

TIMELINE:

- 1825: 1ST COURTHOUSE
// COST: \$1,486.25
- 1859: 2ND COURTHOUSE
// COST: \$8,000
- 1903: 3RD COURTHOUSE
// \$32,762.98
- 2017: 3RD COURTHOUSE
RENOVATION // \$3.5 M



..."Everyone should now come to Perryville and visit the new Courthouse, no longer a picture on paper, but a reality. A building strong, handsome and commodious - a building that will last a century." ...

PERRY COUNTY SUN:

DATED NOVEMBER 10, 1903

Courthouse: 2016



SCHEDULE
YOUR TOUR
TODAY!

CONTACT TRISH AT
573.517.2069 OR
TRISH@PERRYVILLEMO.COM

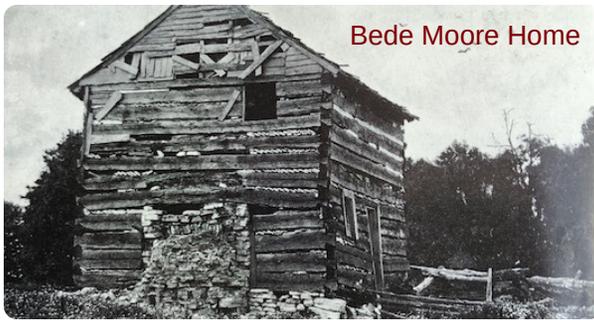


For more information visit the
Perry County Historical Society
Research Library and Archive or
www.visitperrycounty.com.

PERRY COUNTY COURT HOUSE



Downtown Square
Perryville, Missouri



Bede Moore Home

HISTORY

The greatest need of **Perry County, when it was created from the Ste. Genevieve District in 1821 was a courthouse.** Although there were a few small areas where groups of people lived, there were no towns in the county where a courthouse could be built.

Bernard Layton gave the county 51 acres of his 640-acre Spanish Land Grant for that purpose. The land was to be laid out in lots and sold to raise money to build the first Perry County Courthouse.

In the meantime, the Perry County Court met four times a year in the home of **Bede Moore, a two-story log building about 1 ½ miles north of Perryville** to conduct county business.

In 1825, a contract was made for the first courthouse. **Funding for the \$1,486.25 project** came from the sale of 55 lots from the property deeded to the county by Layton.

It was 1826 before the first courthouse was ready to use on the square. No pictures or sketches of the **white two-storied frame building with green shutters and a Spanish brown roof with cupola sitting on top have survived.** Thomas Hayden contracted to build this courthouse on the northeast corner of the square, completed in 1826.



By 1859, the first courthouse had been outgrown and, in that year, the second Courthouse was built just west of the first one. This building was in the center of the north side of the square and was a two-storied Federal style brick building built for \$8,000. **John R. Layton superintended the construction and it was completed in 1861.** This building continued in use until after the turn of the century when grand jury reports indicated the condition of the building was beyond repair.

In 1903, county residents presented a petition calling for an election and supported a proposition for a **\$30,000 bond issue to finance a new courthouse.** From several plans submitted the Court selected a proposal from J.W. Gaddis of Vincennes, Indiana.



Cornerstone Ceremony: 1904

Caldwell and Drake from Columbus, Indiana contracted for construction in **January 1904 and work began in February.** The laying of the cornerstone ceremony was on June 4, 1904. The celebration included a parade, speeches, music and the largest crowd, ever assembled in Perry County to watch as a huge block of stone was placed in its bed of mortar where it has remained for generations.

With elements of Federal, Romanesque, Gothic and Classical styles the courthouse was completed on **November 17, 1904 when Gaddis officially handed over the keys to the governing body.** Total cost of the red brick, 65-by-92-foot building was \$32,762.98.

A deep well was sunk for water on the property and other modern amenity were included such as a boiler system for heat and a tile sewer for plumbing.

In February of 1905 wrecking and removing the old courthouse began along with sale of old furniture.

In 2015 the courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and the citizens of Perry County voted to support a tax for maintenance. In 2017 the courthouse underwent a major renovation to repair and preserve its original beauty and significance to the history of Perry County.

Over the last one hundred years the **present-day courthouse has conducted the county and state business dealing with land records, birth and death records, court proceedings, laws, elections,** county maintenance and many other daily activities. It has been modernized with many new inventions such as telephones, electric, indoor plumbing, heating, air conditioning systems and an elevator.



Courthouse Construction: 1904