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covered with heavy sheet-iron, and no outside woodwork was exposed.

They were then considered to be fire proof. Very heavy square girders supported by iron columns, ran under the middle of each floor, from front to back, so as to shorten the span of the joist, which were heavy oak, close together, giving the floors great strength.

The Counting Room was three steps up from the floor of the front part of the store, which was about two steps above the level of the Front street pavement.

On Water street at the rear, the street was about eight-feet lower than the front - Walnut-street Hill sloping down, so that the depth at Water street, and the elevation of the Counting-Room, gave a good space for a Small Store - underneath - walled around - and opening on the level at Walnut and Water streets corner.

This store was for years advantage.