

SH 2-15-17
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Stoughton's Beautiful New City Hall and Library.

Grand Opening of the Auditorium on Friday Evening, Feb. 22.
"The Doctor's Warm Reception" is the opening Play.

When the curtain rises in the auditorium on the evening of February 22nd, 1901, it will mark another step in the life of Stoughton, that will remain of local historic interest. It will be the dedication of the splendid auditorium to the service of the masses, for entertainments that will bring happiness to those who enjoy the scenes of life as they are recited in words and acts, in song and drama.

The new building now completed is the successful achievement of a progressive and enterprising people of which Stoughton is fortunately composed. It gives to Stoughton a City Hall that would be an honor to any town double the size of our city. The completion of this fine structure and its furnishings at a cost, including the site, of about \$30,000 is a credit to the energy and pluck of our citizens. It has been the ambition of our people for several years to erect a new City Hall in place of the old tumble down rookery now located on the market square. To that end the mayor and city council secured the lots for the site in the fall of '99 at a cost of \$2,500, and early in the spring of 1900 excavation for the proposed building was commenced. The plans were drawn by Architect F. H. Kemp of Beloit. The contract was let to Bonnett, Michie & Co., of Milwaukee, for \$16,050. Some changes being made in the material to be used, hard pressed colored brick, and Ohio rough faced stone for the tower, in place of brick originally planned, entailed a small additional expense. The building as now completed is one of the most perfect and substantial that skill and good material could possibly make.

The building has a frontage on Main street of 58 feet and has a depth of 104 feet, it has a height of 72 feet, and the tower is 100 feet. The frontage presents a splendid appearance, built of colored pressed brick with stone trimmings. The entrance is through a large open archway to a short flight of stairs leading to the vestibule. From this vestibule starts the stairs to the auditorium and also from which doors lead to the council room, city clerk's office, justice's office, jury room, Municipal court room, firemen's room, fire department and city jail. The second floor contains the auditorium with incline floor and a seating capacity for nearly five hundred people, besides two fine offices and the ticket office. The balcony will seat about four hundred people and is also on an incline floor and contains some of the most desirable seats in the house. The large stage is well arranged, has two drop curtains and fine scenery which cost \$700. The stage also contains four dressing rooms. The seating of the hall was let to the Manitowoc Seating Works at an expense of \$2,000. The completion of the auditorium made an additional cost of \$2,500.

The heating plant and plumbing was done by W. O. Havey, of our city, at an expense of nearly \$2,000. The building will be most brilliantly illuminated. The chandeliers and wiring all complete will entail a cost in round numbers of \$1,000. A \$475 clock adorns the stone tower and a \$100 elevator will make easy work in lifting baggage and paraphernalia to the auditorium above. The basement stands five feet above ground and has a ten foot ceiling. Here, in a beau-