

Thesis

O. J. Swenson, Course IV

Jan 18-1904.



77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
<http://libraries.mit.edu/ask>

DISCLAIMER NOTICE

Accompanying drawings are held at the MIT Museum.

Thank you.

Thesis —

A City Hall for a city
of seventy five thousand
inhabitants.

Respectfully Submitted —

Quart. S. Swenson. Course IV.

Jan. 1904.

Introduction In the majority of our American cities containing seventy five thousand people or less, there are but few buildings that we would call either beautiful or imposing, if considered from an architectural standpoint.

In such cities there is seldom to be found an art gallery for paintings, a museum of sculpture, or any building which will satisfy the eye of the art lovers. To be sure, there are some buildings, such as old churches of colonial and other styles, a postoffice built at a more or less ancient date, hospitals, railroad stations, hotels, schools, and stores built purely for practical purposes, but possessing little if any architectural beauty.

For the above reasons, and ~~for~~ the fact that the building committee were, for the most part of an artistic temperament, I have been led to design this city hall, firstly, to serve as a grand and dignified structure which shall be pleasing to the eye, and, secondly, to fulfill all the requirements in regard to entrances, arrangements of rooms, etc, which are set forth in the prospectus.

Plans The prospectus calls for a large front entrance, and a smaller entrance at the rear. As to rooms, the following are required: a large vestibule, a reception room which may also be used for banquets, a court room,

a council chamber, and rooms for the following city officers: mayor, chief of police, clerk, judge, assessor, and highway commissioners.

1st F/007

The first floor plan is one hundred and fifty four feet in length and one hundred and five feet in width. This space is divided up into the vestibule, the court-room, the room for the chief-of-police, the assessor's room, and a few others.

The vestibule is reached immediately upon entering from the main approach. This hall is rectangular in plan, and has in the center of either end wall a niche containing a statue. There is sufficient wall space between the many columns, which support a deeply

coffered ceiling, for hanging paintings of the city fathers of past generations. At each end of the vestibule, between the center of the room and the outside wall is a door, the one leading to chief-of-police waiting room, and the other to the court-waiting-room. The court-room is fifty feet long and thirty feet wide.

Next to the chief-of-police's room is the highway commissioner's room, which is supplemented by a private office and a coat room.

Second Floor

The second floor is reached by a broad staircase, which, upon reaching the first landing ascends to the right and to the left. The second floor is, in general, very similar to the first floor plan. The large reception hall

in the second story is directly above the vestibule of the first story, which is described above.

The mayor's office, and also that of the city clerk are at one end, and the council room at the other end of this floor.

A stairway is provided solely for the use of janitors and workmen about the building, in order that they may not need to use the "Grand staircase". The basement is provided with coal bins, heating apparatus, etc.

ELEVATION

The front façade of the building is purely French Renaissance in style. The central portion of the first story is pierced by three large openings, which contain iron grille doors.

Windows, flanked by Ionic columns supporting a pediment, make up a similar feature in the central portion of the second story. Between these windows, and beyond each of the end windows, is a niche containing a statue. A balcony on a level with the second floor is supported by large brackets which extend down to the piers from which the arches of the doorways spring.

The remainder of the front facade is rather plain, ornamentation being subdued; the ends of the building and also the rear are similarly treated in this regard.

A large clock in the center of the third story is one of the few decorative features on the exterior of the building.

I believe a city hall of this description,



besides serving the practical purposes for which it is intended, would be a pleasing sight in the eye of the public.

DRAWINGS — Elevation - Scale $\frac{9}{64}'' = 1'$
 Plan 1st STORY $\frac{3}{32}'' = 1'$
 Plan 2nd " $\frac{3}{32}'' = 1'$
 Section