

**“ County Buildings ” \***  
**IN**  
**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties**  
**MINNESOTA**

**THEIR PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

**L. R. MOYER**  
**AND**  
**O. G. DALE**  
**Joint Editors**

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**With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families**

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**VOLUME I**

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**ILLUSTRATED**

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**1916**  
**B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

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**\* The following appeared on pages 180-181 of this joint history of Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties. It is complete, though reformatted. The author's spelling and punctuation have not been changed.**

## **COUNTY BUILDINGS.**

**A study of the official records of Chippewa county reveals the fact that a part of the present court house was the first building erected by the county as a court house. During the early years of the county's existence there was so little official business that a court house was not an actual necessity. The early officials kept their offices in their homes or in rented rooms in the business part of Montevideo, which remained the county seat.**

**On November 17, 1881, the state Legislature passed an act authorizing the county commissioners of Chippewa county to issue bonds in a sum not exceeding ten thousands dollars, with interest coupons bearing interest at a rate not exceeding eight per cent., for the purpose of building a court house and jail at Montevideo. The board of county commissioners at that time consisted of L. V. Goar, Ole Torgeson, W. A. Graves, L. H. Johnson and Henry Armstrong. The proposition to issue bonds was submitted to the people and decided favorably at an election held on March 14, 1882. The bonds were sold to John McFarlan, of Courtland, New York, for \$10,410, bearing seven per cent. interest.**

**At a county board meeting on April 12, 1882, J. Haley, an architect of Minneapolis, was employed to prepare plans for the new court house and jail. He submitted sketch plans to the board on April 24, and after certain minor changes were made the plans were accepted. The board appointed L. R. Moyer, P. L. Norman, John H. Lund and L. V. Goar as a committee to examine the specifications and working details when received. The auditor was authorized to advertise for bids to build the court house and jail, and on May 29, 1882, the proposal of A. A. Whittemore, who offered to construct the building for \$9,350, was accepted. It was to be completed by March 1, 1883. The contractor met with some little delay during the construction and the building was not completed until March 30, 1883, when it was formally examined and accepted by the county board; a number of the county officials moved in the day following. It is a two story brick building with granite trimmings.**

**As originally constructed, this building was what is now the central part of the present court house. It soon proved inadequate to house the growing business of the county and several additions have been made to the original structure. The south and north wings, completed about 1901, are now occupied by the auditor, register, clerk and county commissioners. The rear room, which served for many years as the jail, was finally condemned and was vacated when the new jail was built. It was remodeled and is now occupied by the probate court. Other rooms were added to the building at later dates and modern improvements and equipment added as necessity demanded.**

### **NEW JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE.**

**The old jail room in the original court house building was used for many years after it was past fulfilling the requirements of the state. It was finally condemned and as far back as 1893 a committee was appointed to consider the matter of a new jail and sheriff's residence. No action was taken, however, until May 26, 1909, when the board of county commissioners appointed F. D. Oerff as architect to prepare plans and specifications for a new building. The contract was let to T. T. Rodeberg, for the general construction; to Diebold Safe and Lock Company, for the cell work, and to Archambo Heating and Plumbing Company, for the heating and plumbing. The building was completed in 1910 at a cost of \$16,526.**

**It is modern throughout, having steam heat, electric lights and running water. The south part of the building is fitted up as a comfortable home for the sheriff, while the north part is the jail, amply large to care for the few disorderly citizens of Chippewa county. In June, 1916, the jail is empty. ■**

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