



TO START IN APRIL, will be \$20 million job of building Middlesex County courthouses and jail. In background, Superior Court and jail, latter on top four floors, and county offices. In fore-

ground, new Probate Court and Registry of Deeds. Third st., to right with plaza extending onto Cambridge st.

Tower to Replace E. Cambridge Jail

The 110-year-old East Cambridge Jail, Superior and Probate Courts Building and the Registry of Deeds will fall to the wreckers' ball this April.

Within three years a whole new complex of buildings, including an 18-story tower housing the jail, will be built at a cost of \$20 million.

Plans have been in the works since 1950, and were put off at least three times for lack of funds.

Middlesex County Sheriff Howard Fitzpatrick revealed the project this week at an informal dinner for 40 police and fire chiefs at the Sheraton-Plaza Hotel.

"We plan to close the jail sometime in April and move the prisoners to the County Farm in Billerica," he said, "and then raze the old jail at Third and Thorndike sts."

The sheriff said the only thing holding up the destruction is work being done at Billerica to make part of the huge farm into a maximum-security institution.

Security measures are being worked out also for the moving of the 200 prisoners now in East Cambridge.

Middlesex County District Court, now on the left side of Third st., will not be included in the new plans, because that building is relatively new.

A spokesman for Tedesco Associates of Woburn, architects, said the first phase will include the demolition and reconstruction of the jail.

In the area now occupied by the jail an 18-story tower will be erected, with the jail occupying the top four floors.

Lower floors will include the new Superior Courts, offices for the district attorney and his staff, other county offices, hearing rooms, a library and offices for attorneys and legal staffs.

When the new Superior Courthouse and jail are built, work will begin to demolish the present Superior Court and the Registry of Deeds and Probate Courts buildings, which face on Cambridge st.

In their stead will arise a U-shaped, three-story structure, into which those courts and offices will be incorporated.

A plaza will extend onto Cambridge st., and there will be a flowered courtyard connecting the buildings.

It is expected to take three to five years to complete the whole complex.