

City Hall 1886-1908

Heritage Notes

10-8-13

Dates of note regarding City Hall Number One, which was dedicated July 4, 1886

July 27, 1886- Large audience enjoyed vocal and instrumental music, tableaux, recitations, and a scene from Shakespeare's "Winter Tale". The stage was handsomely furnished and the costumes were very elegant. The tableaux was said to be the finest ever seen in Vermillion.

March 16, 1899- Remodeling of the City Hall building has begun.

August 22, 1901- Opera Hall leased to Bert Partridge and Paul Whiteside.

September 11, 1902- Dunlap and Wheeler lease Opera House. City Council agrees to install new scenery and drop curtains.

January 14, 1904- Agitation for new City Hall & Opera House. Project under foot for City bond election for \$20,000. Mayor Bryant closed Opera House saying so much remodeling had been done that it was a fire hazard and beyond redemption.

February 18, 1904- Stairway fire escape completed on East side of building.

July 18, 1905- City Hall narrowly escapes destruction at hands of arsonists when incendiary fails to ignite under stairway.

April 9, 1908- City Hall considered unsafe. Opera part has been closed.

May 7, 1908- Bond election worth \$20,000 called for City Hall.

June 11, 1908- Bond issue vote carried by 3 to 1 majority (289 to 89)

July 23, 1908- Original Vermillion City Hall (Number One) torn down. The demolition contract was awarded to A.A. Geppert in the amount of \$480.25, with Geppert also having salvage rights.

August 20, 1908- The two banks buy the \$20,000 City Hall bonds for new building.

This building suffered from a deteriorating foundation and during its last few years was condemned as unsafe for large audiences. Previously, the walls had been braced as a safety measure.

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*Friday December 6, 2013- 4:30 to 8:00pm. CCHS "Joyful Traditions" Tour of Homes.