

# Auglaize County Courthouse Re-Dedication

September 16, 2012  
Wapakoneta, Ohio



*Great Past - Greater Future*

## Occupants

### Lower Level

Clerk of Courts, Public Defender,  
Adult Probation, Security

### 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Juvenile Court, Domestic Relations,  
Juvenile Probation, and Probate

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

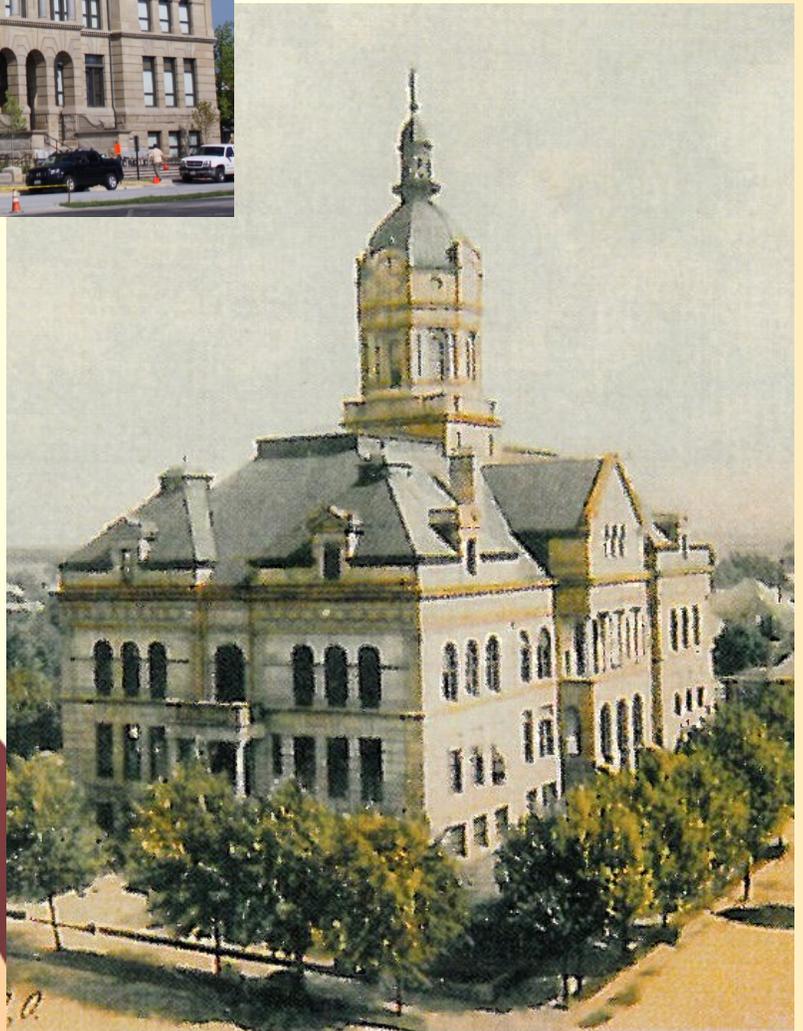
Court of Common Pleas  
& Municipal Court

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Prosecutor's Office

### 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Law Library



# Auglaize County Commissioners

Just as this courthouse replaced the first courthouse because of space requirements fueled by growth in the county, the renovation and rededication of this building is fueled by the need to operate by more efficient standards and delivery of services.

In the early days, the power plant provided electricity for the courthouse and also housed the two coal-fired boilers used to heat the courthouse until January 2011 when the renovation started. The boilers were thought to have been the oldest operating coal fired boilers east of the Mississippi River. The boilers were replaced with a water source heat pump which will allow for heating and cooling for each individual office as opposed to one heating thermostat for the entire courthouse. Previously, cooling was provided to “areas” of the courthouse by individual cooling units.

The building utilizes modern and energy efficient lighting while displaying several original gas/electric combination fixtures on the second floor. The lighting has been vastly improved to provide for a better environment for the staff and public.

While the integrity of the building has been maintained, it has been enhanced with the addition of office space on the ground floor and newly created office space on the third and fourth floors along with storage space and a mechanical room.

This courthouse is home for many public records. As society moves towards paperless record keeping, one can be assured that the courthouse sports the latest in available technology in order to be ready for future changes in the way county government delivers services to and for the public.



Commissioners Don Regula, Doug Spencer, John Bergman

# Auglaize County Elected Officials



- 1st row: Clerk of Courts Jean Meckstroth, Auditor Janet Schuler, Recorder Chris Lambert, Treasurer April Bowersock
- 2nd row: Coroner Dr. Tom Freytag, Judge Mark Spees, Judge Fred Pepple, Judge Gary Herman, Commissioner Doug Spencer
- 3rd row: Sheriff Al Solomon, Commissioner Don Regula, County Engineer Doug Reinhart, Prosecutor Ed Pierce, Commissioner John Berg

# Scope of Work

The challenge was to convert a 117 year old building into a modern, functional, secure facility for the courts of Auglaize County while preserving the building's historic architectural features. This would take a team of architects, engineers, technicians, preservationist and artisans working and planning in complete coordination to complete the task.

To begin, a secure, single, handicapped accessible entrance to the courthouse was designed that would separate the public from the prisoners. Two semi-circular entrance ramps were constructed using material and design to historically blend with the current structure.

The courthouse lower level had deteriorated over the years from moisture seeping through the walls. The solution was to replace the entire floor, improve the drainage around the footers and damp proofing the walls. Probate, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court was moved from this level to a new courtroom on the first floor. The four exterior doors to the courthouse lobby were restored back to their original glory. The four murals in the lobby were cleaned and colors enhanced.

On the second floor the Law Library was relocated which provided space to double the size of the Municipal Courtroom making it the exact same size as the Common Pleas Courtroom. This also revealed the Civil War mural which was hidden from view by a partition. Both courtrooms contain their original benches, bailiff desk and witness stand. Some of the original railing was found and reinstalled.

In the main hall, original colors, border designs and decorative elements were identified for the interior restoration. The original stain glass skylight enclosure was renewed, vented and back lighted to display its beauty.

For 117 years, the third floor was an unoccupied attic. This space was renovated into two floors. The third floor houses the Prosecuting Attorney's new offices. The new fourth floor holds the Law Library, mechanical, electrical and data systems with a fire suppression system added. In all, 8,000 sq ft of useable floor space was added to the building. This provided space for additional offices, conference rooms, restrooms, prisoner holding rooms, and storage.

The entire electrical system was replaced and an emergency generator installed to backup essential equipment. All new lighting was added except for second floor chandeliers which were rewired for LED bulbs. The entire building is now monitored by fire alarm equipment and security cameras throughout the building and courtrooms. An extensive update in technology was required. A live feed allows prisoners to be arraigned from the jail. The jury boxes have recessing monitors that can be raised to show video to the jurors. Probably the most dramatic renovation included all new heating and cooling systems. The original 22,000 lb coal fired boiler was replaced by a highly efficient 375 lb. gas boiler and heat pumps.

GARMANN/MILLER & ASSOCIATES , Architects/Engineers

SHELL & MEYER Associates, Structural Engineer

PETERSON CONSTRUCTION, General Contractor

JMC MECHANICAL, Plumbing Contractor

KOESTER ELECTRIC, Electric Contractor

PERFECTION GROUP, HVAC Contractor

Original 22,000 lb courthouse boiler



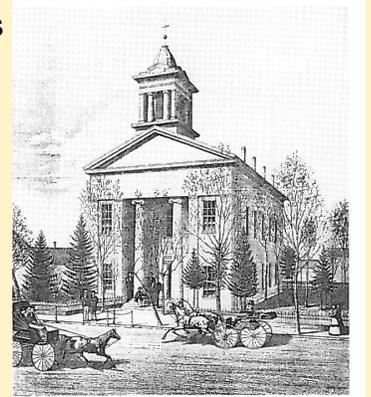
New 375 lb. courthouse boiler

# Original Construction

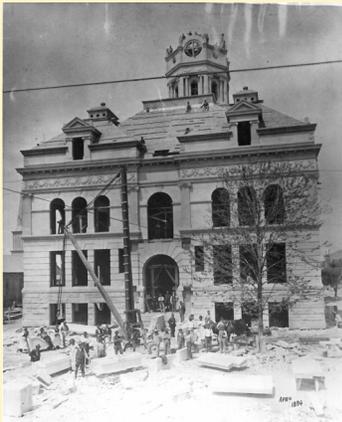
The existing courthouse was constructed in 1894 at a cost of \$259,481.21 (\$7,260,000 in today's dollars) The building was designed by the Columbus based architectural firm of Kremer and Hart. This was the third site to serve as the Auglaize County Courthouse.

Initially, the county rented a house for its offices. When court was in session, it would rent the Methodist church. The first building constructed as the county courthouse was built in 1851 on three lots at the southwest corner of Blackhoof and Mechanic Streets. The county jail was built to the south on adjoining lots.

Auglaize County prospered in the years following. As the county grew so did the needs of government and a larger courthouse was needed. There was concern about fire possibly destroying the structure and all the county records. In 1893, the Ohio Legislature passed a bill ordering the Commissioners to issue bonds for the construction of a new courthouse. After some controversy, the present site was selected in the downtown area.



Original Auglaize County Courthouse.



The present multi-story building was constructed of Berea Limestone with a metal roof and a prominent clock tower. Its interior included marbleized columns and banisters, brass railings, original benches, tile wainscoting, murals, stained glass skylights, telephone booth and light fixture. The Statue of Justice was constructed by the famous W.H. Mullins Company of Salem. The 1500 pound statue was hoisted to the top of the newly complete courthouse on May 9, 1894.

## 100th Anniversary & Previous Renovations

On July 7, 1994, the County Commissioners hosted a large reception on the Courthouse lawn to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the courthouse. A time capsule from the original construction was opened. Its contents contained copies of regional newspapers of the era.



Prior renovations to the courthouse and grounds included a new copper dome, replacement of exterior windows, suspended ceilings, installation of an elevator, refurbishing the glazed sidewalk tile surrounding the exterior and adding a parking lot to the east. The Disabled American Veterans Memorial in the lawn was dedicated in 1959.



# Copper Lady Project

For 59 years the Statue of Justice stood atop the courthouse clock tower. Weathering had taken its toll and the statue deteriorated. In 1953 the statue was removed. The head, left arm and right hand with sword were stored in the courthouse

In 1978, Eagle scout, John Rickert, raises funds to restore the copper finish on Lady Justice's head and constructed a case for its display in the lobby of the Courthouse.

As the centennial of the Courthouse approached in 1994, the Auglaize County Historical Society lead a project to restore the statue to full size. A campaign known as "Copper Pennies for the Copper Lady", was a countywide fund drive involving more than 3400 students. Students collected 453,589 pennies to assist the total restoration cost of \$28,000. Additional fundraising helped support the cost of restoration

LepoWorks of Lima, Ohio completed the restoration. The original head, hand and arm were reattached to the reconstructed statue. The 'new' statue was finished to a bright copper luster. A wooded pedestal for the statue was crafted and donated by Hoge Lumber Company of New Knoxville. The statue was rededicated during the Courthouse Centennial celebration and put on display in the first floor hall of the courthouse.



## Civil War Mural

### Pickett's Charge

Hidden behind the walls of the Municipal Court sometime in the early 1960's, was a large mural of Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War. The 12' x 6' mural has been restored and is now fully visible in the Municipal Courtroom.

The mural was originally painted by a German immigrant, Herman Dinkler of Kettlersville. Dinkler was asked to come to the U.S. in 1924 to do fresco paintings in the St. Johns United Church of Christ in Dayton. Dinkler also painted interiors and murals in the Lima and Dayton areas. The courtroom painting is thought to have been painted during the 1920's or 30's.

Michael Blanck of Blanck Studios in Wisconsin completed the restoration of the Battle Scene mural. His restoration has made the mural brighter and vibrant. Blanck also designed and painted the borders in various rooms of the courthouse and tower.



# Highlights of 2012 Renovations



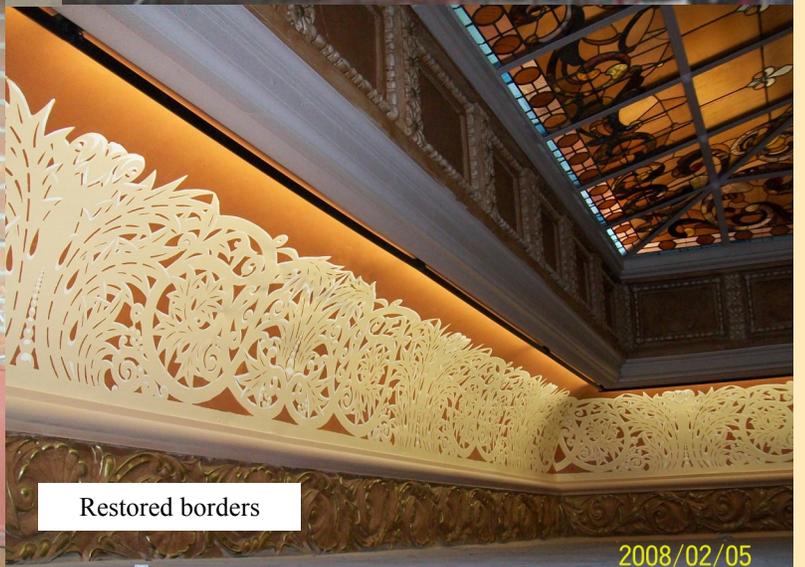
New state of the art HVAC System



Staging platform for 3rd & 4th floor material



4th floor added.



Restored borders

2008/02/05



Municipal Courtroom with Civil War Mural uncovered and restored.

# Highlights of 2012 Renovations



Juvenile Domestic Relations,  
and Probate Courtroom



Municipal Courtroom stained glass

## COURTHOUSE RENOVATION COSTS

General Contractor	\$ 3,307,624
Electrical	1,305,335
HVAC	1,219,799
Furniture	529,599
Painting	506,000
Millwork	432,467
Plumbing	382,365
Architect	358,994
Fire Suppression	204,647
Stained Glass	154,904
Access points, switches, monitors	62,135
Cameras	51,383
Audio & video	42,884
Asbestos removal	35,640

## FUNDING

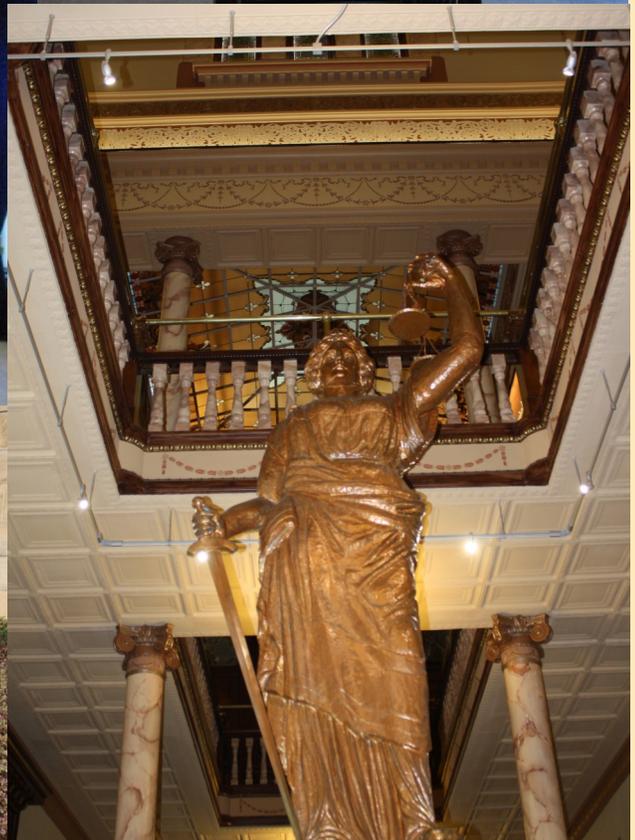
\$1.3 million- American Recovery & Reinvestment Act  
\$7.3 million-County Permanent Improvement Fund  
supported by the County Sales Tax



Municipal Courtroom



Common Pleas Courtroom





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# RESTORATION CONTRACTORS

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## Blanck Studio of Art, LLC

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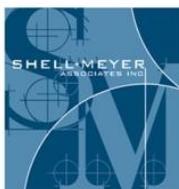
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CONSTRUCTION COMPANY  
Congratulations to "The Copper Lady"  
Westerheide Construction is proud to have been part of the Courthouse renovation.

**Congratulations to Auglaize County for this great restoration project!**

This commemorative brochure and its contents were produced by the Wapakoneta Area Chamber of Commerce