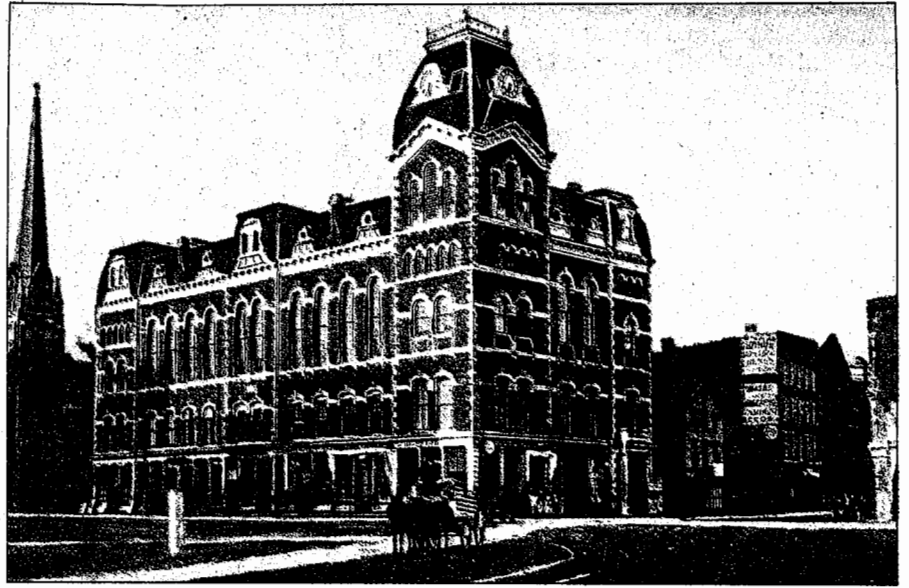


# OUT OF THE ASHES

## 1904 Town Hall fire sparked important changes



Courtesy of the Stamford Historical Society

**By Gabrielle Birkner**  
Staff Writer

**S**TAMFORD — Today marks the 100th anniversary of the fire that ripped through the city's original Town Hall, leaving a brick skeleton in Atlantic Square.

No one was killed in the blaze that destroyed the seat of Stamford government, but it marked a turning point for the fire department.

After the Town Hall fire — and one that gutted

The Grand Opera House on Atlantic Street, now the Palace Theatre, 10 months later — Stamford officials hired additional firefighters, updated firefighting equipment, installed new hydrants and required that fireproofing be used in new construction.

It grew out of the devastation the fire wreaked Feb. 4, 1904.

"Imagine if the (Stamford) Government Center and the Palace Theatre burned completely to

Please see **TOWN HALL FIRE**, Page A12.

**Stamford's original Town Hall, above, was destroyed in a fire 100 years ago today, below. The blaze, however, was responsible for many changes in the way the city fought and prevented fires.**

