

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FROM JULY 14, 1910 TO MAY 7, 1912.

July 14, 1910

Petition filed with Commissioners requesting they issue Bonds for the construction of a new Courthouse. Board took matter under advisement for study.

July 26, 1910

Resolution introduced and passed to submit the question of issuing \$100,000 in bonds for purpose of construction of new Courthouse at the next general election to be held on November 8, 1910.

November 15, 1910

Canvass of the election held Nov 8, 1901 declared that the question of issuance of Bonds for construction of the Courthouse had carried by the necessary majority.

November 16, 1910

Entered into a contract with Bell, Tyrie & Chapman, Architects of Minneapolis, MN for their architectural services in designing and preparation of plans for new Courthouse, their fee to be 3.5% of total contract.

Passage of Resolution for issuance of \$100,000 in Bonds, \$75,000 in denomination of \$1,000 each, \$25,000 in denomination of \$500 each.

November 21, 1910

Adoption of Resolution directing Auditor to advertise for sale of Bonds, sale to be on December 27, 1910.

Adoption of Resolution directing Auditor to advertise for bid for construction of Courthouse, bid to be opened December 28, 1910.

December 27, 1910

Bonds sold to Union Investment Co. Minneapolis.

December 28, 1910

Bids for construction opened and following awards made:

General Construction: \$93,200

J.B. Nelson Co., Mankato, MN

Heating and Ventilation: \$6,021

Brookings Const. Co, Brookings, SD

(Following revocation of agreement with Martin & Wigman, Green Bay, WI at \$5,200 for failure to sign contract.)

Plumbing: \$3,200

Chas. Wilkins & Co, Minneapolis, MN

Electric: \$1,819

Nimis & Nimis, St. Paul, MN

January 11, 1911

Auditor authorized to advertise for bids to move old Courthouse 100 to 125 feet west so new building can be built on side of old building.

February 15, 1911

Offer received from the City of Brookings to supply steam heat to new building for 10 years at cost of \$1,500 per year, offer rejected.

June 16, 1911

Architects met with the board and submitted a proposal to use natural marble in the building rather than the manufactured marble called for in specifications, substitution called for no additional charge. Substitution approved by the Board.

February 6, 1912

General Contractor agreed with the Commissioners to permit them to occupy that part of the building where construction was completed.

March 13, 1912

Sale made of the old Courthouse, building was dismantled and salvaged.

Originally there was a front driveway to the front door of the Courthouse from the northwest corner of the block to the southwest

General Contractor	93,000.00
Electrical	1,819.00
Heating and Ventilation	6,021.00
Plumbing	3,200.00
Wood Furniture	6,869.55
Steel Counters, Shelving, Etc	5,000.00
Electrical Fixtures	2,500.00
Interior Decorating	3,500.00
Window Shades and Carpet	652.00
Architects Fee	4,296.63

Total Cost \$127,058.18



COURTHOUSE HISTORICAL INFORMATION

*Progressive people working
together to provide fair,
accessible, responsive service.*



**BROOKINGS COUNTY
COURTHOUSE**

314 6th Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
www.brookingscountysd.gov

BROOKINGS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The first courthouse was a wooden structure built in 1883. It served until a new one was built in 1912. The original building was sold and dismantled.

The present building was constructed by the J.B. Nelson Construction Company and designed by Architects C.E. Bell, Tyrie and Chapman. It was completed and furnished for slightly over \$127,000.

Built in the middle of the block, with the courthouse square concept, the courthouse is representative of early Twentieth Century Renaissance Revival architecture, a regionally popular style in the early 1900's for public buildings.

COURTHOUSE EXTERIOR

The exterior of the courthouse is limestone, a popular building material. Symmetrical bays and window arrangements define this simple, yet elegant structure with subtle classic detailing. Classic dentil moldings under a heavy, overhanging cornice lend to its beauty.



The front entrance of the Courthouse showcases the architecture style popular in the early 1900's.

The architectural highlight of the building is the cupola with four ornate windows. The courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 12, 1976.

COURTHOUSE INTERIOR

The interior of the building has undergone several phases of remodeling to adapt offices to a more modern



The Courthouse is decorated with the beauty of natural materials such as marble, oak, and terrazzo.

office design. However, county officials through the years have always taken care to preserve and maintain the integrity of the interior, including the marble, oak, and terrazzo used throughout the building.

Of particular interest are the murals seen throughout the building. The scenes portrayed on the first and second floor hallway walls

were painted by Oscar Lee, a Brookings county resident, in the 1950's. The murals inside the dome above the third floor rotunda were painted and installed in 1912 as part of the original construction. They were painted by Axel Soderberg, a Norwegian immigrant for the Oden J Oyen Company of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The Oyen Company was awarded the interior-decorating contract for \$3,500.

The four murals depicting Obedience, Reverence, Liberty and Justice crown the rotunda of the 3rd floor courtroom area of the building. The Courtroom has maintained its historic character with the refurbishing of the gold trim, plaster work and the glow of oak benches, railings, jury box and judges bench.

In 1996 an extension was added to the east entrance in order to provide an elevator to all the floors and bring the building into compliance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act. Special care was taken by architects Banner and Associates to Construct the addition so that it would blend with the historic structure. Precast cement and modern building materials were used to compliment the limestone. At the same time the 1912 structure was cleaned to remove decades of smoke and dirt



This mural in the dome of the 3rd floor rotunda depicts Reverence. It is located outside the main courtroom.

that had stained the limestone. Modern use of glass and space combined with the older materials oak and terrazzo present a pleasing modern addition to a historic building for a cost of approximately \$890,000.

The significant murals in the dome had also deteriorated significantly over the years. They were stained, yellowed and some holes had appeared as they began to pull away from the dome they were affixed to. During the 1996 construction period they were removed, restored, and repositioned by the Rocky Mountain Conservation Center at a cost of \$115,000. This action will allow future generations to enjoy the colors and fine figures of these works of art from a different era. They have been compared favorably to the quality of the murals present in the SD Capitol in Pierre.