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Appendix A: Primary Sources for the History of City Hall Park

A. Minutes of the Common Council

I. REFERENCES TO THE ALMSHOUSE

MATERIALS AND WORK DONE

(all items Vol IV, except where noted – May to June 1736)

blankets (MCC 1784-1831 I 22)

brass chamber for Alms House pump (April 5, 1791)

boards, plank (258, VII176), pine boards (286, 339), plank & joice & laths (VII293)

bricks (284, 286, 338, 471-2, VII195)

buckets (fire) (Aug 12, 1805 & March 24, 1806)

carpenters' work (IV 331-332, 471)

carting sand from cellar (258)

cedar cisterns (V269, VII172)

chairs, etc. (327) March 31, 1737 - "Six Cabins or Bedsteads in the first Garret each of the Breadth of four foot, and six foot and a half in Length Six Beds with necessary furniture, two Dozen of strong Chairs, two Dozen of plates four Dishes, one Dozen knives, and one Dozen forks, two Iron pots or Kettles, Six oznibrigs or other linen Tables Cloaths, and Twelve Towels, one large square Table, one lesser Table, a small Looking Glass, some Brooms, two pales, two Tubbs for washing one Spit and other small furniture of daily use and necessity, three Spades, one shovel, one wheel Barrow and one rake for Gardening."

Construction, original (282, 287, 303)

Fuel (MCC 1784-1831 I 9, 27)

general work on (IV411, 478, 490, V405, 409, 431, 449, 459, VI42, 91, 102, 143, 164, 232, 247, 254, 269, VII133, 174, 233, 254, 404)

glass (MCC 1784-1831 I 6)

gutters (290), (MCC 1784-1831 I 389, 391)

iron (312, VII196)

iron grates (103)

iron work (371)

laths (285)

lime (267, 277, 283-4), lime&stone&brick (VII269)

materials and utensils (330)

nails (271, VI 248, VII198), nails & locks (338)

oakum (MCC 1784-1831 I 130)

ovens & stoves (232, VII245), iron cast stove for (VI55)

painting and glazing (370, V46, VI417, VII43, 112)

plastering, rooms (V300)

posts (289-90, 339)

shingles (289-90, 339), nails & shingles (364, 371)

sink and drains (MCC 1784-1831 I 239, 294, 375-377, 459, 461, 462, 537, 539, II 317, 352, 370, 373, 378, 379, 382, 383, 395, IV 227, V 727, VI 189, 366)

spinning wheels (MCC 1784-1831 I 34)
stone (259-60)
timber (259, 284)
well (260, 332)

III – 59-60 March 24, 1713

First mention of construction of the almshouse. Dropped?? No follow-up found.

III – 240-41 October 11, 1720 land

Investigations of encroachments upon Commons made by towns people.

III – 250 - February 9, 1721 reports of agreements made

IV – 236 Nov. 15, 1734

Order to find a “House and Ground” for a House of Correction and a Workhouse.

IV – 250 March 31, 1735

Paid contractor John Roomer 80 pounds plus 50 gallons of rum.

IV – 304-305 – March 3, 1736 – committee on securing a keeper and furnishing.

Search for a keeper of the almshouse to “sett the Poor to work, and to correct the contumacious”

IV 305 – March 3, 1736

Jobs for the poor: carding, knitting, Spinning, Dressing Hemp or Flax, picking oakum “that such Poor as are able to work may not Eat the Bread of Sloth and Idleness, and be a Burthen to the Publick.

IV 307 – March 31, 1736

List of necessary furniture including: 4 spinning wheels, shoemakers tools and Leather, 2 pairs of woolen Cards, knitting needles.

IV 308 – March 31, 1736 – description of Keeper’s duties

Keeper to “shew Humanity to the poor who are not able to labour, and Correct the Incurrible and such Others as shall be admitted to the House of Correction, and keep them to hard labour according to the Law . . .” “correct them by a moderate Whipping”

IV 309 – March 31, 1736 - church wardens to oversee the poor; in charge of provisions and supplies

“That the Master of the said House of Correction, Workhouse and poorhouse do sett to Work all such poor as shall be sent or committed thither and able to labour; and also all disorderly persons, parents of Bastard Children, Beggars, Servants running away or otherwise misbehaving themselves, Trespassers, Rogues, Vagabonds, poor persons refusing to work, and on their refusal to work and labour to correct them by moderate Whipping, and to yield a true Account to Every General Quarter Sessions of the peace to be held for this City and

County of all persons committed to his custody, and of the offences for which they were committed.

“And forasmuch as sufficient Provision is made for the Relief and Maintenance of the poor, it is our Opinion, that it be recommended to the Justices to Committ to the House of Correction all such sturdy Beggars as go wandering and begging about the Streets, and asking Alms, according to divers Statutes in such Case made and provided, there to be put to hard Labour.”

IV 309-310 – March 31, 1736

Upper West room for Infirmary; Lower East for the poor to eat in; upper east Lodging room for keeper; East cellar for hard labour and weaving; middle cellar for provisions; west cellar for “unruly and obstinate to be confined and imprisoned in”; other rooms for spinning, Carding & other Labour.

IV 310 – March 31, 1736 - children to be taught

Children to be religiously educated, taught to “read, write and cast account” and taught spinning, knitting, Sewing for future apprenticeship.

IV 310 – March 31, 1736 - garden to be kept

“That Fetters, Gives, Shackles, and a convenient place of whipping post be provided for the said House of Correction for punishing the incorrigible and disor[der]ly persons committed thereunto.”

Garden, fenced, plowed up for growing Roots, Herbs, etc.

People could submit their slaves to the Almshouse.

IV 319 – April 15, 1736

Kitchen, Oven & Wash-house to be built

IV 324 – April 15, 1736 - work on garden and seeds & blacksmith’s work (&341)

IV 330 –July 22, 1736 - work on Almshouse kitchen

IV 423

By April 1738, already committee created for repair of the almshouse

IV 424 –April 13, 1738 - committee on repairing Almshouse

IV 457-459 – May 15, 1739 – building for contagious diseases ordered.

" Ordered that Alderman Roome Alderman Bancker and Mr Vredenburgh or any two of them be a Committee to make an additional Building at the Poorhouse of this city for A receptacle and Conveniency of Such unhappy poor as are or shall be visited with any malignant or Obnoxious disease on such a manner as they shall see most needfull and Convenient for the purposes (494) Aforesaid and that they procure Materials and Employ Workmen for Compleating and finishing the same at the expense of this corporation and do keep a particular Acct. of the cost and expence thereof untill the same is fully finished."

IV 470 –Sept 9, 1739 - Petition of P. Stoutenburgh to be appointed overseer of the Poorhouse

- IV 480 –November 21, 1739 - Andries Myer appointed overseer upon the death of John Sebring.
- IV 482 – April 10, 1740 – fence at, ordered put up
Fence ordered to be built between poorhouse garden and “Ground of John Harris”.
- V 64 – Sept 29, 1742 - committee on alterations
- V 171 (April 15, 1746), 176 (Aug 29, 1746) – committee on enlarging Almshouse because too small for growing poor population. Permission to remove fence.
- V 183 – October 29, 1746 – Small Watch House to be built near Powder House under the direction of the committee to enlarge the Almshouse.
- V 187 –December 8, 1746 - enlargement of Almshouse and construction of watch house, finished and paid for
- V 193 –May 27, 1747 – Wooden Partitions in old part of Almshouse “removed and New Partitions of Lath and Plaster made in their Stead”; Fredrick Seabring appointed keeper
- V 214 –Dec 22, 1747 - report of committee on repairs and additions to Almshouse
- V 289 –March 21, 1750 - R. Provoost appointed overseer upon the sickness of F. Seabring
- V 359 –March 6. 1752 - committee to make a vault behind the Watch House and to put a bell tower on the Almshouse
- V 386 –Nov 8, 1752 paid for making vault
- V 396 –March 3, 1753 - room for a weaver’s loom to be provided at the Almshouse
- V 405 –May 24, 1753 - pump to be put on the well at the Almshouse
- VI 12-13 –May 30, 1755 – Capt. Jacobus Kiersted made overseer, Robert Provoost removed
- VI – 18 (July 18, 1755), 85 (March 19, 1757) – committee on repairs
- VI – 85-6 – March 19, 1757 - burial place for the poor to be fenced in adjoining the Almshouse
That the Committee for Repairing the work House, House of Correction and alms House . . .
Cause a small piece of Ground to the Eastward of and adjoining to the fence of the said Work House, of the Length of two Boards, to be Inclosed and fenced in, for a Buriall place for the poor belonging to the said work House.
- VI 161 –Dec 6, 1758 - search for new workhouse keeper

VI 246 –May 22, 1761 - vault ordered made for Almshouse

VI 276 –Nov 23, 1761 - salary of 70 pounds p/a set for Alexander Forbush, Keeper of the Almshouse

VI 289 –May 26, 1762 –to doctor for delivering a woman at the Almshouse

VI 385 – August 15, 1764 - bonus to the keeper of the Almshouse
Awarded 20 pounds extra to keeper Alexander Forbes “in Consideration of the many perquisites he has Lost Occasioned by the said House of Correction Being Without a Whipper for a Considerable time.

VII 21, 29 – July 2, 1766

Ordered 100 pounds “towards carrying on a building now propos’d in addition to the poorhouse.

VII 43,49 –Nov 27, 1766 - On addition to the almshouse

VII 76 –Aug 13, 1767 - towards completing the Almshouse

VII 123 –Aug 15, 1768 - addition to the kitchen ordered
“In order to fix an iron pot, for Dressing of Victuals”

VII 200 – Jan 19, 1770

John Harris deceased and Mayor requested house razed because a “Number of disorderly Soldiers” living there.

Board ordered not to pull it down, but that it be “Let to such Gentlemen, professors of Physick & Surgery as have the management and care of the hospital.”

VII 310 –Sept 4, 1771 - Almshouse ordered repaired as recommended in report

VII 311 – Sept 12, 1771 - Harris lot (124’ x 248’) to be given for a hospital for the poor.
“The Institution of a publick Infirmary or Hospital within this City, being not only a laudable but usefull Undertaking, having for its object the Relief of the indigent & diseased and founded upon the most extensive and generous Principles; this Board being truly sensible of the same, and willing to patronize and encourage so benevolent an Establishment, have agreed to grant all the right and Interest in and to the westernmost half of the Lot formerly belonging to John Harris Dec’d & others, but now to this Corporation. Containing in breadth in front of the Commons 124 feet, and in length 248 feet for the purpose of building the said Hospital thereon.”

FROM MCC 1784-1831

I 128 –April 5, 1785 – garden

“there is a PIECE OF Ground in the Rear of the Bridewell which might be usefully employed as a Garden for the use of the Bridewell & Alms-House”

I 144 – June 20, 1785 – enclosure of Fields

Plan for “enclosing the Ground commonly called the fields” approved.

I 151 – June 29, 1785 – burial ground

Request from keeper of the Alms House for a “more convenient Piece of Ground” “ for the interment of the Dead from the Alms House”

I 158 – August 1, 1785 – burial ground

“Ordered that the vacant Ground in the Rear of the Barricks & not in dispute be used for the interment of the deceased Persons of the Alms House & Bridewell”

I 214 – April 19, 1786 – stables and horses – storehouses

Stable and storehouse to be erected for use of the Almshouse

I 449 – May 4, 1789 – storehouses

Plea for a “small Building to serve as a Store for the use of the Alms House”

I 494 – October 12, 1789 – storehouses

Ordered that old powder magazine be taken down and materials used for the Alms House Store.

I 539 – sewage drainage and bleach yard

Large sink ordered installed near the Gaol (30 foot long x 8 foot wide) to carry off sewage “piece of Ground adjoining the Gallows” ordered to be used as a “Bleach Yard for the Alms House”

I 554 – June 23, 1790 – boundary of old ground, controversy

“ordered that the Ald’n & Assist’s of the East & North Wards & the Ass’t of the West Ward be a Committee to meet the proprietors (Kip Malcolm & others) of the Land in the Rear of the Alms House and Bridewell and to ascertain the division Line between the said Lands and the Lands of this Corporation and to lay out a Street there; and that the former Committee on that Subject be discharged.”

I 556 – June 25, 1790 – well

“Ordered that . . . direct the sinking of a new Well in the Alms House Yard.”

I 565 – July 19, 1790 – well

“ . . . treasurer to advance Mr. George Janeway the Sum of 20 lb on Acc’t towards the sinking of the new Well at the Alms House.”

I 573 – August 10, 1790 – burial ground

“Ordered . . . a Committee to examine the Goal & report the necessary Improvements & Repairs thereto with an Estimate of the Expence & also to report a more proper burial Palce for the use of the Alms House Goal & Bridewell.”

I 598 – Sept. 24, 1790 – boundary of old ground, controversy

Land surveyed to determine “the Proprietor’s Grant which he informed them was made under the Dutch Government” “Ordered . . . Corporation prosecute for all such parts of the Said lands as do not fall within the line, agreeable to the Dutch Measurement.”

I 602 – Oct 5, 1790 – sidewalk

“Report that a foot Walk of sixteen feet broad be paved with Brick or flat Stone along Chatham Row to the Northwest Corner of the Presbyterian Church Yard beginning at said Corner and ascending 9/10 parts of an Inch on every ten feet to the pavement at Andrew Hoppers Door.”

“That a foot Walk of sixteen feet broad be paved with Brick or flat Stone along the westerly side of (Broadway)Great George Street” . . . from corner of Vesey at the intersection of the Kennel to the intersection of Barclay Street and then to the intersection of Robinson and then to Murray.

Foot Walk from the Corner of the Bridewell Fence “to as great a Distance as the situation of the Ground and the convenience of the public Buildings will admit in order that a Descent for as much of the Water from the Ground in front thereof as possible may be obtained to the North River and then to descend to Franckfort Street.”

I 610 – Nov 12, 1790 – boundary of old ground, controversy

“A Proposal . . . to compleat their Affairs with this Corporation respecting the Lands commonly called the Negroe’s burying Ground.”

I 614 – Nov 26, 1790 – Hospital as almshouse

“Ordered . . . a Committee to apply to the Gov’rs of the Hospital for the use of that Building as an Almshouse.”

I 617 – Dec 24, 1790 – Hospital as almshouse

“Resolved . . . the Board do not think themselves authorized to comply with their Request by allowing the Hospital to be appropriated to purposes foreign to the Object of their Charter.”

I 663 – Aug 12, 1791 – boundary of old ground, controversy

“Ordered that Mr. Recorder (Corporation lawyer) take the necessary Measures for proceeding against the Intruders on the Corporation Ground in the Rear of the Alms House and Bridewell.”

I 691 – Dec 23, 1791 – fire engine and buckets

Fire engine from Cherry St to be moved to Alms House.

I 709-710 – April 30, 1792 – boundary of old ground, controversy

“A Law for digging out Chambers Read & Barley Streets”

“Daniel Phoenix esq’r . . . to receive & keep the possession, on behalf of this Board, of certain Houses & Lots (in rear of Bridewell) of Land in the Sixth Ward, lately recovered in Ejectment.”

I 711 – May 7, 1792 – Workhouse abolished

“A proposition of the Commissioners to abolish the plan of the Workhouse Department in Bridewell & to return to the Alms House such poor Persons as are of decent Characters was read & approved by the Board.”

I 722 – June 4, 1792 – fire engine and buckets

Fire engine removed from Alms House.

I 734 – Aug 6, 1792 – pasture for cows

“Ordered . . . a Committee to locate about twenty Acres of the Common Lands to be reserved as a pasture for the Milch Cows at the Alms House.”

I 739 – Aug 29, 1792 – boundary of old ground, controversy

Petition by Christina Arundius for “Buildings on the Ground in the Rear of the Bridewell; which the Corporation recovered against her lately in Ejectment”

I 754 – Oct 22, 1792 – pasture for cows

Report that Street Committee “had procured a quantity of Post & Rails for the purpose of enclosing the Pasture in the Common Lands for the Cows of the Alms House and proposed that they should be used for the present to enclose the fields in front of the Alms House to protect the Trees intended to be planted there this Fall.”

I 756 – Nov 5, 1792 – stables and horses

Ordered that Commissioners “pull down the old Stable and to build another (using the Materials of the old as far as they will go) on such part of the Bridewell Ground as they shall judge expedient.”

I 767 – Jan 28, 1793 – boundary of old ground, controversy

Christina Arundius allowed to take down the buildings built by her, but not to have the land that she had been renting.

II 22 – July 22, 1793 – boundary of old ground, controversy

Partition fence to be built between Corporation land and private land being claimed.

II 92 – Aug 4, 1794 – burial ground

“Ordered that the Triangular Piece of Ground at the junction of the Post & Bloomingdale Roads be appropriated to the use of the Alms House for a Burying Ground.” (WHERE? THREE MILE MARK?)

II 134 – March 30, 1795 – boundary of old ground, controversy

Still arguing over the boundary line between Corporation land and Negroe’s burial ground.

II 175 – Sept 8, 1795 – dumping behind almshouse forbidden
Problems with people “laying Manure on the vacant Ground in the Rear of the Alms House”.
Violators will be prosecuted.

II 180 – Sept 29, 1795 – stables and horses
“Ordered . . . Committee for the erection of a new Stable at the Alms House for the public
Horses.”

II 185 – Oct 6, 1795 – part of Bridewell as annex for almshouse
“A considerable part of the Bridewell being necessarily occupied as an Alms House; Ordered
. . . a Committee to inspect such part of the Goal as by Law is reserved for the use of this
Board & report whether any & what part can be assigned for the confinement of Vagrants.”
(Oct 26: found that some rooms on the first floor could be used.)

II 218 – Feb 22, 1796 – boundary of old ground, controversy
John Crolius complaining that “certain Persons claiming Lands North of the Alms House are
making Encroachments on Lots by him held under Lease from this Corporation.”

II 252-253 – June 27, 1796 – boundary of old ground, controversy
Disputed land to be taken from claimants for public use. Defined as “that Parcel of Land on
the northwesterly side of Augustus Street – Bounded southeasterly by Augustus Street,
southwesterly by the said street so to be laid out, Northwesterly by the said land called the
Negroes Burying Ground, and northeasterly by land now or late belonging to George
Janeway.”

II 264 – July 25, 1796 – boundary of old ground, controversy
Question of whether the “Proprietors of the Land called the Negroes Burial Ground North
of Alms House & Bridewell will on or before the first day of May next surrender to this
Board all their ground south of Chambers Street this board will release to them the Lot No.
26 on the southerly side of Augustus Street.”

II 358 – boundary of old ground, controversy – removal of old almshouse, use of materials

II 374 – June 26, 1797 – removal of old almshouse, use of materials – yard, use and
improvement
“Ordered that Mr. Harsen take order for the taking down of the old Alms House.”

II 464 – Aug 27, 1798 – coffin making as occupation of inmates
“Ordered . . . Keeper of the Alms House deliver of the Coffins made at the Alms House to
their Order.”

II 479 – Nov 12, 1798 – cellar for vegetables and exchange of materials
“Ordered that the Commissioners of the Alms House deliver to Peter Cole one Blanket for
each of the criminal Prisoners, and that the Commissioners hire a Cellar to store the
Vegetables of the Alms House.”

II 547 – May 20, 1799 – fire engine and buckets

“Ordered . . . the Erection of a fire Engine House on the Alms House Yard for the two Engines imported from Hamburgh.”

II 556 – July 1, 1799 – yard, use and improvement

“Order . . . for removing the Building from the Lot at the East End of the Alms House lately recovered of Provoost.”

II 615 – March 17, 1800 – boundary of old ground, controversy

Piece of land at Chambers and Broad Way (Negro burial ground) finally ready to be handed over to Corporation.

II 626 – May 12, 1800 – boundary of old ground, controversy

Ground south of Chambers given to Corp. while three lots north of Chambers given to former proprietors.

III 245 – March 21 1803 – stables and horses – yard, use and improvement

“Ordered . . . two stables standing in the Alms House yard removed.”

III 258 – April 11, 1803 – stables and horses

“Ordered . . . remove or pull down the Barn in the Alms House yard.”

V 628 – Aug 14, 1809 – yard, use and improvement

“a Pound shall be erected within the present limits of the Alms House Yard”

VI 518 – March 11, 1811 – yard, use and improvement

“permission to make use of that part of the Alms House Yard used by the Widow’s Society for storing wood.”

VII 660-662 – Jan 10, 1814 – plan for “a complete system of manufactories” at the new Bellevue.

II. SECOND ALMSHOUSE

COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

All notes from MCC 1784-1831

MATERIALS AND WORK DONE

Blankets (II 479)

Check (II 75)

Clothing and diet (II 669, 670)

Fireplaces, Peales (II 451)

Flax (II 57)

Fuel (II 670, III16, IV 325, VI 90)

Ornaburg (II 67)

II 83 – June 16, 1794 – materials for new almshouse

“Ordered that . . . be a committee for purchasing Materials for the erection of a new Alms House.”

II 115 – Nov 24, 1794 – survey of land

“Ordered that . . . be a Committee to direct a Survey of the Land at the Alms House Goal & Bridewell preparatory to the erection of a new Alms House.”

II 239 – May 16, 1796 – site for new almshouse

“Resolved that the new Alms House be erected on the Rear of the Ground of the present Alms House And that . . . be a Committee to cause a Plan of the Ground & of the Building to be made & to report the same to the Board.”

II 243-244 – May 30, 1796 – plan for new almshouse, architect’s fee, building ordered
Plan approved.

“The Stories to be of the following Height viz’t Cellar 9 feet – 1st Story 10 feet. 2nd 10 feet & 3rd 9 feet.”

II 319 – Jan 13, 1797 – removal of buildings for new almshouse

“Ordered that Mr. Phoenix notify the Tenants in the Houses near the new Alms House, which will require to be removed, that they must abandon those Houses by the first day of May next.”

II 325 – Feb 27, 1797 – removal of buildings for new almshouse

Petition by evicted Tenant to be allowed to take the materials of his old house with him.

II 343 – May 1, 1797 – occupation

“Ordered that the Commissioners take order for removing the Inhabitants out of the old into the new Alms House.”

II 358 – June 26, 1797 – removal of old almshouse, use of materials

Corporation took land in the vicinity of the new Almshouse back from Samuel La Rue.

“Ordered that Mr. Harsen take order for the taking down of the old Alms House.”

II 374 – Aug 7, 1797 – removal of old almshouse, use of materials

“Ordered . . . such of the Materials of the old Alms House as may be useful to be taken for the purpose of putting the Ground lately purchased for a burying Ground in order & the erection of a small Building for the Superintendent.”

II 668 – care of premises

III 34 – Oct 5, 1801 –

plan for better warming read and adopted

III 89-90 – April 6, 1802 – proposed alterations

“The Committee to whom it was referred to examine the Alms House and to report any alterations in the building and the propriety of building a hospital adjoining thereto.

Beg leave to report that many alterations are necessary in the interior of the present Building to the comfort and health of its inhabitants - - that the Communication between its different parts ought to be opened to obtain a free current of air which under the present distribution is impracticable – that they are impressed with a belief that a different building ought to be erected to receive the Sick distinct from the present . . . “

III 269 – April 25, 1803 – removal of fence

“Ordered . . to dispose of the fence which shall be taken up near the said Building.”

V 140 – May 23, 1808 – roof repairs ordered

VI 3 – Jan 2, 1810 – need of additional quarters

“The Superintendant of the Alms House presented a communication, stating, that from the numbers, which were already in, and were daily applying for admission to the Alms House, he was of opinion, that it would be necessary to accommodate some of the Paupers at Bellevue, which would be attended with great inconvenience and considerable expense. He, therefore, suggested the propriety of endeavoring to procure the room adjacent to the Alms House lately granted by the Board to the Trustees of the African School.”

VI 501 – Feb 21, 1811 – new site at Bellevue purchase

Various proposals for land to purchase for a new site for the Bridewell and Alms House rejected.

VI 572 – April 29, 1811 – plans for new almshouse at Bellevue

“A deed . . . conveying six acres, 1 rood, 28 perches and eighty Seven Square feet of land adjacent to the estate of the Corporation at Bellevue for the consideration of \$22, 494.50 was presented.

Resolved that a committee be appointed to select the proper site for an Alms House on the ground belonging to the Corporation at Bellevue . . .” and that they make a plan, etc.

III. New York Institution

COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES 1784-1831

VII 270 – Oct 5, 1812 – use, culture societies (more)

“grant the establishment of an Institution for the promotion of arts and sciences in this City to be called the “New York Institution for the promotion of arts and sciences” and to appropriate so much of the present Alms House as may be needful for its complete accommodation”

VIII 488 – April 22, 1816 – Bellevue completed

“New Alms House, the penitentiary & all the buildings connected with them are now nearly completed and in readiness to receive and accommodate the Alms House Establishment.”

Chapel at new Almshouse to be consecrated.

Bellevue Committee to transfer all “paupers and prisoners” to new almshouse.

VIII 536 – June 10, 1816 – Columbian Society, medical societies and lectures petition for use of East Wing.

VIII 573 – July 1, 1816 – removal of wash house
“superintendent of repairs directed to pull down & remove the wash House formerly occupied by the old Alms House, and that the materials of the same be at the disposal of the committee of the Fire Department.”

VIII 588 – July 15, 1816 – use of out buildings
“the out buildings formerly belonging to the old Alms House establishment, be appropriated to such uses as the Bellevue Committee & the Commissioners of the Almshouse shall think proper, or be removed and disposed of”

VIII 591 – July 22, 1816 – illegal occupants
Formerly legal residents had been asked to leave but refused.

VIII 600 – Aug 12, 1816 – botanic garden
Recommended that “the grounds adjacent to the Old Alms House and in the rear of the City Hall be appropriated to the purposes of a botanical garden”

VIII 726 – Dec 23, 1816– grounds improvement, street lamps, proposal

VIII 790-791 – Jan 27, 1817– grounds improvement
“The Ground between the City Hall and the old Alms House and that between this time and the first of May next, the whole space to be laid down in Grass. Bordered with trees and thrown open for the benefit of the City in the same manner as the spaces in front of the Hall, reserving however so much as may be necessary in the discretion of the Committee to be enclosed for the use of the Hall and Bridewell.”

IX 20 – Feb 24, 1817 – proposed painting gallery on grounds, Rotunda
Proposal for Rotunda for the “exhibition of Paintings” requested to be on a lot on Broadway on west side of old Alms House.

IX 206 – June 16, 1817 - fencing
“Resolved that an iron fence be constructed in front of that part of the public ground called the Park, commencing at the Engine House opposite Warren Street and running northerly to Chamber Street; thence along Chamber Street to a point in line with the west end of the New York Institution”

IX 212 – June 23, 1817 – stand under portico
Request for a Shop to sell Soda Water under the Portico erected by Mr. Scudder at the NYI.

X 570 – Oct 4, 1819 – removal of building behind NYI
“Resolved that the Superintendent of Repairs cause the small wooden building in the rear of the old Alms House to be removed.”

XI 288 – Aug 21, 1820 – public water closet
“one of Mr. Stevens’ water Closets” added to old Alms House

XI 768 – Aug 20, 1821 – fencing
Petition from N-YHS “that a part of the Pale Fence now removing from the Park in front of the City Hall, may be granted them for the purpose of inclosing the yard in front of the Building occupied by them”

XIV 663 – July 1, 1825 – probable removal
Proposals by various cultural institutions to renew their leases in the NYI denied because “the board may find it expedient to remove the building in question, together with the Bridewell and Goal.” Establishments allowed to stay in NYI, rent free, until May 1, 1827.

XVII 754 – March 30, 1829 – fencing
“Resolved . . . removal of the present fences and other incumbrances on the ground in front of the Institution on Chamber Street, and for the continuation of the Iron fence from the point where it now terminates on that Street to the Rotunda.”

XVIII 55 – May 4, 1829 – as Bridewell and Police Office
Resolution on alterations “in the Buldings on Chamber Street” for the purpose of a Bridewell”.

XVIII 318 – Oct 19, 1929 – fencing
“Resolved that the present wooden fences in front of the Old Alms House on Chamber Street be forthwith removed and the Iron railing extended to the Rotunda.”

XIX 299 – Oct 18, 1830 – as watch house
“Resolved . . . prepare suitable apartments in the West end of the Old Alms House for the holding of the Criminal Courts of this City and for the accommodation of the Grand and Petit Jurors, the District Attorney and Clerk of said courts, the Police Office.”

XIX 583 – March 29, 1831 – as legal part of City Hall
Old Alms House, Rotunda, Old Jail “shall and hereby are designated as part of the ‘City Hall of the City of New York’ for the use of Courts and Public Offices.”

XIX 595 – April 4, 1831– grounds improvement
\$14,000 spent on new blinds, paint job, and roof repairs.

IV. Barracks

Common Council minutes

MATERIALS AND WORK DONE

Blankets – VI 161-2 (Dec 18, 1758)

Candles – VI256 (July 24, 1761)
Chains – VI159 (Nov 23, 1758)
Hooks – VI159 (Nov 23, 1758)
Pots – VI159 (Nov 23, 1758)
Sundries – VI451 (Dec 6, 1765)
Trammells – VI207 (March 7, 1760)
Wood – VI256 (July 24, 1761)

VI 108 - October 19, 1757

The Immediate providing of materials for the Carrying on and Compleating Barracks to Contain Eight Hundred men, and wheather a Suffecient Number of Carpenters Can be had, so as to Compleat the said Barracks in a fortnight

VI 111-12 –Oct 21, 1757 - report and building ordered erected on commons south of Fresh Water

“the said building, Contain Twenty Rooms on a floor two stories high, to be Twenty one feet square, four hundred and Twenty feet Long and Twenty one feet wide to be built on some of the Commons lands of this Corporation, to the southward of freshwater Between the New Goal House and the house of Catemuts.”

VI 112 – Oct 21, 1757 - committee to procure funds for barracks from Governor and Council

VI 113 –Oct 25, 1757 - 2000 pounds received from Treasurer of the Colony

VI 129 –April 1, 1758 - paid back to Treasurer

VI 412 – March 7, 1765 - use of room in Barracks allowed Hill, the weaver, and family – a recent immigrant unable to provide for himself yet.

From MCC 1784-1831

I 22 – April 1, 1784 – chimneys swept, repairs – payments made for work done

I 64 – Aug 26, 1784 – lease

Petition from “sundry Persons residing & occupying the upper Barracks praying Leases for the same”

I 106 – Dec. 8, 1784 – glazing warrant – payment for work done

I 138 – April 30, 1785 – lease

“ordered that the Barracks be leased for 5 or 7 years”

I 278-279 – Feb 14, 1787 – ruinous condition & as hospital

“Also some further direction as to the Disposition of the Barracks which were going to ruin for want of Repair & yielded a very trifling Emolument” . . . “Mr. Mayor informed the Board that the Commissioners of the Alms House had represented to him that the

Hospital of the House was very much crowded with the sick and that it would be necessary to provide more Room & and to that end suggested the propriety of appropriating some part of the Barracks to that use.”

I 312 – Aug 6, 1787 – as hospital

“Ordered that in future the Sick & Well in the Alms House be kept separate & . . . whether a part of the Barracks in the Rear of the Almshouse cannot be appropriated to that use.”

I 314 – Aug 22, 1787 – as hospital

“Ordered that four Rooms in the Barracks be immediately repaired & put in order for the reception of the Sick Inhabitants of the Alms House”

I 335 – Oct 31, 1787 – as hospital – contract for repairs agreed upon.

I 337 – Nov 5, 1787 – boundaries at barracks

Request by neighbors to, “ascertain the Line between the Corporation & their Property. And also to lay out a street between them.”

I 516 – Jan 15, 1790 – sale of barracks

“Ordered that the Treasurer be directed to sell . . . on or before the 20th April next, the buildings situate in the Rear of the Alms House, formerly occupied as Barracks.”

I 594 – Sept 17, 1790 – room in barracks assigned

“Ordered that Mary Cox be permitted to occupy a vacant Room in the Barracks.”

I 730 – July 9, 1792 – removal

“Ordered that the Battery Committee take down the Barracks & use the Materials on the Improvements making there.”

I 733 – July 30, 1792 – use of material

Barracks materials to be used to build a Watch House for the City Hall.

II 203 – Dec 7, 1795 – room for lamp lighters

“use of the Room in the Barracks for convening the lamp Lighters.”

III 385 – Nov 7, 1803 – lease

Barracks land being leased out.

III 389 – Nov 14, 1803 – lease, removal of barracks

Land leased to Henry Low for 7 years @ \$75/ann under the condition that the barracks be removed and Low build a stone wall surrounding the property.

XIX 744 – fuel warrant (1784)

V. REFERENCES TO THE BRIDEWELL COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

MATERIALS & WORK DONE

Blankets – VII358, VIII38, (MCC 1784-1831 II 484)
Boilers for kitchen (MCC 1784-1831 III 15, VI 799)
Butchers – VII125
Chimneys – (MCC 1784-1831 II 454, V 259, 308)
Chimney sweeping (MCC 1784-1831 I 183, 190)
Cisterns – (MCC 1784-1831 II 463)
Coal – VII99, 103, 110, 134
Drain and sinks – (MCC 1784-1831 I 375-377, 378, 379, 382, 383, 395, 456, 459, 461, 462, 537, 539, II 352, 370, 373, VI 189)
Fence (MCC 1784-1831 II 132)
Firebuckets (MCC 1784-1831 VI 615, 616)
Firewood – VII267
General work, repairs – VII103, 220, 243, 404, VIII136, (MCC 1784-1831 I 22, 46, 53, 56, 61, 66, 90, XIII 114, 115, 555, XVI 726, XIX 164)
Glazing and painting (MCC 1784-1831 I 624, II 513)
Iron grates (MCC 1784-1831 II 340)
Iron stoves – VII245, 282
Linen and woolen wheels – VII98
Mason's work – VII99
Medical attendance – VII411
Mending wheels – VII269
Oil vats (MCC 1784-1831 II 357)
Overseer payments – VII245, 264, 286, 324, 348, 356, 371, 394, 416, 421, 456
Paving (MCC 1784-1831 I 638)
Rope (MCC 1784-1831 IV 762)
Salary of the keeper – VIII5, 29, 45, 65, 80, 94, 116, 129, 139
Sashes (made by S. McGee) – VIII134
Sidewalk (MCC 1784-1831 I 623)
Smith's work – VII98, VIII109
Spinning wheel – VII120
Straw – VII100
Sundries – VII102, 112, 346
Utensils (MCC 1784-1831 VI 212)
Victualing – VII213, 227, 243
Wood – VII439, VIII43, 111

VI 449 (Nov 21, 1765) & VII 46 (Nov 10, 1766) – Committee to draft plan of a Bridewell

VII 87 – October 14, 1767 - to fit two rooms in New Gaol for a Bridewell

VII 89 – November 9, 1767 - proposals for a keeper of the Bridewell

VII 92 – November 20, 1767 - Wm. Dobbs appointed keeper for 35 pounds until next May 1.

VII 114, 124, 136, 151, 162, 176 – overseer of Bridewell

VII 176 –Aug 10, 1769 - keeper of the Bridewell proposal deferred

VII 356 –May 7, 1772 - committee on the condition of the Bridewell and need for better regulation.

VII 414 –April 7, 1773 - report on the state of the Bridewell

VII 435 –July 13, 1773 - Alex Montcriff appointed keeper upon resignation of Dobbs

VII 453 –Oct 14, 1773 - committee on the state of the Bridewell

VIII 64 –Nov 15, 1774 - plans for a new Bridewell, advertised

VIII 82 –March 17, 1775 – plans drawn by Theophilus Hardenbrook adopted unanimously

VIII 88 – April 6, 1775 – committee on building Bridewell
Committee formed to oversee the construction of the Bridewell

FROM MCC 1784-1831

I 108 – Jan 6, 1785 – claim to land, boundary, encroachment
Claim by Isaac Sears to “part of the Ground whereon the Bridewell is erected”

I 128 – April 5, 1785 – garden for Bridewell
Commissioners suggested that a piece of land in the rear of the Bridewell would make a good garden for the Bridewell and the Alms House.

I 138 – April 30, 1785 – fence
Payment made for work on a Bridewell fence.

I 145 – June 20, 1785 – claim to land, boundary, encroachment
Claim by Isaac Sears to part of the land which he claims to have purchased Feb 3, 1770,
“bounded westerly in front by the Broad Way Southerly by the Green commonly called the fields Easterly by the Ground belonging to this Corporation & occupied with the Poor House & Northerly by other Ground of the said Corporation of which Piece of Land John Harris the Elder was seized at the time of his death.”

I 158 – Aug 1, 1785 – burial ground
“Ordered that the vacant Ground in the Rear of the Barricks & not in dispute to be used for the interment of the deceased Persons of the Alms House & Bridewell”

I 185 – Nov 23, 1785 – burial ground, rooms for insane
New committee to find a burial place for the Alms House and Bridewell

Agreed that the Commissioners do partition off as many rooms in the Attick Store in the Bridewell not exceeding five as they may conceive necessary for the Confinement of lunatic & mad Persons.

I 292 – May 9, 1787 – walls painted

I 341 – Dec 5, 1787 – claim to land, boundary, encroachment
Descendents of John Harris claiming part of the land.

I 505 – Nov 20, 1789 – Workhouse institution ordered

“the Alms House, which was originally designed for the accommodation of the Poor of this City & County, is become too much of a common Receptacle for idle intemperate Vagrants, many of whom of right have no lawful residence in this place and who by pretended Sickness or otherwise, often impose on the Magistrates of the City, by which Means the House is overcrowded with numbers of abandoned Characters, greatly incommoding those who are real Objects of Charity as well as imposing on the industrious part of the Community.”

Therefore check on “the propriety of appropriating an Apartment in the Bridewell to be called the Work House in contradistinction from the Alms House & Bridewell, for the reception of such persons from the City who may apply to the Magistrates, and are not real Objects of Charity, and also from time to time of such Persons from the Poor House as may have repeatedly broken the Rules and Orders of the House and by their Intemperance and Turpitude, rendered themselves undeserving of that Attention and Compassion due to the more orderly Objects of the House”

I 573 – August 10, 1790 – burial ground

“Ordered . . . a Committee to examine the Goal & report the necessary Improvements & Repairs thereto with an Estimate of the Expence & also to report a more proper burial Place for the use of the Alms House Goal & Bridewell.”

I 598 – Sept. 24, 1790 – boundary of old ground, controversy

Land surveyed to determine “the Proprietor’s Grant which he informed them was made under the Dutch Government” “Ordered . . . Corporation prosecute for all such parts of the Said lands as do not fall within the line, agreeable to the Dutch Measurement.”

I 602 – Oct 5, 1790 – sidewalk

“Report that a foot Walk of sixteen feet broad be paved with Brick or flat Stone along Chatham Row to the Northwest Corner of the Presbyterian Church Yard beginning at said Corner and ascending 9/10 parts of an Inch on every ten feet to the pavement at Andrew Hoppers Door.”

“That a foot Walk of sixteen feet broad be paved with Brick or flat Stone along the westerly side of (Broadway)Great George Street” . . . from corner of Vesey at the intersection of the Kennel to the intersection of Barclay Street and then to the intersection of Robinson and then to Murray.

Foot Walk from the Corner of the Bridewell Fence “to as great a Distance as the situation of the Ground and the convenience of the public Buildings will admit in order that a Descent

for as much of the Water from the Ground in front thereof as possible may be obtained to the North River and then to descend to Franckfort Street.”

I 610 – Nov 12, 1790 – boundary of old ground, controversy

“A Proposal . . . to compleat their Affairs with this Corporation respecting the Lands commonly called the Negroe’s burying Ground.”

I 663 – Aug 1, 1791 – claim to land, boundary, encroachment – storage of firewood
Oak firewood stored in the Bridewell backyard.

“Ordered that . . . take the necessary Measures for proceeding against the Intruders on the Corporation Ground in the Rear of the Alms House & Bridewell.”

I 709-710 – April 30, 1792 – claim to land, boundary, encroachment

Board seized “certain Houses & Lots (in rear of Bridewell) of Land in the sixth Ward, lately recovered in Ejectment”

I 711 – May 7, 1792 – Workhouse abolished

“A proposition . . . to abolish the plan of the Workhouse Department in Bridewell & to return to the Alms House such poor Persons as are of decent Characters was read and approved by the Board.”

I 756 – Nov 5, 1792 – stables and horses

Ordered that Commissioners “pull down the old Stable [from the Almshouse yard] and to build another (using the Materials of the old as far as they will go) on such part of the Bridewell Ground as they shall judge expedient.”

I 760 – Dec 17, 1792 – Workhouse resumed

“It being represented that from the late encrease of the number of Paupers in the Alms House that place is become so crowded as to render their accommodation very uncomfortable.
“Therefore ordered . . . appropriate two of the Bridewell Rooms as a Work House for such of the Alms House Inhabitants as they shall from time to time think appropriate to remove thither”

II 22 – July 22, 1793 – claim to land, boundary, encroachment – blinds to prevent communication

“Ordered . . . direct Blinds to be made to the Bridewell Windows to prevent Persons from without conversing with those confined within.”

II 52 – Dec 2, 1793 – rooms for commissioners

Commissioners to occupy two Rooms in the Bridewell as directed by the order of Dec 6, 1791.

II 111 - Oct 20, 1794 – fence

Bridewell fence ordered to be made.

II 134 – March 30, 1795 – boundary of old ground, controversy

Still arguing over the boundary line between Corporation land and Negroe's burial ground.

II 185 – Oct 6, 1795 – part of Bridewell as annex for almshouse

“A considerable part of the Bridewell being necessarily occupied as an Alms House; Ordered . . . a Committee to inspect such part of the Goal as by Law is reserved for the use of this Board & report whether any & what part can be assigned for the confinement of Vagrants.”
(Oct 26: found that some rooms on the first floor could be used.)

II 338 – April 17, 1797 – Bridewell as temporary state prison

“Ordered that the western Moiety of the Bridewell be assigned for the confinement of the State Prisoners until the State Prison be erected”

II 529 – April 1, 1799 – storage of naval stores

“Ordered that the Justices of the Police Office be permitted to store in the Bridewell Yard such Pitch Tar & Turpentine as they shall find necessary from time to time to remove there.”

II 549 – May 27, 1799 – storehouse

Proposal for a Store House for the use of the Almshouse and Bridewell.

III 206 – Feb 14, 1803 – question of a new Bridewell (1803)

III 209-211, 213 – Feb 24, 1803 – legislative bill for a new Workhouse

III 373 – Aug 11, 1803 – Police Office at Bridewell

“Resolved that the Justices of the Police be authorized to keep their office at the Bridewell whenever it shall become necessary on account of the Epidemic.”

IV 394 – April 6, 1807 – yard and free school

“The Trustees of the New York Free School having requested the Use of about twenty feet of the Bridewell yard adjoining their School House for privies.” Granted.

IV 553 – Aug 31, 1807 – sweeping street before Bridewell

Arrangements made for regular sweeping in front of the Bridewell.

IV 603 – Oct 26, 1807 – leaky roof reported

VI 501 (Feb 21, 1811), 502, 513 (March 4, 1811), 514, 557 (April 22, 1811), 561-563 (April 22, 1811), 572 (April 29, 1811), 576 (May 6, 1811), 591 (May 20, 1811) – new site (1811), payments

Various locations for a “permanent Alms House & Bridewell” considered and the site at Bellevue decided upon.

VII 692 – Feb 14, 1814 – Workhouse and nonresident paupers

To be established at new Bellevue site.

VII 738 – May 2, 1814 – proposed use of old Bridewell
Cultural institutions applied for use of the old Bridewell.

VIII 581 – July 8, 1816 – rooms for commissioners
Rooms in old Bridewell for use by Commissioners of the Alms House & Bridewell.

XIII 565 – Feb 23, 1824
Proposal to switch City Prison with Debtor's Prison.

XIII 580-82 – March 1, 1824
Report on the urgency of giving the city prison more space in order to be able to classify prisoners. Size of population grown too large.

XIII 591 – March 1, 1824
“Resolved, that the Gaol and buildings on the ground lying between Free School No. 1 and the park be removed and that so much of the public property be disposed of as will pay for building a suitable place to be used as a City prison”

XVII 145 – April 21, 1828 – future use, Debtors' Jail (more in index p150)
Proposal to investigate possible uses for the Bridewell “after it shall no longer be required for a City prison”

XVII 760 – April 6, 1829 – consideration of new site (more in index p150)
Proposal to move Bridewell to Five Points.

XVIII 318 – Oct 19, 1929 – removal to Bellevue
Bridewell (city prison) moved to Bellevue.

VI. CITY HALL COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

MCC 1784-1831

II 616 – March 24, 1800 – construction committee formed to find a site

III 268 – April 18, 1803 – corner stone laying

III 276 – May 19, 1803 – contract for timber

IV 162 – March 17, 1806 – carpenter shop used for military drill
“Ordered that the Building in the Alms House Yard which was erected for the use of the Carpenters engaged at the New City Hall, may be used by the Military Companies for a Drill room”

VI 389 – Nov 12, 1810 – copper roofing

VI 631 – June 17, 1811 – fire reservoirs

“two reservoirs of stone sufficient to contain two hundred hogsheads each be built & placed at or near each wing of the New City Hall to be supplied from the roof thereof.”

VI 695 – Sept 2, 1811 – assignment of rooms

VI 737 – Oct 21, 1811 – assignment of rooms

VII 715 – improving grounds and park behind, fencing, paving

VIII 759 – Jan 13, 1817 – improving grounds and park behind, fencing, paving

IX 84 – March 31, 1817 – improving grounds and park behind, fencing, paving

Requested report on the “propriety of enclosing the Public Grounds in the Rear of the City Hall with Iron Railing or otherwise.”

IX 125 – April 28, 1817 – improving grounds and park behind, fencing, paving

“cause a neat Diamond Slat fence to be erected round the New Park in the Rear of this Hall which was agreed to.”

IX 187 – June 2, 1817 – improving grounds and park behind, fencing, paving

Resolution for “ a part of the grounds in the rear of the City Hall commencing at Warren Street and extending to Chamber Street to the line of the museum (Rotunda?) to be enclosed within an iron rail fence”. Referred to committee.

IX 206 – June 16, 1817

“Resolved that an iron fence be constructed in front of that part of the public ground called the Park, commencing at the Engine House opposite Warren Street and running northerly to Chamber Street; thence along Chamber Street to a point in line with the west end of the New York Institution”

IX 683 – June 8, 1818 – cupola and clock, observatory, time instruments

Proposal “to establish at the City Hall Two Solar Dials connected with Clocks, one of which shall give the mean or apparent time of the day and the other the true time.”

XIX 76-80 – May 31, 1830 – removal of offices to New York Institution

Resolution that New York Institution should be used for public purposes only: “First, for your Police Office; Second, for your House of Detention; Third, for your Grand Jury; Fourth, for your Fourth District Watch; Fifth, for your Commissioners of the Alms House; Sixth (where the museum is now) for a Court Room Forty two feet by Ninety three, with Judges Chamber, Clerks Office, and Jury Rooms connected therewith; Seventh, for the Collectors of Assessments, eighth, for the Public Administrators Office and Court; Ninth for your Marine Court, and the rooms that may be necessary for its accommodation, there will then remain several apartments which may hereafter be appropriated.

“The attention of your Committee has also been drawn to the nuisance that now surrounds the back part of your Bridewell and Debtors Jail, and do in their opinion herewith suggest a plan that will entirely remedy and remove the nuisance. It is further proposed by your Committee, that the Iron railing of the Park be extended on the Chambers street front, and that the Ground be laid out in an ornamental manner, as per plan, and be reserved exclusively for Mr. Hunters family and the Keeper of the House of Detention, that the whole building be newly painted white, and windows trimmed on Chamber street with green blinds which will in the opinion of your Committee, make the front equal in appearance to any of the private buildings opposite, particularly as the proposed plan is to make the front on the Park, the business front.

“In the consideration of this subject the attention of your Committee has been drawn to the present condition of the City Prison, as well in relation to the imperfect arrangement of this building as to the manifest neglect of that peculiar class of individuals which chiefly constitutes its inmates. Your Committee are perfectly aware that the happiness and security of Society require that a place of confinement should be prepared for persons awaiting their trial, but they would at the same time deprecate the idea of degrading them into the character of felons, by placing them in the society of such, or into a building which possesses the character and all the revolting attributes of a common prison.” Proposal to move detainees into the New York Institution building. “As that part of the Institution to be occupied as above stated will be separated from the Court of Sessions (now preparing) by a small space of ground, it will be readily seen that by running high walls so as to include that space into a yard, as it is now occupied, the intercourse between the two places will be entirely concealed from the public eye.” So the nuisance of public spectators will be eliminated.

VII. COMMONS/ FIELDS COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

II – 97-8 – November 2, 1699 - Grant by Wm. Beekman for part of Commons near Kipsbury refused

“this board not being willing to dispose of Any of the Said Commons.”

II 107 – May 17, 1700 - Committee on encroachments on the Commons and highways

II 113 (Sept 24, 1700), 127 (Dec 3, 1700) – holes dug in Commons ordered filled

II 129 – December 27, 1700 – lease of piece of swampland in the Commons

II 258-9 –March 23, 1703 - penalty for digging holes in or removing mould or turf from the Commons

III 229-30 –July 26, 1720 - encroachments on the Commons

III 240-1 –Oct 10, 1720 - expenses and report of committee; found multiple encroachments

III 245 –Nov 16, 1720 - cutting wood or timber on Commons forbidden; brickmakers accused

IV 107 – November 18, 1731 – law to prohibit digging holes and cutting sods on the Commons

IV 273 – September 16, 1735 – highway from Queen Street to the Fresh Water ordered laid out

“as the Same was laid out the 21th day of June 1707”

V 251-2 – March 18, 1748 – petition for lease of 4 acres of Commons from N. Marston

V 271 –Sept 26, 1749 - lease to Elbert Haring

V 414 –Sept 6, 1753 - committee on land taken in possession by David Jonathan Provoost

VII 95 – December 10, 1767 – petition of Catherine Marlin for a small piece of the Commons deferred

VII 302-3 – August 19, 1771 - question of a market on the Commons

VII 326 – October 28, 1771 - Petition for a market in the Fields deferred

MCC 1784-1831

I 144 – June 20, 1785 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants

Petition to enclose the Fields. Approved, “provided it be not attended with any Expencc to this Corporation.”

I 733 – July 30, 1792 – improvement, repairs and care, warrants

“Ordered that the Street Committee take order for improving the Ground commonly called the Fields in front of the Alms House Goal & Bridewell.”

I 754 – Oct 22, 1792 – pasture for cows – **FIRST ENCLOSURE OF THE PARK**

Report that Street Committee “had procured a quantity of Post & Rails for the purpose of enclosing the Pasture in the Common Lands for the Cows of the Alms House and proposed that they should be used for the present to enclose the fields in front of the Alms House to protect the Trees intended to be planted there this Fall.”

II 30 – improvement, repairs and care, warrants (More on page 976 in index if useful)

II 220 – Feb 29, 1796 – depredations

“the Gates of the Enclosed (Park) Ground in front of the Alms House were out of order & that the Ground & Trees were injured by Cows & other Creatures getting in.” Ordered to be fixed.

II 240 – paving and sidewalks around Park, warrants (More on page 976 in index if useful)

II 431 – April 16, 1798 – old site of first almshouse as horse auction place

“Ordered that the street in front of the Bridewell & where the Alms House formerly stood be assigned as a place for exposing Horses for sale at public auction.”

II 552 – June 12, 1799 – Park as reservoir site

Proposal by Manhattan Company to use part of the enclosed Fields as a reservoir to supply the city with water.

III 545 – June 18, 1804 – Park and military parades

Land leased to Commissary of Military Stores for arsenal, etc.

III 696 – manure and grass, protection (More on page 977 in index)

IV 148 – March 3, 1806 – temporary closing of the Park

Park temporarily closed while under manure.

IV 170 – April 1, 1806 – Park and military parades

Militia Companies prohibited from parading in the Park until further notice.

IV 284 – Oct 20, 1806 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants

“resolved that the fence at the North west corner of the park be removed on a line with the work shop under the direction of the Alderman and assistant of the ward.”

V 572 – June 12, 1809 – lighting, gas

“A resolution was moved that three additional lamps be placed in the Park.”

VI 130 – March 31, 1810 – Park and military parades

For preservation of the grass, military requested not to parade there for the time being.

VI 667 – Aug 5, 1811 – stands (More on page 977 in index if useful)

Petition to sell Soda Water in the Park.

VII 337 – Dec 21, 1812 – turnstiles and gates, warrants

“Ordered . . . a Gate to be made on the East side of the Park Fence opposite George’s Street.”

VII 463-464 – May 10, 1813 – obstruction of entrances

Problem with Hackney Coaches blocking the street at the lower end of the Park.

VII 508 – July 2, 1813 – holiday booths (More on page 977 in index if useful)

Joseph Burjeau allowed to rent booths around the Park as long as he cleans up at his own expense.

VII 715 – March 14, 1814 – enlargement of the Park

“prepare and report a Plan for the laying out of the grounds belonging to the Corporation adjoining the new City Hall; also of the grounds on which the Bridewell, Goal, Alms House now stand, & in the manner which, in their opinion it would be most proper and advantageous for the Public Interest and to beautify the City.”

VIII 791 – Jan 27, 1817 – enlargement of the Park

“regulate the Ground between the City Hall and the Old Alms House and that between this time and the first of May next, the whole space to be laid down in Grass, bordered with trees and thrown open for the benefit of the City in the same manner as the space in front of the Hall, reserving so much as may be necessary for the use of the Hall and Bridewell.”

IX 84 – March 31, 1817 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants

Committee formed to “report on the propriety of enclosing the Public Grounds in the Rear of the City Hall with Iron Railing or otherwise.”

IX 125 – April 28, 1817 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants

“Resolved . . . cause a neat Diamond Slat fence to be erected round the New Park in the Rear of this Hall.”

IX 187 – June 2, 1817 – improving grounds and park behind, fencing, paving

Resolution for “ a part of the grounds in the rear of the City Hall commencing at Warren Street and extending to Chamber Street to the line of the museum (Rotunda?) to be enclosed within an iron rail fence”. Referred to committee.

IX 206 – June 16, 1817

“Resolved that an iron fence be constructed in front of that part of the public ground called the Park, commencing at the Engine House opposite Warren Street and running northerly to Chamber Street; thence along Chamber Street to a point in line with the west end of the New York Institution”

IX 676 – June 1, 1818 – Park and water main

Manhattan Company refused permission to run a water main through the Park since it would destroy the beauty of the park.

X 230 – Feb 8, 1819 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants

Offer by West Point Foundry Association to supply the city with cast iron fencing for the Park.

X 319 – April 5, 1819 – Sunday School assembly

Ground in front of City Hall to be used by a Sunday school for an open-air meeting.

XI 84 – April 20, 1820 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants

\$3,575.51 paid for iron fence around the Park.

XI 203 – June 26, 1820 – Park and military parades

Militia requests to parade rejected.

XI 251 – July 24, 1820 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants
“Resolution directing the Iron Fence to be continued around the Park”

XI 400 – Nov 27, 1820 – enlargement of the Park
“consider the propriety of enlarging the Park, by adding to it the triangular block, between Beekman and Ann Streets, Chatham Row and Nassau Street; to estimate the value of the buildings thereon, and the probable amount which the improvements would cost.”

XI 485 – Feb 5, 1821 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants
Estimated that cost of an iron fence around the Park would be \$15, 622, so budgeted for the following year.

XI 494 – enlargement of the Park (More on page 977 in index if useful)

XI 686 – June 11, 1821 – proposed encroachment of fence on street
“A Resolution that the Iron fence now erecting on Broadway be so extended as to connect it with that already erected, and that the Engine House on Broadway be removed”

XI 693-694 – June 25, 1821 – proposed encroachment of fence on street
Proposal to extend Park on eastern edge into Chatham Row. The Counsel “has ascertained from Maps in the possession of the Street Commissioner (one of which is now more than 90 years old) that there has been a public road or highway along what is now called Chatham Street, during the whole of that period of time. As the Park was not enclosed ‘till the year 1792 it is impossible to fix the width of that road prior to that time: But as the present fence around the Park has stood where it now does for more than 25 years there can of course be no question as to the width of Chatham Street during that period.’
Corporation not allowed to extend.

XI 768 – Aug 20, 1821 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants
Petition from N-YHS for part of the fence being removed from in front of the City Hall.

XII 36-37 – Oct 1, 1821 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants, proposed sculptures of presidents
Proposal to “adorn the Columns at the South End of the Park, with the Busts of the Four late Presidents of the United States” and a “statue of the Great Washington” in the Center of the Park.

XII 651 – Jan 13, 1823 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants
Paid for fence between May 1821 – May 1822: \$14,060.97.

XIII 195 – Aug 4, 1823 – temporary pound
Petition by keeper of the Park “that a temporary Pound may be erected in the vicinity of the Park”

XIII 287 – Oct 6, 1823 – Park and military parades

Petition of State Artillery to parade granted.

XIII 780 – July 1, 1824

Petition by “several Societies to Assemble in the Park” to celebrate July 4 granted.

XIV 98 – Oct 11, 1824 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants
Repair of iron railing ordered.

XIV 99 – Oct 11, 1824

Resolution to construct a pound to impound the cattle trespassing on the Park.

XV 171 – Jan 30, 1826 – seats

Proposal to provide seats for visitors to the Park.

XVI 79 – Feb 1, 1827 – lighting, gas

“Resolved that the Special Committee on Gas be instructed to have two lamps made and suspended over the columns of the Park Gates at the lower end where Broadway and Chatham street meets for the purpose of having them lighted with gas.”

XVI 264 – May 7, 1827 – ornamental granite shot for columns

Ornamental granite shot supposedly from Island of Rhodes brought to city and proposed to be placed at south end of Park as symbol of NYC as great commercial city.

XVI 606 – Nov 19, 1827 & Feb 25, 1828 & May 19, 1828 – bored well, warrants

Payment made for “Boring for Water in Park”

XVII 331 – Aug 11, 1828 – lighting, gas

“Resolved . . . the platform in front of the City Hall and the Walk between the large Gates on the East and West side of the Park be lit with Gas.”

XVII 754 – March 30, 1829

“resolved . . . to examine and report on a plan of laying out, leasing or disposing of the grounds bounded by Chatham Street Tryon Row and the Park – as will be most beneficial for the public good, and produce the greatest Revenue from a plot of ground now laying entirely useless.”

XVIII 96 – May 18, 1829 – map

A Imbert was paid \$108 for Lithographic Map of the Park.

XIX 76 – May 31, 1830 – Changes to the New York Institution

NYI needed for public purposes, so cultural institutions evicted. Needed space for Police Office, House of Detention, Grand Jury, First District Watch, Commissioners of the Almshouse, Court Room (42' x 93'), Collectors of Assessments, Public Administrator's Office, Marine Court.

“The attention of your committee has also been drawn to the nuisance that now surrounds the back part of your Bridewell and Debtor's Jail” so “proposed . . . that the Iron railing of the

Park be extended on the Chamber street front, and that the ground be laid out in an Ornamental manner, as per plan, and be reserved exclusively for Mr. Hunter's family and the Keeper of the House of Detention, that the whole building be newly painted white, and windows trimmed on Chamber street with green blinds which will . . . make the front equal in appearance to any of the private buildings opposite, particularly as the proposed plan is to make the front of the Park, the business front."

Concern about neglect of prisoners in the Gaol and the habit of detaining people awaiting trial there.

XIX 260 – Oct 4, 1830 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants
"Resolved that the Park fronting on Chamber Street be enclosed with an Iron fence"

XIX 597 – April 4, 1831 – oil house
Oil house removed from Park.

XIX 598-599 – April 4, 1831 – enclosure of the Fields, iron fence, warrants
Proposal to replace remaining dilapidated wooden fence on Chambers St with Iron fence.

VIII. CROLIUS AND REMMEY COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

[6th Ward is the Almshouse area]

Crolius, Clarkson

Street assessor 3:36 Oct. 5, 1801

Election inspector for the 6th Ward 3:87 April 6, 1802

Assistant Alderman, 6th Ward, elected 3:151

Votes: City Hall contracts 3:278, slaves in Bridewell 3:440, common lands 3: 502, Alms House superintendent 3: 738, 745 ??

Crolius, John Jr.

Election inspector for 6th Ward 1:670 Sept 12, 1791

Street assessor for "upper part of Broadway" 3:139 Oct. 18, 1802

Assistant Alderman, 6th Ward, elected 2:547 ??

Remmey, William

Fireman 1:201 Feb 15, 1786

Remmey, Henry

Fireman 2:458 July 23, 1798

Census taker 4:443

Market man 5:716

Remmey, John

Street assessor, 3:254 April 4, 1803

Election inspector for 6th Ward 3:625 November 5, 1804
Assistant Alderman, 6th Ward , elected 9: 128

IX. THE FREE SCHOOL COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

Located between the health office and the work shop on Broadway.

IV 358 – Feb 2, 1807 – contribution and land for
“Report that the piece of Ground at present unoccupied situated between the health Office and the work shop on Broadway appears to be the most eligible . . . for a School house thereon.”

IV 363 – March 4, 1807 – contribution and land for
Trustees of free school accepted \$500 contribution from Corp. and “the Occupation of the Old Work Shop adjoining the Alms House”

IV 394 – April 6, 1807 – contribution and land for
Request by Trustees for land on Bridewell grounds for privies. Granted.

IV 716-717 – Jan 18, 1808 – Arsenal site
Proposal to move the Free School into the former arsenal.

X. GALLOWS COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

III 381 – December 23, 1725 - gallows ordered erected on the commons
Order a Gallows to be Erected at the usual place of Execution on the Commons of this City

III 385 – April 18, 1726 - paid for making the gallows, 4Pounds, 4 shillings

III 412 – June 20, 1727 erected
Order'd there be a Publick Gallows made and Erected upon the Common of this City at the usual place of Execution at the Charge of the Corporation

VI 51 – May 5, 1756 - gallows ordered moved to the foot of Catiemuts Hill
Remove the Gallows from where it now Stands, to the place where the Negroes were Burnt
Some five years ago, at the foot of the Hill Called Catiemuts Hill Near the fresh water.

XI. THE NEW GAOL COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

MATERIALS AND WORK DONE

Bolts, locks and screws – VII348 (March 26, 1772)

Carpenter's work – VII98

Cart harness – VIII72

Cistern – VII362, 369

Chimney backs, lime - VI356

Firewood – VII198

General work – VI286, 419, VII30, 68, 94, 220, 243, 337, 372, 404, VIII44

Glazing – VII92

Hearth stones – VIII44

Iron – VI286

Iron work – VII327, VIII91

Lime – VII192, 290

Mason's work – VII139

Pails and tubs – VII418

Paving stone – VII233

Smith's work - VI316, VII98, 325, VIII75, 109

Wood and provision for poor prisoners – VIII75, 120

VI 71 – Oct 19 1756 - committee of conference on building New Gaol

“Erecting proper and Convenient Goals on Some Grounds to the Southward of Fresh water”

VI 84 – March 1, 1757

Committee formed to “purchase Materials and Direct the Building of the New Gaol”

VI 87 – April 14, 1757 - treasurer's commission on monies for New Gaol to be $\frac{3}{4}$ of one percent

VI 137 –June 20, 1758 - 2000 Pounds paid “for the further Carrying on the said Gaol”

VI 141 –Aug 2, 1758 - to be made three stories

“that one other Storie be added to the New Goal now a Building, so as to make the same of three Stories high.”

VI 145, 167 – payment on New Gaol

VI 181-2 –Sept 19, 1759 - Act and order for the removal of prisoners from City Hall to New Gaol. Sheriff in charge.

“from thence forth the Two Celler Rooms under the West Side and Towards the Rear of the Said house Lately Built by the Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the Said City, the Three Rooms or apartments in The West Side of the Same house in the Middle Story and the Six Rooms in The Third Story in the Said house Shall be the Goal and Goals of and for the Said City and County of New York.

VI 212, 219, 249, 256 – paid money advanced by J. Depeyster for New Gaol

VI 282 – Jan 28, 1762

Payment for “work done in Grateing three fire places, and double floaring three Rooms in the new Gaols”

VII 19 –June 3, 1766 - payment for watching New Gaol

VII 185 –Sept 29, 1769 - committee on roof repairs and painting New Gaol formed

VII 223 – Aug 10, 1770 - committee on repairing Gaol formed

VII 228 – Sept 14, 1770 - hauling sand for paving yard at Gaol

VII 310 –Sept 4, 1771 - Gaol ordered repaired and painted

VII 373 (Sept 9, 1772), 393 (Dec 2, 1772) – stone stoop constructed

VII 411 –March 17, 1773 - medical attendance for poor prisoners

From MCC 1784-1831

I 5 – Feb 24, 1784 – room for lewd women

“Ordered that one of the Rooms in the Gaol be prepared for the reception and Employment of lued and disorderly Women.”

I 22 – April 1, 1784 – military guard

Candles, rum, firewood supplied to the military guard at the Gaol.

I 173 – Oct 5, 1785 – Yard and grounds, improvement

“Ordered that eight of the Vagrants in the Bridewell be employed in filling up the Goal Yard.”

I 381 – June 26, 1788 – Yard and grounds, improvement

“Ordered that the Stable, in the Goal Yard, which is become offensive to the prisoners be removed from its present Situation to the Alms House Stable.”

I 388 – Aug 4, 1788 – Yard and grounds, improvement

“A Representation of the Sherif respecting the disagreeable Situation of a part of the Goal Yard & the necessity of an additional Fence was read.”

I 507 – Dec 4, 1789 – Self-provision by prisoners

“Resolved that in future no criminal Prisoner confined in Goal be subsisted at public expence without a special Order.”

I 573 – Aug 10, 1790 – burial ground

Request for a report on “a more proper burial place for the use of the Alms House Goal & Bridewell.”

I 638 – April 23, 1791 – paving warrant
Front of Alms House Bridewell & Gaol paved.

I 682 – Oct 25, 1791 – alarm bell
“Ordered . . . the Alarm Bell to be hung with a Wheel and that they direct the Glass Windows to be repaired.”

I 689 – Dec 12, 1791 – Yard and grounds, improvement
“Mr. Mayor informed the Board that a communication had been made to him by some Gentlemen of this City who had formed themselves into a Society for the Relief of indigent & distressed Debtors confined in Goal suggesting the necessity of erecting a Wall round the Goal to the end that the Prisoners might walk in the Yard & take the benefit of fresh Air & Exercise; which the society conceived would tend to the more comfortable accommodation of the Prisoners & prevent the Distempers which frequently attend close confinement.”

I 733 – July 30, 1792 – Yard and grounds, improvement
Order to improve the Fields.

II 46 – Oct 24, 1793 – fire apparatus at
Shed built at Gaol to cover the fire Hooks & Ladders.

II 115 – Nov 24, 1794 – limits
Committee to survey the “Land at the Alms House Goal & Bridewell preparatory to the erection of a new Alms House.”

II 357 – June 19, 1797 – oil vats
“Ordered . . . more Oil Vats to be made in the adjoining Cellar And Also that they direct a sufficient number of close Stools to be made for the prisoners in the Goal.”

II 416 – Jan 15, 1798 – proposed separate jail for debtors
Proposed that true criminals be moved to the Bridewell in order to make the Gaol more comfortable for debtors.

II 437 – May 7, 1798 – limits
Ordered “a Survey to be made of the Ground which it will be proper to assign as Liberties of the Gaol.”

II 695 – Jan 5, 1801 – fire apparatus at
Engine to be placed in Jail yard.

III 430 – Dec 26, 1803 – fire apparatus at
49 new fire buckets placed at Gaol.

IV 92 – Nov 18, 1805 – fire apparatus at
Order to repair the Engine House at the Gaol.

VI 595 – May 20, 1811 – in fire of 1811, heroic prisoner
May 19th fire in jail in cupola. Put out by a prisoner who was thus discharged.

XIII 565 – Feb 23, 1824 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
Proposal to look into switching Debtors Prison with City Prison.

XIII 580-82 – March 1, 1824
Report on the urgency of giving the city prison more space in order to be able to classify
prisoners. Size of population grown too large.

XIV 219-223 – Dec 20, 1824 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
Proposal to build a new City Prison near the Hudson River in order to better dispose of refuse
and to improve the environment of the Park area. Number of inmates in Debtors Prison had
decreased to almost none and empty building was considered a waste.
Proposed that Gaol be taken down and materials used to construct New City Prison.
“Resolved, That the Comptroller advertise at public sale the lots of ground lying between the
Jail and Free School, and fronting on Chatham Street and in the Park agreeably to the map or
plan hereby submitted.” Proceeds to be used to fund New City Prison.

XV 281-283 – March 23, 1826 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
Committee reported that they had visited the State Prison and that the Corporation should
purchase it for use as a Bridewell & Debtors Prison rather than build a new one.
Proposal to remove the Free School No. 1. Trustees of school protested and requested a new
site be provided for their school.

XVI 199 – March 26, 1827 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
Committee to look into removing the Jail and Bridewell and clearing the Park grounds of any
incumbrances.

XVI 518 – Sept 24, 1827 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
Request for a fireproof site in which to store city records.

XVII 491 – Dec 1, 1828 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
Order to prepare the Bridewell for use as a Debtors Prison and to tear down the Jail.

XVIII 437-440 – Dec 21, 1829 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
Proposal to buy land on Houston between Mulberry and Crosby to build a new prison,
instead of trying to revamp New York Institution. Desire to remove the poor from this part
of the city and to build a grander building on the site of the NYI.

XVIII 445 – Dec 28, 1829 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
Resolved to build a Jail & Bridewell on one of the Corporation lots adjoining Elm Street.

XVIII 591-593 – March 8, 1830 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
New resolution to build a prison near the Collect

XIX 143 – July 12, 1830 - moving, proposed new quarters and site
Some prisoners kept in NYI.

XIX 193-195 – Aug 23, 1830 - moving, proposed new quarters and site
Resolved to turn the Goal into a Hall of Records.
Building at Bellevue declared to be new City Prison

XII. COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES THE HEALTH OFFICE

IV 324 – Dec 29, 1806

“Ordered that a Watch Box be placed at and adjoining the fence of the Health Office in Chamber Street and that a Watchman be there stationed.”

XIII. SCHOOLHOUSE – Free School No. 1 COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

Land given to Free School Society on August 8, 1808

All notes from MCC 1784-1831

III 322 – school house

III 337-338 – school house

III 626 – free school and fund

III 665 – free school and fund

XV 281-283 – March 23, 1826 – moving, proposed new quarters and site
Proposal to remove the Free School No. 1. Trustees of school protested and requested a new site be provided for their school.

B. Newspaper and Journal References to City Hall Park

City Hall Park

1765 N 1, D6 – meetings of tradesmen and mechanics in the Park to protest against stamps. A number of inhabitants, among them many of the Sons of Liberty, hold a meeting “in the Green opposite the Workhouse” and choose a committee “to wait on the Gentlemen of the Law in this Place, and intreat them to follow business as usual, without paying any regard to the Stamp Act.” – *N.Y. Merc.*, Dec 9, 1765. See Dec. 20

1765 D17 – effigies burned “This night about 8 o’clock the Effigies of Lord Colville, Mr. Greenville and General Murray were paraded several times through the streets . . . they were carried to the Common and there burnt.” – *Montresor’s Journal*, 342-43.

1766 Ja 19 – Sons of Liberty meet on. “The Sons of Liberty assembled at night in the Fields & bespoke a very large supper, but upon some disagreement (which is generally the case) they broke up and dispersed as soon as it came on the table.” – *Montresor’s Journal*, 347.

1766 Mr 31 – Sons of Liberty attacks soldier on. “Five Ruffians or Sons of Liberty fell on an officer of the Royal Americans on the Common about Dusk, behind his back and beat him unmercifully and broke his sword, which he had drawn in his Defence.” – *Montresor’s Journal*, 356-57.

1766 My 21, Ag 10, S 23, 24, 1767 Mr 19, 1770 Ja 13, 17, F 6 – liberty poles erected on

1766 Je 4 – king’s birthday celebrated in

1766 Ag 11 – fight in Park between soldiers and Sons of Liberty. “A considerable mob assembled on the Common consisting of 2 or 3000 chiefly Sons of Liberty, headed by Sears in order to come to an explanation with Soldiers and Officers for cutting down a pine post where they daily exercised, called by them the Tree of Liberty. These Sons of Liberty used the most scurrilous and abusive language against the officers and soldiers present who never seemed to resent it, til a volley of Brick Bats ensued and wounded some, upon which they defended themselves with their Bayonets until an answer could arrive from the General. . . . The Governor Sir H Moore never interfered.” – *Montresor’s Journal*, 382.

1769 D 16 – handbill calling meeting in the Park to protest against bill in the legislature providing for troops. According to *N.Y. Mercury*, Dec 25, 1769, the meeting took place on the 18th.

1769 or 1770 – du Simitiere cartoon

1770 F3, 1789 Je 10 – report of Comptroller Prendergast on city’s title to land in the park. Related to corporation control of the Harris land.

1774 Jl 6 – non-importation meeting held in the Park

- 1784 Ap 29 – two executions held “in the fields” according to *N.Y. Gazetteer*, April 30, 1784.
- 1784 N 29 – scheme proposed for beautifying. Author named “Agricola” recalled “a plan for embellishing and planting the Fields, which was proposed about 15 years ago.” Suggests a subscription “to plant and fence in next spring that triangular spot” and that it be named “Washington’s Mall” - *Loudon’s N.Y. Packet*, November 29, 1784.
- 1785 Je 20 – to be enclosed – post&rail fence marks the beginning of “the Park”.
- 1793 Je 17 – amount paid for a fence in the park - 200 pounds.
- 1793 O 14 – houses of ill fame demolished in the Park. “A number of persons gathered in the fields, and proceed to demolish completely two houses of ill fame, and to damage several others.” – *Daily Adv.*, O 16, 1793
- 1806 Ap 1 – plan of ground at the Park. *Map No. 121 in bureau of topography, borough president’s office, Municipal Building*. A plan of the corporation ground bounded by Broadway, Chambers and Chatham Sts bears this date.
- 1807 My 2 – RANDOM FACTS FROM THE CITY’S FIRST GUIDEBOOK – *The Picture of New-York; or the Traveller’s Guide through the Commercial Metropolis of the United States*. The almshouse, on the north side of the Park “immediately behind the new city hall,” is “surrounded by open courts and gardens.” (p121) The Humane Society has been given a lot of ground by the common council “adjoining the alms-house, and in the rear of the debtor’s goal.” (p124) The Park, in front of the new city hall, is planted “with elms, planes, willows, and catalpas, and the surrounding footwalk is encompassed with rows of poplars.” It is a “beautiful grove,” although the trees are “but young and a few years growth.” (p155)
- 1807 Jl 2 – meeting relating to the Chesapeake Affair held in Park – *Am. Cit.* July 3, 1807
- 3:487 – Park described in 1812
- 1814 Ag 10 – mass meeting in Park to induce citizens to volunteer to work on fortifications – *N.Y. Evening Post*, August 11, 1814
- 1820 Je 17 – project to enlarge the Park on the south east end across Chatham Row proposed. – *N.Y. Evening Post*, June 17, 1820
- 1821 Je 25 – The mason work for the iron fence included the erection of “four marble columns which support the iron gates at the south-west entrance.” – *N.Y. Mirror*, VIII:33
- 1827 Mr 22 – “turnpike” from lower gates to steps of City Hall constructed. “. . . As if the walks and cross-walks with which the Park has long been surrounded and intersected, were

not enough in all conscience, some new diagonal walks have been cut, and a huge turnpike constructed leading direct from the lower gates to the steps of the City Hall. The bed of this road is made of lime and sand and broken brick bats, covered with coarse gravel . . .“ – *Com. Adv.*, March 22, 1827

1829 My 29 – plan of opening road from center of Park to East River. – *N.Y. Evening Post*, May 29, 1829

C: CHURCHWARDENS' MINUTES

NYPL-Manuscript Collection Catalogue Info

1694-1747

New York City Charities

Minutes of the meetings of the Justices [Aldermen], Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of the city of New York, charged with the care of the poor, administration of the Alms House (1736-1747), the appointment of the schoolmaster and related civic duties; the Mayor and recorder in attendance occasionally.

Cover 1694-1747

19th century transcript

Approx. 900pp. ; pt. II, 286-320 missing

Feb 15, 1700

Pursuant to the Order of the last Meeting of ye Justices and Vestrymen this board have Unanimously Agreed with Coll Abraham De Peyster for his house in the Broad Street within this City att the Corner of Princes Street for the Rent of Twenty five pounds from this day until the first day of May which will be in the year of Our Lord one thousand Seaven hundred & one which house is to be Employed for the use of the poor of this Citty And a house of Correction for the punishing of Vagabonds & Idle persons that are a Nuisance & Common Grievance of the Inhabitants of the Same.

This Board have also Unanimously Agreed with Matthias Boeckhout of this Citty to be keeper of the said poor house and house of Correction for the sum of thirty pounds per Annum . . . That the said Matthias Boeckhout shall Receive unto the said house all such poor & Vagabonds as shall be Ordered thither from time by ye Justices, Church Wardens & such Others as have the Direction & Management of the poor of this Citty & shall confine them to doe such worke and Labour & Punish them for Refusal thereof as he shall be Directed by the Justices and Church Wardens. . . . in order that the poor be provided with Comfortable Subsistance And that Idle persons and Vagabonds be Obliged to worke& have due

Correction as the Law directs, for the want of which his Majesties Good Subjects the Inhabitants of this City have hitherto been att great expence & Charge.

Sept 20, 1700 – pt 1 page 86

The Church Wardens of this City have Complained to this Board that the Money Raised for the Maintenance of the poor of this City hath been long since Expended, & that the Crys of the poor & Impotent for want of Reliefe are Extreemly Grievous & this board taking ye same into Consideration for their Speedy Reliefe & that the said poor doe not perish for want Itt is therefore hereby Ordered that the Mayor doe forthwith take Care to Supply the S.d Church Wardens with such sums of money as will br Needfull for a present Subsistance for the poor of the said Citty . . .

Feb 11, 1701 – page 91

This Board taking into Consideration the Necessity of Raising a sufficient Maintenance for the Minister & poor of this Citty for the year Ensueing & upon Examination of the Accounts of the Late Church Wardens of this Citty itt Appeareth that there has Disbursed for the use if the Minister and poor of this Citty the sum of two hundred pounds Over and Above the Tax lately Raised for the said Maintenance . . . it is hereby Ordered . . . that the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds Current money of New York be Assessed Levied Collected and paid by the freeholders Residents and Inhabitants of the said Citty for the paying and satisfying of the said Debts

Feb 21, 1704 – page 139

It appeareth that there is wanting to make good the Deficiencys of the Tax Raised the last year for the Maintenance of the Minister and poor of this City the sum of Eighty two pounds Eighteen shillings and two pence.

January 22, 1705 – page 148

Itt is hereby Ordered that the Sum of four hundred and fifty pounds Current Money of New York be Assessed Levyed Collected and paid by the Freeholders Residenters & Inhabitants . . .

Feb 7, 1732/3 – Part 2 page 204

The said sum of six hundred pounds for the Maintenance of the Minister and Poor aforesaid and for the Publick schoolmaster aforesaid . . .

Feb 27, 1732/33 – part 2 page 206

Ordered the Church Wardens of this City do not support or Relieve any Poor within the same but such as shall have a Badge Publickly on the sleeve of the Right shoulder N:Y made of Red Penniston or Red Bays. And that they do from hence forward suspend, abridge and withdraw their Relief from any Poor who shall Refuse to wear the same Dayly and Publickly, any former Order to the Contrary Notwithstanding.

Feb 5, 1735 – Part 2 page 240

It is hereby Ordered that the sum of five hundred and sixty pounds for the Support and Maintenance of the Minister and Poor of the said City of New York . . .

April 6, 1736 – pt 2 page 271

RE: John Sebring as first Keeper of almshouse, his pay, etc.

May 4, 1736 – pt 2 page 273

Ordered the Church Wardens of this City do not from and after Monday next Relieve or Support any Poor within this City, but such Poor as are now upon the list of Poor, and are willing to be maintained in the Workhouse and Poorhouse of this City, and do forthwith Repair thither to be Relieved and Maintained therein and do submit to the Rules and Orders of the Overseer of the said Poorhouse and Church Wardens of the said City . . .

Page 275 – churchwardens to purchase 2 cows for the AH

-“Bill of Fare of Provisions and Victuals for the dayly and Comfortable support of the Poor in the Poorhouse” be provided

- Overseer to get 3 pounds from CWs to spend as he saw fit

May 18, 1736 – pt 2 page 277

List of who should be “Maintained in the Poorhouse and not Otherwise”

Page 278 – CWs to supply PH with Barrell of Pork, some Pease and other Provisions, a Barrell of Soap

June 3, 1736 – pt 2 page 279-280

List of official rules and regulations for AH

That it be recommended to the Master of the Poorhouse &c: to distinguish those (who have been ancient Housekeepers and lived in good Reputation and Credit and are reduced by Misfortunes) from the Other Poor who are become so by Vice and Idleness, as far as may be without Inconvenience.

Page 282 – weekly menu

Dec 20, 1737 – pt 2 page 325 -326

Whereas Margaret Higgins A Woman servant of Alexander Malcolm of the Said City (at his request) was lately Committed to the Poor House & House of Correction, there to be Confined at his Charge and Expence, until she should Recover her senses. (she being Represented as a Lunatick, Speecdhless and not of Sound Mind and Memory, disordered in her head and a Dangerous Mad Woman. And Whereas the said Margaret Higgins since her Said Commitment, has recovered her Speech, and as it appears to this Board is of sound Mind and Memory and in no wise Lunatick, is a lusty Strong Woman able to labour, and to do her Master Service, and to get her Livelyhood by her labour. It is therefore Ordered that the Keeper of the Poor House and House of Correction, do on the morrow hereof, discharge the said Margaret Higgins out of his Custody and Confinement and deliver her to her Said Master . . .

D: NY City – Almshouse and Bridewell Minutes – 1791-1797

Met on Monday evenings at 5:00. Dealt with binding out children at every meeting.

Sept 26, 1791

A Committee of this Board who had been directed to represent to the Mayor of the City the necessity of having more room provided for the objects of the Almshouse, especially for the sick and lame, reported that he had given directions that they cause four rooms in the barracks to be cleared and put in the necessary repairs.

Oct 3, 1791

Ordered that on Monday next at 4 in the afternoon the people of the Almshouse be convened in the yard, for the purpose of hearing read to them the rules & orders of the house.

Nov 14, 1791

Peter Stuyvesant "of the outward" made a generous donation of turnips "for the use of the poor" and was sent a "vote of thanks" by the board.

Jan 2, 1792

Advertisement sent out for new contract with butcher to supply the AH with meat.
(Bridewell??)

Jan 16, 1792

Advertisement sent out for supply of 1:2:3 or 4 hundred Cords of oak firewood for the following season for the AH.

April 30, 1792

Whereas in November 1789 some part of the Bridewell building with the Consent of the Common Council was converted to a work-house so called for the reception of such Objects of charity as were found to be turbulent or intemperate, which hath been occupyd as such to the present time

May 7, 1792

A proposition of the Commissioners of the Almshouse, to remove the poor from the workhouse department of the Bridewell to the Almshouse, and to abolish the workhouse department, was presented to the board and read and approved. (completed on the 15th – 17 men, 14 women, 2 children removed and workhouse abolished)

May 12, 1792

CC order of May 11, 1792

Ordered that the Commissioners of the Almshouse direct a cellar to be made in the rear of the Almshouse if they judge it expedient.

July 23, 1792

Reward of extra clothing to a resident who helped the school master.

Sept 24, 1792

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to examine the state of the school reported that they had performed that service, -- that they found the school in good order, about 65 scholars, the most of em under 8 years of age, that the Master & Mistress paid due attention, as far as they could discover, with respect to the tuition and morals of the Children, that the

oldest of them were taught spelling reading and writing, and the little ones coming on in the first rudiments of learning.

Dec 3, 1792

Keepers of the AH indicated that he had upwards of 500 persons on his books – and daily increasing.

Proposal to use some rooms in the Bridewell for housing the poor.

Dec 10, 1792

CC order of Dec 6, 1792

It being represented that from late increase of the number of paupers in the Almshouse, that place is become so crowded as to render their Accomodations very uncomfortable.

Therefore ordered that the Commissioners of the Almshouse and Bridewell be authorized to appropriate two of the Bridewell rooms as a workhouse, for such of the almshouse inhabitants as they shall from time to time think proper to remove thither and to appoint a proper person, as an assistant to the keeper of the AH, to superintend this department.

Feb 4, 1793

CC order of Feb 4 1793

The Comm of the AH and BW be authorized and requested to make such arrangements for administering Medicine to the sick criminals from time to time confined in Gaol, as to the Commissioners shall appear most oeconomical & proper.

Feb 2, 1795

That the number of paupers now in their books is 622 (almshouse) that is 363 adults and 259 children, mostly under 9 years old. The average number on the books through the year past was 585.

Of the above 363 adults, there was born in: New York-102; England-29; Ireland-87; Scotland-30; Germany-34; United States-60; other parts-21.

Children born in NY whose parents are citizens – 128

Children mostly born in Y whose parents are emigrants – 75

Children born in this and the neighboring States, whose parents now reside here – 36

Of the above number of children 43 being out on trial, reduces the average number actually at the house through the year to 542.

Cost for the year: 8319 pounds

Among the objects of the house, there are 14 persons who are entirely blind, and 8 or 10 others nearly so. And 28 afflicted with lunacy, insanity and idiotism; - numbers bowing under a load of years, and the infirmities of old age, - and altho' few comparatively are confined to their beds by sickness, yet many are subject to Rhumatisms, ulcers and palsies, and to fits which impair their reason, and elude all the force of medicine.

The number of paupers on our books the beginning of the year past was 575.

Admitted in the course of the year - - - 532

Discharged in the course of the year - - - 318

Died in the almshouse - - - 73

Bound out 78 boys and 16 girls

The business of Sewing, spinning, and picking oakum is daily attended to by all who are able to work, and are not employed in the wash-house, the Cookery, the Bakery or the Nurseries. – The children are every morning washed and combed by their nurses, and sent to school; -- And divine worship is attended to, in one of the apartments, two evenings in every week.

We are sensible of the burthen on the Shoulders of our fellow citizens, and particularly at this time, when the Necessity of building a new Almshouse is so apparent, for all the wards of the present buildings, are capable of accommodating with conveniency, but little more than half the numbers now under our care; not to say anything of the extremely decayed State of most of the old buildings in which the poor are placed.

BRIDEWELL

The average number of vagrants and convicts, supported in the Bridewell, through the year past, was 73 – and as numbers of them were not able to work, they collectively cannot support themselves, - therefore the expenditures of the institution, over & above its own earnings, hath for the last year been upwards of 600 pounds

Appendix B: References to City Hall Park from I.N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909*. Six volumes (originally published 1915-1928).

Relevant plates:

1: 10A, 17, 22 – images of first windmill

1:34 – old Negroes burial ground

1:64 – new African burial ground

1:416 – Pl 54-b – shows post&rail fence around the Park, 1785

3:95 – North end of City Hall Park 1825

3:100 – Park 1827

3: A PL 19

3:584-85 Pl 95-b – view of Park in 1825

3: 591-93 – view and description of, 1827

3:598 – drawing of Park by Burton (1831)

PL 40-b, 4:768, 805, 858 – “Plan of the Ground Contiguous to the Poor House, surveyed the 22nd June, 1774, by Gerard Bancker, C. S., and showing the position of the 5th Liberty Pole”

Powderhouse: Landmark Map Ref. Key, III: 923

New Gaol: Landmark Map Ref. Key, III:972

Upper Barracks: Landmark Map Ref. Key, III:924.

4:129 – originally part of the Vlackte, 1652-1664

1: 39 – 1653 city limits set at North and East Rivers “as far as the fresh water”

1: 196 – 1745-1748 - Palisades – fear of French and Indian attack

1: 257-259 (no date) – changes to Cateimuts Hill. Discussion of privately funded road dug through “fresh Water Hill” as a shortcut.

1: 270-271(no date) – Palisades. David Grim’s recollection of Negroes burnt between Windmill Hill and Pot-Bakers Hill. “The public executions were continued here for many years afterwards.”

—“I remember the building and erecting the Palisades and Block-Houses, in the year 1745, for the security and protection of the inhabitants of the city, who were at that time much alarmed and afraid that the French and Indians were coming to invade this city.

“Those Palisades were made of cedar logs, about 14 feet long and nine or ten inches in diameter, were placed in a trench, dug in the ground for that purpose, three feet deep, with loopholes in the same, for musketry, and a breastwork four feet high and four feet in width. In this line of Palisades were three Block-Houses, about thirty feet square and ten feet high, with six port holes for cannon. Those block-houses were made with logs, of eighteen inches diameter.”

- 1: 275 – Palisades – cost the city about 8000l to build.
- 1: 295-296 – Palisades – can be seen in 1763 engraving of SE view of the city
- 1: 333 – the Commons during the Revolution. “The city had grown northward, so that the Commons, perhaps more popularly known as ‘the Fields’, were conveniently near, and served as a meeting place for the citizens when some public crisis or other brought them together.”
- 3: 864-865 – discussion of Du Simitiere caricature. Sons of Liberty set a “strong watch at an adjacent house” to guard the 4th liberty pole.
- 3: 927 – African burial ground used for interment of POWs during British occupation
 Site: 195-197 Chrystie St. Bought and set apart by the Corporation as a “burying-ground for the Black People” 1795 – MCC XI: 215.
 Site: Bet. Broadway and Centre St., N. of Chambers St “The Negroes Burial Ground” prior to 1755. A burial place for the slaves, paupers and criminals, and for American prisoners during Revolutionary War.
- 4 (1656, May 1): 167 – mention of Common Pasture, or Sheep Pasture as early as July 1, 1652
- 4 (1691, May 16): 368-369 – Leisler execution – no specific reference to gallows having been constructed on the Commons, though inference is there.
- 4 (1721, July 24): 496 – powderhouse – first proposal to build it on the Fresh Water island. Temporarily rejected.
- 4 (1722, June 5): 498 – another proposal to build the powderhouse and again rejected. Not built until 1728. See July 6, 1728 and July 13.
- 4 (1728, July 6): 509, 510, 511, 512 The original order to build the powderhouse on the Common was changed to “a little island in the Fresh water” (MCC 3:449) Instead of building the house entirely of stone, it was found, on Sept. 10, that enough stone could not easily be procured, and it was decided to use both brick and stone (MCC 3: 450) Date of completion: Nov 21 1728. The erection of this powderhouse had been contemplated 11 years earlier (Oct 22, 1717). For a quarter century prior to this date, the only place recorded as a repository for powder was a vault within the fort. (May 28, 1702) See Stokes Landmark Map Ref. Key, III: 923; Man. Com. Coun. (1866).
- 4 (1738, Aug 15): 558 – Palisades. Fence to be built around powderhouse (MCC 4:435)
- 4 (1756, Oct 19): 684 – New Gaol, location (MCC 6:71)

- 4 (1756, Dec 1): 686 – New Gaol. The advertisement of the lottery in the *Post-Boy*, Dec. 6, 1756, and Jan. 3, 1757 states it is to raise money “towards building a commodious New-Gaol . . . , in Lieu of that now in the City-Hall of the said City.”
- 4 (1757, Mar 1): 689 – New Gaol. (MCC 6:84; 6:87; 6:137; 6:141; 6:145, 167; 6:212; 6:219; 6:249, 256; 6:282; 6:286; 6:316, 356; 6:356;
 In 1770, the jail yard was paved (MCC 7:228); and in 1772 a new cistern of stone (7:362, 369), and a stone stoop in front of the building (7:373, 393), were built.
 For the later history of the “New Gaol,” known after the Revolution as the “Provost Jail,” see Landmark Map Ref. Key, III:972; where references to views in this work are given; also Chronology, 1869; *Man. Com. Coun.* (1855), 473; *ibid.* (1866), 670-71, 693; Wilson, *Mem. Hist. N.Y.*, III:342, 367.
- 1757, Oct. 1 – 4:694 – A range of barracks is being built “on the Common near Fresh Water,” 422 feet long, to accommodate 1,000 soldiers. It is to be finished “at the Expense of the Corporation,” and as soon as possible. (*N.Y. Merc.*, Oct 31, 1757). Payments for firewood, etc (MCC 6:117-118). For later references, see “Upper Barracks,” in Landmark Map Ref. Key, III:924.
- 4 (1757, Dec 24): 695 – Upper Barracks built for relief of New York’s inhabitants. It is stated in a legislative act that “the Free quartering of Soldiers in the City of New York has by Experience been found too unequal as well as too heavy a burthen for the inhabitants to bear.” To relieve them, “the Corporation have erected Proper and Convenient Barracks in addition to those already Built and furnished them with Cribs Beds Bolters [sic] Tables Benches Firewood Candles and other Necessaries;” and it is further stated that “the Expense of free Quartering of Officers at the Requisition of the Earl of Loudon together with the necessary and Contingent Charges of the Corporation have so much exhausted their Treasury that they are at present unable to Pay and discharge the Debts Accrued in Building Barracks and furnishing them with necessaries without the Aid . . . of the Legislature.” The city is allowed to retain title to the soil on which barracks are built, as these barracks are “for the relief of the Inhabitants . . . from Billeting of Soldiers in time of War,” and may be rented out at other times as the Common Council sees fit. *Col. Laws N.Y.*, IV: 211-214.
- 4 (1764, Feb 10): 740 – New Gaol. “Publick Whipping post, Stocks Cage and Pillary” to be erected near Gaol at city’s expense. (MCC 6: 366)
- 4 (1764, Aug 27): 743 – New Gaol. A new pillory “with a large Wooden Cage behind it” is being erected “between the New Gaol and the Work House”. The cage is said to be designed “for disorderly Boys, Negroes, &c. who publickly break the Sabbath.” (*N.Y. Merc.*, Sept 10, 1764)
- 4 (1766, May 21): 765 – demonstrations on the Commons. The first “Flag Staff,” later known as the “Liberty Pole,” the scene of heated contention between citizens and soldiers, is noted on this date as being on the Commons while the celebration of the repeal of the Stamp Act was being observed. Montresor says there was “a large Board fixed” on the

pole with the inscription “George 3rd, Pitt- and Liberty.” *Montresor’s Jour.*, 368. *The N.Y. Journal* of March 26, 1767, refers to “the mast erected on the Common, inscribed to his Majesty, Mr. Pitt, & Liberty, on occasion of the Repeal”. Contemporary references to this flag staff as a “pine post” or “mast” suggest that some old vessel may have been dismantled for this festive purpose.

4 (1766, Aug 11): 768-769 – demonstrations on the Commons. fight in Park between soldiers and Sons of Liberty. “A considerable mob assembled on the Common consisting of 2 or 3000 chiefly Sons of Liberty, headed by Sears in order to come to an explanation with Soldiers and Officers for cutting down a pine post where they daily exercised, called by them the Tree of Liberty. These Sons of Liberty used the most scurrilous and abusive language against the officers and soldiers present who never seemed to resent it, til a volley of Brick Bats ensued and wounded some, upon which they defended themselves with their Bayonets until an answer could arrive from the General. . . . The Governor Sir H Moore never interfered.” – *Montresor’s Journal*, 382. The Post-Boy views the fight from the opposite standpoint, and states that “two or three were wounded, and several hurt, by the Soldiers,” and that the soldiers were “entirely the Aggressors.” (*N.Y. Post Boy*, Aug. 14, 1766)

1766, Aug 12 – second liberty pole erected.

4 (1767, Nov 9): 778 – Bridewell. The *Mercury* announces the passage of a law to raise money for building a new Bridewell. The writer states that, until the erection thereof, all “Rogues, Stragglers and idle and suspicious Persons will be apprehended” and sent to the rooms temporarily fitted up in the new gaol. (*N.Y. Merc.*, Nov. 9, 1767).

4 (1770, Feb 6): 805 – 5th Liberty Pole erected on Harris land purchased by Isaac Sears for this purpose. For full history of the Liberty Pole see *Stokes* 4:806.

4 (1774, Feb 7): 845 – Announcement of a lottery to raise money to build a Bridewell. (*N.Y. Merc.*, Feb. 7, 1774).

4 (1775, Mar 17): 878 – Bridewell. Plan for a Bridewell finally decided upon. Drawn by Theophilus Hardenbrook.

4 (1775, Mar 27): 879 – Bridewell. “The Corporation of the City have laid out a Lot of Ground between the Work House and the Liberty Pole, for erecting the Bridewell, so much, and so long wanted in this Place; and we hear the said building will be set about immediately” (*N.Y. Merc.*, March 27, 1775). The building erected was of dark grey stone, two stories high, besides the basement. For complete descriptions and pictures of it, see *Man. Com. Coun.* (1855), 486-92; Booth, *Hist. of City of N.Y.*, 522-25; Smith, *N.Y. City in 1789*, 13-14; Richmond, *N.Y. and its Institutions, 1609-1871*, 69, 514-15; Wilson, *Mem. Hist. of N.Y.*, III: 349; see also Landmark Map Ref. Key, III: 972. It was hardly finished by the time the war started, but the British, in spite of this, used it as a prison. (see Dec 15, 1776)

5: 1038 – The Diary of Jabez Fitch – “ye Burying Ground & see[ing] four of ye Prisoners Buryed in one Grave.”

5 (1779): 1080 – barracks on the Commons

5 (1785, Aug 15): 1203 – convert Commons to public park. Quoted from *New York Packet* “a public nuisance, from which the inhabitants are infested during the summer season, with continual clouds of stinking dust” suggested that “this place laid out with judgment and taste, would be a blessing to the inhabitants of New York, and an ornament to the City.”

5 (1785, Nov 14): 1206 – second burial ground and burial vault associated with the Almshouse

5 (1787, Feb 9): 1215 - barracks

Appendix C: Timeline of City Hall Park Land Use¹

The land known today as City Hall Park has had various names since the arrival of the

Dutch: the Vlacte (or Flat), the 2nd Plains, the Common, the Fields, the Green, the Square, the Park, and, finally, City Hall Park.

1652— mention of Common Pasture, or Sheep Pasture as early as July 1, 1652. (I. N. Phelps Stokes, *Iconography of Manhattan Island*, 6 vols. (New York, 1928), vol. 4: 167)

1653 city limits set at North and East Rivers “as far as the fresh water” (Stokes 1: 39)

1662-1723 - The Windmill on the Commons - first recorded structure on current City Hall Park. Located on the Commons near Broadway and Murray. 1689 struck by lightning and destroyed. Built by carpenters Jan de Wit and Denys Hartogvelt to mill grain for the Dutch West India Company

1686, April 22 - land including present-day City Hall Park ceded by Gov. Dongan to the Corporation of the City of New York along with “all the waste, vacant, unpatented, and unappropriated lands.” Ceded again by Gov. Montgomerie on January 15, 1730, to avoid ambiguities in the previous Dongan Charter. (Dawson, HB; Kent’s Notes, Ed. 1851, 16, 17).

The land has ever since remained public property, serving as a pasture, a parade ground, a place for public executions, and innumerable mass rallies and demonstrations.

1689 - Jacob Leisler owned a farm encompassing City Hall Park. (Stokes, vol. 2: 226, 246, 278, 284.)

¹ This annotated chronology is the work of Mark Cline Lucey. It is compiled from primary and secondary sources (Common Council Minutes, Stokes, and Burrows and Wallace [*Gotham*]). Primary documentation on structures in the park is in Appendix A..

1691 - May 16– Leisler execution – no specific reference to gallows having been constructed on the Commons, though inference is there. (Stokes 4: 368-369)

Late 17th to mid-18th Century - Place of execution. Lieut. Gov. Jacob Leisler and his son-in-law Jacob Milborne were executed for alleged treason on May 6, 1691, hanged in City Hall Park, opposite their place of burial (approximately at the present location of Pace University between Spruce and Frankfort). Resolutions for gallows erection found in Common Council minutes of December 1725, June 1727, and most certainly many others. On May 5, 1756, the Common Council ordered the gallows removed “to the place where the negroes were burnt some five years ago at the foot of the hill called Catiemuts Hill near the Fresh Water.”

1721 - July 24– powderhouse – first proposal to build it on the Fresh Water island. Temporarily rejected. (Stokes 4: 496)

1722, June 5– another proposal to build the powderhouse and again rejected. Not built until 1728. See July 6, 1728 and July 13. (Stokes 4: 498)

1736-1797 - First Almshouse (Old Poorhouse)

two-story stone and brick building. 86’ wide. Three institutions under one roof - a Poorhouse, a Workhouse, and a House of Correction. 2 small outhouses just to the north of the building.

Inmates were “Poor Needy Persons and Idle Wandering Vagabonds”, “Sturdy Beggars”, “parents of Bastard Children”. All inhabitants of the city had “free Liberty and License to send to the said House all unruly and ungovernable Servants and Slaves there to be kept at hard labour.” Inmates were supplied clothing “marked with the first letters of their names” and worked carding wool, shredding old rope for reuse, or raising garden crops. (from *Gotham*)

1745 - Powder magazine - built southeast of the 1st Almshouse.

1745-1748 - Palisades - fearing an attack from the French, New York built a wall that ran just north of present day Chambers Street. Built of 14 foot cedar logs and perforated with loopholes for musketry. A gate in the Palisades existed at the current intersection of Chambers and Broadway. (Stokes 1: 196)

“I remember the building and erecting the Palisades and Block-Houses, in the year 1745, for the security and protection of the inhabitants of the city, who were at that time much alarmed and afraid that the French and Indians were coming to invade this city.

“Those Palisades were made of cedar logs, about 14 feet long and nine or ten inches in diameter, were placed in a trench, dug in the ground for that purpose, three feet deep, with loopholes in the same, for musketry, and a breastwork four feet high and four feet in width. In this line of Palisades were three Block-Houses, about thirty feet square and ten feet high, with six port holes for cannon. Those block-houses were made with logs, of eighteen inches diameter.” (David Grim quoted in Stokes 1:270-271)

Palisades cost the city about 8000 pounds to build. (Stokes 1:275)

1755 – Site between Broadway and Centre St., N. of Chambers St “**The Negroes Burial Ground**” prior to 1755. A burial place for the slaves, paupers and criminals, and for American prisoners during Revolutionary War.

1757-1903 - Burial ground for 1st Almshouse residents - built just to the east and north of the 1st Almshouse. 135 feet east of present-day City Hall. “of the length of two boards”. (Hall, E.H.)

1757-1790 - Upper Barracks - 1 ½ story building; 21’ x 420’. Common Council authorized the Upper Barracks for up to 800 soldiers. Barracks built for British troops in the French and Indian War and later housed British troops during the Revolution. Enclosed by a high wooden fence that extended (according to one account) from Broadway to Chatham St (Currently Park Row) along Chambers. This enclosure had a

gate at each end, the one on the Chatham Street side called Tryon's Gate, from which Tryon Row was named. (Dunshee, 189)

Used as residences in 1784 following British evacuation. (Hall, EH)

1759-1903 - New Gaol (aka the Provost; the Provost's Guard; the Prison; Debtors' Prison; the Register's Office. Later the Hall of Records)

60' x 75'. Located east of current City Hall. Built in the style of domestic architecture that typified most public buildings before the 1790s, the prison was a 3 ½ story structure topped by a cupola and surrounded by a fence, with a central entry and barred windows. Cupola on top served as a fire alarm for a while. New York's first structure built specifically as a jail. Most rooms housed civilian lawbreakers. A few rooms were set aside for debtors and paupers. A Keeper of the Gaol was appointed.

Quickly filled with French and Indian prisoners of war, so Common Council had to make plans for a second structure. (from

<http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/timeline/html/timeline.html>) Functioned as the city prison until the construction of the Bridewell in 1775. After the Bridewell opened in 1775 a few hundred feet to the west on the other side of the Alms House, the New Gaol primarily housed debtors as well as a few misdemeanants and accused criminals awaiting trial for minor offenses. (1)

During the Revolution, a place of brutality, hunger, disease. Prisoners would be taken out to Barrack (now Chambers) Street under cover of dark to be hanged. (*Gotham*, 252) Under the British Provost Marshal Cunningham, the older prison came to be called the Provost. During British occupation, up to 800 American POWs at a time imprisoned there. (Dawson, 77; *Gotham*, 252).

Used temporarily as a hospital during the 1832 cholera outbreak. (Hall, EH)

Converted to a "hall of records" in 1830-1839, and remodeled with a portico and Greek columns; cupola removed and bell placed above the Bridewell. Torn down in 1903. (Stokes, vol. 6, pp. 534 - 535.)

Brief histories of the building are in I. N. Phelps Stokes, I, 333 ; Pomerantz, 312.

1763 – Palisades can be seen in 1763 engraving of SE view of the city (Stokes 1: 295-296)

1764 - The Common Council ordered a public whipping post, stocks, cage, and pillory erected next to the New Gaol.

1766 - August 11 - the first blood of the fight for American liberty was spilled on the New York Common. The Sons of Liberty had set up a Liberty Pole on the Common, just west of present-day City Hall, which was repeatedly cut down by British soldiers. These were more the acts of unruly and bored young men rather than deliberate actions of British Imperial policy, but the Americans were very unhappy that their Liberty Pole had been cut down and an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 patriots rallied at the Commons. They threw pieces of brick at the British troops who came from their barracks on the northern edge of the Commons to disperse them. The British responded with a bayonet attack, wounding several Americans. (*Weekly Post-Boy*, 1232, Aug. 14, 1766; *Weekly Post-Boy*, 1233, Aug. 21, 1766). On September 3rd, the Liberty Pole was cut down again and immediately a third pole was erected. By the end of the war, the pole had been cut down and replaced five times. (Dawson, H.B., *The Park and its Vicinity*, 22)

1769 - As opposition to the Townsend Acts grew in the colonies, the Sons of Liberty again erected a Liberty Pole in what is now City Hall Park to show their defiance to British oppression. On Jan. 13, 1769, British troops tried unsuccessfully to blow up the pole. They returned to the area to destroy the pole on Jan. 17. (from <http://www.sonsoftherevolution.org/newyorkcity.html>)

1769, December 17 - Mass meeting in the Commons to oppose giving money to the British soldiers. 1,400 people assembled near Mr. Montagnie's coffee house. (O'Callaghan, 528)

1774 - Lower Barracks - Additional barracks built for British troops between the Upper Barracks and the 1st Almshouse. After the War for Independence, the Lower Barracks were renovated and converted for use as a hospital for the 1st Almshouse.

1774 - July 6 - Mass rally held on the Commons and American resolution read aloud.

Seventeen year old Alexander Hamilton spoke publicly for the first time at this rally.

(Dawson, 66)

1775-1838 - Bridewell - dark gray stone. 3-story main structure with 2-story supporting wings. A new and larger debtors prison or workhouse, designed by Theophilus Hardenbrook. The Revolution interrupted construction. Erected as a petty offense jail. Reputation as “nursery of criminals” bound for state prison.(Report, Standing Committee (April 13, 1813), *New York Manumission Society Records*, ix; Orlando Faulkland Lewis, *The Development of American prisons and prison customs, 1776-1845* (Albany, 1922), 56.) Segregation lacking, except of sexes. 1810 report found inmates to be insane. Physical punishment resorted to. (*A Report of a Committee of the Humane Society appointed to visit Bridewell* (New York, 1810), 11.)

During British occupation of the city both of its City Hall Park prisons, old and new, were used to hold American POWs. Could house up to 800 men, as it did in 1777. During those years (1776-1783), Provost Marshall William Cunningham starved 2,000 prisoners to death and ordered the execution of 250 more on the gallows just north of Chambers Street. Hanged prisoners were buried near the gallows.

Materials from the 1838 demolition of Bridewell were used in the construction of the Tombs.

1776 - July 9 - General Washington was given a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

American troops were quartered on the Commons and an aide of Washington’s read the document to the troops.

1792 - Fence - City Hall Park enclosed for the first time with a fence of posts and rails. In

1821, the wooden fence was replaced with imported iron railing from England.

1795– African burial ground used for interment of POWs during British occupation

Site: 195-197 Chrystie St. Bought and set apart by the Corporation as a “burying-ground for the Black People” (MCC XI: 215; Stokes 3: 927)

1796 - the establishment of **Chambers Street** delineated the northern boundary of the Commons for the first time in its history. The other two side of the triangle had long been marked by Chatham Street and Broadway. Before 1796, the Commons merged with the Negroes Burial Ground to the north.

1797-1857 - 2nd Almshouse - (later the “New York Institution”) -

Paid for by lottery. Located along Chambers Street on the site of the present-day Tweed Courthouse.

When the new buildings on the Bellevue Hospital site superseded it after 1812, the Almshouse was converted to private use and became known as the New York Institution. Among the public and semi-public institutions housed at various points in the NY Institution were the Academy of Arts, the Academy of Painting, the American Institute, the New-York Historical Society, and the City Library. Additionally:

1790 - The American Museum, in the west wing of the Old Almshouse, was first established as the Tammany Museum by the Tammany Society.

1816 - Almshouse occupied by John Scudder’s American Museum, New York’s first cultural center.

1818 - the Chambers Street Savings Bank opened in the northeast basement.

1818-1828 - The Deaf and Dumb Institute opened its first school here.

1824 - country’s first Egyptian mummy displayed in New York Institution.

1830 - the Common Council took over the entire building for use as city offices.

1832 - some rooms used by United States Courts.

1854 - Destroyed by fire (Dunshee, 191)

Demolished in 1857 to make room for the Tweed Court House

1800? - Corporation Yard (Municipal department buildings) - Three small buildings existed on the Broadway-Chambers corner of the park.

Health Office - frame building - On the very corner was the Health Office which also served as the vantage point of a sentry box to maintain law and order in this increasingly important section of town. On Dec 29, 1806, the City Council decided to place a watchbox “at and adjoining the fence of the Health Office in Chambers Street and that a watchman be then stationed.” (Dunshee, 191)

Department of Supply and Repair - located just south of the Health Office.

Charity School - located just south of the Supply and Repair shop. New York’s first public school. Originally served as a workshop used in connection with the construction of City Hall, then given to the Free School Society by the City Corporation as temporary accommodation while the State Arsenal was being adapted for use as a school. Classes held there from 1806-1808.

1803 - April 5 - Ground broken for City Hall. Cornerstone laid May 26.

1808 - An engine house was also located on Chambers Street near present-day Centre Street, between the 2nd Almshouse and the future Rotunda. It housed Protection Engine No. 22. (Dunshee)

1808, May 26 - Meeting place for participants taking bones of the prison ship dead to Brooklyn. (*Minutes of the Common Council of New York*, 5:70-71, 129-30; *Public Advertiser*, May 25, 1808. Stiles, *Account of the Internment*, esp. 128-57; *Public Advertiser*, May 27, 1808.) After placing the dead in the vaults they returned to CHP and displayed the standards of the different societies until dismissed by the Grand Marshal. (*Centinal of Freedom*, May 31, 1808.)

1812-present - City Hall - 215’ x 105’. City Hall completed 1812. Architects: John McComb Jr. and Joseph Mangin. Built with expensive marble from the Johnson and Stephens Quarry in West Stockbridge, MA. Brownstone from two New Jersey quarries used on the north side as a money saving measure. (City planners did not think the city would extend north of Chambers Street)

Fire destroyed the statue, cupola, and roof of City Hall on August 18, 1858. A new wooden statue was erected May 7, 1860. This was replaced with a copper statue on November 3, 1887.

1910 - Restoration of City Hall under Borough President of Manhattan George A. McAneny.

1812 During the War of 1812 when the British re-occupied New York, they again used Bridewell for POWs. With the departure of British forces, Bridewell returned to its role as a general city jail.

1817-1906 - Dispensary and Firehouses - located at present-day Centre and Chambers. City Dispensary and Souphouse established by Almshouse Commissioners. Later, the building was shared with a hook and ladder company. (Hall, EH)

1818-1870 - The Rotunda (aka The Round House) - Built by John Vanderlyn (1775 -1852) to exhibit his panorama *The Palace and Gardens of Versailles*. (from Kevin J. Avery and Peter L. Fodera, *John Vanderlyn's Panoramic View of the Palace and Gardens of Versailles* (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1988).) New York's first art museum, the Rotunda, was built on the northeast corner of City Hall Park. After the great fire of 1835, the Post Office moved in until 1845. In 1848 converted into public offices.

1825 - opening of the Erie Canal

in celebrations, CHP was lit up with 1,542 candles and 764 oil lamps. 10,000 people came for a fireworks display. (from *Gotham*)

1825 - SEE jpeg "1825 Stansbury painting" (from

<http://www.mcny.org/Painting/pttcat4.htm>)

On October 24, 1825, the Common Council's Committee on Lands and Places was directed to plant trees and lay out walks and spaces in the grounds at the rear of City Hall, perhaps inspiring Stansbury to paint the building from that viewpoint.

1832-1834 - Firehouse of Merchants Engine Company No. 25 -

1835 - the establishment of Centre Street chopped off the northeast corner of City Hall Park, giving it its present day form.

1836 - Troops of the 27th Regiment paraded at the Commons in a show of force to intimidate striking workers. June 13, mass rally of striking workers. February 13, 1837 mass meeting on the Commons to demand “Bread, Meat, Rent, Fuel! Their prices must come down!” (*Gotham*, 610)

1837, February - thousands gathered in City Hall Park to protest monopolies and rising food prices. A couple of months before, there had been a demonstration against the conspiracy trial of 25 journeyman tailors. (Gutman, 574)

1852 - City Courthouse (aka Marine Court, Court of Sessions, City Court) - 75' x 105'. Built between the 2nd Almshouse and the Rotunda on Chambers St. Appears as #32 Chambers Street in municipal registers.

1857, November - site of mass demonstrations during the depression. Called “hunger meetings” and had begun in 1854-55. (*New York Tribune*, November 3, 10, 12 1857; *New York Herald*, November 13, 16, 1857; *Journal of Commerce*, November 6, 10, 11, 12, and 20, 1857.)

1870-1939 - Federal Post Office - located on southern tip of City Hall Park.

1861-present - Tweed Courthouse - Ground broken 1861. (1861-1867 according to Dunshee, 191) The New York County Courthouse, commonly known as the “Tweed Courthouse” after the notorious “Boss” Tweed, was built on the site of the 2nd Almshouse

for the then-extraordinary sum of \$13 million. The building was used as a courthouse until 1926, when it was converted into city government offices.