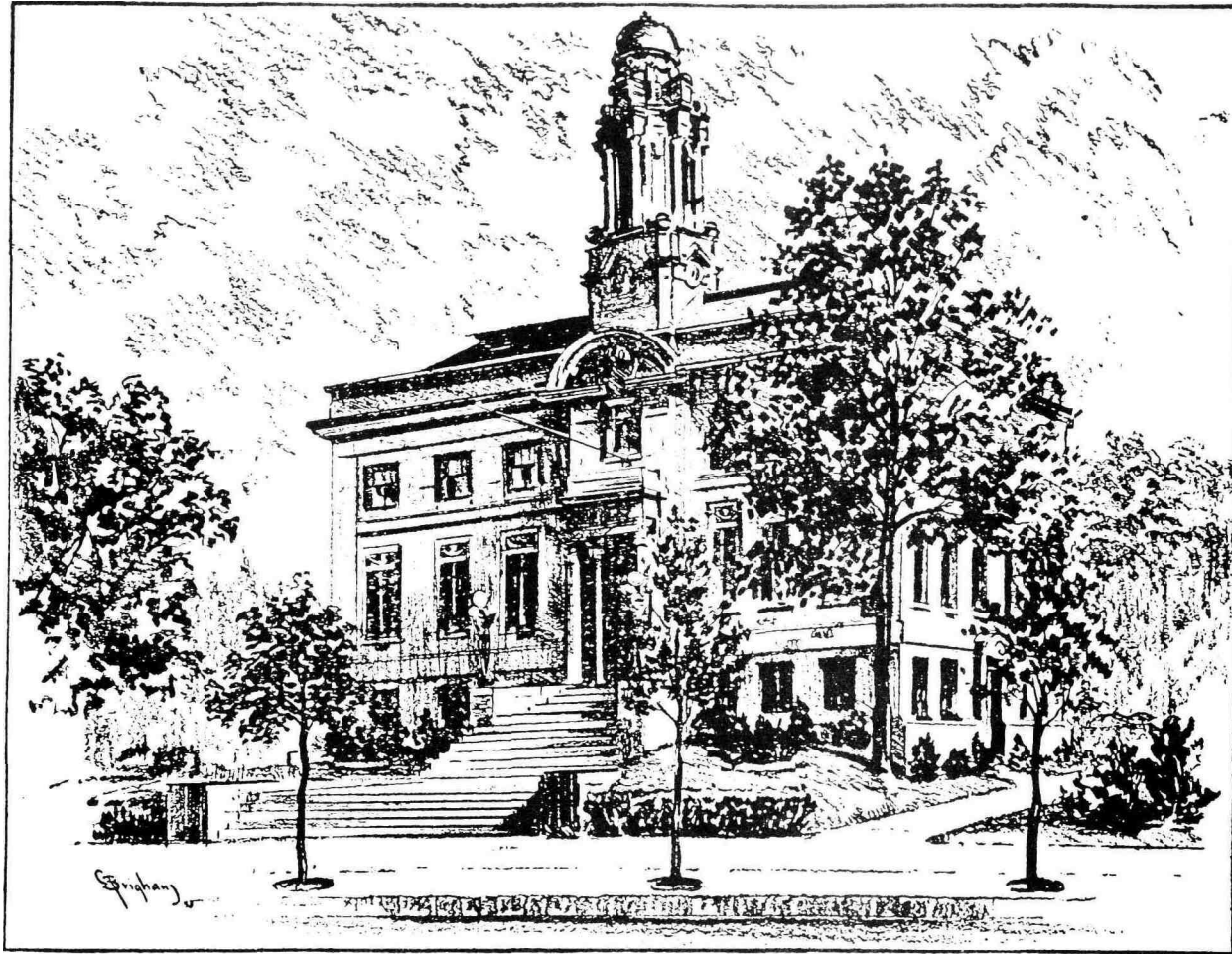


TOWN HALL



THE march of municipal progress is shown in the successive town halls that Kearny has had. First it was three rooms in the old Lodi Hotel in Harrison, then to a small building on Kearny Avenue a little south of Woodland Avenue and finally the present modern building on Kearny Avenue at Grove Street. This building was designed by Davis, McGrath and Keissling and constructed in 1909 by Davidson Brothers. It is significant that the town hall looms in its comparative majesty in almost the exact center of

town. Built of Indiana limestone, it has a brick rear so constructed and an addition can be built whenever it becomes necessary. A tall spire was originally atop the dome, and it was known then as the "oil can." In 1914 lightning struck this spire wrecking it so thoroughly that it had to be removed. When this occurred Louis Brock, then mayor, his son, William Ross, town clerk, and George Smack, fire alarm superintendent, were standing in the garret. They were stunned by the shock and were unable to move for a few moments.