

**100th Anniversary Celebration
Charles Mix County Courthouse**

**Lake Andes, SD
1917—2017**



Open House

September 25-29, 2017

8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Luncheon Day

Wednesday, September 27

11:00 am. — 2:00 p.m.

Main Lobby of the Courthouse

Charles Mix County Courthouse

The present courthouse was built in Lake Andes in 1917 at a cost of \$150,000.

The Charles Mix County Courthouse, located in Lake Andes, South Dakota, is an exceptionally well crafted example of Prairie School architecture. The building was designed by architect William L. Steele, Sioux City, Iowa and is a four story building. The bottom three floors house the county offices and the court system. The top floor does not have the design detail the other three floors have and is currently used as storage for offices. Before the law enforcement office, civil defense office and the jail were moved to their new building, civil defense supplies were stored in the fourth floor. The floor also housed the women's jail while the men's jail was located on the ground floor. The States Attorney office has also moved to County Administration Building. Emergency Management office is also located in the County Administration Building.

The building has two exterior staired entrances, one to the front and one to the rear. After the construction of the law enforcement center, the old jail cell which is on the ground floor on the east side of the building became a meeting room and a handicapped entrance to the courthouse. Also an elevator was added to give handicap access to the second and third floors of the courthouse.



The main floor features a rotunda with a stained glass dome. All the stair railings are black wrought iron with a oak handrail. The stairs are marble and the floors are terrazzo with a tile border. The walls feature a brick wainscot and cap with a marble base and plaster above the wainscot. Doors and trim are oak.

Two brick columns with oak benches around them for seating are located in the main lobby. Throughout the building there are original oak settees.

Four vaults are located on the main floor. Three of the four vaults are two story vaults with access only from within the office it is located. The fourth vault is split between the two floors with one entrance in the treasurer's office and a separate entrance on the ground floor. A storage vault is located underneath the front stairway.

The Charles Mix County Courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historical Places on February 10, 1993.

Photographs show some of the design details throughout the courthouse.



Wheeler

Wheeler was located 15 miles south of Platte or 7 miles west and 6 miles south of Geddes.

Painting by Luverne Selywn Jr '88



The first county courthouse was located in Wheeler, which was plotted in 1881 and named for Judge Foster T. Wheeler. It was the third location of the county seat.

The first county seat was Papineau in Section 6, Jackson Township. The log cabin or trading post belonging to Cuthbert Ducharme, was the county seat office from 1862–1869.

The county was closed for legislative reorganization and in 1869 the county seat was transferred to Platte Creek in Hamilton Township, with the county seat office located at the Felice Fallas Ranch. Platte Creek remained the county seat until 1879.

On November 5, 1879, Wheeler was selected as County Seat of Charles Mix County, Dakota Territory, by election vote. Wheeler was located in Signal Township and just two and one-fourth miles from Papineau. The courthouse was built by N. B. Reynolds in 1881 at a cost of \$2,000. Wheeler was a river port town along the Missouri River and although it had no railroad, it remained the county seat for 37 years until 1916 when Lake Andes was named as county seat. In the 1950s when the Fort Randall reservoir was built, Wheeler was flooded.

Starting in 1900, the various communities in Charles Mix County petitioned to have the county seat moved. In these elections, the various towns received over 50 percent of the vote but not the 60 percent necessary to move the courthouse. In 1916, Wheeler backed out and in a well organized election, Lake Andes was chosen as the county seat.

The night following the election, Lake Andes residents drove to Wheeler, seized the records, books and other county material and brought it back to Lake Andes. The Lake Andes Carnegie Library served as the courthouse until the new building was built in 1917.

Charles Mix County Commission

Keith Mushitz
Neil Von Eschen
Jack Soulek

Elected and Appointed Officials, Department Heads

Auditor—Sherri Fuchs
Treasurer—Karol Kniffen
Register of Deeds—Julie Pavel
Director of Equalization—Denise Weber
Highway Superintendent—Douglas Kniffen
Sheriff—Randy Thaler
State's Attorney—Steven Cotton
Emergency Manager—Mike Kotab
Veterans Service Officer—Todd Breen
Geographic Information Systems—Noreen Strid
4-H Youth Advisor—Stephanie Chambliss
Health Nurse—Brenda Plooster, Kelly Cimpl
Coroner—Chad Peters
Weed/Pest—Jon Finney
Clerk of Courts—Jen Robertson
Court Services—Jerry Barnett & Darrell Pepper
Custodian—Randy Winckler

Other Charles Mix County Buildings

Platte Highway Shop
Geddes Highway Shop
Lake Andes Highway Shop
Wagner Highway Shop—New Shop 2010
Law Enforcement Center
Juvenile Holdover
County Administration Building
County Shop Addition
4-H Center

The Building of a Courthouse

Commission Members

1917

Joseph Lindquist

Wm. F. Brazzill

Ed Astin (1917)

KK Langeland (1916)

2017

Keith Mushitz

Jack Soulek

Neil Von Eschen

Choosing the location

April 1916 - petitions canvassed for change of place of county seat; submitted to voters at next general election

November 7, 1916 - general election

November 10, 1916 - votes canvassed total votes cast - 3716; 2296 in favor; 1420 against; constitutes more than three-fifths of the total number of votes

From November 10, 1916 Commissioner Record:

"Therefore be it resolved that pursuant to and in accordance with said election, the County Seat of Charles Mix County South Dakota has been and is regularly and legally changed from the said Village of Wheeler therein, to the City of Lake Andes in Charles Mix County, South Dakota, and that from and after the 10th day of November, 1916, at noon on said day, the County Seat of Charles Mix County, South Dakota, shall be located, established and maintained in the said City of Lake Andes, Charles Mix County, South Dakota."

Bond issue

November 28, 1916 - first Commissioners Meeting held in Lake Andes; special election set for December 19, 1916 on bond issue

December 19, 1916 — special election—bond issue

Land purchase

January 1917

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 of block 26 in Lake Andes purchased for the sum of \$13,593.31.



Bonds sold

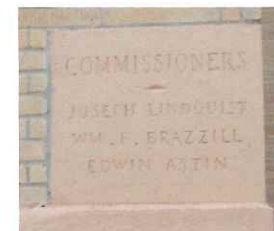
Feb 20, 1917 - all bids rejected and sale of bonds readvertized

March 27, 1917 - bid accepted for Courthouse and Jail Bonds in the sum of \$150,000.00, drawing interest at the rate of 4 1/2 percent per annum, payable semi-annually, and become due \$40,000.00 in ten years, \$50,000.00 in fifteen years and \$60,000.00 in twenty years. The bid of John F. Sinclair & Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota, for \$151,250.00 was accepted. Bonds were offered in \$1,000.00 denominations bearing date April 3, 1917, numbered from 1 to 150 inclusive.

Bid Process

April 21, 1917 - resolution to advertise for bids for

1. construction of courthouse and jail building
2. furnishing heating and plumbing thereof
3. electric wiring and apparatus for said building
4. jail equipment and installation of same
5. furnishing and installing vault doors



May 22, 1917 - bids opened and accepted from:

A.M. Wold Construction Company of Brookings - construction of courthouse and jail building - \$98,877.00;

LaVelle and Hogan of Sioux City, Iowa - heating and plumbing - \$13,328.00;

Murphy Electric Company of Sioux City, Iowa - electric wiring - \$2,000.00;

Pauly Jail Building of St. Louis, MO - jail equipment - \$3,995.00

Haakinson Beaty Company of Sioux City, Iowa - vault doors - \$931.00

Total — \$119,130.

Laying of the cornerstone

August 17, 1917, 2:00 p.m. - laying of cornerstone; South Dakota Governor

Peter Norbeck gave address; Architect Steele gave report on progress

Dedication

September, 1918 — Commissioners met at courthouse

October 1, 1918— dedication scheduled, but postponed due to influenza and illness in the country

1919 — O. D. Arp of Sioux City, Iowa, landscaped the grounds



Charles Mix County Commissioners

District 1

1879 -J.G.Jones
1880-William Miller
1881-Bruno Cournoyer
1882-Chas. P. Barbier
1883-Forest T. Wheeler
1884-1886- John C. Stoughton
1887-1889-W.A. Lathrop
1890-1892-Donwe Zylstra
1893-1895-Geo. W. Pilmore
1896-1898-N.A. Duval
1899-1902-Will H. Menzie
1903-1910-James T. Campbell
1911-1914-Joseph Lindquist
1915-1922-Wm. F. Brazzill
1923-1930-Joseph Baxa
1931-1934- Hans Jespersen
1935-1942-Charles Charvat
1943-1946-Albert J. Soukup
1947-1958-Niels H. Nielsen
1959-1962-Steve Thaler
1963-1966-Niels H. Nielsen
1967-1978-Wes Carda
1979-1986-Albert F. Soukup
1987-2006-Herman Peters
2007-2010-Sharon A. Drapeau
2011- Jack Soulek

District 2

1879-1880 John P. Johns
1881-F.M. Baker
1881-1882-Samuel M. Lindley
1883-1884-Loyal Adams
1885-1887-Chas. W. Forbes
1888-1889-F.E. Tomlinson
1889-1890-John L. Johnson
1891-1893-Ole Larson
1894-1876-Thos A. Thomson
1897-1899-Frank Patton
1900-1902-F.S. Strohhahn
1903-1906-Leo Peters
1907-1908-W.G. McDonald
1909-1910-Elias Ersland
1910-1914-Wm. F. Brazzill
1915-1918-Joseph Lindquist
1919-1932-A.G. McBride
1933-1960-Joseph Novak
1961-1964-Otto Blankenhagen
1965-1984-Albert Svatos
1985-2003-Jack Soulek
2003-2009-C. Red Allen
2009 -Neil Von Eschen

District 3

1879-William Miller
1880-1881 Henry T. Oldham
1881-1882-Joseph LaRoche
1882-Onesime Turgeon
1883-1885-A.K. Brainard
1886-1888-R.A. Smith
1889-1891-J.G. Coates
1892-1894-C.W. Shepard
1895-1897-Otto Saukerson
1898-1904-Oscar Boyden
1905-1908-John P. Campbell
1909-1912-K.F. Wynia
1913-1922-Ed Astin
1923-1926-Harm Meyerink
1927-1930-L.W. Riffle
1931-1934-Herman Beltman
1935-1938-Enoch Norbeck
1939-1958-Edward O. Holter
1959-1970-John Pranger
1971-1974-Allen Rassmussen
1975-1982-Leonard Lucas
1983-2003-Bruce Bakken
2003-Keith Mushitz

Auditor

1891-1892-Jas. H. Exon
1893-1894-J.A.Pierce
1895-1898-F.A. Cooper
1899-1900-Peter Nieveen
1901-1904-A. Vandervoort
1905-1908-Fred C. Gibson
1909-1912-Horace G. Wilson
1913-1916-Frank J. Kaberna
1917-1920-Frank Masur
1921-1924-Judson Smith
1925-1928-C.H. Roberson
1929-1932-J. Anderson
1933-1938-D.M. Woods
1939-1940-Mae A. Woods
1941-1944-Fred Nedved
1945-1948-Loretto Conway
1949-1952-Rose Riley
1953-1956-Loretto Conway
1957-1960-W.A. (Fred) Stork
1961-1962-Irene Stork
1963-1978-Nita A. Breen
1979-2005-Norman Cihak
2005-2006-Christine Pazour
2007-2010-Angela P. Meyerink
2010-Sherri Fuchs

Treasurer

1879-1880-Loyal Adams
1881-1886-Mark T. Post
1887-1888-H.M. Carroll
1889-1892-William H. Minihan
1893-1894-Henry Harding
1895-1896-S.T. Harcksen
1897-1898-James Nash
1899-1900-Vincent Kaberna
1901-1904-Knute O. Hammer
1905-1907-Henry Walters Evers
1908-1912-F.J. Kaberna
1913-1916-K.K. Langeland
1917-1920-F.J. Kaberna
1921-1922-1926-E.W. Miller
1923-1926-Rose Kaberna
1927-1930-E.E. Wilson
1931-1933-Joe Lindquist
1934-1938-W.T. Cihak
1939-1940-Margaret Cihak
1941-1944-Keva Evans
1945-1948-Nita Breen
1949-1950-Fern Foxley
1951-1954-Victor L. Hamik
1955-1956-Lylla M. Hamik
1957-1960-S.C. (Steve) Johnson
1961-1962-Evelyn Johnson
1963-1976-S.C. (Steve) Johnson
1977-1984-Judy Soulek
1985- Karol Soukup Kniffen

Register of Deeds

1879-Napoleon B. Reynolds
1880-1882-James G. Jones
1883-1888-Samuel M. Lindley
1889-1890-J.W. Beezley
1891-1892-Wellington L. Watson
1893-1896-Henry Gassman
1897-1898-Alfred C. Smith
1889-1902-E.E. Wilson
1903-1906-Aaron Jones
1907-1908-B.F. Reynolds
1909-1912-Geo. H. Patrick
1913-1916-C.F. Carroll
1917-1920-Judson Smith
1921-1922-Ellen Crowley
1923-1924-Laura Prickett
1925-1926-Judson Smith
1927-1930-Laura Prickett
1931-1934-Candus E. Robertson
1935-1938-Helen E. Robertson
1939-1942-Tillie Stedronsky
1943-1946-V.J. Pesicka
1947-1950-Tillie Stedronsky
1951-1954-Martha Melmer
1955-1956-Leona Mead
1957-1960-Martha Melmer
1961-1962-Leona Mead
1963-1982-Martha Melmer
1983-1991-Mary Oberbrockling
Holzinger
1991-2016-Monica Walder
2016-Julie Pavel

Major changes

- 1973-74—Interior renovation, put in new windows
- 1975 — Law Enforcement Center and Jail built
- 1977 — Jailer/janitor apartment converted to office space
- 1978 — Jail cells removed
- 1979 — Jail area remodeled into a meeting room
- 1982 — Pave west parking lot
- 1988 — Repair dome
- 1988-89 — Paintings by Luverne Selywn Jr. and Greg Zephier added to third floor lobby
- August, 1991— Elevator added
- 1999 — Original counters replaced with oak counters
- 2001 — Courtroom remodeled
- 2005 — Highway office moved out of Courthouse to Lake Andes Highway Shop
- 2015 —States Attorney's office moved to new County Administration Building
- 2016 -2017—Front Steps rebuilt

2017 Repairs and Upgrades

Work started July 5, 2017 on replacing elevator and heating/AC system

Work started August 15, 2017 on lighting upgrades

Project bid costs

Steam to Heat Conversion—\$1,296,459

Elevator Replacement—\$146,100

Lighting Upgrade—\$127,137

Removal of Underground Fuel Oil Tank—removal through the South Dakota Abandoned Tank Program July, 2017, at no cost to Charles Mix County



Law Enforcement Center



Juvenile Holdover Center



County Administrative Building



Wagner Highway Shop

*Thank You
to the taxpayers of
Charles Mix County
for coming and
celebrating
100 years!*