

1981 Jefferson County Courthouse Annex

In the late 1970's Commissioner's Court determined the county jail and county offices were outgrowing the existing courthouse. A bond issue to pay for restoration of the historic building, to construct a Juvenile Detention Center in Annex 1 on Franklin Street, and to finance a major new courthouse addition was put before the voters in 1977, and the measure passed.

The White Budd Van Ness Partnership of Beaumont was chosen as the architectural firm to oversee the building process and the restoration. The plans called for an annex to be built on the north side of the existing building which would house the jail, Sheriff's department, District Attorney's Office, County and District Clerk's Offices, Justice of the Peace Courts, several civil and criminal District Courts, two county level Courts at Law, a law library, a Jury Impaneling Room, as well as the Ninth Court of Appeals. The annex was connected to the existing courthouse via corridors on the basement, first and second floors.

After all the bids came in, the job was awarded to the Bella Company, a Beaumont construction firm, for a price of \$7,188,077. Commissioner's Court entered an order on March 20, 1981, designating the courthouse annex building as substantially complete.

The exterior, as well as the public interior spaces of the annex (or new courthouse as it is still called today over thirty years after being built) are covered with pink Texas granite from the Marble Falls area. The design of the building is a modern one distinctly different from the Art Deco historic courthouse.



*Photo prior to Demolition
of warehouse formerly on
site of new Courthouse
Annex*

*Photo Credit: Jefferson
County Historical
Commission archives*



Construction of new Courthouse Annex – 10/17/1979
Photo Credit: Jefferson County Historical Commission archives



Construction of new Courthouse Annex – 1/11/1980
Photo Credit: Jefferson County Historical Commission archives



Dedication of new Courthouse Annex – 1981

*Photo Credit: Jefferson County Historical
Commission archives*