at your service...

THE PEOPLE AT THE McHENRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

A look at the new facilities and the work of these public servants . . . a cheering milestone as we salute the many dedicated people who care.

JOHNSON, KILE, SEEHAUSEN & ASSOCIATES, INC.
ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS, ROCKFORD

Congratulations on the completion of the New McHenry County Courthouse . . .

. . . a facility destined to serve citizens for many decades.

We stand ready to serve your title insurance needs.

McHenry County Title Company

WOODSTOCK 338-1140

The Bank On The Square Since 1889

We appreciate the scope and significance of the new Courthouse building program, an investment to provide efficient governmental services at the local level.

We've just completed our expansion and remodeling with an exterior in the 1880's era, the time of our founding.

Our landmark bank with its red brick exterior and a replica of our 1910 clock is in keeping with the historic Old Courthouse and Woodstock Opera House, and we're delighted to be an integral part of this thriving, picturesque Square.

We extend congratulations on the construction of this new Courthouse as we invite you to visit the State Bank of Woodstock to look at another exciting, notable structure.

the State BANK A FULL SERVICE BANK of woodstock

History of the Courthouses Of McHenry County

1840 — First Courthouse located at McHenry on Riverside Drive. First white settlers had arrived in area in 1832.

Sept. 4, 1843 — Citizens vote to move courthouse to Centerville (town named Woodstock in February, 1845).

Sept. 23, 1844 — Courthouse moves to building inside square at Woodstock.

June, 1846 — County Commissioners seek bids to erect a fireproof building with more space (built on square where State Bank of Woodstock now is located).

June 1, 1855 — After efforts to move courthouse to McHenry and Algonquin failed earlier in year, county government officials adopt a resolution wanting to build on the west side of the square where a tavern was located.

Woodstock citizens agreed to the proposal, buying that land and then accepting courthouse land in the square for the community in exchange.

1856-57 — Courthouse constructed on City Square, the same building which now is listed in the National Historic Registry as a national landmark. Original cost: $47,000.

1887 — Sheriff's residence and jail added to the Courthouse (cost of $17,000).

April 26, 1955 — County purchases Central school from Woodstock School District 72 for $85,000. It became the Courthouse Annex to meet need for office space and court facilities. County board room was located in this building following remodeling.

Dec. 4, 1965 — Board votes to purchase property west of Woodstock; subsequent proposals and counter-proposals in city moved along slowly in an effort to find a new home for a growing population's government headquarters, including an attempt on Jan. 9, 1968, via a 17-11 vote to buy the county fair site and adjacent 59 more acres. This proposal faltered, and

December, 1969 — After futile efforts to locate the Courthouse west of Woodstock (Kishwaukee Road and Route 14 Bypass), at the downtown Annex site, and east of Woodstock (county fairgrounds), the County Board agreed to buy 21 acres north of Woodstock on Route 47 at Ware road for $105,000.

March 9, 1971 — General contract awarded to contractors for total bid of $3,229,000.

April 13, 1971 — Ground broken for new Courthouse. Bill Russel, chairman of the Board of Supervisors at the time, turned the first shovel of dirt to signal start of construction.

May 9, 1972 — Board approves sale of Old Courthouse to Cliff Ganschow for $50,500 with possession in spring of 1973.

Sept. 21, 1972 — Contract signed for sale of Old Courthouse with Cliff Ganschow; deed delivered on June 20, 1973.

Sept. 24, 1972 — Citizens gather for cornerstone ceremonies at West entrance of the New Courthouse.

Nov. 17, 1972 — First county officials moved into the new building.

Sept. 15 — Open House for New Courthouse.

View of the East entrance.

West entrance of this two-front structure. This is on the Route 47 side at the south end of the building.

AT YOUR SERVICE. Produced by the McHenry County Board in conjunction with the Open House of the new building September 15, 1974, and as an informative brochure for all visitors. Conrad Floeter, Thore Emricson, Robert Vorisek, Richard Klemm, and Ervin Walters, board committee members. Walter Dean, chairman of the county board. Edited and produced by Don Peasley, Woodstock. Photography of all but old-time photos by Don Peasley and Kaaren Dodge. Editing Assistant: Bobbi Lile.

McHenry County Courthouse - Through the Years

This is the structure built in 1857. Old building at right was torn down to make way for construction of the jail in 1887.

Old Courthouse — the 1857 building — as it looked shortly before county moved from this building to its present new home.

Old Courthouse, restored to its early luster and with the jail sandblasted to its original tan brick, has become a National landmark and is registered. Owner Cliff Ganschow is responsible for the imaginataive rejuvenation.

McHENRY COUNTY BOARD. Front: Ed Buss, Tom Huemann, George Starr, Willis Simms, Phyllis Walters, Robert Olson. Middle: August Dahlke, Watson Lowe, Harold Freese, Walter Dean, chairman; Robert Stoxen, Thore Emricson, Richard Klemm, Conrad Floeter. Back: Leo Benecke, Bill Hubbard, Marx Jones, Ron Morris, Charles Weingart, Ervin Walters, Bill Ward (resigned July 31, 1974), and Ray Murphy. Absent: Linnea Hadlock and Robert Vorisek.

McHENRY COUNTY BUILDING COMMISSION. From left: Howard Ruth, M. R. "Bob" Collier, Earl M. Hughes, chairman; Val Budd, Jr. and Jerome Olsen.

Aerial view by Don Peasley shows the East front entrance, with church property purchased by the county at corner of Route 47 and Ware Road.

THE JUDICIARY, serving you in McHenry county. Hon. James H. Cooney, Hon. William J. Gleason, Hon. Richard C. Kelly, Hon. Thomas E. Baker, Hon. Charles S. Parker and Hon. Leonard J. Brody.

A SENSE OF HISTORY

The history of the land is here. Your history is here . . . your birth, your military record, your marriage . . . . . The files are filled with names and dates, for this is the Hall of Records.

But this County Courthouse is far more than cold statistics. People make it go. People at your service in the various offices and courts that breathe with the hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows of you, the citizens of this great county first settled by white men in 1832.

At this Courthouse you see vital fulfillment of the process of free government. This is government at the local level, closest government to you with a County Board elected by you as your representatives.

The County Board worked earnestly to develop a structure to serve a fast-growing population, the second fastest-growing county in the state. The map inside the center of this brochure tells you where the offices are located. Court services are on the third floor. The Sheriff's Department and jail are at the north end of the building.

What's the most frequently visited office? Hard to tell. County clerk's office has some of the happiest visitors — marriage licenses are issued there! Most excited visitors may be those at the Circuit Clerk's office, seeking a passport to go traveling overseas. Grimmest visitors? Maybe those who stop by the treasurer's office to pay their taxes!

You'll find the whole gamut of emotions when you tour the offices of this county nerve center. Indeed, it includes an outstanding communications system used by the Sheriff's Department and as an integral link in Civil Defense.

— Don Peasley —

JUDICIARY

The "Courthouse" does indeed house the Court as it has historically. Growth and new needs of people have brought many new functions to the Courthouse so that it might more appropriately be called a "government center." County government in Illinois, however, has never provided an executive, so it continues to be an exception to the traditional concept of government of three branches.

By constitutional changes in 1963 and the Constitution of 1970, Illinois has but one trial court — the Circuit Court — with the state divided into 21 circuits. Its judges are officers of the state, being Circuit Judges elected to six-year terms, and Associate Circuit Judges appointed by the Circuit Judges to four-year terms. McHenry County has three of each, and with Lake County comprises the 19th Judicial Circuit. In the state this 19th Circuit ranks: third in population, second in total case load; second in cases terminated by verdict in 12 months; second in new cases filed in 12 months; and second in total cases terminated in 12 months.

By the Constitution, the Circuit Court has jurisdiction of all justiciable matters at the trial level, except redistricting of the General Assembly and the ability of the Governor to hold office. Officers and staffs directly involved in the Court's operation are the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Court Services and Probation Department. The Circuit Court of McHenry County will annually generate over $2 million in funds distributed to the federal, state, county and municipal governments — and in the year adjudicate 3,500 new civil cases between private litigants and 18,000 cases of violation of a law.

The Officials Who Are at Your Service . . .

Elected county officials: Margaret O'Neil, Circuit Clerk; Vernon Kays, County Clerk; Willert Russel, Recorder of Deeds; William Cowlin, State's Attorney; Arthur Tyrrell, County Sheriff; Theron Ehorn, County Coroner; Albert Jourdan, County Auditor; Audrey Walgenbach, County Treasurer; and Richard Tazewell, Superintendent of Educational Service Region.

Your County Officials

Circuit Judges: Hon. James H. Cooney
Hon. William J. Gleason
Hon. Charles S. Parker

Associate Judges: Hon. Leonard J. Brody
Hon. Thomas Baker
Hon. Richard C. Kelly

State's Attorney: William J. Cowlin

County Clerk: Vernon W. Kays

County Treasurer: Audrey Walgenbach

Circuit Clerk: Margaret O'Neil

Recorder of Deeds: Willert H. Russel

Superintendent of Educational Service Region: Richard L. Tazewell

County Auditor: Albert M. Jourdan

County Coroner: Theron J. Ehorn

County Sheriff: Arthur Tyrrell

Supervisor of Assessments: Willard Hogge

County Superintendent of Highways: James R. Rakow

County Civil Defense Director: John J. Shay

County Building and Zoning Officer: vacancy

Valley Hi Nursing Home Administrator: William Morefield

Director of Court Services: Rev. David J. Klasing

Public Defender: Edward J. Downs

Zoning Board of Appeals: Charles D. Smith, chairman

McHenry County Regional Planning Commission: Charles Liebman, chairman

McHenry County Building Commission: Earl M. Hughes, chairman

McHenry County Board of Health: Dr. Edward F. Wilt, chairman; Richard Wissell, administrator; Dr. Johann V. Johnson, county veterinarian

McHenry County Sheriff's Department Merit Commission: Alexander MacArthur, chairman

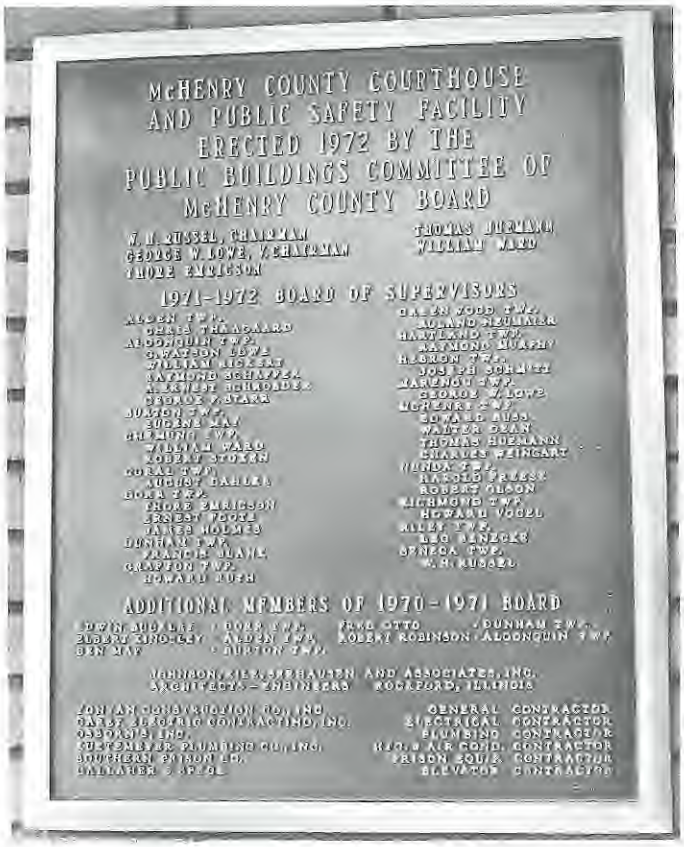
McHenry County Board Chairman and Liquor Control Commissioner: Walter J. Dean

County Board Members

	Term Expires
DISTRICT I	
Conrad Floeter, Crystal Lake	1974
Linnea T. Hadlock, Cary	1976
George "Bill" Hubbard, Crystal Lake	1976
Rev. Marx Jones, Crystal Lake	1976
G. Watson Lowe, Cary	1974
George Starr, Algonquin	1974
Robert Vorisek, Fox River Grove	1976
Phyllis Walters, Algonquin	1974
DISTRICT II	
Edward Buss, McHenry	1974
Walter J. Dean, McHenry	1974
Harold Freese, Crystal Lake	1976
Thomas Huemann, McHenry	1974
Richard Klemm, Cyrstal Lake	1976
Robert Olson, Crystal Lake	1976
Willis Simms, McHenry	1974
Charles Weingart, McHenry	1976
DISTRICT III	
Leo Benecke, Garden Prairie	1974
August Dahlke, Union	1974
Thore Emricson, Woodstock	1976
Ronald Morris, Harvard	1974
Raymond Murphy, Woodstock	1976
Robert Stoxen, Harvard	1976
William Ward, Harvard*	1976
Ervin Walters, Hebron**	1974

* Resigned effective July 31, 1974
** Elected to fill vacancy caused by death of George Lowe

At the ground-breaking April 13, 1971: Bill Russel, chairman of the county board; Henry Tonyan, general contractor; and Richard Seehausen, architect.



Plaque in front entrance identifies the people who helped make the new courthouse a reality. Named are 1971-72 county board members, along with those on the 1970-71 board during the critical planning stages.

Cornerstone ceremony, conducted by Masonic lodge, on Sept. 24, 1972.

Public Officials Serve Through These Offices and Commissions

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

The Clerk of the Circuit Court is responsible for filing and preserving all records of the court, including all law suits, large or small, divorces, criminal cases: felonies, misdemeanors; traffic tickets, all family cases including adoptions, juveniles and non-support cases, all small claims, in fact, any type of action that must be determined by a judge or jury starts with filing of the papers in the Clerk's office.

A Clerk must attend all sessions of court and keep a record of the proceedings and judge's decisions to be transcribed on the docket kept in the Clerk's office. Support payments ordered either by divorce decrees or non-support proceedings are collected and sent on to the rightful recipients. Passport applications may be processed through this office.

A new duty of the Clerk is to summon all jurors, both grand and petit, for duty, by certified mail.

All traffic fines and costs are collected in this office and distributed monthly to the various cities, villages, county and state.

The Clerk prepares records on appeal and transmits same to Appellate or Supreme Court.

McHENRY COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE

McHenry county has a full-time Civil Defense Director and secretary, and a part-time Assistant Director. All other positions are held by volunteers. These volunteers augment county government in the event of a disaster. Since 1969, Civil Defense has been involved with severe storms, tornadoes, floods and drownings.

Civil Defense was created in 1954 by the McHenry County Board to prepare the total population in the event our nation would receive a nuclear attack. In 1961, Statutes were amended to include the responsibility to prepare for man-made and natural disasters.

Offices are located in the lower level, northeast corner of the Courthouse. The 6,000 square foot area, which was 50% funded by the Federal Civil Defense, also houses the Patrol and Detective Divisions of the County Sheriff's department. These rooms can be converted to emergency use.

The 290-foot radio tower on the east side of the Courthouse, and associated radio equipment inside, were funded by an $80,000 Federal Civil Defense grant. It is under the jurisdiction of the County Civil Defense Department. It contains the radio frequency for Police, Civil Defense, Fire, Rescue and others necessary for emergencies.

Modern equipment with map showing data dominates this Communications Control Center for the Sheriff's Department. Civil Defense has its own sophisticated communications headquarters.

COUNTY CORONER

The functions of the County Coroner are to investigate all deaths within his county that are sudden, violent, apparent suicide, homicide, accidental, crimes against nature, illegal abortions, alcoholic or drug addicted persons, deaths where the circumstances are suspicious, obscure or mysterious, and deaths not attended by a licensed physician.

Operation of the office is to go to the scene of the death, and investigate all circumstances concerning the deceased. The county gathers information from family or friends and uses it to issue a certificate of death. All facts are given to the attending physician to establish a cause of death.

If the death appears to be other than natural causes, then an inquest would be held in the presence of six jurors selected by the coroner.

Autopsies are held at the discretion of the coroner and the attending physician or the coroner's physician.

The coroner's staff is made up of three deputy coroners who are part time help. A court reporter, and several pathologists who are called on to help render causes of death.

DEPARTMENT OF COURT SERVICES

The Department of Court Services is an integral facet of the Judicial System of McHenry County. The Department serves under the Judicial leadership of three Circuit Judges and three Associate Judges sitting in McHenry County.

Supervision of juveniles and adults processed through the Courts is entrusted to the Department. Pre-sentence investigations and social investigations for the Court are completed by a qualified staff. Using the resources of the communities the goal of the Department is to re-integrate the offender into the life of the home and the community so that he (or she) may become a useful citizen contributing in a positive manner to the welfare of others. The Department also conducted adoption and custody investigations for the court.

The Department maintains approximately 50 foster homes in the county to provide shelter care for the juveniles. In the foster home, a child will learn to live in a family setting with love, security and acceptance. Approximately 50 laymen in the county serve in the Volunteers in Probation program. This program provides opportunity for troubled youth and young adults to relate to persons whose lives have proven stable and meaningful. Psychological testing and therapy are provided through the Family Service and Mental Health Clinic for McHenry County. Vocational training and opportunities are provided by the Department for individuals seeking employment. Individual and family counseling is provided by trained personnel in the Department.

The Department has 13 probation officers and 4 secretaries. The Department has grown from one person in 1958 to the present total of 18. The strength of the Department comes from the foundation built by the Honorable James H. Cooney, Judge, and the late Bert H. Boerner. Service to the Courts and the community is the goal of the Department.

COUNTY AUDITOR

The McHenry County Auditor and three members of his staff are the watchdogs of the county expenditures. All claims for purchases, services, repairs and maintenance are processed in this office. Each claim is checked for proper endorsement and notarization. Invoices and amount totals are checked to make sure the invoice was not previously presented for payment.

The Auditor's office is also the purchasing department for the county. All county departments request permission of the purchasing committee when they need any commodities or services. When approval is given, a purchase order number is issued and recorded by the Auditor's office.

The Auditor's office prepares a monthly report showing county expenditures for the current month, expenditures to date for each department and the unexpended. Also, a quarterly report is prepared showing expended by individual code numbers and unexpended figures to date; the income to date is reported at this time.

The Auditor's office is responsible for preparing all forms for the budget.

COUNTY BOARD & LIQUOR COMMISSION

The County Board consists of 24 members, elected from three districts in the county, with 8 members being elected from each district. It is the chief legislative and executive body of the county, delegated such matters as zoning, health legislation, road and bridge construction, speed laws, care for the indigent, dependent children and county finances.

Members are appointed to the 12 standing committees which schedule meetings during the month and then make a written recommendation to the County Board at its meeting ordinarily held once a month on the second Tuesday.

The Liquor Control Commission, which is made up of the Liquor & License Committee, consisting of three members, and the Chairman of the County Board, has jurisdiction over the approximately 125 taverns in the county rural areas.

Once each year fees are collected for an annual license with the money deposited in the county General Fund to help operate the county. Before issuing any license to anyone, applications and qualification are thoroughly checked. A file is kept on each tavern, in which applications as well as any violation reports submitted by the Sheriff's department are kept after review by the Commission and consultation with the owner and operator.

COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerk shall file a monthly report summarizing the financial status of his office in such forms as shall be determined by the County Board.

The County Clerk shall deposit in the office of the County Treasurer monthly the fee income of the office.

He shall be the keeper of the Seal of the County, which shall be used by him in all cases where he is required to use an official seal.

The County Clerk shall have the care and custody of all record books and papers pertaining to and filed, or deposited in regard to "Vital Statistics Act."

He is Clerk of the County Board and keeps an accurate record of all proceedings.

He gives any person requiring the same and paying the lawful fees therefore, a copy of any record, paper or account in his office.

200 Floor, which includes County Board room (end of hall).

McHENRY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

In December 1963 the McHenry County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution creating a county-wide planning commission. This resolution and the appointment of nine Planning Commission members was in accordance with the Illinois Regional Planning Commission Act enacted by the State Legislature in 1929.

Of concern to the Planning Commission are the irreplaceable natural resources of McHenry county. Preservation, conservation, and husbanded use of these resources is a prime objective of the Commission. Sound planning recommendations must be based on factual data directed toward long term, comprehensive objectives.

The Commission participates in a broad range of activities and provides a variety of services for governmental units and private citizens such as: Providing technical planning assistance to governmental units requesting such assistance, reviewing grant applications, reviewing subdivision applications, providing services to assist other county departments, providing flood insurance information and performing special projects in response to the unique needs within McHenry county.

Special projects have dealt with such areas as soil interpretation, geologic inventories and interpretations, a sewer and water facility inventory, base mapping of all townships and incorporated municipalities, sand and gravel pit rehabilitation, solid waste inventories and planning, and the changing land use patterns within McHenry county.

The Planning Commission has a variety of maps dealing with the county's soils, geology, flood plain areas, land use and other McHenry County characteristics. These maps are made available for public use in the Planning Commission office. Financing for the County Planning Program comes primarily from a combination of county funds and federal grant monies.

SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS

The major responsibility of the Supervisor of Assessments is to prepare and maintain the tax maps and update lists of property owners' names and property record cards of all real estate in the county and procure at regular intervals from the records maintained by the County Recorder information relative to transfers of real property.

The Supervisor of Assessments shall give necessary instructions to all township assessors and their deputies in order to gain uniformity in their actions. This is accomplished by continually studying the market through sales ratio studies, consultation with the Department of Local Government Affairs on recommendations on assessing and new legislation that effects our department.

This office processes all assessors' books containing approximately 75,000 parcels of real estate with a total assessed valuation of over $600,000,000.

At the present time a staff of eleven full-time employees assist the Supervisor of Assessments in the operation of this office. This includes the Deputy Supervisor of Assessments as a field appraiser.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review has the responsibility to review all assessments made by township assessors and the Supervisor of Assessments. The Board shall review all written complaints made by taxpayers and give all taxpayers an opportunity to be heard before the Board of Review. The Board shall also act as an equalizing authority based on information completed by the Clerk of the Board of Review from property transfers, property appraisals, sales ratio studies and all other means necessary to determine if valuation of locally assessed property is at its estimated full, fair cash value.

McHENRY COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION

This Commission was formed under the Public Building Commission Act. The legislation was predicated on a finding and declaration by the Legislature that there existed in many county seats and in many municipalities within the State, inadequate and outmoded public improvements, buildings and facilities to furnish essential governmental services.

The County of McHenry, in concert with the City of Woodstock, organized the McHenry County Public Building Commission in 1964. After studying location and Courthouse buildings in 1964-65, a recommendation of proposed sites was made by the Commission but the problem was not resolved.

Following that study, the Commission became inactive until 1972 when it was called on to assist the County in publicly financing the completion of the Courthouse as a project of the County Board of Supervisors. These facilities including the Courthouse, its office and detention facilities, were under construction in 1972 and the Commission that summer sold revenue bonds in the amount of $1,925,000 maturing 10 years thereafter, carrying a favorable interest rate.

The bonds of the Commission are primarily secured by the revenues it receives under its Lease of the entire Courthouse to the County.

Pursuant to the objectives of the Public Building Commission Act and in accordance with the terms of its bonding authority, the Commission has undertaken its duties and is now completing the payment of the final bills for the construction and equipping of the Courthouse.

The members of the Commission serve without compensation and have devoted much time, effort and ability to assure citizens of an adequately equipped Courthouse.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

The McHenry County Public Defender's Office represents many hundreds of indigent defendants each year. The Public Defender and his assistants render services to indigent defendants charged with criminal offenses, in order to insure that the indigent person is properly represented by counsel during his court proceedings.

The Public Defender is appointed by the court in any criminal case where there is a possibility of incarceration upon conviction, where the defendant requests an attorney, and where the defendant states to the court's satisfaction that he is unable to retain private counsel.

In the past year, the McHenry County Public Defender has represented defendants in cases ranging from Purchase or Acceptance of alcoholic liquor by a person of non-age, to Murder.

RECORDER'S OFFICE

Subdivision plats, cemetery maps, instruments pertaining to land acquisition, and all instruments effecting title to the land are recorded in the Recorder's office, as are the instruments effecting title to personal property. Each document is posted in numerical sequence, then placed on microfilm for security and customer viewing. Daily, these are posted in the proper indices, both alphabetically and chronologically.

Separation papers and discharge records of service men and women are recorded and placed on microfilm. Certified copies of these records are furnished, free of charge, to the veteran or his family as needed for veterans benefits. All veterans who have not done so are encouraged to bring their original papers to the office for recording so that they will be available when needed.

In 1962 this office became one of the pioneer Recorders in the state to place documents on microfilm.

MERIT COMMISSION
McHENRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Commission screens and tests all Department applications for employment or promotion. Those who meet rigid standards are certified to the Sheriff for potential employment or promotion.

All major disciplinary matters are handled by the Commission as are personnel complaints referred by the Sheriff.

Commissioners are appointed by the County Board for six-year terms when recommended by the Sheriff. Commissioners (3) serve without salary.

SHERIFF OF McHENRY COUNTY

The Sheriff of McHenry County is a constitutional office and is elected every 4 years. He is the chief law enforcement officer of the county.

His duties are to maintain the peace and to arrest violators and cause them to be brought before the courts for trial. One of the many other duties of the Sheriff's Department is the serving of civil papers and holding Sheriff's sales to satisfy judgments. The Sheriff or his deputy must attend all courts of record while they are in session.

In McHenry county, the Sheriff is the warden of the county jail where prisoners are kept awaiting trial or serving a sentence. While inmates are incarcerated, the Sheriff is charged with furnishing them food, shelter, and medical care.

The Sheriff's Department has a complement of eighty-six personnel and maintains a fleet of twenty-five squad cars, two patrol boats, one pontoon boat, one educational van, one jeep and one emergency truck.

STATE'S ATTORNEY OF McHENRY COUNTY

The State's Attorney's office has the primary duty of prosecuting. Other duties are:

(a) To sue or defend all actions or proceedings brought on behalf of or against any County Official in their official capacity.

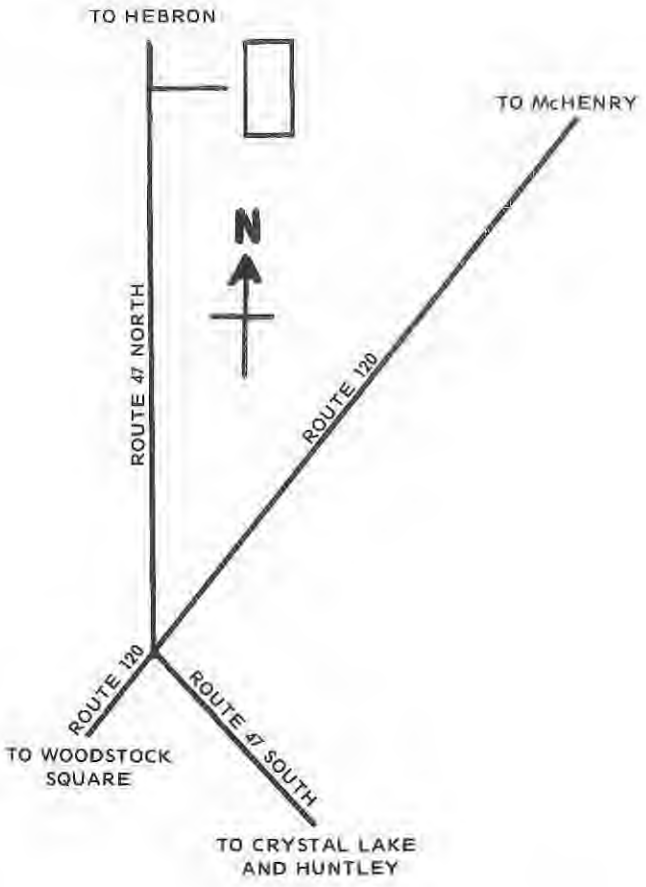
(b) To handle Habeas Corpus proceedings.

(c) To furnish opinions to County Officials on questions of laws relating to matters in the course of county business.

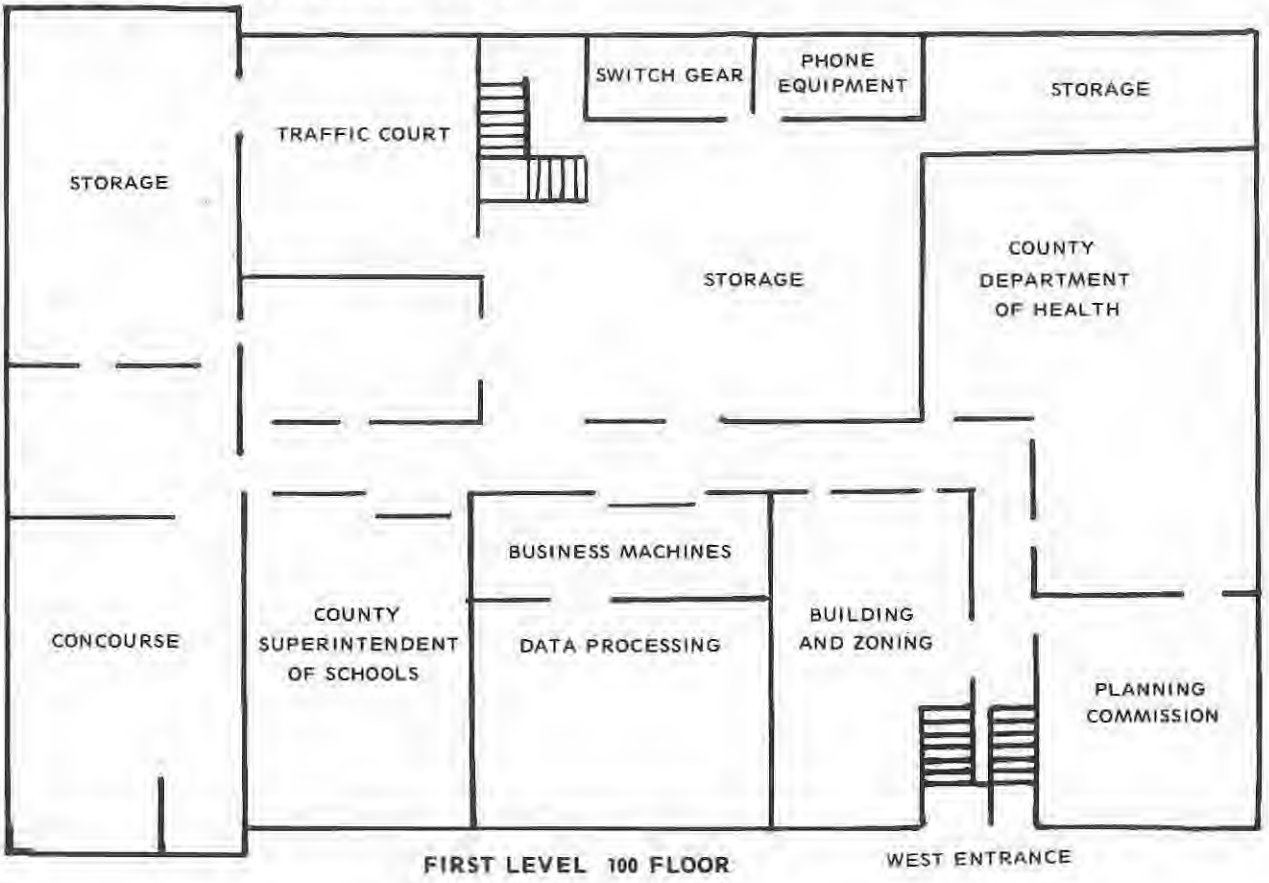
(d) To handle appeals before the Appellate Court and assist the Attorney General in Appeals before the Supreme

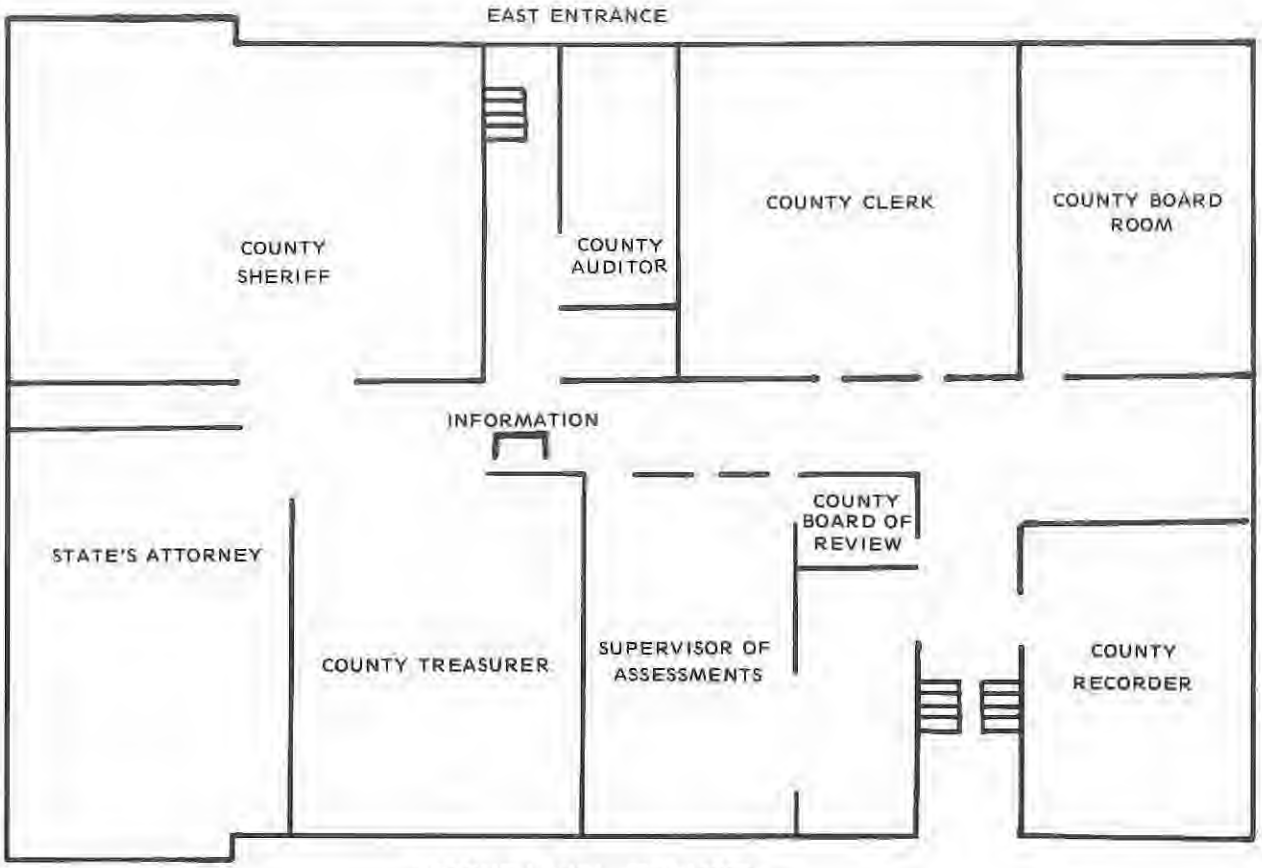
(Continued on Page 14)

Where is the Courthouse . . .

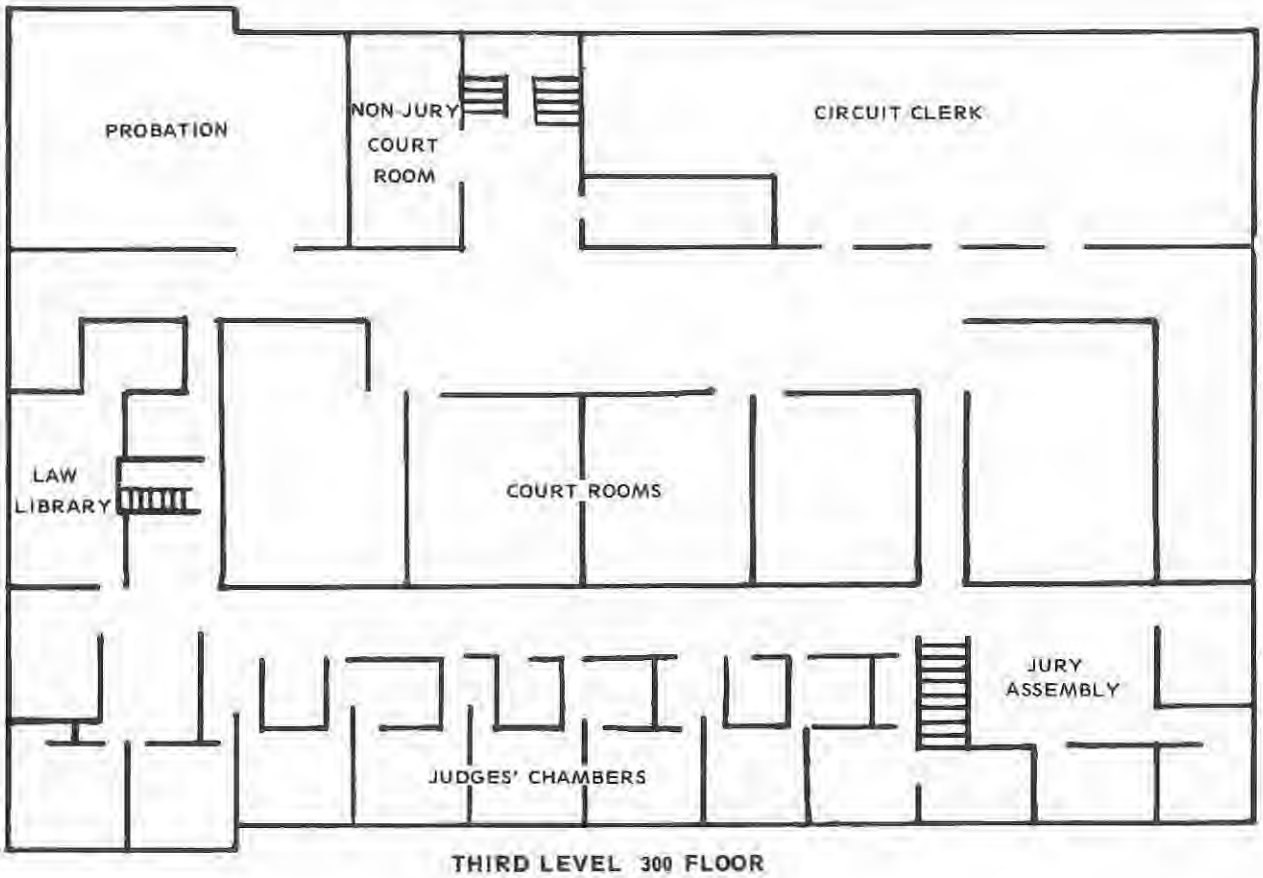


Who is Where in the Courthouse . . .





SECOND LEVEL 200 FLOOR



THIRD LEVEL 300 FLOOR

Valley Hi Nursing Home at Hartland is the county home for the aged and others who need a home. Addition in 1971 provided 30 beds in this modern facility staffed by dedicated people who care about others.

STATE'S ATTORNEY

(Continued from Page 11)

Court of the State of Illinois.

(e) To appear at proceedings by tax collectors against delinquent tax payers, renewal of judgments and arranging for payments under agreed orders.

(f) Handling all support matters both in our Court and also Reciprocal Support matters to all other States.

(g) Mental Commitments.

COUNTY TREASURER

The County Treasurer is an elected officer of county government whose office is created by the Illinois Constitution and whose duties are defined by Illinois statutes.

Two major roles are played by the County Treasurer: treasurer and custodian of monies for county government, and ex officio Collector of tax monies for all taxing bodies in McHenry County.

The Treasurer holds county tax monies in custody, invests funds in interest bearing accounts, disburses payments on county warrants, serves as a fund depository for fees from the State of Illinois, holds in custody funds deposited by order of court for estates, for condemnation proceedings, and provides periodic reports of County financial condition to the McHenry County Board.

As County Collector, the Treasurer mails out tax bills and collects all taxes levied on personal property and real estate in McHenry County. As collections of the two installments of real estate taxes proceed, the Treasurer expedites distribution of their pro-rata shares to the school districts, cities and villages, fire protection districts, townships, junior colleges, libraries, conservation district and miscellaneous taxing districts. At the end of the collection period, the Treasurer publishes the list of delinquent taxes and conducts the annual sale of taxes. Total taxes collected and distributed in McHenry County currently exceed $30,000,000.

VALLEY HI NURSING HOME

In 1884, the County Board of Supervisors invested $25,000 to buy a farm west of Hartland and erect a building to provide a home for aged dependents. First residents occupied the building in 1885.

On April 8, 1958, the County Board voted to issue $285,000 worth of bonds for an addition and rennovate the old building. In 1960 the name was changed from McHenry County Home to Valley Hi Nursing Home, its present name.

Continued demands for space prompted the board to construct a $468,000 addition in action taken February 10, 1970. Dedication was March 28, 1971, bringing total number of beds to 90, all are occupied today.

The Valley Hi Nursing Home is headed by a full-time administrator. Valley Hi has a highly trained staff with registered nurses, dietitians, therapists and other professionals to assist the people, most of whom are senior citizens. A special committee of the County Board assists with the overall management of Valley Hi.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The McHenry County Department of Health is made up of three divisions: Public Health Nursing, Environmental Health and Veterinary Public Health.

The Division of Public Health Nursing provides a variety of Nursing Services including family-centered nursing at home, Medicare nursing and physical therapy services in the home, bedside nursing services, basic health supervision in families where there is that need, care for handicapped children, care for premature infants and in educating parents of a premature infant as to the special care needed for that infant, home visits to mental health patients, a school vision and hearing screening program in the schools where such program is not otherwise available, the provision of a monthly immunization clinic for all persons needing immunizations, but unable to afford obtaining them from a private practitioner, the provision of a well child clinic once a month for those persons that are medically indigent and the provision of a venereal disease referral program.

The Environmental Health Division provides services by the inspection of all food and drink establishments in the county, inspection of grocery stores, evaluating private water supplies and sewage systems, being active in water pollution control, having an ongoing nuisance abatement program, evaluating swimming beaches, making periodic school and institutional inspections, and providing public health laboratory capabilities (especially as related to surface water pollution problems).

The Veterinary Public Health Division provides services in animal control, including rabies control, preventing disease transmission from animal to man, controlling vectors such as flies, rats and mosquitoes, coordinating human and veterinary health efforts toward protecting animal and human health in McHenry county, conducting epidemiological investigations of communicable diseases in conjunction with the Public Health Nursing Division and Environmental Health Division, being contracted by the Illinois Department of Agriculture as providing the Veterinary supervision of lay inspectors at meat packing plants in McHenry county, being involved in livestock waste management to prevent livestock waste materials from polluting the streams, and providing the noxious weed control for McHenry county.

McHENRY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department has a responsibility for the construction and maintenance of 210 miles of highways in McHenry county. All work on the county highway system is performed from the Department's main facilities located at the intersection of Illinois Route 47 and Country Club Road, Woodstock.

The Superintendent of Highways heads the Department and is a Registered Professional Engineer appointed by the County Board for a six-year term. He is assisted by 3 engineers, 2 secretaries and 19 full-time operators and truck drivers. During the summer months 12 to 14 additional part-time people help with mowing operations and the painting of traffic markings.

The Highway Department has no direct responsibility for the township road systems in the county. However, the engineering staff of the Department does serve the 17 Road Districts in advisory capacity. Advising the Highway Commissioners on engineering matters and assisting them with traffic studies and highway safety problems.

The Department has the necessary equipment and trained manpower to perform all required routine and emergency maintenance operations. Personnel of the Department are on call 24 hours a day to respond to any emergency situation affecting the County Highway system.

Mary Earner, secretary to County Clerk, County Clerk Vernon Kays, County Board Chairman Walter Dean and Betty Thiede, secretary to County Board, occupy the front portion during county board meetings.

300 Floor, which includes Circuit Clerk's office and Judiciary.

SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE REGION

The Educational Service Region Office is an extension of the State Office of Public Instruction, and both offices exist to serve the children in Illinois. In recent years, the role of the Regional Superintendent has changed radically. Increased involvement in the many facets of education have contributed significantly to the responsibilities of the office.

As school enrollments increase, services to pupils, teachers and administrators through the regional office increase. The demand for more accurate information and detailed records at all levels of education has contributed to the workload of the McHenry County Educational Service Region Office.

School enrollment in the McHenry County Region has grown in the last 15 years from 19,129 pupils in 1958-59 to over 31,570 this past year. This office provides services for students, parents, teachers, administrators, educational personnel and McHenry County residents. Some of these services:

STATE AID DISTRIBUTION: Today 21 districts receive over $12 million in State Aid Funds in five broad categories through this office. Categories and amounts distributed during 1973-74 are: Distributive fund, $10,031,773; transportation, $784,399; lunch and milk, $374,869; special education, $710,626; and driver training, $113,000.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION: This office is charged with the responsibility for the registration of all certified, educational personnel employed in McHenry County and for the registration of teaching certificates of former teachers who are no longer actively employed by a district. In the 1973-74 school year, over 2,850 teaching certificates were registered.

TRANSPORTATION: This office has the responsibility to register all school bus drivers in the county. The number of registrants has increased to slightly under 300 this year.

TRUANCY: Each Regional Superintendent shall appoint a county truant officer. Work with truants is in addition to and in cooperation with the work of local school authorities, county probation office and States Attorney's office. As school attendance problems increase, more school officials utilize this service. This past year over 106 truant cases were reviewed by this office.

AID PROGRAMS: Participation in State and Federal Aid Programs has remained at a high level. This office distributed $538,705.

AUDIO-VISUAL: McHenry County Film Library is a cooperative association which buys and circulates films to member schools. It consists of over 800 films and filmstrips. Circulation averages about 250 films a week.

This office was involved in establishing the Special Education District of McHenry County and is presently involved in planning the McHenry County Career Educational Cooperative.

The office is the administering agent for the high school Equivalency Testing Program which benefits those who have never completed requirements for high school graduation.

The County Superintendent is ex-officio secretary of the regional board of School Trustees, a seven-member Board that has as its chief function the transfer, by petition, of school property from one district to another, if deemed advisable.

JURY COMMISSION

The Jury Commission consists of three Commissioners and the Clerk of the Jury Commission, each being appointed for a term of three years by Judges of the 19th Judicial Circuit. The function of the Jury Commission is to interview and provide qualified persons to serve as Grand and Petit jurors in the Circuit Court of the 19th Judicial Circuit, McHenry County, Illinois.

A key number is used in selecting the names of persons on the General Voter's List to be interviewed as prospective jurors. Said persons are required to complete a questionnaire and to appear at the Jury Commission Office for a personal interview by a Jury Commissioner. Jury cards are prepared for those persons qualified to serve as jurors and the jury cards are deposited in a jury box. The jury cards are withdrawn from the jury box on a lottery basis to meet the requirements of the Court for Grand and Petit jurors.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The McHenry County Zoning Board of Appeals was created by Section 22 of the McHenry County Zoning Ordinance on September 18, 1962. The Board originally consisted of five members but in this past year membership has been increased to seven. Appointments are made by the McHenry County Board, and the chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals is nominated by the chairman of the County Board.

All meetings are open to the public. The Zoning Board of Appeals hears and decides all appeals from and reviews any order, requirement, decisions or determination made by an administrative official charged with the enforcement of this ordinance.

It also hears and decided all matters referred to it pertaining to requests for zoning changes. Hearings are held in the township in which the property sought to be rezoned is located.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Building and zoning is a necessary tool of government for the orderly development of any area or community. It is a function delegated by state statute to the county, city and village governing bodies.

Jurisdiction of the county building and zoning department is restricted to the unincorporated areas in the county. A good building and zoning department works with a planning department and a health department for present and future development of the area.

This department is governed by two separate codes — a building code and a zoning code. The zoning code divides the unincorporated areas of the county into districts which restricts the use of land, construction and structures to promote the public health, safety and general welfare and lessen or avoid congestion on public streets and highways.

McHenry county has five such districts: Estates, residential, farming, business and industrial. Building codes regulate the type, size construction and placement of buildings on properties.

A person applying for a building permit must submit a survey, two sets of construction plans, septic prints and percolation data from a registered engineer, a well permit from the state and a completed application and plot plan.

All papers are submitted to the planning department to be checked for conformity to the flood plain ordinance.

From the planning department, the papers go to the health department to be sure all is in compliance with the county health code. The papers are returned to the building and zoning department where these checks are made:

- The plot plan is checked for setback, side lot areas and easements.
- The septic prints are checked to conform to the code for distance to well and foundation.
- The prints of construction are checked to see that components/finished structure will meet the county building code.

County board in action. Twenty-four members comprise this elected board. Meetings are open to the public and usually held the second Tuesday of each month.

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AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY DON PEASLEY

Looking westward, showing the new McHenry County Courthouse, Tonyan Construction Company, general contractors.

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