



Original Stockton Town Hall  
Photo courtesy of Portage County Historical Society

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April in 1869 Stockton residents voted to build a *Town House*. Until then, meetings had been held in school houses or other places in the area. Numerous disagreements were taking place between towns and residents alike. But, a motion to build was made and town supervisors continued with a plan.

Board members soon enlisted the help of Caleb Lammon to draw up a plan for the proposed Town House. Lammon was originally from New York. He came to Wisconsin in 1868 and spent two years on a farm in Stockton. He was a carpenter by trade and followed that line of work most of his life. Shortly after the town house plan was made for Stockton, he moved to the city of Stevens Point.

Possibly because of the turmoil at that time, during the April 5<sup>th</sup> town meeting in 1870, a motion was made by prominent town citizen J. C. Maxfield, which changed those plans to build. Maxfield motioned to postpone the building of the Town House. It was seconded and the motion carried.

It was not until seven years later, at the annual meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the chairman announced a proposition would be submitted to the Board for the building of a Town House. A motion followed by J. H. Felch that instructed the town board as to the size of which to build the town house. Its dimensions were to be 22' x 40'. The motion carried.

Looking through an old town receipt book, there are several entries naming Caleb Lammon in the form of cancelled checks listed for payment of services. The first check issued in November of 1869, was in the amount of \$5 for making a ballot box. The second was a \$2 payment in April 1870 for making a plan for a Town House. A search did not find any other expense paid for any other plan for the Town House built in 1877. It is possible that the plan used was the original plan drawn up years before by Caleb Lammon.

A thorough search through town records has not brought forward any other entry or receipt for a ballot box, so it is also possible that the old ballot box in the Town Hall was made by Caleb Lammon in 1869.

The half acre lot for the Town House was acquired from John and Bridget Conniff. That location was chosen because of its centrality in the town. The property was given to the town by the Conniffs for the cost of \$1.00 with the stipulation that if the town ceased to use the land for town hall purposes, it would revert back to the original owners or their heirs.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September of 1877, the contract between the builder and the town was signed. The builder chosen was Michael Herbert, an experienced carpenter and town resident. The agreement stated that town would provide all the building materials and Herbert had forty days to “erect, build, set up and finish one town house according to plan and specifications”. Payment was to happen after the building was “examined, approved of, and accepted” with an inspection by town representatives. To insure “the performance of all and every one of the articles and agreements” in the contract, there was \$500 penalty clause included at the end of it.

The date of this inspection was not found noted anywhere. The building must have been completed according to contract because on December 8, 1877, the amount of \$73.08 was issued to Michael Herbert by the Town of Stockton as payment for the building of the Town House.