

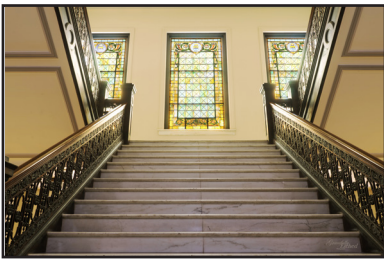
Centennial Celebration Self-Guided Tour Card



On July 4, 1917, the Weld County Courthouse opened its doors with great fanfare and celebration. Built in just two years, Weld County paid cash for the building, including furnishings, at a total cost of \$414,302.05. This was likely Weld County's first debt-free infrastructure project.

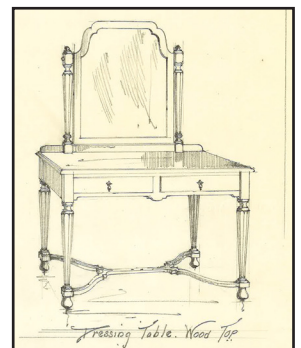
Primarily built of limestone and Colorado marble (and deemed "absolutely fireproof"), the courthouse was designed by William N. Bowman, a renowned Colorado architect, in the Classical Revival style of architecture. This is visible in the columns at the front of the building, which symbolize individuals and how they must work together to carry the weight of the "structure" of government. To learn more about the building's history and architecture, follow along floor-by-floor on your self-guided tour of "The Jewel of the Plains."

First Floor



If you enter the building through the 650-pound bronze doors at the east entrance, you'll notice the beautiful marble flooring mined from Marble, CO (this mine also provided the marble for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.) as you ascend the stairs to the second floor. If you enter the building from the west, you'll be on the first floor, which features handcrafted black and white hexagonal tile floors with equilateral cross designs whose origins trace back at least 11,000 years and have been used as both a religious symbol and a symbol for luck. Use of this symbol, referred to by some Native American tribes as Whirling Logs, was popular in architectural designs in the early 20th century.

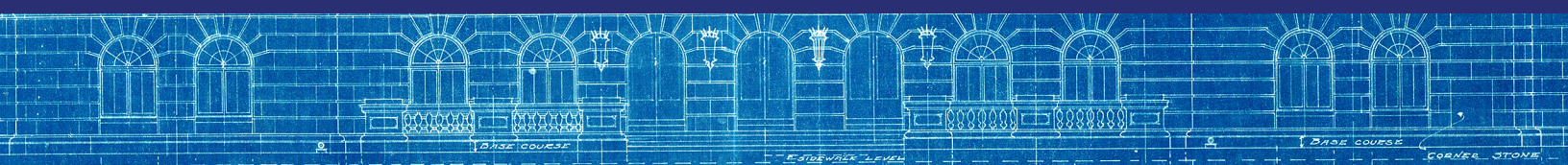
Originally called the basement, the first floor contained vaults for storage of valuable county documents as well as offices for the sheriff, coroner, justice of the peace and courthouse custodian. There was also a garage located in the southwest corner of the building for county officials. The old door to the garage exists today as a window that is unlike those surrounding it—it is square and long, while the others are rounded and narrow. On the floor just inside the north and south doors of the courthouse, you'll find hand-crafted tile mosaics of the state seal. This floor also contained the first women's public bathroom in Greeley, complete with vanities and a water heater, although it was much smaller in size than the men's restroom. Today, this floor is home to Jury Rooms A, B, C and D as well as Courtroom Divisions 8 and 9.



Second Floor



This floor was designed specifically for county government offices, including the offices of the county commissioners, treasurer, assessor and county clerk. Symbols of government, such as the eagle and coat of arms, adorn the walls. Beautiful craftsmanship in carved marble and hand-molded plaster work is displayed here. Isolated medallions (or rondelles) and frieze reliefs decorate both walls along the staircase inside the east entrance. The second-floor ceilings are lavishly decorated, as are the columns surrounding the atrium. Today, Divisions 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the Weld County courts can be found here. The master pneumatic clock can also be seen on this floor outside of Division 5 (the original office for county commissioners). This unique clock kept all of the other courthouse clocks in sync by pumping air through a series of pipes to clocks in each of the courtrooms.





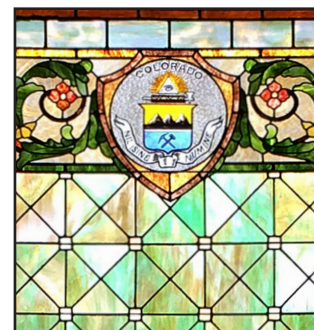
Third Floor

The third floor was home to the original county and district court courtroom, judge's chambers, clerk's offices and separate facilities for witnesses. The offices of the county superintendent of schools and county surveyor also resided on this floor. The hallway contains some of the most beautiful decoration in the entire building. Careful inspection of the hand-carved plasterwork swagging on the ceiling reveals the fruits, vegetables and other crops grown in Weld County, reflecting the county's agricultural roots.



The original district court courtroom, now known as Division 3, is a treasure chest of beauty and craftsmanship. No documentation exists as to why Mr. Bowman chose the symbols he used to decorate the courtroom, but it is believed the cornice above the courtroom entrance shows the Torch of Liberty, the Book of Laws, and the Shell of Saint James. It is also believed the design created around the clock on the back wall of the courtroom is symbolic of justice and that the clock itself depicts time spent in settling matters of law.

The landings between the floors feature beautiful stained glass windows. In particular, between the third and fourth floors the windows contains the inscription "NIL SINE NUMINE," which generally means "nothing without divine will," and is the motto for the State of Colorado.



Fourth Floor

The fourth floor originally housed jury rooms, a meeting room for the grand jury, a court reporter's office, district attorney's office and law library and the Division 1 courtroom. The law library, once the third best in the state, became so large and heavy that it had to be moved to the ground floor (in the mid-1990s it was moved out of the courthouse altogether). At the north end of the hall were sleeping quarters for sequestered jurors. Up to 12 men and 6 women could be accommodated in the dormitory at the time and were treated to such luxuries as water heaters in the bathrooms. This was the first courthouse in the state with the ability to house jurors overnight.



The Division 1 courtroom has puzzled many with the variety of mystical and mythological ornamentation contained within its walls. Above the door, surrounded by a wreath of fruit, is the Goddess of Justice. The jewel on her forehead, combined with the surrounding fruit, symbolizes the ways in which wisdom is used to reap the fruits of justice. She takes a special place of honor overlooking the judgments handed down by the court.

Two hawk-like creatures surround the clock at the back of the courtroom. These are mythological creatures called harpies who were known for their cruelty. Although it is only speculation, the presence of these creatures in the courtroom may represent the evils of man, and the belts around their waists may be symbolic of the law bringing evil to justice. In other words, the courts can be seen as arenas where battles rage between good and evil and where justice prevails in the end.

On the hallway ceiling are decorations that might seem misplaced. It is a caduceus with a serpent wound around the staff. The caduceus was a baton carried by emissaries of ancient Greece or Rome, representing their authority and power to travel on official business without fear from one place to another. This symbol is now associated with the medical profession; however, when the courthouse was constructed, it is believed that Mr. Bowman used this decoration to represent the importance of safe passage for jurors into the courtroom under the protection of the law.

