

Fremont County Centennial
March 4, 1993

Fremont County was born on March 4, 1893. The building of this structure began in April 1909. The land that this building is sitting on was donated by St. Anthony, which at that time was approximated at \$10,000.00 value. The people of the city raised \$30,000.00 more to help towards the construction of this building.

When Fremont County was created, it consisted of everything north of Idaho Falls. This county originated from part of what is the northern part of Bingham County..taking in Jefferson County, Madison County, Clark County and Teton County. When Fremont County was created, it became a question where to locate the county seat. It was agreed that St. Anthony should be the county seat, but that Rexburg should have the offices. This was to go on for 5 years and then a vote was to be taken requiring 2/3 majority to establish the county seat. It was voted that St. Anthony be the county seat.

Until the Courthouse was built-for approximately 16 years- the County office was held in the building that at one time was the Wardrobe Cleaners which is now Nels Sahls office. (The office just to the east of the Courthouse right on the corner.)

Miss Gusta Fletcher became the first school superintendent. Mr. Moore and Mr. Fuller taught school in the old school house which is now known as the VFW hall right across the street from the front door of the Courthouse. Where the Jr. High school sits now, was a 4 room rock school house which at that time was plenty of room for all the students.

In 1903, a bill was introduced that brought the State Industrial Training school here which we now call the Youth Services Center.

Upstairs: The beautiful wooden stairs that lead up to the top floor of the Courthouse were replaced when some remodeling took place in 1993. The reason being is that the stairs were gradually rotting away. They have been done exquisitely to still maintain the beauty of the wood throughout the Courthouse. The impressive skylight was also redone. The colored glass kind of tells a story in itself. The dome of the building is just above the stained glass skylight. At night the lights around this dome tell everyone where the Courthouse is located and adds a little beauty to the town.

The Court room has been redone also, but the beauty of the wood, the old Judges desk still remain part of the old building. The tiny room to the back of the Courtroom used to be where all the evidence was held.

The room that is now the Ag Agents room used to be a storage room for school supplies. The Home Economist Office at one time was the School Superintendents office and also the Ration Office. The door between the Home Economist room and the Red Room, used to be the Selective Service room. The Red Room was once the City Clerks office. Until the City Building was built, this Courthouse also took care of the city matters as well as the county affairs.

The Magistrate Office, the hall for the elevator access and the Judges office, at one time used to be where the Public Library used to be.

There are two rooms off from the Courtroom that are the Judges chambers and also the Jury room.

What an honor to be an employee of Fremont County and to be a part of the history of our County. The Centennial year was a fun one for all of us. We will not forget it. Our journey will just continue and the history of this county will be unceasing.....

Where the kitchen is many years ago used to be a stairway. Because of the old jail being directly below this room, this stairway was used to bring the prisoners up from down stairs to the courtroom just above here. In the corner of the kitchen, used to be a "dumb waiter". This was a platform that was pulled up and down by a pulley. This had the prisoners food on it and it would either go up or down with the food on it. The stairs led clear to the top of the courthouse up to the dome. As you enter the Courtroom upstairs, to the left, you will see a door and inside that door some of those stairs still exist.

The little room just off from the Commissioners room use to be the Magistrate Clerk's office. She would take care of the Court appointments and handle the money for fines, etc. Her office is now upstairs next to the Magistrate Court Judges office.

The Commissioners room has always been the Commissioners room.

The EMS Director's office and the Welfare office was at one time the Judges office. Small hearings were held in the larger room and the smaller room were the Judges chambers. This office also has a large safe in it that cannot be moved.

The beautiful mosiac flooring is original. Although some changes have been made to upgrade the Courthouse, the overall structure of the Courthouse has been preserved as best it can be. The beautiful wood work just adds to the historical beauty of this building.

The St. Anthony Work Camp inmates came in 1993 to help redo some of the deterioration of the building. They had alot of pride in what they did and we feel that they did a beautiful job.

The elevator to the east side of the building is the only thing added to the Courthouse. This had to be done to meet with the law to allow the handicapped access to the building. That project was completed around October 1990.