

TOWN HALL

At the council meeting held in February 1864 the mayor was requested to ask the government to 'reserve that Ground adjoining the School of Arts for the Town Hall'.¹ A letter was received from the colonial secretary in May saying that council could apply for about one acre adjoining the School of Arts for a town hall. Council acted quickly and at the meeting held on 30 May 1864, the town clerk read a letter 'to the Colonial Secretary requesting that the land adjoining the School of Arts be vested in the council for the time being, as a site for the Town Hall'.

In March 1865 council was informed that surveyor W.A.B. Greaves was to measure out the site for the town hall. A month later the site had been marked out and the plan was to be forwarded to the government. Section 5 allotment 12 was dedicated on 22 December for the town hall. The town clerk was directed on 26 March 1866 to write to the colonial secretary requesting that the site granted for the town hall, the racecourse and the approved town common be vested in the council. Again in July, council informed the Surveyor General of 'the desire of the Council to obtain the deed for the Town Hall site'.²

The council meeting on 8 September 1868 set up a committee consisting of Moore, McLean, Tysoe and the mayor to advise on costs of the town hall, the most suitable site and power to call for plans and specifications. In June 1869 alderman Naughten attempted to move that the improvement committee should report on the necessity of building a town hall and council should consider raising a loan for the purpose. The motion was not seconded.

The improvement committee voted £20 for fencing the town hall site and removing the old fence in November 1872. The plans included 'a room sufficiently large to be used as a Council Chambers to the w. end of the present hall- to add on the n. side of the former two smaller rooms, one to be the office of the Council Clerk- to build a verandah in the back angle ... to close the present main entrance, and make a new one from Falconer street. The proposed Council Chamber will have an entrance in Rusden-street'.³ The tender of Thomas Nixon for iron strap wooden fencing at 16s per rod and 5s 6d for removing the old fences around the town hall paddock was accepted in April 1873. Mr Nixon completed fencing of the land in Rusden Street in November. Thus the small paddock was rented to Mr Brereton of Tattersall's Hotel at £35 per year in December and he promised 'he would erect a proper cedar gate at the entrance near his premises'.⁴

¹ Council minutes, 29 February 1864.

² *Armidale Express*, 21 July 1866, p.2.

³ *Armidale Express*, 8 March 1873, p.4.

⁴ Council minutes, 2 December 1873.

In January 1873 council considered a report from builder Alexander Smith about necessary repairs and improvements to the town hall rooms. He suggested that a verandah be added as well as a double closet in the yard. A month later council considered a proposal to add a room 20 feet long and 20 feet wide to the west end of the town hall with a porch. Mr Smith was asked to prepare a plan of the proposed addition. Two weeks later, council decided to call tenders for extensions to town hall as per plans and specifications prepared by Smith. The plans reported in the *Armidale Express*, 8 March 1873 included:

a room sufficiently large to be used as a Council Chamber to the w. end of the present hall- to add on the n. side of the former two smaller rooms, one to be the office of the Council Clerk- to build a verandah in the back angle ... to close the present main entrance, and make a new one from Falconer street. The proposed Council Chamber will have an entrance in Rusden-street.

In April 1873 council accepted tenders for the town hall work. The tenders included Alexander Smith's tender for additions and repairs to the value of £235 for carpenters, joiners, plumbers and painters; John Barnes for brickwork, gratings, two iron rods and east end additions for £143 10s and John Grainey's plaster work for £79. By August, Smith was not able to carry on repairs and additions to the town hall and recommended William Mason be offered the contract on existing terms. Council adopted the recommendation. That November council announced the brick partition between the old and new parts of the town hall building was to be taken down.

A minute from the Minister of Lands was tabled to council in December stating that section 8 has been in course of dedication and that the town hall site was dedicated some years ago. The dedication would have the effect of a grant.

The mayor informed the council meeting on 6 July 1874 that the deeds of the market square and town hall had been received. Council approved the purchase of a second chandelier for the town hall in July 1874. In August tenders were called for the erection of cedar gates for the town hall paddock and council allocated £5 for the erection of double gates opposite the church in Rusden Street. That month council also recommended the raising of the platform in the town hall eight inches and widening it two feet six inches. Seven pounds was allocated towards the removal of chimney in the hall about three feet to the east and £2 15s was allocated for the construction of a cedar door between the two small rooms.

Council set aside £25 for the purchase of 24 cedar forms with backs for the town hall in October 1874 and the council meeting on 21 January 1875 was informed that Edmund Lonsdale had completed 16 forms at 35s each.

In June 1875 council established fees for use of the hall and the organizations using the hall for free. It was granted free to the Armidale hospital meetings and entertainments; all day-time public meetings with free admission and all lectures

or readings in the name of the School of Arts. Twelve months later in July 1876, Mr Lyons was given use of the town hall for skating for two hours. Costs were reduced from 5s to 2s 6d per session in August 1876.

In June 1877 a vote of thanks was extended to Mr Park for valuable assistance in having a stage and proscenium erected in the town hall.⁵ That November a letter from the premier was received granting council a licence to hold entertainments in the town hall.

Following a request from Mr A. Warden, council granted use of the hall and piano free of charge for a public meeting of the good templars on 28 May 1878. The library committee recommended that £50 be granted for a screening stage, whitewashing the hall, additional lamps and seats, shutters and other necessary improvements. In May council requested the librarian write to Mr Wagner of Glen Innes to see how much he would charge to paint 'a garden, forest and water scene for the back of the stage'. Council also granted the Skating Club use of the hall with lights for 7s 6d per night and announced tenders were to be called for the combined offices of librarian and custodian of the town hall.

In June 1878 council requested the custodian to light up the hall for all meetings; to keep the hall clean at all times and remove seats and have the hall washed out at least twice per year.

Following a letter from Mr A.E. Greaves wanting use of the town hall for skating at 5s per night, approval was granted in May 1879 provided that he be responsible for breakages and also arrears from 1878. Later that month, he applied for two more hours free to have 'little dances'.⁶

At the council meeting on 3 September 1878 the improvement committee recommended that £400 be voted for enlarging the town hall. In June 1879 council discussed the possible construction of a town hall and moved that £2000 be borrowed from the government. A month later the Colonial Secretary replied that the government did not lend money to country municipalities but in August council was informed by the Colonial Secretary of permission to borrow £3000. Despite opposition from Aldermen Trim and Gallagher, a committee consisting of Mayor Proctor, Aldermen Holmes and Richardson was created to investigate the best means of borrowing money and to report back to council.

At the council meeting on 2 September 1879 the sub committee recommended borrowing £2000 from the Armidale Building Society for twelve years. In November a motion to call a public meeting was defeated and the report from the sub-committee was adopted. At the council meeting on 16 December a public meeting of ratepayers to consider building the hall was called on the casting vote of the mayor. A motion merely to advertise council's intentions to borrow £2000

⁵ *Armidale Express*, 22 June 1877, p.4.

⁶ Council minutes, 3 June 1879.

was defeated. A sum of £20 was voted for the best plans and specifications for a new town hall; the plans not to exceed £2000. In January 1880 it was determined that only ratepayers were to have a vote at the public meeting. At the public meeting, the residents carried by an overwhelming majority, Ald. Scholes' motion 'that is desirable to build a new Town Hall in Armidale'.⁷

In April council determined that plans and specifications for the new town hall were to be advertised and a sub-committee was appointed to frame an advertisement. At the council meeting on 4 May 1880, a letter was received from Mr W.C. Proctor concerning the £1000 promised the council by the Colonial Secretary for erection of the town hall. Later that month, further correspondence was received from Mr Terry MLA and Sir Henry Parkes concerning the allocation of £1000 for the new town hall. The sub-committee's report on plans and specifications for the new town hall was also presented to council and council accepted the recommendation that an advertisement be prepared for construction of the building not to exceed £3 900.

At the council meeting on 1 June 1880, a letter was received from the Department of Public Instruction stating £1000 had been placed on supplementary estimates for the new hall. Two weeks later, the hall was granted to the 'Rink Club' for 7s 6d per night for two nights per week. The hall was also given free to the Railway Demonstration Committee for a meeting on 16 June to discuss the northern railway line.

At the end of June 1880 council received a report from the town hall sub-committee concerning plans and specifications. A number of letters were also received about the new hall from Despont bros, Sydney; F. Menkins, West Maitland and M. Thoun, Albury. At the council meeting on 18 August, £300 of council funds was placed apart or invested as a building fund for (the) new Town Hall. Aldermen Harper, Scholes, Mallam, Trim and Holmes were appointed as a sub-committee to prepare information required by architects and others in respect to the proposed hall.

At the end of August 1880, the improvement committee requested £25 to erect a supper room at the rear of the town hall. A week later council accepted a tender of £24 for construction of the room by R. Niss.

In February 1881 the finance committee was authorised to raise £2000 by debentures of £50 each; to pay interest every six months at the rate of 5% per annum with £400 of such debentures to fall due each year and to advertise widely in local and regional papers. Aldermen Lonsdale and Harper were appointed as a committee in March to provide information required by architects to enable them to prepare plans. Two months later, council voted £25 voted for the best design and working drawings for the new town hall not to exceed £2500 to the town

⁷ *Armidale Express*, 9 January 1880, p.4.

clerk by 1 July. Advertisements were to be placed in Sydney and Armidale papers.

Aldermen Lonsdale and Tysoe moved that the town hall be built in Rusden Street in May 1881. An amendment by Trim and Mallam to build it in Faulkner Street was defeated. On the casting vote of the chairman, council agreed in June to construct a 100 foot hall rather than an 80 foot one. It was also agreed to construct a gallery at the end facing the stage and two large dressing rooms off the stage. The time for the plans was extended to 1 August.

A special meeting was held on 19 August 1881 to consider the town hall plans. Four competitive designs were examined by the aldermen and Ald. Lonsdale was commissioned to cost two of the designs. At the council meeting on 30 August, aldermen again examined plans for the new town hall but consideration of them was postponed for a fortnight. Two weeks later, Mr T.E.F. Delarue's plan for the town hall was accepted after cutting off several of the rooms and gallery and making the hall 80 feet by 40 feet with a 24 feet stage. The town clerk was instructed to write to Delarue and ascertain if he would agree to the alterations and send the specifications for the £25 bonus. In November the plans were again examined and it was moved that the hall be altered to 70 by 45 feet; the dressing rooms be altered from the east to the west side of the stage and that a double chimney be erected in them. Plans were then to be returned to Mr Delarue for his attention.

In response to a query by Ald Trim in January 1882, the mayor replied that plans and specifications had not yet been received from the architect. Two weeks later he informed council he hoped to have the plans and specifications to council in a week or two. In February it was moved that the town hall plans be adopted and the finance committee was instructed to arrange about money for the building's construction. A week later council agreed that a sum of £3500 be raised by debentures of £100 each paying 6% per annum under section 191 of the 1867 Municipalities Act. The 6% rather than 5% was considered a boost to getting a number of tenders for loan and thus help debentures to be sold. The Governor's sanction was required to borrow the £3500 under the Act.

At the council meeting on 4 April 1882 a motion was adopted unanimously to call tenders for a new town hall to be advertised in Armidale, Tamworth and Maitland papers with tenders to close on 16 May 1882.

By May 1882 the skating rink club was still operating in the old town hall for two nights a week at 1s per night from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Before opening any tenders, council agreed that the 'successful tenderer find two sureties, to be approved by the Council, to the extent of 10% on the amount of the contract'.⁸ The sureties were to be found within a month; 12 months were

⁸ *Armidale Express*, 6 June 1882, p.9.

allocated to complete the job and if not completed, a penalty of £3 per week for the first three months and to be doubled every month after. The contractor was to be paid 75% on the value of completed work as progress payments.

The following tenders were then opened: H.E. Elliott £4850; Seabrook and Brown £3973; Wm. Mason £3777 and C.T. Cook £3525 10s. Cook's tender was accepted and his two sureties accepted were John Denning and William Copeland of Tamworth. However, the newly appointed inspector of nuisances reported on the filthy state of the town hall paddock in June 1882.

Mr Delarue was appointed to be the superintending architect on the new town hall in July and he was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for stage scenery and furniture. Every time he came to Armidale he was to be paid 10 guineas.

In July 1882 the tenant of the town hall paddock, J. Moses objected to council interfering with the paddock during his tenancy. In reply he was informed 'they require the Town Hall paddock for the contractor to proceed with the building'.⁹ Mr Delarue attended the council meeting on 18 July and recommended that cesspits should be put down when the foundations were being made. He was instructed to tell the contractor of the extra work.

Delarue resigned his position as architect in October because of his health and council asked him to suggest a competent architect to take his place. He suggested Mr Pender of Maitland as the replacement and council offered him the same terms of employment as Delarue. Pender agreed to be the architect but in November Delarue informed council he cannot now leave the colony and wished to withdraw his resignation. He was accepted back and Pender was advised.

Council advertised its intention in October 1882 'to borrow the sum of £4000, by debenture, bearing 6% interest, for the purpose of erecting a new Town Hall'.¹⁰

At the council meeting on 5 December 1882 information was received from the clerk of works re putting water tanks on the roof of the new Town Hall. A week later C.T. Cook provided prices on six water tanks and an underground tank.

Following suggestions from architect Delarue, council approved various changes including that six inch pine boards replace the one inch pine boards and a fifty foot oregon pine beam replace the proposed hardwood beam.

At the council meeting on 6 February 1883 a detailed discussion took place on the indebtedness of council for the town hall. Delarue recommended in May 1883 that three rooms on the first floor and two cloak rooms be plastered. Council agreed and also extended the time for Cook to complete work on the hall by the new date of 1 August. Delarue was also asked to submit a plan for scenery and

⁹ *Armidale Express*, 21 July 1882, p.4.

¹⁰ *Armidale Express*, 20 October 1882, p.4.

seating. In June council accepted tenders from Hoffnung's of Sydney for 10 dozen Austrian chairs at 72s per dozen and 23 dozen white Washurton? wood at 30s per dozen. Council also accepted a quote from Mr Kinchella for scenery. That August council allocated £30 for colouring, plastering, painting, renovating and spouting the outside of the old town hall with the work to be undertaken by Aldermen Harper and Seabrook. The council clerk was instructed to contact the mayor in Sydney to consider the issue of lights raised by Mr Delarue and to arrange for the purchase of a piano.

That September council allocated £20 for the outside kalsomining of the town hall. At the same time council considered new accounts submitted by Mr Cook and Ald. Seabrook was instructed to meet Mr Cook's representative to consider the amount in dispute. The mayor, and Alderman Simpson and Holmes were appointed as a sub-committee to prepare and submit a tariff of charges for the new Hall'.¹¹ A week later council determined charges and by-laws for use of the hall. There was to be no skating 'under any circumstances' and the custodian's pay was to be £20 above the old rate. Later, the council clerk was 'instructed to have the old and new town Hall, scenery, piano and furniture insured for £5,000'.¹² But the correspondent reported that the 'acoustic properties of the new Town Hall' had 'proved to be indifferent'. Council also allowed George Grill one room in the old Town Hall as a bedroom 'when not required for other purposes'.¹³

At the council meeting on 6 November 1883, further concern was expressed over poor acoustics of the building and two weeks later, council accepted Mr Delarue's suggestion that an invisible wire be installed to aid acoustics. Council also agreed to have a heavy curtain hung in the open archway upstairs and at the council meeting on 3 June 1884, a further £25 was voted to improve acoustics.

Following a request from the Department of Lands, council granted approval in November 1884 for temporary offices to be installed in the new hall.

At the council meeting on 16 June 1885, council decided to call tenders for the installation of gas to both halls. A month later, council accepted a tender for £139 to install gas in both the old and new town hall. In November 1887 the improvement committee recommended that £12 be allocated for building a small shed with a copper boiler and fire place at rear of the old town hall for the convenience of caterers and as a safeguard against fire. Council approved various improvements in June 1888 including: steps on the eastern side of the town hall to be taken away and a sloping staging to be erected instead; a 1000 gallon tank on a stand to be erected connecting with the east side of the town hall to conserve

¹¹ *Armidale Express*, 28 September 1883, p.2.

¹² *Armidale Express*, 19 October 1883, p.5.

¹³ Council minutes, 16 October 1883.

water. Gas points on stage were to be protected by wire cages and additional gas pipe was to be installed for further lighting of the stage.

The council meeting on 11 June 1889 was informed that the new town hall floor was being repaired. In September a long memorandum from the improvement committee was tabled recognising that council was tied financially for the town hall but pointed out the need for levels of town to be undertaken for the completion of permanent street work.

At the council meeting on 23 June 1891, the old town hall was granted free for a Saturday meeting 're Aborigines'.

In September 1891 Mr French was asked to prepare plans and specifications for painting, covering with iron and generally repairing the old town hall buildings.¹⁴ Three months later council accepted Paul Kirkwood's tender for coloring the whole of the walls of the new town hall and Andrew Devonport's tender of £160 for repairs and erection of a verandah on the old town hall was also accepted.

At the council meeting on 22 December 1891 there was a long discussion of charges for the new and old town halls.

In January 1892 it was moved that the buildings connected with the old town hall be roofed with iron and the old town hall and library be plastered. That May council instructed the city engineer to prepare a report on a suitable fence to be constructed around the town hall paddock. Estimates were presented to the council meeting on 23 May 1892 for an ornamental fence with gates around the town hall property to include a Falconer Street frontage £32 6s and Rusden Street £42 4s with a paling fence in Rusden Street at 13s 6d per rod. That June tenders were accepted and council decided to sell the old fence by auction in July. The *Armidale Express*, 1 July 1892 commented the tenders 'will remove an eye-sore from one of our principal thoroughfares and complete a most desirable work'.

J.J. Moore's tender of £3 15s for the town hall paddock was accepted in October 1892.

In January 1893 council decided to fill the cesspit at the town hall and convert it into a closet. That September the works committee was requested to call tenders to put the town hall floor into order before the Hospital Ball. In April 1894 council discussed a new floor and on 22 May it was carried by resolution that a new floor be laid. Twelve months later a council committee recommended 'that the time has now arrived when no further delay is necessary in laying a new floor'.¹⁵ At the council meeting in August 1896, tenders for the supply of timber for re-flooring the town hall were considered but a decision was again shelved. At the end of October, council accepted the tender of Mrs J.J. Trim for the supply

¹⁴ Council minutes, 8 September 1891.

¹⁵ *Armidale Express*, 31 May 1895, p.3.

of tallow wood flooring to replace the pine floor. The town hall committee was granted approval to have water laid onto the hall and the water tanks and stand be removed. These alterations and repairs were to be carried out by day labor at an estimated cost of £130.¹⁶

The laying of new floors and general repair began in March 1897 and was supervised by Armidale builder P. Kirkwood. That month, it was proposed to convert the large room under the stage of the town hall into a supper room but the recommendation was lost. Other improvements were completed in the following years: tenders were called in February 1899 for the colouring of the town hall and at the council meeting on 3 September 1901 it was decided to purchase new gates for the Rusden street entrance to the town hall yard as the old gates were beyond repair.

The council meeting on 24 June 1902 received a letter from the Principal Under Secretary concerning a licence for the town hall as well as the alterations for the building. The information was referred to the general purposes committee. W. Black was re-engaged as the caretaker of the town hall for another 12 months at £16 per annum. In 6 January 1903 Black requested permission to live in the rooms under the hall. This request was granted provided the insurance companies approved.

In September 1904 it was decided to purchase twelve new forms for the hall to seat 120 people. That November the tender of Armidale builder C.J. Hirschberg was accepted for the construction of new forms at 21s 3d each.

Council accepted a general purpose committee recommendation that work be carried at the eastern side of the town hall in March 1905. It was determined that in view of the alterations to the steps at the side entrance to the town hall, caused through the erection of the School of Arts new building, a platform should be constructed to span the full width between the town hall and the new buildings of the School of Arts and to extend from the lobby door (north eastern entrance) to the side door of the Hall, a distance of 25 feet; thus, providing a safe and clear entrance from Rusden Street through the eastern door of the hall. However, the chairman reported it had been discovered that the School of Arts was not built out to the building line so the platform had to be narrowed. Therefore an amended report to provide a narrower platform with a railing along the eastern side and an approach at the northern end was approved with costs not to exceed £15.

By July 1905, new block lights had been recently installed in the town hall and council chambers 'by way of experiment, and all the aldermen expressed their appreciaion of the much improved light'.¹⁷ In August 1905 thanks was expressed to Captain Webb for submitting schemes to protect the town hall against fire. The hall was to let with two firemen in attendance with their seats to be provided free

¹⁶ Council minutes, 27 May 1896.

¹⁷ *Armidale Express*, 14 July 1905, p.4.

of charge. A bucket and blanket was to be provided on the stage and in future cinematograph and all companies using gas were compelled to have their gas generator outside the wall. Council was to provide a hole in the wall to allow a pipe to pass from the generator into the hall. In September council also allocated money for a new pair of steps at a probable cost of £2 3s.

In July 1908 council determined that fifty new chairs be procured for the hall at a cost not to exceed £20.

The disrepair of the town hall was referred to the general purposes committee in September 1908. Early in May 1910 S.G. Watson's tender for the extensive repairs to the town hall was provisionally accepted with Hugh J. Scott as the architect. At the time, the Under Secretary had informed council that unless steps were taken to bring the town hall up to the requirements of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, the license would be cancelled.

Following World War One, a series of improvements were carried out in the 1920s. Work of renovating the basement was completed in January 1919 and council decided in March 1920 to engage an architect for renovations to the interior of the town hall and to complete small exterior repairs. In August 1921 a 'flag pole (was) erected on (the) coping stone of the Town Hall building'.¹⁸ Council accepted the Armidale Electric Supply Company's 'tender of £188 for a complete installation at the Town Hall for the stage, auditorium and ante rooms'¹⁹ in February 1923 and in May the town hall was further renovated. These renovations included exterior painting of pale yellow brickwork and the painting of other features an Indian Red coloration. Over £200 was eventually spent in fitting the stage with electric lighting. Two hundred chairs were purchased in 1924 at a cost of £95. In the period 1923 to 1925 the town hall yard reserve received attention by the removal of dilapidated fencing and the planting of camphor laurel trees along the Faulkner and Rusden Street frontages.²⁰

Council was informed in February 1925 by the Board of Fire Commissioners 'that no alteration in recommendations for the provision of additional fire-fighting appliances in the Town Hall could be made'.²¹ With the boards' offer to meet council on their next visit to Armidale, council decided to take no further action.

By December 1925 the basement was entirely remodelled at a cost of £350 and became available for suppers, dances and other minor functions. This area was now to be known as the assembly hall.²² In 1926 the public and council contributed to the purchase of a Lubiltz piano for functions in the hall.

¹⁸ *Armidale Chronicle*, 3 September 1921, p.4.

¹⁹ *Armidale Express*, 23 February 1923, p.4.

²⁰ *Armidale Chronicle*, 25 November 1925, p.8.

²¹ *Armidale Chronicle*, 18 February 1925, p.3.

²² *Armidale Chronicle*, 25 November 1925, p.8.

The Department of Lands informed council in January 1928 that 'a strip of town hall land and re-dedication for the purpose of a Shire council chambers'²³ could be finalised once Parliament had assented.

The licence for the building was thrown into jeopardy in April 1931 when the 'Chief Secretary's Department advised that unless additional sanitary accommodation was provided ... in compliance with the Theatres and Public Hall Acts, the Department would have no alternative but to cancel the license'.²⁴ Council sought permission to defer the work until 1932 because it involved considerable structural alterations.

Corenos and Sourry offered to pay £78 per annum for a trial period of three years in September 1932 provided the town hall was not used for showing cinema pictures or talkies. By December 1935, it was reported the town hall was losing money because there was little demand for it. 'A payment by the Capitol Theatre proprietor of £78 per annum to prevent its use as a picture theatre and which was met by Mr Corneo for years;' was stopped by the present proprietor in 1935.

The canopy over the main entrance doors was removed in October 1936²⁵.

The work of remodelling the front portion of the town hall commenced in April 1937 with workmen preparing for the erection of a stairway leading to the upper rooms. The former town clerk's room, the ticket office and the room upstairs were to be converted into lounge and retiring rooms. As preparation for the visit of the State Governor, Lord Wakehurst in April 1938, council announced planned improvements to include the painting of the building and the replacement of steps leading to the stage. Three months later, council approved the town hall basement and kitchen alterations and improvements 'comprising the lowering of cupboards and shelves, two additional windows, extra ventilation, new ceiling, new servery and opening of one arch'²⁶ estimated to cost £75.

Council instructed the finance and general purposes committee in September 1938 to confer with the Armidale architect, R.N. Hickson concerning additions and alterations to the building at an approximate cost £3625. The suggestions included extensions to the hall by taking in the existing stage; providing a dressing room in the basement and erecting a modern kitchen and supper room. Council approved sketch plans of the proposed alterations and additions and directed £600 for the 1939 estimates to carry out a small part of the complete proposal. In his annual report the mayor commented: 'Council must be prepared

²³ *Armidale Chronicle*, 18 January 1928, p.3.

²⁴ *Armidale Express*, 8 April 1936, p.6.

²⁵ *Armidale Express*, 12 October 1936, p.4.

²⁶ *Armidale Express*, 20 July 1938, p.7.

to replace the existing seating accommodation'.²⁷ New chairs were assembled and placed in the town hall in July 1939.

In October 1944 council set aside £100 for the renewal of the town hall staging during 1945.

E.H. Spensley sought lease of the town hall for five years in August 1946 at an annual rental of £250 for conducting picture shows. He promised to renovate the interior and exterior of the building, modernise the stage and instal removable seating. Spensley withdrew his proposition in November when Hoyts Theatres announced they were to take over the Capitol and Arcadia Theatres.

In January 1948 the building, health and general purposes committee recommended a study be undertaken of the acoustics, painting and general improvements of the hall. At the annual meeting of the Armidale Orchestral Society held in March 1948, concern was expressed about the untidy surrounds of the town hall and the shabby and sordid conditions behind the stage. President of the Society, Mayor Fayle agreed he would see that the matter came before council.

In September 1948 the Department of Building Materials was asked by council to approve the expenditure of £5000 for improvements. Two months later, council recommended to the finance committee that it 'apply for a loan of £8000, repayable over 15 years for repairs and renovations to the town hall'²⁸ in the 1949 budget. The Minister for Building Materials informed council in December that no temporary alterations should be made and council should wait for a departmental visit. In February 1949 the department refused the application to effect the alterations and additions.

Council gave the town clerk discretionary power in April 1949, 'to demand an oath of allegiance by applicants for the Town Hall'²⁹ to supposedly prevent the spread of propaganda by Communists. The issue arose when the University College Labour Club applied for use of the hall for an address by a Mr Rodgers from the Australian Russian Society; an organisation formed to develop cultural relations with the U.S.S.R.

A Sydney architect, J. Aubrey Kerr was commissioned to prepare plans for remodelling of the town hall in June 1949. The work was to involve three stages at an estimated cost of £40 000 and the final stage involved the enlarging of the hall by moving the stage. However, the alterations were not permitted by the Minister E.W. Dickson. He stated 'there is a shortage of homes in Armidale, and it is considered that all available resources should be directed towards

²⁷ *Armidale Express*, 21 December 1938, p.3.

²⁸ *Armidale Express*, 24 November 1948, p.3.

²⁹ *Armidale Express*, 13 April 1949, p.5.

overcoming the shortage'.³⁰ Despite the refusal by the minister to grant a permit, details of the alterations and additions at an estimated cost of £39 000 were released in July 1949.

In October the architect submitted an application form to be sent to the Department of Building Materials for permission to effect alterations to the town hall to council. Council set aside £13 000 for stage 1 of the alterations in the 1950 estimates but council was again informed the minister had refused a permit for such work.

In April 1950 the N.S.W. Premier lifted restrictions on buildings outside Sydney and Newcastle. Once this announcement was made council decided 'to go ahead with its plan to spend £13,000 on improving the town hall'.³¹ The town clerk informed council in January 1951 the improvements estimated to cost £13,000 twelve months ago would include a gallery, interior decorations and improved toilet improvements. Two months later, L. Atherton a member of the Arts Council of Australia wrote of 'the pressing need for the modernisation without further delay of our dismal town hall'.³² Once information was received about the lifting of building restrictions on areas outside Sydney and Newcastle in April 1950, council announced its intention to go ahead with its plan to spend £13 000 on improvements. In January 1951 council instructed the architect, J. Aubrey Kerr to proceed with the work but advice received from the architect in June 1952 indicated the total scheme was now likely to cost £75 000.

The building inspector, Les Brown presented a detailed report on the building in November 1952. The original estimated cost for Stage 1 submitted in August 1951 was £18 500 and council decided in September to apply for a loan of £20 000 to finance the improvements. But the estimates for the work submitted in November had now increased to £70 000.

Council adopted a plan for repairs to the town hall in March 1953. The first stage involved alterations to the inside front of the building including: removal of the staircase and another access provided to a proposed gallery; new toilets; an additional exit on the eastern side and alterations to the ceiling and proscenium. The Under Secretary of the Chief Secretary's Department advised council in November 1953 that there are no general objections to the plans for alterations to the building. During 1953 council had purchased a further dance piano, let a contract for painting the front exterior and the basement as well as installing a public address system.

In April 1954 council decided to proceed with the first stage of improvements and to take up a £10 000 loan. The *Armidale Express*, 10 March announced:

³⁰ *Armidale Express*, 6 July 1949, p.6.

³¹ *Armidale Express*, 26 April 1950, p.8.

³² *Armidale Express*, 16 March 1951, p.6.

The improvements, planned by the Council's Health Surveyor (Mr L. Brown) provided for improvements to the entrance to the hall, for treatment of the walls and ceiling, enlargement of the stage opening, and provision of cloak rooms.

The Department of Local Government approved the loan in May.

In January 1956 council took action to purchase 'another 100 chairs at a cost of £350 and to improve the dressing room accommodation at a cost of £150'.³³ Council announced proposed improvements to the town hall stage equipment including pulleys and wires to raise stage cloths and drapes from the cat walks and storage for sound equipment in August 1958.

Council approved plans submitted by the health surveyor, R.E. Esdaile in May 1963 for improvements to the town hall basement. The work included removing paint from brickwork; enclosing the stairway; providing a storeroom at the eastern side; installing a gas storage hot water system; removing two gas coppers; fixing a suitable ceiling and installing appropriate lighting. By December 1964, the floor was replaced by the laying of new brush box floorboards and in January 1966 council set aside £942 for new curtains and dressing room improvements.

Council requested information from the Department of Lands in February 1966 'concerning disposal of the land should Council decide to relocate its Head Quarters in another section of the city'.³⁴ In March 1968 council decided to move two old sheds at the rear of the town hall.

The altered and renovated town hall was opened by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon David Hay on 21 July 1990. The alterations included a mezzaine gallery, improved foyer and toilet facilities and a new kitchen area. Internal painting included the use of colours associated with the Art Deco area and selected by a community committee. The refurbishing cost \$530 000 and the work was undertaken by the builder Mr Jemison and the architect Brian Suters. As part of the refurbishment, two gas lamps were erected outside the hall and officially lit by Premier Nick Greiner, and the Mayor, Ald. Rosemary Leitch, to mark one hundred years of council's involvement in the gas industry.³⁵

Early in the 1990s funds were made available for the installation of lights and curtains for the stage so that the hall was available for performances.

³³ *Armidale Éxpress*, 11 January 1956, p.2.

³⁴ Letter to Under Secretary of Lands from the Town Clerk, 18 February 1966, Rep A, 97 D Property Municipal.

³⁵ Armidale City Council, Annual Report and Community Directory, 1991/1992, p.12.

Council Minutes.

At the Council meeting held on 29 February 1864 the Mayor was requested to ask the Government 'reserve that Ground adjoining the School of Arts for the Town Hall'. See meeting held on 6 March 1864.

Council meeting 23 May 1864. Letter from the Colonial Secretary saying about one acre adjoining the School of Arts which the Council could have for erection of a Town Hall .

Council meeting 30 May 1864. Letter to the Colonial secretary requesting land for Town Hall be set aside in the Council's name.

Council meeting 27 March 1865. W.A.B. Greaves to measure out site for the Town Hall.

Council meeting 26 March 1866- vesting Common, Town Hall and Racecourse in Council.

The Council meeting 8 September 1868 set up a committee consisting of Moore, McLean, Tysoe and the Mayor to advise on costs of the Town Hall, the most suitable site and power to call for plans and specifications.

Council meeting 15 June 1869 reference to report on building the Town Hall.

Council meeting 5 November 1872- Improvement Committee voted £20 for fencing the Town Hall site and removing the old fence. Mr Nixon completed fencing of the land in Rusden Street twelve months later. Council meeting 11 November 1873- Mr Nixon completed fencing of the Town Hall land in Rusden Street.

In January 1873 A. Smith prepared a report about necessary repairs to the Hall rooms read and discussed. Suggestion that a verandah be added and double closet in yard.

Council Meeting 19 February 1873- proposal to add a room 20 feet long and same width to the building to the west end of Town Hall with porch. Builder, Mr Smith to prepare a plan of the proposed addition.

Council meeting 4 March 1873- A. Smith to prepare a plan giving greater accommodation than he had submitted.

Council meeting 25 March 1873- Tenders for extensions to Town Hall as per plans and specifications of A. Smith invited in local papers.

Council meeting 8 April 1873- tender of Mr Noxon for fencing at 16/- per rod and 5/6 for removing the old fence around the Town Hall paddock.

Council meeting 22 April 1873- Town Hall work. A. Smith's tender for additions and repairs £235; John Barnes brickwork and gratings and two iron rods £123/10/-; John Grainey's plaster work £79. Accepted.

Council meeting 1 August 1873- Alex Smith not able to carry on repairs and additions to the Town Hall- Wm Mason accepted contract on Town Hall on existing terms.

Council meeting 25 November 1873- brick partition between old and new parts of the Town Hall building to be taken down.

Council meeting 2 December 1873- Minute from the Minister of Lands that section 8 has been in course of dedication and that the Town Hall site has been dedicated and the dedication would have the effect of a grant. Small paddock at the Town Hall rented to Mr Breteton for £35 per year; 'he would erect a proper cedar gate at entrance near his premises'.

Council meeting 6 July 1874- deeds of Market Square and Town hall received by the Mayor.

Council meeting 28 July 1874- purchase of a second chandelier recommended and also two draught and two chess sets to be purchased for library and reading rooms (approved Council meeting 4 August 1874)

Council meeting 11 August 1874- recommended raising of the platform in the Town Hall 8 inches and widening two feet six inches. £7 towards removal of chimney in Hall about three feet east. Door broken out between two small rooms- to be completed by Mr Lonsdale - cedar door £2 15.0.

Council meeting- £15 set aside for work and tenders called.

Council meeting 13 October 1874. 24 cedar forms with backs to be purchased for the Town Hall. Council meeting 21 January 1875. Edmund Lonsdale had finished 16 forms at 35/- each.

Council meeting 1 June 1875- costs established and organizations using the hall for free. (See minutes for details) Free to the Armidale Hospital meetings and entertainments; all day-time public meetings with free admission and all lectures or readings in the name of the School of Arts.

Council meeting 4 July 1876. Mr Lyons given use of the Town Hall for skating for two hours. Costs reduced from 5/- to 2/6 per session in August 1876.

Council meeting 19 June 1877- vote of thanks to Mr Park for valuable assistance in having stage and proscenium in Town Hall erected.

Council meeting 6 November 1877. Letter from the Premier granting licence to hold entertainments in the Town Hall.

Council meeting 26 March 1878- Report from special committee library. All hire charges paid in advance; stage and screen to be re-furbished and white-washed; new lock for piano; new lamps required; additional room to be built; suitable rooms for reading room to be provided; librarian to call library committee together once per month; annual report to be prepared and presented to Council.

Council meeting 6 May 1878- Mr A. Warden wanting hall and piano for public meeting of good templars on 28 May- granted free of charge. Recommended by the Library Committee that £50 be granted for screening stage, whitewashing hall, addit. lamps and seats, shutters and other necessary improvements. Librarian to write to Mr Wagner of Glen Innes to see how much he would charge to paint 'a garden, forest and water scene for the back of the stage'. Skating Club granted the use of the hall with lights for 7/6 per night. Tenders to be called for the combined offices of Librarian and custodian of the Town Hall.

Council meeting 4 June 1878. Custodian to light up hall for all meetings; remove seats and have hall washed out at least twice per year. Clean at all times.

Council meeting 3 September 1878. Recommended by the Improvement Committee that £400 be voted for enlarging the Town Hall.

Council meeting 6 May 1879. Letter from Mr A.E. Greaves wanting use of the Town Hall for skating at 5/- per night. To be responsible for breakages and arrears from 1878. Council meeting 3 June wants two more hours free to have 'little dances'.

Council meeting 3 June 1879. Discussion of building a Town Hall; moved that £2,000 be borrowed from the Government. Council meeting 1 July 1879. Colonial Secretary replied that the Government did not lend money to Country Municipalities.

Council meeting 19 August 1879. Letter from Colonial Secretary granting permission to borrow £3,000. Despite opposition from Aldermen Trim and Gallagher, a committee consisting of the Mayor, Holmes and Richardson was created to investigate the best means of borrowing money and to report back to the council.

Council meeting 2 September 1879- the sub committee recommended borrowing £2,000 from the Armidale Building Society for twelve years. Council meeting 4 November 1879- motion to call a public meeting was defeated and the report from the sub-committee was adopted. Council meeting 16 December 1879- on the casting vote of the Mayor a public meeting of ratepayers was called to consider building the hall. A motion merely to advertise Council's intentions to borrow £2,000 was defeated. A sum of £20 was voted for the best plans and

specifications for a new Town Hall. Town Hall to call for plans not to exceed £2,000. Council meeting 6 January 1880. Only ratepayers to have a vote at the public meeting.

Council meeting 6 April 1880. Plans and specifications for the new Town Hall to be advertised and a sub-committee appointed to frame an advertisement. Council meeting 4 May 1880. A letter from Mr Proctor re the £1,000 promised the Council by the Colonial Secretary for erection of the Town Hall.

Council meeting 18 May 1880. Letter from Mr Terry MLA re £1 000 for new Town Hall also from Sir Henry Parkes on same subject. Sub committee report on plans and specifications for new Town Hall.

Council meeting 1 June 1880. Letter from Dept. stating £1 000 had been placed on estimates for the new Town Hall.

Council meeting 15 June 1880. Hall given to 'Rink Club' for 7/6 per night for two nights per week. Hall given free to Railway Demonstration Committee on 16 June.

Council meeting 29 June 1880. Report from new Town Hall sub-committee accepted re plans and specifications

Council meeting 27 July 1880. Letters about new Town Hall from Desporti? bros, Sydney.

Council meeting 18 August 1880. £300 of Council Funds placed apart or invested as Building Fund for new Town Hall. Aids Harper, Scholes, Mallam, Trim and Holmes appointed as sub-committee to prepare information required by architects and others in respect to proposed Hall.

Council meeting 31 August 1880. Improvement Committee requests £25 to erect supper room at rear of Town Hall. Council meeting 7 September 1880. Tender of £24 for new supper room accepted, R. Niss.

Council meeting 15 February 1881. Finance Committee to raise debentures (£50 each). £2 000 for paying Town Hall to pay 5% and £400 to fall due each year. To be advertised widely in region's papers.

Council meeting 15 March 1881. Aids. Lonsdale and Harper appt. a committee to provide information required by architects to enable them to prepare plans.

Council meeting 3 May 1881. £25 voted for best design and working drawings for new Town Hall not exceed £2 500 to Town Clerk by 1 July. Ads in Sydney and Armidale papers.

Council meeting 31 May 1881. Aids Lonsdale and Tysoe moved that the Town Hall be built in Rusden street. Amendment by Trim and Mallam to build it in Faulkner Street defeated.

Council meeting 7 June 1881. Unan. agreed a gallery on end facing stage; two large dressing rooms off the stage; Hall to be built 100 feet long and 40 feet wide; time for plans extended to 1 August .

Council meeting 16 August 1881. George Brown Civil Engineer and architect asking extension of time for receiving plans for Town Hall.

Council meeting 19 August 1881. Special meeting to consider the Town Hall. Four competitive designs examined by the Aldermen; Ald. Lonsdale commissioned to cost two of the designs.

Council meeting 30 August 1881. Council examined plans and consideration of them postponed for fortnight.

Council meeting 16 September 1881. Mr T.E.F. Delarene's plan for Town Hall be accepted after cutting of several of the rooms and gallery and making the hall 80 feet by 40 feet with stage 24 feet. Town Clerk instructed to write asking if he approved of alterations and send specifications for £25 bonus.

Council meeting 22 November 1881. Plans examined and moved that Hall be 70 by 45; dressing rooms be altered from east to west side of stage and double chimney erected in them. Plans then to be returned to Mr De La Rue for his attention.

Council meeting 3 January 1882. Trim enquiring about town hall and mayor replies that plans and specifications had not yet been received from architect.

Council meeting 24 January 1882. Mr Delarue's letter saying he hoped to have plans and specifications to Council in a week or two.

Council meeting 21 February 1882. Town Hall plans adopted and Finance Committee to arrange about money.

Council meeting 28 February 1882. Sum of £3 500 to be raised by debentures of £100 each paying 6% per annum under section 191 of Municipalities Act of 1867. The 6% rather than 5% was considered a boost to getting a number of tenders for loan and thus help debentures to be sold. Governor's sanction to borrow the £3,5000 under Section 190 of the Municipal Act 1867.

Council meeting 4 April 1882. Tenders for new Town Hall to be advertised in Armidale, Tamworth and Maitland papers- to be sent in before 16 May 1882.

Council meeting 2 May 1882. Rink club still operating in the old Town Hall for two nights a week at 1/- per nigght from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Council meeting 30 May 1882. Successful tenderer to have two sureties approved by Council to 10% on contract. Find them within month; 12 months to complete job and if not completed , a penalty of £3 per month for first months and #6 per month after to be paid 75% of value of completed work as progress payments. Tender of C.T. Cook accepted for £3 525.

Council meeting 20 June 1882. Inspector of Nuisances reports on filthy state of the Town Hall paddock. Mr C.T. Cook's sureties were John Denning and William Copeland of Tamworth for the new Town Hall.

Council meeting 11 July 1882. Mr Delarue to be superintending architect on new Town Hall and to prepare plans and specifications etc for stage scenery and furniture. Every time he came to Armidale 10 guineas.

Council meeting 18 July 1882. Town Hall paddock taken from Mr J. Moses for contractors to erect Town Hall. Mr Delarue, architect was present and recommended that cesspits for WCs should be put down when foundations being made. This an extra and instructed to tell contractors to do so.

Council meeting 3 October 1882. Letter from Delarue resigning his position because of his health. Asked to suggest a competent architect to take his place.

Council meeting 17 October 1882. Letter from Delarue suggesting Mr Pender of Maitland take his place. The Town Clerk to write to him asking him on the same terms as Delarure. Mr Cook asking for advance for work done on Town Hall either fortnightly or monthly as work progresses.

Council meeting 31 October 1882. Pender agrees to be architect on same terms.

Council meeting 7 November 1882. Delarue writes saying he cannot now leave the colony and wishing to withdraw his resignation. Accepted back and he and Pender advised.

Council meeting 5 December 1882. Clerk of Works re putting water tanks on roof of new Town Hall.

Council meeting 12 December 1882. Letter from C.T. Cook re prices of 6 water tanks on roof of the Town Hall or underground tank.

Council meeting, 2 January 1883. Mr Delarue suggested that six inch pine boards replace the one inch 6 inch pine boards; a fifty four oregon beam replace the hardwood beam.

Council meeting 6 February 1883. Discussion over indebtedness of Council for the Town Hall.

Council meeting 8 May 1883. Delarue recommends that three rooms on the first floor and two cloak rooms be plastered. Agreed and Cook to complete work on the Hall by the extended date of 1 August. Delarue to submit plan for scenery and seating.

Council meeting 19 June 1883. Chairs for Town Hall. Hoffnung tender for 10 dozen Austrian chairs at 72/- per dozen and 23 dozen white Washurton? wood at 30/- per dozen accepted.

Council meeting 14 August 1883. £30 for colouring, plastering, painting, renovating and spouting the outside of the old Town Hall.

Council meeting 28 August 1883. FDelarue, Town Clerk and Mayor discussing lights for the Hall.

Council meeting 25 September 1883- outside of the Town Hall kalsomined for #20.

Council meeting 2 October 1883. The Council determined charges and by-laws for use of the hall. There was to be no skating 'under any circumstances' and the custodian's pay was to be £20 above the old rate.

Council meeting 16 October 1883- Mr Cook overtime on completing the new Town Hall. Any fine imposed to be remitted. New and Old Town Halls and furniture insured for £5 000. George Grill allowed one room in the old Town Hall as bedroom 'when not required for other purposes'.

?????A broad passage or anteroom connected the new building with the old by entering the latter at the back of the stage. There were now four exits to the building: the main entrance in Rusden street; the wide side door in the centre of the East wall; the ante-room to the old hall and the stage door.

Council meeting 6 November 1883. Concern over poor acoustics of the building. Council meeting 20 November 1883. Mr Delarue suggest 'invisible wire' to aid acoustics and this done. Also heavy curtain across archway upstairs. Council meeting 3 June 1884- #25 voted to improve acoustics.

Council meeting 25 November 1884. Secretary of Lands wants new Town Hall as temporary office- granted.

Council meeting 16 June 1885- tenders called for fitting gas to both halls.

Council meeting 22 July 1885- fitting up Old and New Halls for gas £139.

Council meeting 22 November 1887- Improvement Committee recommends £12 for building small shed with copper boiler and fire place at rear of the old Town Hall for convenience of caterers and as safeguard against fire.

Council meeting 19 June 1888- steps on eastern side of the town Hall to be taken away and sloping staging to be erected instead. 1 000 gallon tank on stand to be erected connecting with east side downpipe of Town Hall to conserve water. Gas points on stage to be protected by wire cages and additional gas pipe for further lighting of the stage.

Council meeting 11 June 1889- new town hall floor being repaired.

Council meeting 24 september 1889- long memorandum from I.C. recognising that Council was tied financially for the Town Hall but pointed out the need for levels of town to be undertaken for street work.

Council meeting 23 June 1891. Old Town Hall granted free for Saturday meeting 're Aborigines'.

In September 1891 Mr French was asked to prepare plans and specifications for painting, covering with iron and generally repairing the old Town Hall buildings and tenders called. (Council meeting 8 September 1891)

Council meeting 8 December 1891- Paul Kirkwood's tender for 'coloring whole of walls of new Town Hall' accepted. Andrew Devonport's tender of #160 for repairs and erection of a verandah on the Old Town Hall accepted.

Council meeting 22 December 1891. Long discussion of charges for new and old Town Halls.

Council meeting 12 January 1892. Moved that old Town Hall and library be plastered and covering hall with iron.

Council meeting 3 May 1892. A suitable fence around Town Hall paddocks to be prepared by the City Engineer and submitted for approval. (See details on FINANCE)

Council meeting 23 May 1892. Estimate of ornamental fence around Town Hall property; Falconer Street frontage #32.6.0 and Rusden Street #42.4.0

Council meeting 12 July 1892. Old fence around Town Hall to be sold.

Council meeting 10 October 1892. J.J. Moore's tender of £3.15.0 for the Town Hall paddock accepted.

Council meeting 3 January 1893. Cesspit in Town Hall to be filled up and converted into closet.

Council meeting 26 September 1893. Tender for planing floor in new Town Hall before Hospital Ball.

Council meeting 24 April 1894. Consideration of new floor for Town Hall.

Council meeting 28 May 1895. Committee reports no further delay necessary for laying new floor in the new Town Hall.

January 1895 laying of the new floor

Timber for reflooring of the Town Hall was delivered from J. J. Trim's mill 1897.

The laying of new floors and general repair began in March 1897 and were supervised by superintendent P. Kirkwood. The old pine floor was replaced by tallow wood.

In March 1897 it was proposed to convert the large room under the stage of the Town Hall into a supper room but the recommendation was lost. See *Armidale Express*, 26 March 1897, p. 5.

Tenders were called in February 1899 for the colouring of the Town Hall. (*Armidale Express*, 21 February 1899, p.8)

Council meeting 3 September 1901- new gates to be purchased for the Rusden street entrance to the Town Hall yard.- old gates out of repair.

Council meeting 24 June 1902- Letter from Principal Under Secretary re licence for Town Hall and alterations in Town Hall building to General Purposes Committee. W. Black re-engaged as caretaker of Town Hall for another 12 months, £16. Council meeting 6 January 1903. Black requested permission to live in rooms under the Town Hall- granted provided Insurance Companies approve.

Council meeting 27 September 1904- 12 new forms for Town Hall to seat 120 persons.

Council meeting 8 November 1904- tender C.J. Hirschberg accepted for new forms for Town Hall at 21/3 per form.

Council meeting 22 August 1905. Thanks to Captain Webb for submitting schemes to protect Town Hall against fire.

Council meeting 7 September 1905. General Purpose Committee 25 February 1905. In view of the alterations to the steps at the side entrance to the Town Hall, caused through the erection of the School of Arts new buildings, that a platform be constructed to span the full width between the Town Hall and the new

buildings of the School of Arts and to extend from the lobby door (North Eastern Entrance). to the side door of the Hall, a distance of 25 feet. Thus providing a safe and clear entrance from Rusden Street through the eastern door of the hall. However the Chairman reported it had been discovered that the School, of Arts was not built out to the building line so platform had to be narrowed . Therefore amended report to provide narrower platform with railing along eastern side and an approach at the Northern End. Not to exceed £15.

Council meeting 8 September 1908- disrepair of the Town Hall referred to the General Purposes committee.