

# JACKSON HALL, DOOMED, RECALLS EARLY CHICAGO

## Built by "Long John," It Now Houses Police.

BY JOHN KELLEY.

Old Jackson hall, one of the city's famous landmarks, is to be wrecked the coming week to make way for the widening of North La Salle street. Of late years the structure, at 179 North La Salle street, has housed the detective bureau, which will remove temporarily to the South Clark street station pending the opening of the new central police station and courts building at 1121-31 South State street.

The new building will be ready for occupancy about May 1, 1928. It is to be a thirteen story structure, equipped with modern facilities throughout.

### New Quarters for Many.

The office of the superintendent of police will be in the new building, also the offices of the three deputy superintendents. Other occupants will be the detective bureau, the central or First district, South Clark street district, the bureau of identification, vehicle bureau, automobile detail, traffic division, and the matrons' quarters for women prisoners. The Court of Domestic Relations, Morals court, Speeders' court, Traffic Violators' court, and Boys' court also will be housed there.

A witness detention room with 33 cells will be on the eleventh floor, and there will be 54 cells for prisoners on the twelfth floor. The sanitary equipment of the cell rooms, Chief Hughes

said, makes this department the best to be found anywhere.

### Calls Cells Luxurious.

"It will almost be an inducement for a criminal to give himself up," said the chief, "as it will be a pleasure to occupy one of those luxurious cells."

The building opposite the detective bureau, which is now occupied by the First district police, will also be razed in furtherance of the improvements to be made. This station will remove temporarily to its patrol barn near the east bank of the river, south of Madison street.

The passing of old Jackson hall awakens memories of early Chicago. Here it was that "Long John" Wentworth, former mayor and congressman, had his office and from which he directed his successful campaigns. And here also was printed the Democrat, the first newspaper in Chicago, which was established by John Calhoun in 1833.

Mr. Wentworth purchased the Democrat in 1836, and in 1847 he removed it to Jackson hall, the old number being 45 La Salle street. In 1854 James W. Sheahan established the Chicago Times next door to Jackson hall. Editor Sheahan and "Long John" engaged in many a battle of the quills. The Times remained a neighbor of the Democrat about three years and then removed to Dearborn street and Calhoun place. Mr. Wentworth continued the publication of the Democrat until 1861, when it was absorbed by THE TRIBUNE company. Mr. Sheahan later joined THE TRIBUNE staff.

The original Jackson hall was destroyed in the great fire of 1871. Mr. Wentworth, who was one of the city's wealthiest citizens, soon rebuilt a new Jackson hall on the site. The passer-by may read the name cut in stone

under the coping. It is one of the few remaining structures erected in the loop soon after the historic blaze that laid the greater part of the city in ashes fifty-six years ago, tonight.

### Wentworth Death 1888.

Mr. Wentworth had an office in the new Jackson hall up to the time of his death in 1888. Several years before he died he removed to a farm near Summit, but he drove into the city about once a week and visited his office.

The Chicago Democrat was established the same year as the first saloon was built in the village of Chicago. At an election held on Aug. 19, 1833, twenty-eight votes were cast. One of the first measures of public utility was the construction of a log house to answer the purpose of a jail. It stood on the site of the present city hall. Constable Jack Shriveley was the first "chief of police." In fact, he was the entire police department for the first two or three years of the village's existence.

Later on, as the village grew, police stations were located upstairs in market houses. There was one in South Market hall, on State street, between Lake and Randolph streets; another in West Market hall, on Randolph, near Des Plaines street, and a third in North Market hall, on Michigan street, between Dearborn and Clark streets.

Policemen at that period wore leather badges and any old kind of a uniform. The pay was \$40 a month, and from 12 to 16 hours constituted a fair day's work.