

The World's Largest Antique Cooking Stove when it stood at the old Michigan State Fairgrounds



Detroit, Michigan August 2011: 'World's Largest Stove' was destroyed by fire 118 years after it first went on display. A fire ravaged a massive wooden replica of an antique-style wood-burning cook stove that weighed 15 tons and stood 25 feet high. The 'World's Largest Stove' was built for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago and became a state landmark.

Fire crews were called to the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit on Saturday night after storms moved through the area. It is thought the blaze, which burnt the iconic structure to its frame, was sparked by a lightning bolt.

Michael Herron, a Detroit Fire Department senior chief, said reports indicated that 'natural causes' were to blame for the fire, adding it was most likely a lightning strike. The huge stove was built from oak by the Michigan Stove Co and first went on display at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893.

Painted to look like metal, it stood on a platform at the exposition over an exhibit of regular stoves. In 1998, the dismantled stove was pulled out of storage and reassembled at the state fairgrounds in Detroit.

Before the automotive boom, Detroit was home to five major stove-making companies and was called the Stove Capital of the World.



Above: Before Saturday's fire, the 15-ton, 25-foot stove had survived since 1893

Below: Mammoth Garland at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago

