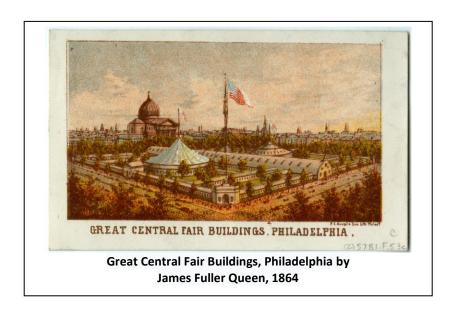
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The Great Central Fair of 1864.



HISTORY

The Great Central Fair took place from June 7 until June 28 of 1864^[1] in the <u>Logan Circle</u> park in Philadelphia. It was inspired by past <u>sanitary fairs</u> that happened throughout the United States to raise funds for the <u>United States Sanitary Commission</u>. It was a fundraiser for the <u>United States Sanitary</u> Commission.

The United States Sanitary

Northern / Union Army) during

Commission (USSC) was a private relief

agency created by federal legislation on

the American Civil War.[a] It operated

across the North, raised an estimated \$25

million in Civil War era revenue (assuming

1865 dollars, \$417.55 million in 2020) and in-kind contributions[1] to support the

cause, and enlisted thousands of volunteers.

The president was Henry Whitney Bellows,

and Frederick Law Olmsted acted as

June 18, 1861, to support sick and wounded

soldiers of the United States Army (Federal /

The main exhibit building was 200,000 square feet in size. It was designed by <u>Samuel Honeyman Kneass</u> and <u>William Stickland</u>. There was also Union Street, which was 540 feet long and ran in the middle of the fair. Union Street was compared to a <u>cathedral</u> by Charles J. Stille. Inside the main building were "departments" with different themes. Themes included the neighboring states of <u>New Jersey</u> and <u>Delaware</u>, themes about <u>corn</u> and <u>sewing</u>, a restaurant and <u>parlor</u>, as well as weaponry, fine art, <u>curiosities</u>, transportation and children's subjects.

On June 16, <u>Abraham Lincoln</u> and his family visited the fair. He donated 48 copies of the <u>Emancipation Proclamation</u> at \$10 a book. They were all autographed by Lincoln. The festival raised over \$1 million. [1]

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