

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Seventy-first Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 471

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE providing for completing the fireproofing and necessary repairs in the south wing of the State capitol.

Resolved, That the sum of eight thousand dollars for the 2 year 1903 and that the sum of eight thousand dollars for the 3 year 1904, be and hereby is appropriated for the purpose of 4 fire-proofing, furnishing and completing the improvements 5 in the south wing of the State capitol, which includes the 6 rooms now occupied by the State assessors, the commissioner 7 of industrial and labor statistics and the executive department, 8 and that the sum be expended by the superintendent of 9 public buildings under the direction of the governor and 10 council.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Two years ago an appropriation was made by the legislature for the better protection of the records in the department of State; all wood work was removed, the department enlarged, the first and second floors made fireproof and the department furnished with steel filing cases.

This appropriation is for the purpose of continuing the work already begun in the south wing of the capitol, by fireproofing the two floors above the State department, which includes the three rooms occupied by the executive department on the third floor, the office of the State assessors and the office of the commissioner of labor statistics, on the fourth floor. This will include the furnishing of the necessary steel filing cases for the State assessors' records and otherwise making their department fireproof; also providing for the necessary improvements and furnishings in the executive department.

With the appropriation called for, the south wing of our State capitol can be made absolutely fireproof and the valuable records of the several departments named will be securely protected.

E. C. STEVENS,

Superintendent Public Buildings.

Statement by John Calvin Stevens, Architect.

AUGUSTA, ME., February 12, 1903.

Col. E. C. Stevens, Superintendent Public Buildings:

Dear Sir: As you requested, I have carefully gone over the matter of remodelling, fireproofing and refinishing the upper portion of the executive wing of the State capitol, and would report to you as follows:

The rooms occupied by the governor and council are sadly in need of repair, the plastering being very badly cracked, in some places loose, and the general character and condition of the rooms not at all what it should be for the quarters to be occupied by the chief executive of the State of Maine.

So much work will be necessary to put these rooms in proper condition that I should not think it advisable to make any attempt to repair or redecorate these rooms without putting in a new floor over the rooms of fireproof material, and in doing this it would be certainly in the interest of true economy to use for the partitions there placed fireproof material, and to use throughout the repairs contemplated the utmost precaution against possible danger from fire.

My idea of the finishing and refurnishing of these rooms would be to carry them out in a simple manner, the architecture work conforming very closely to the architecture of the building, but using best of material and workmanship throughout.

The change and remodelling here suggested would of course necessitate the remodelling of the assessors' department overhead, which would of course be carried out in a simple but very substantial manner.

I estimate that the cost of remodelling, fireproofing, electric wiring, finishing, decorating, providing furniture and furnishings, of proper and suitable character, providing necessary decoration, electric fixtures, and steel cases needed in assessors' department, would be in round numbers sixteen thousand dollars, \$16,000.

This sum, I am sure would be adequate to put these rooms into first-class condition and provide furniture and fittings entirely suited to the character and dignity demanded by such quarters, and with the changes carried out in the manner above contemplated, the entire executive wing of the capitol would be as nearly fireproof as possible to make it.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN CALVIN STEVENS, *Architect.*

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AUGUSTA, March 19, 1903.

Reported by Mr. SEWALL of Bath, from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*