

TRANSITION TO THE NEW CITY HALL

From 1867 to 1908, Corporation Hall on South Burdick Street served the Village and City as administrative offices and central fire station. In 1908 the new Central Fire Station was constructed and in April 1925, the administrative offices were relocated to the former Milham and Orcutt homes opposite Bronson Park. These houses were razed and replaced by the new City Hall. The City's administrative offices were temporarily housed in the Todd Building during construction.

1929-1931 City Commission:
Mayor, Dr. S. Rudolph Light; Vice Mayor, J. Wesley Bean; Commissioners, Peter De Boer; Floyd C. Miller; Edgar Sergeant; Alfred E. Curtenius; & Bartlett Dickinson.
City Manager, Albert Ten Busschen

CORPORATION HALL



Prepared By:
John Urschel, Records &
Information Manager
City Clerk's Office, Division of
Records Management, Research
and Archives

Phone: 269-337-8794
Fax: 269-567-7580
Email: recordscenter@kalamazoo.org



Records Center
Preserving Kalamazoo's
historic records.

CITY HALL



Architects:
Weary & Alford
Chicago, Illinois
Contractor:
O.F. Miller Company
Cornerstone Laid:
March 12, 1931
Dedication:
September 1, 1931
Cost:
\$ 488,003.40

Scott Borling, City Clerk

269 337-8792

Kalamazoo City Hall 1931– 2006

City Hall was constructed of steel and concrete with an exterior of granite and Indiana Limestone.



Mrs. Frieda Blankenburg, soon-to-be City Commissioner, was appointed to research the important dates in Kalamazoo history that adorn the top of the building: Village

founded by Titus Bronson 1829; Commission Government 1918; City Charter granted 1884; Village incorporated 1838; First newspaper 1835; First Coach 1836, Railroad 1846, Air Mail 1928; First free school 1833; Name Change 1836.



The interior floors and walls are travertine, an Italian marble. Wood trim throughout is oak and walnut. Window sashes and exterior trim are aluminum.



Otto Stauffenberg, a Kalamazoo artist, designed and painted the mural behind the Commission dais which includes the ten commandments in Hebrew and a list of historic lawgivers.



Architects: Weary & Alford

General Contractor: O.F. Miller Company

Heating and Plumbing: Wheeler-Blaney Co.

Electricians: Hinckly & White

Elevator: Warner Elevator

Hardware: Sprague Hardware

Steel Testing: Walter Flood

Insurance: Charles Garrett

Vault Doors: Ihling Bros. Everard Co.

Electric Fixtures: Columbian Electric Co.

Signs: American Sign Co.

Cost of Equipment \$ 35,996.60



ALBERT TEN BUSSCHEN
City Manager
1927-1931

Albert Ten Busschen, a long-time Kalamazoo public servant, observed the pay-as-you-go plan implemented by Kalamazoo's first City Manager, Harry Freeman. Not only did this policy result in a new City Hall without a raise in taxes or issuance of a bond, in 1938 it culminated in Kalamazoo having no bonded indebtedness despite the Great Depression.

