

On these steps...



Photo by Alex von Kleydorff

Above, Chairman of the Urban Redevelopment Commission Stephen Osman is framed by the sets of stairs at the Old Town Hall.

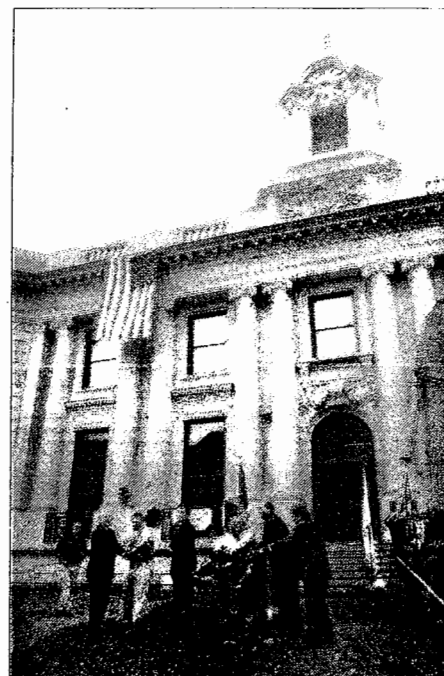
Old Town Hall celebrates 100 years

By A.J. O'CONNELL
Staff Writer

Bank Streets sat abandoned, silently falling apart while the downtown grew up around it.

In the last year, the building has been undergoing construction to make it habitable again, and on Monday, the day before its 100th birthday, Mayor Dannel Malloy and a group of local politicians

Years ago, Stamford's Town Hall, was a center of municipal activity. The building housed public restrooms, the town clerk's office, probate court and even a night court at one point. More recently, however, the building nestled between Main and



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City pays tribute to Old Town Hall

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broke out the cake and ceremonial shovels to kick off the third phase of renovations.

Former speaker of the House Moira Lyons, who fought to get \$6 million in state funds for the project, said that she was pleased to see that something was finally being done.

"It has so many memories, there are so many paths that brought every one of us through this building," she said.

Almost everyone at Monday's gathering had fond memories of the building that closed in 1987.

City representative Maria Nakian (D-20) adopted her son at City Hall in the 1970s, when the probate court was upstairs.

Two decades before, when the probate court was down-

stairs, Rep. Donald Sherer (R-147), an attorney, filed his first writ there.

"This is where I first registered to vote and so many others had that experience as well," said Malloy, speaking from atop a pile of dirt that will be landscaped into the building's new grounds. "This is also where you registered for the draft and I had that experience as well."

Renovations to the building started earlier in the year, with a thorough cleaning of the outside of the building and repairs to the building's roof and window.

The third renovation phase, which begins this week will be a landscaping project on the building's grounds. The park that surrounds the building will be cleaned, leveled, and planted.

Later, work on the building's interior can begin.

The only serious modifi-

cation to the building's structure will be to allow handicapped access to the century-old structure, like an addition at the back which will house an elevator and a stair tower in the back, according to Antonio Iadarola, head of engineering.

The city has been raising funds for the building since last year — the entire project is estimated to cost \$14.5 million. So far the city has accumulated the \$6.5 million from the state and over \$1 million in local funds. The city is currently seeking more than \$4 million in federal moneys.

The city is looking to bring commercial tenants into the building and possibly use some space for government activity.

A.J. O'Connell can be reached via e-mail at aconnell@thehour.com.