

Extra court in courthouse delayed building

Judge Haven Parker, presiding justice of the Cambridge District Court, told a special Senate investigating committee that he and his fellow justices requested their court be included in plans for a new Middlesex County courthouse — a move which delayed construction some months.

The Senate committee, headed by Beryl W. Cohen (D-Brookline), is looking into the delays and increasing costs of the county courthouse — originally slated to cost \$16 million and now up to \$27 million.

Judge Parker said he and the other two judges in the third Middlesex Court sent a letter to the Middlesex County commissioners Apr. 22, 1964, asking that they be provided space in the proposed new facility.

The request, which was complied with, added three stories to the proposed 18-story structure.

The prime contractor, Gevyn Construction Co. of Mamaroneck, N.Y., has terminated its contract, and the building has stood idle since March. Architect Edward J. Tedesco on Wednesday said it will take



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at least \$3 million more to complete the building.

The addition of the three stories for the district court has been blamed in part for the delay in planning and

construction of the building.

Francis Q. Concannon, who is clerk of the works on the project, a task which involves overseeing much of the operation, yesterday said one of the main reasons for delay and added costs was "lack of on-the-job supervision. It came from the general contractor's office in New York."

Concannon said the decision to include the district court facilities caused a delay of "six months at a maximum."

Concannon criticized the lack of supervision by the firm. The architect, Tedesco, had criticized the firm's lack of experience in major projects.

Concannon, who has had

27 years experience in the construction field, said the increased costs were "not unusual" because of the increase annually in construction costs.

But he estimated that of the \$27.5 million which has been authorized thus far,

\$24 million has been committed. With what the general contractor has been paid there is \$8.5 million available to complete the project. He added: "I believe we will need \$12 million more on top of the \$8.5 million for completion."