

Court House Moved Three Times: Has Colorful History

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The first county court house was a two-story building which stood where the J.C. Penney Company is now located. When it burned, it was moved to the Wortham building into the space now occupied by the Masonic Lodge.

In 1913, the present court house was built. It was the first to be built in Southeast Oklahoma, and the court house officials immediately moved into their spacious and convenient quarters.

The first district judge was D.A. Rickerson; the first county judge, W.T. Glenn; first county clerk, J.W. Milam; first registrar of deeds, J.A. Pennington; first county treasurer, A.J. Steen; first county attorney, J.M. Willis; first sheriff, J.M. Meredith, and the first jailor, Jim Tom DeWeese.

At that time the jail was located where the Ward Ice Cream factory is now. The present jail was built at the same time the Courthouse was constructed.