

'The appearance of City Hall will be changed'

Editors note: During the summer of 1961 it became apparent the clock tower atop city hall was in trouble. Dating back to the building's 1901 construction, the wooden structure was now seen as more of a safety hazard than a landmark. The following article, reprinted from the Aug. 1, 1961, edition of the Courier Hub, bore the headline: 'Tower On The City Hall, Landmark, Is Cut Down.'

The appearance of the city hall will be changed.

Stoughton's 60-year-old city hall is getting some necessary repairs as the result of action

taken by the city council and property committee: Aldermen Claire Haried, Clarence Bjoin, and Kenneth Wright. City Clerk Herb Swendsen tried to induce the three members of the committee to go up on the roof and supervise the work but they were reluctant to do so.

John Rudell of Wausau was awarded the contract to remove the top of the city hall tower, repair the roof, gutters and downspouts, remove the tops of the two chimneys and paint windows and doors on the outside. Rudell and his crew started the work on Thursday. Amount of the bid was \$2,701.

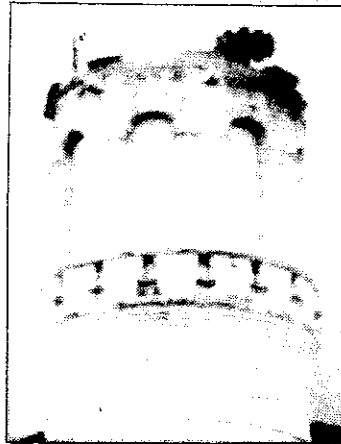
A familiar sight to all residents of the area and those traveling through, the tower will be removed down to the stone work because the wooden part is in poor condition and a hazard. It might be blown down in a storm.

Windows in the tower where the clocks were formerly located, will be retained in case it may be necessary to again have observers on duty for the Civil Defense program. Several years ago, citizens volunteered as observers and were on duty in four-hour shifts, watching for enemy airplanes.

Clocks installed in the tower

when the city hall was built were removed many years ago because they didn't operate correctly. Only part of the control mechanism remains in a room below the observation tower.

The 1,200 pound bell which tolled the hour and half hour when the clocks were in running order is still in the tower, supported by heavy beams and will probably remain there. The bell is about 30 inches in circumference and about the same height. Besides tolling the hour and half hour, the bell was also used for a fire alarm before the city purchased a siren, and was operated by electricity.



For the past 27 years Stoughton's City Hall has been without the tower that tops this turret.

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