Jefferson County 1931 Courthouse

Much has been written about the historic Jefferson County Courthouse dedicated in 1931 and still in use today. This document will reference and incorporate herein some of these sources of important historical facts.

In the Jefferson County Clerk's Office several volumes of records from the construction of the 1931 Courthouse have been restored and preserved in archival quality sleeves and books. The subject matter ranges from election notices on the $1,000,000 bond election for construction of the Courthouse to bid and specification information.

Some items of particular interest found in the County Clerk's records are:

- Wage Dispute Documents
- Petition for a Beacon Light atop Courthouse
- Plasterer Wage Scale
- Structural Specifications
- Lists of construction workers
- Accounting documents detailing project costs
- Bid and specification documents

A major restoration of the 1931 historic courthouse was conducted around the time of the construction in 1981 of the courthouse annex or "new courthouse" as it is still referred to today some thirty years after the building's dedication.

Two accounts of this process were written by people closely connected with the project, J. Howard Murry, the restoration architect, and Mildred Hall, a representative of the Jefferson County Historical Commission who worked tirelessly to protect the historical integrity of our courthouse. These documents are:

- Jefferson County Courthouse 1931 – 1984 by J. Howard Murry
- Jefferson County Courthouse 1983 Restoration by Mrs. Willard Hall

MARVIN SCURLOCK
COUNTY ATTORNEY
JEFFERSON COUNTY

Commissioner Shipley

BEAUMONT, TEXAS.

June 12th, 1931.

To the Honorable Commissioners' Court of
Jefferson County, Texas.

On last Monday, June 8th. you passed the following resolution addressed to your County Attorney:

"Upon motion of Commissioner Shipley, seconded by Commissioner Welch, and unanimously adopted, the County Attorney was requested for an opinion involving the contract between Jefferson County and McDaniel Brothers on the new Million Dollar Court House, reference to the labor and wage clause of said contract in that was their action of reducing the wages of carpenters and plasterers $2.00 per day, after these craft had started to work on the Court House a violation of their contract in other words is the standard wage controlled by date of contract or does it fluctuate as the work progresses; also give us an opinion as to the labor clause reference to McDaniel Brothers using out-of-county labor on the work, the county attorney is also hereby asked to detail Mr. W. T. McNeill to give us the opinion on this case and report back to the Court, Friday Morning June 12."

The first question to be answered under the above resolution is: Does the "Standard Wage Scale" as used in the contract between the County and McDaniel Brothers fix the price to be paid all workmen on the court house job at the Standard Wage Scale prevailing at the date of the contract, or does this "Standard Wage Scale" fluctuate with and as the work progresses? In order to answer this as we view it, the wording of the contract together with the applicable statutory law must be consulted.

A. Provisions of Contract.

The part of the contract bearing upon this point was adopted from the resolution of the Commissioners' Court and amendment thereto found in Vol. 12, pgs. 264, 265 & 267 of the Minutes of the said court and reads as follows:

"That labor of the county shall be given first preference provided the service to be rendered is competent and the wage scale is reasonable ---. Local labor shall mean residents of Jefferson County, holding a poll tax receipt in said county and that the contractor shall pay the standard wage scale to all

MARVIN SCURLOCK
COUNTY ATTORNEY
JEFFERSON COUNTY

BEAUMONT, TEXAS,

workmen employed on all contract work, and further the contractor shall file with the County Clerk a schedule showing the names of all employees, their addresses and the precinct in which they vote."

This excerpt in said contract uses two expressions, "provided the wage scale is reasonable" and "the contractor shall pay the standard wage scale". To say these terms mean a different things would create a conflict and render the terms nugatory. There is no conflict between these two expressions for they are complementary and assist in defining and understanding each other. Labor has its market value and this is capable of being ascertained. Ruark V. International Union of Operating Engineers (Maryland) 146 Atl. 797. Market value of labor means what the services are fairly and reasonably worth. Morse V. DeLaney 218 N.Y.S. 571, Affirmed 155 N.E. 628. As ~~the~~ said in that case, in the absence of a contract expressly fixing the rate, the reasonable value is such an amount which a court of law would award as damages in an action to recover pay for services rendered. See 28 Tex. 150; 146 S.W.950.

The standard wage scale is the prevailing wage in the locality where the work is done. Morse V. DeLaney Supra.

B. Statutory law affecting this contract:

It is a well settled rule of law that contracts are made with reference to the applicable statutory law, and the provisions thereof become a part of the contract just as tho the same were expressly made a part thereof. 295 S. W. 578; 229 S. W. 483; 271 S. W. 886, and where an agreement is obscure as to a particular subject, the law in effect at the time the contract is made supplements and interprets the contract. 229 S. W. 483. Article 5166 R. S. 1925 provides that every contract made for the performance of work for any county must comply with the requirements of Chapter 5, Title 83 R. S. 1925 of which Article 5166 is a part. Article 5165, the first Article in this chapter, provides that eight hours is considered a day's work for all workmen constructing public buildings. Article 5166 among other things provides that "not less than the current rate per hour wages for like work in the locality where the work is being performed shall be paid to the labors, workmen, mechanics", on public work. In the light of the above proposition of law we believe that the last quoted provision of Article 5166 should be read into this contract as one of its necessary implications 295 S.W. 578. And the terms a "wage scale that is reasonable" and "the standard wage scale" should be taken to mean and are the same as the "current rate of per hour wages for like work in the locality where the work is being performed". As otherwise it must be said that the court in fixing a different rate was proposing a rate "which was illegal, and no

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COUNTY ATTORNEY
JEFFERSON COUNTY

BEAUMONT, TEXAS.

such motive will be ascribed to the officials unless they convict themselves of such motive by their own language and conduct" 295 S.W. 578. In the absence of such a conviction, it will be conclusively presumed that they propose the legal method. 295 S. W. 578. It is only reasonable to presume that the county officials and the contractors in this case agreed upon a wage in complete harmony with the law relating thereto. In taking this standard, we merely follow the practice of reading into any contract the provisions of law with reference thereto. 295 S. W. 580. In order to constre the phrase "current rate of per hour wages" as used in Art. 5166 it is necessary to define the word "CURRENT". The term "current"as defined by the Century Dictionery means, "running; moving; following; passing; present in its course; as the current month or year". Words and phrases Vol. 2. p. 1790. Corpus Juris defines "current" when used as an adjective as "running; circulatory; common; following; moving; popular; passing; or present in its course as the current month or year". 17 C.J. 408. It is a sound rule that the first definition given for the meaning of a word is the primary and most important meaning and it will be observed that the word "running" is the first in both definitions. Our courts have accepted the above definitions of "current". 264 S. W. 178. "The proper construction to be placed unto the term "current wages" is that they are compensation paid for services as are to be paid for periodically, or from time to time, as the services are rendered; or the work is performed, - progresses". 264 S. W. 178; 163 S. W. 630. The U. S. Supreme Court in Connally V. General Construction Company (Okl.) 46 Sup. Court 126, 128, 269 U. S. 285; 70 L. Ed. 322 defines the phrase "current rate of wages" as follows:

> "The words 'Current rate of wages' do not denote a specific or definite sum, but minimum, maximum, and intermediate amounts, indeterminately varying from time to time and dependent on the class and kind of work done, the efficiency of the workmen, etc".

The "current market price" used in a covenant to buy and sell gasoline, means that the contract price shall run or flow with market, following its fluctuations. Ford V. Norton (N.M.) 260 p. 411. In that case one party agreed to sell and another agreed to buy gasoline from time to time during the life of the contract at the "current market price". The seller contended that this price was the"highest market price" during the period of the contract but the court held it to be the price at the time each quantity was ordered by the purchaser during the life of the contract.

"The clause, 'The current rate of per diem wages in the locality where the work is performed' may therefore be held to mean the charge for or valuation of the daily toil of a laborer, workman, or mechanic, as the case may be, at a given labor, according to a scale or

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COUNTY ATTORNEY
JEFFERSON COUNTY

BEAUMONT, TEXAS.

standard of money compensation then (emphasis ours) generally received or established by common consent or estimation throughout an area which includes, not only the actual site where the work is being performed, but also such adjoining territory within which the compensation does prevail" Ruark V. International Union of Operating Engineers. 146 Atl. (Md) 801. "The current rate of per diem wages in the locality where the work is performed" is not an ambiguous clause. Ruark V. International Eng. & Morse V. Delaney, Supra.

The whole object of the law and contract entered into in the matter before us was to secure to the workmen on the building a reasonable, fair and just wage. This, under the above authorities, is the reasonable value of the services rendered at the time and place the work is performed. It is believed that the parties to the contract intended to and did comply with Article 5166 above. The current wages means wages that are moving, running, passing, fluctuating from time to time. To say that the contract fixed the wage scale as of the date of the contract is not to allow a running, moving, passing, fluctuating wage scale, but to fix it arbitrarily as of one time, when, under the contract the work would last for a year or longer, and would not take into account any increase or decrease in wages during this time in the locality. If in the contract the Commissioners' Court and the contractor had set a definite amount in dollars and cents to be paid the workmen in each craft the validity of the contract under Article 5166 would be seriously questioned, for, if ~~and before the work~~ a definite wage in dollars and cents were stipulated, and thereafter and before the work was completed the current, prevailing wage for the same services had increased over the amount stipulated then the contract would not be in conformity with said article and would likely seriously jeopardize the rights of both parties thereunder, and it would not be reasonable to assume that the contracting parties took any such chances affecting the validity of this contract, which involves so much value.

Then too, the expression in the contract "provided --- the wage scale is reasonable" is significant and is unanswerable. It is there stated that local labor shall be given the perference "provided" the service to be rendered is competent and the wage scale is reasonable. In other words, before local labor is entitled to a preference its work shall be competent and its wage scale reasonable. It was a useless and an unnecessary thing to provide that labor's wage scale must be reasonble if in the very contract carrying this expression it could be said that a fixed and hard fast wage scale was established by the contract to cover the entire period of the work, and it is a cardinal rule of law that every provision of a contract must, if possible, be given effect.

Having reached the conclusion that the standard wage scale fluctuates from time to time as the work progresses it is impossible upon

MARVIN SCURLOCK
COUNTY ATTORNEY
JEFFERSON COUNTY

BEAUMONT, TEXAS.

the facts submitted to this department to determine whether McDaniel Brothers violated their contract in reducing the wages of carpenters and p lasterers ~~to~~ $2.00 per day. (If in so reducing said wages the contractor was paying these workmen less than the standard wage scale or current rate per hour wages for like work in this locality as, of, and at the time the work was being done then McDaniel Bros!. action would be in violation of the contract and of article 5166.) (However what is the standard wage scale at any time or place is a fact question and is a matter for a court or jury in a proper case to pass upon.)

The other question asked in the above resolution as to whether or not McDaniel Bros. is violating the labor clause in using out of county labor on thswork cannot be answered for the reason that this department was submitted with no facts thereon. The contract requires that "local labor of the county shall be given first preference" It appears that under the report of the architects made to you on Monday, June 8th. that "every applicant with a Jefferson County poll tax receipt was given a job" We have no other information and on this report it does not appear that McDaniel Bros. have violated this contract.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. McNeil
Assistant County Attorney.

Assistant Co. Atty.
W. J. McNeill's
Report
Reference Labor + Wage
Clause #1,000,000.00
Court House

Filed JUN 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By [illegible] DEPUTY

It appearing to the court that there is a bona fide dispute between the contractor McDaniel Brothers, and local labor involving the new court house job as to the wage scale that is being paid the workmen on the job, and also as to ~~the~~ out-of-county labor being employed, and the court being in dis-agreement with the contractor in this dispute; therefore in compliance with the contract with reference to the matter involved, the court requests the architects interpretation of the wage scale and out-of-county labor clause in said contract, under Article 39 General conditions of said contract. We desire the full interpretation of the terms of the contract with reference to the standard wage scale, and out-of-county labor, used therein under the facts and circumstances under which the workmen are being paid and employed, and as to whether McDaniel Bros. have violated that standard wage scale and/or ~~or~~ the out-of-county labor clause. We request this, entrepretation by 10:00 O'clock June 18, A.D. 1931

Order Repeating
Architect T.S.
Interpretation of
Wage Scale and
Out-of-County-Labor
Clause

Filed JUN 12 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County, Ill.
By [illegible]
DEPUTY

TO THE HON. COURT & COUNTY COMMISSIONERS;

We are handing you herewith copy of testimony of Plastering Contractors and General Contractors of Jefferson County, the original of which we have in our possession stating they know of no other scale than $13.00 for plasterers. McDaniel Brothers have admitted same in open court and through the press when they stated that they put plasterers to work at $13.00 and then took them off because they had been told that "the scale" would be cut. The foregoing would remove any shadow of a doubt, if there be such, from the minds of this Court. Plastering is one craft there is no doubt about for there is no other scale in the county since there are no plasterers in the county other than members of our organization and there is no loophole by which McDaniel Brothers can get by with any other scale if they abide by the contract they have with this Court, whose duty it is to see that same is done to the letter.

Evidence brought before your court goes to prove there is a breach of contract and we, not only as plasterers but as tax payers, are asking that this day, while court is yet in session, McDaniel Brothers if not present be hailed into court, or their agent whom they must keep on the job at all times, and given orders to remove all non-residents or non-citizens from the Court House job and to put home men on at the standard wage scale, and we are further asking if McDaniel Brothers, or their agent, refuse to do this, then this Court today file injunction against them and if it be necessary sue their bondsmen on the contract. We are asking for action immediately to avoid any further tendency to drag this matter. When McDaniel Brothers are reported "out of town" they must have an agent accessible at all times, who is usually the general superintendant of the job, to transact business, and we are asking the Court to accept no pretext on their part to prolong this matter. We will accept nothing short of home men at the standard scale and this Court has no choice but must abide by the evidence. Everyone concerned in this matter has had ample time to produce evidence and McDaniel Brothers have never denied that $13.00 is the standard wage scale for plasterers and there is no evidence to the contrary. Therefore, we are asserting our rights and are asking that steps be taken this day to compel McDaniel Brothers to live up to their contract or to force them off the job.

O. P. & C. F. I. A.; LOCAL #435

By F. C. James

We, the undersigned, have recognized and paid to journeyman plasterers $13.00 as the recognized scale for this county for several years.

Subcontractors of Plastering

Zan Brown
B. D. Carney
Ed Fears
A. K. James

General Contractors

J. W. Meriwether
T. J. Posey
C. B. Davis
C. F. Myers
Sneed Construction Co.
By R. P. Sneed
Christy-Dolph-Collins Const. Co.
By O. W. Collins
King-Huff Construction Co., Inc.,
By W. W. Huff
W. L. James
H. W. McCord
J. D. Secrest
S. Flowers

Letter from
C. R. + C. W. A.
Local #443
X. C. James, Pres.
Re: Workmen
$1,000,000.00 Court House

Filed JUN 12 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By Fred G. Hill DEPUTY

June 15, 1931

Honorable Commissioners Court
Jefferson County, Beaumont, Texas

Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of your resolution of June 12th, 1931, requesting our decision in the matters involved in your dispute with McDaniel Brothers, concerning the employment of labor and the wage scale being paid in the construction of the new Jefferson County Court House, and after a reasonable time given to due consideration of these matters we have reached the following conclusions:

Regarding the request for an interpretation of the terms occuring in the contract pertaining to "Standard Scale" and Local Labor" we are in the first case unable, to present any interpretation, based on present conditions and facts, which would be acceptable to both parties and therefore feel that this point should be settled by some other process, if the matter is pressed further.

Regarding the second term "Local Labor" we believe this term to be quite clear in the contract, and our interpretation is that this means any workmen holding a Jefferson County Poll Tax Receipt.

Regarding the state of dispute in which you find yourselves with the Contractor as to whether or not he is carrying out the terms of the contract, in these two particulars, and as required of us as Architect, under the provision of the contract, to render a decision offering to settle the matter; we beg to report as follows:

We have been unable to find any evidence that McDaniel Brothers are not employing every competent workman, holding a poll tax receipt, who presents himself at the new building and requests a job.

In view of the definite downward trend in all building costs and the rapidly lowering value of nearly every item entering into the construction of buildings today, and in view of the fact that scores of workmen are working on the job apparently contented with the wage scale established between them and the Contractor, we are unable to find any point against them in this connection.

We wish to state that under the expressed terms of the contract we feel that the contractors' position in all these matters referred to us is secure and, therefore, would recommend that your Honorable Court withdraw the charge against the Contractors.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED C. STONE

A. Babin

Fred C. Stone

A. Babin

ARCHITECTS.

Jefferson County Courthouse 1931

Filed JUN 15 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By _____ DEPUTY

Filed JUN 15 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By _____ DEPUTY

Because of Conflict
in Statement of Account
Filed in County Court

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Architect's decision be filed to which decisio the Owner, Jefferson County, objects and excepts: and it is further resolved that the Commissioners' Court and Owner chooses to arbitrate the matters in dispute, concerning the standard wage scale and out-of-county labor clauses in the contract, and that the County Attorney be and he is hereby instructed to proceed with arbitration proceedings for this Court and to file demand for arbitration with the Architects.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Architect's decision be filed to which decision the Owner, Jefferson County, objects and excepts: and it is further resolved that the Commissioners' Court and Owner chooses to arbitrate the matters in dispute, concerning the standard wage scale and out-of-county labor clauses in the contract, and that the County Attorney be and he is hereby instructed to proceed with arbitration proceedings for this Court and to file demand for arbitration with the Architects.

Mills Motion Shipley Second —

Mills - Shipley - Turner - yes —

Nollch — No

Order instructing
County atty. to
proceed with arbitration
proceedings $1,000,000
Court House

Filed JUN 15 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By Fred E. Kile DEPUTY

Mr. _____ offers the following Resolution in writing and moves its adoption, viz:

WHEREAS, at a meeting of the Commissioner's Court of Jefferson County, Texas, held on the 12th day of June, A. D. 1931, all Commissioners and the County Judge being present and participating, the following resolution was duly offered and was duly and regularly adopted by the unanimous vote of all the members of the Commissioner's Court, and same appears regularly in the minutes and records of the Court, viz:

"It appearing to the Court that there is a bona-fide dispute between the Contractor, McDaniel Brothers, and local labor involving the New Court House job as to the wage scale that is being paid the workmen on the job, and also as to out-of-county labor being employed, and the Court being in disagreement with the Contractor in this dispute; therefore in compliance with the contract with reference to the matter involved, the court requests the architect's interpretation of the wage scale and out-of-county labor clause in said contract, under Article 39 General Conditions of said contract. We desire the full interpretation of the terms of the contract with reference to the standard wage scale, and out-of-county labor, used therein under the facts and circumstances under which the workmen are being paid and employed, and as to whether McDaniel Brothers have violated that standard wage scale and/or the out-of-county labor clause. We request this interpretation by 10:00 o'clock, June 15, A.D.1931."

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to said resolution the architects on the Court House contract, regularly employed and engaged by the county as such, viz: Fred C. Stone and A. A. Babin, did thereafter, and within a reasonable time, viz: On the 15th day of June, A.D.1931, make their decision in writing on the matters thus in dispute betwee n the County and the Contractors, and thus submitted for such decision by the above resolution, and did present such decision to the Commissioner's Court, and did present such decision to the Commissioner's Court, and same was regularly filed therein, the same being as follows:

"We are in receipt of your resolution of June 12th, 1931, requiring our decision in the matters involved in your dispute with McDaniel Brothers, concerning the employment of labor and the wage scale being paid in the construction of the new Jefferson County court house, and after a reasonable time given to due consideration of these matters we have reached the following conclusions:

Regarding the request for an interpretation of the terms occurring in the contract pertaining to "Standard Scale" and "Local Labor," we are in the first case unable to present any interpretation, based on present conditions and facts, which would be acceptable to both parties and therefore feel that this point should be settled by some other process, if the matter is pressed further.

Regarding the second term "Local Labor" we believe this term to be quite clear in the contract, and our interpretation is that this means any workmen holding a Jefferson County Poll Tax Receipt.

Regarding the state of dispute in which you find yourselves with the contractor as to whether or not he is carrying out the terms of the contract, in these two particulars, and as required of us as Architect, under the provision of the contract, to render a decision offering to settle the matter, we beg to report as follows:

We have been unable to find any evidence that McDaniel Brothers are not employing every competent workman, holding a poll tax receipt, who presents himself at the new building and requests a job.

In view of the definite downward trend in all building costs and the rapidly lowering value of nearly every item entering into the construction of buildings today, and in view of the fact that scores of workmen are working on the job apparently contented with the wage scale established between them and the Contractor, we are unable to find any point against them in this connection.

We wish to state that under the expressed terms of the contract we feel that the contractors' position in all these matters referred to us is secure and, therefore, would recommend that your Honorable Court withdraw the charge against the Contractors.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED C. STONE
A. BABIN

FRED C. STONE
A. BABIN
ARCHITECTS."

said
AND WHEREAS, on the/last mentioned day, the Commissioner's Court considered the said decision of the Architects, and thereupon the following resolution of the Commissioner's Court was duly presented and duly and regularly adopted by the Commissioner's Court, and same appears regularly in the minutes and records of the Court, viz:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Architects' decision to be filed to which decision the owner, Jefferson County, objects and excepts, and it is further resolved that the Commissioner's Court and Owner chooses to arbitrate the matters in dispute, concerning the standard wage scale and out of county labor clauses in the contract, and that the County Attorney be and he is hereby instructed to proceed with arbitration proceedings for this Court and to file demand for arbitration with the Architects.

AND WHEREAS the County Attorney has, pursuant to the last above recited resolution prepared and caused to be prepared the necessary resolution by this Court for carrying into effect and securing such arbitration, and same is before the Court for consideration and same is hereby presented to the Court for adoption, as follows, viz:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioner's Court is not satisfied with, and does not agree, to or with said decision of said architects, as well as regarding matters decided therein, as in the failure of the said Architects to decide all matters thus submitted, and does hereby appeal from such decision of said Architects, and the whole thereof, both as to matters therein decided and as to the failure of said Architects to decide all matters submitted, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that demand by the Commissioner's Court of Jefferson County, Texas, is hereby made for arbitration of all the matters thus in dispute and thus submitted to said Architects for decision, such arbitration to be had under the provisions of said Contract of construction in question, and particularly Articles 39 and 40 of the General Conditions attached to and forming a part of such contract, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and preliminary recitals together with a record vote of its passage and adoption be entered upon the minutes of the Court, and that the demand for arbitration herein made and provided for, be filed in writing with such architects in the following manner, viz: That a full, true, complete and correct copy hereof showing its adoption be prepared and duly certified in writing by the proper custodian of such minutes and records, and the proper official seal be attached thereto, and that the said copy duly certified and authenticated, be thereupon filed with the Architects within ten (10) days from and after June 15th, 1931, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ of Jefferson County, Texas, is a person who is in no way financially interested in said contract of construction or in the business affairs of said County or of its Commissioner's Court, and that he, the said _____ be, and he is hereby nominated, chosen and appointed as, and to act as one of the arbitrators of the said dispute, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk of said County forthwith and in writing, notify the contractors of such appointment of such arbitrators and of the contents and passage of this resolution by furnishing and delivering to such contractors a duly certified copy of this resolution and recitals.

MR._____ seconded the motion, and the question being duly put by the County Judge, then presiding, the following Commissioners voted "Aye" viz:

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

and the following "Nay," _____

_____

Whereupon, a majority of the Commissioner's Court having voted in favor of the resolution, same was duly passed and adopted, and was so declared by the County Judge, then presiding.

Mr. _____ offers the following Resolution in writing and moves its adoption, viz:

WHEREAS, at a meeting of the Commissioner's Court of Jefferson County, Texas, held on the 12th day of June, A. D. 1931, all Commissioners and the County Judge being present and participating, the following resolution was duly offered and was duly and regularly adopted by the unanimous vote of all the members of the Commissioner's Court, and same appears regularly in the minutes and records of the Court, viz:

"It appearing to the Court that there is a bona-fide dispute between the Contractor, Nathaniel Brothers, and local labor involving the New Court House job as to the wage scale that is being paid the workmen on the job, and also as to out-of-county labor being employed, and the Court being in disagreement with the Contractor in this dispute; therefore in compliance with the contract with reference to the matter involved, the court requests the architect's interpretation of the wage scale and out-of-county labor clause in said contract, under Article 39 General conditions of said contract. We desire the full interpretation of the terms of the contract with reference to the standard wage scale, and out-of-county labor, used therein under the facts and circumstances under which the workmen are being paid and employed, and as to whether Nathaniel Brothers have violated that standard wage scale and/or the out-of-county labor clause. We request this interpretation by 10:00 o'clock, June 15, A.D.1931."

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to said resolution the architects on the Court House contract, regularly employed and engaged by the county as such, viz: Fred C. Stone and A. A. Robin, did thereafter, and within a reasonable time, viz: On the 15th day of June, A.D.1931, make their decision in writing on the matters then in dispute betwee n the County and the Contractors, and thus submitted for such decision by the above resolution, and did present such decision to the Commissioner's Court, ~~and did present such decision to the Commissioner's~~ Court, and same was regularly filed therein, the same being as follows:

"We are in receipt of your resolution of June 17th, 1931, requiring our decision in the matters involved in your dispute with McDaniel Brothers, concerning the employment of labor and the wage scale being paid in the construction of the new Jefferson County court house, and after a reasonable time given to due consideration of these matters we have reached the following conclusions:

Regarding the request for an interpretation of the terms occurring in the contract pertaining to "Standard Scale" and "Local Labor," we are in the first case unable to present any interpretation, based on present conditions and facts, which would be acceptable to both parties and therefore feel that this point should be settled by some other process, if the matter is pressed further.

Regarding the second term "Local Labor" we believe this term to be quite clear in the contract, and our interpretation is that this means any workmen holding a Jefferson County Poll Tax Receipt.

Regarding the state of dispute in which you find yourselves with the contractor as to whether or not he is carrying out the terms of the contract, in these two particulars, and as required of us as Architect, under the provision of the contract, to render a decision offering to settle the matter, we beg to report as follows:

We have been unable to find any evidence that McDaniel Brothers are not employing every competent workman, holding a poll tax receipt, who presents himself at the new building and requests a job.

In view of the definite downward trend in all building costs and the rapidly lowering value of nearly every item entering into the construction of buildings today, and in view of the fact that scores of workmen are working on the job apparently contented with the wage scale established between them and the Contractor, we are unable to find any point against them in this connection.

We wish to state that under the expressed terms of the contract we feel that the contractors' position in all these matters referred to us is secure and, therefore, would recommend that your Honorable Court withdraw the charge against the Contractors.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED C. STOKE
A. DAHM

FRED C. STOKE
A. DAHM
ARCHITECTS."

AND WHEREAS, on the said last mentioned day, the Commissioner's Court considered the said decision of the Architects, and thereupon the following resolution of the Commissioner's Court was duly presented and duly and regularly adopted by the Commissioner's Court, and same appears regularly in the minutes and records of the Court, viz:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Architects' decision ~~is~~ be filed to which decision the owner, Jefferson County, objects and excepts, and it is further resolved that the Commissioner's Court and Owner chooses to arbitrate the matters in dispute, concerning the standard wage scale and out of county labor clauses in the contract, and that the County Attorney be and he is hereb instructed to proceed with arbitration proceedings for this Court and to file demand for arbitration with the Architects.

AND WHEREAS the County Attorney has, pursuant to the last above recited resolution prepared and caused to be prepared the necessary resolution by this Court for carrying into effect and securing such arbitration, and same is before the Court for consideration and same is hereby presented to the Court for adoption, as follows, viz:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioner's Court is not satisfied with, and does not agree, to or with said decision of said architects, as well ~~as~~ regarding matters decided therein, as in the failure of the said Architects to decide all matters thus submitted, and does hereby appeal from such decision of said Architects, and the whole thereof, both as to matters therein decided and as to the failure of said Architects to decide all matters submitted, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that demand by the Commissioner's Court of Jefferson County, Texas, is hereby made for arbitration of all the matters thus in dispute and thus submitted to said Architects for decision, such arbitration to be had under the provisions of said contract of construction in question, and particularly Articles 39 and 40 of the General Conditions attached to and forming a part of such contract, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and preliminary recitals together with a record vote of its passage and adoption be entered upon the minutes of the Court, and that the demand for arbitration herein made and provided for, be filed in writing with such architects in the following manner, viz: That a full, true, complete and correct copy hereof showing its adoption be prepared and duly certified in writing by the proper custodian of such minutes and records, and the proper official seal be attached thereto, and that the said copy duly certified and authenticated, be thereupon filed with the Architects within ten (10) days from and after June 15th, 1931, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ of Jefferson County, Texas, is a person who is in no way financially interested in said contract of construction or in the business affairs of said County or of its Commissioner's Court, and that he, the said _____ be, and he is hereby nominated, chosen and appointed as, and to act as one of the arbitrators of the said dispute, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk of said County forthwith and in writing, notify the contractors of such appointment of such arbitrators and of the contents and passage of this resolution by furnishing and delivering to such contractors a duly certified copy of this resolution and recitals.

MR._____ seconded the motion, and the question being duly put by the County Judge, then presiding, the following Commissioners voted "Aye" viz:

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

and the following "Nay." _____

_____

Thereupon, a majority of the Commissioner's Court having voted in favor of the resolution, same was duly passed and adopted, and was so declared by the County Judge, then presiding.

Mr. _____ offers the following Resolution in writing and moves its adoption, viz:

WHEREAS, at a meeting of the Commissioner's Court of Jefferson County, Texas, held on the 12th day of June, A. D. 1931, all Commissioners and the County Judge being present and participating, the following resolution was duly offered and was duly and regularly adopted by the unanimous vote of all the members of the Commissioner's Court, and same appears regularly in the minutes and records of the Court, viz:

"It appearing to the Court that there is a bona-fide dispute between the Contractor, McDaniel Brothers, and local labor involving the New Court House job as to the wage scale that is being paid the workmen on the job, and also as to out-of-county labor being employed, and the Court being in disagreement with the Contractor in this dispute; therefore in compliance with the contract with reference to the matter involved, the court requests the architect's interpretation of the wage scale and out-of-county labor clause in said contract, under Article 39 General Conditions of said contract. We desire the full interpretation of the terms of the contract with reference to the standard wage scale, and out-of-county labor, used therein under the facts and circumstances under which the workmen are being paid and employed, and as to whether McDaniel Brothers have violated that standard wage scale and/or the out-of-county labor clause. We request this interpretation by 10:00 o'clock, June 15, A.D.1931."

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to said resolution the architects on the Court House contract, regularly employed and engaged by the county as such, viz: Fred C. Stone and A. A. Babin, did thereafter, and within a reasonable time, viz: On the 15th day of June, A.D.1931, make their decision in writing on the matters thus in dispute betwee n the County and the Contractors, and thus submitted for such decision by the above resolution, and did present such decision to the Commissioner's Court, ~~and did present such decision to the Commissioner's Court~~, and same was regularly filed therein, the same being as follows:

"We are in receipt of your resolution of June 12th, 1931, requiring our decision in the matters involved in your dispute with McDaniel Brothers, concerning the employment of labor and the wage scale being paid in the construction of the new Jefferson County court house, and after a reasonable time given to due consideration of these matters we have reached the following conclusions:

Regarding the request for an interpretation of the terms occurring in the contract pertaining to "Standard Scale" and "Local Labor," we are in the first case unable to present any interpretation, based on present conditions and facts, which would be acceptable to both parties and therefore feel that this point should be settled by some other process, if the matter is pressed further.

Regarding the second term "Local Labor" we believe this term to be quite clear in the contract, and our interpretation is that this means any workmen holding a Jefferson County Poll Tax Receipt.

Regarding the state of dispute in which you find yourselves with the contractor as to whether or not he is carrying out the terms of the contract, in these two particulars, and as required of us as Architect, under the provision of the contract, to render a decision offering to settle the matter, we beg to report as follows:

We have been unable to find any evidence that McDaniel Brothers are not employing every competent workman, holding a poll tax receipt, who presents himself at the new building and requests a job.

In view of the definite downward trend in all building costs and the rapidly lowering value of nearly every item entering into the construction of buildings today, and in view of the fact that scores of workmen are working on the job apparently contented with the wage scale established between them and the Contractor, we are unable to find any point against them in this connection.

We wish to state that under the expressed terms of the contract we feel that the contractors' position in all these matters referred to us is secure and, therefore, would recommend that your Honorable Court withdraw the charge against the Contractors.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED C. STONE
A. BABIN

FRED C. STONE
A. BABIN
ARCHITECTS."

AND WHEREAS, on the said last mentioned day, the Commissioner's Court considered the said decision of the Architects, and thereupon the following resolution of the Commissioner's Court was duly presented and duly and regularly adopted by the Commissioner's Court, and same appears regularly in the minutes and records of the Court, viz:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Architects' decision ~~is~~ be filed to which decision the owner, Jefferson County, objects and excepts, and it is further resolved that the Commissioner's Court and Owner chooses to arbitrate the matters in dispute, concerning the standard wage scale and out of county labor clauses in the contract, and that the County Attorney be and he is hereby instructed to proceed with arbitration proceedings for this Court and to file demand for arbitration with the Architects.

AND WHEREAS the County Attorney has, pursuant to the last above recited resolution prepared and caused to be prepared the necessary resolution by this Court for carrying into effect and securing such arbitration, and same is before the Court for consideration and same is hereby presented to the Court for adoption, as follows, viz:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioner's Court is not satisfied with, and does not agree, to or with said decision of said architects, as well ~~as~~ regarding matters decided therein, as in the failure of the said Architects to decide all matters thus submitted, and does hereby appeal from such decision of said Architects, and the whole thereof, both as to matters therein decided and as to the failure of said Architects to decide all matters submitted, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that demand by the Commissioner's Court of Jefferson County, Texas, is hereby made for arbitration of all the matters thus in dispute and thus submitted to said Architects for decision, such arbitration to be had under the provisions of said Contract of construction in question, and particularly Articles 39 and 40 of the General Conditions attached to and forming a part of such contract, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and preliminary recitals together with a record vote of its passage and adoption be entered upon the minutes of the Court, and that the demand for arbitration herein made and provided for, be filed in writing with such architects in the following manner, viz: That a full, true, complete and correct copy hereof showing its adoption be prepared and duly certified in writing by the proper custodian of such minutes and records, and the proper official seal be attached thereto, and that the said copy duly certified and authenticated, be thereupon filed with the Architects within ten (10) days from and after June 15th, 1931, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT _____ of Jefferson County, Texas, is a person who is in no way financially interested in said contract of construction or in the business affairs of said County or of its Commissioner's Court, and that he, the said _____ be, and he is hereby nominated, chosen and appointed as, and to act as one of the arbitrators of the said dispute, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk of said County forthwith and in writing, notify the contractors of such appointment of such arbitrators and of the contents and passage of this resolution by furnishing and delivering to such contractors a duly certified copy of this resolution and recitals.

MR._____ seconded the motion, and the question being duly put by the County Judge, then presiding, the following Commissioners voted "Aye" viz:

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

and the following "Nay," _____

_____

Whereupon, a majority of the Commissioner's Court having voted in favor of the resolution, same was duly passed and adopted, and was so declared by the County Judge, then presiding.

Resolution Re:

Wage Form/
Diebuke

$1,000.00 Hause

Filed JUN 20 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By _____ DEPUTY

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE 1201-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

(08)

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS
DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination is shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at LaSalle Hotel, Beaumont, Texas

BH16 54 COLLECT DL=SC AUSTIN TEX 13 1053A

1930 DEC 13 AM 11 09

HONORABLE MARVIN SCURLOCK=

OK COUNTY ATTONRYE=

YOU STATE COMMISSIONERS COURT LET CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION COURT HOUSE PROVIDING CONTRACTOR SHALL PAY STANDARD WAGE SCALE WORKMEN CLAIM NINE DOLLARS PER DAY CONTRACTOR OFFERS SEVEN STOP WE ADVISE COMMISSIONERS COURT CANNOT DETERMINE QUESTION OF FACT WHAT CONSTITUTES STANDARD WAGE SCALE BUT CAN TEST SAME BY SUIT IN DISTRICT COURT ASKING CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT=

DAVID J PICKLE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS COURT
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Gentlemen:

The undersigned hereby respectfully request your Honorable Body to authorize and instruct the architects on the new Jefferson County Court House to plan for the installation thereon of a beacon Light available to aircraft and to be erected in conformity with the rules and regulations of the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Aviation. Mr. Fred Stone of your architects, has stated that this can be done in the event instructions are given without delay.

It is necessary to have the approval of the court for the installation of the light as a condition precedent to securing the permission of the Federal Government for the installation.

The establishment in Beaumont of such a light on the new court house building will add much to the dignity of this County in its aviation development and will supplement the efforts of Beaumont and Port Arthur in securing night flying and the use of Beaumont, Port Arthur and Sabine Lake for enlarged governmental aviation activities.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. Swan
J. E. Hester
H. J. Boone
J. E. Durio
M. L. Jones
J. N. Highraw
Lawrence Hebert
J. J. Kittl
Frank Peterson
W. E. Wetbanks
D. R. Watson
W. J. Brandt
J. B. Nahlest
L. Nobles
Joel M. Peterman
W. J. Kornegay
F. T. Henry
[illegible]
Charles A. Ruff
Wm. B. Lucks
A. J. Manuel
L. H. Guant
H. A. Allen
Dale Brownsend
J. Austin Barnes
A. G. Gandy

R. C. Beard
W. C. Wells
H. E. Martin
W. C. Steinhagen
Jno. C. Fertitter
Tobe Hahn
Walter Orr
R. F. Pray
D. E. Quinn
C. M. White M. D.
O. F. Higgins
A. W. Coffin
T. C. Buchanan
Leo Chingleton
Horace Williams
S. W. Foster
J. W. Roberts
M. L. Jacobs
Jeanne Hebert
J. W. Hilliard
Vas E. Fullen
J. R. Edmonds
W. B. Branning
R. E. Richardson
D. E. Peavy
F. E. Carroll
J. D. Campbell
A. H. Burt
W. L. Raymond

90 Nomi

Request for installation
of Beacon Light on
New Court House —

2-19-31

17615

Filed ___ day of _____ 19 ___
W. T. BLACKMON
County Clerk, Jefferson County, Texas
By Lue Lair Deputy

Jefferson County Courthouse 1931

C. H. McDANIEL HOWARD McDANIEL

McDANIEL BROTHERS

General Contractors

P. O. Box 826

Skill, Integrity and Responsibility

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

McDaniel Brothers desires to announce that they will have places for approximately 20 more plastering mechanics during the coming week, and that all those interested may apply to the plaster foreman at the site. Preference will be shown those men having Jefferson County Poll Tax receipts and who, in the opinion of ~~McDaniel Brothers~~ the foreman, are competent. The wages paid is ~~$12.00 per day~~ the scale recently adopted by the local plasterers Union, $12.00 per day.

Letter from
McDaniel Bros
Re
Workmen, $1,000,000
Court House

Filed JUN 6 11 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By Fred Hill DEPUTY

Beaumont, Texas
October 23, 1930

Honorable County Judge and Commissioners,
Jefferson County, Texas

Honorable Mayor and Commissioners and City Manager,
Beaumont, Texas

Gentlemen:

In compliance with your request we have studied the plans and specifications prepared for the Jefferson County Court House by Mr. Fred C. Stone and Mr. A. Babin, Architects, and also the City Building Code of the City of Beamont, in order to answer certain questions that you have submitted to us, and regarding which you asked us as Engineers to advise you.

(1). The specifications permit the contractor to use new billet or rail steel for the reinforcing of all concrete work throughout the job. The architects inform us that a tensile stress of 18,000 pounds per square inch was used in the design. We consider this stress safe for intermediate grade new billet steel. Your building code will not permit the use of rail steel without written permission of the building inspector. In a structure of as great importance as this Court House, we unhesitatingly recommend the use of new billet steel on account of its dependability and the fact that the design calls for many bends in the reinforcing bars that can not be made with any degree of certainty if rail steel be used.

(2). The architects' specifications follow the modern practice of using what is known as water-cement ratio in the design of the concrete whereas your building code calls for one part cement, two parts sand and four parts coarse aggregate. In both instances it is desired to secure a concrete having a crushing strength of 2,000 pounds per square inch at 28 days. With the fine and coarse aggregate in regular use in Beaumont a 1:2:4 will produce a mix of approximately one part cement to 4½ parts of mixed aggregate, whereas the architects' specifications permit the use of one part cement to 5½ parts of mixed aggregate.

Our experience is that unless the mix be most carefully and scientifically graded in a laboratory by competent and experienced testing engineers, it will be exceedingly difficult to obtain a 2,000 pound concrete with a mix of one part cement to 5½ parts of mixed aggregate. We do not say it cannot be done in the field, but it is our belief that the tests will show occasional batches of concrete failing to come up to the specified requirements.

The architects have undertaken to fully protect the owners by requiring the contractor to furnish throughout concrete having a minimum strength of 2,000 pounds at 28 days, and unquestionably the contractor can be compelled to furnish such. On the other hand, the contractor would have the right under the specifications to assume that a 1:5½ mix would give a 2,000 pound concrete, and we are of the opinion that this will prove to be well-nigh impossible if the concrete is mixed under normal conditions in the field.

We recommend that fields tests be immediately undertaken to determine what strength concrete will be produced by the mix specified, and if, as we surmise, the concrete fails to develop 2,000 pounds in strength, then as a matter of equity, we would consider the contractor entitled to an extra allowance on his contract based on the cost of the additional cement needed to produce the necessary strength of 2,000 pounds per square inch.

(3) The architects' specifications call for 2,000 pound concrete to be used in the concrete piles. Where precast concrete piles are used as in this instance, we recommend that 2500 pound concrete be used, the same as in the columns, as our experience has been that in practice it will take the richer mix to stand up under the blows of the hammer used in driving the piles.

(4) The City Building Code would require the thickness of all floor slabs to be not less than 2½ inches. In many cases the architects call for a thickness of 2 inches and there have been many important buildings built in this manner. We would recommend, however, that the requirements of the building code be followed and the thickness made 2½ inches as in our own experience this is more satisfactory for the concealing of pipes, conduits, etc. We would like to see these 2½ inch slabs reinforced with mesh or the equivalent of one-quarter inch round rods spaced not more than eight inches apart.

(5) We recommend that the breeching in the smoke stacks be made number 14 gauge as called for on the architectural plans.

Respectfully submitted,

R. O. Jameson.

Consulting Engineers.

Mat made by Com. Hughes, sec by Comm. Turner and unanimously adopted, the following recommendation of Mr. A Babin is in all things adopted.

Beaumont, Texas

October 27, 1930

Honorable County Judge and Commissioners

Jefferson County, Texas

Gentlemen:

In the controversy between the County and the City in regards to changes in the construction of the Jefferson County Court House the matter was placed in the hands of two competent, consulting engineers to arbitrate the items in question. They have spoken and rendered their verdict. Now then, in conformity with their recommendations I beg to recommend that you approve the following:

(1) That new billet steel be used throughout the building for concrete reinforcing.

(2) That the concrete mix be one part of Portland cement to 4 1/2 parts of aggregates and that the mixing and application be as called for in the specifications.

(3) That for the concrete piling 2500 pounds be used, the same as for columns.

(4) That all concrete slabs specified for 2" be made 2 1/2". Except the roof slab.

(5) That all 2 1/2" slabs be reinforced with 1/4" rods spaced not more than 8" apart. The Roof slabs excepted

I hereby suggest that the contractors be required to submit an estimate on the above changes, and that if the contractors and architects cannot agree on the price, that the said contractors and architects proceed to arbitrate the matter, and not involve the City and County into any more litigation.

I feel that your architects are fully able to carry out this contract to its final and satisfactory completion without any further argument, or burden to you. I propose to come to you for items that may involve any cost.

I stand ready and willing to accomplish the above in peace if possible, and in war if necessary, without any burden to you or the City if you will grant the above and permit your architects to handle this job without dictation.

Again urging you to approve the above suggestion, I am

Yours truly

A. Babin

AB/t

EMPLOYEES----JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE JOB

McDANIEL BROTHERS
Contractors

February 5th, 1931

		No.	Priot.	Year
H. B. Cale		1297	18	1930
C. J. Patton		1677	11	1930
W. McDaniel	(Exempt)	6876	16	1930
J. A. Jones		117	5	1930
C. C. Rupp		14929	24	1930
J. M. Buntin		975	17	1930
J. P. McCarter		209	6	1930
H. H. Reynolds		956	13	1930
D. H. Wingate		257	13	1930
T. C. Scott		187	10	1930
H. Smith		116	12	1930
J. Rhone		215	13	1930
C. C. Quick		37	13	1930
H. Horne		162	111	1930
T. S. Simons		1116	19	1930
H. M. Winfrey		1071	13	1930
E. E. Reinecke		13524	18	1930
L. S. Thompson		364	11	1930
H. Coleman		5930	11	1930
O. E. Underwood		1257	7	1930
C. O. Mitchell		197	23	1930
Sam Jones		194	3	1930
E. A. Pope		217	11	1930
C. J. Boutte		164	4	1930
Joe Underwood		1276	7	1930
A. Harbin		10545	34	1930
J. Caston		5259	15	1930
W. H. Broom		871	18	1930
C. R. Taylor		9294	7	1930
Carlos Mitchell		234	10	1930
J. Yost		14460	22	1930
W. G. Smith		5227	9	1930
W. J. Sarver		1711	19	1930
T. Blair		16214	15	1930
L. W. Vinson		3080	12	1930
C. W. McClaskill		1237	15	1930
Jesse Hill		7245	11	1930
H. G. Humphry		14868	15	1930
J. W. Zubel		16032	9	1930
Jack Tinkle		2808	19	1930
Ralph Barton		195	12	1930
Ed Bowcock		113	2	1930
Joe Hawkins		112	3	1930
W. W. Law		1796	11	1930
J. E. Lane		196	18	1930
A. Gaudi		1261	11	1930
A. W. Starks		245	13	1930
Bill Ross		979	23	1930
R. Kelvin		2013	45	1930
E. Lambert		908	10	1930
Carl Burton		190	15	1930
R. D. Garrett		112	7	1930
Ed Green		105	14	1930
Jack Barker		201	17	1930
E. Miller		191	9	1930
H. Brown		1016	9	1930
W. Green		108	9	1930
Fred Hayers		110	12	1930
J. Nelson		102	14	1930
O. Prudeaux		1831	13	1930
B. Burch		1045	16	1930
H. Thomas		100	1	1930

Sheet #2--Employees

	No.	Print	Year
James Ridgeway	Zero	3	1931
E. Bowman	72	23	1930
E. McCann	6469	8	1930
J. Austin	8374	3	1930
E. Byers	118	3	1930
J. Tolliver	114	1	1930
J. Segura	232	13	1930
W. Brousseard	103	13	1930
H. B. Barrum	1725	23	1930
C. W. Purcell	1856	10	1930
Joe Green (No funds for late P.T.)	15989	35	1929
C. Stringer	1833	3	1930
D. Parker	56	10	1930
John Cuming	107	10	1930
R. Barbino	30	14	1930
E. Dupree	2003	10	1930
D. La Cure	8431	13	1930
Geo. Perkins	194	9	1930
A. Vallery	1021	9	1930
H. H. Woods	73	3	1930
H. E. Elender	199	5	1930
Sam Hawkins	9289	3	1930
W. M. Simmons	35	4	1930
P. Barrett	1270	10	1930
S. Scott	192	1	1930
E. Darkins	968	16	1930
Lee Hawthorne	382	3	1930
S. Burah	4253	9	1930
Joe Gedeau	994	9	1930
Tom Ellis	231	18	1930
M. Vallery	36	5	1930
Leo Hayes	2149	18	1930
M. Green	4407	20	1930
O. B. Jones	9216	14	1930
E. Davis	193	2	1930
T. Weiser	101	24	1930
J. Royal	1834	9	1930
E. A. Higgins	2164	9	1930
G. R. Jones	1628	5	1930
H. J. Webb	17814	42	1930
I. Wallay	36	5	1930
M. Wilson	16031	9	1930
Leo Royal	2147	9	1930
A. H. Ruff	13677	13	1930
L. Perry	970	9	1930
A. Wilson	969	9	1930
A. Price	6153	9	1930
C. B. Peleteire (No funds for late P.T.)	9197		1929
A. Starks	8891	10	1930
John West	14460	22	1930
A. Baker	283	11	1930
C. White	9272	3	1930
Sam Foster	1043	9	1930
H Humphry	8087	9	1930
W. Brown	2752	10	1930
L. B. Thompson (No funds for late P.T.)	2836	16	1929
I. H. Wilson	1366	3	1930
B. Byrd	14003	3	1930
W. Jeanes	46	1	1930
J. L. Songes	989	14	1930
Jesse Bellen	1839	9	1930
M. Ross	15121	18	1930
D. C. Cameron	976	1	1930
C. W. Moore	10476	9	1930
C. M. Ashworth	2234	10	1930
A. M. Frusha	2268	18	1930
L. Kelly	1822	6	1930
R. Thibideaux (Colored)	1982		1929

Sheet #3--Employees

	No.	Princ.	Year
C. E. Smith	61	18	1930

C. Reynolds (Minor) Lived in Jefferson County five (5) years.

The following were employed temporarily only, an emergency made necessary during a concrete pour. Their term of service being one day or less, and are now no longer in our employ:-

C. Carville
A. Rivers
C. Nolan
R. Mullins
H. Harness — Lived in Beaumont three (3) years
M. Moore — Lived in Jefferson County six (6) years
O. Richards — Lived in Jefferson County six (6) years
G. B. Thomas

The following who carry 1929 Poll Tax and could not afford to buy 1930 Poll Tax, are laborers with families in dire circumstances:-

Joe Green
C. B. Peleteire
L. B. Thompson
R. Thibideaux

L. B. Thompson who appears on our pay roll with 1929 Poll Tax, is a white laborer who has been under the doctor's care on an injury for thirty days or more.

STATE OF TEXAS)
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)

Before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally came H. B. Gale who, being by me duly sworn, did say that he is employed by Nathaniel Brothers as Pay Roll Clerk and that the foregoing list of employees, consisting of three sheets, represents a full and complete copy, listing all employees engaged in the construction work on the new Jefferson County Courthouse building, our Pay Roll #22 for the week ending February 5th, 1931.

H B Gale

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of February, A.D. 1931.

J. W. Edwards

C. H. McDANIEL HOWARD McDANIEL

McDANIEL BROTHERS

General Contractors

P. O. Box 826

Skill, Integrity and Responsibility

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

February 13th, 1931

Mr. A. Babin, Architect,
Beaumont, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

Complying with your request, we are enclosing herewith two (2) copies of our pay roll for the week ending February 5th, 1931, which should be very gratifying to the tax payers as it shows almost a complete Jefferson County job.

For your information, we segregate the list, as follows:

127	1930 Poll Tax
4	1929 " "
1	Exemption
1	Minor
8	Temporary Men

We trust this list furnishes you with the desired information.

Yours very truly,

McDaniel Brothers

Hmcd/e

By Howard McDaniel

Employees - Jefferson Co
Court House Job
Week Ending 2/5/31

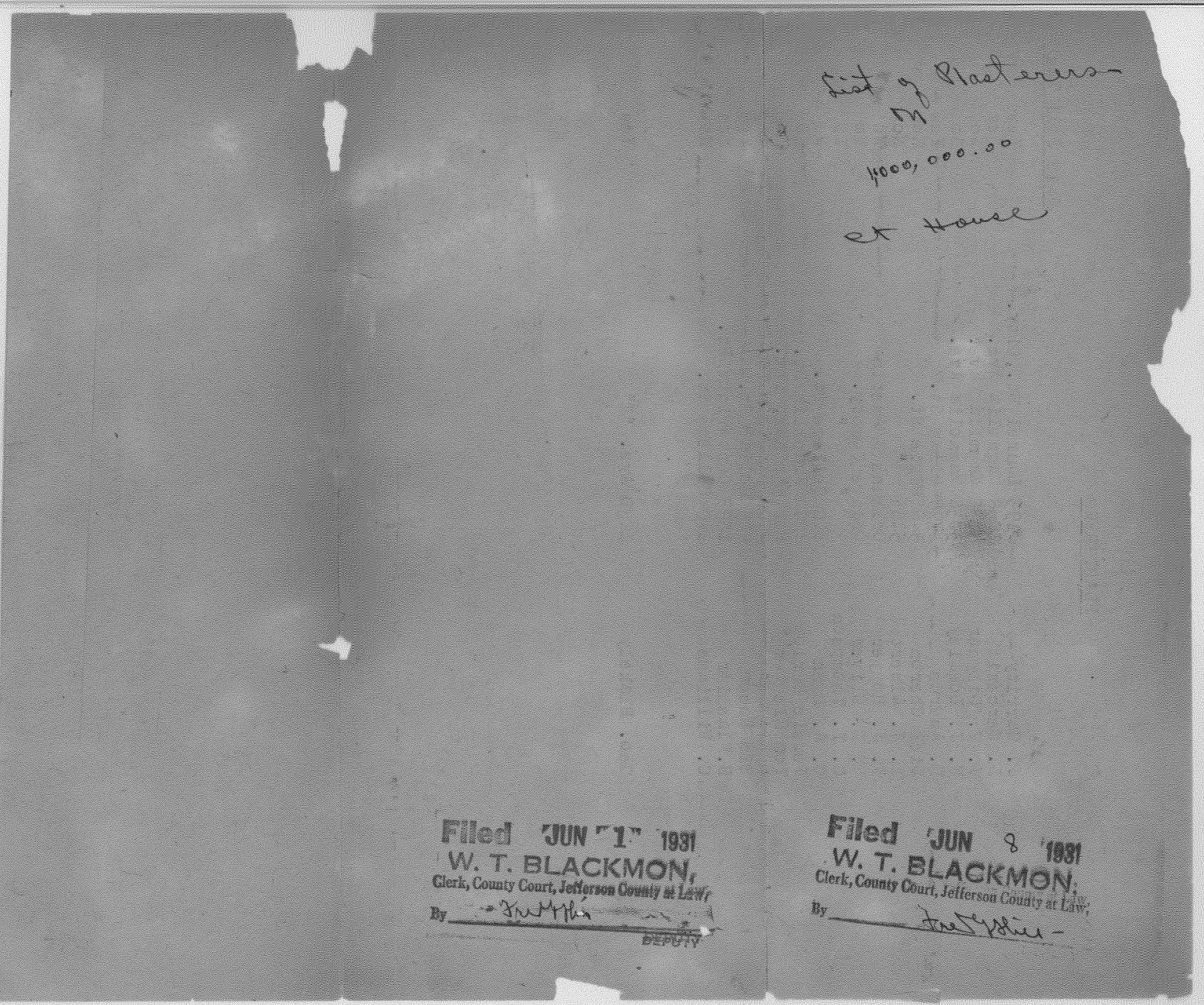
2/16/31

17/64

Filed ___ day of ___ 19__
W. T. BLACKMON
County Clerk, Jefferson County, Texas
By ___ Deputy

PLASTERERS

		Paid Poll Tax
J. Garrity	2195 Laurel St., City.	Yes
L. Merceria	3038 Magnolia Ave.	Yes
J. V. Gilpner	3038 Magnolia Ave.	No
W. J. Donaley	3038 Magnolia Ave.	No
H. Andrus	1795 Milam St.	Yes
Dick Cheron	526 Elgie St.	No
H. J. Albert	526 "	No
W. J. Hopper	Orleans & Austin	No
O. E. Oliver	Orange County.	No
C. T. Thompson	" "	No
C. A. Dunn	240 College St.	No
Jessie Barlow	2790 Franklin St.	No
Tom Sleyzer	Port Arthur, Tex.	Yes
E Brammer	2008 Harrison St.	Yes
Sid Nusom	905 Goliad St.	Yes
B.Flashier	1895 Cartwright St.	Yes
C. Williams	240 College St.	No
Geo. Blakely	1230 Ave. "E"	Yes


List of Plasterers -
in
$1000,000.00
Ct House
Filed JUN "1" 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law;
By
DEPUTY
Filed JUN 8 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law;
By

Payroll #4
Ending 6-11-31

PLASTERERS

Name	Occupation		Poll Tax	Address	Date started work	Total Days Worked
Geo. Blakely	Foreman	Yes	1230 Ave. E.		6-1-31	9
J.Garrity	Plasterer	Yes		2195 Laurel St.	6-1-31	9
L.Mercier	"		No	3038 Magnolia	6-1-31	9
C.A.Dunn	"		No	240 College	6-1-31	9
C.T.Thompson	"		No	Orange County	6-1-31	9
O.E.Oliver	"		No	Orange County	6-1-31	9
W.J.Hopper	"		No	Orleans & Austin	"	8
H.Andrus	"	Yes		1795 Milam St.	6-1-31	9
J.B.Gilpin	"		No	3038 Magnolia	6-1-31	9
W.J.Donnaley	"		No	3038 Magnolia	6-1-31	9
H.J.Albert	"		No	526 Elgie St.	6-1-31	9
Dick Cheron	"		No	526 Elgie St.	6-1-31	9
E.G.Brammer	"	Yes		2008 Harrison	6-1-31	8
Chas. Ford	"		No	1505 Walker St.	6-9-31	3
C. Williams	"	Yes		240 College	6-5-31	5
Sydney Musom	"	Yes		905 Goliad	6-8-31	4
W.F.Flessner	"	Yes		1895 Cartwright	6-8-31	5
G.Beney	"		No	1067 Grand Ave.	6-10-31	2
H.Scott	"		No	526 Elizabeth	6-8-31	4
Will Stawinsky	"		No	240 College St.	6-9-31	2
Geo.Daufinias	"		No	1617 Rusk	6-9-31	3
P.W.Hood	"		No	3165 Magnolia	6-8-31	4
R.J.Brown	"		No	Rich Hotel	6-1-31	1
Ed Howard	"		No	1315 Park St.	6-1-31	1
C.O.Davis	"		No.	Houston,Tex.	6-1-31	1
B.Lambert	Laborer	Yes		1080 Franklin	6-2-31	8
J.Barlow	Apprentice		No.	2790 Franklin	6-1-31	9
Ben Durant	Laborer		No.	Church St.	6-1-31	9
L.Simms	"		No.	1275 Beach St.	6-1-31	9
Sam Hawkins	"	Yes		1575 Pine St.	6-1-31	9
P.Lott	"		No.	1575 Pine St.	6-1-31	9
W.Lester	"		No.	1275 Forest	6-1-31	9
Geo. Teal	"	Yes		1445 Pine St.	6-8-31	4
Jim Durant	"		No.	Church St.	6-8-31	3
R.T.Williams	"	Yes		1479 Pine St.	6-1-31	9
J.Bates	"	Yes		312 Towel St.	6-1-31	9
C.R.Monroe	"		No.	633 Forsythe	6-1-31	9
G.Marks	"	Yes		1156 Park St.	6-1-31	9
E.Evers	"	Yes		1206 Forest St.	6-1-31	9
M.Mose	"	Yes		Beaumont,Tex	6-6-31	5
M.Ruben	"		No.	3600 Magnolia	6-4-31	9
F.Kirkwood	"		No.	1080 North	6-1-31	9
H.Beney	"	Yes		1067 Grand	6-8-31	3

Payroll #4
Ending 6-11-31

PLASTERERS - CONTINUED

Name	Occupation	Poll Tax	Address	Date Started Work	Total Days Worked
J.Bolden	Laborer	Yes	644 Trinity St.	6-8-31	3
C. White	"	Yes	1150 Ashley St.	6-8-31	3
J.Beniable	"	Yes	375 Cottonwood	6-11-31	1
J.Frazier	"	Yes	790 Elm St.	6-11-31	1
C.Kirkwood	"	No	707 Magnolia	6-11-31	1
E.A.Mixon	"	No	Resigned	6-1-31	5
T.Holmes	"	No	Fired	6-1-31	5
S.Bodreaux	"	Yes	2885 Ave. A	6-10-31	2

Payroll #40
Ending 6-11-31

EMPLOYEES---JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE JOB

McDANIEL BROTHERS

CONTRACTORS

June 11th., 1931

Name	Occupation	Poll Tax	Address	Date Started Work	Total Days Worked
H.B.Gale	Office	Yes	1153 Wilson St.	9-8-30	230
R.E.Richards	Timekeeper	No(18 Yrs.Bmt.)	575 Walnut St.	5-4-31	30
J.P.McCarter	Foreman	Yes	1344 Hazel St.	9-9-30	241
J.M.Buntin	Foreman	Yes	1265 Ave. "A"	12-9-30	157
D.Wingate	Mechanic	Yes	2675 Penn. Ave.	9-9-30	237
J.A.Jones	Watchman	Yes	1340 South St.	9-9-30	240
H.B.Barrum	Watchman	Yes	688 Sabine P.Ave.	1-2-31	108
H.Smith	Truck Driver	Yes	512 Cartwright St.	9-9-30	241
J.Rhone	Truck Driver	Yes (Rear)	2675 Penn.Ave.	9-9-30	236
T.J.Simons	Foreman	Yes	1116 Park St.	12-28-30	140
F.A.Cook	Foreman	No	510 Wall St.	5-14-31	24
L.S.Thompson	Carpenter	Yes	1265 Ave. A.	11-17-30	167
Sam James	"	Yes	1238 Forest St.	9- 9-30	142
E.A.Pope	"	Yes	1604 Ave. "A".	9-11-30	159
E.W.Stokes	"	Yes	295 Harriot St.	3-23-31	63
B.N.Buntin	"	Yes	1265 Ave. "A"	2-13-31	92
W.S.Smith	"	Yes	1540 Forsythe St.	1-29-31	88
M.Sarver	"	Yes	French Heights	1- 1-31	125
E.F.Stokes	"	Yes	1760 Craig St.	3-23-31	59
H.Havard	"	Yes	1425 Corley St.	9-24-30	84
J.Tinkle	Laborer	Yes	Hell Big Road	9 -9-30	202
J.C.Gale	"	Yes	225 Wall St.	9 -8-30	154
C.E.Reynolds	"	Minor	1090 Park St.	12-17-30	53
Ed.Newcost	"	Yes	1165 Maple St.	9-29-30	208
C.Burlton	"	Yes	525 Sabine P.Ave.	10-14-30	104
Ed.Green	"	Yes	220 Betty Ave.	9-20-30	191
Joe Green	"	Yes	1545-6th St.Pt.A.	1-21-31	102
Fred Mayer	"	Yes	200 Fletcher St.	9-12-30	197
Jno. Nelson	"	Yes	734 LePore St.	9-12-30	212
O.Primeaux	Waterboy	Yes	2016 Shamrock St.	1- 6-31	141
C.Stringer	Laborer	Yes	1213 Washington St.	1- 6-31	129

COPY.

McDaniel Brothers - Employees.

Name	Occupation	Poll Tax	Address	Date Started Work	Total Days Worked
J.Ridgeway	Laborer	Yes	831 Gladys Street	11-4-30	148
W.Broussard	"	Yes	885 Jackson st.	9-9-30	216
James Toliver	"	Yes	3151 Pine St.	9-22-30	178
A.W.Milton	"	Yes	875 Fannin St.	5-27-31	8
H.Thomas	"	Yes	3642 Hall St.	9-27-30	139
E.Bowman	"	Yes	Back Bmt.High School	9-19-30	127
E.Miller	"	Yes	567 Washington St.	9- 9-30	141
J.Godeaux	"	Yes	740 Neches St.	12-2-30	76
J.Barker	"	Yes	304 Park St.	9-12-30	68
Jack Nickels	"	Yes (Minor)	1097 Granberry St.	9-15-30	111
S.Arciniega	"	Yes	120 Cypress St.	5- 5-31	34
Lee Hayes	"	Yes	290 Church St.	12-4-30	128
James Edwards	"	Yes	996 Milam St.	12-8-30	96
M.Crew	"	Yes	1070 Franklin St.	1-9-31	113
A.Wilson	"	Yes	557 Washington St.	12-9-30	138
M.Moses	"	Yes	3600 Magnolia Ave.	1-30-31	94
T.Gage	"	No. (Emergency)	201 McGovern St.	3-18-31	5
Jules Hobart	"	Yes	3640 Highland Ave.	4-1-31	21
F.Hamilton	"	No. do	2062 Texas St.	6-6-31	2
J.Washington	"	No. do	195 Lincoln St.	6-11-31	1
Morris Ruben	"	Yes	305 Polly St.	5-11-31	22
W.Brown	"	Yes	705 Delaware St.	12-9-30	106
H.Morflet	"	No	2432 Betty St.	3-11-31	31
J.Bolden	"	Yes	644 Trinity St.	1- 1-31	56
M.C.Washington	"	No. do	- - - - - - - -	6 - 6-31	1
Will Crafter	"	Yes	2240 Crockett St.	5-15-31	5
S.Bolden	"	No. do	644 Trinity St.	6- 6-31	1
W.Dillon	"	No. do	520 Sherman St.	6- 3-31	2
Leo Royal	"	Yes	1172 Crockett St.	1 -1-31	40
T.L.Daniels	"	Yes do	452 Fannin St.	6- 8-31	1
R.L.Barnett	"	Yes do	Nederland, Texas.	6- 8-31	2
A.M.Frusha	"	Yes	1405 Tyler St.	1-12-31	94
H.Randall	"	Yes do	Beaumont,Texas.	6- 2-31	8
A.W.Starks	"	Yes	138 Devillemeunne St.	11-10-30	139
Sydney Jones	"	Yes do	710 Jackson St.	6-11-31	1
Chester Peete	"	No. do	1550 Wall St.	6-11-31	1
W.Oscar	"	No. do	1312 Neches St.	6-11-31	1
W.Thomas	"	Yes do	82 College (Rear)	6-11-31	1
Leo Stagg.	"	Yes do	1163 Railroad Ave.	6-11-31	1
Ben Corley	"	Yes do	1040 Stenvnson St.	6-11-31	1
H.McGriff	"	Yes do	1567 Forest St.	6-11-31	1

EMPLOYEES ---- JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE JOB

Fred Weber - Brick Contractor

June 11th., 1931.

Name	Pole Tax	Residence
Harry Webber	Yes	Beaumont, Texas.
T.M. Matthews	Yes	Do
Otto Heufelder	Yes	Do
Fred Matthew s	Yes	Do
Richard Hofmann	Yes	Do
Rodrique	No	Monfoe, La.
Dave Matthews	Yes	Beaumont, Texas.
Frank Howard	Yes	Do
R. Clark	No.	Do
C. B. Wright	Yes	Do
A. J. Landry	No	Houston, Texas.
T. Clark	Yes	Beaumont, Texas.
A. Sarver	Yes	Do
E. L. Goodman	Yes	Do
J. Tilbury	Yes	Do
G. Stephens	Yes	Do
E. B. Williams	No	Houston, Texas.
Jack Lawrence	Yes	Beaumont, Texas.
V. G. Slauson	Yes	Do
J. Brown Lee	No	Kansas City, Mo.
W. A. Parish	No	Houston, Texas.
M. Cook	Minor	Beaumont, Texas.
A. W. Stark	Yes	Do
H. C. Mauer, Jr.	No	Do
Louis Jones	No	Do
L. Price	No	Do
W. Whitfield	No	Do
Jim Holt	No	Do
J. Lee	No	Do
A. Daniels	No	Do
Ed. Cane	Yes	Do
Alex Nobles	Yes	Do
I. Long	No	Do
J. Washington	No	Do
Mack Huff	No	Do
R. P. Calhoun	Yes	Do
L. C. Mays	No	Do.

COPY

PLUMBING & HEATING COMPANY

Sub-Contractors

Name	Poll Tax	Residence
Geo. Kirkwood	Yes	Beaumont.
J. Page	Yes	Do
C. Rye	Yes	Do
W. A. Anderson	Yes	Do
M. E. Long	Yes	Do
Geo. Myers	Yes	Do
Stapleton	Yes	Do
W. B. Kelcher	Yes	Do
E. McGuire	Yes	Do
Harry Tevis	Yes	Do
W. F. Kaun	No	Do
E. P. Kaun	No	Do
Geo. Andrews	No.	Do

INTERNATIONAL TILE COMPANY - Sub-Contractors

A. Rata	No.	Houston,Texas.
A. Sedrani	No.	"
B. Dugar	No.	Beaumont
L. Shephard	Yes	Do
M. Guidry	Yes	Do
J. Felder	No.	Houston,Texas.

JACK HYDE ELECTRIC SHOP - Sub-Contractors

			Date Started Work	Total Days Worked
L. O. Johnson	Yes	Beaumont,Texas.	6-3-31	6
F. E. Mack	Yes	Do	5-25-31	27
C. E. Potts	Yes	Do		118
E. F. Shaw	Yes	Do		18
Jack Taylor	Yes	Pt.Arthur,Tex.		118
G. W. Kendall	Yes	Do		150

STALLONES & BOBO - Sub-Contractors

Name	Occupation	Poll Tax	Address	Date Started Work	Total Days Worked	
T.C.Stallones	Foreman	Yes	510 Walnut St.	5/5/31	28	
E.Butcher	Lather	Yes	510 Walnut St.	5/5/31	29	
R. Cockran	"	Yes	French Road	5/5/31	26	
Bill Heffley	"	Yes	Railroad Ave.	5/5/31	26	
R.V.Jamerson	"	No	510 Walnut St.	5/11/31	23	
R.Burlingame	"	No	- - - - - - -	5/18/31	9	(Laid off)
Ray Bilyen	"	No	- - - - - - -	5/18/31	9	" "
O.Nightingale	"	No.	510 Walnut St.	5/18/31	19	
Ivy Burlingame	Laborer	No.	- - - - - - -	5/18/31	9	(Laid off)
Ed. Pruitt	"	No	French Road	5/5/31	29	Born in Bmt.

BOBY

GENT - AMERICAN ELE

Name	Address	Date Started Work	Total Days Worked
Geo. H.Harrison	Dallas, Texa	5/21/31	18
Allen Kitson	Do	5/21/31	18
Ralph Barton	Beaumont, Texa	5/28/31	12
Bob Britton	Do	5/28/31	12

List of workmen employed on the Jefferson County Court House as submitted by McDaniel Brothers June 11th 1931

Respectfully submitted

[illegible]

Payroll #43,
Ending 7-2-31.

EMPLOYEES-JEFFERSON COUNTY
COURTHOUSE JOB
McDANIEL BROTHERS
July 1st., 1931

NAME	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS	POLL TAX
H.B.Gale	Office	1153 Wilson St.	Yes
R.E.Richards	Timekeeper	448 Travis St.,(18 yrs.Bmt.)	No X
J.P.McCarter	Foreman9	1544 Hazel St.	Yes
J.M.Buntin	Foreman	1265 Ave. A.	Yes
J.A.Jones	Watchman	1340 South St.	Yes
H.B.Barrum	Watchman	688 Sabine Pass Ave.	Yes
H.Smith	Truck Driver	512 Cartwright Ave.	Yes
J.Rhone	Truck Driver	2675 Penn. Ave.	Yes
T.J.Simons	Carpenter	1116 Park St.	Yes
L.S.Thompson	"	1265 Ave. A.	Yes
M.Coleman	"	1265 Ave. A.	Yes
E.A.Pope	"	1604 Ave. A.	Yes
Sam James	"	1238 Forest St.	Yes
E.W.Stokes	"	295 Harriot St.	Yes
W.S.Smith	"	1540 Forsythe St.	Yes
Carlo Mitchell	"	200 Mulberry St.	Yes
E.F.Stokes	"	1760 Craig St.	Yes
H.Havard	"	1425 Corley St.	Yes
C.C.Mitchell	"	College St.Extension	Yes
C.E.Reynolds	Laborer	1090 Park St.	Minor X
Ed.Newcost.	"	1165 Maple St.	Yes
C.Burlton	"	525 Sabine Pass Ave.	Yes
B.Lambert	"	1080 Fannin St.	Yes
Ed.Green	"	1735 Wilson St.	Yes
Joe Green	"	1545-8th Av.e.Pt.Arthur	Yes
Fred Mayer	"	200 Fletcher St.	Yes
Jno. Nelson	"	734 LePore St.	Yes
O.Primeaux	"	2016 Shamrock St.	Yes
C.Stringer	"	1213 Washington St.	Yes
J.Ridgeway	"	831 Gladys St.	Yes
W.Broussard	"	885 Jackson St.	Yes
James Toliver	"	3151 Pine St.	Yes
A.W.Milton	"	875 Fannin St.	Yes
Lee Hayes	"	290 Church St.	Yes
M.Cruz	"	1070 Franklin St.	Yes
B.Burch	"	320 Lenard St.	Yes
Joe Godeau	"	740 Neches St.	Yes
W.Brown	"	705 Delaware Ave.	Yes
Dan Young	"	Bmt.,Texas. (Emergency)	No. X
L.Fryer	"	Texas St.(4Yrs in Bmt.) "	No X
Sam Foster	"	1050 Washington(Emergency)	Yes
Perry Langdon	"	925 Hazel St. (Emergency)	Yes
Tim Tolton	"	648 Archie St.(Emergency)	No X
A.M.Frusha	"	1405 Tyler St.	Yes
J.P.Blair	"	1811-5th St.Pt.Arthur,Tex.	Minor X
Jack Ezell	"	---------- (Emergency)	
		Worked 4 hours for meals.	

Payroll #P-7
Ending 7-2-31

PLASTERERS AND LABORERS

NAME	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS	POLL TAX	
Geo.Blakely	Foreman	1230 Ave. E.	Yes	
F.A.Cook	~~Foreman~~ Carpenter	510 Wall St.	No	X
J.Garrity	Plasterer	2195 Laurel St.	Yes	
L.Mercier	"	3038 Magnolia Ave.	No	X
W..Flessner	"	1895 Cartw right Ave.	Yes	
Dick Cheron	"	526 Elgie St.	No	X
C.A.Dunn	"	240 College St.	No	X
C.T.Thompson	"	Orange County)	No	X
O.E.Oliver	"	Orange County) Neches River	No	X
T.H.Andrus	"	1795 Milam St.	Yes	
J.V.Gilpin	"	3038 Magnolia Ave.	No	X
W.J.Donnaley	"	3038 Magnolia Ave.	No	X
H.A.Albert	"	526 Elgie St.	No	X
E.G.Brammer	"	2008 Harrison St.	Yes	
Chas.Ford	"	1505 Walker St.	No	X
C.Williams	"	240 College St.	Yes	
S.Musom	"	905 Goliad St.	Yes	
G.Beney	"	1067 Grand Ave.	No	X
H.Scott	"	526 Elizabeth St.	No	X
W.Stawinsky	"	240 College St.	No	X
Geo.Daufinias	"	1617 Rusk St.	No.	X
T.Phelps.	"	4236 Ave. A.	Yes	
T.V.Piersal	"	Jennings, La.	No	X
F.A.Stevens	"	Milam St.	No	X
P.W.Hood	"	3165 Magnolia Ave.	No	X
C.O.Davis	"	Houston,Texas.	No	X
R.G.Day	"	Vidor,Texas.	No	X
H.Rubbright	"	Houston,Texas.	No	X
T.W.O'Keefe	"	426 College St.	No	X
T.F.McCallin	"	Austin & Orleans	No	X
B.H.Martin	"	1605 Erma St.	No	X
L.F.Brew er	"	Houston,Tex.	No	X
Geo.Trout	"	Dallas,Texas.	No	X
Paul LaSalle	"	Nederland,Tex.	Yes	
Thomas Ransey	"	616 DeQueen Av.e,Pt.Arthur	Yes	
R.E.Wiley	"	1604 Ave. "A"	No	X
Jessie Barlow	Helper	2790 Franklin Ave.	No	X
Ben Durant	Laborer	Church St.	No	X
L.Simms	"	1575 Beach St.	No	X
Sam Hawkins	"	1575 Pine St.	Yes	
P.Lott	"	1575 Pine St.	No	X
W.Lester	"	1275 Forest St.	No	X
Geo.Lester	"	1445 Pine St.	Yes	
Jim Durant	"	Church St.	No	X
R.T.Williams	"	1479 Pine St.	Yes	
J.Bates	"	312 Towel St.	Yes	
C.R.Monroe	"	633 Forsythe	No	X
G.Marks	"	Shamrock Alley	Yes	
E.Evers	"	1206 Forest St.	Yes	
M.Mose	"	3600 Magnolia Ave.	Yes	
M.Ruben	"	3600 Magnolia Ave.	No	X
F.Kirkwood	"	1080 North St.	No	X
H.Beney	"	1067 Grand Ave.	Yes	
J.Bolden	"	644 Trinity St.	Yes	

Payroll #P-7
Ending 7-2-31

PLASTERERS AND LABORERS (CONTINUED)

NAME	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS	POLL TAX
C.White	Laborer	1150 Ashley St.	Yes
J.Frazier	"	790 Elm St.	Yes
Leo Royal	"	220 Ave. C.	Yes
C. Kirkwood	"	707 Magnolia Ave.	No
S.Boudeau	"	2885 Ave. A.	Yes
J.Edwards	"	996 Milam St.	Yes
S.Arciniega	"	120 Cypress St.	Yes
P.Spafford	"	Collier Ferry Road	No
O.S.Ball	"	795 Spruce St.	No
Lewis Vaughn	"	Washington Blvd.	No
E.Plummer	"	731 Neches St.	No
M.Cruz	"	1070 Franklin St.	Yes

Filed
JUL 6 1931
W. T. BLACKWELL,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By _____ DEPUTY

Names.	Address.		Poll Tax	days. worked.
G. F. Lane	909 Smith St	Houston Tex	No	8
F Lane	909 Smith St	Houston Tex	no	4
W. Christensen	1026 Forythe St	Beaumont Tex	yes	8
J. Barton	1313 Park St.	" "	yes.	8
R. Bayley	1313 Park St.	" "	yes.	8
R. H. Lyle	4135 Highland ave.	" "	yes.	8
J. T. Watt	202. W. Sidney St.	Houston "	no	8
J. Ruth	1405 Prairie ave	" "		8
A. A. Matthes	1313 Park St.	Beaumont "		4
G. Will	4260 Highland	"	yes.	4
F. Walker	Fields Hotel	"	no	4

2 weeks Ending July 3-1931

Pauly Jail Bldg. Co.
by Eskelson

men Employed

By

Parley Jail Building

Company —

$1,000,000.00 Courthouse

Filed JUL 6 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By _____ DEPUTY

Jefferson County Courthouse 1931

July 18-1931

				Poll Tax	
D. F. Lane	909 Smith st.	Houston	Tex	no	10
W. Christenson	1026 Forsythe St	Beaumont	"	yes	10
J. Barton	1026 Forsythe St	"	"	yes	10
R. Bayly.	1313 Park st.	"	"	Yes	10
R.H Lyle	4135 Highland ave.	"	"	yes.	10
J.T. Watt	202 W. Sidney St.	Houston	"	no	10
J. Ruth	1405 Praire st.	"	"	~~yes~~	10
A. A. Mathes	1313 Park st	Beaumont	"	yes	10
F. Lane	909 Smith st.	Houston	"	no	10

Men that worked on new Court House for the Pauly Jail Bldg Co. from July 7th to July 17th

Pauly Jail Bldg Co.
By L. J. Eskilsen

workmen on New
Million Dollar Ct. House
County Jail Bldg - Co.

Filed JUL 27 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at La...
By _____ DEPUTY

Copy of ord.

for Misc Supplies
To complete New
Million Dollar Ct. House
& Moving old Jail & Insane
ward —

Filed AUG 10 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By _____ DEPUTY

Jefferson County Courthouse 1931

Auguist. 4, 1931 Beaumont, Texas.

NAME	ADDRESS	No of DAYS	poll TAX.
L. F. Lane	909 Smith, Houston	10	no
F. Lane	" " "	10	"
Ot. C. Christensen	1026 Forsythe, Beaumont	10	yes
Joe Barton	" " "	10	"
R. Bayly	1313 Park St. "	10	"
R. H. Lyle, jr.	4135 Highland Ave. "	10	"
J. T. Watt	202 N. Sidney St., Houston	10	no
J. Ruth	1405 Prairie Ave., "	10	"
A. A. Matthes	1313 Park St., Beaumont.	10	yes.

Number of men working on new jail for the Pauly Jail Bldg. Co. from July 25, 1931 to Aug. 1.

E. J. Eskilson.

List of Workmen
Aug 1st 1931
Pauly Jail Bldg. Co.

Filed AUG 10 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By _____ DEPUTY

Aug. 24, 1931.

NAME	ADDRESS	No of DAYS.	Poll TAX.
G. F. Lane	909 Smith, Houston, Tex.	10	no.
F. Lane	" " " "	10	"
J. J. Watt	202 N. Sidney St., " "	10	"
J. Ruth	1405 Prairie Ave, " "	10	yes.
H. Christensen	1026 Forsythe St, Beaumont, Tex.	10	"
Joe Barton	" " " "	10	"
R. Bayly	1313 Park St., " "	10	"
R. H. Lyle, Jr.	4135 Highland Ave, " "	10	"
A. A. Mathes	1313 Park St, " "	10	"

The above men worked on the new jail in the new Courthouse from Aug. 8 to Aug. 22 for the Pauly Jail Bldg. Co.

E. J. Eckelson.

List of workmen on
new Court House
Pauly Jail Bldg. Co.

Filed SEP 8 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By [signature] DEPUTY

JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

FRED O. STONE & A. BABIN, ARCHITECTS, Beaumont, Texas.

McDaniel Brothers, Contrs. Beaumont, Texas.

Estimate No. 4

Date Jan. 1st, 1930.

QUAN.	Items	@	Per	Cost	%	Amount
12,500 Yds.	Excavation (Machine)	.65	Yd.	8,125.00	100%	8125.
1,000 "	Hand Excavation	2.00	"	2,000.00		1600.
1,540 "	Backfilling	.65	"	1,001.00		200.
900 "	Lot filling	.65	"	585.00		
548 Sq.ft.	Fine grading	.01½	S.F.	822.00		
	Pumping wate.			200.00		160.
	Laying out building			200.00		200.
17,730 Ft.	Concrete piling in place			25,425.00		25425.
	Underpinning & protection to adjoining buildings			1,000.00		1000.
	Sheet footings			1,000.00		1000.
5,137 Yds.	2000# concrete	8.15	Yd.	41,741.00		6194.
680 "	2500# "	10.30	"	7,004.00		
	Celite			1,200.00		
260,600 Sq.ft.	Form-labor only	9.00	SF	23,454.00		2500.
250 M. Ft.	" lumber	28.00	M.	7,000.00		5500.
	Metal Pan Rental			6,500.00		
414 Tons	Rnf. steel in place	67.00	Ton	34,438.00		4355.
1800 Yds.	Steeltex over joist	50.00		900.00		
130 Tons	Structural steel & Jr. beams			11,500.00		
	All cement finishes			4,000.00		
26,400 Sq.ft.	Rough floated slabs	.0½		132.00		
	All miscell. and Ornam. aluminum, etc.			35,000.00		
	All metal doors, vault doors, etc.			6,000.00		
700 M.	Common brick	34.00	M.	23,800.00		
200 M.	Face brick	75.00	M.	15,000.00		
12 M.	Corner "	140.00	M.	1,680.00		
96 M.	Int. face brick	70.00	M.	6,720.00		
5 M.	5 x 8 x 12 tile	130.00	M.	650.00		
3,500 Lin. Ft.	Flashing blocks	35.00	M.	1,225.00		
5.4 M.	2 x 12 x 12 tile					
1.1 M.	3 x 12 x 12 "					
58.5 M.	4 x 12 x 12 "					
3.4 M.	5 x 12 x 12 "					
17.2 M.	6 x 12 x 12 "					
0.3 M.	8 x 12 x 12 "					
0.4 M.	10 x 12 x 12 "					
0.7 M.	12 x 12 x 12 "			14,500.00		
460 Cu.Ft.	Granite			1,650.00		
3075 "	Out Stone "A"			28,227.00		
8470 "	" " "B"			24,590.00		
8480 "	Terra Cotta			25,500.00		
21,108 "	Setting above			26,219.00		
	All caulking, damp-roofing, ironite, floor hardner, elaterite, etc.			3,500.00		
	Rough carpentry labor and material			4,000.00		
	Millwork installed			12,500.00		
	Tile, terrazzo & compo. floors			28,000.00		
	Marble Work			44,455.00		
	Paint, decorating & Glazing			18,000.00		
	Lath & Plastering			45,000.00		
	Roof & Sheet Metal Work			8,000.00		
	Accoustical Treatment			4,683.00		
	Metal Windows			36,633.00		
	Superintendant	300.		4,800.00		1125.
	Asst. Supt.	300.		3,000.00		900.
	Approximate extra on piling			10,000.00		10000.

CONTRINUED ON PAGE 2.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Fred C. Stone & A. Babin, Architects,
Beaumont, Texas

McDaniel Brothers Contrs.
Beaumont, Texas.

Estimate No. 4

Date Jan. 1st, 1931

Q	Quan.	Items	@	Per	Cost	%	Amount
	16 Mos.	Timekeeper	150.	Mo.	2,400.		563.
	16 "	Watchman	125.	Mo.	2,000.		470.
	20 "	Waterboy	45.	Mo.	900.		170.
		Tests			525.		250.
		Building Permit			652.		652.
		Quantity Survey			885.		885.
		A. G. C. Dues			1,700.		1700.
		Estimating fee			11,250.		11250.
		Surety Bond			6,524.		6524.
		Builders Risk Insurance			2,019.		250.
		Tornado Insurance			1,785.		
		Owners Cont. Liab. Ins.			480.		480.
		Compensation & P. L. Ins.			6,000.		1200.
		Tempo. Boiler Room			250.		250.
		" Buildings			1,000.		1000.
		Small tools			650.		350.
		Equipment Erection			500.		400.
		Equipment rental			2,000.		600.
		Tower			1,500.		1200.
		Tempo. water & Elect. lines			350.		350.
		Photos			150.		30.
		Water, lights, power & ice			1,850.		400.
		Wash windows & Cleanup			2,000.		
		Emergency Fund			2,500.		
		Patent Scaffold			1,000.		
		Sample Stone Panels					580.
MATERIALS ON HAND NOT INSTALLED:-							
	145 T's.	Sand	2.64	Yd.			383.
	160 "	gravel	4.25	"			680.
	400 BBls.	Cement	2.40	Bbl.			960.
	700 M.	Common brick	18.00	M.	Less 1500		11100.
	M.	face brick	36.50	M.			
	M.	" "	35.00	M.			
	M.	" "	112.00	M.			
	BBls.	Stainless Cement	4.00				
	Tons.	Hyd. lime	22.00	Ton			
	"	Plaster	28.00	"			
	M.	2 x 12 x 12 tile	64.00	M.			
	M.	3 x 12 x 12 tile	115.00	M.			
	M.	4 x 12 x 12 tile	120.00	M.			
	M.	5 x 12 x 12 tile	150.00	M.			
	M.	6 x 12 x 12 tile	158.00	M.			
	M.	8 x 12 x 12 tile	225.00	M.			
	M.	10 x 12 x 12 tile	290.00	M.			
	M.	12 x 12 x 12 tile	350.00	M.			
	M.	5 x 8 x 12 tile	90.00	M.			
TOTAL					~~660,715.55~~ 653,009.89		110,961.
LESS 10%							11,096.
TOTALS							99,865.
LESS PREVIOUS PAYMENTS							70,000.
DUE THIS ESTIMATE							29,865.

ED. STEDMAN
PRESIDENT

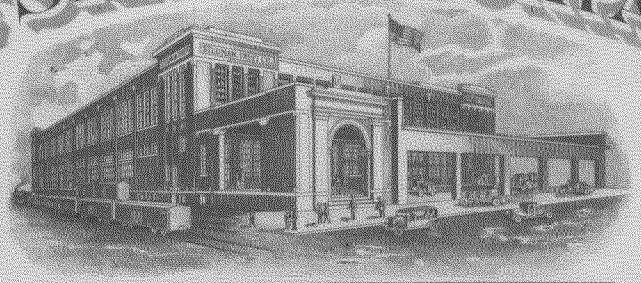
ED. STEDMAN, JR.
VICE-PRES.

H. P. WOLFE
VICE-PRES.

J. C. STEDMAN, JR.
VICE-PRES.

J. C. STEDMAN, SR.
SECY. TREAS.

THE STEDMAN COMPANY



FRUITS-VEGETABLES-PRODUCE
GROCERIES-BEVERAGES-CANDIES
ROLL PAPER-BAGS
PAPER SPECIALITIES

COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATORS
GROCERY & MARKET EQUIPMENT
DISPLAY CASES
BUTCHER SUPPLIES

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

November 21, 1931

County Commissioner's Court
Jefferson County Court House
Beaumont, Texas

Gentlemen:

We are attaching herewith an alternate bid on Towel Cabinets and Toilet Paper Cabinets. It is impossible for us to quote as per your specifications of November 5th.,1931 on Porcelain Fixtures of this type, as we have no connection on these items.

Trusting that you will consider the types that we are submitting, and thanking you for past favors, beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

THE STEDMAN COMPANY
BY: Jerry Stedman Jr.
Manager of Paper Dept.

JSJr:RH

BID OF THE STEDMAN COMPANY

ON
TOILET PAPER FIXTURES AND
TOWEL CABINETS

FOR

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, BEAUMONT, TEXAS

TOWEL CABINETS:

44 Towel Fixtures

SIZE - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -14½x7½x6½
MATERIAL - - - - - - - - - - - - -20 Gauge Auto Steel

Body finished same as sample or to match interior wall finishes. To be installed as per your specifications at---------$2.25 Each.

TOILET PAPER FIXTURES:

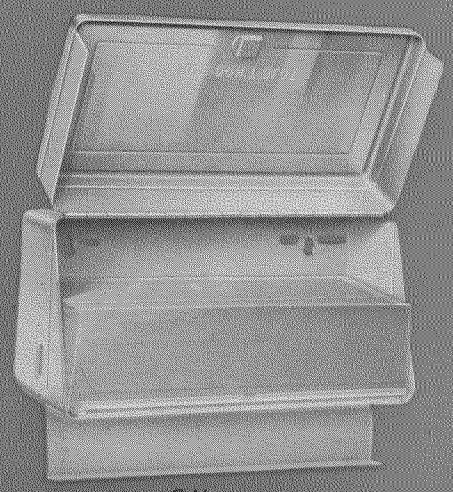
Chromium plated Cabinets with cabinet body fastening permanently to wall and only front lid covers opening for refilling. Front lid piano hinged and drop style type. Cabinet to take up to, and including, 4½" width paper. Quantity - 53. Price----------$1.00 Each.

Bill of
The Graham-Paige Motor Co.
Four cwt. Light Power
Cabinets - Two Count Removal

Filed Nov. 13, 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By _____ DEPUTY

Cabinet closed

PS-232 Cabinet
White enamel
In Olive Green, PS-233



Cabinet open

New Improved Cabinet for Public Service Paper Towels

Widely Used in Large Manufactories, Offices, Schools, Banks, Stores, Public Buildings, Hotels, Rest Rooms, Restaurants, etc.

Dimensions, 14x7x6 inches. Also made in double size. Made of steel, heavily enameled in white or olive green (special colors if desired.) The cabinet is a simple slotted box, without springs, levers or wheels to get out of order. The deep-stamped paneling, corrugations and overlapped door give great strength. Rounded corners prevent injury to those brushing against the cabinet. An extremely handsome and convenient container for towels.

Note that the door opens very widely, enabling refills to be made almost with one motion. When closed the door drops into correct position for locking. The overlap foils any attempt at prying open.

The towels are interfolded in packages of 150 and can be interleaved almost instantly with existing supply in cabinet. The withdrawal of one towel automatically brings the next towel into position for withdrawal. The "hem" (doubled lower edge) of these towels is an exclusive patented feature found on no other make. It prevents tearing when towels are grasped with wet fingers.

The NATIONAL PAPER PRODUCTS COMPANY is the largest manufacturer of paper towels and paper towel cabinets in the world.

Twinpax and No-Waste Toilet Tissue

The toilet tissue manufactured by the NATIONAL PAPER PRODUCTS COMPANY, whether Twinpax or No-Waste, is made from pure spruce wood pulp and is free from foreign or waste materials of any character. It is soft, absorbent and perfectly sanitary. It is put up in folded packs, of which a double sheet comes out at a pull. The sheets are so interleaved in the pack that the withdrawal of one pair brings out the edges of the next two. The two-sheet delivery, with a slight resistance to withdrawal, discourages wasteful use and conduces to economy.

Toilet tissue for Twinpax fixtures is put up in patented banded packages, 200 sheets to a package. The breaking of the band automatically ejects the first sheets through the opening of the cabinet.

No-Waste toilet tissue contains 800 sheets to the package. Its economy has been proved by many tests conducted by school boards and industrial buyers. Its use also in the most exclusive Fifth Avenue establishments attests its fine quality.

Either Twinpax or No-Waste tissue can be obtained in any part of the United States, and the prices compare favorably with those of any other toilet tissue.

Public Service Paper Towels

Public Service paper towels are manufactured of selected pure wood pulp made especially for towel purposes. No old waste is used in making Public Service towels. The high crepe finish prevents over-saturation when wet hands first touch the towel. This adds immeasurably to the towel's effectiveness and economy. These towels are used in thousands of hotels, institutions, stores, schools, factories, office buildings, banks, restaurants, etc., and everywhere give absolute satisfaction and reduce towel expense.

There are two sizes of these towels: The Public Service and the Public Service Junior. The only difference is in the dimensions—the first named being $13\frac{1}{4}$x$10\frac{5}{16}$ inches; the second $11\frac{1}{2}$x$10\frac{5}{16}$ inches.

There are 150 towels in a package. The interfolding makes successive withdrawals easy. One towel emerges from the cabinet at a time, automatically following the preceding towel.

Wet hands will not tear these towels in withdrawing them from the cabinet, owing to the doubled edge (or "hem") found on no other make of paper towel. The Public Service towel when dry is firm, but the moment it is wet becomes soft and pliable yet strong and highly absorbent, drying the face and hands in a very agreeable way and leaving a pleasant glow.

Public Service paper towels can be obtained in any part of the United States, and the prices compare favorably with those of other paper towels.

Names of distributors in any locality, blue prints or other information, promptly sent on request
ASK FOR OUR FILING CATALOG

NATIONAL PAPER PRODUCTS COMPANY

Manufacturers of Paper Towels, Toilet Paper and Cabinets

CARTHAGE, N. Y.

BRANCHES

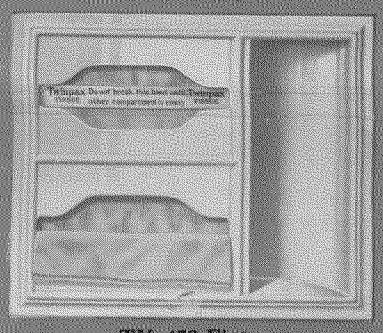
NEW YORK, N. Y. CHICAGO, ILL. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. PORTLAND, ORE. SEATTLE, WASH. LOS ANGELES, CAL.

Products

- No-Waste Toilet Tissue Cabinets
- Twinpax Toilet Tissue Fixtures
- Public Service Paper Towel Cabinets
- Twinpax and No-Waste Toilet Tissues
- Public Service Paper Towels

Twinpax Toilet Tissue Fixture

Recessed Type—Dimensions 6¾x8x1¾ in. This type is a National tile fixture for toilet tissue. The niche at the side is to facilitate insertion of Twinpax tissue. This niche may be at either the right or left-hand side. *This fixture enters wall only 1¼ in., making it particularly adaptable to thin walls.*



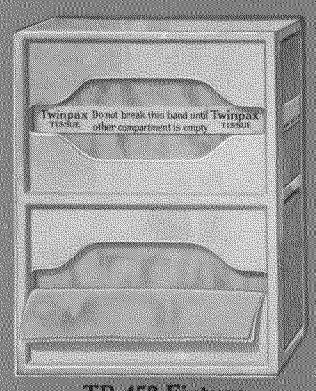
TX-452 Fixture
Recessed tile

The Twinpax fixture has two chambers for tissue, each chamber holding a package of 200 sheets. Paper from the lower chamber is used, that in the upper being a reserve; or vice versa. An empty chamber acts as a warning to fill before the tissue in second chamber is exhausted.

Twinpax fixtures are made of tile, with a high, glossy finish, in any desired color to match bathroom specifications. Blue prints and other details will be sent on request. Toilet tissue for Twinpax fixtures is put up in patented banded packages, as described on following page.

Twinpax Toilet Tissue Fixture

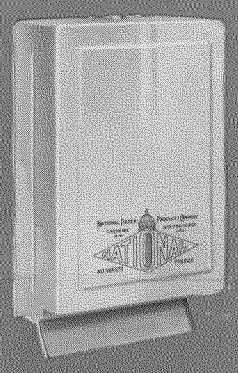
Projecting Type—Dimensions 5⅛x6¾x2 in. This type is also a National tile fixture for toilet tissue. Like the recessed fixture, it is highly finished and may be had in any color desired. This tile fixture has all the advantages of the recessed type except that it cannot be embedded in the wall. For installations where the fixture is attached to the surface of the wall or panel. Same paper as above.



TP-452 Fixture
Projecting tile

No-Waste Toilet Tissue Cabinet

Nickel Finish or Enamel Finishes—Dimensions 5x8 3/16 x 2¾ in. Made also in double size. Steel, enduringly nickeled (chromium plate if desired), also in olive green or white pyralin finishes, or special colors and finishes. No mechanical features; cannot get out of order. Exclusive patented two-catch lock, which cannot be sprung or jarred open. Front slot makes easy to see quantity of tissue remaining. Easily refilled when wholly or partly empty, as entire front falls forward when unlocked, leaving tissue that remains safely supported in body of cabinet. In use, protruding sheets hang well clear of wall. Holds more than 1000 sheets.



NW-220 Cabinet
Nickel finish
In White, NW-242
In Olive Green, NW-243

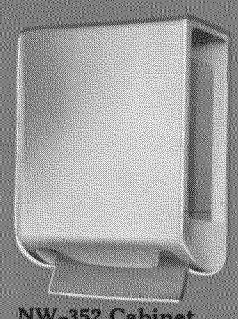
NW-252 Cabinet
Porcelain finish

No-Waste Toilet Tissue Cabinet

Porcelain Finish—Dimensions 5x8x2¾ in. Steel with finish of real porcelain, combining strength with great beauty. No mechanism; cannot get out of order. The back is of aluminum-cadmium alloy, preventing rust-stains on wall. The porcelain finish is very hard, cannot be written on, will resist scratching; and stains from cigarettes, etc., may be easily removed with damp cloth. Holds more than 1000 sheets. Refillable when wholly or partly empty. Same lock and other advantages as in NW-220. See next page regarding tissue.

No-Waste Toilet Tissue Cabinet

Solid Porcelain—Dimensions 5½x6⅞x3½ in. Solid porcelain. Filled through opening in side, which may be fitted with lock. (Opening may be at either right or left as desired.) Cannot be written on or scratched. Cleanable with damp cloth. Has no mechanical features whatever and therefore cannot get out of order. An exceedingly handsome fixture.



NW-352 Cabinet
Solid porcelain

Continued on next page

EMIL SZAFIR

BEAUMONT BOOK AND STATIONERY STORE

ALEX SZAFIR

E. SZAFIR & SON CO.

COMPLETE IN ALL BRANCHES OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC STATIONERY

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

STATIONERS AND OFFICE OUTFITTERS

SPORTING GOODS AND ENGINEERS SUPPLIES

Beaumont, Texas,

November 23, 1931.

Commissioner's Court,
Jefferson County,
Beaumont, Texas.

Gentlemen:-

We are pleased to quote you on Fifty-three porcelain finish Toilet Paper Cabinets as per sample submitted, delivered F.O.B. Court House at .....$1.25 each plus 35¢ installation.

We are also pleased to quote you on Forty-four No. P 232 White Enamel Towel Cabinets, as per enclosed Cut, delivered F.O.B. Court House at.....$1.10 each plus 35¢ installation.

Thanking you for the opportunity of quoting you and hoping to be favored with your kind order, we are,

Yours very truly,

E. Szafir and Son Co.

PV/h

EMIL SZAFIR — BEAUMONT BOOK AND STATIONERY STORE — ALEX SZAFIR

E. SZAFIR & SON CO.

IMPORTERS OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC STATIONERY

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

STATIONERS AND OFFICE OUTFITTERS

SPORTING GOODS AND ENGINEERS SUPPLIES

Beaumont, Texas

November 23, 1931.

Commissioner's Court,
Jefferson County,
Beaumont, Texas.

Gentlemen:-

We are pleased to quote you on Fifty-three porc[illegible] Finish Toilet Paper Cabinets as per sample in use delivered F.O.B. Court House at ......$1.25 each plus 35¢ installation.

We are also pleased to quote you on Forty-four No. P 232 White Enamel Towel Cabinets, as per enclosed Cut, delivered F.O.B. Court House at......$1.10 each plus 35¢ installation.

Thanking you for the opportunity of quoting you and hoping to be favored with your kind order, we are,

Yours very truly,

E. Szafir and Son Co.

PV/h

Bid of E. Szafir & Son Co
Towel and
Toilet Paper Cabinets
New Courthouse

Filed Nov 23, 1931
W. T. BLACKMON,
Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,
By Fred [illegible] DEPUTY

THE SCHUHMACHER COMPANY

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS

H.C. SCHUHMACHER, PRESIDENT
C.A. PERLITZ, VICE PRESIDENT
M.R. ROBSON, SEC'Y. & TREAS.

HOUSTON, BEAUMONT
EAGLE LAKE, LA GRANGE
NAVASOTA, ROBSTOWN
SMITHVILLE, VICTORIA
AUSTIN, CAMERON
HARLINGEN

E. MIDDLETON
MANAGER

BEAUMONT, TEXAS
P. O. BOX 795

Nov. 23rd, 1931

County Commissioners' Court
of JeffersonCounty
Beaumont, Texas

Gentlemen:

We are giving you herewith, our prices on Solid Porcelain Towel and Toilet Paper Cabinets, per your specifications dated Nov. 5th, 1931. These prices cover the cost of these Cabinets installed in the new Jefferson County Court House and remain the property of the County:

44 of these

TOWEL CABINETS

#659 Solid Porcelain without Metal Door.....$5.00 each
#660 " " with Metal Door..... 5.75 each

TOILET PAPER CABINETS

#615 Solid Porcelain Flat Top-without Door.....$2.25 each
#616 " " " " with Door..... 2.50 each

#617 Solid Porcelain Sloping Top-without Door..... 2.50 each
#617 " " " " -with Door..... 2.75 each

53 of these

The prices on Paper Towels and Toilet Paper remain the same as quoted you in our letter of Sept. 14th.

Trusting these prices are in line and we will be favored with your business, we are

Yours very truly,
THE SCHUHMACHER COMPANY

PER Paul Wilhelm
Manager-Paper Dep't.

PAUL WILHELM
Mc

THE SCHUHMACHER COMPANY

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS

H. C. SCHUHMACHER, PRESIDENT
C. A. PERLITZ, VICE PRESIDENT
M. R. ROBSON, SEC'Y. & TREAS.

HOUSTON, BEAUMONT
EAGLE LAKE, LA GRANGE
NAVASOTA, ROBSTOWN
SMITHVILLE, VICTORIA
AUSTIN, CAMERON
HARLINGEN

E. MIDDLETON,
MANAGER

BEAUMONT, TEXAS
P. O. BOX 795

Nov. 20th, 1931

Mr. Fred Stone
Goodhue Bldg.
Beaumont, Tex.

Dear Fred:

Glad to get the new specifications for the Towel and Toilet Paper Cabinets for the Court House. Thanks.

Have been trying to get you the last few days, as I wanted to find out about the Towel and Paper contracts.

Clyde Marchbanks informed me that the former bids were being taken as the basis of awarding the business for the Court House. He said that Stedman had gotten the Towel contract, but nothing had been done about the Toilet Paper.

Believe I was low on the Toilet Paper, my bid being $3.95 per case on the 2M-sheet-rolls and $6.80 per case on the Cabinet Paper. Mr. Marchbanks was not sure but he was under the opinion that the contract for both kinds would be awarded to the lowest bidder.

Would like an expression from you about this and would appreciate your calling me Saturday morning.

You may not know it, but we make no money on Towel or Toilet Paper Fixtures. These are usually sold at cost and if we install them, it is done at a loss. Therefore, I am anxious to know if I am to get the Toilet Paper contract before bidding on the Fixtures.

Please let me hear from you.

Yours truly,

THE SCHUHMACHER COMPANY

PER Paul Wilhelm
Manager-Paper Dep't.

PAUL WILHELM
Mc

Bill of The Schuhmacher Co.

for

Towel - Toilet Paper

Cabinets - New Court

House.

Filed Nov 23 1931

W. T. BLACKMON.

Clerk, County Court, Jefferson County at Law,

By _____ DEPUTY

Jefferson County Courthouse 1931

FRED C. STONE
A. BABIN
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

Architects # 55

CERTIFICATE

Number 6

Date Dec. 18, 1931.

To Jefferson County, Texas

Amt. $ 3,000.00

This is to Certify that A. M. McInnes & Company, Inc. is due a payment

of Three Thousand and no/100 Dollars

in conformity with the Contract with you dated January 26, 1931.

for the Wood Furniture, Cabinet Work and Benches of your Building

at Beaumont, Texas.

FRED C. STONE
A. BABIN

By Fred C. Stone

STATEMENT OF CONTRACT ACCOUNT

Original Contract . . .	39,935.20	Previously Certified . .	35,000.00
Extra Orders	None	Present Certificate . . .	3,000.00
Total Amount.	39,935.20	Total Certified.	38,000.00
Credit Orders	None	Bal. to become Due . .	1,935.20
Net Total Contract . .	39,935.20	Received Payment . . .	

For the Contractor

The Issuance of this Certificate or the Payment on Account Does Not Constitute an Acceptance of any Work on the Part of the Owner or the Architect.

This Certificate is an expression of the Architects opinion and shall at no time be considered as a legal obligation on their part.

618 PEARL STREET

PHONES 397-398

NECHES ELECTRIC COMPANY

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

DISTRIBUTORS

Kelvinator

The Oldest Domestic Electric Refrigeration
"Better Always Better"

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

R. A. PRATHER
MANAGER

SEPTEMBER 14, 1931.

MESSRS. FRED C. STONE & A. BABIN, ARCHITECTS,
JEFFERSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE,
BEAUMONT, TEXAS.

SUBJECT: SPECIAL FIXTURES
EDWIN F. GUTH CO., MANUFACTURERS

GENTLEMEN:

7340.00
2272.00
9612.00

IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT WE QUOTE YOU HEREWITH, ON SPECIAL LIGHTING FIXTURES, MANUFACTURED BY THE EDWIN F. GUTH COMPANY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, AS PER DETAILED SHEETS ATTACHED AND DESIGNS SUBMITTED.

WE ARE QUOTING ON TWO SEPARATE PROPOSITIONS WHICH WE HAVE DESIGNATED AS PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE AND PROPOSITION NUMBER TWO.

PROPOSITION NUMBER TWO IS SAME IN PART AS PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT ALTERNATIVES ARE BEING SUBMITTED ON TYPES NUMBERS S-1, S-7, S-8, S-9, S-13, S-14 AND S-18.

accepted

PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE $ 7340.00

PROPOSITION NUMBER TWO $ 6.119.50

THANKING YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF QUOTING ON THIS JOB AND TRUSTING THAT OUR DESIGNS MEET WITH YOUR APPROVAL AND THAT WE WILL BE FAVORED WITH THIS VALUED ORDER, WE ARE

YOURS VERY TRULY,

NECHES ELECTRIC COMPANY,

R. A. Prather
Mrs Sallie Prather

Received all Checks
Neches Electric Co
W. G. Dearing

R A Prather
PER

RAP:JB

618 PEARL STREET

PHONES 397-398

NECHES ELECTRIC COMPANY

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

DISTRIBUTORS

Kelvinator

The Oldest Domestic Electric Refrigeration
"Better Always Better"

R. A. PRATHER
MANAGER

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

PROPOSITION No. 1

EDWIN F. GUTH COMPANY - MANUFACTURERS -

DETAILS OF SPECIAL FIXTURES

FURNISH AND DELIVER TO THE JOB COMPLETE WITH LAMPS READY TO BE HUNG THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL FIXTURES:

MAIN ENTRANCE:

1 - TYPE S-1 (OUR S-64298) LANTERN - 17 LIGHTS - BRONZE METAL - UDYLITE PLATED - WITH ENGRAVED GLASS PANELS - COMPLETELY CLOSED WITH BOTTOM REMOVABLE. 13'6" OVERALL LENGTH.

COURTS LOBBY #135 AND ELEVATOR LOBBY #119:

2 - TYPE S-2 (OUR S-64299 LANTERNS - 5 LIGHTS (4 IN UPPER PORTION - 1 - IN LOWER) - BRONZE METAL - UDYLITE PLATED - ENGRAVED GLASS PANELS - COMPLETELY CLOSED - BOTTOM REMOVABLE - GLASS PANELS ON TOP REMOVABLE.

ELEVATOR LOBBY - STAIR WELLS #184 AND #185:

3 - TYPE S-3 (OUR S-64300) CEILING - 4-LIGHTS - BRASS METAL UDYLITE PLATED - CRYSTAL SATIN FINISH GLASSWARE.

FOYER #155:

1 - TYPE F-4 (OUR S-64301) LANTERN - 5-LIGHTS - BRONZE METAL UDYLITE PLATED - ENGRAVED GLASS PANELS - TOTALLY ENCLOSED.

FOYER ELEV. LOBBY #155 (ARCHED CEILING):

1 - TYPE S-5 (OUR S-64302) CHANDELIER - 4-LIGHTS - BRONZE METAL - UDYLITE PLATED - COPPER IN-LAY GLASS BAND - GLASS DISC TO BE MATT FINISH - TOTALLY ENCLOSED.

618 PEARL STREET

PHONES 397-398

NECHES ELECTRIC COMPANY

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R. A. PRATHER
MANAGER

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

PROPOSITION NO. 1

DETAILS OF SPECIAL FIXTURES - #2.

LOBBYS:

5 - TYPE S-6 (OUR S-64303) LANTERNS - 9 - LIGHTS - COPPER AND BRONZE METAL - UDYLITE PLATED - ENGRAVED CASED GLASS.

STAIR AREAWAYS B-61-64-69:

6 - TYPE S-7 (OUR S-47014) BRACKET LANTERNS - 1 - LIGHT - CAST BRONZE - UDYLITE PLATED - CASED GLASS.

COUNTY COURT #134:

4 - TYPE S-8 (OUR S-64304) CEILING - 4 LIGHTS - SHEET BRONZE FRAME - GUTH-GLO EXTRUDED MOULDING - ALABASTER CASED GLASS - CENTER PANELS ETCHED DESIGN.

COURTS LOBBY:

2 - TYPE S-9 (OUR S-64305) LANTERN - 13 LIGHTS - BRONZE METAL - UDYLITE PLATED - ENGRAVED ALABASTER WHITE CASED GLASS PANELS. COMPLETELY ENCLOSED.

PUBLIC LOBBY #279:

7 - TYPE S-10 (OUR S-64306) CHANDELIER - 8 LIGHTS - BRONZE METAL - ENGRAVED GLASS - GLASS PANELS ON TOP MAKING SAME - TOTALLY ENCLOSED.

COURTS CORRIDORS #266:

4 - TYPE S-11 (OUR S-64307) CEILING TYPE - 1 LIGHT - BRONZE METAL UDYLITE PLATED - ENGRAVED GLASS.

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PHONES 397-398

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R. A. PRATHER
MANAGER

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

PROPOSITION No. 1

DETAILS OF SPECIAL FIXTURES - #3.

ELEVATOR LOBBYS #221:

3 - TYPE S-12 (OUR S-64308) CEILING TYPE - 2 LIGHTS - BRONZE METAL - UDYLITE PLATED - GLASS PANELS IN TOP BAND.

COURT ROOM #233:

3 - TYPE S-13 (OUR S-64309) CHANDELIERS - 16 LIGHTS - BRONZE METAL UDYLITED - ENGRAVED GLASS PANELS - CAST CORNER BLOCKS WITH ENGRAVED GLASS.

APPELATE COURT #409:

6 - TYPE S-14 (OUR S-64310) CHANDELIERS - 8 LIGHTS - BRONZE AND BRASS UDYLITED - ENGRAVED GLASS PANELS IN BOTTOM - BENT ENGRAVED PANELS IN SIDES - 3 TO BE ON SLOPING CEILING AND 3 ON FLAT CEILING.

JUSTICE OF PEACE COURT B-32 AND B-41:

8 - TYPE S-15 (OUR S-64311) CEILING FIXTURE - 4 LIGHTS - BRONZE METAL UDYLITED WITH CRYSTAL SATIN FINISH. GLASS.

COURTS LOBBY #415:

1 - TYPE S-16 (OUR S-64312) CHANDELIER - 1 LIGHT - BRASS METAL UDYLITED - 22" ALABASTER BALL - FLAT COPPER INLAY GLASS RING WITH 4 METAL ROD SUPPORTS - NOTE: TINTED LAMPS CAN BE USED IF COLOR IS DESIRED.

COMMISSIONERS COURT #507:

4 - TYPE S-17 (OUR S-64313) CHANDELIER - 4 LIGHTS - BRONZE AND BRASS UDYLITED - ENGRAVED GLASS PANELS BOTTOM - PLAIN GLASS TOP PANELS - NOTE: THIS TOTALLY ENCLOSED.

618 PEARL STREET

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R. A. PRATHER
MANAGER

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

PROPOSITION NO. 1

DETAILS OF SPECIAL FIXTURES - #4.

CIVIL COURTS #267 AND #242:

6 - TYPE S-18 (OUR S-64314) LANTERNS - 9 LIGHTS - BRONZE AND BRASS UDYLITED - ENGRAVED GLASS PANELS THROUGHOUT.

TRUSTING THAT THE ABOVE DETAILS MEET WITH YOUR REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND THAT WE WILL BE FAVORED WITH THIS VALUED ORDER, WE BEG TO REMAIN

YOURS TRULY,

NECHES ELECTRIC COMPANY,

R A Prather

PER

RAP:JB

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS, _____ 193____

IN ACCOUNT WITH

JACK HYDE'S ELECTRIC SHOP

JACK HYDE, PROPRIETOR

REPAIRING FANS AND MOTORS A SPECIALTY

GENERAL CONTRACTING
FIXTURES AND SUPPLIES
RADIO

ALL BILLS UNPAID AFTER 30 DAYS WILL DRAW 8 PER CENT INTEREST

TELEPHONE 44

409 PROCTER ST.

Move base plug in court room #134

45' ½" galv. pipe	$4.50
2 locknuts	.05
2 bushings	.08
3 hours labor	6.00
100' #14 DBRC wire	1.20
	$11.83

OK
A.D.

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS, _____ _____ 193____

IN ACCOUNT WITH

JACK HYDE'S ELECTRIC SHOP

JACK HYDE, PROPRIETOR

REPAIRING FANS AND MOTORS A SPECIALTY

GENERAL CONTRACTING
FIXTURES AND SUPPLIES
RADIO

ALL BILLS UNPAID AFTER 30 DAYS WILL DRAW 8 PER CENT INTEREST

TELEPHONE 44

409 PROCTER ST.

320'½" conduit	$32.00
6 concrete outlet boxes	1.50
14 locknuts	.35
14 bushings	.56
1 switch box	.25
2-2 gang switch & plate	1.50
675' #14 DBRC wire	8.10
10 hours labor	20.00
	64.26

OK
J.C.S.

Charge is for installing light in pipe tunnel. This amount has been O.K'd.

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS,_____ _____ 193____

IN ACCOUNT WITH

JACK HYDE'S ELECTRIC SHOP

JACK HYDE, PROPRIETOR

REPAIRING FANS AND MOTORS A SPECIALTY

GENERAL CONTRACTING
FIXTURES AND SUPPLIES
RADIO

ALL BILLS UNPAID AFTER 30 DAYS WILL DRAW 8 PER CENT INTEREST

TELEPHONE 44

409 PROCTER ST.

Install outlet in press room $15.00 ✓

O.K.
J.L.D.

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS, 8-3-31 193

IN ACCOUNT WITH

JACK HYDE'S ELECTRIC SHOP

JACK HYDE, PROPRIETOR

REPAIRING FANS AND MOTORS A SPECIALTY

GENERAL CONTRACTING
FIXTURES AND SUPPLIES
RADIO

ALL BILLS UNPAID AFTER 30 DAYS WILL DRAW 8 PER CENT INTEREST

TELEPHONE 44

409 PROCTER ST.

Basement

Rearrange outlet in jury room
Justice of the Peace

15' ½" galv. conduit	$1.50	
1½ hours labor	3.00	$4.50

OK
J.C.J.

Outlets re-located to suit furniture layout in J.P.A.

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS, 8-3-3' 193

IN ACCOUNT WITH

JACK HYDE'S ELECTRIC SHOP

JACK HYDE, PROPRIETOR

REPAIRING FANS AND MOTORS A SPECIALTY

GENERAL CONTRACTING
FIXTURES AND SUPPLIES
RADIO

ALL BILLS UNPAID AFTER 30 DAYS WILL DRAW 8 PER CENT INTEREST

Basement

TELEPHONE 44 409 PROCTER ST.

Sherrifs Basement office move outlet as directed

31'½" conduit	$3.10
4 ½" locknuts	.10
4-½" bushings	.20
2 outlet boxes	.50
5 hours labor	10.00
	13.90

OK
F.C.S.

This charge is for work done in rearranging sheriffs basement dept according to our revised drawing

ORT ARTHUR, TEXAS,_____ 1____193____

IN ACCOUNT WITH

JACK HYDE'S ELECTRIC SHOP

JACK HYDE, PROPRIETOR

REPAIRING FANS AND MOTORS A SPECIALTY

GENERAL CONTRACTING
FIXTURES AND SUPPLIES
RADIO

ALL BILLS UNPAID AFTER 30 DAYS WILL DRAW 8 PER CENT INTEREST

TELEPHONE 44

409 PROCTER ST.

Rearranging outlet in PBX room
6 hours labor $12.00

OK
F.L.D.

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS, _____ 193__

IN ACCOUNT WITH

JACK HYDE'S ELECTRIC SHOP

JACK HYDE, PROPRIETOR

REPAIRING FANS AND MOTORS A SPECIALTY

GENERAL CONTRACTING
FIXTURES AND SUPPLIES
RADIO

ALL BILLS UNPAID AFTER 30 DAYS WILL DRAW 8 PER CENT INTEREST

TELEPHONE 44

409 PROCTER ST.

Sheriffs Office-rearranging and adding
1 ceiling light, moving 1 phone adding 2 switches

75' ½" galv. conduit	$ 7.50
1 outlet box	.25
2 switch boxes	.50
2 switches	1.80
150' #14 DBRC, ceiling outlet out of	1.80
floor & setting in back wall	8.00
	37.75

Ok
[illegible]

Two switches omitted on original order that has been checked.

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS,_____ _____ 193____

IN ACCOUNT WITH

JACK HYDE'S ELECTRIC SHOP

JACK HYDE, PROPRIETOR

REPAIRING FANS AND MOTORS A SPECIALTY

GENERAL CONTRACTING
FIXTURES AND SUPPLIES
RADIO

ALL BILLS UNPAID AFTER 30 DAYS WILL DRAW 8 PER CENT INTEREST

TELEPHONE 44

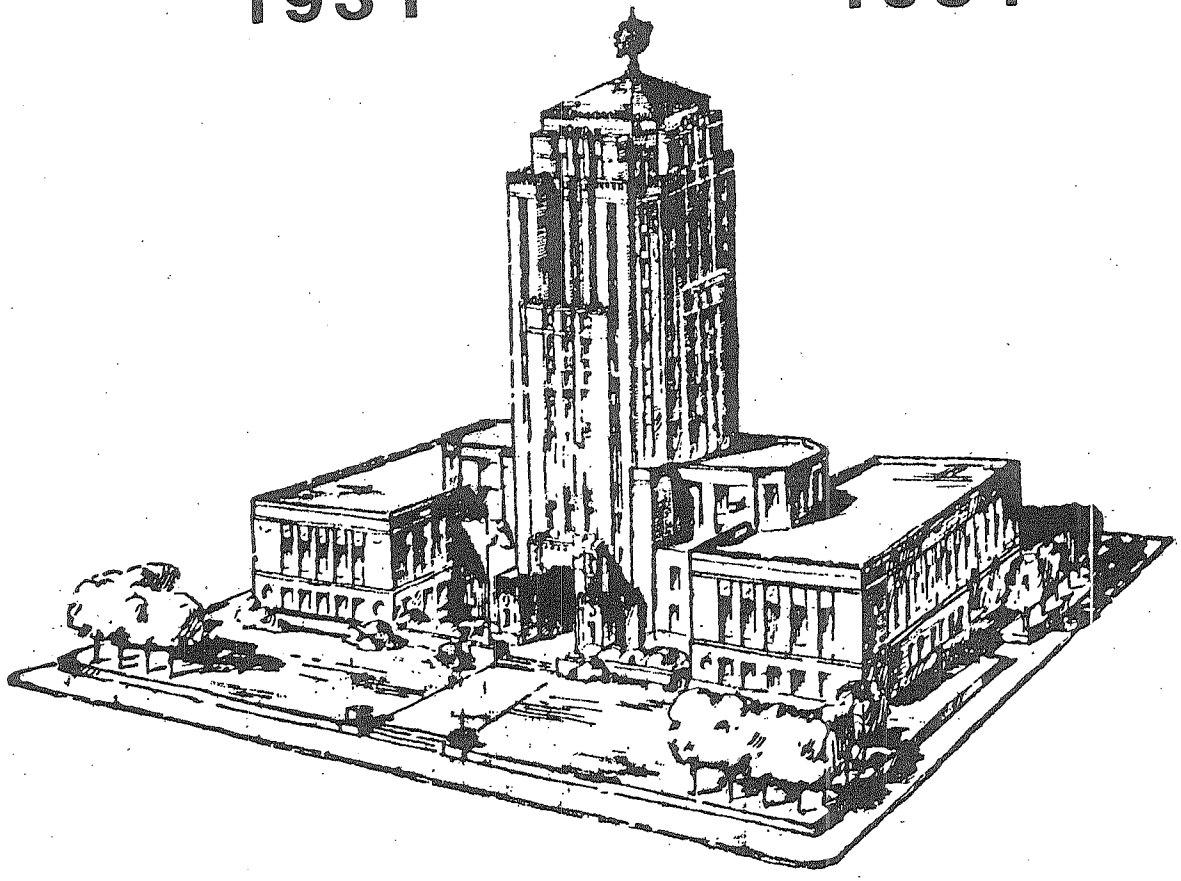
409 PROCTER ST.

Difference of price of bell with transformer	$6.56
20 push buttons	30.00
20 " " plates	5.00
	41.56
Less credit of 12 push buttons @18¢	2.16
	39.40

OK
H.L.D.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

1931 1984



J. HOWARD MURRY

ABOUT THE COVER

The sketch of the courthouse is a photo-reduction of the original cover sheet for the 1930 construction drawings. You will note that the building was designed to have an open framework-type world globe. The globe was never installed.

The artist for the sketch is not known.

The history of Texas and the counties that make up the state is long and colorful. Jefferson County certainly must rank among the very top when events were happening that shaped history.

From the formation of the country until 1930, fortune was smiling and sometimes frowning on the Southeast Triangle of Texas. Events were taking place that were to affect the county, the state, the country, and eventually, the world. When the Lucas gusher blew in, it sounded a roar that was to be heard around the world and resoundingly announced the existence of Jefferson County.

Years later, in the heart of the great depression, the County Commissioners Court convinced the voters of the need for a bond

Jefferson County Courthouse 1931

issue for the purpose of erecting a new courthouse and jail.

The firm of Fred O. Stone, A. Babin, Associate Architects, was commissioned to prepare plans and specifications for the building.

On September 3, 1930, bids were opened and contracts were signed with the construction firm of McDaniel Brothers. The building was to cost $1,000,000, and would take just over sixteen months to construct.

Remembering that the construction took place during the depression, it is of interest to note a portion of the specifications titled "Court Resolution". This section reads as follows:

"Therefore, be it resolved, by this Commissioners Court, that in the

letting of all contracts, in the expenditure of this money to be created by this Bond Issue, there shall be inserted in said contract this clause, "That local labor of the county shall be given first preference, providing the service to be rendered is competent, and the wage scale is reasonable; also that all material to be used on construction work be purchased from the material business concerns of the County, the cost of same being equal and just without of the County concerns"....."We believe the County Tax Payers who make this Bond Issue possible should receive the first preference everything

being equal and just in the letting of said contracts".

"Local labor shall mean residents of Jefferson County, holding a poll tax receipt in said County, and that the contractors shall pay the standard wage scale to all workmen employed on all contract work. And further, the contractor shall file with the County Clerk a schedule showing the names of all the employees, their addresses, and the Precinct in which they vote".

Although the building was designed and built as a reinforced concrete structure, there was an option given to the bidding contractors to allow them to bid a steel structure. The contractors were given complete

design criteria in the specifications, but it was to be their responsibility to prepare engineering drawings necessary for the bidding and construction of the building in the event the steel structure was used.

The building designed by the architects was in the style known as Art Deco. Constructed of brick, stone, marble and terra cotta on the outside, the building was to have terrazzo floors, masonry, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings; and was to be embellished with marble and fine woods from all over the world.

Materials from many states were garnered into this one great building. There was marble from Tennessee and Vermont, stone from Texas and Colorado, granite from Texas, and terra cotta from Colorado; all were incorp-

orated into the building. Marbles from Belgium, Spain, and Italy are to be found in the lobbies and courtrooms. Walnut from the great black walnuts of America and the Orient, as well as oak and mahogany are also in view. Exotic woods, such as African Thuya and Ebony, can be found.

Much can be said about the materials for this building, but even more should be said of the craftsmanship. From the beautifully crafted brick, stone and terra cotta exterior, to the fine marble and handcrafted woodwork of the interior, the building shines as a permanent example of what men can do when given the opportunity.

Examples of extraordinary craftsmanship are found throughout the building. One interesting example is the beautiful wood carvings

in the courtrooms. There is a paragraph in the specifications where the architect states-----"All wood carving shall be done by a qualified artist and in a lively and spritely manner". One look at these carvings is proof that the artist was indeed qualified.

Generally, the doors, frames and trim throughout the building are of American red oak, with some doors in the courtrooms being walnut. Here again, the excellent quality of workmanship is seen. It is of interest that different types of joining systems were found when some of the original door trim was removed. It appears that many men were used, and the men were given their own way in making joints.

The methods of construction indicate that a great number of men must have been

on the project each day. For example: Some floor levels have locations where the terrazzo floors are continuous, even ground and polished under the masonry and/or plaster partitions. Other locations on the same floor show the partitions were in place before the terrazzo work was even started.

The fact that the bids were opened on September 3, 1930, and that the building was completed and accepted December 27, 1931 indicates that a lot of people worked many hours to complete the building in this short period of time.

From the basement through the seventh floor offices, in the lobbies, courtrooms and even the six floors that made up the jail, no effort was spared to make this building the very best.

And the very best it was! The building was listed on the Register of Historical Places and designated a Texas Historical Building worthy of preserving as well as using.

The story of the restoration actually has its beginning in 1977, when the voters elected to issue bonds to pay for a new building program. The White Budd Van Ness Partnership of Beaumont, Texas was commissioned for this program. Many weeks went into shaping a plan of action that would result in the courthouse complex as it is today. What finally developed was a multi-phased building program including a major new addition.

The first phase was the replacement of the old steel windows in the courthouse, which by this time had rusted too badly to

permit maintenance, much less restoration. Included in this phase also was the cleaning of the exterior of the building.

The second phase was to result in the new courthouse addition and the new jail. These facilities were built on the north side of the existing building and were connected by new corridors at the basement, first and second floor levels of the original courthouse. The new building would house the jail, Sheriff's Department, Justice of the Peace Courts, District and County Clerks' Offices, as well as the Criminal Court System.

Phase Three of this long range program was to be the renovation and restoration of the original courthouse. This building was to house the Commissioners Court Suites, Civil and Family Courts and the business

departments of the County Government. The old jail was to be abandoned, but not torn out.

The last phase of this program was a Juvenile Detention Facility and Probation Department located in the Courthouse Annex Number One, just south across Franklin Street.

After many months of planning that brought together the needs and ideas of the County Offices that would occupy the building, as well as the requirements of the local, state, and federal historical associations, bids were opened and contracts were signed to actually begin the renovation and restoration.

The Beaumont construction firm of Bella Co. had won the race for the low dollar with a bid of $7,188,077.

Now came the test of knowledge, ingenuity, technology, and last, and certainly not least, patience. All of the many crafts and individual workmen, engineers, and architects were to be tested many times before the restoration was to be called "done".

The original plans were available to the architects, but changes made at the time of construction, as well as changes made through the years, kept surprises the normal thing to expect each day. These were to separate the real craftsmen as the weeks began to speed by.

Generally, the upper office floors, i.e., the third through the seventh floors were to be used as offices. The exception was the Appellate Courtroom on the fourth floor, which became the County Commissioners Court-

room. The offices were to be updated with new suspended acoustical tile ceilings, paint, and new partitions where required. All the electrical wiring and common lighting had to be replaced. Also replaced were the water and sewer lines serving all the restrooms. New air conditioning and heating was installed. Many original restrooms were to remain, but the piping still had to be replaced, even though the original fixtures were kept.

The public lobbies and courtrooms on the first and second floors were restored to their original appearance with only the addition of new air conditioning, recessed lighting, and sound systems in the courtrooms.

Many fortunate things happened to the people involved in the restoration, not the

least of which was the discovery of a contractor willing to undertake the monstrous job of repairing the original terrazzo floors; but of all things, a craftsman who turned out to be a happy Italian by the name of Tony Pazzano of Houston. This man knew not only the tricks of repair, but knew the trick of repairing this particular building. For you see, he had worked on this very building in 1930 as an apprentice fresh on these shores from Italy. His knowledge of the type of marble chips and coloring agents used in this building allowed repairs to be made that can hardly be seen. The love and pride in his craft was an inspiration to everyone around him. When special colors and/or special chips were needed he seemed to always have just the right answer.

The plaster walls and ceilings were showing the trials of time and climate. All of the interior walls and ceilings are gypsum plaster, on either clay tile, or metal lath. Some of the decorative plaster mouldings in the courtroom ceilings had become damaged by roof leaks and needed to be repaired. In one location, a section of the decorative ceiling had actually fallen, and as a result had to be replaced. The responsibility for the modeling of a new panel and resetting it lay on the shoulders of a Beaumont plasterer by the name of Johnny Jacobs. Once again the artistry and pride of local craftsmen came to the rescue, and the repairs were made in such a manner that you have to know where they were made in order to identify the new work.

Restoration of any building involves not only the "glamour" work of decorative pieces, but the repair of common walls and ceilings. Repairing damaged walls, ceilings, and areas where the new construction required the invasion of old surfaces is the bulk of the work. Where this happens, the old finishes and textures must be matched and the new blended with the old. This requires a great deal of skill for both the plasterer and the painter. They must work together closely if the proper appearance is to be obtained.

Fifty years of use, abuse and climatic happenings can create the monster of all monsters where painted surfaces and fine woods are involved. This building proved to be no exception.

Through the years many coats of paint of many colors had been applied to the walls and ceilings. One of the objects of restoration is to bring a building back to as near the original condition as possible. This applies to color as well as form. The architects retained the services of a color consultant in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania by the name of Frank Welsh to aid them in identifying the original colors.

Two inch diameter samples were removed from the walls and ceilings in all the areas of historical significance and were sent to Philadelphia. Here the paint was peeled back layer by layer to reveal the original color. This color was then matched to a color coding system and eventually with commercial paints.

All historically important areas of the building were painted with modern paint but of the original color. All other areas of the building received paint that was carefully selected from a palette of colors that would have been used during the 1930's.

The fine woods in the building required very special attention from John Huber and his crew of painters lead by Roger Russell and Charlie Fritshe. Time, humidity, waxes, and even body oils had taken its toll. There is a time in a restoration project when a decision must be made on whether to restore to the original or to allow the patina of time to show. The decision was made to allow the wood to show the effects of time, but at the same time, refinish the wood to protect and show its beauty and workmanship.

The results are a happy blend of new brilliant finishes, while at the same time allowing the old wood to show.

One of the early design decisions was to duplicate the patterns of the original wood trim. This was accomplished by The Hoffman Company of Corpus Christi. The duplication was so exact that all new trim was stamped with the date, "1983", in order to identify the new for future historians.

The new trim is made of red oak just as the old was but then came the problem of blending the new finish and color with the old so that the new would not shout out its youth. Again, the painters came to the rescue and a process was developed that was exactly right.

There soon arrived a point in time when

certain questions about particular finishes just weren't asked. Old finishes such as simulated marble and bronze colored ornate plaster required techniques and mixes that were just plain "job developed" and they worked! The moulded plaster around the central light fixture in one of the courtrooms, for instance, required seven different colors of bronze ranging from copper red to yellow gold. Charlie Fritshe blended and painted the old until it looked as it must have looked in 1932. The bronze tones used on the ornate plaster throughout the building required formulations that at times just seemed to happen, and the fewer questions asked, the better.

What started out as a routine, large remodel job soon developed into quite another

thing. The painters, as well as the other trades, got caught up in the task at hand and soon began to view the job for what it was --- a true restoration project.

One of the most vitally affected of all the trades were the carpenters and the cabinet makers. New cabinets in newly created areas were designed to meet the needs of the people using them, as well as the need to keep them modern in the sense of new low-maintenance materials. The problem arising from this was how to make them new, but look comfortable with the old.

When the wood trim and cabinets started arriving, the carpenters started the work of installing them. It did not take long before the real craftsmen started coming to the front. The average joints in the

door trim now became not good enough. Led by Phillip "Monk" Gaspard, the pride of the workmen took over and the quality of their work started rising. The examples of 1931 workmanship surrounding them just would not let them do less than their best. And best it was! Men started doing work that even they didn't know they were capable of.

The floors of most of the courtrooms were covered with 12' x 12' x ¼" cork from Portugal. The areas directly in front of the doors and along the rails were worn nearly through. All of the old cork was removed by the Bellard Carpet Company of Beaumont, and new cork was installed complete to a checkerboard field with dark colored borders. Now the floors shine once again.

Nine different types of marble are used in the building. Several of these marbles are no longer quarried, so great care had to be observed during the renovation. The marble could not be replaced, so it just couldn't be damaged. Years of use and some abuse was evident all over the building. Fortunately, most of the damage could be repaired. A thorough cleaning with alcohol and mild soap and water removed the grime of years and left the marble sparkling once again.

The delicate shades of Italian Pink Rosato and Botticino, and the rich greens and reds of the Royal Red and Premier Vert Corail are offset with Negro Marquinia and Rosa Levanto. Marbles from Italy and Belgium adorn some of the lobbies and courtrooms

while marbles such as Hamil Pink and Rose Fleuri from Tennessee sparkle in others.

One of the most perplexing problems arising was the atmospheric damage that had been done to the rich metal casting found throughout the building. This metal is an alloy known as Benedict Nickel. The years had not been kind to this metal and as a result, the fine castings were showing pitting and corrosion that nothing will correct, short of grinding the surface. To do this would cost much of the texture and depth of the pieces, so they must remain with their pocks tucked beautifully in with the fine woods and marbles.

The hardware used on the doors was beginning to show the grip of millions of hands, the least not being Father Time. The hard-

ware used was, and is, as good as there was made. The dull chrome finish simply needed refurbishing. The Burchfield Hardware Company of Beaumont found a small, thriving, and vitally interested plating company in Houston. It was the Acapulco Company, operated by a father and son, Joe and Bob Byerley. They took on the task of cleaning, grinding, and replating the original locks, pushes, and pulls. Here the object was not so much to make the pieces look like 1932, but to allow them to show their age gracefully. It was decided to restore the finish allowing some of the bumps and bruises to remain. The description of the finish decided upon was something like "a beautiful lady fifty years of age and looking great!" Granted, a terrible and untechnical description, but

one that told the finishers and all other interested parties just what we were looking for.

One of the most difficult jobs was to be the restoration of the light fixtures. The fixtures in the lobbies and courtrooms were to be re-used, as were many of the more common fixtures in smaller halls, stairs, and less historically significant lobbies.

All of the fixtures needed cleaning and replating. Some needed glass. Glass that not only had to be decorated with etched designs, but would have to be "aged" to take on the patina of time. Indeed, some glass such as the ruby red on white that is used in the exit lights had to be made. James Delaney, owner of Del-Mar Electric Company of Beaumont, took on this formidable task.

And take it on, he did! Complete to installing his own electro-plating tanks to clean and replate the chrome, brass, and copper fixtures.

Time, light, and heat do strange things to glass. Glass that was once milk white became soft violet or pale green. The glass recreated by the Merry Go Round Glass Company of Houston, now takes its place alongside the old with such comfort that no one knows which is the old and which is the new. Only that they are once again beautiful.

When these fixtures were returned to the job and re-hung in their original places by "Boss Electrician", David Nobles, and his crew, their original beauty was truly something to see.

Most buildings, new and old, do not

flaunt their plumbing. This building is no different. Still, the problem of fifty year old plumbing and piping remained. The decision was made to remove and repipe all of the building. This "says" easier than it "does". But the Natkin Service Company of Beaumont undertook the job. They were faced with using many of the original plumbing fixtures and pipe chases. The ceramic tile wainscote in the toilet rooms could not be replaced, so this added the burden of removing the old pipe and installing the new without invasive action in these walls.

Surprises never ceased, but one of the earliest was the discovery that all of the water piping was brass. Beautiful, golden, virgin brass. Innovative thinking by Wendall Granger, "Boss Plumber", prevailed and the

job was done. Again, sometimes it was best that not too many questions were asked. Suffice to say that a master plumber had his way with pipe and the job was completed.

The building was originally furnished with a boiler and steam radiators for heat and open windows for cooling. The court-rooms had the added luxury of oscillating fans hung on the walls for a breeze in the crowded rooms.

The Natkin Company was charged with the duty of adding modern central heating and cooling. The upper floors that house offices presented the least problem, for here we had the luxury of installing new suspended acoustical ceilings which, in turn, allowed the placement of the ducts above the new ceiling and below the old. Even here, the

low existing ceilings and beams created many sleepless nights for the sheet metal crew and the architect. A lot of "field engineering" took place in order to thread the duct through these spaces.

Once again, ingenuity and just plain hard work solved the problems and the new air conditioning was installed, complete with modern energy management, computer controlled.

The courtrooms presented a different problem. Here, the historical nature of the rooms demanded that the air conditioning be installed in the most unobtrusive manner possible. This was accomplished by removing the old twelve inch square acoustical tile where new diffusers were needed and a twelve inch diffuser inserted in its place. Look

hard, and they can be seen, but they don't seem to take on too much importance in the old ceiling, and after all, the new air conditioning was sorely needed.

Trying to install 1980's air conditioning in a 1930's courthouse created a lot of headaches and frustrations. A. D. Bellow of Natkin Service Company did yeoman duty as he kept a close rein on the process, and finally got the job completed. The fact that the heating and air conditioning mechanics got caught up in the spirit of the project is just another example of the team effort required on a job such as this.

This project, perhaps more so than on a new building, required the efforts of a complete team. The team was made up of the architect and his consultants, the general

contractor and his subcontractors and suppliers, and the owners. In this case, the County Commissioners Court, and all of the people elected, and otherwise, who work in this building each day. Just as in any team, the construction team had to have a strong, capable captain. The contractor's captain, or general superintendent, was a very capable, quiet man by the name of John Scroggins. Under his guidance, the many crafts and suppliers were tied together into a team.

The efforts of the whole team which consisted of the County Commissioners Court, The White Budd Van Ness Partnership, and the Bella Co. paid off. With the help of the Texas Historical Commission, the Beaumont Heritage Society, and the Jefferson County Historical Society, the renovation

and restoration of this great building was completed.

Many, many times during this project the statement was heard by people not involved with the job that "you just can't get craftsmanship like you use to". Yes you can! This building is living proof of it. All that is required is a client desirous of that quality of work and who is willing to pay for it, just as Jefferson County did in 1931. The American craftsmen, and even closer to home, the workmen of the Triangle area will come through.

Indeed, if we could for but a brief moment lift our courthouse off the ground and look, we would find written clearly across the bottom --- MADE IN THE U.S.A.!!

APPENDIX

Owner: Jefferson County Commissioners Court
Richard P. LeBlanc,Jr., County Judge
Norman J. Troy, Commissioner, Pct. 1
James A. Smith, Jr., Commissioner Pct. 2
Dave Smith, Jr., Commissioner, Pct. 3
Rolfe C. Christopher, Commissioner Pct. 4
Richard "Dick" Nugent, Executive Assistant

Architect: The White Budd Van Ness Partnership
Beaumont, Texas

Consultants: Galewsky and Johnston, Consulting Engineers
Beaumont, Texas

Variable Acoustics
Fort Worth, Texas

Wheel Gerstoff
New York City, New York

General Contractor: Bella Co
Beaumont, Texas

The following is a list of the craftsmen who worked on this project, their home town, and the company for whom they worked. Apologies are hereby extended to those that may have been overlooked.

BELLA CO
Beaumont, Texas

John R. Scoggins	Kirbyville, Texas
Phillip L. Gaspard	Beaumont, Texas

E. L. Scott	Orange, Texas
Gary A. Gros	Port Arthur, Texas
J.B. Gray	Orange, Texas
Andy Gros	Port Arthur, Texas

TRIANGLE PLASTERING COMPANY
Beaumont, Texas

Kenneth L. Jacobs	Beaumont, Texas
J.L. Jacobs	Beaumont, Texas
F.W. Jacobs	Beaumont, Texas
Ralph Scheneck	Lake Charles, Louisiana
George Eason	Lumberton, Texas
Randy Shaw	Vidor, Texas
Edward Gary	Beaumont, Texas
Theodore Nauls	Beaumont, Texas
Joseph Falk	Beaumont, Texas
Houston Bias	Beaumont, Texas
Carl Scheneck	Lake Charles, Louisiana

TEXIANA CONSTRUCTION
HERRING & SONS, INC.
Beaumont, Texas

Robert Petitt	Beaumont, Texas
Richard Doucett	Lake Charles, Louisiana
Norman Doucett	Lake Charles, Louisiana
Mike Nolan	Beaumont, Texas
Clyde Williams	Beaumont, Texas
Felix Bruce	Poughkeepsie, New York
Robert Bruce	Melbourne, Florida
Bob Bruce	Long Island, New York
Steven Bruce	Beacon, New York
Steve Wagospack	Beaumont, Texas
Bobby Leland	Beaumont, Texas

TONY PASSANO TERRAZZO COMPANY
Houston, Texas

Fernando Cortinia	Houston, Texas
Roberto Cortinia	Houston, Texas
Tony Passano	Houston, Texas

BINSWANGER GLASS COMPANY
Beaumont, Texas

Al Franklin	Beaumont, Texas
James Franklin	Beaumont, Texas
Jerry Day	Beaumont, Texas

PERKINS ROOFING COMPANY
Beaumont, Texas

Melvin Spikes	Beaumont, Texas
Pat Young	Beaumont, Texas
Leroy Compton	Beaumont, Texas
Roy Lee Vincent	Beaumont, Texas
Joe Zayon	Port Neches, Texas
B. J. McCleary	Beaumont, Texas
David Brown	Beaumont, Texas

BELLARD'S DRAPERY & CARPET COMPANY
Beaumont, Texas

Lowell Hight	Beaumont, Texas
Chris McCarty	Beaumont, Texas
Donnie McCarty	Beaumont, Texas
John McCarty	Beaumont, Texas

GLENN WISE SIGNS
Beaumont, Texas

Glenn Wise	Beaumont, Texas
Wayne Wise	Beaumont, Texas
Rusty Steele	Vidor, Texas

TILESETTERS
Houston, Texas

Jody Lee Shepherd	Evadale, Texas
Darrell Shepherd, Sr.	Beaumont, Texas

J. C. HUBER & SONS
Beaumont, Texas

Roger Russell	Vidor, Texas
Charlie Fritshe	Honey Island, Texas
Calvin Ezel	Vidor, Texas
George Pass	Beaumont, Texas
Quinton Cole	Vidor, Texas
J. R. Carrington	Vidor, Texas
Bill Cards	Woodville, Texas

DEL-MAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC
Beaumont, Texas

James R. Delaney	Lumberton, Texas
David Nobles	Beaumont, Texas
C. T. Adkins	Beaumont, Texas
Mike Courville	Beaumont, Texas
Bruce Nobles	Beaumont, Texas
Robert Cockrell	Vidor, Texas
K.S. George	Beaumont, Texas
Harry Stapleton	Beaumont, Texas
Neal Boles	Beaumont, Texas
Daryl Potts	Beaumont, Texas
Robert Stokes	Honey Island, Texas
Trent Mattison	Beaumont, Texas
John Redeaux	Beaumont, Texas
Jose T. Gonzales	Beaumont, Texas

HONEYWELL
Houston, Texas

R. L. Mann	Beaumont, Texas

R. W. Wilkerson	Beaumont, Texas
Bob Ward	Beaumont, Texas

A-1 SHEETMETAL
Monroe, Louisiana

Junius Upshaw	Vidor, Texas
Harold Martin	Gilbert, Louisiana
Tommy Busby	Monroe, Louisiana
Kymbol Smith	Port Neches, Texas
Larry D. Morgan	Port Neches, Texas
B. Frank Bliss	Edwards, Mississippi
Martin E. Hogan	Vicksburg, Mississippi

OWENS CORNING
Houston, Texas

Windell Broussard	Bridge City, Texas
Floyd Gladden, Jr.	Port Arthur, Texas
William Stephens	Nederland, Texas

AUDIO COMMUNICATIONS
Houston, Texas

Richard Phillips	Spring, Texas
Jimmy Johnson	Houston, Texas
Paul Stafford	Houston, Texas

NATKIN SERVICE COMPANY
Beaumont, Texas

Wayne Tolbert	Vidor, Texas
Gary Smith	Beaumont, Texas
Shirley Horton	Orange, Texas
Charles Robinson	Vidor, Texas
Brad Green	Nederland, Texas
R. Hickey	Port Arthur, Texas
Danny Bellow	Port Arthur, Texas
A. D. Bellow	Port Arthur, Texas

B. Voss	Nederland, Texas
W. Granger	Orange, Texas
Red Pearson	Vidor, Texas
Donald Gunn	Orange, Texas
John Weber	Nederland, Texas
Tommy Bellow	Port Arthur, Texas
Art Shaw	Beaumont, Texas

WHITE MARBLE COMPANY
Houston, Texas

Delbert R. Driskill	Waller, Texas
David Stevens	Houston, Texas

976.409. 380 Ha

FROM THE LIBRARY OF
Jefferson County
Historical Comm.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

1983 Restoration

Mrs. Willard Hall

When the Jefferson County Courthouse was dedicated in January, 1931, it was hailed as "the last syllable of the last word in modern construction."[1] Architect Fred Stone had created an impressive fourteen story structure using the current Art Deco styling.[2] The McDaniel Brothers, General Contractors, had completed within the $1,000,000 bond issue allowance a project which fifty years later would require $7,000,000 to restore.

In 1983, fellow architects of the White Budd Van Ness Partnership would still marvel at Fred Stone's skills. A coordinated theme ran throughout the building and was specified in minute detail in hardware, lighting, furniture, and even elevator call-panels. Plaster friezes carried both traditional symbols of justice and local images such as pine cones, steer heads, and rice shocks. Benedict nickel ornamentation in curvalenier designs was found in major doors and in such unexpected places as fire hose boxes. Nine varieties of marble were used; some from this country; some from other lands. Magnificent chandeliers in a wide variety of Art Deco shapes were hung throughout. Multi-colored terrazo floors inlaid with metal strips pointed to a circular map of the county in the main foyer floor. The major cortrooms were paneled in fine oriental walnut in diamond or herringbone patterns.

The building stood on the same site as the two previous courthouses of the county; one built in 1855 and another in 1892. Each had given way as the needs of the county grew.

When Henry Millard moved the county seat of Jefferson County to Beaumont in January, 1838, one of the first acts of the Board of

Commissioners was to purchase Square Number Nine in the proposed town of Beaumont from the estate of Noah Tevis.[3] Minutes reveal that the commissioners discussed construction of a "public building", and specifications were drawn up for a clerk's office and a jail, but plans for the clerk's office were ~~soon tabled~~ "indefinately postponed".[4] The jail was built across from "Courthouse Square" on Milam Street on a lot purchased from Joseph Pulsafer.[5] Courtroom space was rented in the neighborhood for several years. It is interesting to note that much of the property bought or rented in the earliest days of the county is now owned by the county. The lot purchased on Milam for the first jail is within the location where the 1981 addition to the courthouse now stands. A building rented from Isaiah Junker and later from J. Pulsafer known as the "Millard and Pulsafer store" was on the corner of Pearl and Blanchette,[6] the location of current county office buildings.

An inscription on the foyer wall of the courthouse, written by newspaper man, Dean Tevis, states that the first courthouse built on the site was a "log and pole building". However, Commissioners' Court minutes suggest a more sophisticated structure. The first mention of a courthouse on Block Nine, sometimes known as Jefferson Square or as Courthouse Square, is found in the minutes of March 15, 1854.[7] It was a two story, square frame building topped by a zinc belfry. The floor plan, typical of the day, featured a large central hallway running through the building with doors opening on both Pearl and Main Streets. Matching pairs of rooms on either side of the hallway provided space for the County Clerk, Sheriff's Offices, and a jury room. A flight of

stairs on the Main Street end led to the second floor court room.[8] This building, according to many local sources saw multiple uses as church, dance hall, and as a Civil War hospital. At one point, the County Court issued an order "that the Chief Justice take charge of the courthouse and use his discretion as to renting it and permitting it to be used for any other purpose than than for which it was intended."[9]

On August 9, 1886, the commissioners took action providing for an addition to this building.[10] A picture of the building which includes the addition[11] demonstrates that while the addition increased the usable space, it was made without regard for the architectural symmetry which graced the original structure - a practice which was to befall later courthouses.

A new wave of courthouses began to appear across Texas after the state legislature authorized counties to issue bonds to finance new courthouses.[12] Jefferson County followed suit in 1891 by issuing bonds in the amount of $45,000 to finance a new courthouse.[13] The cornerstone for that building was again used in the 1931 courthouse and can be seen to the right of the main entrance as one enters. The inscription reads:

THIS STONE LAID BY M.W.G. LODGE
OF TEXAS A.F.& A.M.
John Watson, Grand Master
Erected 1892

Minutes of Masonic Lodge 286 state that on June 24, 1892, a "Procession formed at the Masonic Temple and proceeded to the Courthouse Square where the cornerstone was laid with the usual Masonic ceremony

after which the procession returned to the Masonic Temple."[14] Construction was not completed, however, until September 8, 1893, when the red brick structure was accepted and a resolution signed by Commissioners Thomas H. Langham and Ed P. Gray praised J. M. Brown, contractor,and Eugene T.Heiner, Architect,for "our beautiful courthouse building which reveals a symmetry and utility beyond our expectations."[15]

County officers today can empathize with their 1890's counterparts when they learn that it was necessary to file a law suit to repair a leak in the roof of this new courthouse - a problem which currently confronts the county in regard to the new jail building.

By 1929, the old building had become inadequate to meet county needs. Employees were forced to have desks in hallways to make room for all, and the outdated plumbing facilities produced a real health problem. An editorial in THE BEAUMONT JOURNAL of August 7, 1929, in support of the proposed $1,000,000 bond issue summarized the problems:

> "It is hardly consistant for the county to maintain a tubercular hospital and maintain a health racking courthouse...When the Jefferson County courthouse was built, it was built to accommodate three courts, a district court which met here only at intervals, the Commissioners Court and a justice court. Since then, two all-time district courts were added, the 9th Court of Appeals, a county court at law and an additional justice court, making eight in all. Departments necessary for support of these courts increased accordingly."

Major opposition to the bond issue came from South County where Port Arthur residents were hoping to have a high bridge biilt over the Neches River. This conflict was later appeased when the state legislature passed a law which allowed counties with more than

one city of more than 20,000 population[16] within its boundries to build a county office building in a location other than the county seat.[16] Thus, in August of 1936, another Art Deco building, commonly referred to as the "sub-courthouse", was opened in Port Arthur to house two justice courts, offices for deputy sherrifs, County Commissioner's offices, and a jail for about thirty-two prisoners.

By 1931, few regretted the passing of the 1890's courthouse. Some would recall nostalgically the open iron grilled elevator which crept upward with passengers in full view and the oiled hall floors lined with brass spitooms, but others would recall the stench from the jail which stood to the rear of the square in a medieval looking building often referred to as the "Castle on the Neches".[17]

The passing of the $1,000,000 bond issue for the new courthouse on August 10, 1929, proved to be advantageous in its timeing. Had it been delayed a few months when the effects of the stock market crash and the great depression were being felt in the county, such action would probably not have been feasible. As it happened, falling prices and lower depression scale wages, probably produced better materials at lower cost. Also, the project provided numerous jobs for the area. Restoration architect, Howard Murry, conjectured that a large number of workers must have been used on the job for it to have been completed within sixteen months. Also, different crews apparently worked on each floor as a variety of techniques in workmanship were found. Only voting citizens of the county could be hired on the job. At the end of each month's work, when

sub-contractors turned in pay estimates, they were required to list each workman, his address and his poll tax registration.[18]

Progress did not cease in 1931. The increase in population brought with the industrial boom during World War II and the growth of the petro-chemical industry following the war put added demands upon county government. As always, maintenance budgets were low. Needed building repairs and expansion were made with an eye for expediency and economy with no thought of esthetics. As air conditioning became commonplace, courthouse ceiling fans were removed and individual units were hung from windows. In the main courtrooms, attempts at central cooling were clumsily made with bare metal duct work destroying irreplaceable marble trim. Grossly unattractive egg crate type flourescent fixtures were suspended over judges benches and handsome chandeliers removed and lost. Plywood partitions resting on floor joists nailed into handsome terrazo floors made extra office space in narrowed hallways. A glass wind trap was installed inside the front door, hiding the decorative coffered ceiling. The ornate door at the main entrance mysteriously disappeared. An unsightly aluminum canopy extended from the front entry to the curb. The metal framed, French casement windows corroded and became inoperable. Plaster walls bore the weight of many coats of paint - mostly in "school house green". Valuable documents were crammed into basement vaults. To meet expanding needs, the county purchased property to the south of the main

building and improvised small courtrooms and service offices.

By 1975, courthouse needs were reaching crisis stage. Leonard Giblin, then County Judge, appointed a committee to study jail and courthouse expansion possibilities. It was soon found that it was really the jail facilities on the top floors of the courthouse that presented the gravest problems. Inmates had broken plumbing fixtures allowing water to drain down and damage the building. Departing lawyers and judges often heard a flood of obscenities proceeding from those upper floors. The real danger was in the fact that only one stairway was available for use in case of fire. In 1976, the State Commission on Jail Standards became interested in these conditions and made recommendations which had to be delt with.

On the 24th of May, 1977, the voters of Jefferson County approved a bond issue which included $25,800,000 for the purpose of constructing additions and improvements to the existing Jefferson County Courthouse and jail building; $1,200,000 for reconstructing and remodeling the Jefferson County Annex No. 1 building to convert it into a juvenile detention facility; and $1,000,000 for maintaining and repairing the "sub-courthouse" in Port Arthur.

The problems of use and abuse of the county courthouse was not unique to Jefferson County. Such problems were felt in nearly every county in Texas. Most counties constructed courthouses in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and more than 140 of these buildings are still in use. Nearly one-third of these have already

been expanded, renovated, or remodeled to keep up with the demands of growth and convenience.[19] To encourage rehabilitation of courthouses with consideration of historic preservation, our state legislature passed laws to protect courthouses from heedless destruction. Article 6145, Section 14, of Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes outlines procedures which must be followed before drastic changes or modifications may be made to any courthouse in the state. These laws read as follows:

(1) No county may demolish, sell, lease, or damage the historical or architectural integrity of any courthouse of the county, present or past, without first giving six months notice to the Texas Historical Commission.

(2) If, after notice, the Commission determines that a courthouse has historical significance worthy of preservation the Commission shall notify the Commissioners Court of the county within 30 days after receiving notice from the county. A county may not demolish, sell, lease, or damage the historical or architectural integrity of any such courthouse for 180 days after receiving notice from the Commission. The Commission shall cooperate with interested persons during the 180-day period to preserve the historical integrity of such courthouse.

(3) A county may carry out ordinary maintenance and repairs without notice to the Commission.

Most importantly, the legislation also provides a fine of not less than $50 nor more than $1,000 for each day of violation of this act. Each member of a county commission individually is liable for such penalty.

Listing on the National Register of Historic Places also provides some protection, as all proposed changes must be reviewed in accordance with federal regulations concerning National Register properties if any federal funds are to be used to finance the changes. All projects involving courthouses changes are reviewed by the Texas Historical Commission for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects.[20]

This concern for the preservation of courthouses is not mere whimsy. The historic courthouse has realistic assets. It was built for the purpose of carrying out one of the highest functions of the county - the carrying out and preserving of the law. Esculating costs in recent years make it impossible to build the kind of impressive structures using ornamental marble, wood paneling, and carved stone that were prevelant in the past. In our rootless society of today, the conservation of our architectural symbols is vital to the retention of our sense of time and community. Inscriptions over the entrances of the Jefferson County Courthouse speak to this matter. To the left of the main door are found the words, "Honor to citizens whose patrotism and industry are the cornerstone of our destiny." And over the entrance, "In the fullness of our county's happiness and prosperity is erected this building dedicated to the affairs of all her citizens." Surely such reminders of past civic pride are worthy of careful preservation.

Concern for the preservation of the Jefferson County Courthouse began in the Fall of 1979. Clare Banckenstein, then Chairman of the Jefferson County Historical Commission, invited members of the Beaumont Heritage Society to attend a meeting of her commission to hear Bill Nelson, Architect with the White Budd Van Ness Partnership, outline plans for the remodeling of the courthouse. The meeting was held in the old Criminal District Courtroom on the second floor of the courthouse. What the audience saw that evening was an architect's model of the existing building and the addition which was already underway. The model was done in a neutral color with both sections of the same material. It was explained that the type of brick in the existing building was not available, and the exterior of the addition would be done in a "buff colored material" to harmonize with the old building. There were also on display some of the drawings of details in the original building which were made by Fred Stone at the time it was built. That all seemed very well. What was disturbing, however, was that the group, on entering the building, found that one of the original elevators had already been replaced, and the other was under construction. The beautiful elevator doors had disappeared, and the ornate Art Deco cabs were replaced with characterless automatic ones. It was alarmingly apparent that the architectural integrity of the building was in peril.

The first efforts to bring about a change in the plans were

in one-to-one conversations with county officials. When Commissioner Norman Troy learned that the elevator doors were missing, he instigated a search, and they were retrieved. Later, two of these beautiful doors were used as wall panels and may be seen in the wall of the historical niche on the left of the building foyer.

A committee of county officials had toured courthouses across the state and had made recommendations as to the style of the additions and restorations of the courthouse. The "round courtroom" concept was advocated by this group and was being used in the addition already underway and was recommended for the original courtrooms. This involved arranging the judge's bench, witness stand, and jury box in a rounded conformation so that all had "eye-contact" with the others. To introduce such an arrangement into the existing courtrooms would have constituted a major intrusion upon the design and fabric of these areas and could have been done only at major expense.

Judge James A. Farris was a strong advocate of this "round courtroom" concept. In late 1979, I went to see Judge Farris to express our concerns. He had much to say about the importance of "eye-contact". He also expressed the opinion that restoration would make the courthouse into a museum with no useful purpose or like a "Madisonville Courthouse". That meeting again made clear the obsticles in the path of preservation.[21]

It had never been the intention of the Beaumont Heritage Society nor the Jefferson County Historical Commission to stand in the way of progress. It was clearly understood that the building would remain

much in use by the public as a courthouse with all of its functions. However, knowledge of other restoration projects had taught us that sensitive preservation of quality materials and workmanship could produce functional areas with far less expense than gutting the old to make way for inferior modern substitutes.

The SPARE Beaumont Committee of the Beaumont Heritage Society appointed a Courthouse Chairman to keep that committee informed of action that ~~may~~ might become necessary for preservation.[22] There was close contact between the Jefferson County Historical Commission and the Beaumont Heritage Society all during this time.

Among the first concrete actions taken toward preservation was to nominate the building for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. This was done to call the attention of the county officials and the general public to the historical significance of the building. It would also afford some additional legal protection as outlined above.

Brochures from the Chrysler Building and the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, both world renowned examples of Art Deco architecture, were used as educational tools. Auction catalogues from Sotheby's with pictures and prices of Art Deco furnishings similar to pieces found in the courthouse lobby were used to emphasize the value of these pieces.

The next step was to gather as much information as possible about the proposed plans so that specific recommendations could be made. Yvonne Craig, Executive Director of the Beaumont Heritage Society, and I met

with the architects to review the plans. Many of the changes questioned at that meeting were defended as being necessary to conform with various codes and regulations such as those pertaining to fire and handicapped provisions.

After this meeting, it was possible to draw up a list of specific concerns to be presented to the Commissioners Court. Plans were to be presented at the Commissioners meeting on Monday, January 28, 1980. On Thursday, January 24, we asked to be placed on the agenda for that meeting. The following day, Friday, January 25, Bill Nelson went to Austin[23] and called at the office of the Texas Historical Commission and reported that construction was to take place on the Jefferson County Courthouse. However, no plans were left with that office, and no approval was given.

Members of the Beaumont Heritage Society and the Jefferson County Historical Commission attended the January 28, 1980, meeting of the Commissioners en mass, and the following recommendations were made with copies being handed to each commissioner and members of the press:

1. That the exterior of the building, particularly the North and West facades be preserved.

2. That the first floor and the second floor hallways be restored to and preserved in their original appearance.

3. That four of the courtrooms on the second floor be restored to and preserved in their original appearance.

4. That furnishings and ornamentation original to the building be surveyed and incorporated into the building.

5. That guidelines be established to protect the architectural integrity of the building.[24]

Following this presentation, County Judge Richard LeBlanc was quoted as saying, "It was never my intent to destroy the building - just to update the heating, cooling and wiring. We did not pass the bond issue to spend money in this manner."[25] Although no vote was taken at the time, no commissioners disagreed with Judge LeBlanc. The architects were told to scrap plans to place a doorway in the South end of the second floor hallway. Remodeling of the Criminal District Courtroom would have included the "round courtroom" arrangement, and also the partitioning off about twelve feet across the rear of that courtroom to provide additional office space for the adjacent District Courtroom. These plans, too, were put aside, and the architects were instructed to report back at a later date with revised plans.[26]

It was in the Spring of 1981 that Joe Opperman of the Texas Historical Commission in talking with Yvonne Craig at a meeting of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) informed her that no approval had been given by that body for any changes in the Jefferson County Courthouse, and, indeed, no plans for the changes had been submitted.

On July 8, 1981, I, still acting as representative of the SPARE Beaumont Committee, went to see Lavon Jones in the District Attorney's Office and took him a copy of Texas Statute 6145, Section 14. I told him about the inquiry from Joe Opperman. He promised to contact Opperman and find out what was required of the county and whether or not the six months notice could be waived. Jones reached Peter Flagg Maxson at the THC on July 28, 1981. On August 6, Maxson wrote to Jones as follows:

> I have checked our files and find no indication of approval given regarding any alterations to the Courthouse which is one of the most important in Southeast Texas. In a visit there in June we were very impressed with the fine architectural detailing and the fact that it has survived largely unaltered... We are required to review proposed changes to the building. This would be greatly expedited if plans were sent to us as soon as possible for review before contracts are put out to bid. Again, this is an especially significant courthouse, and we would like to insure that its architectural integrity is maintained.[27]

It was not until November of that year, that any action was taken toward getting approval of the THC. Again, members of the Beaumont Heritage Society appeared before the County Commissioners, and Tom Winslow read a resolution from the Board of Trustees of the Beaumont Heritage Society expressing its continuing concern for the preservation of the courthouse. At that meeting, Lavon Jones gave the commissioners his opinion of the law as it affected the situation at hand. He pointed out that failure to comply with the provisions could result in fines of $50 to $1,000 per day for each commissioner and possibly the architect and an injunction against further construction which could in turn result in additional damages to the county.[28]

Finally, the proper notification was sent to Austin, and later in November, Stan Graves of the Texas Historical Commission, made a tour of the courthouse along with the architects, Judge LeBlanc, Yvonne Craig, Joan Hataway, then Chairman of the Jefferson County Historical Commission, and me. Proposed changes were discussed minutely, sometimes hotly. A few weeks later, Curtis Tunnell, Acting Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, visited Beaumont and toured the building. A report was sent from the THC with their recommendations and Judge LeBlanc appointed a committee to study the report and to work out details. Though no member of the Beaumont Heritage Society was appointed on this committee, the THC office in Austin kept us informed, and on several occasions we were called on to report differing opinions between the parties. Finally, on March 12, 1982, a meeting was held in Austin at the offices of the THC and final agreements were made.[29] The way was then open for taking of bids. Bella Corporation was low bidder at $7,188,077.

As often happens in restoration projects, once matters were approached with sensitivity to the architectural integrity of the building, new solutions were found for old problems. Fire doors that had once been deemed necessary in the marble walls in the first floor stairwells and in the branch hallways on the second floor were no longer essential. Restroom facilities for handicapped persons were included in new areas without disturbing existing facilities.

It had been suggested that the beautiful light fixtures would have to be sent to New York for repairs. However, James Delaney of Del-Mar

Electric Company, electrical contractor for the job, declaring that he wouldn't expect to send a steel ball to New York and have it returned safely, installed electro-plating tanks in his own shop and cleaned and replated the fixtures himself. Additional wiring was added to improve lighting.

In the courtroom on the fourth floor, the contract called for the pews to be stripped and revarnished, but the paneled walls were to be left as they were. When the work began, the painters found that this would make a marked difference in the surfaces of the woods. Therefore, they devised a method of cleaning and revarnishing the pews to bring out the existing patina, and with the money thus saved, to use the same process on the paneled walls, giving the room a more harmonious appearance.

The judges bench in the fourth floor courtroom had been a point of concern. The room was originally designed for a three judge appelate court, but now it was to be used by the five man Commissioners Court. Preservationists insisted that no violance be done to that handsome bench. One architect had estimated that it would cost upwards of $20,000 to reshape the bench for the new requirements. In the final analysis, the solution was found in slightly raising the floor behind the desk and leveling the surface by the addition of a black formica top which closely matched the effect of the ebony inlay of the desk. All this was accomplished at minimun cost.

A brief phone call or two was all that was needed for me to locate a source for the cork flooring that had been judged unavailable, and an advertisement in THE OLD HOUSE JOURNAL located wooden blinds to

replicate the originals. It is not known if these were the sources ultimately used, but this gave assurance that our requests were not unreasonable.

Commercial carpeting to cover terrazo floors became unnecessary when it was discovered that Tony Pazzano, who had worked on the building fifty years ago, was capable of repairing terrazo with such skill that even major cracks disappeared from view.

Art Deco patterned ceramic tiles which had been judged too out-dated to be reused were successfully color matched and remained intact.

When workmen realized that one of the beautifully designed Benedict nickle doors at the West end of the first floor would be obscured because of the passage to the new wing, they came forth and offered to move the door to the Franklin Street end of the hallway, exchanging it for a solid wood door in that end. Because the workmen volunteered this change, the work was done for $1,500 rather than the $6,000 it would have cost.[30]

Admittedly, not all requirements of the THC were palatable to everyone locally. Radiators which were no longer in use were required to be left disconnected and in place in some display areas. An unsightly metal stairway was erected across the redstone wall at the front of the building as a fire escape, since the THC would not allow the wall to be broken. The County Extension Agent, David Hanus, has landscaped this area to soften the effect.

Compromise was reached on some issues. Architects were permitted to duplicate the original door facings where new openings were required, but the new ones were all marked with an indented stamp reading "1983"

Where a new opening was needed in the second floor hallway, original doors from upper floors were used. The marble wainscotting taken from this opening was used to close an unwanted window further down the hall.

Howard Murry, the architect who supervised the job during the construction, was able to inspire and instruct the workers to a high level of craftmanship. Due to his care and persistance much of the original hardware was reused and refinished in a way that enhanced its patina, and new glass panels in light fixtures were heat treated to match originals which were colored by age.[31]

A rule of thumb was established that where changes were required as the work progressed, any adjustments that up-graded the work, or made it more closely resemble the original was permitted. This rule was applied when the plaster contractor, Johnny Jacobs proved so skillful that some new interior walls were finished in plaster rather than the textured sheet rock originally specified. Also, cork floors were included in two courtrooms which had not had cork originally.

As the work progressed, Yvonne Craig, Joan Hataway and I often toured the building to keep abreast of the work. On several occasions when changes were contemplated we were consulted and were able to convey our approval to the THC and thus expedite the work. Our personal suggestion was accepted in finishing the walls that one sees when entering the original building from the new wing. We suggested

that the exterior wall remain exposed and the portion of the frieze that had to be removed be used as door facing. At our request, parts of this frieze were used by Howard Murry in his design of the monument for the historic markers at the front of the building. The Bella Corporation donated the cost of that monument.

In the north-east corner of the second floor there is a courtroom which was not original to the building. It was added sometime in the 1950's. It was in good condition, and the THC had required that it remain as it was as a demonstration of part of the development of the building. Near the end of the construction period, Judge Gary Sanderson who was to occupy that court, asked for a meeting with the architect and representatives of the Beaumont Heritage Society and the Jefferson County Historical Commission. Along with his court reporter, Judge Sanderson pointed out that the arrangement in that courtroom was very awkward especially for court reporters who used modern recording equipment which was not invented in the 1950's when the room was first designed. Howard Murry suggested some slight changes in the arrangement of the witness box and the judges bench to relieve the problem. These changes met the rule of thumb outlined above. Since none of the Art Deco elements had ever existed in this room, and because Howard Murry felt that the changes could be done within the budgeted expenditures, we contacted Dan Elswick at the THC and asked for his approval of this change. A drawing of changes was sent to Austin, and the THC gave approval. This is one of the rooms where cork flooring was added. Acoustical panels were also added, and pews and bar were refinished bringing out a nice ebony inlay which had been stained over.

Early in the project, Candace Volz from Austin did a paint analysis but was not satisfied with her conclusions and suggested that Frank Welsh, historic paint color consultant in Bryn Maur, Pennsylvania, be consulted. Twenty-two samples of plaster and wood from the various courtrooms and public areas were sent to Pennsylvania to determine the original colors. Jim Budd set up meetings with Yvonne Craig and me to present the complete palette of colors worked out by Susan Parkhurst of his firm from the findings of Welsh. Samples of paint, carpet, floor and wall coverings chosen to go with the existing wood finishes, plaster, marble, and terrazo were discussed. Following these meetings, Yvonne Craig worte to Dan Elswich at THC telling him of these meetings and received his approval.

It was necessary to have two of the large chandeliers in the district courtrooms at each end of the second floor replicated. Because the Franklin Street end of the building was completed first, one of the chandeliers from the other courtroom was moved to complete the first courtroom, so all three fixtures found in that room are originals. The two new fixtures along with the one remaining original were hung in the District Courtroom on the Milam Street end of the building. The new work was done so well that the difference is not discernible.

Some of the original furnishings were sent to the Texas Department of Corrections to be refinished. This was not entirely successful and some were hardly usable when returned.

Ornate friezes which had been water damaged were repaired by making molds and carefully matching the original paints.

One of the most difficult parts of the project was the addition of central heat and cooling. This was accomplished with great sensitivity to the historic fabric, and the Natkin Company and Galewsky and Johnston, Consulting Engineers deserve great credit for this work.

The basement and the floors above the fourth were never sources of concern to the local groups. These were office and work areas not frequented by the public, and only the THC made recommendations in those areas. In the final plans, the hallway in the basement was widened to its original conformation. On the third and fifth through seventh floors, the elevator lobby areas were preserved, but partitions and ceilings were changed to conform to current office usage. The six upper floors which had housed the jail had been judged structurally unsound early in the project. On the eighth floor, the jail equipment was removed to make room for mechanical equipment. On floors nine through fourteen, the windows were replaced, and the jail furnishings were cleaned but remain in place. It will possibly be the task of some future county officials to determine whether these floors can be strengthened and put into use again. At the present time there is only limited access to these floors through the back stairway.

When the courthouse was constructed, the large courtroom on the second floor was designed as a Criminal Courtroom. At that time an

inside stairway led from the small hallway behind the judge's bench to a dormitory room on the floor above where the all-man juries were sequestered during trials. In later years, when women were allowed to serve on juries, other dormitory accommodations were provided in another area of the building, but this stairway remained. During the restoration, it was decided that the cost of removing the stair was not justifiable, and it was simply walled up. So our courthouse now has a hidden stairway which will probably be the source of great puzzlement to future restorationists.

The Texas Historical Commission awarded $25,000 through a grant of federal funds toward the expense of the restoration, and at its 1986 Annual Meeting presented to Judge LeBlanc the Annual Award for Architectural Excellence for the restoration of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

Rededication of the restored courthouse was held on May 19, 1984. Stan Graves, THC Supervisor of Preservation Assistance, was one of the speakers and gave credit to the efforts of local preservationists for the successful restoration of the building. Joan Hataway and I participated in the unveiling of the State Historical Marker and the National Register plaque. Congressman Jack Brooks gave the keynote address congratulating "all of you who played a part and have worked so hard in bringing us a renovated courthouse".[32]

The restoration of the 1931 Jefferson County Courthouse has

resulted in one of the handsomest courthouses in the state. It is regretable that local preservationists were unaware of plans for the new wing before construction began. Perhaps, with greater vigilance, the addition would have been made more compatable with the original structure. Although the county has received accolades for the work done on the main building, those who go to state-wide preservation meetings often sit and cringe when the exterior of our courthouse with the new wing is shown as a bad example.

However, that, too, is part of our history. Architectural forms do not stay frozen in time but are constantly changing with changing needs and techniques. The new wing is delightfully functional - which was the principal aim of the designers. Those of us who use courthouse records as a source of historic research are grateful for the provisions made for the filing of these materials in their new surroundings. The preservation of that portion of the building will be the task of future historical commissions.

Many who use the courthouse regularly have expressed their appreciation for the conservation efforts put forth in behalf of this building. Some who at first insisted upon contemporary remodeling now admit to their enjoyment of their restored surroundings. Most cherished among the letters of thanks is one from County Judge Richard LeBlanc in which he says, "It has been a pleasure working with you ladies and hopefully fifty years from now, we can do it again."[33]

NOTES

1. THE BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE, January 17, 1932, pp. 7B, 8B, 9B.

2. Art Deco style in art and architecture takes its name from the Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes held in Paris in 1925. It grew out of an adaptation of science and technology to art.

3. Jefferson County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Vol. A-2, pp. 19, 20; Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. B, pp. 225-227; see also, original plat of City of Beaumont, Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. 448, p. 249.

4. Jefferson County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Vol. A-2, p. 8.

5. Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. B, p. 228.

6. Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. F, pp. 11,224; Vol. G, p. 23

7. Jefferson County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Vol. B, pp 126-127.

8. Gretchen G. Sparks, "Nothing Ever Changes Courthouse of Jefferson County", YELLOWED PAGES, Southeast Texas Genological Quarterly, Vol. 9, No. 4, 1979, p. 184.

9. Jefferson County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Vol. B, p. 227.

10. Jefferson County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Vol. D, pp 489,500.

11. John H. Walker and Gwendolyn Wingate, BEAUMONT, A PICTORIAL HISTORY (Norfork, Va: The Donning Company, 1983), p. 18.

12. Texas Historical Commission, TEXAS COUNTY COURTHOUSES, "Texas Preservation Guidelines" (Austin, Tex. January, 1983), p. 2.

13. Jefferson County Commissioners' Court Minutes, Vol. 2, pp. 262-263.

14. Beaumont Masonic Lodge 286, Minutes Book, Vol. 1891-92, p. 51. The procession was led by W. H. Haskins, serving with him were C. E. Thompson, W. G. Blewitt, J. McMahon, J. A. Dozier, H. A. Perlstein J. M. Albaugh, F. Hecht, O. Blanchette, G. W. Kidd, W. Hecht, J. Chaisson, R. R. Ridley. I am grateful to Mr. Alphe Vincent for information from the Masonic files. In the cornerstone from the 1892 courthouse are newspapers from that era and the contract for that building. In 1932, additional newspapers were included plus a copy of "Beaumont March," the city's official song, composed by Alice Bergin Blanchette, a

picture of Thomas Langham, an account of the Henderson news stand in the courthouse written in Braille, and a letter presented by Mrs. Hal W. Greer.

15. Sparks, p. 188.

16. Vernon's Civil Statutes Article 1605, Section 1. Amending Chapter 333, Acts of the Regular Session of the 42nd Legislature. Approved March 24, 1933.

17. Sparks, p. 189; Walker, p. 19.

18. Howard Murry, taped tour of the courthouse for Junior League Provisional Class; Taped by Jefferson County Historical Commission and filed in their office.

19. Texas Historical Commission, p. 2.

20. Ibid, pp. 3,6.

21 Judge Farris has since said that he has changed his opinion about the "round courtroom" and has expressed his admiration for his restored courtroom.

22. In late 1979, I was appointed by the SPARE Beaumont Committee of The Beaumont Heritage Society as "Courthouse Chairman". Much of the material which follows is from my personal knowledge of events where I was present. During that time, I was given the title among friends in the Heritage Society, affectionately, I trust, as "Dragon Lady of the Courthouse", a title I was glad to bear if it could lead to the preservation of this fine building.

23. Fred Zipp, "Courthouse Renovation to Retain Historic Appearance", THE BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE, Tuesday, January 29, 1980, p. 6-A.

24. Fred Zipp, "Courthouse Remodeling Limits Reviewed", THE BEAUMONT JOURNAL, January 28, 1980, p. 3-A.

25. Zipp, "Courthouse Renovation", ENTERPRISE.

26. Ibid.

27. Peter Flagg Maxson, Architectural Historian, Texas Historical Commission to Lavon Jones, District Attorney's Office, July 28, 1981. Jefferson County Historical Commission file.

28. Lavon Jones to Judge R. P. LeBlanc, Jr. and Commissioners, Nov. 19, 1981. Jefferson County Historical Commission file.

29. Memorandum to file, White Budd Van Ness Partnership, March 15, 1982. Jefferson County Historical Commission file.

30. Murry tape.

31. For a complete account of contractors and craftsmen who worked on the restoration see J. Howard Murry, JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE 1931-1984 (Beaumont, Tex; Jefferson County, 1983).

32. Jack Brooks address, May 18, 1984, Jefferson County Historical Commission file.

33. R. P. LeBlanc, Jr., County Judge to Mrs. Willard Hall, May 23, 1984, in possession of author.

NOTES FROM TAPE OF HOWARD MURRAY CONDUCTING JUNIOR LEAGUE PROVISIONAL CLASS THRUOGH JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE SOON AFTER THE RESTORATION WAS COMPLETED:

First part of the tape is unclear.

.....It was built during a time of depression...It might be of interest to know that part of the contract ~~xxxxxxx~~ for the building stated that since the building would be paid for the people of Jefferson County that all the contractors and all the workmen would be from Jefferson County, and not only that, but that they be voters and that they carried a valid poll tax. If you remember your history of that period of time ..(inaubable).....At the end of each month as on any construction job a contractor turns in a pay estimate. When he turned in his pay estimate on thes project, he was required to turn in documents to list the names, addressea and precinct of all the men who worked on the job. So they tried to keep pretty careful control on it. I can't argue with what they were doing after all, Jefferson County was paying for it so especially during a period of severe depression they were trying to look after their own and ..as I was saying the building was completed in 18 months .. Dec. 27th it was accepted by the commissioners court and then about Jan the 5th, I believe (?) it was ----When the building was completed it represented the finest example of art deco architecture it remains until this day as one of the finest examples of that type of architecture. Especially in public buildings. Beaumont is very fortunate there are several buildings of outstanding art deco styleing. This just happens to be one of the finest. Personally, I have identified nine different types of marble in the building. The terrazo floors that you are standing on, though it has seen tremendous abuse, just through the years of wear, but this floor here on the first floor is one of the finest examples of terrazo I've ever seen. It you will look at the patterns in this ~~xxx~~ floor ....(unclear here, but he is pointing out that there are some "pure colors" and are blended to the other colors by mixing the marble chips from one color to make the adjoining color) So this is probably one of THE finest examples of terrazo work in the U. S. dxxxx If you will remember there were a number ofpartitions out here in the hall to make county offices and they had just nailed floor plates down in to the floor. It looked like the devil. So it needed repairing. We found the sweetest little Italian dude in Houston that was interested in fixing it and one of the reasons he was interested in it was that he was an apprentice on the job when it was being built. And he didn't get to work around here. This was work for craftsmen, the work above the second ~~work~~ was much plainer and that was where the journamen worked, and only craftsmen could work on the first and second floors. And he told me, I always wanted to work on that floor. He came over from Italy during the period of time that Italy ~~xx~~ was in a depression, too, He jumped ship in Houston, and he couldn't speak anything but Italian, ~~xxx~~ so, the only person he could ask for work happened to be another Italian that happened to be in the terrazo business. So we got Tony to do this work here , and what a sweet little guy he is. There's a crack that used to run from the center right here all the way to the back We don't know when it occurred. I could have happened

HOWARD MURRAY - TO JR. LEAGUE PROVISIONALS (CONT.)

The light fixtures which you see throughout corrodors, hallways and some of theacourtrooms were removed and rebuilt mostly by local people people who didnt know they could. Three of the panes in these fixtures is new, but I can't tell which ones. We had to find glass blower who could heat treat glass and make it match old glass which had turned blue. All of these fixtures habe been rebuilt. Some have turned purple..that kind of glass turns that color with age. (walking through building).....This marble is nigor(?) margini(?) from Itla y (points out marbles...burch(?) royal..see his book for marble identification. Rosa vetr royal....can still get nigra martina...marbles that are in little hallsways are Tennessee marbles and you can't get those anymore. Drak green, verdi antique is still available. This used to be bukletain board, and this marble is new.
Wanted you to see this room because it has ...what we tried to do in this particular room was to make the facilities but not try to abuse it try to make it comfortable with the building..the accoustical tile was not available at the time building was built...table you see is original terrazo is worn where table stood...where it was necessary that we update facilities we tried to keep it as comfortable with rest of building as possible....Originally the doors here were solid wood doors, these doors were down where we came into this building. This door here were dolid wood doors..beautiful doors, in fact they are now down at the other end of the building. This area was County Clerk there was a wall dividing this room. Originally there were two courtrooms in this area.. The nixeties of the courtrooms were determined by the "pecking" order" These were pretty nice courtrooms and the plaster up above there shows it. This xxx office was the Judge's office. There was a wierd door, and we couldn't figure it out..the lock was on the wrong side and when I went to old drawings and found it was that way (judge was locking people out of his office). So we left it that way. Then there was another larger courtroom here and the entry went in at an angle to this courtroom and it went in an angle into this courtroom and that office over there was the judges chambers. Workmen on the job didn't like it that a pair of silid doors were going to be along side these pretty grills so they came to me and they said will you let us change them. I it is going to cost a bunch of money and they said no, it won't not if you let us do it. So the doors that are very seldon closed down at the end where you go into the new building they used to go here, but the workmen wanted to change them. It would have cost about $6,000 to do it but only cost the county $1500 because the men did it themselves and ..they cared enough..we found that true throught out the building. As the project developed more and more 9unaudable0

2nd floor
Again you find pecking order in the floors. The first floor was much nicer than this one. This one is not q quite so nice, but it is quite nice. There is a courtroom on the 4th floor which is not the commissioners court, but it was an appelate court..boy is it nice..pecking order again

a week after the building was finished or ten years later, we really don't know. But Tony repaired it where you can't tell it. And he did this all through this building. Throughout the building you will find examples of love and care in workmanship.

One of the problems with restoring a building such as this is that it contains materials that workmen are not familiar with so they don't know how to behave around it.Like the fine marbles in here. Nost of the marbles here are no longer available. They are natural products, the quarries have been used up so we have to be very, very careful with them. During the demoliation work that went on at the very beginning, we had some black laborers in here that were heavy men that really did hard work. and I took the time to show these men what this marble was, and explained to them that the shine on the marble was not someting that you could paint on it., that it was natural and that the material was something that could never be replaced. I could parsonally repare it, but if it were shattered, it could never be replaced. and they understood that. They understood it better than I would have dared hoped they would because a few months later, we had some men working on the next floor up and one of the men was dragging a hose, a large canvess type hose was dragging it around the corner. And this laborer stepped on that hose, and let me tell you, when he stepped on a hose, that hose stopped right there. And he stopped the guy and he said, "Hey", and he explained now you would not believe the story that he told this guy, he doctored the facts just a little, but never the less, he got it over to this dude that you don't damage this marble around here., because it can't be fixed and it can't be replaced.

But I knew there were nine varieties in here, and I think I have located all of them. You don't see marble in floors much anymore, but that point there is marble. This whole lobby here is one reason why this building was designated a Federal and State Historical entintyx worth keeping.

The paints, the colors, the selection of materials in here were done by an architect xxxx, Fred Stone, who, by the way was the founder of our partnership Our xx partnership has been in existance since that time with different principals moveing through it, but Fred made very, very few mistakes in this xxx building. He just did a superb job on it. You will find decorations in here that were designed particularly for this building. We know that they were designed particularly for this building because we have all his original drawings, the original tracings, We have full size drawings on the old crinkled paper that architects used. We have his drawings of that metal ~~pipe~~ there, PLAQUE and you will find that design repeated all over the building. The carvings that you see in here like the beautiful carvings in the entry vertibule are plaster, not wood, plaster out there, but we will see fine exmples when we see what is put in one of the courtrooms.Throughout the building examples of the workman ship that you will find is simply superb. .....(hard to hear) something about the light fixtures in brass and bronze.....This beautiful plaster that looks so much like wood, if you saw it in Mexico or new Nexico you would sxare that it was wood,has 6 coats of paint on it and the last coas of paint is made up of startch and sour buttermilk. It makes a finish that has a nice sheen and it is harder than (??) Most of the bronze did not have to be repaired. Only those areas that were exposed to extreme high humidity ..water damage really hd to be bad. If you will recall there was xxxx an entry vestibule here we didn't have to touch a bit of this up here, we cleaned it. The colors that you will see in xxxx this corrodor and the corrodor above and in the courtrooms above the paints are nes, but the colors are original We went to a place in the outskirts of Philadelphia . I drilled a 2" plug from the plaster in each one of these colors sent to him and

H. MURRAY TO JR. LEAGUE

2nd floor cont.

One time they took put in air conditioning and put a cooling tower up there so so they took out the sky light, but now we are coming back and putting the sky light back in for light.

Old criminal district court room:

as you can imagine this is one high on the pecking order. The woods that you see in here (?) this room has a little oriental walnut in it. The little black line is not pine it is inlaid ebony. If you could look at this burrled wood, you would see that it is four pieces. They cut that out of one piece . Then they opened it up this way and then they opened it up this way to create the design that you see.....Center of that plaster freize up there you'll see an old steer's head . He's unique in the building. He's not unique outside cause if you look at the freize, outside you'll see him repeated time and time again. And what makes his really unique in my opinion is that these same blakc laborers I was telling you about were working up there and one put his hand up against that to brace himself and he felt it move. He froze and he said to his partmer "go find boss" (I was called boss) They were aftaid it was go ng to drop so they came and got me . They took it down and the bottom 1/3 had been destroyed by thought less people when running duct work back there years ago. It was brought to me so it could be repaired. ..rescuept the bottom of it. If you will look here you will see where we have painted in a portion of that marble because they ran a duct through that marble instead of taking the marble down.....here he says something about that mow we have laws protecting historic buildings and courthouses to try to prevent that sort of thing happening.
Floor is cork 1/4" thick identicle to what was here when it was brand new . The benches you are leaning against are outstanding examples of workmanship. The furniture in here was cleaned and refinished by our craftsmen. The bronze medallion up there I know has 7 colors in it. because the painter has that many repairing it. This room had some water damage from the roof which is outside the tower. There is a panel ofx back of the decorative marble that was completely distroyed by water ..it had fallen on the floor and shattered..We had to complete a mew decorative panel for it, but that medallion in the middle had 7 colors because that is how many the painter had to mix. He used all kinds of wierd things to get these colors that were used. The boss painter wouldn's let any oneelse so it. He had to do it. This room, like all the court rooms, we put in a complete new sound system, the air conditioning, and we put in this supplemental lighting that you see in this area here. Our hope was to do it in such a way that you didn't feel that it would jump in you or grab you too hard. The lighting in here was pretty bad. When we came on the job there were some grossly ugly floursecent light fixtures that some of the judges had had put in. There were fans in the walls where you see those light plugs. The electricians were supposed to put blank plates ofer those, but they didn't like that so they took them to their shop and stripped them and replated them and put them back like that.

he pealedback through the layers of time and was able to tell us what color it was, what kind of paint it was, and tell what the final coat was. this floor had 4 coats on the wall, the others had three. The first coat the architect didn 't like very much and he changed it mxever so slightly. The colors that we will see are the identical collors We have an international color code system whereby they can be identified so the colors that you will see in these areas are all authentic colors.

Here apparently judge Ferris came in and the tape was stopped for a while

...something about "courthouse greem" and we didn't want courthouse green in here xxx something about venetian blinds...unaudable

You would have to see the outside of the building to understand why there are no windows there.Sometime take the time to look at the outside of your courthouse. You will fing that the corners of the brick are not just plain square corners, They are beautifully turned _____cut in the brick.
.....
(hardware) We found a company in Houston that could do good ~~xxxxxxx~~ plateing We had a blending problem. Black is not just ~~xx~~ black and gray is not just gray, sometimes a dilver shows through..so we had a blending problem. We' took samples over to Houston to this young man..he was very interested in his work...and he sent it back, and he had ground it and he had polished it and it was so pretty looked brand new ..but that wasn't what we wanted and I had a hard time explaining to him waht we wanted until finally I hit upon the idea of - I told him I want the hardware to look just like my wife, 50 years old and looking super ,/. I thought a minute and he was quiet and then he said, you know what I think I know exactly what you want. So he sent me a sample of one of the lock sets and one of the door knobs. The door did have a little dent on it, but he left it..and I wouldn't trade this 50 year olod hardware any more than I would trade my dear wife.....

District courtroom

This room is a little bit smaller because it was not anticipated that the trials in this court room would generate that big a croud. This room is nore ornate in the carvings. The criminal courtroom had some nice carvings around the desk, but here we have the nice carvings here and over the door there. It is interesting that in the specifications....you will have to remember that in the time we are talking a out, the architect would not have detail drawings of things like that panel there. He would have indicated in the drawing that someting went there and would write specifications for it. He would describe in his specifications that there would be carving. In this case the specifications called for the carving to be done by a qualified artist in a lively and spritely manner, and that ~~xxxxxxx~~ knife marks would not be sanded out. If you will look at those carvings in the wood you will see all the knife marks. This is the marks of a fine craftsman who was very sure of himself. If you had sanded them it would not have the sparkle . So the arachitect again, Fred Stone, was cxx very cognizant of that. The light fixtures in this room are original. We have another courtroom down the hall that is identical to this one, but reversed. One light fixture in each room had disappeared, again because of adding flourscent fixtures. This area of the building was finished first. So we took light fixture from that room and put it here and we had to have two brand new light fixtures built for that courtroom. That was the only light fixtures that we had to have built throughout the building. Again, the company that so

capably rebuilt the light fixtures so that you can't tell them apart, they put the new glass in so it looked white beside the greenish shsde of the old glass. They said we can't find any green glass that is from 50 years of use..but i just couldn't stand having two light fixtures that had white glass and one with pale green glass. So once again we went to our friend in Houston and he was able to heat treat, and we don't know what else he did tex and I didn't ask him, but he was able to duplicate the color ...as we go out and go up to the 4th floor look at the Exit lights they have a beautiful ruby red glass....

(This must be on second floor where new door was made into child support division) Somewhere

This
This trim, this whole entry, not the doors, but the rest of it was made by our people. The rules are for federal and state historic restoration indicate strongly that they do not want you to duplicate the original. There are pretty good reasons for that. They want you to use something similar, but not the same. But wouldn't that look like the devil out here, you know to have a building with this trim all over and then all of a sudden walk into someone's office andsee that it is not the same. We did do something. On every new frame that we put in is stamped "1983"..on every new frame. And this is the only way the Historical Commission would let us duplicate the original fx trim throughout. The men carried a stamp and the minute they put one up they stamped it "1983".

Now in Commissioners Court room - formerally Court of Appeals

You asked the question about the grills. See this grill here you will find this design throughout the building. It will change from floor to floor it will become from the first floor...you remember the very orinate panel on the first floor...as you get ax away from areas of great importance, that design becomes simpler. but it never completely changes.
This room here....again we have the beautiful marable, oriental walnut, this is American Black walnut . You see here they took a plank like that and sawed it and opened it like that ....The panel up here is English walnut burreled, again you can see that that is diamond matched just as they did this burreled wood in here. You see this pattern? This pattern is repeated in this table. These tables are original. We found in the jury rooms, the original jury tables and chairs. And all throughout the building, all the furniture was designed for this building by this architect. And you can tell if it is a secretaries chair, or plain straight backed chairs, you can tell that it belings to this building by the design in the back of the chair.
Over here, things begin to change a little. Again we have American Black Walnut , ebony, oriental, that little band there changes and that is unuque in the building it is ____a very rare wood similar to the walnut family but it comes from a very small area of South East (Africa?? - inaudable)
All the colors in here are original. The terriable olooking gold color here we think was painted some time by some well meaning soul who went down to the hardware store and bought a can of gold. We didn't choose to findout what they were originally. We do know they were painted many years later.
The needs of an appelate courtroom it is not a lot larger than this.
We had called for all these benches to be spirit cleaned (?) It was not in bad condition. We were to repair where it had been damaged, but that was all. (Hard to hear here..something about this is where the painters started, but it looked terriable and we had to have them wash and start all over again????)

Thats' all I could do to get their attention.. I finally got their attention and made them know that they would either do it my way or not at all..then they started listening. And once they started listening they started to learn. And then the thing changed. So that by the time they got to this room here their obligation was to clean and strip these pews and and (can't hear oo well, but think he is saying that they were not obligated to do anything to the wall paneling in that room) They came to me one day and said, boss, we got a problem. They had just cleaned down with wood alcahol and then they came back and sprayed with a very light coat of varnish.(this apparently p..applies to the pews because he says the painter said to him) "What do you think about that pew? I said fine, what's the problem. They said well, here we're supposed to strip it. We are supposed to take it all down and restrip it and stain it and put a new finish on it and we don't want to do that. If you will let us just wash it and clean it and do it like this, we'll take the money we were going to spend and redo all the wood in here and fix it the way it ought to be because it doesn't look good. The same painters that down on the first floor, I had to turn down all their work and make them redo every bit of it. ..because they learned. They got a chance to work on something different from what they had been used to doing. We had this happen all through the building. Quejtion is asked, "Were they union" Answer, "Yes, they were ". Nearly all of our craftsmen on this job were local people. They guy who redid all these beautiful decorative ceilings you see here, he's a local man. The guy that did all these light fixtures (Delaney) hats Dale ????? a commercial electric company. He didn't know he could do it. but he got interested and he did it.....

(They move to another part of the room)

(something) are 24k gold, and it is so thin that the slightest breeze will blow it so when they are working there's always little sheets of it so I would catch it and take it to one of the girls in the office and tell her .....and then when you lay it on someting it just sticks. It is so fine that you can just wet your finger and apply it and you can read your finger prints through the gold sheet. (that last sentence is something about telling the girls to make the gold stick to their finger nail polish).
He takes them to the window where they can see the freize on the esterior of the building. This is an excellent example of what you can see of fx your building from the outside. This stone is an _____stone we don't know where the terra cotta stone came from. It had to come from Denver or _____ but we don't know where it came from. This is a natural stone that came from Colorado, but this frieze goes all around the building. We had hoped that in makeing the transition from the new building to the old you would know that you walked from a 1980's building into a 1930's building

tape ends here.