

ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS,

CHESTNUT ST., BETWEEN TENTH AND ELEVENTH.

This view represents the building as it appeared shortly before it was torn down, in 1879, to make way for Fox's American Theatre. The Academy of Fine Arts was organized in 1805 by seventy-one gentlemen. They purchased a lot of ground on the north side of Chestnut Street, west of Tenth, and finished the edifice in 1806. It was the first building in the United States devoted to the fine arts. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1843, and reconstructed on a much larger scale than at first, in 1846. The elegant new building of this institution, (dedicated April 23d, 1876,) at Broad and Cherry Streets, is spacious and complete in arrangements. The original building on Chestnut Street was of the Grecian order of architecture, and stood back from the street, leaving an open space in front. About 1843 a large building was erected in front of the Academy for the use of the Artists' Fund Society. Access to the Academy was had by an entry or passage below. After some years the Artists' Fund Building was taken down entirely, and two small houses fitted up for use as shops replaced it, leaving an open passage-way to the main building of the Academy in the rear.



21a. Old Academy of the Fine Arts. [North side Chestnut St. from 1843]

876x
7



21b

Exterior of the Fine Arts. [S.W. corner Broad and Cherry Sts.]

712x
932