

Old Market House + City Hall
Galena, Jo Daviess Co., Ill.

HABS No. ILL-149

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings
Written Historical and Descriptive Data (2 copies)

PHOTOGRAPHS

District No.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, Jr., District Officer
Room 404, No. 520 No. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

OLD MARKET HOUSE (Town Hall)
Galena, Jo Daviess County, Illinois

Owner: City of Galena, City Clerk, Galena, Illinois

Date of Erection: March 3, 1845 to January 7, 1846

Architect: Probably Henry J. Stouffer.

Builder: Henry J. Stouffer

Present Condition: Still used by city as Council Chamber, Fire Department and Jail.

Materials and Construction: Local Galena limestone; local red sand moulded brick; white pine lumber (exterior and interior); black walnut stair railing and newel; white pine original shingles; cut nails and wood pegs.

Other Existing Records: Galena City Council Records, Vol. I and Vol. II, City Clerk, Galena. "The Northwestern Gazette & Galena Advertiser", Main Street. "History of Jo Daviess County 1878, Chicago Public Library. Direct photographs and photographs of etchings and lithographs in the possession of Mr. L.T. LeBron, Main Street, Galena, Illinois.

Additional Data: The Galena Market House is particularly interesting because it was the first town enterprise to demand the attention of legislators and townspeople. In 1836 the U.S. Congress authorized the building of public buildings and wharves in Galena from the proceeds of the sale of city lots, thus stimulating interest in the "Market and Town House".

Galena Council Record Vol. I Vol. II
Between 1838 and 1842 several council meetings were held to consider location and construction of a public market house. Eventually the Market Square was purchased from the County Commissioners and on January 1845, an ordinance of October 17, 1843, was amended and passed, authorizing the erection of a market house on Market Square.

On February 4th the Superintendent of Ways and Bridges was authorized to advertise for sealed proposals for such a building "to be built of brick, and to be completed within six months from 'Plan No.4', available at Council Room".

He was further authorized to take bids for the filling in of Commerce Street, between Perry and Hill Streets, the site of Market Square. The grade of the Market House, first floor, was fixed as the level of Burton's Stone House, stone door sill across the street, at Commerce and Perry Streets.

On March 3, 1845, Henry J. Stouffer was awarded the building contract and filed a \$3000 bond. On March 6, 1845 M. Capin signed a contract to fill in Market Square.

The financing of the Market House was no small problem, as evidenced by the fact that the amount of \$2500 was publicly subscribed in shares of \$5.00 each. Unfortunately, the Jo Daviess County Commissioners appropriated every cent of money authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1836 for public buildings to erect a Court House and Jail. These facts account for the modest architectural details and the simplicity of the design of the Market House.

The building was accepted by the City on January 7, 1846. The total cost was \$3104.16, including extra labor and materials.

Rental of stalls was fixed at a minimum of \$50 per year and \$25 for two rooms in the south wing.

On April 22, 1846, dry walls were built "Between cellar piers", this referring to the space under the large arches at first floor opening the main building to the wings.

The jail was originally in the cellar of the west wing, but old residents relate that it was removed to the first floor following the drowning of a prisoner when a sudden rise in the nearby Fever River one night flooded the jail.

In 1889 a brick record vault with concrete arch and steel beam floor was designed and built by O.B. Ginn, Galena, at the west rear corner of the main building. A small smokehouse and cell were included in the first floor space under the vault.

In 1933 Earl H. Reed, Architect, Chicago, made sketch plans including a small addition for adaptation of the building to broader municipal

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uses, and working drawings of portion of same. Roofs, gutters, cupola and cornices were reconditioned, or restored and ornamental conductor beads added for the purpose of displaying the date of erection and without intention of restoration.

Father Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli, O.P., a Dominican priest of architectural ability who was associated with John Slaymaker in the superintendence of the Court House architectural work has been mentioned as probable architect of the Market House. Inasmuch as Mr. Slaymaker was on an early committee to investigate plans for a market house, it is reasonable to believe that Father Mazzuchelli may have submitted early designs. However, at the time of acceptance of the designs from which the building was built Father Mazzuchelli had just returned from a year in Europe for the purpose of regaining his health.

A comparison of the architecture of the Market House with that of Mr. Stouffer's other works in Galena, notably the Joseph Hoge and the General Smith residences reveals such a similarity in symmetry of plan arrangement, stair details, window details and profiles as to lead one to believe that Mr. Stouffer was architect as well as builder of the Market House.

By Olto Brunkow

Approved E. Stouffer

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