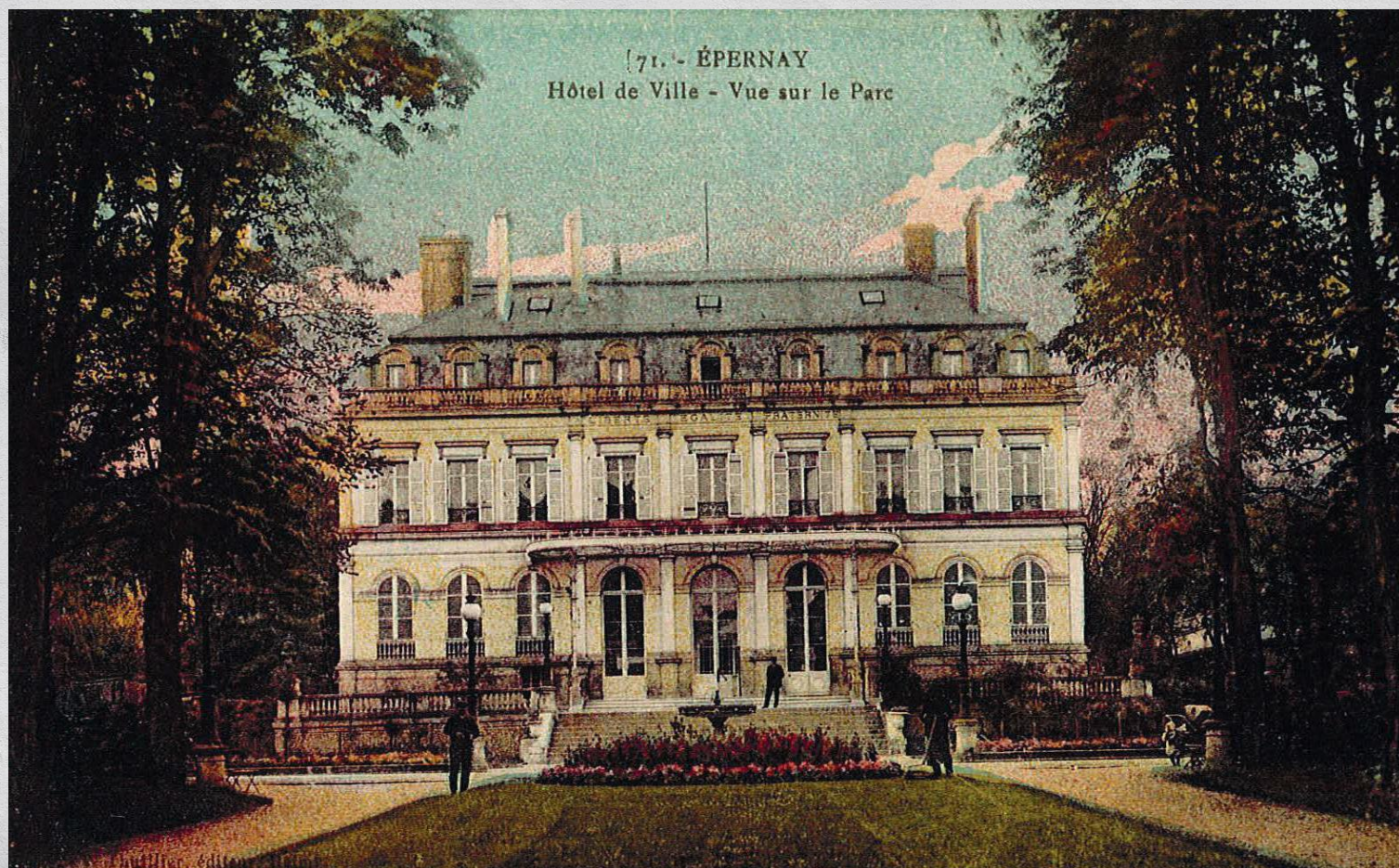


Educational service of Epernay town archives



# Town Hall

## celebrates its *100 year anniversary*

*Epernay's town Archives*

*Teacher's file*

Director : Mme MOREL Marjorie

Teacher organizer : M. de GOSTOWSKI

Special thanks to Mrs Isabelle LINDENBAUM, Mrs Christine PIGOURY and Mr Ted DUDZIAK for their translation help



# A CHARGE BEFORE TO BE A BUILDING

1 – Define what a mayor is.

A mayor is the highest office in a town.

2 – When was the mayor's charge extended to all the royal territory ?

☒ 1692

☐ 1693

☐ 1765

3 – Tick the characteristics of the mayor's charge at that time :

☒ Appointed for life

☐ Hereditary

☐ Only for the nobility

☐ Appointed by the king

☐ Elected by the inhabitants

☒ Impossible to inheritate

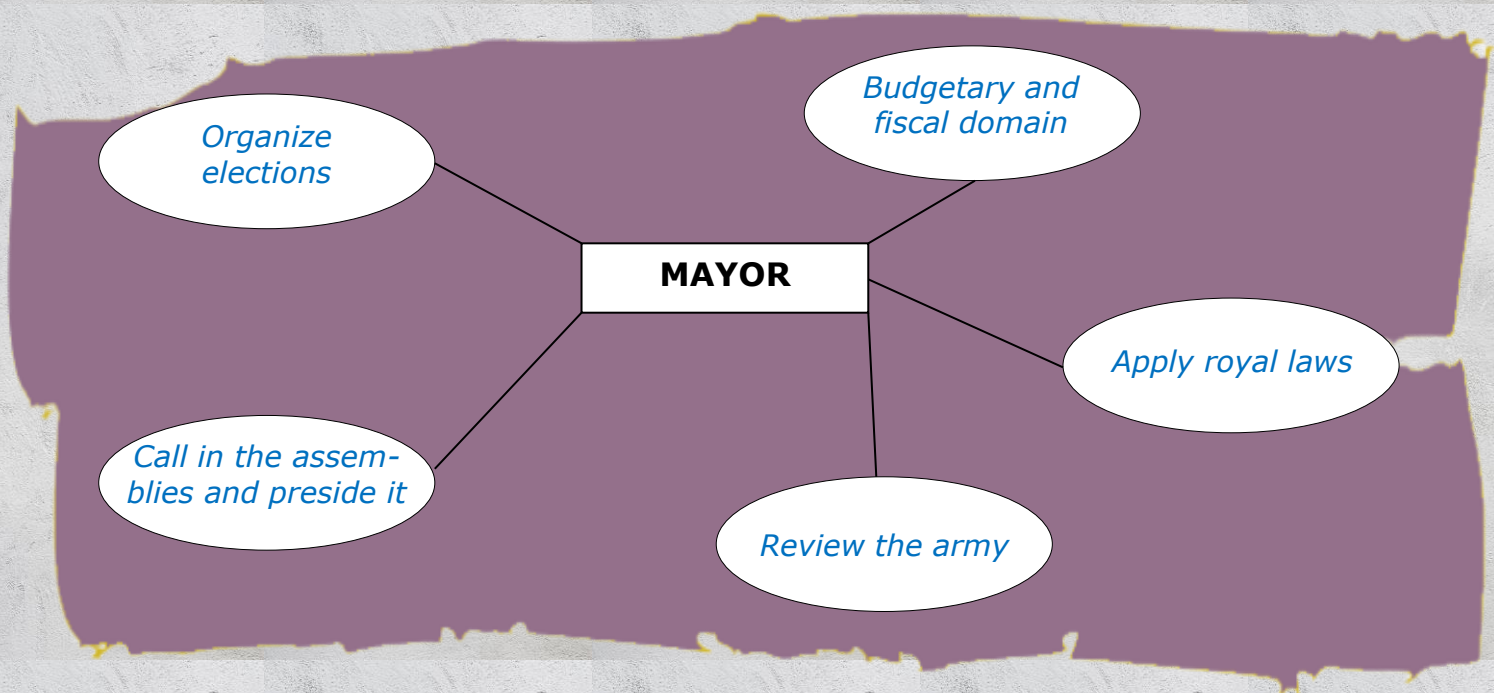
4 – According to the sign, why did the *échevins* (city magistrates) have to swear allegiance to the mayor ?

☐ The *échevins* had to swear allegiance to the mayor because he was a nobleman

☐ The *échevins* had to swear allegiance to the mayor because he held reviews of the troops.

☒ The *échevins* had to swear allegiance to the mayor because he represented the king in the town.

5 – Fill in the balloons with the mayor's responsibilities at that time :



6 – What did the royal edict of 1765 change ?

- ☐ Towns elected a council and a mayor. The king approved these elections.
- ☒ Towns elected a council which gave the names of three mayor candidates to the king. The sovereign chose among them.
- ☐ The king named a council which gave the names of three mayor candidates. The sovereign chose among them.

7 – The royal edict of 1765 set the term of the mayor before the French Revolution. How long was it ?

- ☒ 3 years
- ☐ 6 years
- ☐ For life

8 – Since when has the town of Épernay a mayor ? Who was the first one ?

*The first mention of a mayor in Épernay, Mr NACQUART, dates back to 1698.*

9 – Was the office of mayor always occupied before the French Revolution in Épernay ? Precise your answer.

*The city of Épernay has had no mayor for almost 50 years (1713-1765). Nobody wanted to buy the charge.*

10 – Who was the last mayor of Épernay before the French Revolution ?

*Mr PARCTELAINE was the last mayor of Épernay before the Revolution and until 1790.*

11 – Which law voted during the time of the French Revolution created the municipalities ?

- ☐ The December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1693 Law.
- ☒ The December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1789 Law.
- ☐ The September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1793 Law.

#### Épernay's mayors before the French Revolution

Before 1765 :	
NACQUART	1698
Thierry FAGNIER	1703
Antoine QUATRESOUS	1706
Robert SIFFLET, Sieur DULURE	1707
Nobody since 1713 to 1765	

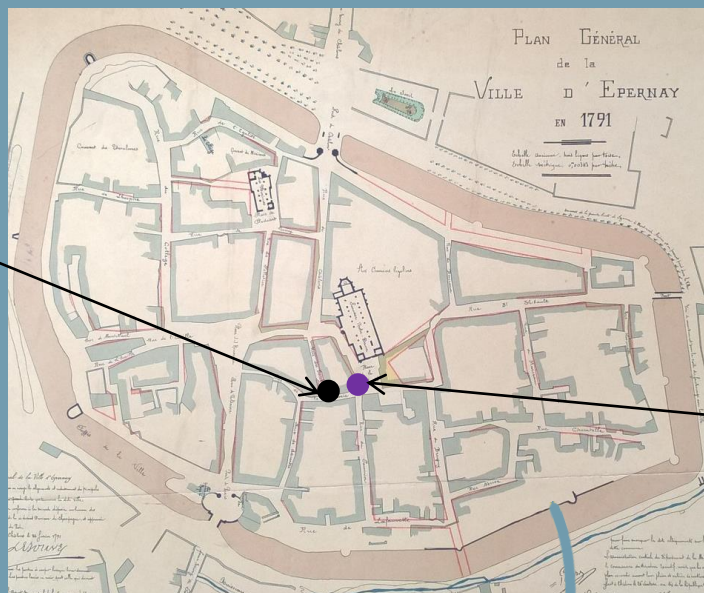
After 1765 :	
Jean-Baptiste PARCHAPPE	1765
François CHERTEMPS	1769
Jean-Baptiste de REIMS	1776
Jean-Baptiste PARCHAPPE	1778
M. GILLET	1781
M. PIERROT	1785
M. PARCTELAINE	1788



# THE FIRST TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ROOMS

1 – On the map below :

- Put a black point where the first known Épernay council hall was located and name it
- Put a purple point where the town council met afterwards and name it



First place :  
*The public hall*

Second place :  
*The hospital*

Extract of the map of Epernay city, 1791, Archives municipales d'Épernay, no classification number.



No commercial picture (Géoportail)



Place of the former Public hall



Place of the former hospital

No commercial pictures (Google Maps)

2 – Did the municipality own this second meeting place ? Why?

*The municipality rented this second meeting place from the hospital. Therefore there was no specific building for the town government.*

3 – In 1749, what was the architectural style for this second meeting place part of the planned construction ?

*The estimate of 1749 mandated that the municipality wanted to give to this rented building a special appearance in order to distinguish it from the other houses.*



# THE FIRST CITY HALL PURCHASE

1 – When did the municipality purchase a building in order to make it the new Town Hall ?

☐ December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1692

☐ March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1765

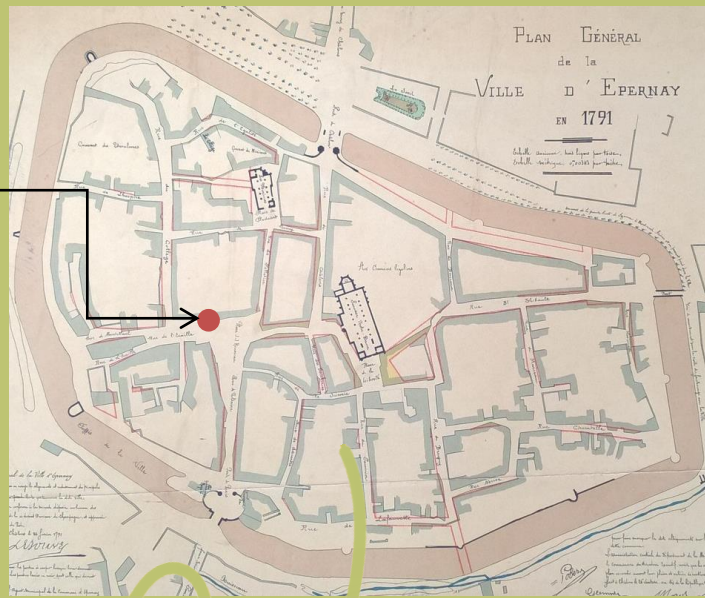
☒ March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1777

2 – What was this building before ?

*This building used to be an inn.*

3 – On the map below, put a brown point where this building was.

Third place :  
*The former  
« Hermitage » inn*



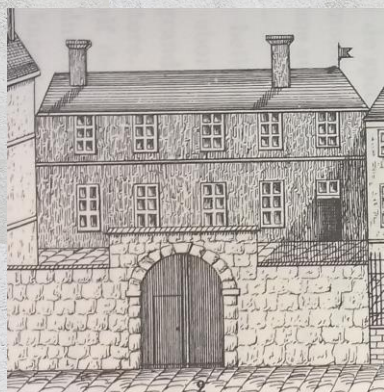
Extract of the map of Epernay city, 1791, Archives municipales d'Epernay, no classification number.



No commercial pictures (Géoportail)



↑ No commercial picture (Google Maps)



← Engraving conserved in Archives municipales d'Epernay, no classification number

« Town hall celebrates its *100 year anniversary* »

Archives municipales d'Epernay

4 – What was the problem with this building ?

- ☐ A part of this building was still an inn.    ☒ The building was in a very bad state.    ☐ The building was still used as a wheat marketplace.

5 – Which event put a end to the rebuilding project of that house ?

*In 1788, the Town Council voted a project to build a special house instead of this former inn, embodying the municipality power. The French Revolution put an end to that project.*

6 – What did that building become at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century ?

- ☒ The building was finally sold in 1794.    ☒ The building was destroyed in 1803.    ☒ The land was sold in 1807.



# A PRESBYTERY AS TOWN HALL

1 – What was a « Société populaire » ?

- ☒ The former political parties. ☐ It was the other name given to the Town Council. ☐ It was a religious association.

2 – During which French historical time did those « Sociétés populaires » have a certain power ?

*The « Sociétés populaires » appeared at the time of the French Revolution. During the Terror (1793-1794), they defended extremist republican values.*

3 – Which building did the « Société populaire » suggest to use as Town Hall ?

- ☐ Our-Lady Church. ☐ Saint-Martin's convent. ☒ Presbytery.

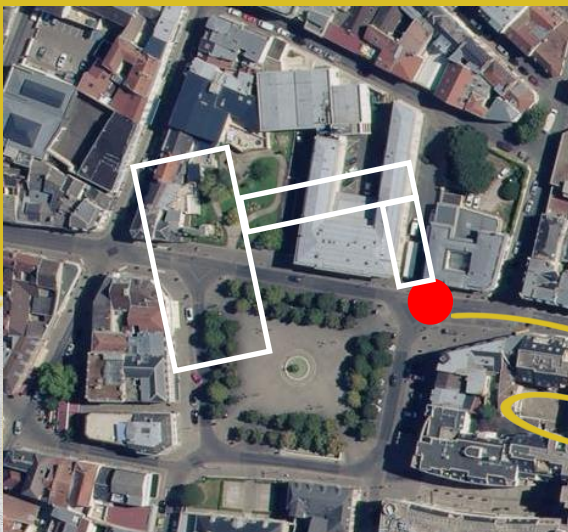
4 – Why that choice ?

- ☐ The priest of the parish was gone. ☒ For the Revolutionaries, the catholic religion was incompatible with the Republic. ☒ The choice of this place was a way of showing that, from then on, the political authority was above the religious one.

5 – On the map below, put a red point where this building was.

Fourth place :  
*The presbytery*

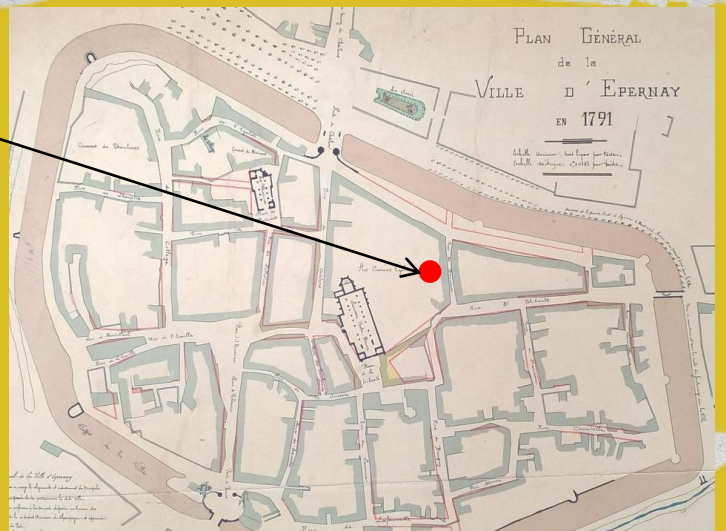
Extract of the map of Epernay city, 1791, Archives municipales d'Épernay, no classification number.



↑ No commercial picture (Géoportail). Viewing of the former buildings.

No commercial picture (Google Maps) →

« Town hall celebrates its 100 year anniversary »



Archives municipales



6 – Why couldn't the Town Council refuse the proposal of the « Société populaire » ?

*In the context of the Terror, if the members of the Town Council refused the proposal of the « Société populaire », it could have been understood as an opposition to the Revolution's values. Their lives would have been in danger.*

7 – When did the Town Council own that place ?

☒ November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1793.    ☐ March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1777.    ☐ December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1803.



# FROM A PRESBYTERY TO A CONVENT

1 – Why could the Catholics practice their religion again ?

■ The end of the Terror time with Robespierre's overthrow in 1794.

■ In 1796, Catholics were allowed again to practice their religion.

■ The Concordat between French Republic and the Pope in 1801.

2 – What did the Germinal 18<sup>th</sup>, Year XI law say ?

*The Germinal 18<sup>th</sup>, Year XI law (April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1803) compelled municipalities to house the parish priest.*

3 – Why was this law a problem for the Town of Epernay ?

*Since 1793, the house of the priest (presbytery) had been the Town Hall. The Town Council didn't want to move.*

4 – Which solution had been found ?

■ The Town Hall was moved to Saint-Martin's convent next door in order to free the presbytery for the priest.

□ A new Town Hall was built somewhere else in order to free the presbytery for the priest.

□ The Town Hall was moved in an opposite building with the Sous-Préfet in order to free the presbytery for the priest.

5 – When was this solution realized ?

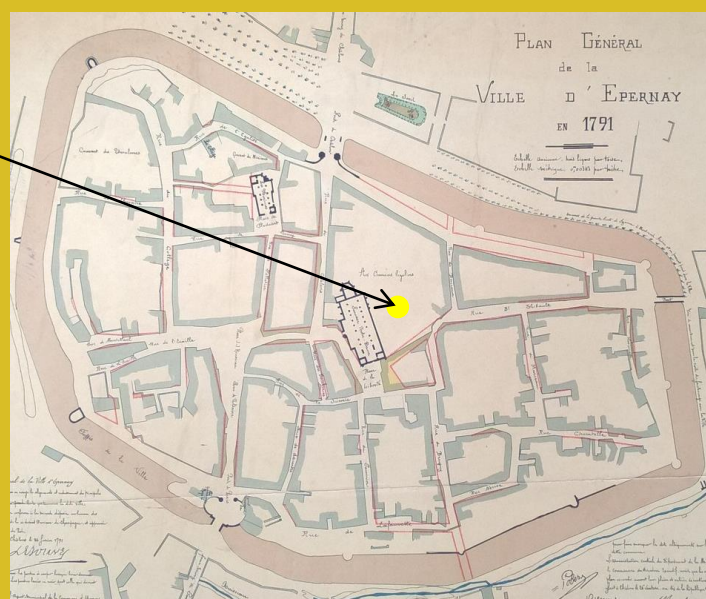
□ 1796

■ 1827

□ 1866

6 – On the map below, put a yellow point where this building was.

Fifth place :  
*Saint-Martin's convent*



Extract of the map of Epernay city, 1791, Archives municipales d'Épernay, no classification number.





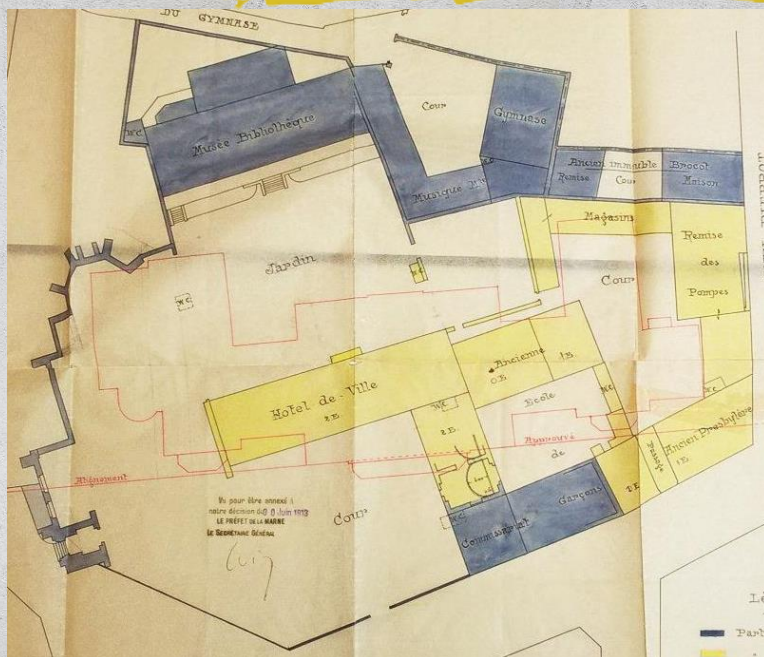
← No commercial picture (Géoportail). Viewing of the former building.



No commercial picture (Google Maps)



Postal card of the Town Hall Square (current Hugues Plomb Square). The Town Hall was the building in the background, Archives municipales d'Épernay, no classification number.



Town Hall spot plan (1913), Archives municipales d'Épernay, 1M1.

7 - According to this document, what were the other buildings added to the Town Hall since 1866 ?

Since 1866, the Town Hall has been completed with other public buildings : a library-museum, a sport hall, warehouses, a boy's school, a police station and a firemen's warehouse.



# PROJECTS PROMPTED BY AN URBAN GROWTH

1 – Which law made the Town Council and the mayor the real representatives of the local power ?

☐ *Ferry laws.*

☐ *The Raoul Chandon charter.*

☒ *The charter of the municipal liberties.*

2 – When was this law enacted ?

☐ *April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1882*

☒ *April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1884*

☐ *April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1906*

3 – Why did Epernay grow a lot during the second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century ?

☒ *The champagne sales increased a lot during the second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Épernay got wealthier and created jobs.*

☐ *The building of a new Town Hall and several other buildings created jobs.*

☒ *On August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1849, the train station and the railway line between Paris and Strasbourg were inaugurated. Épernay could increase its business.*

4 – Between 1830 and 1906, Epernay's size increased by...

☐ ... 2

☒ ... 4

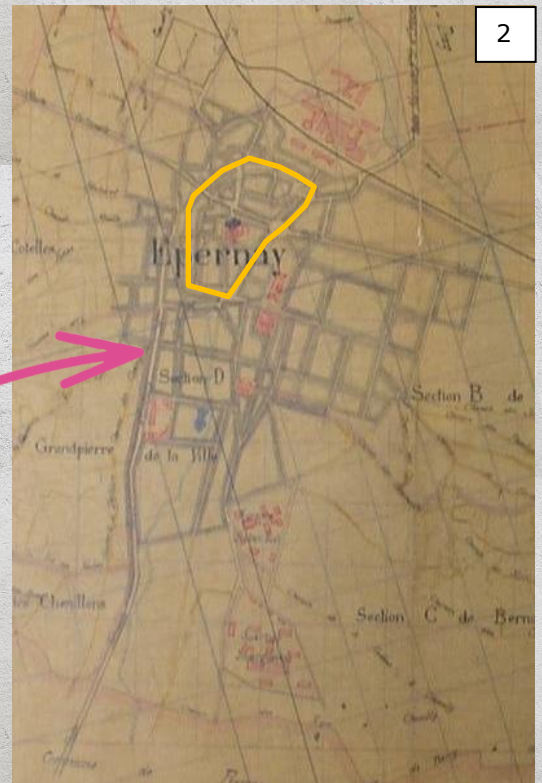
☐ ... 6

5 – Here we have two maps of Épernay. The first shows the town limits in 1830 and the second one those of 1906. Circle on document n°2 the area of the 1830 town.



1

Epernay's maps of 1830 and 1906, aux Archives municipales d'Épernay, no classification number.



2



6 – Why were all the Épernay buildings projects different from the classical French model ?

*The classical French model since Ferry laws was to place the Town Hall and the school next to each other. The major part of Épernay projects wanted the church next to the Town Hall.*

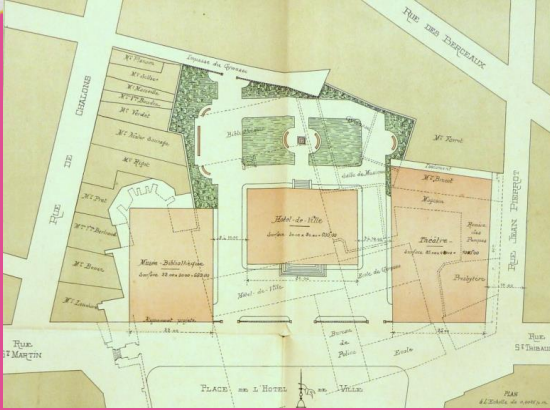
7 – Why did Epernay have this distinctive characteristic ?

*Since the French Revolution, the Épernay council members had been used to having the Town Hall next to the church. They kept this tradition into their projects.*

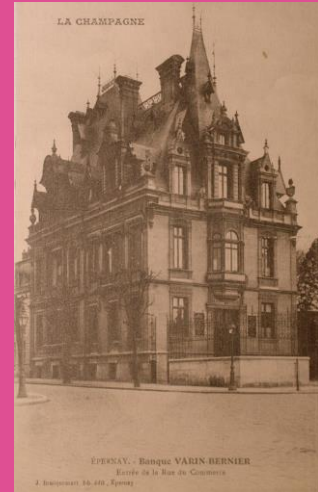


# ORIGINAL PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

1 – Whose projects are illustrated on the pictures below ?



Map of the town hall, the theater and the museum-library, Archives municipales d'Épernay, 1M1.



Postcard, Archives municipales d'Épernay, Fonds Jarc, 4Num 476.

*Thévenin and Mercier project*

*Chandon project*

2 – What was the name of the mansion Raoul CHANDON proposed to buy in order to become the new Town Hall ?

- ☐ Chandon mansion      ☐ Thévenin mansion      ☒ Gérard mansion

3 – Why was this mansion chosen ?

- ☒ It was at the entrance of the « rue du commerce » (the current « avenue de Champagne »). It was a place with a lot of important roadcrossings.
- ☒ It was at the entrance of the « rue du commerce » (the current « avenue de Champagne »). It was a place which symbolized the wealth and the success of the town.
- ☐ It was at the entrance of the « rue du commerce » (the current « avenue de Champagne »). It was a place which enabled the building of a new church next to it.

4 – Why was this project dropped ?

*Gérard mansion was not functional enough. In the hygienist context of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the specialists feared a lack of air and light.*



# 1913 : THE CHIFFLOT PROJECT

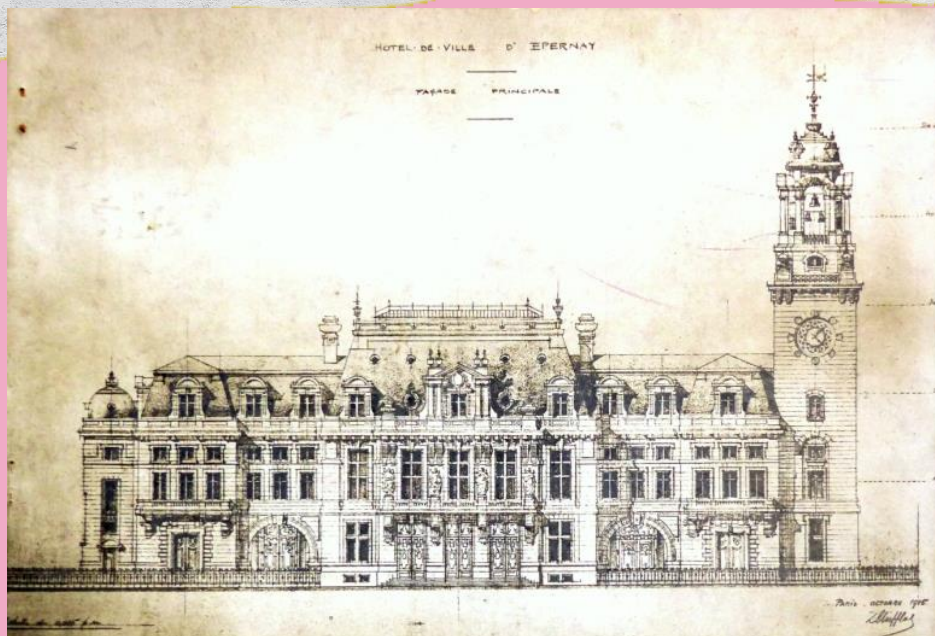
1 – When was the Town Hall Square renamed Hugues PLOMB Square ?  
*The Town Hall Square became Hugues Plomb Square on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1911.*

2 – Why was that square named after Hugues PLOMB ?

- ☐ Hugues PLOMB was a former mayor of the town. ☒ Hugues PLOMB did a donation to the municipality in order to build a new Town Hall. ☐ Hugues PLOMB was a soldier who died during the First World War.

3 – Which part of this project did Léon CHIFFLOT have to review ? Why ?

- ☐ The frontage, which was to fanciful. ☒ The belfry, which was too fanciful. ☐ The windows, which were to fanciful.



Plan of the project, Archives municipales d'Épernay, Fonds 1M1.

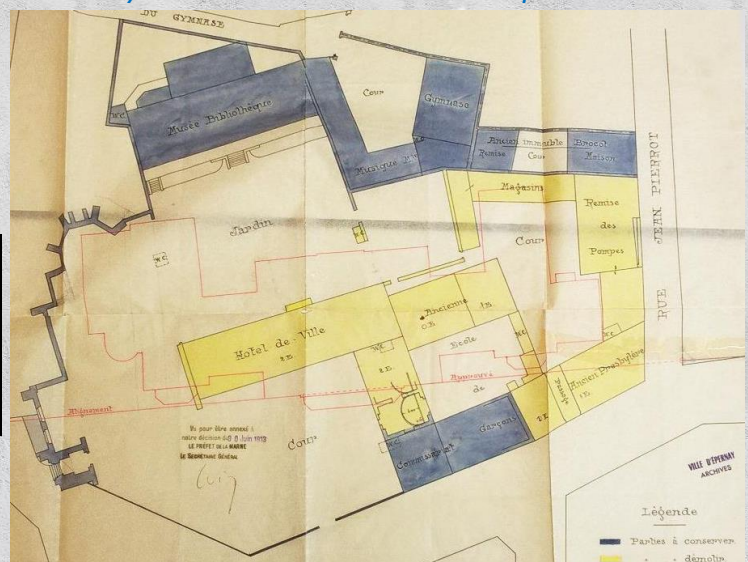
4 – What was the purpose of the municipality with this project ?  
*The municipality wanted to show its authority with a beautiful and impressive building.*

5 – Tick below which buildings have been destroyed to realize the project ?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum-library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Town hall
<input type="checkbox"/>	Music school	<input type="checkbox"/>	Police station
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sport hall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Former boy's school
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Warehouses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Firemen's warehouse
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Former presbytery		

Town hall spot plan (1913), Archives municipales d'Épernay, 1M1.

« Town hall celebrates its 100 year anniversary »

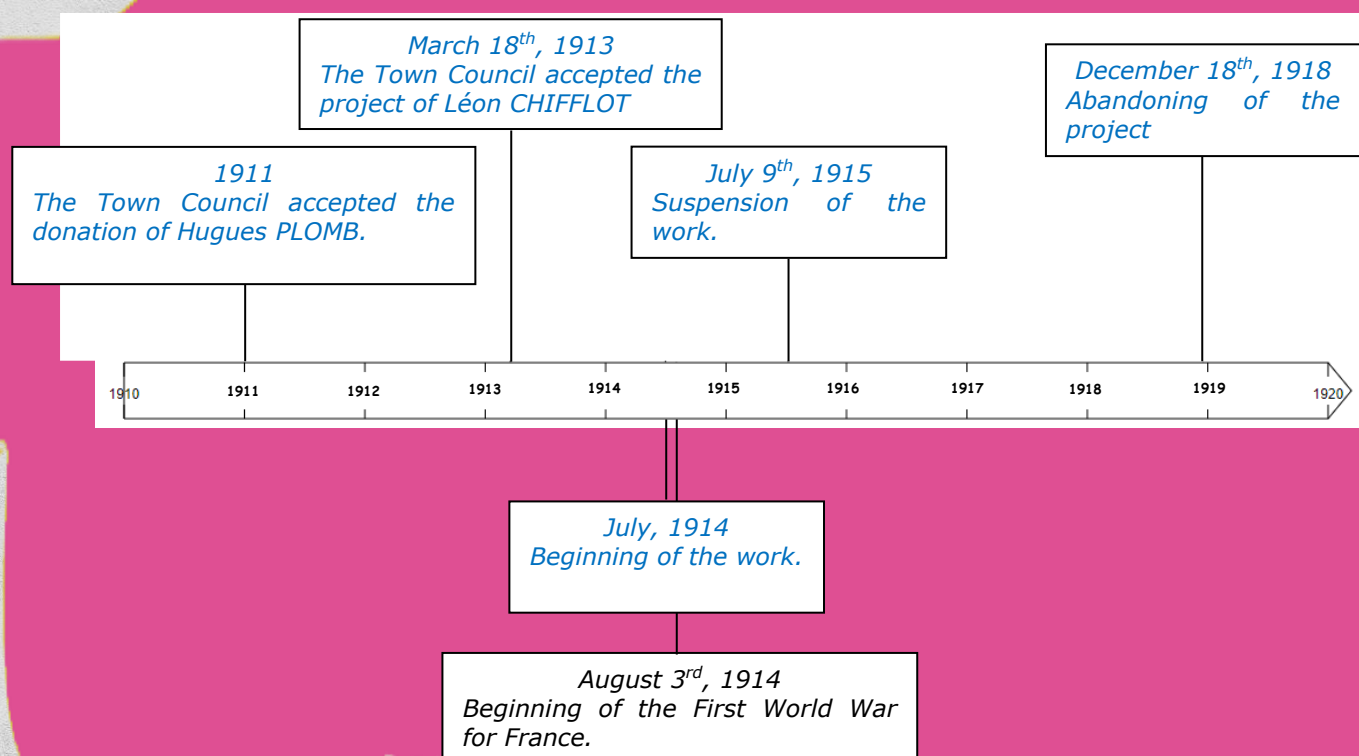


Archives municipales d'Épernay



6 – Complete the timeline below :

- Putting the different dates of the project,
- Writing what happened on these dates.



7 – Why was the project suspended in 1915 ?

- ☐ The project was too expensive.    ☐ The materials were too expensive.    ☒ France was at war.

8 – Why was this project finally definitely abandoned in 1918 ?

- ☐ The project was too expensive.    ☒ The materials were too expensive.    ☐ France was at war.

9 – Where can we still see the scars of this project ?

- ☐ The current bank located on Hugues Plomb Square Plomb is the building which was expected to be the Town Hall.    ☒ The current bank and Post office located on Hugues Plomb Square are on the foundations on which the Town Hall was to be built.    ☐ The Simone Veil multimedia library located on Hugues Plomb Square is on the foundations on which the Town Hall was to be built.



# THE PURCHASE OF AUBAN-MOËT MANSION

1 – Who was the architect of the Auban-Moët mansion ?

- ☒ Victor LENOIR
 ☐ Eugène BÜHLER
 ☐ Eugénie von BOMBERGHEM



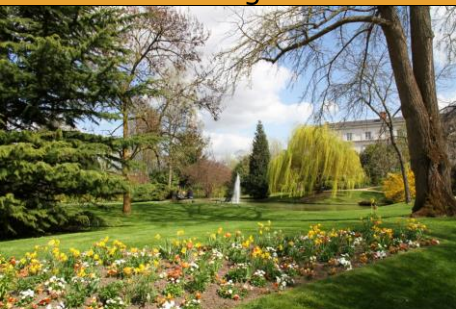
2 – When was the Auban-Moët mansion built ?

- ☐ Between 1854 and 1919
 ☐ Between 1858 and 1919
 ☒ Between 1854 and 1858

3 – Who ordered the Auban-Moët mansion to be built ?

- ☐ Victor LENOIR
 ☒ Victor MOËT-ROMONT
 ☐ Eugénie von BOMBERGHEM

4 – What is the style...

... inside the building	... outside the building	... of the garden
 <p>Council room, 2013, © Ville d'Épernay.</p>	 <p>Personal picture</p>	 <p>The park, October 2015, © Ville d'Épernay.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ancient style</li> <li>- neo-XVIII century style</li> </ul>	<p>Neo-classical style</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- French style</li> <li>- English style</li> <li>- Ancient statuary</li> </ul>

5 – Who built the garden ?

- ☐ Victor LENOIR
 ☒ Les frères DENIS
 ☒ Eugène BÜHLER

6 – This mix of different styles purpose was to make this mansion asym-bol. Which one ?

*This mix of styles and decorations has the purpose to show the wealth and the success of its owner.*

7 – Who sold this mansion to the town of Épernay ?

- ☐ Victor LENOIR
 ☐ Victor MOËT-ROMONT
 ☒ Eugénie von BOMBERGHEM



8 – When was this mansion sold ?

☐ March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1854

☐ March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1858

☒ March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1919

9 – According to the sign « 1913 : the CHIFFLOT project », why this choice ?

*Since 1914, the former Town Hall has been destroyed to build a new one on Hugues Plomb Square, but the project has been abandoned in December 1918. From then on, the town of Épernay had no real Town Hall.*

10 – According to the sign « Original projects under review », which project does that choice remind of ?

*The choice of a wealthy building showing the success of the city and located at the bottom of the « rue du Commerce » (the current « avenue de Champagne ») reminds of the buying project of the Gerard mansion in 1897.*




# WORKS AND RENOVATIONS

1 – When did the Auban-Moët mansion officialy become Épernay Town Hall ?

☒ February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1920      ☐ February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1921      ☐ July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1924

2 – What were the new functions of the rooms in the Auban-Moët mansion in 1919-1920 ?

Former function of the room	New function of the room
 <p>Picture from the inside of Auban-Moët mansion, 1920, Archives municipales d'Épernay, « Album rouge », no classification number</p> <p>The <i>dining room</i> became the <i>municipal housing's committee room</i></p>	 <p>Picture from the inside of the Town Hall, 2019, © Ville d'Épernay.</p>
<p>The <i>great lounge</i> became the <i>town council room</i></p>	 <p>Picture from the inside of the Town Hall 2019, © Ville d'Épernay.</p>





Picture from the inside of Auban-Moët mansion, 1920, Archives municipales d'Épernay, « Album rouge », no classification number

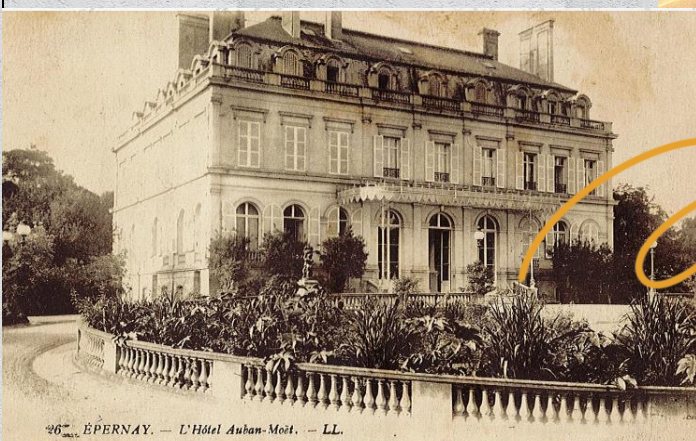


Picture from the inside of the Town Hall, 2019, © Ville d'Épernay.

The *office* became the *wedding room*

The stables became *technical services building*

Picture from the outside of the Town Hall, 2019, © Ville d'Épernay.



Auban-Moët mansion, early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Archives municipales d'Épernay, collection Jarc, no classification number

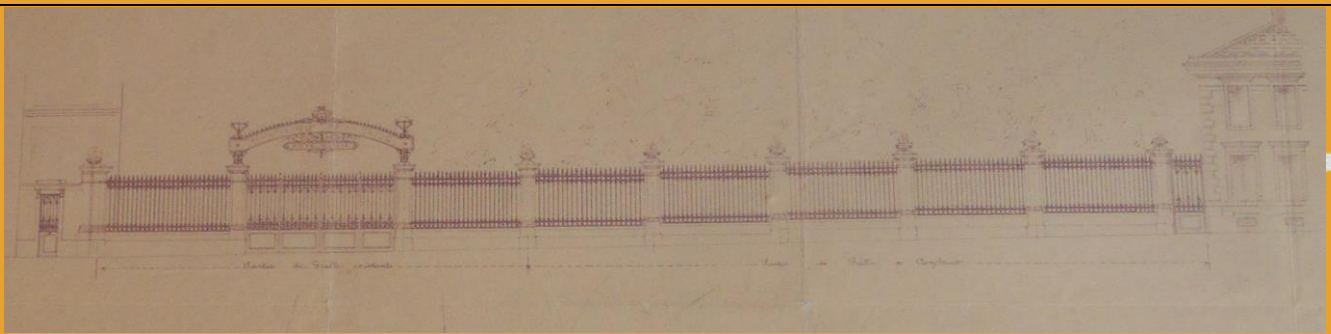


Frontage of the Town Hall, 2019, © Ville d'Épernay.

The building became a public place. Symbols of French Republic are added :

- The tree-coloured flag
- The French motto « Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité »





Gate project of the Town Hall, Archives municipales d'Épernay, 1M2

The walls around the gardens of the Auban-Moët mansion were replaced by *gates* in order to :

- Create a public garden
- Show that Republic had nothing to hide

3 – Fill the identity card of the monument below.



Town hall from the « avenue de Champagne » side, 2002, © Ville d'Épernay.

Name of the monument :	<i>War memorial building</i>
Location :	<i>Against the town hall's terrace</i>
Name of the architects :	<i>Henri GIRAUD Jules DECHIN</i>
Inauguration date :	<i>July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1924</i>
Why was the Italian Ambassador invited ?	<i>Italian troops defended Epernay in May-July 1918 during the last German offensive. Several Italian soldiers died during Bligny battle.</i>




Description : Complete the legend describing the monument



 *A winged Victory wearing a Poilu helmet*

 *The Victory holds palms*

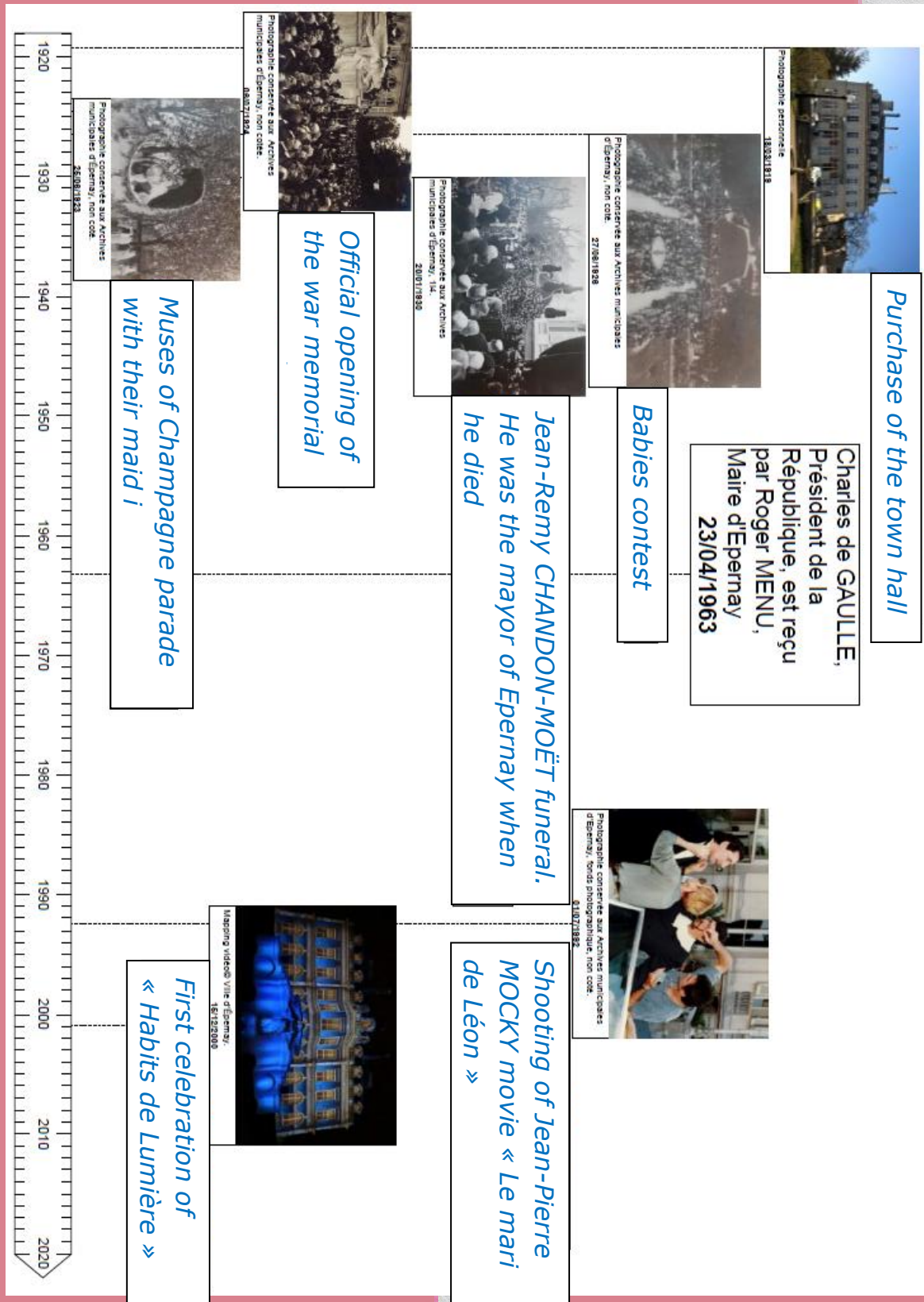
 *Palms are covering the names of the 772 victims of the town*

 *Coat of arms of Epernay*

 *Grapevines*

# A CENTURY OF EVENTS

1 – Find the different events which happened in the town hall.



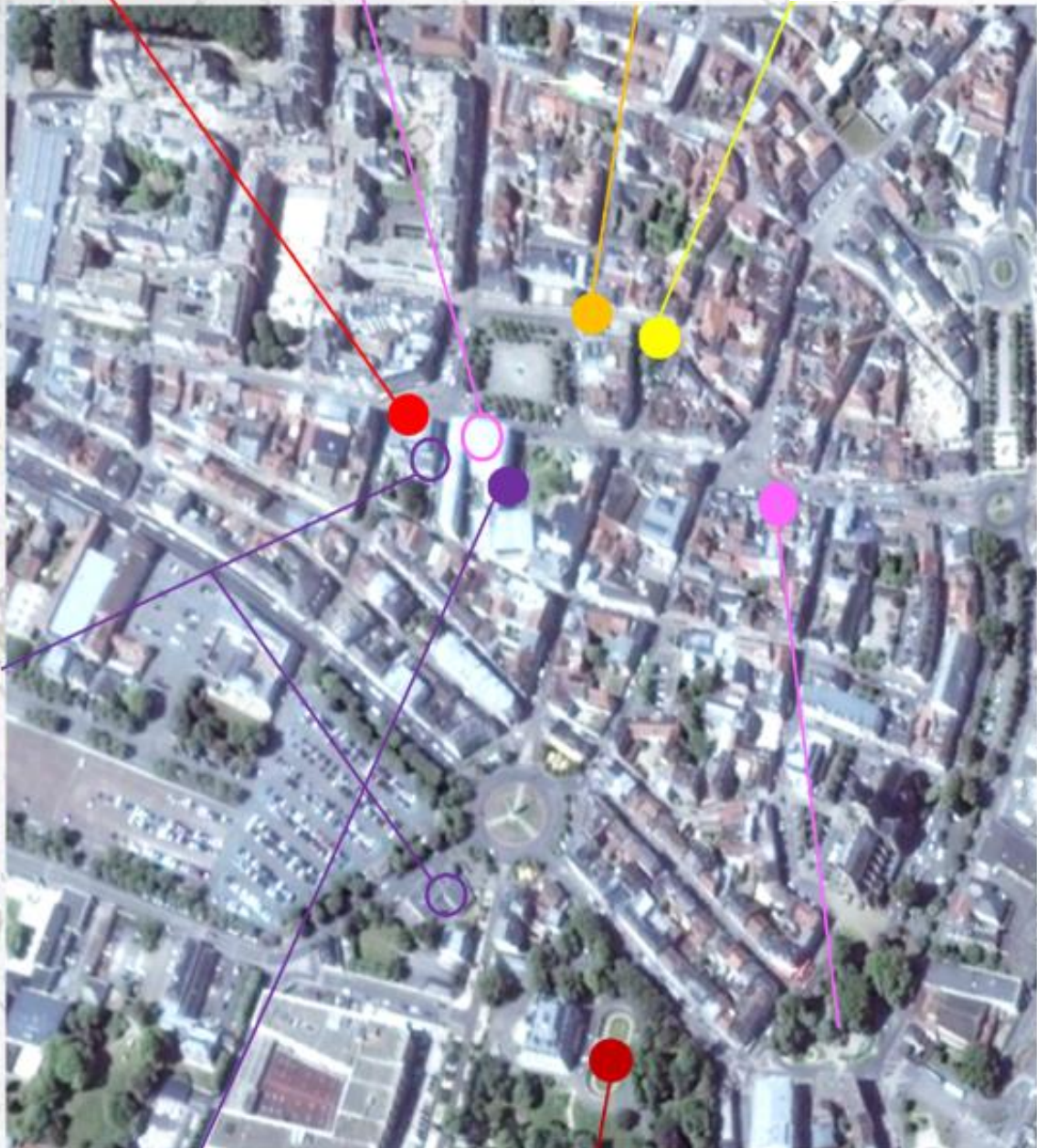


Public hall  
(before 1690)

Hospital rented  
building  
(1690-1793)

Project of a  
new Town  
Hall on the  
Saint-Martin  
convent land  
in 1793

Town Hall in  
the presbyte-  
ry (1793-  
1827)



Projects of the Town Hall  
(Gerard mansion, building in 1913)

The Town Hall  
bought in 1777  
and sold in  
1807 (former  
Hermitage inn)

Current Town  
Hall until 1919

Town Hall in the  
Saint-Martin's  
convent  
(1793-1919)