



Part 3 of 3 Part Series

Thayer County Courthouse

By Amy Hadachek
Staff Writer

(Last week, we shared the mystery behind the four uniquely-carved faces on the Thayer County Courthouse exterior. In this third and final segment, we take inside the courthouse.)

Until the interior of the Thayer County Courthouse in Hebron is seen in-person, it is staggering to even just imagine the massive 10,000 square feet of Vermont marble inside the prominent

structure.

"The 10,000 square feet of marble is actually the equivalent of about two basketball courts," recently-retired Thayer County Court Magistrate Donna Fink told the Hebron-Thayer County edition of the **Fairbury Journal-News**.

Fink, who enjoyed researching the grand, historic courthouse during her three decades of services at the courthouse (before retiring December 31, 2013,) pointed-out the additional features of the courthouse building.

"There's also the beautiful Bedford, Indiana limestone on the exterior which is now over 100-years old," observed Fink. "The courthouse first served as a wooden building, until it burned in 1900. A second Thayer County Courthouse (the current building) was re-constructed in 1901, and then opened in 1903," Fink relayed.

Then, there was the May 9, 1953 tornado that severely damaged the tower atop the courthouse, and the tower was later removed.

In addition to District Court

being held on the third floor of the Thayer County Courthouse, other offices on that floor; including the District Court office, Thayer County Economic Development Alliance, Thayer County Emergency Manager's office, and Thayer County Healthy Communities Coalition.

The second floor of the Courthouse is also active, where County Court is held. The second floor also includes the offices of: the Clerk Magistrate, the County Judge, the Thayer County Clerk's office, Treasurer's office, the Assessor's office and the County commissioner's meeting room.

The first floor of the courthouse includes offices for: The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL/Thayer office,) the Veterans Administration office, the State of Nebraska Health and Human Services office, and the Planning and Zoning Records office.

As visitors to the Thayer County Courthouse read the historic blue and silver marker on the lawn, the information states that in 1856, Thayer County was originally called Jefferson County. In 1867, it was attached to a county to the east named Jones County. Then, in 1871, the Legislature divided the single large county into two; naming the western county Thayer, and the eastern county became today's Jefferson County.

The location of the courthouse became permanent in 1873 when a group of men from Hebron purchased the N.E. quarter of: section 6-2-2 for \$900.00 and donated it to the county.



INSIDE THE THAYER COUNTY COURTHOUSE is the ornate staircase. Photo by Amy Hadachek, Fairbury Journal-News