A guide to the George W. Elder (built 1874; steamship) passenger accommodations plan, 1890 April 30

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A Guide to the George W. Elder (built 1874; steamship) passenger accommodations plan

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Abstract: The GEORGE W. ELDER (built 1874; steamship) passenger accommodations plan (SAFR 21359, HDC1300) consists of one blueprint showing the passenger accommodations for the steamship S.S. GEORGE W. ELDER. The vessel is also referred to as the GEO. W. ELDER. The drawing is dated April 30, 1890 and depicts the main deck. The document predates the ship’s most famous voyage, the Harriman Alaska Expedition. The collection is open for use.
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Acquisition Information
SAFR-00001
Gifted to the Park 25 January 1955
Historical or Biographical Note
The S.S. GEORGE ELDER (1874; steamship), also known as the GEO. W. ELDER, was built by Roach & Sons in Chester, Pennsylvania for the Oregon S.S. Co. in 1874. The ship was once chartered by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. The GEORGE W. ELDER is probably best known as the ship that railway magnate Edward H. Harriman lavishly refitted for his famed expedition (on behalf of the U.S. Biological Survey) along the Alaskan coast in 1899. Harriman and his crew sailed through the Inside Passage, the Gulf of Alaska, the Aleutian Archipelago, north through the Bering Sea and Strait, to Nome. Crowds cheered the ship when it departed from Seattle on May 31, 1899, and the voyage was front-page news across the world. Naturalists John Muir and John Burroughs, and some of the nation’s leading scientists were recruited for the voyage. The Harriman Alaska Expedition enriched the world’s knowledge of the region and its environment, describing new genera and species, recording new fossil species and surveying new parts of the Alaskan territory.
(Taken largely from "Harriman Expedition Retraced: A Century of Change," http://www.pbs.org/harriman/)
Collection Scope and Content
The GEORGE W. ELDER (built 1874; steamship) passenger accommodations plan (SAFR 21359, HDC1300) consists of one blueprint showing the passenger accommodations for the steamship S.S. GEORGE W. ELDER. The vessel is also referred to as the GEO. W. ELDER. The drawing is dated April 30, 1890 and depicts the main deck. The document predates the ship’s most famous voyage, the Harriman Alaska Expedition. The collection is open for use.

Collection Arrangement
One blueprint stored in an A sized flat folder.

Related Materials
GEORGE W. ELDER (1874; steamship), freight contract, 1877, SAFR 00427, HDC0508
This material is located at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Harriman Alaska Expedition (1899)
Steamboats
GEO. W. ELDER (built 1874; steamship)
Blueprints
Architectural drawings
Naval architects