

THE TRIANGLE WAIST COMPANY

**THE ASHE BUILDING
GREENE STREET & WASHINGTON PLACE
NEW YORK CITY**

In 1911, The Triangle Waist Company was among the largest shirtwaist company in New York City. During its peak season, it could produce upwards of 2,000 garments a day, resulting in a million dollars of waists per year and making its owners, Max Blanck and Isaac Harris, extremely wealthy. In fact, the Triangle was just one of a group of factories owned by Isaac Harris and Max Blanck.

The factory occupied the top three floors of the Asch Building – a ten-story loft structure located at the corner of Washington Place and Greene Streets, just east of Washington Square Park. Considered at the time to be among the most up-to-date and modern of factories, Triangle employed as many as 500 workers a day, the vast majority of whom were young immigrant women. They functioned as finishers and button punchers, pressers and lace inserters, runners and bookkeepers, but most of them operated the sewing machines. Row upon row of them.

On the eighth floor were the cutters who skillfully placed the waist patterns on the layers of lawn piled thick on the cutting tables. They used special knives to cut through the fabric and create the pieces to be sewn into garments. The cutters were all men and they were at the top of the pecking order. A skilled cutter could demand the highest wages. Also on the eighth floor were five long tables of sewing machines and the finishing tables where lace was inserted into the shirtwaists and the threads clipped. Around 200 workers worked on the eighth floor.

On the ninth floor was where most of the sewing was done. Eight 75 foot long tables stretched across the loft space. Each table held about 30 machines and the women sat along the tables side by side sewing from 7:30 in the morning until 6:00 or 7:00 in the evening (later during the busy season). Elbow to elbow they worked. Large wicker baskets full of the never ending stacks of pieces they were to fit together were crowded between their chairs. The girls sitting furthest down the rows had to climb over chairs and baskets if they wanted to get out during the day. Talking was not allowed during work time and the floorladies and the formen would see to it that the workers followed the rules and kept their production up. Because of the never ending supply of willing



**MAX BLANCK & ISAAC HARRIS,
OWNERS OF THE TRIANGLE WAIST COMPANY**

THE TRIANGLE FACTORY FIRE PROJECT



workers, those who didn't behave were dismissed. Also on the ninth floor in the rear towards the air shaft were the examining tables. About 250 workers worked on the ninth floor.

On the tenth floor were the pressing, packing, shipping areas and administrative offices where Mr. Blanck and Mr. Harris had their own offices. The showroom, where the Triangle salesmen would occasionally stop by to pick up the latest samples or bring a particularly important buyer, was located in the brightest corner of the floor where Washington Place and Greene Street met. Around 60 workers worked on the tenth floor.

Although life at the Triangle was grueling, many of the women who worked there found a way of enjoying themselves. Many liked the fact that they were among their own set, they made close friends and had a certain sense of independence. The wages they made often meant the difference between survival and destitution for their families.

THE FIRE

MARCH 25, 1911



Good Reading Profitable Reading
On the advertisement pages today thousands of hectares advertised in today's Globe. It will be read the advertisements today and every day.

Read Them Today Use Them Yourself
It will be read the advertisements today. Use the Globe's advertisements yourself. The Globe is the best value anywhere in the city.

VOL. LXXIX—NO. 85.

BOSTON, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 26, 1911—EIGHTY PAGES.

ESTABLISHED 1827 BY JOHN GARDNER.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

FIRE IN FACTORY KILLS 148; GIRLS LEAP TO THEIR DEATH

Blazing Bodies Whirl to Street in Scores, Flames Pursue Victims to Ninth and Tenth Story Windows.

ULTIMATUM BY RUSSIA TO CHINA

Demands Satisfactory Reply to Note of Feb 16 by Tuesday.

Will Hold Chinese Responsible For Obstinacy---Situation Grava.

DE LA BARRA FOR CABINET
Ambassador Will Be Diaz' Premier.
Gen Reyes Coming Home to

PEACE MESSAGE FROM JAPAN.

Emperor Glad President Did Not Believe "False and Wicked Reports."



EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Emperor Meiji, the Japanese emperor, called at the White House today and presented to President Taft the following personal message from the emperor of Japan: "To the President of the United States of America—I was greatly pleased to receive some very kind messages conveyed to me through the ambassador in Washington, and I thank you for it. I was already well acquainted with you and glad to receive the tales and kind reports regarding Japan, but it was especially a source of profound satisfaction to me to receive from you the assurance that the relations of amity and good understanding between our two countries were never better at any period than at this time. I am most happy to be able finally to reciprocate that assurance."
—Herald.

Shirtwaist Operators Die at Machines in New York, Seared By Blast of Fire Sweeping Shop.

MAP SHOWING LOCATION, MARKED BY CROSS, OF FIRE THAT KILLED 150

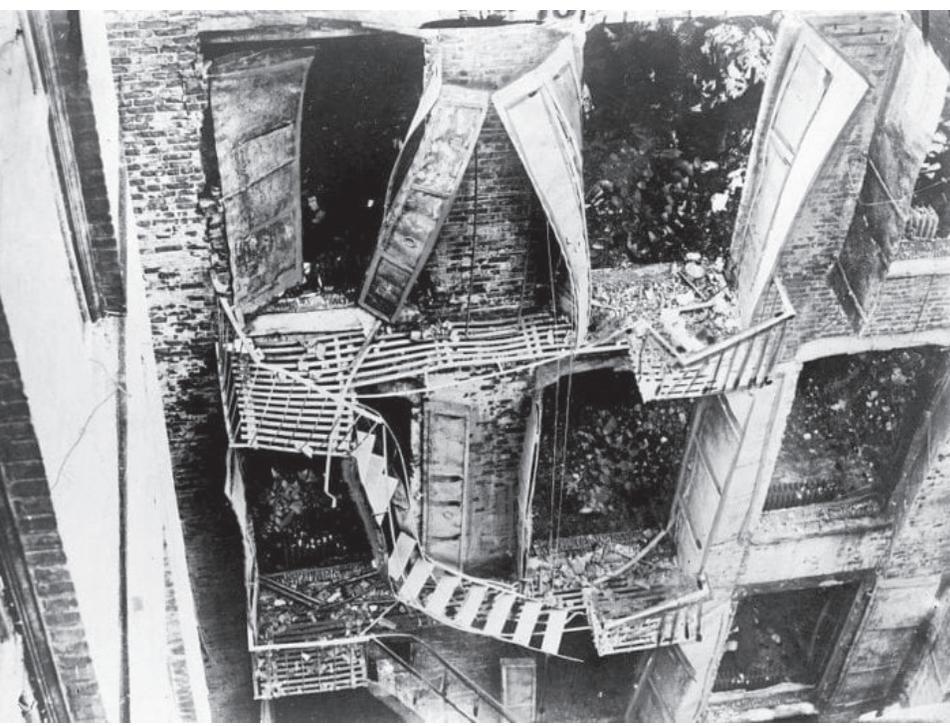


Women Cut Off From Exits, No Outside Escapes.

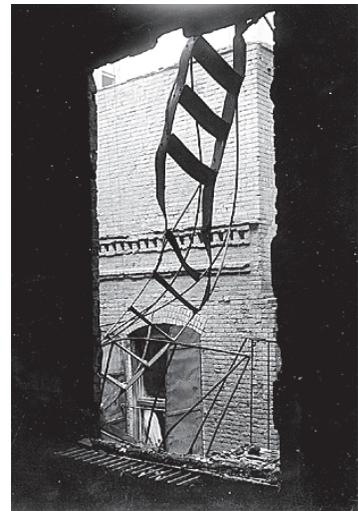
Pressure of the Maddened Crowd Hurls Dozens to Pavement.

Elevator Shafts Clogged With Dead—After Hundreds Get Out.

NEW YORK, March 25.—One hundred and forty-eight souls—nine-tenths of them girls from the East Side—were crushed to death on the pavements, smothered in smoke or strived crisp in a factory fire this



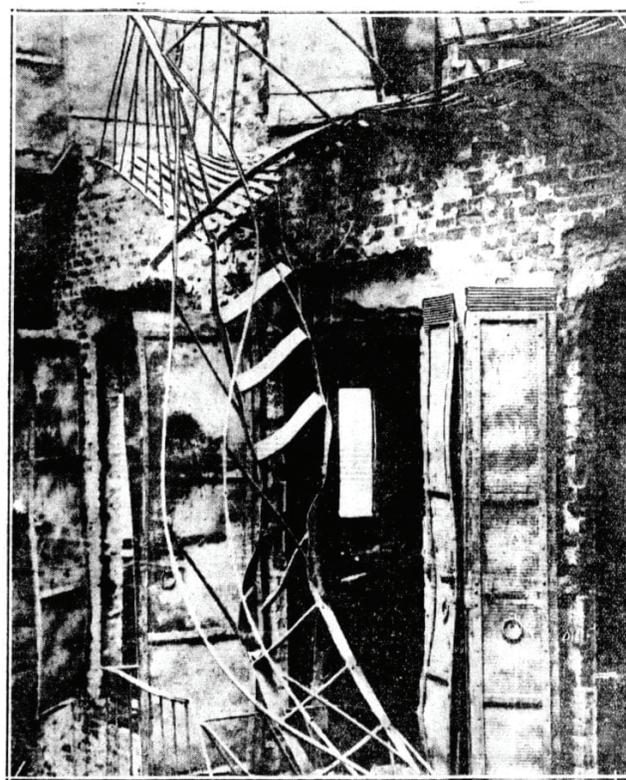
THE FIRE ESCAPE



FRAIL FIRE ESCAPE ON GUTTED BUILDING.



THE 9TH FLOOR



This Sole Means of Outside Escape Crumpled Like Cardboard Under the Weight of Crowding Girls.

CHARITIES PIER

EAST 26TH STREET
BETWEEN 1ST AVE & THE EAST RIVER
AKA: "MISERY LANE"



THE PRODUCT OF A "SAFE" FACTORY.



A CITY MOURNS...

APRIL, 1911. THE SEVEN UNIDENTIFIED BODIES FROM THE FIRE ARE HONORED IN A PROCESSION THROUGH THE CITY AND ARE BURIED TOGETHER IN THE EVERGREENS CEMETRY IN BROOKLYN.



NEW-YORK, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1911. -SIXTEEN PAGES. *



IN COMPLIANCE WITH LAW
The fire escape that ends in midair must be abolished.



CHARLES BOSTWICK
LAWYER FOR THE PROSECUTION



MAX STEUER
LAWYER FOR THE DEFENSE

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<https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/>

<https://www.famous-trials.com/trianglefire>

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