

The generous offer of Mr. Martin A. Ryerson was accepted and the Board of Education selected for the site the northeast corner of East Park and Bostwick streets.

The land for the building was bought from the Allen estate, George R. Allen, Mrs. Adele M. DeVore and Darwin D. Cody, at a cost of over \$52,000. The purchase was made by a board of education committee of which Dr. Joseph Albright was chairman. The buildings at that time standing on the property were removed and work for the foundation of the new building begun early in 1902. There were several other sites considered, among them the Howlett site, at Washington street and Jefferson avenue, where now is the Museum. The present location is more central and was chosen after careful deliberation.

The agreement between Mr. Ryerson and the people was signed August 28, 1901, by H. E. Locher and Ed H. Stein for the board of education. Martin A. Ryerson retained entire management of the construction of the building, and was even so thoughtful that he took out \$100,000 insurance on the library and turned it over to the library commission in charge of the library.

The building was constructed by C. Everett, Clark & Co., and the architectural work was done by the same company that designed the Chicago Public library, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge. Its total cost was about \$275,000.

On July 4, 1902, the corner stone of the library building was laid with official ceremonies. Hon. Charles E. Belknap was chairman of the Committee on Arrangements; Benn M. Corwin, President of the Board of Education, presided; and Col. George E. Judd was marshal. The corner stone was laid with Masonic ceremonies under the direction of Hon. Neal McMillan, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. Rev. John N. McCormick gave the invocation; girls from the public schools under the direction of Miss Florence Marsh sang the national anthems; the orator was Hon. John Patton, while the benediction was given by Rev. E. G. Lewis.

On April 2, 1903, an act passed the Legislature creating a Board of Library Commissioners for the control of the Public Library of Grand Rapids. It was submitted to a vote at the following election on April 6th, and was carried by a 6,842 for it, and 3,930 against it. Commissioners were elected at the following school election in September, 1903. There were many candi-