



Burlington Old City Hall / Lyceum Hall

Burlington, NJ

CLIENT:

City of Burlington, New Jersey

A “syndicate of citizens” constructed Lyceum Hall in 1839 to provide a venue for “orators, singers, theatrical productions, and political speeches and rallies.” In 1851, the Greek Revival building was donated by its citizens to serve as Burlington City Hall, providing both municipal and ceremonial functions. The building was completely renovated and altered in 1910, at which point its exterior was altered in the more current neo-classical style. In 1935, a substantial addition was made to the rear of the building, to include a large Common Council Chamber and additional office space. Having been the focal point of local government in the City of Burlington for nearly 150 years, in 1991 the building was vacated due to a number of code violations, inadequate and failing systems and roof damage.



Front elevation

The city studied a number of scenarios including reuse, additions, and demolition. A substantial grant from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Bond Program made a phased rehabilitation a feasible alternative. Phase 1 included a new roof, window restoration, and structural reinforcement. Phase 2 included the restoration of interior and exterior finishes, including the restoration of the original council chambers. Phase 3 included all new systems, a new elevator, and a fit out for a thriving community arts center.



Main stair hall



Original Council Chambers