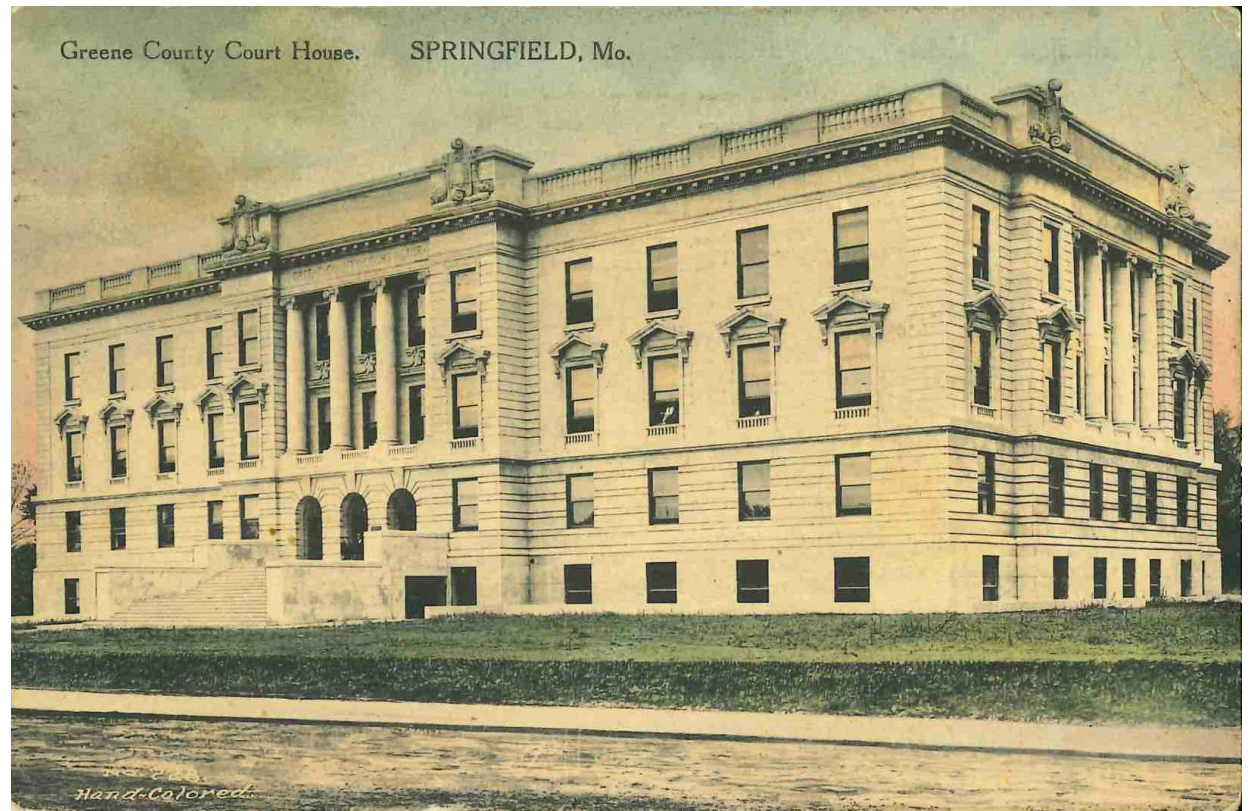


Building Archeology. . .

Historic
Greene County
Courthouse
Research

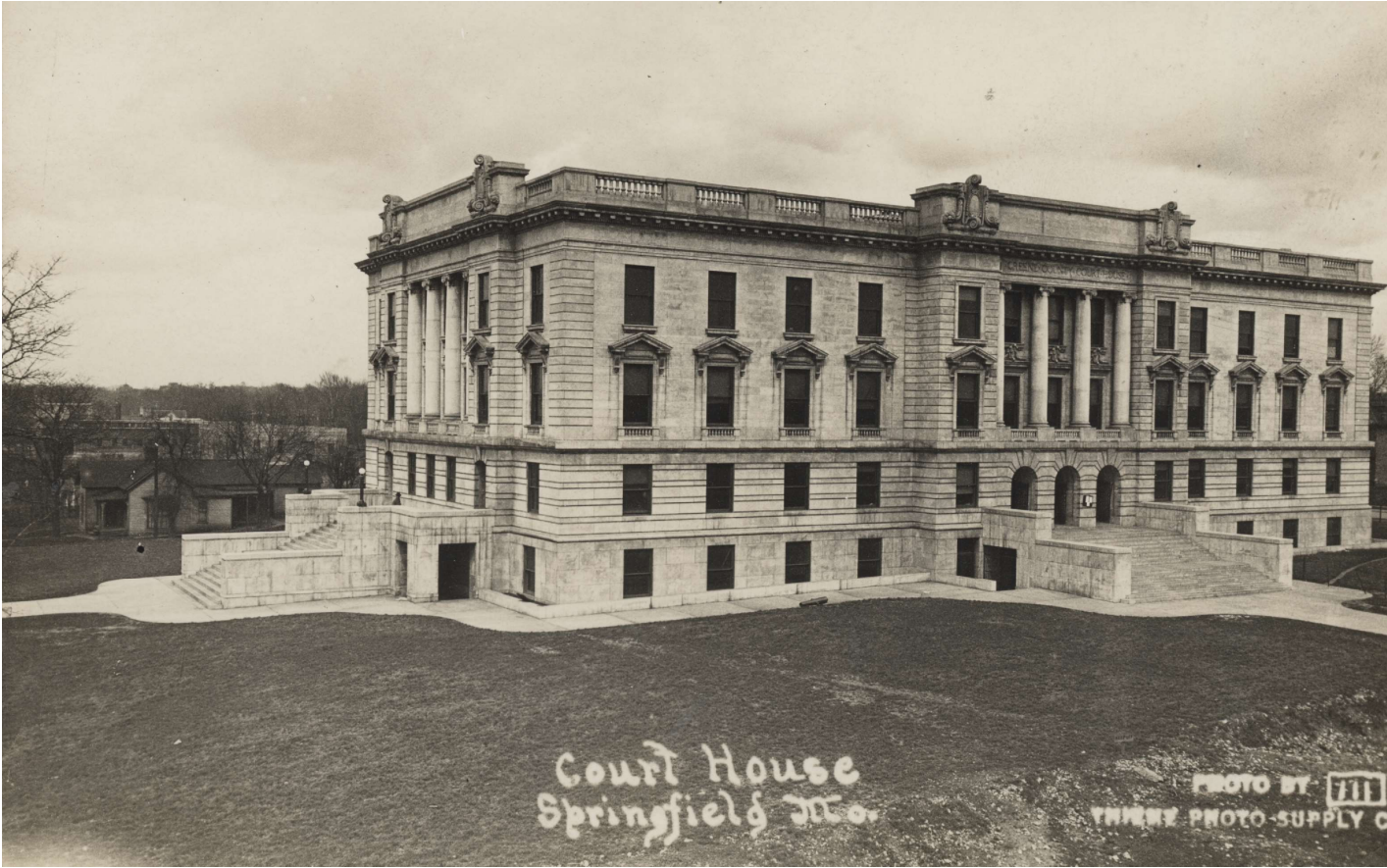
Paden L. Chambers, AAIA

N·FORM ARCHITECTURE



Fred Harvey Postcard – 1915 – Private Collection

Original
Drawings
or Blueprints?



Greene County Courthouse – 1915 – Greene County Archives



Archibald N. Torbitt

Born Mexico Missouri -1883

Educated International
Correspondence School

Joined Miller & Open in 1906

Left Springfield in 1918 to join
H.H. Hohenschild of St. Louis

Retired to Seattle, WA before
passing away in 1958.

THE
OZARK COUNTRY

Architectural Record of Miller, Opel & Torbitt Architects

SOME persons pride themselves on their pedigree, others upon their good looks and style; but as we have neither of the above virtues to boast of, we will ask you to look at our record as architects in your city alone, all of which was made in three short years:

Altechul Bros. Store and Office Building	Greene County Court House
Drury College Gymnasium	Christian Church
Drury College Central Heating Plant	St. Agnes Catholic Church
Drury College Classical Hall	Springfield Missouri Republican Building
The Landers Theatre	Model School State Normal

THE above work will aggregate \$700,000.00, and by adding the score or more of residences planned for your citizens, besides the much remodeling and reconstruction work, will easily reach the \$1,000,000.00 mark. A very good record for a three-year-old office, you will agree. Our Springfield office, besides planning and attending to the construction of the above work, has found time to lend a helping hand to the Kansas City, and Jefferson City offices, this, of course, has kept us quite busy, and the people like our work. If you want busy architects to do your work ask for us. We can please you in style, in price, and arrangements. We can deliver the goods. Try us.

MILLER, OPEL & TORBITT
PHONE 2370 REPUBLICAN BUILDING SPRINGFIELD, MO.

Springfield Missouri Republican – February 3, 1911



From the Darkroom Springfield Historic Newspaper Photo Archive

<https://digitalarchive.thelibrary.org/digital/collection/darkroom>







DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Springfield-Greene County Library District
Springfield, Missouri



Advanced Search

FROM THE DARKROOM

Digital Archive	Local History Home	Contact Us	Donate
Go to page <input type="text"/> >			
<p>Show All</p> <p>Cancel Update</p>	 <p>Harper, Virgie - May 28, 1959</p> <p>From the Darkroom - Springfield's Historic Newspaper Photographs</p>		
Year			
1956 (44)			
1954 (40)			
1961 (35)			
1950 (20)			
1959 (20)			
1960 (19)			
1953 (15)			
1952 (14)			
1983 (11)			
1955 (8)			
Show More			
County			
greene county (mo.) (269)			
christian county (mo.) (4)			
lawrence county (mo.) (4)			
camden county (mo.) (3)			
dade county (mo.) (2)			
 <p>Wood Trial - ca. October 24, 1956</p> <p>From the Darkroom - Springfield's Historic Newspaper Photographs</p>			
 <p>Wood Trial - October 26, 1956</p> <p>From the Darkroom - Springfield's Historic Newspaper Photographs</p>			
 <p>Wood Trial - ca. October 24, 1956</p> <p>From the Darkroom - Springfield's Historic Newspaper Photographs</p>			



Board of Equalization
1st Floor Corridor
Springfield News Leader
July 9, 1956



County Zoning Board
1st Floor Commission Chambers
Springfield News Leader
November 7, 1950



Eldon Bagwell Trial
3rd Floor Corridor
Springfield News Leader
June 2, 1950

The original courthouse designs called for a wainscoting of four feet of the gray Vermont marble of the quality used in the finishing of the stairs, in the corridors of the three stories, and as this marble costs \$1 per square foot, it would cost many thousands of dollars to add this item.

The Springfield Leader – November 22, 1912

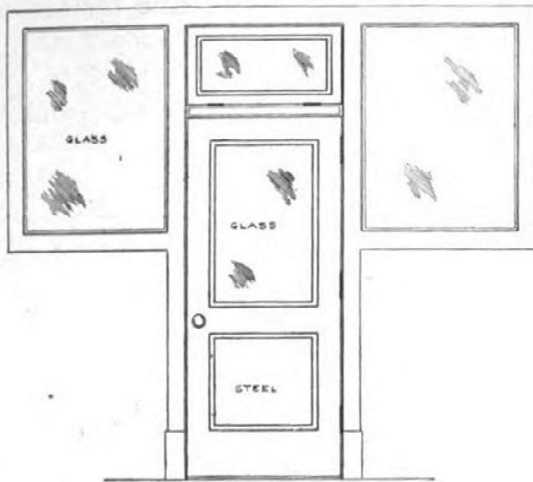


Thomas Hurd Trial
3rd Floor Restrooms
Springfield News Leader
March 1, 1950

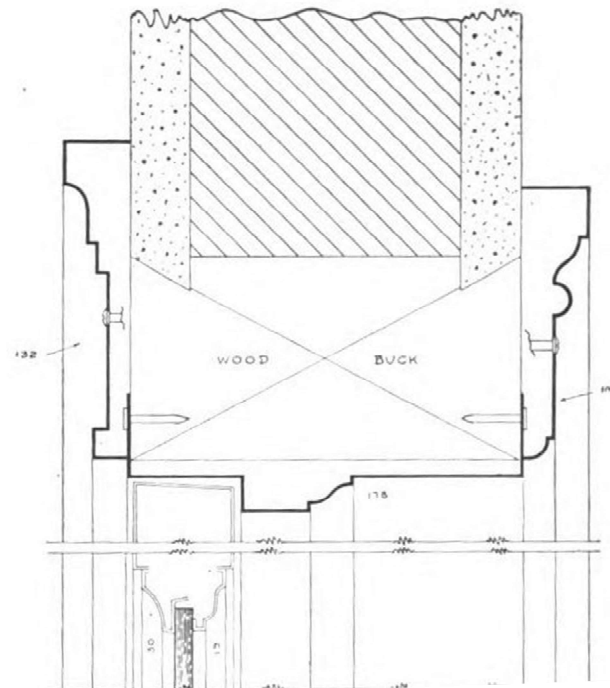
One of the changes order yesterday by the county court is the substitution of metal doors for metal covered doors. The plans called for the metal covered doors, but it was decided that with these in use the danger of fire spreading from one room to another was much greater, and that they would not stay in repair for a long term of years.

The Springfield Leader – November 23, 1911



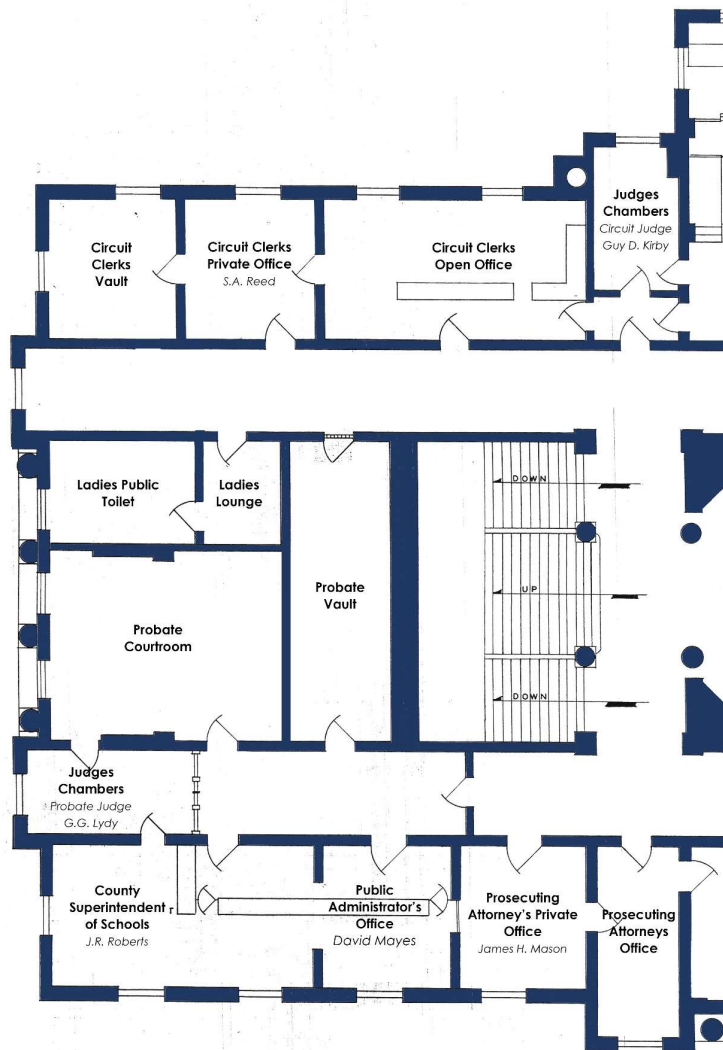


ELEVATION - ROOM SIDE TYPICAL CORRIDOR DOOR



- | BUILDING AND LOCATION | ARCHITECT |
|---|----------------------------|
| Waldheim Building, Kansas City, Mo. | D. H. Burnham & Co. |
| Rice Hotel, Houston, Tex. | Mauran, Russell & Crowell |
| Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Office Building, Topeka, Kan. | Root & Sirmens |
| Skirvin Hotel, Oklahoma City, Okla. | Layton & Smith |
| Nueces Hotel, Corpus Christi, Tex. | C. D. Hill & Co. |
| Merrick County Court House, Central City, Neb. | W. F. Gernandt |
| Emmett Building, New York, N. Y. | Barney & Colt |
| Clinton Building, Tulsa, Okla. | J. P. Curtin |
| Green Co. Court House, Springfield, Mo. | Miller, Opel & Torbitt |
| First National Bank, Pittsburgh, Pa. | D. H. Burnham & Co. |
| Grand Ave. Temple, Kansas City, Mo. | John W. McKeeknie |
| Southern Pacific Headquarters, Houston, Tex. | Jarvis Hunt |
| Isolation Hospital, Kansas City, Mo. | F. C. Gunn |
| | Monarch Building & Blauden |

Monarch Metal Manufacturing Co.
 Metal Door and Window Advertisement -1913
 Sweets Catalogue of Building Construction



Prosecuting Attorney James H Mason is to occupy a suite of two rooms one 17 feet square and the other 10 by 20, directly west of the grand jury room.

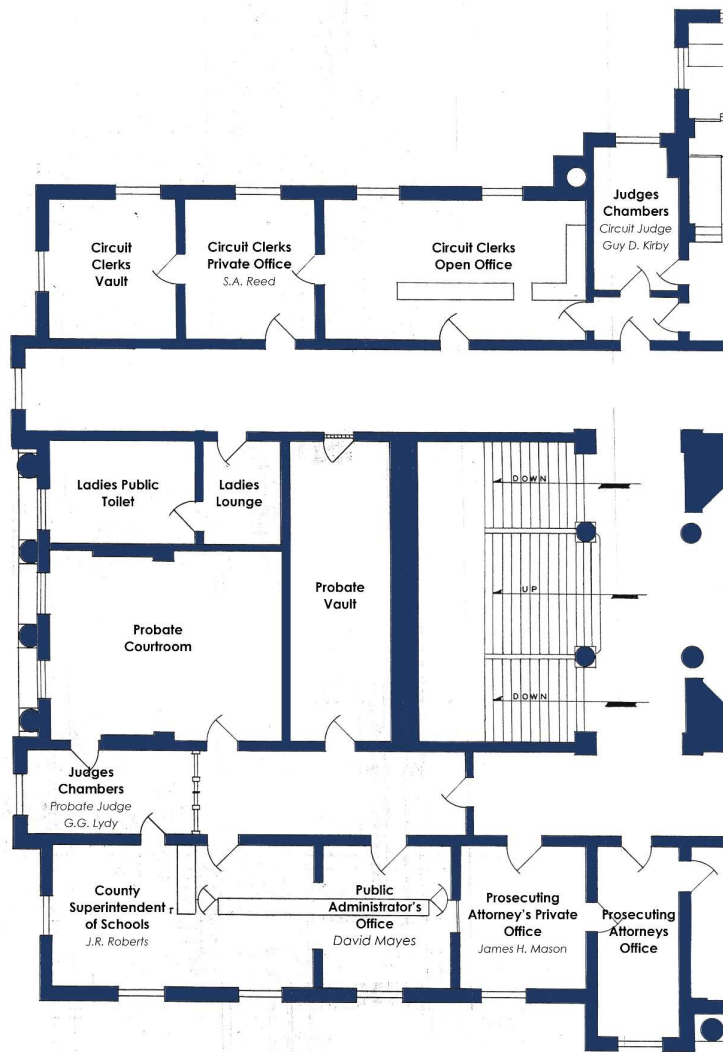
Then west of this suite is the office of the **Public Administrator, David Mayes**, which is 17 feet square.

This connects with a larger room on the west 23 feet long and 17 feet wide to be used by **County Superintendent of Schools J.R. Roberts**. This room was originally designed for the probate court, but the plans later changed to allow light to penetrate the corridor.

Beginning at the southwest corner and starting across the west end of the second floor one comes to a small private office of **Probate Judge G.G. Lydy**, which occupies the west end of the corridor.

The office is partitioned off, but this partition will be of translucent glass through which light will enter from the hallway. The office is 10 by 15 feet in size.

-Springfield Leader and Press
Saturday, March 16, 1912

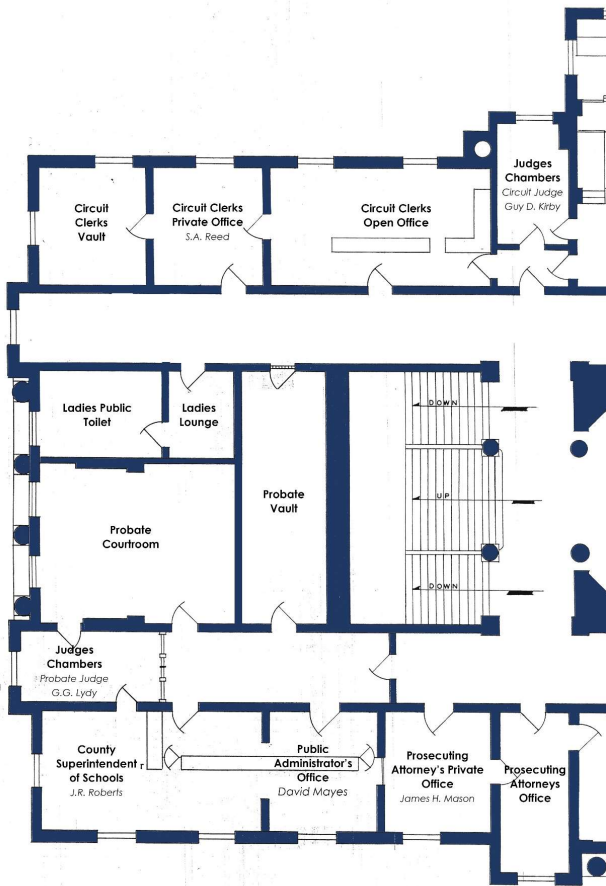


North of this is the **Probate Court Room**, 30 feet long and 25 feet wide, east of which is a vault, 12 by 30 provided with a metal door. Between this and the northwest corner of the building are two rooms, to be used as a ladies restroom and toilet.

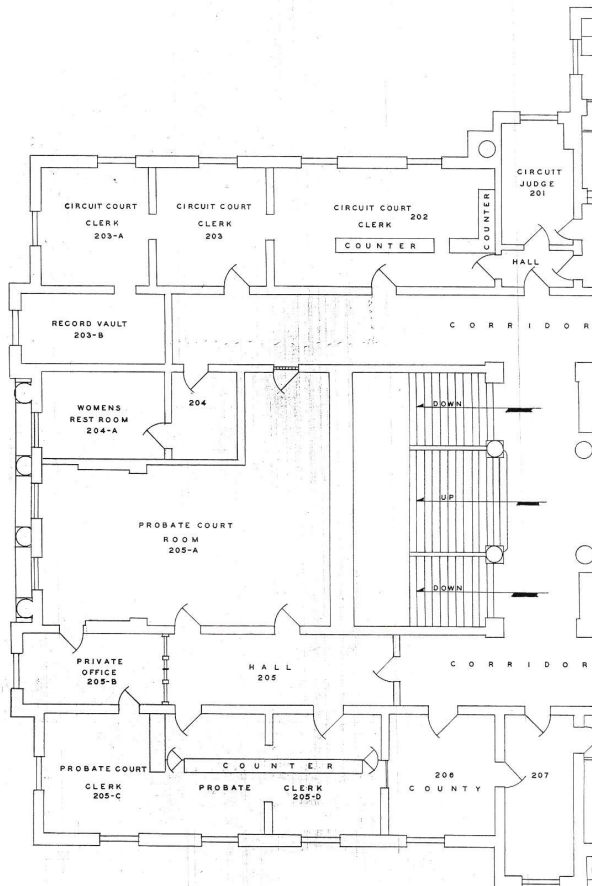
The vault of **Circuit Clerk S.A. Reed** 17 feet square, occupies the northwest corner. East of this, along the north side of the building, is another office of the circuit clerk, 17 feet square. This connects on the east with the clerks main office, 33 feet long by 17 feet wide.

The private chambers of **Judge Guy D. Kirby** of Division No. 1 of the circuit court will be located east of the circuit clerk in a room 18 feet long and 10 feet wide.

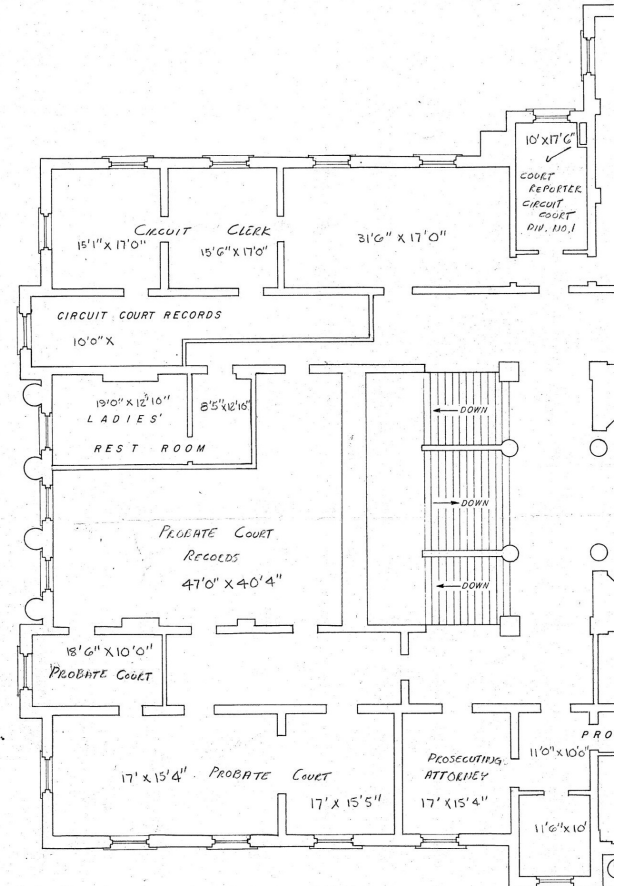
-Springfield Leader and Press
Saturday, March 16, 1912



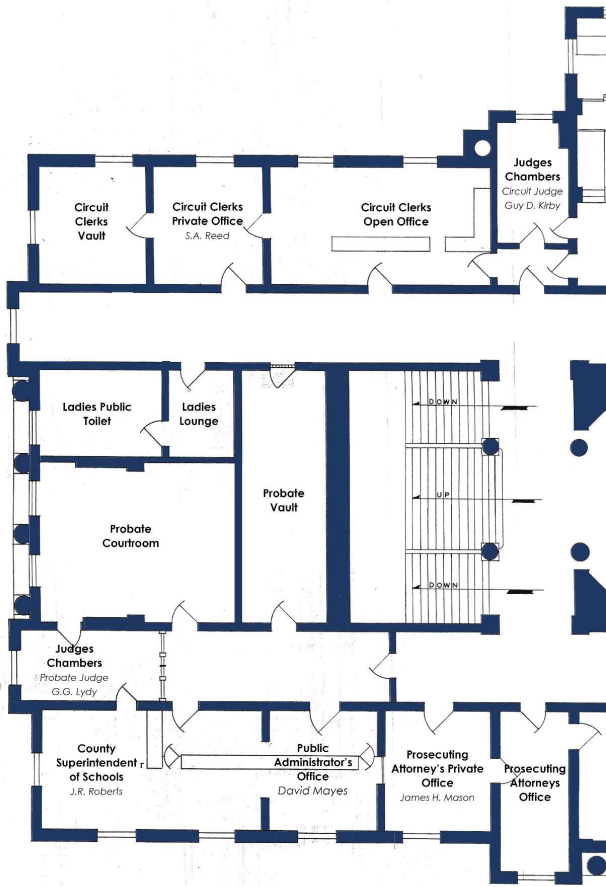
1912



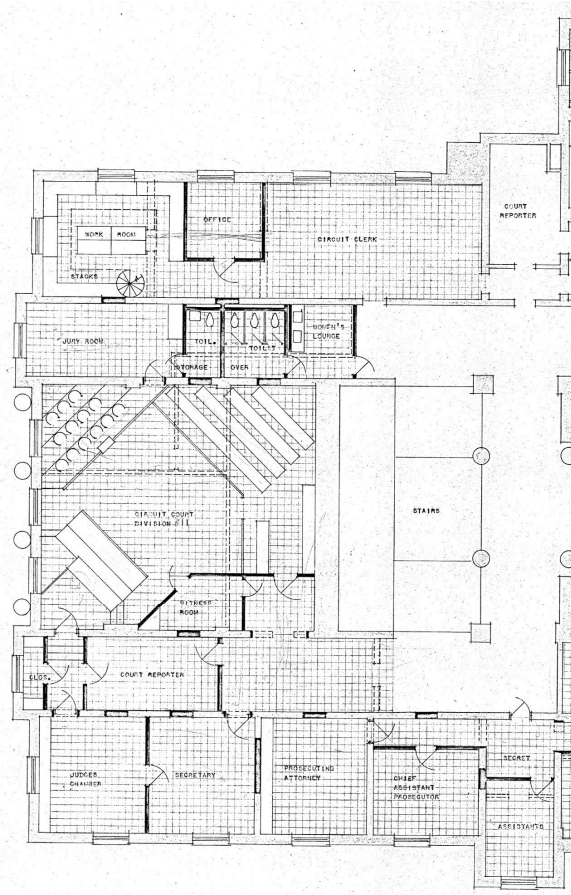
1939



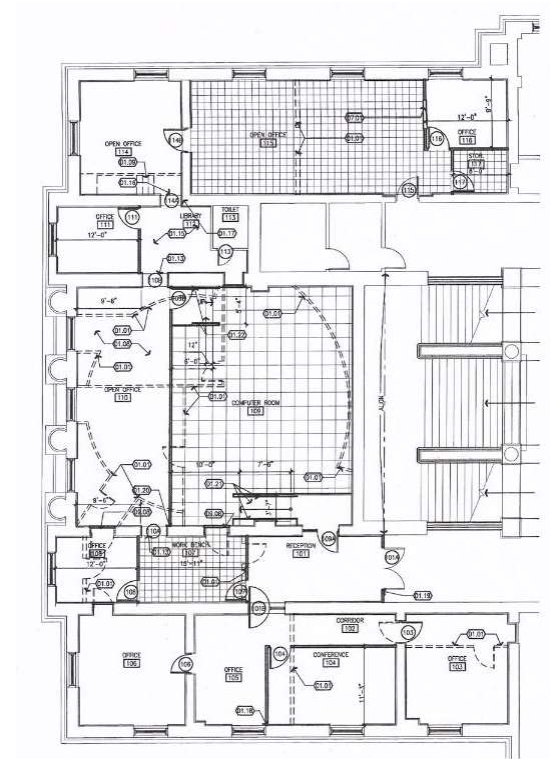
1964



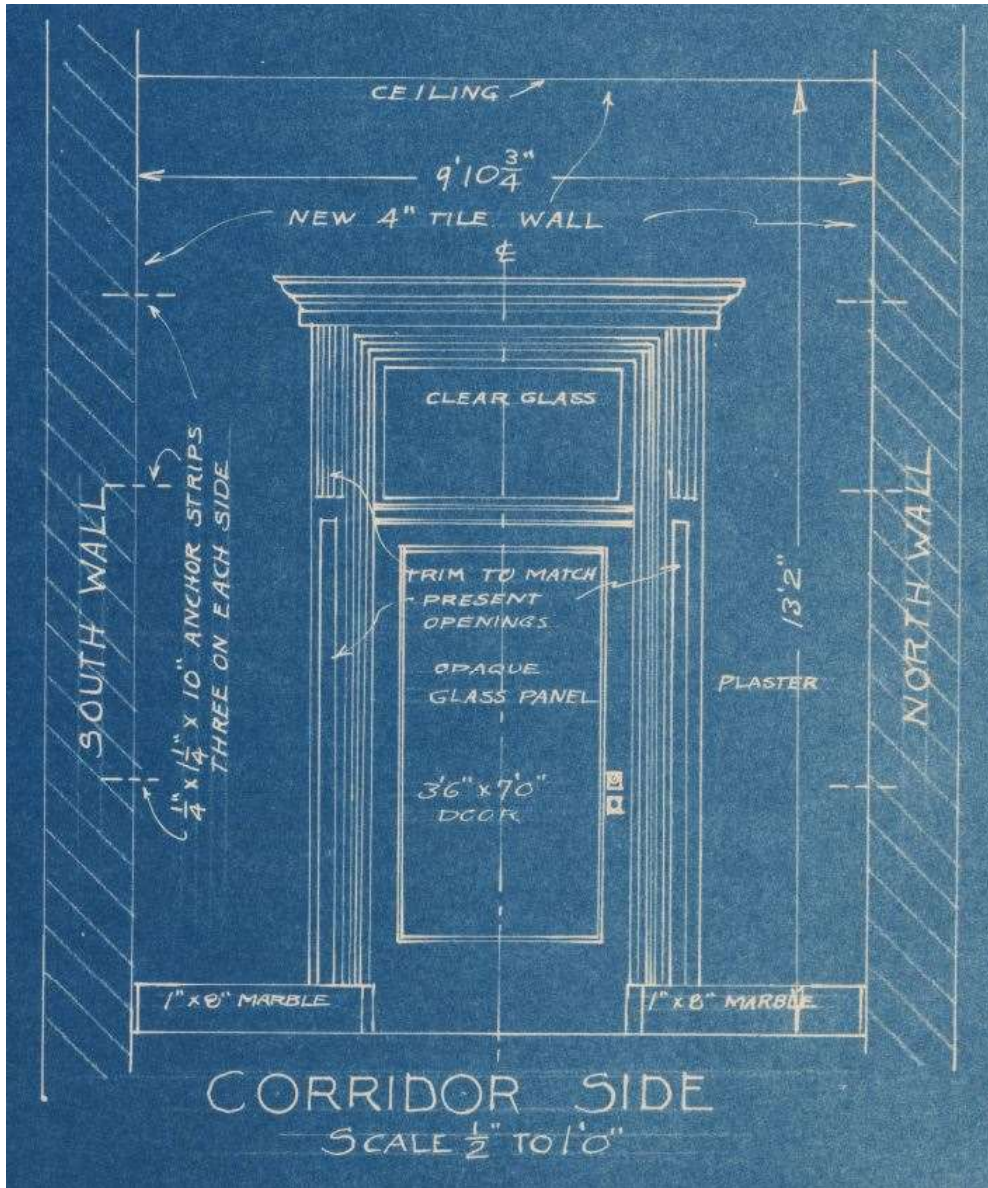
1912



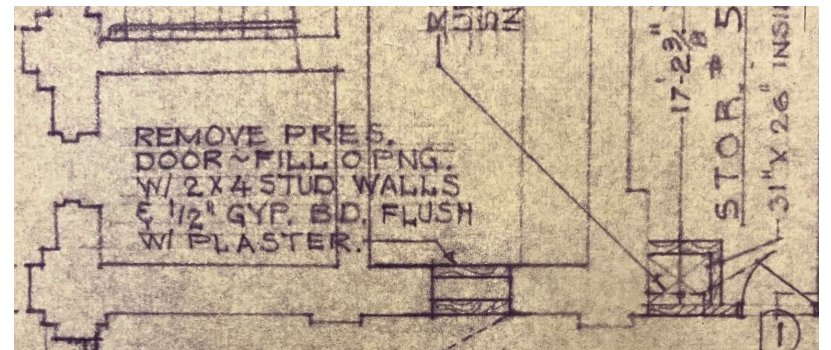
1972



2002



Existing door trim above ceiling plenum - 2023



1972 Courthouse renovation door infill drawings (above).

1936 WPA interior renovation drawings (left).

Perched on a platform in line with the third story of the court house building, just over the grand entrance on the north side, a workman has been operating drills for three weeks on projecting blocks of stone, cutting the three cartouche ornaments which will give the finishing touch to that entrance. The ornaments are large and will require several weeks more time to complete them.

*-The Springfield News-Leader
Tuesday, May 7, 1912*



*Electrically driven compression drills are driving the chisels, which under the direction of **C.M. Burgland**, are giving the form of an unrolled scroll to the blocks of Phoenix stone. Burgland is considered an expert at stone carving, and will do all the finer grades of this kind of work on the new court house.*

*-The Springfield News-Leader
Tuesday, May 7, 1912*

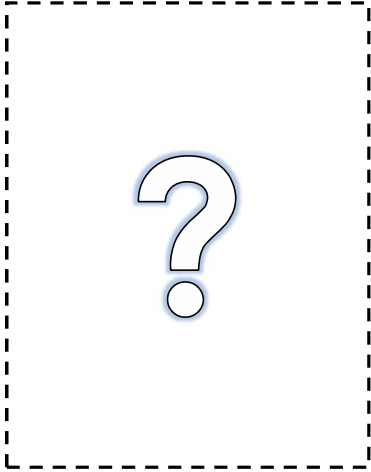




Parapet Removal – 1973 – Photo by Betty Love



Parapet Cornucopia Fragment



Conrad Martin Berglund

A native of Stockholm Sweden born in 1871 trained in woodworking and work in marble, clay, stone and oil painting.

Arrived in the United States in 1891 and later Tulsa, OK passing away in 1947.

Major work across the United States and Europe.



(above left) Pawnee County Courthouse relief – 1932
-Steven Price Photo

(above right) Pawnee County Courthouse entry lintel – 1932 – Steven Price Photo

(left) Pawnee County Courthouse relief – 1932 – Steven Price Photo