, situated at the northeast corner. Easy access is obtained to the floors above by commodious staircases. The height of this story is ten feet six inches in the clear.

The first story contains, in addition to the entrance and staircase halls, trustees' room, etc., the scientific department of the school, one suite of rooms being devoted to chemistry, another to natural philosophy, and still another to drawing and the fine arts. The latter rooms are arranged in the northern portion of the building, thus securing the steady light so desirable for rooms used for this purpose. The rest of this floor is divided into convenient recitation rooms, and there is also a pleasant teachers' retiring room. The ascent to the floor above is made by staircases situated at either end of the building; there is a hall running directly through the centre, connecting the two entrance halls. The height of this story is thirteen feet in the clear.

The second or upper floor of the building is devoted to the use of the Normal School proper. It contains the Normal School room, connected with which are the recitation rooms, the Principal's office and recitation room, the teachers' room, and the reception room and library. The height of this story is twenty-one feet in the clear.

For the size and position of the rooms mentioned, reference may be had to the accompanying drawings. It is hardly necessary in this report to give a detailed account of each room, merely stating in a general way, that the greatest care has been exercised throughout the building to have the floor

and cubic space all that is required by the highest authorities in school hygiene. The light surface has also been carefully calculated, and is so arranged as to always be at the back or left of the pupils.

In the sanitary department every precaution has been taken; the pupils' closets have been constructed with the view of having as little wood work as the requirements of comfort will permit. The side walls are of porcelain bricks, the floor of tiles, and the ceiling of hard wood. The partitions between the closets, with the doors and their casings, comprise the entire wood work in these rooms. The closets are of solid earthen-ware in the most approved form; the piping and ventilating are executed after the methods laid down by the best sanitary engineers.

The building is heated throughout by steam; great pains have been taken with this department, and with the ventilation. It is confidently believed that the system adopted is one that will insure an ample supply of pure warmed air in every room in the building. This result is obtained by what is known as the indirect system of heating, which consists of placing all the pipes or radiators in the basement, where they are enclosed in metal boxes. Pure cold air is introduced into the bottom of these boxes from the cold air ducts, and is warmed to any degree required by passing through the radiators; it is then conducted to the several rooms by means of metal pipes, in the same way as in the ordinary hot air furnace. The heating surface for each room is entirely separate, and is divided into three sections in such a manner that one or more sections can be used at pleasure, according to the temperature required in the room. The pure warmed air is brought into the room about eight feet from the floor, and the foul air is taken out at the floor level, the outlets having twice the area of the inlets. The up current in the outgoing flues is maintained by artificial heat in both winter and summer.

The system above described is in use on the two principal floors. In the basement the ordinary direct radiator is used. Foot warming plates, which consist of coils of steam pipes

placed under the floor, covered with metal tops, are arranged in all the halls. Two fifty horse-power boilers, at a low pressure (one to one and one-half pounds to the square inch) are used to run the apparatus; these being arranged in such a manner that one or both may be used at pleasure.

The building was under contract on the 8th of March, 1882, to the following parties, namely:

The mason work to Watson Tryon of Enfield.

The carpenter work, slating, painting, etc., to Leman Oatman, Esq., of Hartford.

The steam heating and ventilation, plumbing, and gas-fitting to the Phillips Manufacturing Company of Springfield, Mass.

It was understood and agreed that the work should be completed by the beginning of the present year. But delays, some of them unavoidable, have occurred, and the work is at least three months behind contract time. It is, however, believed that the building will be ready to receive the furniture by the first of May next. A full statement of receipts and expenditures to the 20th of December, 1882, will appear herewith, together with a statement of unexpended portion of the appropriation.

The Legislature will be called upon during the session to make an appropriation for furniture for the new building, also to complete the grading, and for flagging the approaches to the building.

It will also become necessary to make an appropriation to pay a sewer assessment of \$500, just made upon the State property by the City of New Britain.

In conclusion, we have to say that we have given much time and careful study to erect such a building as the interests of the school required, without exceeding the limit of the appropriation, and we believe that when the building is completed the State will have a thoroughly well built, handsome, and commodious edifice for the use of its Normal School.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. M. LANDERS,	} <i>Commissioners.</i>
S. H. SEWARD,	
F. A. GILBERT,	

To amount received from the State of Connecticut, on account of appropriation for Normal School building :

Amount received from Town of New Britain
on account of appropriation for Normal
School building:

1881.								\$5,000.00	
July 15,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1882.								2,500.00	
March 18,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500.00	
Aug. 8,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500.00	
Oct. 5,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000.00	
Nov. 14,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
								17,500.00	
March 7,	Cash received for turf sold from lot,							57.45	
Oct. 6,	Cash from sale of barn on premises, on account,	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.00	
Nov. 20,	Cash from sale of barn on premises, balance,	-	-	-	-	-	-	325.00	
	Total amount cash received to date,							\$70,432.45	

RECAPITULATION.

Total amount received from State of Connecticut,	\$52,500.00
“ “ “ “ Town of New Britain,	17,500.00
“ “ “ “ Sale of materials,	432.45
	<hr/>
	\$70,432.45

Contra—

Total amount paid out for site,	\$18,000.00
“ “ “ Commissioners' cash expenses,	377.11
“ “ “ Advertising and printing,	293.96
“ “ “ Surveying, plats, and estimates,	141.93
“ “ “ Watson Tryon, for construction,	26,000.00
“ “ “ Lemman Oatman, for construction,	4,000.00
“ “ “ Phillips Manufacturing Co., for construction,	4,000.00
“ “ “ Architect's fees,	2,400.00
“ “ “ Superintendent's services and disbursements,	837.24
“ “ “ Retaining walls, grading, and driven well,	570.67
“ “ “ Cash in First National Bank, New Britain,	13,811.54
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	\$70,432.45

HARTFORD, CONN., January 12, 1883.
This will certify that we have examined the foregoing statement of the State Normal School Building for the year ending with November 30, 1883, compared the vouchers therewith, and find the same correct, showing a balance in the hands of the Commission amounting to thirteen thousand eight hundred eleven and fifty-four one-hundredths dollars (\$13,811.54).

THOMAS I. RAYMOND,
JAMES S. PARSONS,

Auditors of Public Accounts.

Amount of appropriations unexpended:

Balance undrawn from State of Connecticut,	\$22,500.00
“ “ “ Town of New Britain,	7,500.00
Cash on hand,	13,811.54
	<hr/>
	\$43,811.54

Amount due to Contractors at date:

Watson Tryon, mason work,	\$12,000.00
Lemman Oatman, carpenter, etc.,	16,015.00
Phillips Manufacturing Company, steam heating and ventilation,	4,800.00
Phillips Manufacturing Company, plumbing and piping,	2,975.00
Warren R. Briggs, architect,	600.00
	<hr/>
	\$36,390.00

Leaving for grading, bank wall, purchase of tiling, Superintendent's and Commissioners' expenses,	7,421.54
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	\$43,811.54