

# Weld County Courthouse



## History:

Before the current Courthouse was on the property, there was another smaller one. The first Courthouse was constructed in 1883 and remained in place until the current building was constructed in 1915

On December 20, 1888, Wilbur D. French (1847-1888) was taken from the courthouse by an angry mob and lynched by in front of the Courthouse.

Construction for the new Courthouse was started in 1915 and completed two years later. The contractors who designed the building were Seefie & Varnum of Denver. The total cost was 414,302.05 and it was paid off entirely in cash.

Opening day was celebrated on July 4, 1917



The Courthouse is constructed mainly of Granite and Gypsum, featuring columns and cornices of Indiana Limestone and terra cotta designs. The marble used came from a mine in Marble Colorado, it was the last building grade marble taken from the mine.

Another unique feature of the Courthouse is the Clock system. The clocks throughout the Courthouse (8) are controlled by a pneumatic system. Each time the clock moves a pneumatic “signal” is sent to each of the clocks. This is one of only six sets of clocks like this still in operation.



**1910 view of the Courthouse**

The fourth floor of the Courthouse was intended and designed to be used as temporary housing for Jurors when sequestered for a trial. The top floor was never used for this purpose and is currently used for storage.

In the early 1960's some of the ceiling features were restored, they had been destroyed in the 1930's



**Bryan setting up equipment**

In the mid 199's the stained glass windows were restored back to their original condition.

**Reported Activity:**

A Janitor reported that late one evening he was cleaning the floor and saw what he described as "the face of a Demon" reflected in the face of one of the clocks. He ran home and quit his job the following day.

Over the timespan of several decades, employees have reported seeing shadow type figure on the fourth floor. This was usually reported after hours when the Courthouse was closed.

An employee was setting up a Courtroom for the day before it was open to the public and heard what she describes as "loud heavy breathing" coming from behind the benches in the back of the Courtroom. She went to the location to see if a homeless person might have broken into the building but there was nobody there.

During a hearing, there was an audio recording taking place (standard practice). On the recording there is a section that lasts about 30 seconds that the trial stops and there is what sounds like banging, footsteps, and some unintelligible talking." After this, the recording picks right back up where it left off, like there was no missing time.



**Hanging in front of original Courthouse**

In the Women's room on the fourth floor there have been multiple reports of seeing a "shadow man" that has been see through the cracks of the doors to the stalls.

The back staircase used by Jurors to go from the Courtroom to the jury room is said to be haunted by a little boy. The employees of the Courthouse have left toys in the stairway and some offices near the stairs for the boy to play with. The staff has named the boy "Johnathan"

### **Investigation:**

We had an initial interview at the Courthouse with the Clerk who had contacted us. We were given a tour of the building and set up a time for our first overnight at the Courthouse.

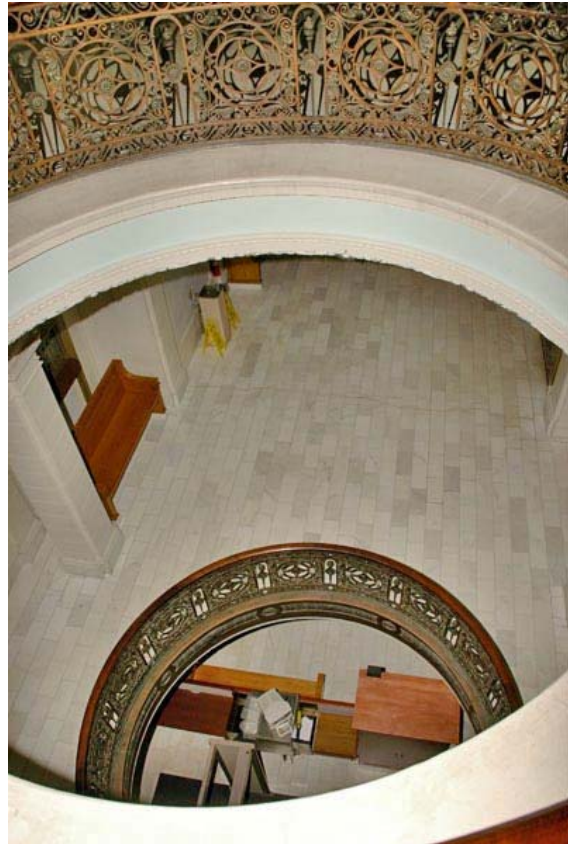


**Base location**



First overnight:

We arrived in the late afternoon and loaded the equipment from the underground garage to the second floor.



We conducted another tour of the Courthouse to hear any stories we may have missed and refresh our knowledge of the layout of the building.

Our base location was in a staff office and adjoining corridor space on the third floor, where we set up our monitoring equipment. This was all monitoring the courtroom that had the most reports of activity.



**Team at base location**

We had team members on the fourth floor monitoring the main hall and the stairwell. They placed some toys in the stairwell to see if reports of toys being moved could be re-created.

Throughout the night, we documented the following sounds:

- Time stamp machines clicking
- Compressors in vending machines
- Air circulating through the pneumatic clock system
- “ticking” of pneumatic clocks
- Heating system sounds

What sounded like heels scuffing against floor tiles came from the fourth and second floors (we were on the third). We went to both locations to determine the cause; however, the sounds would stop when we arrived. We spent approximately twenty minutes in each location and heard nothing, as soon as we moved from the location the sounds resumed.



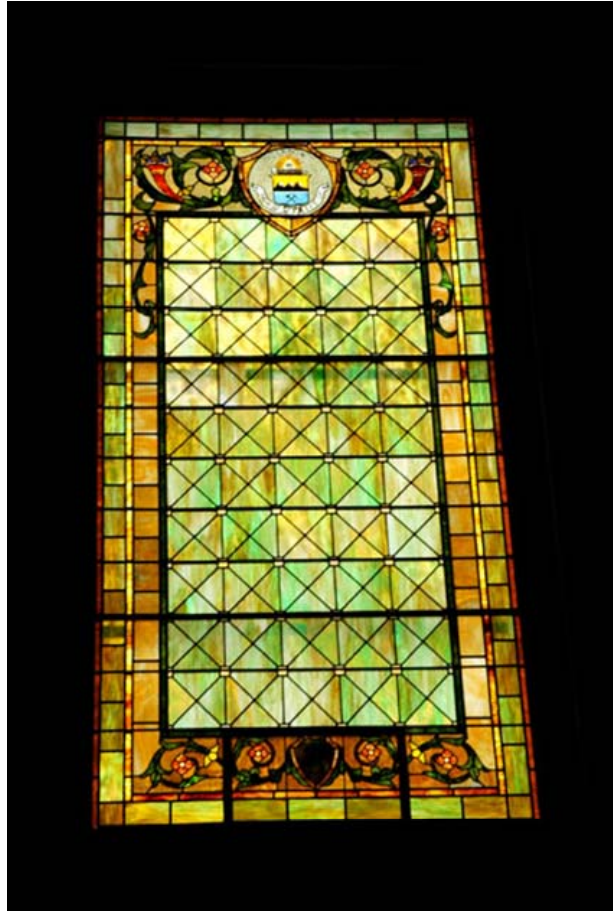
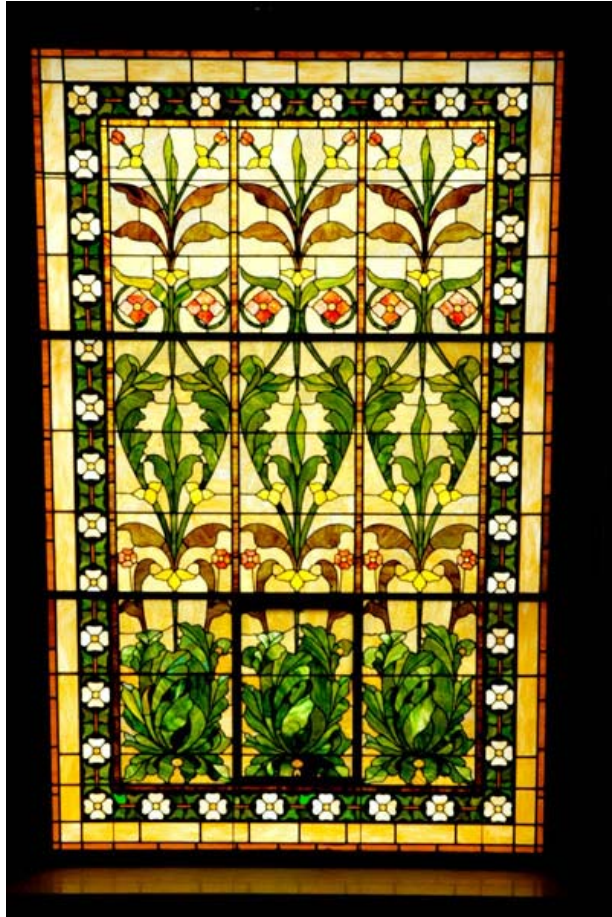
**Storage area in attic**

The sound of the large glass/wood doors throughout the building were heard opening and slamming shut for the duration of the night. We could never track one down to identify the cause.

Temperatures remained stable throughout the evening.

EMF readings were unremarkable throughout the evening. We did discover one location that seemed unusually high, but it turned out to be where the main power bus comes into the building.





A video camera that had been left running in the fourth floor courtroom was found to be turned off. It had about 15 minutes of recording and then just stopped. The switch was in the off position.





**Pneumatic clock**

We were packing up around 5 a.m. and noticed that one of the toys in the stairwell had been knocked over. It had been locked in the location without anyone around it all night. When we grabbed one of our storage bags, it appeared to have flakes of paint on it. Directly above the bag (20ish feet) appeared to be a handprint on the ceiling.



**Office with reported activity**

**Second night:**

We set up our base location on the fourth floor

We were told that during the previous week an employee reported seeing a man in “period costume” peering down from the fourth floor to the third. He was also reported in the Women’s room.

During the early hours of the morning we heard what sounded like the large glass/wood doors slamming throughout the building again.

Throughout the night, we all heard what sounded like an old bell type telephone ringing. We obtained a phone list for the building and called every number listed (even the fax lines) and could not get anything that sounded like the ring we had been hearing. The phone system had just been replaced with a new “digital” system and the ringing sound was not the same as we were hearing.

EMF and Temperature readings remained stable throughout the evening.



**Courtroom where Clerk heard breathing**

**Conclusion:**

The Courthouse has some great stories of personal experiences, and we have had some odd experiences as well.

The only things that we were able to document were:

The phone ringing

The toy, which had moved

The handprint on the ceiling

While these are interesting, we would like the opportunity









