

#60. Dr. Palmer demolished his house but Mr. Goodrich moved his to the corner of Lawrence and Winter Streets.

S.S. & G.A. Lawrence were awarded the contract to build the extension for \$7397.65. The plans were prepared by H.M. Francis. The foundations are of split granite laid in cement mortar. The extension is 48 feet 4 inches long by 66 feet wide, the same width as the old building. At that time there were two main entrances, one on each side, and five windows on each side, two in the first story and three in the second. The rear elevation had five windows on each side and five circle-top windows in the gable.

A large hall, 11 feet wide, extended across the new part, connecting with the entry of the old building. The library was on the first floor, 66 by 35 feet, occupying all the room on this floor except for the hall, stairways and closets. It was lighted by nine windows, two on each side and five in the rear.

From each end of the hallway, stairs ascended to the stage above, which was 36 feet wide and 22 feet deep. On each side were double doors leading to the entries and the anti-rooms were also connected with the stage by folding doors. In the rear of the anti-rooms were two large rooms, 26 by 16 feet, and the ceiling thus left a space for a hall above them, 26 by 64 feet, finished partly into the roof.

While the extension was under construction a tornado struck Fitchburg and both the old and new buildings were badly damaged. This tornado or hurricane hit Fitchburg at 4 P.M. on Wednesday, July 16, 1879 and did considerable damage to many buildings, trees, etc. It is recorded elsewhere.

Many famous people have occupied the stage at City Hall. On Friday, December 13, 1901, Booker T. Washington, the famous negro educator, spoke from the stage. Over the years the interior of City Hall has been more or less remodelled. In 1908 a petition was circulated for another addition to the building to cost \$50,000, but the work was never undertaken. The Mayor stated that the city had spent \$415,000 on repairs to the building over the past 15 years. In 1962 there was more remodelling inside and a drive-up window was made in the rear.

In May, 1964, a huge remodelling and modernization program got under way. It was to cost \$250,000, half of which was to be paid by the federal government. Supt. Caron stated that the plans call for a new automatic elevator at a cost of \$20,000, relocation of vaults and offices and further office space in many areas which are not now being utilized.

Modern plumbing and air conditioning will be installed, also a standby generator which will supply lights in an emergency. Upstairs in the front hall Mr. Caron plans to partition off parts of the foyer. This will eliminate one flight of stairs leading to what was once the old auditorium but which now contains the Public Welfare Department. Doors and stairways will be relocated at strategic points, and additional space is available in the attic over the auditorium. The original wide flight of granite steps in front will be removed and replaced by a concrete platform with side steps.