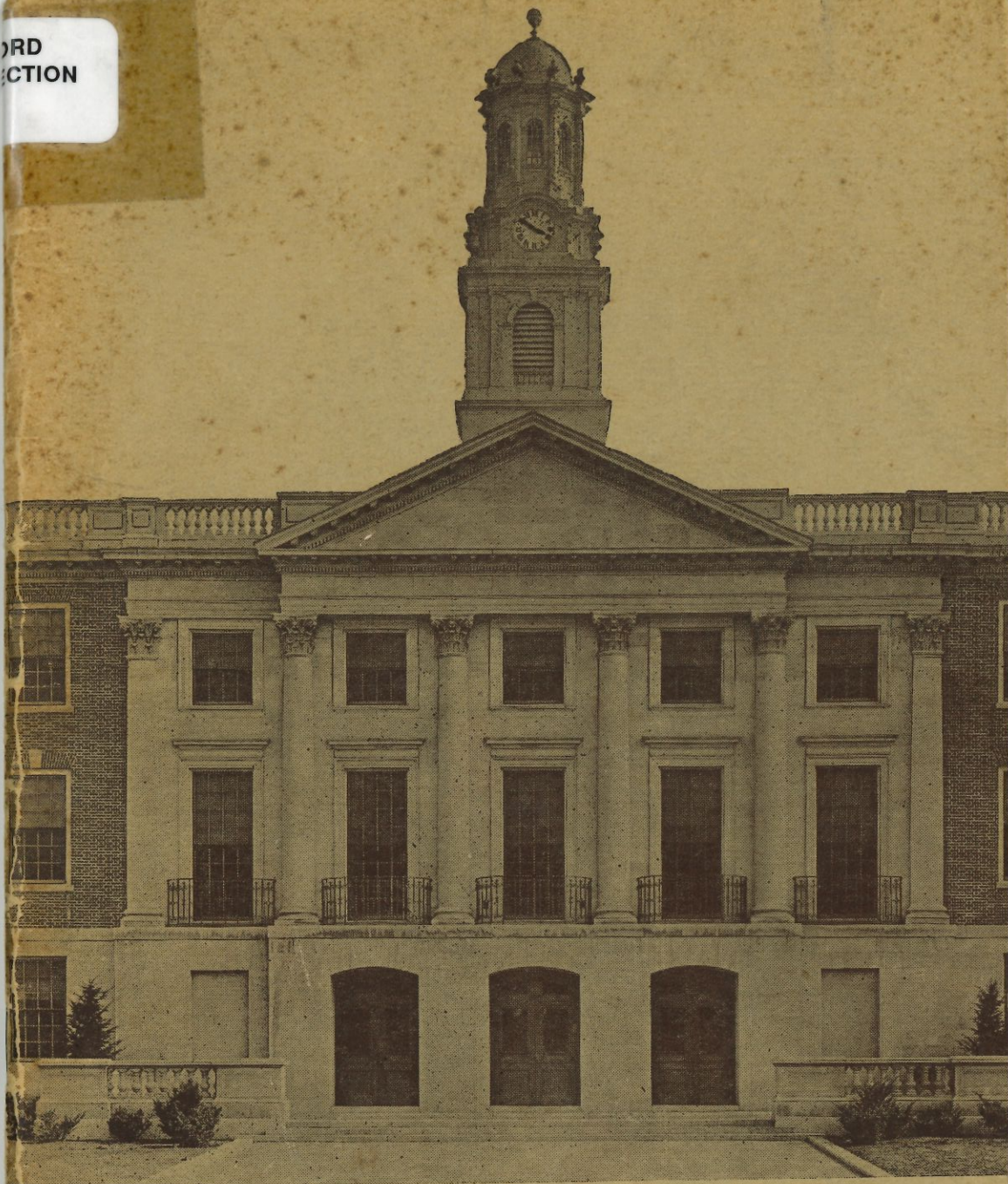


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DEDICATION OF THE
MEDFORD CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 11th, 1937

Medford
Collection
728
Dedication

DEDICATION

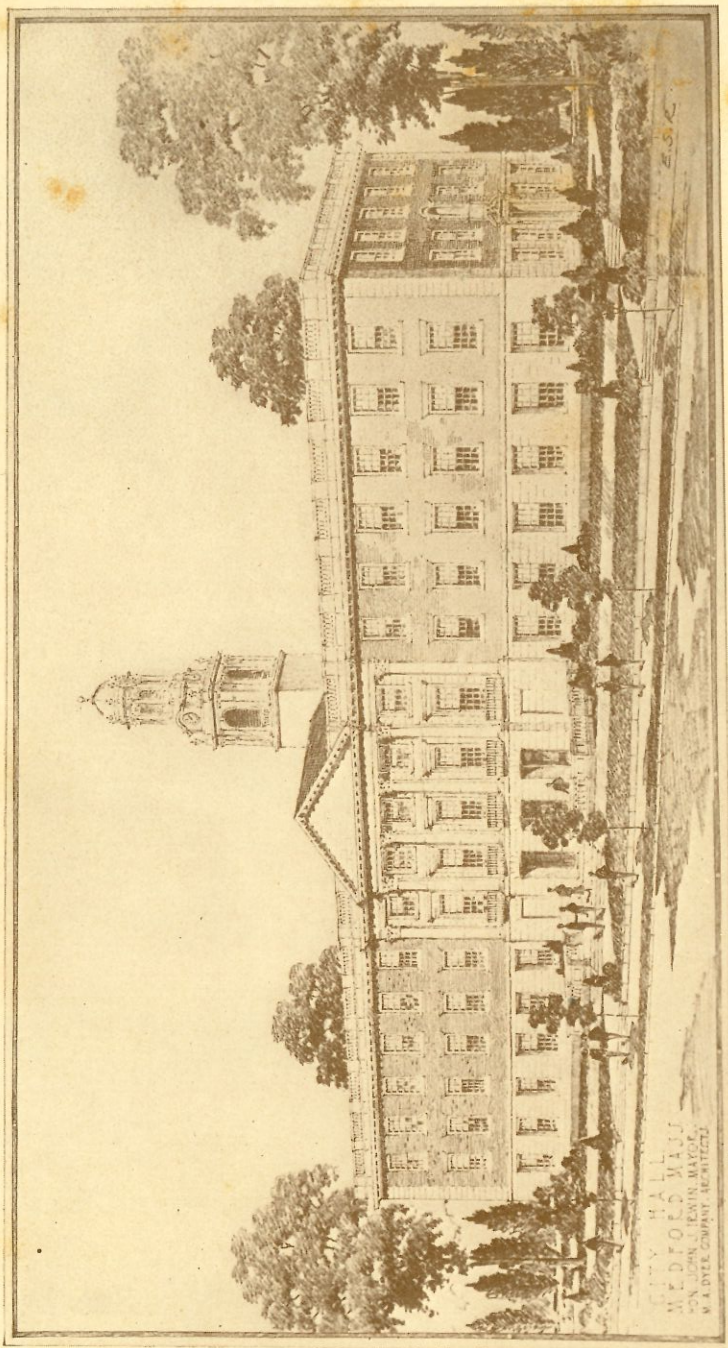
of the

NEW CITY HALL

Medford, Massachusetts



Saturday
September Eleven
Nineteen Thirty-seven



*The New City Hall
Medford, Massachusetts*

Program of Dedication

Medford City Hall

Saturday, September 11, 1937 at 3 P. M.

SELECTION	<i>Medford High School Band</i>
INVOCATION	<i>Rev. John W. Garrick</i> <i>St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church</i>
GREETINGS	<i>Alderman James W. Norton</i> <i>Chairman of Dedication Committee</i>
INTRODUCTION OF JOHN V. GIBBONS	
	PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN FLAG	
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY, POST 1012, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS	
REMARKS	<i>Andrew H. Peterson</i> <i>State Director of the P. W. A.</i>
ADDRESS	<i>His Excellency, Hon. Charles F. Hurley</i> <i>Governor of Massachusetts</i>
REMARKS	<i>Former Representative George P. Hassett</i> <i>President Board of Aldermen, 1934-1935</i>
SELECTION	<i>Medford High School Band</i>
ADDRESS	<i>Congressman Arthur D. Healey</i> <i>Of Massachusetts Eighth Congressional District</i>
DESCRIPTION OF CITY HALL AND PRESENTATION OF THE KEYS	<i>Michael A. Dyer, Architect</i>
ACCEPTANCE OF THE BUILDING IN BEHALF OF THE CITY OF MEDFORD AND ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE JOHN J. IRWIN, Mayor	
BENEDICTION	<i>Rev. Robert Dale Richardson</i> <i>Minister of the First Parish in Medford (Unitarian)</i>
SELECTION	<i>Medford High School Band</i>
INSPECTION OF THE NEW CITY HALL	
CONCERT	<i>W. P. A. Band</i> <i>Charles Panetta, Director</i>
	4.30 TO 6.30 P. M.
LAWRENCE FUND CONCERT	<i>Medford Municipal Band</i> <i>William J. Maloney, Director</i>
	7.30 TO 9.30 P. M.

Committee on Dedication

ALD. JAMES W. NORTON, *Chairman*

ALD. MAXWELL H. INMAN

ALD. JAMES G. LANE

ALD. WILLIAM F. SHINE

ALD. GEORGE A. CATALDO

ALD. THOMAS R. F. RAWSON

ALD. MICHAEL E. O'BRIEN



*Hon. John J. Irwin
Mayor of Medford*

FORMAL dedication September 11th, 1937, of Medford's beautiful, complete and centrally located City Hall, marks the culmination of the desires of a majority of the citizens extending through a period equal to the life of the city—45 years. But more than that, the subject of suitable housing for the local government was much discussed in days before present remembrance when the original town hall had been itself outmoded and outgrown with the rapid increase of population within a short period of years.

Each succeeding chief executive recognized the lack of adequate provision for the needs of a growing municipality, and expressed himself on the subject in inaugural or mid-term addresses.

At the inaugural of the new city's first Mayor, General Samuel C. Lawrence, in January, 1893, he stressed the great need for such a building before the first Board of Aldermen and Council. Mayor Lawrence intended donating a site at High and Forest Streets directly opposite the "Town-City Hall" of vanished memories, and would have also given a beautiful building. But due to an unfortunate circumstance, the offer was withdrawn.

Thenceforth for forty-five years the Medford City Government labored along under the most trying conditions, not conducive to efficiency and economy; leasing "annexes," after the old town building was demolished: renting the second floors of buildings in Medford Square, using at times Colonial Hall, the Assembly Hall of the old Washington School and the Dame School; parts of the Police Station and the Everett School on the Common.

Previous Endeavors

In 1897, Mayor Lewis H. Lovering favored and recommended a site which was not accepted.

Mayor Charles S. Taylor's inaugural address, in 1913, reiterated the need for a city building. An order was introduced in the Board of Aldermen February 11, 1913, asking that the Mayor and City Solicitor be authorized to appear before the Legislature in behalf of a petition that the municipality be permitted to borrow outside the debt limit for the purpose of a city hall.

The Board amended the petition and it was favorably acted upon and became a law April 11, 1913. Mayor Taylor then introduced an order before the Aldermen calling for an appropriation for the purchase of land and the erection of a suitable building.

CITY HALL DEDICATION COMMITTEE

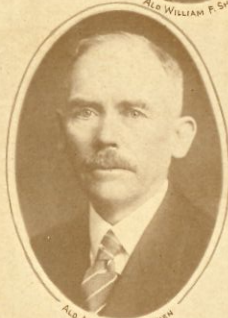
SEPT. 11



ALD. WILLIAM F. SHINE



ALD. GEORGE A. CATALDO



ALD. MICHAEL E. O'BRIEN



ALD. JAMES W. NORTON, CHAIRMAN

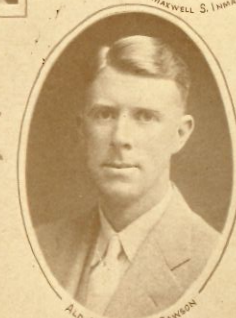


ALD. MAXWELL S. INMAN

1937



ALD. JAMES G. LANE



ALD. THOMAS R. F. RAWSON

MEDFORD ~ MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTO BY J. W. DORRINGTON - 22 TREMONT ST. BOSTON

Because of a referendum the money was not appropriated.

Following Mayor Taylor's efforts came the attempts of Mayor Benjamin F. Haines. The old "Town-City" Hall was razed to erect on this property a city hall.

It was at this period that the brick block of stores and offices known as the Medford building was erected on the site of the famous old Tufts Block and the tavern fronting High Street and the Square at the corner of Forest Street. In the upper floor officials and minor boards were quartered and the Aldermen met in the Washington School Assembly Hall. Other departments were widely scattered throughout the city.

In Mayor Richard B. Coolidge's inaugural address January 2, 1923, he said: "A city hall is more than a building; more than a group of offices. It is the center of the civic life of the community. Apart from practical reasons, other considerations urge that the City suitably house itself. The long advertisement of our present plight is harmful to the pride, the spirit and the good repute of the community."

His second annual address, January 5, 1926, again recommended that a city building be erected.

The most recent quarters for the municipal offices were first occupied under Mayor Edward H. Larkin. Mayor Larkin recognized the need for an adequate city building and recommended a method by which it might be constructed but the plan was not accepted.

Mayor John H. Burke in his mid-term address of January 3, 1933, advocated a bond issue for the construction of a city building and police headquarters "on the site which the people voted for in 1924 in a referendum."

Ultimate Steps

Mayor John J. Irwin recommended construction of a city hall in his first inaugural, so as to take advantage of a Federal grant. The first definite step towards the building of a City Hall was the filing of a petition in the Legislature, January 14, 1935 by Mayor Irwin through former Representative George P. Hassett, to secure the use of Medford Common as the site of the projected structure. This bill was approved and signed by the Governor, March 14, 1935 and was as follows:

CITY GOVERNMENT



Marshall S. Thorne



John C. Carr



Gustavus S. Hammett



Robert F. Gurnell



Clarence E. Trumble



James J. McDonald



Thomas F. Alden

1934



John J. Drury, Mayor



George R. Barrett, Treasurer

1935



George A. Bennet



James J. McLaughlin



James W. Pease



Edward Pollard



James R. Platten



Frederick T. McDermott



Ernest Martin



Charles E. Bennett



Thomas E. Ryan



Charles A. Callahan



Elias T. Prescott



John F. Gordon



John F. Gordon

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Printed by J. W. Condon & Co., Medford, N.Y.

CITY GOVERNMENT

					
MAXWELL J. JONES	JOHN G. CARR	CORNELIUS B. HARRINGTON	WILLIAM F. SPINK	ROBERT P. CAMPBELL	JAMES J. MACDONALD
					
JAMES W. NORTON	JOHN J. LYNCH, Mayor		JOHN V. GORDON, President	SYLVESTER T. O'SULLIVAN	
					
EDMUND F. ALLEN	DAVID J. MCCARTHY	THOMAS R. F. BROWN	JAMES P. MCCARTHY	JAMES W. PRICE	JAMES G. LANE
					
DANIEL J. KELLEY	JAMES P. HIGGINS	GEORGE A. CHILES	WALTER E. LAWRENCE	MICHAEL E. O'BRIEN	FREDERICK E. DEAN
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS					

Portrait by J. McManis, Biltmore, N. Y. Boston, Mass.

(Chapter 79)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF MEDFORD
TO USE CERTAIN PARK LAND IN SAID CITY
FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL PURPOSES

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

The City of Medford is hereby authorized to use for general municipal purposes the property located on Salem Street in said city, known as Medford Common, and now used for park purposes, and thereafter said property shall be controlled by the Board of Aldermen in such manner as they shall deem for the best interests of said city.

June 18, 1935, Mayor Irwin requested authorization of the Board of Aldermen to apply for a Federal grant of 45 per cent toward the cost of construction and equipment of a new City Hall and it was voted to give him the authority.

On November 13, 1935, this application was accepted by the Federal authorities at Washington and a grant of \$188,640 was tendered the city toward a total of \$450,000, as requested.



*Turning The First Sod
March Seventeenth, 1936*

*Left To Right; M. A. Dyer, Architect;
John J. Kelliher, Contractor; Mayor Irwin*

On November 19, 1935, Mayor Irwin recommended an appropriation of \$450,000 for the construction of a City Hall on the Medford Common. The Board of Aldermen passed the appropriation on the same date. A second appropriation of \$28,000.00 of which \$26,000.00 was for furnishings and equipment and \$2,000.00 for temporary heat, was voted by the Board of Aldermen November 5, 1936, and a third appropriation was made of \$2,500.00 for additional heat requirements.

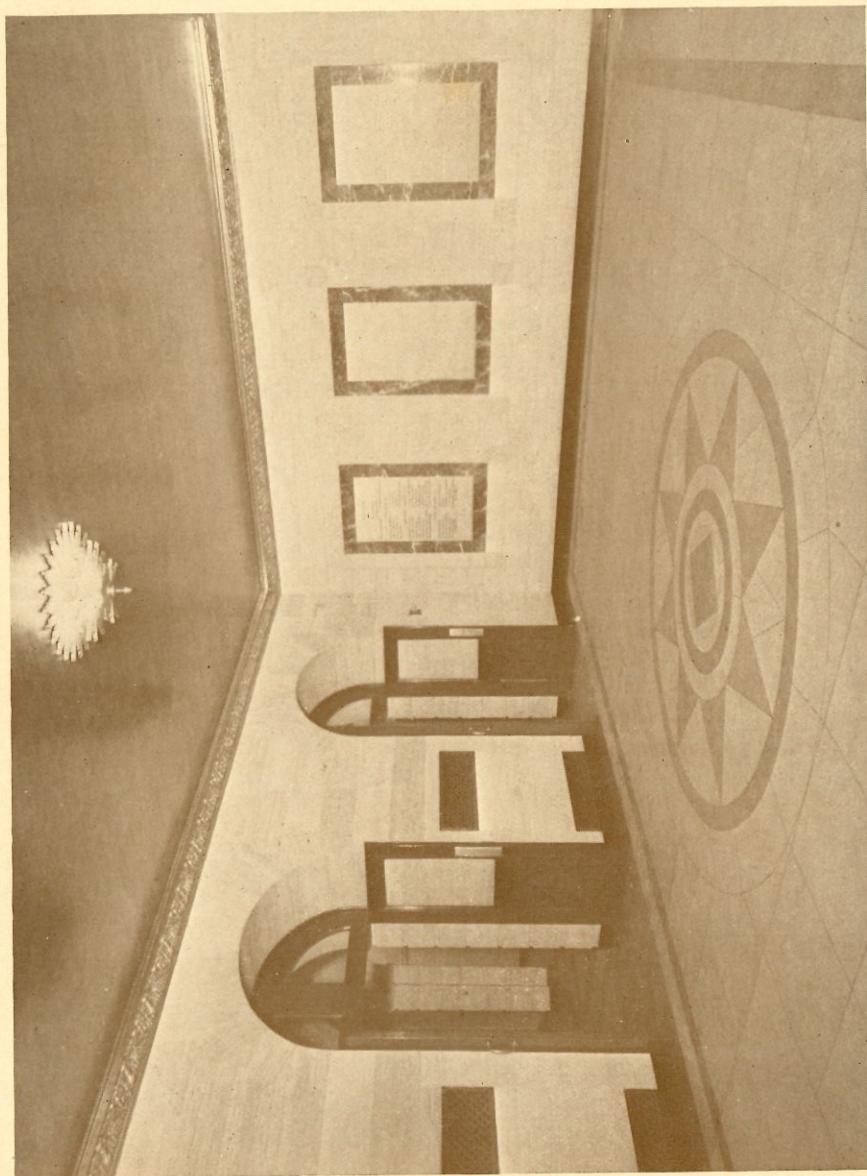
These funds were provided as follows: \$93,184.19, proceeds of sale of the City Hall site, and \$95,815.81 from account "Construction of City Hall", by a previous bond issue, a total of \$189,000.00, funds already available.

Of the Federal Grant, a maximum of \$188,640.00 available, \$186,000.00 was applied to the account; \$2,500.00 from available funds from sale of real estate, and the balance of \$103,000.00 by bonds approved by the Emergency Finance Board December 11, 1935, making a total of \$480,500.00 for construction and equipment of the building. In addition an allotment of \$5,000.00 from funds appropriated for W. P. A. projects and allocated for materials for grading and landscaping, making a grand total of \$485,500.00.

The M. A. Dyer Company of Boston was selected as architect for the City Hall, Mr. M. A. Dyer being a native son. The architect was authorized to advertise for bids and this was done January 23 and January 30, 1936. Bids were opened February 7, 1936. There were 14 bidders with 280 prices. The contract was awarded to the



Laying The Cornerstone



*Entrance Foyer
Toward Rotunda*

lowest bidder the M. S. Kelliher Company of Boston, February 12, 1936 for \$410,838. The cost of the new City Hall and equipment is as follows:

Completed Costs

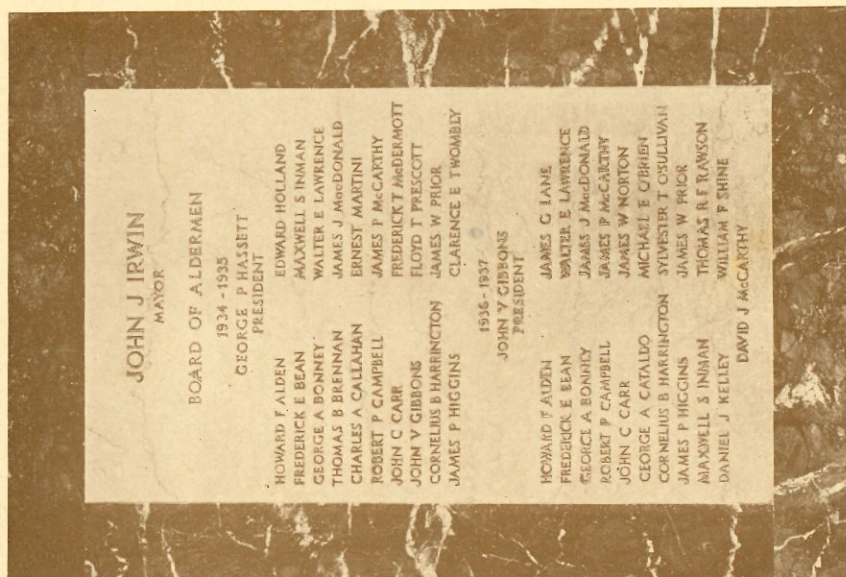
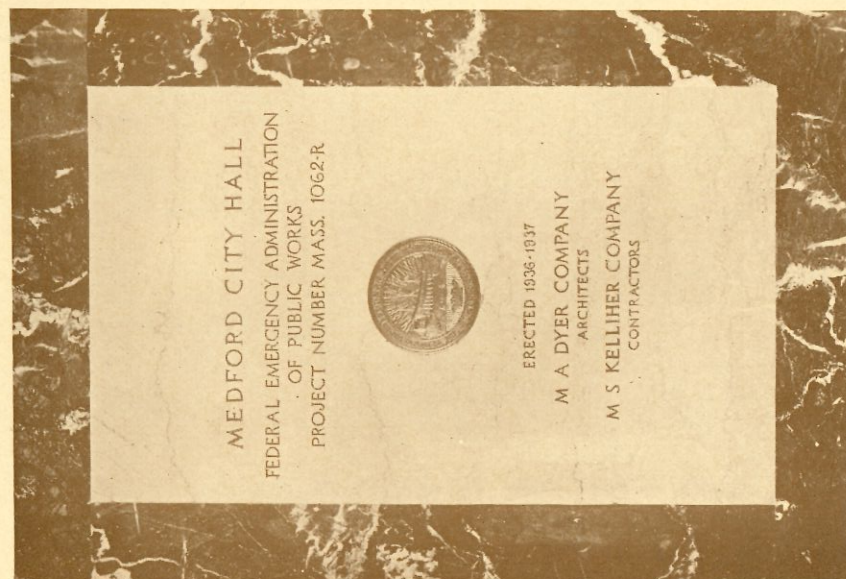
All building construction	\$417,450.00	
Architect and engineering	26,900.00	
Clerk of works	3,459.00	
Mechanical engineering	3,300.00	
Miscellaneous	2,205.00	
Estimated Total Building Cost		\$453,314.00
Furnishings and equipment	26,530.00	
Material for grading and landscaping (labor to be done by W. P. A. project)	5,000.00	
		<u>\$ 31,530.00</u>
Estimated Complete Total Cost		\$484,844.00

The property on which the new building stands was acquired as follows: In 1866 the Town of Medford agreed to purchase land on Salem Street from Thatcher Magoun for \$3000.00. The deed was passed about April 1, 1867, and on May 6 of that year the Town bought from William C. and Sarah M. Turner, seven hundred square feet of land additional for the sum of \$25.00. October 18, 1882, the Town received a deed of more adjacent property from Elizabeth Lawrence for one dollar. On December 9, 1892, the Boston and Maine Railroad, through its Vice-President, Frank Jones, deeded to the town a strip of back land adjacent to Medford Branch Railroad holdings, for the sum of one dollar. This was in exchange for a parcel allowing for the widening of the railroad right of way on the south side.

The total area of all property specified as having been thus acquired, and long known as Medford Common, is 119,950 square feet, or two and three-quarters acres. The assessed valuation of the property used as the Common was \$30,000.00 as of January 1, 1936. The land occupied by the old Everett schoolhouse was valued at \$3550.00, making a total valuation of the area \$33,550.00. This appraisal will undoubtedly be greatly increased by the erection of the new City Hall in enhancing the value of surrounding property.

The Park Department transferred the land to the City and through Legislative action the City was authorized to utilize the property for municipal purposes as has been hereto set forth.

The Board of Aldermen on February 11, 1936, approved the Common, so-called, as the site for the new municipal building. Ground was broken at 10 o'clock a. m., March 17, 1936, and the



cornerstone was laid August 12, 1936, with appropriate ceremonies and fitting addresses by Mayor John J. Irwin and prominent men of State and Nation.

Therefore, through Mayor Irwin and his persistent efforts with the hearty co-operation of the Boards of Aldermen of 1934-35 and 1936-37 were the hopes of the citizenry covering an extended period of years, brought to a realization. To them has been given the honor of having done their part in making this most modern and beautiful municipal building possible.

Description of Building

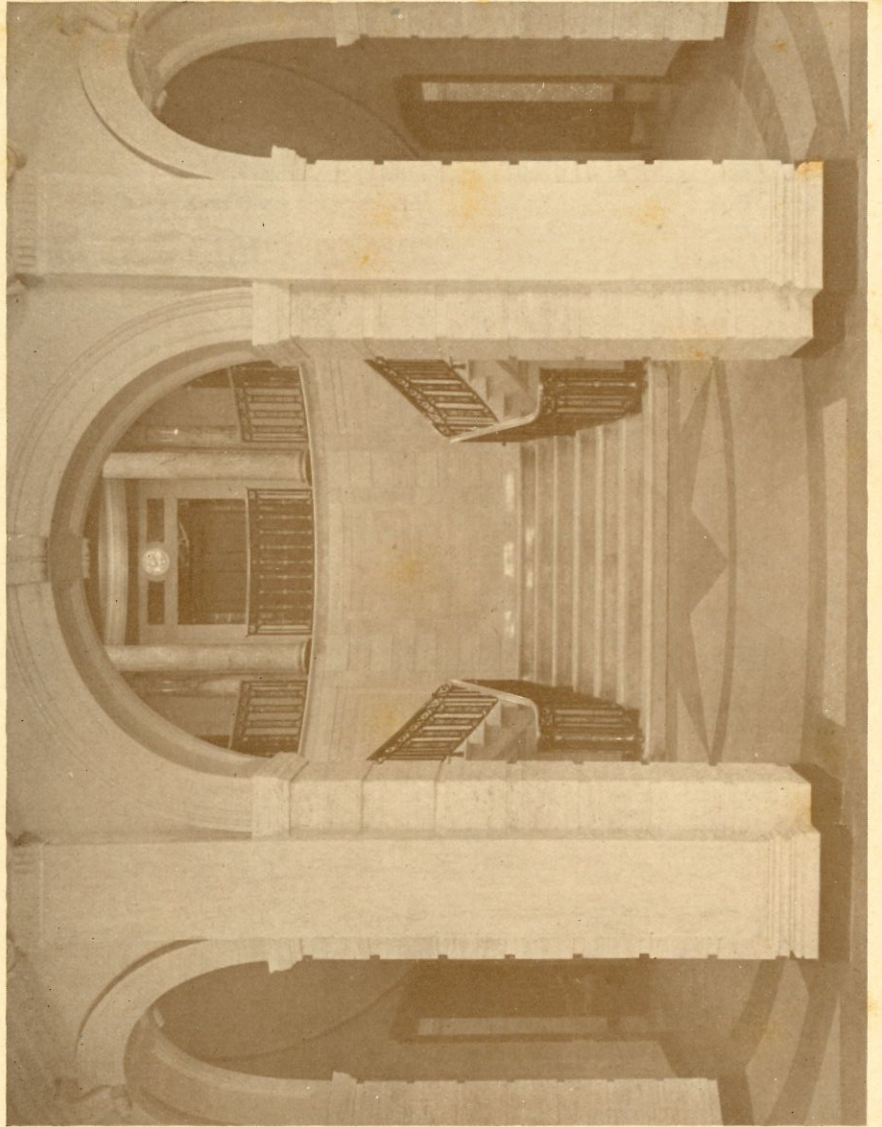
The architecture of the new City Hall properly follows Colonial lines, but while the early work in this Country as a rule had to be built from the materials at hand and was therefore of wood or brick with wood trim, here, the architect has been able to follow more closely the work that was being carried out in England at the same period, under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren and his followers, where the exterior was generally of masonry.

Medford Common provided an admirable location for the building, the main body of which is 180 feet long by 58 feet deep, with an ell 60 by 70. There are about 150 feet between each end of the building and the lot line and although set back 60 feet from the street, there are still about 75 feet from the ell to the nearest point of the lot line at the rear.

First consideration in the plan was location of the various departments. It seemed illogical to place the chief offices so they could be reached only by going up a flight of stairs, so the first floor was raised only a few steps above the street with the offices most used by the public, located there.

The Executive Offices and Aldermanic Chamber are on the second floor; the offices least frequented, on the third floor.

Treatment of the exterior is as straightforward as the plan. The first floor is of limestone, except for a granite grass-course. The two upper stories are mostly of dark red water-struck brick. In the central portion which houses the Mayor's Office, the limestone is carried to the cornice, and is set off by Corinthian columns. The cornice together with a balustrade is carried entirely around the building. Above the central columns a stone pediment gives a finish to the facade and leads the eye to the four-storied clock tower with gilded dome. The ground floor gives room for circular wrought



*Rotunda Entrance
From First Floor*

iron balconies in front of the full length windows of the Mayor's suite. Beneath these are three deeply recessed entrances with bronze doors. On each side of the outer entrance to the building are recesses containing carved tablets giving a condensed history of Medford and its forms of government and former meeting places.

Aldermanic Chamber

The Aldermanic Chamber occupies both the second and third floors and is indicated by high round-headed windows. Besides the front entrances, there are ornamented stone entrances in the center of each end. Cross corridors run through the building on all floors.

A broad flagstone walk leads from Salem street to a paved and balustraded terrace whence the front entrances open into a spacious lobby. From the rotunda, a circular flight of marble stairs with ornamental wrought iron and bronze rail, leads to the second floor. There a round colonnade furnishes a handsome central feature and gives access to the Mayor's Office and Aldermanic Chamber. Travertine is much used in the trim of corridors, while the trim around the doors is of Violet Fomosa Marble.

The lobby walls are lined with Roman Travertine of an unusually soft color, with inset panels of Tavernelle Marble, one of which serves as a directory. Another contains the names of the Mayor and the Boards of Aldermen for the two terms during which money was appropriated for this work; and a third memorializes the fact that the building was a project under the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. Here, as in the corridors, the floor is in a terrazzo design of three colors. The ceiling and ornamental plaster cornice are finished with gold leaf.

On the second floor, the walls surrounding the colonnade are also of Travertine with Fomosa Marble trim around the doors, and the columns and pilasters behind them are of beautifully veined Loreda Chiaro Marble. These marble pilasters are also carried down the corridor, with Travertine wainscoting between them and Fomosa Marble trim around the doors, the walls and cornices are painted in blending tones of the color of the Travertine. The colonnade is finished by a richly ornamented plaster cornice, above which a coffered dome rises to a ceiling sash which lights this portion of the building. Besides the ornament on the moulding, which outlines the coffers, they are further enriched by sixty beautifully modelled rosettes which besides their gradation in size, are also varied in design.



First Floor Corridor

Dome A Feature

In addition to the gilt bronze and crystal lighting fixtures in the vicinity of the dome, the ornamental plaster of the dome can be effectively illuminated by concealed lights. This same system is followed in the Aldermanic Chamber except for lights immediately above the Aldermen's desks.

In general the building is essentially an office building of the most modern type, completely fireproof, with metal doors and trim throughout and marble window stools; terrazzo floors with marble base in the corridors and rubber tile base in the offices with battle-ship linoleum floors except in the public spaces where the floors are of rubber tile.

The toilet rooms have terrazzo floors and the marble partitions carry around the rooms forming a dado 5 feet 6 inches high. In the rooms where there is special finish, the radiation is concealed and thermostatically controlled, with ornamental bronze grilles. Each office is provided with an electric clock and outlets connected to the vacuum cleaning system located in the basement. The windows are equipped with metal weather strips and fly screens, and metal furniture is used throughout. This sort of equipment should cut maintenance cost to a minimum.

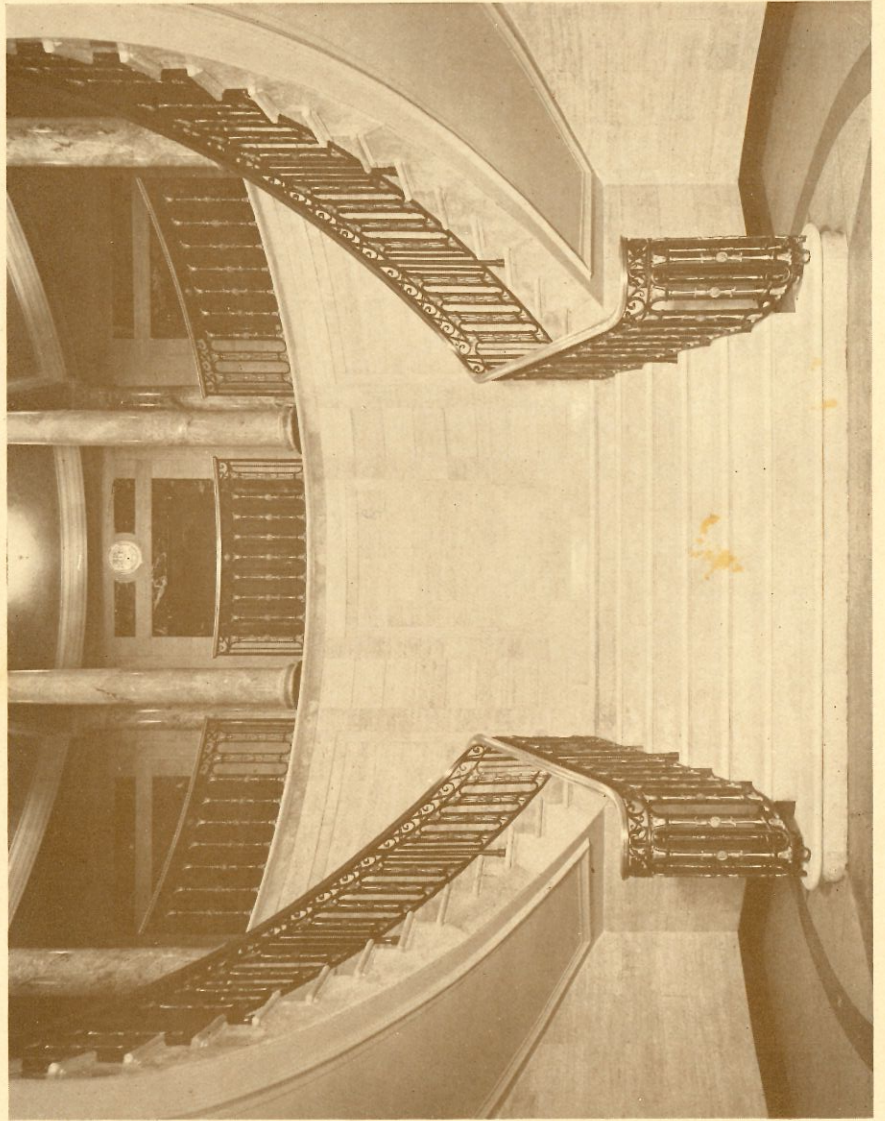
The basement is under slightly more than half the building, and besides the boiler room, electric room, and storage space, provides for a polling booth and accommodations for the Milk Inspector, Sealer of Weights and Measures, the equipment for the City Engineer, and storage vaults for the City Clerk.

On the first floor in the ell, and inter-related, are the offices of the Treasurer, Collector and Auditor; each with a vault and private office. The City Clerk has like accommodation but in addition a proof-reading room. In the space for the Assessors and the Water and Sewer Departments the private offices are large enough to be used for board rooms. There are also offices for Old Age Assistance, with a private office, and the Board of Public Welfare, which on account of the diversity of its work, has four private offices, besides an office for the physician and a treatment laboratory.

The public telephone booths and central telephone exchange are located so the operator overlooks the entrance lobby and will be available for general information.

Executive Offices

On the second floor, the central portion of the front is occupied by the Mayor with his Secretary and Public Office on one side, and



*Staircase To Rotunda
From The First Floor*

the Law Department on the other. Easily accessible also are the offices of the Purchasing Agent, Park and Building Departments, Inspector of Wires and Gas Fitting, Plumbing Inspector, Licensing Board and Soldiers' Relief Agent, as well as two Hearing Rooms.

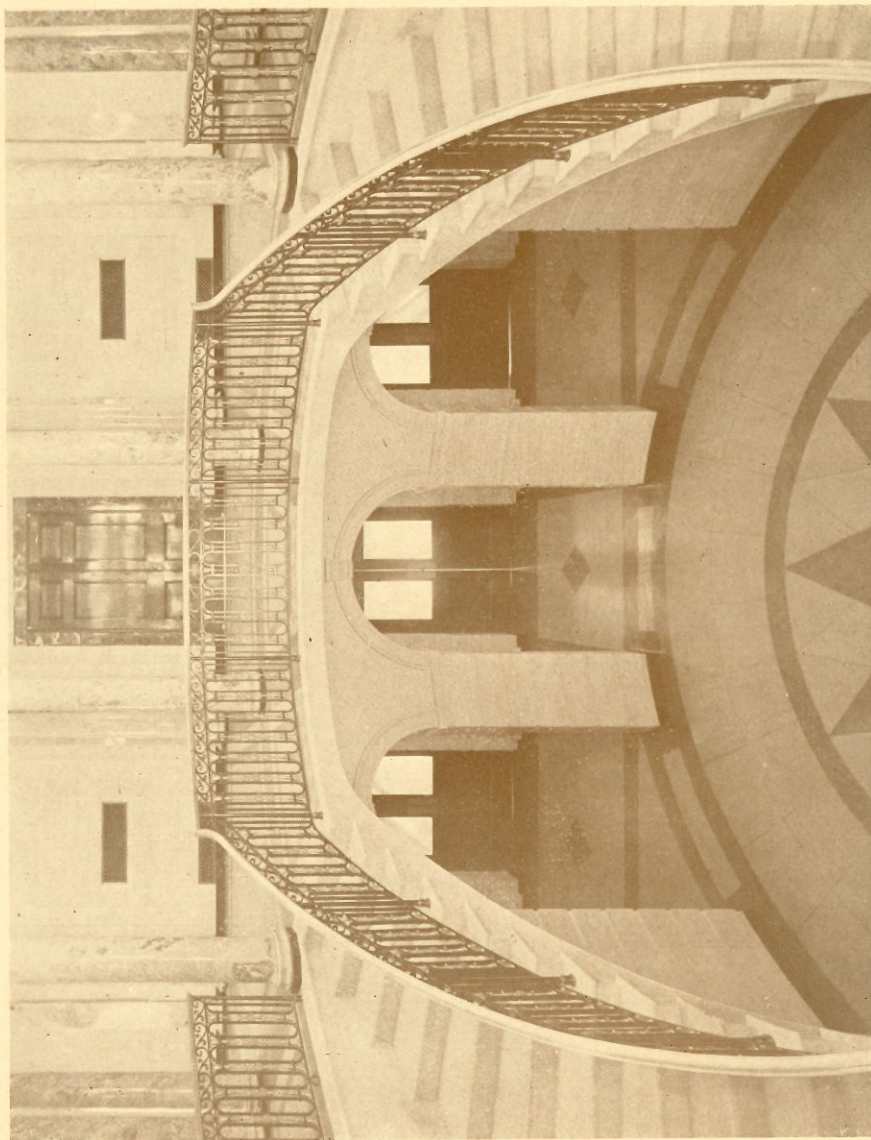
The Mayor's Office is entered from the corridor at the head of the stairs through double doors. Single doors at the sides of the room, lead to adjacent offices. On the front wall, are three deeply recessed windows reaching from floor to cornice. From the piers between these windows, wooden beams divide the acoustic ceiling into three panels and the richly carved cornice is also carried around them. All wood trim here is of black walnut. The walls are covered with veneer of Brazilian rosewood. The cork floor is laid in parquetry pattern. Draperies are of electric blue linen damask.

On the other side of the Rotunda from the Mayor's Office, three pairs of double doors open into the Aldermanic Chamber, with smaller doors on the sides leading into the offices of the City Messenger and Clerk of Committees. The Aldermanic Chamber is 56 feet wide and 43 feet deep. Opposite the entrance an alcove 16 feet deep by 38 feet in width gives space for the desks of the Aldermen. These are set in a semi-circle around the platform of the presiding officer, and separated from the rest of the room by a wood and wrought-iron railing.

To the right of this alcove is a committee room, and to the left a stairwell which serves as an emergency exit and also gives the Aldermen access to a still larger committee room and coat-room with toilet on the third floor. The room is finished in oak to a height of 18 feet 6 inches, with plaster between the woodwork and the acoustic ceiling. The room is lighted by three large round-headed windows on each of the outside walls. The room has a black marble base and the cork tile floor is laid in diagonal pattern.

On the third floor are located the Engineering Department with private office, file room, drafting and blueprinting room; the Board of Health with file room, clinic and board room; Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Tree Warden, Schoolhouse Building Commission, Commissioners of Sinking Funds, and another hearing room, besides a rest room for women employees.

The lot to the left rear of the building is paved for parking. The planted areas include groups of evergreens at the base of the terrace balustrade and front corners of the building, with plantings of shrubs at the outer edges of the lot. This will be further accentuated by a group of trees at each end of the building and carried around the rear of the lot.



*Rotunda Staircase
From The Second Floor*

Portals of the Past

Two hundred and two years after Medford was settled (1630), and 105 years ago (1937), the citizens voted November 12, 1832, to name a committee to report on the feasibility of a town house. The committee reported at the March meeting of 1833 "the wish of a majority of the town that they should have a suitable place in which to transact their municipal business," and recommended such a structure be built, believing "land and building could be secured for about \$2500, of the following dimensions:

"Sixty-five feet long, 40 feet wide, 18-foot posts, which will contain a hall 44 feet long, 40 feet wide, and entry 15 feet, a projecting front six feet, with two rooms over the entry for the accomodation of the town officers."

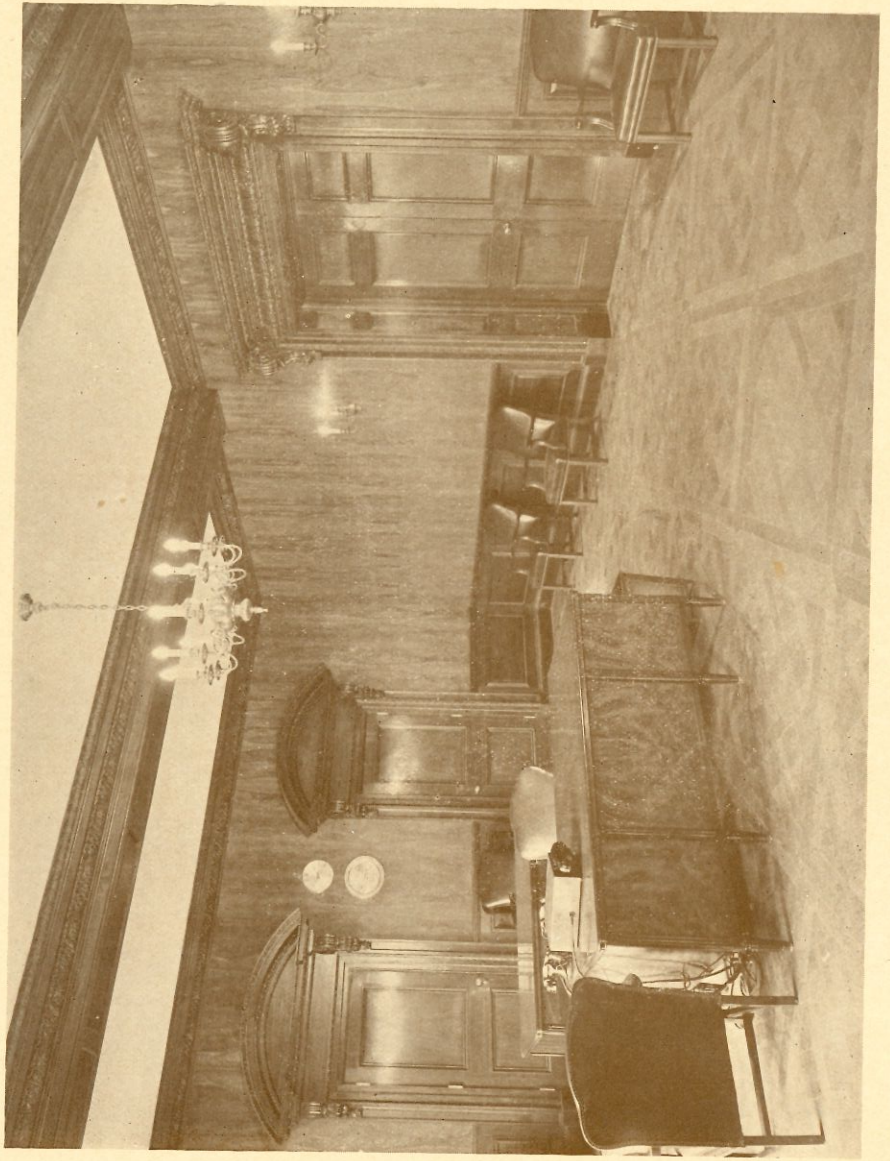
Three lots were found available. The area advised was part of the land of Mrs. Hepzibah Hall on the "Andover-Medford Turnpike," (the present Forest Street.) This is about the site of the new Medford Post Office. It was available for "\$10 a foot of front, 75 feet deep, with the barn thereon standing; or she will deduct \$50 if the town should not want the barn, in which case it will cost \$450. The town would want 50 feet."

Two other plots could be bought, one of them a portion of the Timothy Cotting estate (where Dr. Charles W. McPherson now lives on Forest Street, opposite the new Federal Post Office); and the other "land of Mrs. Buel, 47 feet front and 106 feet deep, with the buildings thereon for \$3000, but your committee are of the opinion that the piece of Mrs. Buel's will cost more than the town will be willing to pay."

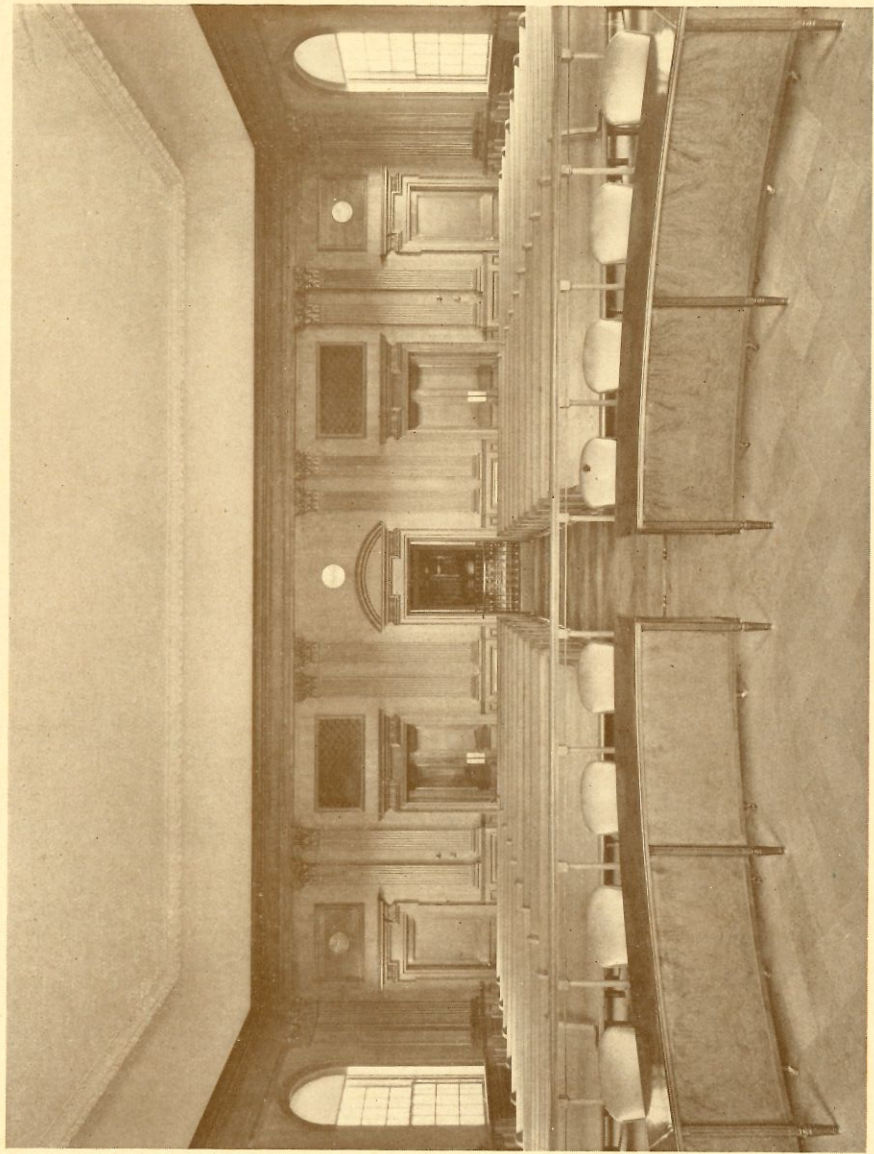
The Buel corner on High and Main Streets, was purchased however, the citizens voting against the Hepzibah Hall lot by a majority of 28: Yes, 80; No, 108. Reason for the vote against the committee's recommendation was that Medford "Square" already was established.

Town Hall Site Purchased

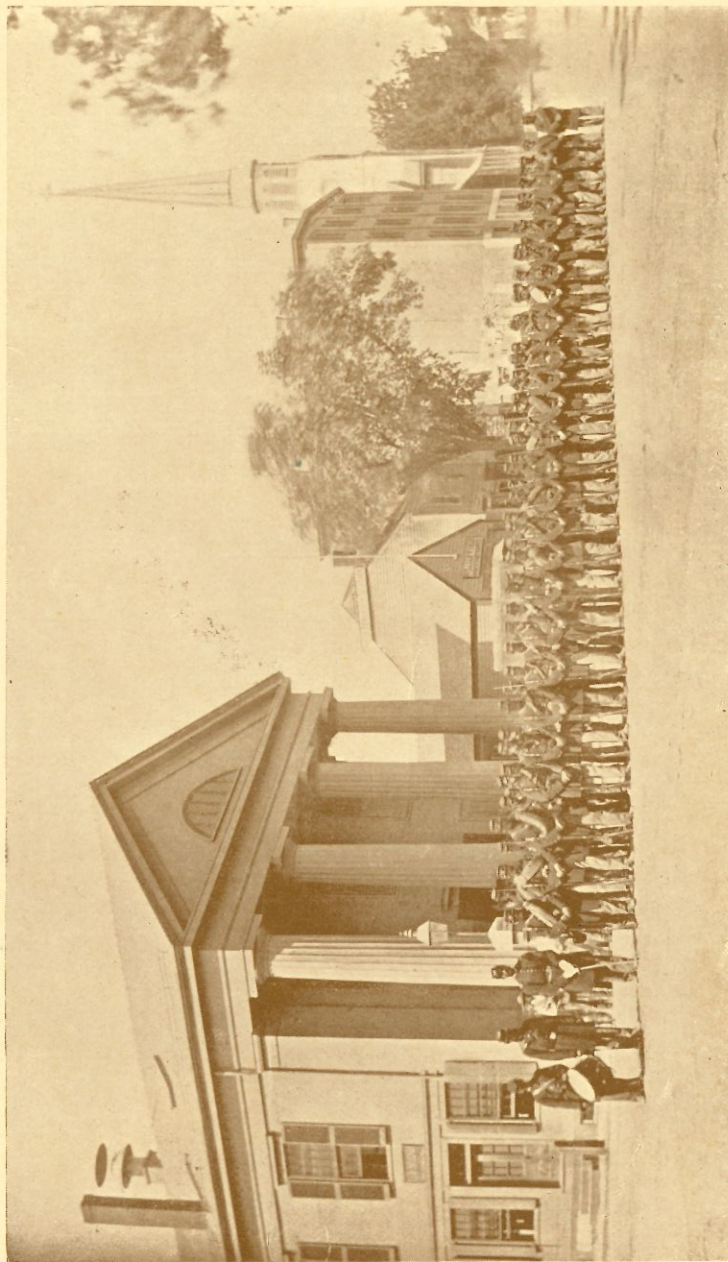
An agreement of sale was made with Mrs. Buel in April, 1833; an architect was engaged, sketches were offered and it was proposed to erect a town hall 71 feet long and 40 feet wide, with a hall in the second story, and a basement 40 x 60 feet. The ground floor was to have town offices and space for two stores. Estimates for the building ran from \$3600 in wood, to \$3300 in brick, and \$7300 in stone.



*The Mayor's Office
On The Second Floor*



*Aldermanic Chamber
From President's Desk*



*The Old Town Hall
In Civil War Days
Lawrence Light Guard Leaving For The
Front, April 19, 1861.*

(Courtesy Medford Historical Society)

The committee recommended a wooden town house, and in March, 1834, the report was adopted. The committee was instructed to follow the plans of Architect Benjamin (who designed the present Public Library which was the old Thatcher Magoun homestead). The contract was awarded Thomas Sables, a reliable Medford carpenter. Completion of the building is not recognized in any available town records, but the stores were leased in March, 1835, to Coburn & Company, and Samuel S. Green, Jr.

The building's main entrance was past the fluted columns which extended two stories to an overhang of the attic on the High Street front. The doors were in the center, a flight of broad stairs at the left and access to the town offices to the right of the vestibule. The store entrances were on Main Street, with projecting granite steps.

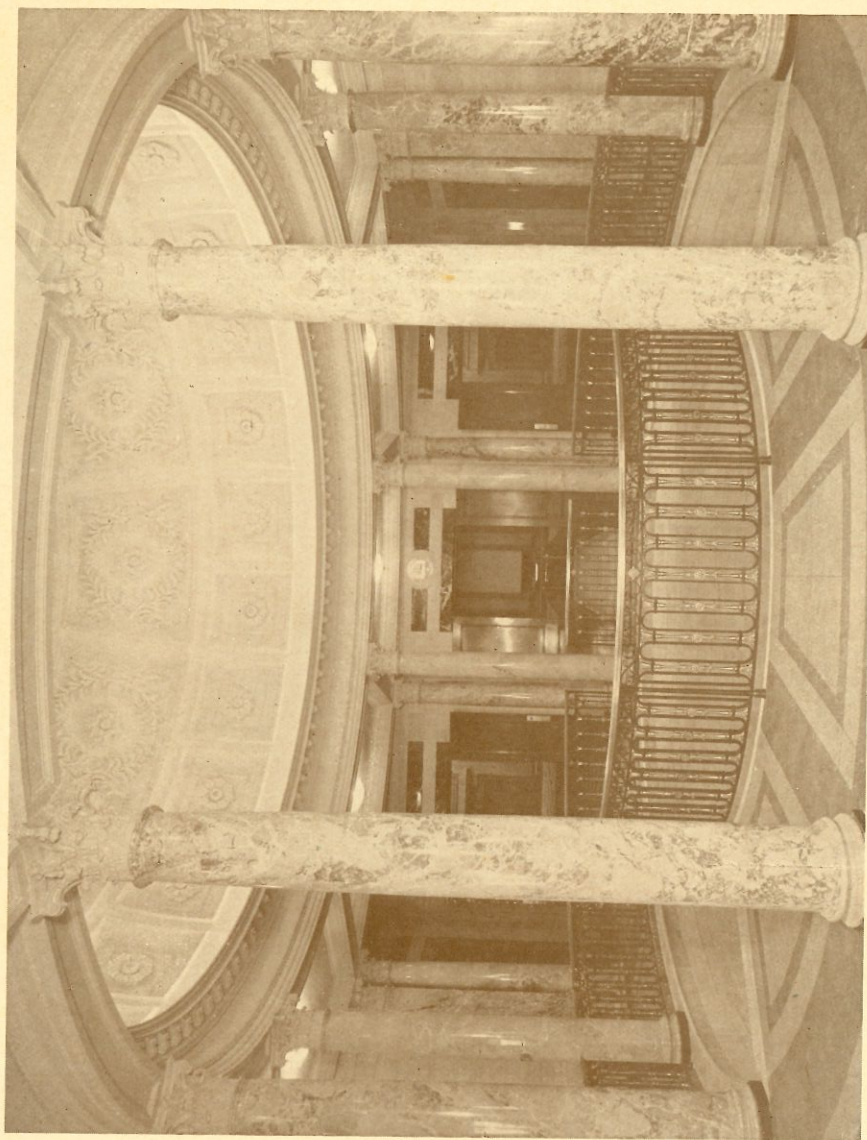
The river end of the building was arranged for the Washington Hook and Ladder Company, chartered by the Legislature in 1829, and the oldest active fire company in the country at the time. The fire cart had been kept in various places previously.

The new town house sprang immediately into public favor. A succession of shop keepers followed Coburn and Company and Samuel S. Green, Jr. There were tailor's shops, dry goods and grocery stores, a book shop and a circulating library. The last provision shop dealer took his own life and his store space became first the police station and then the Selectmen's room.

Thrice Partly Burned

Fire partly destroyed the town hall October 27, 1839. In rebuilding, thirteen feet were added to its length. October 18, 1850, the building was again seriously damaged but enough of the skeleton was left to make reconstruction advantageous. An incendiary fired the town house September 30, 1859. The loss was less than in the two earlier fires, but in this renovation the town fathers gained needed room and the stores were improved.

In the days of the Civil War great activity centered around the structure. The Lawrence Light Guard was recruited there and departed for the South April 19, 1861. In the big public meeting room upstairs the women of the town gathered to scrape lint for bandages, to prepare clothing, put up Christmas packages and in all ways possible aid in the welfare of the youths at the front—youths whose stainless record has been passed down through all succeeding wars and years, its noble original name a priceless heritage to posterity—the Lawrence Light Guard.



*Rotunda Toward The
Aldermanic Chamber*

The war over, West Medford growing, and the center of the town developing rapidly, agitation was begun in 1872 for a new and larger building. It was voted to erect a new town house but the Great Boston Fire of that year almost ruined many business men of the city whose homes were in Medford, and the vote to build was rescinded. Many citizens opposed this, as a fallacy, but sympathy won at the ballot box, the original building was saved, and in 1892 when Medford became a city, it was reconstructed as the first City Hall. There were many changes in its interior.

Edward B. Dennison, Medford Hillside photographer and historian, thus describes the changes: "After Medford became a city the Mayor's office was in the corner facing the (then) old granite watering trough in the Square. Entrance was on Main Street with a window at either side of the recessed doors. The Mayor's clerk occupied a desk at the window in the front corner facing the door with a typewriter by the second window. The desk of the Mayor stood at the right, with a large table at the rear of the room."

The Old Lock-Up

"Next to the Mayor's office were the offices of the City Treasurer, the Auditor, the Collector and the Assessors. Beyond the Collector's office was the Police Station with cells at the rear and in the cellar. This was used until the new headquarters was built in 1896. The City Clerk's office was directly ahead of the second Main Street door (where the Selectmen's room used to be)."

Horse cars on the Salem Street line rattled for years past the converted city building; then came the line to West Medford supplanting a horse-drawn barge. Trolley cars drove out the horses. These had their noisy day, the West Medford electric line was abandoned to motor busses, and while a few electric cars still pass today through the Square between the car barns and Sullivan Square, automobiles have overrun the quietude of Medford's yesterdays, and with the departure of the Lawrence Light Guard for the World War, the old Town Hall, mellowed by time, its gray paint faded and blistered, passed on, sophisticate of the scene.

What every Mayor had advocated, what General Lawrence had offered to give, it befell Mayor John J. Irwin to secure in his administrations, Medford's adequate municipal building, second home of its government in all her history.



*One Of The
Side Entrances*

SETTLERS WERE REPORTED
 "UPON MYSTICKE" IN 1629
 A LARGER GROUP IN 1630
 SETTLED NEAR THE SQUARE AND
 NAMED THE PLACE "MEADFORD"
 THE FIRST RECORDED TOWN
 MEETING WAS HELD IN 1674
 IN 1676 THE FIRST SELECTMEN
 WERE ELECTED AND IN 1689
 THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE WAS
 SENT TO THE GENERAL COURT
 TOWN FORM OF GOVERNMENT
 CONTINUED UNTIL MEDFORD WAS
 INCORPORATED A CITY IN 1892

Left Hand Tablet

Right Hand Tablet

MEDFORD'S
 FIRST TOWN MEETINGS
 WERE HELD IN PRIVATE HOMES
 LATER IN MEETING HOUSES
 UNTIL A TOWN HALL
 WAS ERECTED IN 1833
 THAT BUILDING WAS
 PARTIALLY BURNED AND
 REBUILT IN 1835 AND 1850
 AND REMODELED IN 1893 TO
 ACCOMODATE THE NEW
 CITY GOVERNMENT
 IT WAS RAZED IN 1916
 AND FROM THAT DATE
 OFFICES WERE LEASED
 UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF
 THIS BUILDING IN 1937

Text Of Tablets At Main Entrance

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