

The Tracy Memorial Village Hall

Dedicated
to the
community

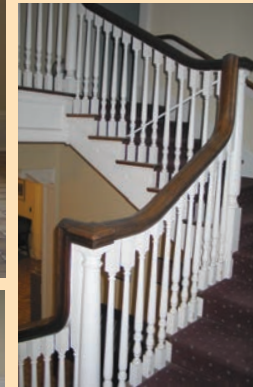


FRIENDS of the TRACY

The Friends of the Tracy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to enhance and preserve the architectural, historical and cultural heritage of the Village of Chatham. Your tax-deductible donation will help us repair and update the Tracy Memorial, which is listed on both the NYS and National Registers of Historic Places.

For further information, or to make a donation, visit www.FriendsoftheTracy.com, or write us at Friends of the Tracy, PO Box 225, Chatham, NY 12037.

This brochure was made possible through the generosity of caring people and the Stewart's Shops Holiday Match Program.



FOLLOWING THE 1910 DEATH of esteemed Chatham resident Albert E. Tracy, his wife and mother commissioned architect Horace W. Peaslee to design a stately building in Mr. Tracy's honor, to be used by the Village of Chatham as a home for both municipal offices and the community's volunteer firemen. The family also set up a trust in perpetuity for the building's maintenance, and established a Board of Trustees to oversee its upkeep.

The Colonial Revival brick-faced building was constructed in 1912-13 by the Torrington Building Company, which deemed it "the finest building of its kind in the state." It was dedicated on May 23, 1913 during a ceremony at which attorney John C. Dardess represented the Tracy family, with Mayor William B. Daley accepting the generous gift on behalf of the community. "May it serve to foster in all of us a stronger public sentiment, stimulating us to do the best that is in us for others good, to make this village in which we live a pleasanter place to live and the people in it happier," Mr. Dardess stated in his remarks.

The entrance

The Tracy Memorial is entered up a flight of polished pink granite steps that lead to a portico supported by four monumental, grey marble Ionic pillars. Inside is a spacious central lobby around which the first floor meeting rooms and Village offices (including the police station) are arrayed.

An imposing central staircase leads to the second floor, where a large meeting room extends across the full width of the front of the building. Originally dedicated to the Village's fire company, this handsome space now serves as the Town of Chatham's courtroom, complete with many of the original 65 pieces of Stickley furniture, including the heavy mahogany chairs. Additional offices on the second floor, as well as another 25 pieces of Stickley furniture, were set aside for use by the General Logan Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and are now Town offices.

In the basement of the Tracy Memorial is a fireproof storage room accessed by a door manufactured by the Mosler Safe Company of Ohio. The basement today is also home to the Chatham Food Pantry, as well as a heating plant and additional space for storing Village records.

Architectural details

As you walk through this beautiful, historic building, take note of the many original features that have been carefully preserved over the years. These include the mahogany doors, brass hardware, lighting fixtures, the bronze tablet in the entrance hall, and the aforementioned furniture, as well as a handsome Palladian window on the second floor landing, which provides natural light from the northeast.

