



The original building had a bell tower with the statue of lady justice on top. In the late 1940s the bell tower had deteriorated to the point at which it was dangerous and was deemed prohibitively expensive to repair. In the spring of 1949, a contract was let to the relatively new company of Schneider Brothers Construction for \$17,300 to take down the statue, remove the bell tower and clock and replace the statue. That work was completed in the same year, and the courthouse finished in the way it is now.

The original slate roof was replaced with a shingle roof.



Adair Historical Markers

The Adair County Historical Society has placed four historical markers on the courthouse square. The first one describes the Battle of Kirkville and is placed on the southeast side of the courthouse. The second marker, Cyclone of April 27, 1899, was erected on the southwest side of the courthouse. The third and fourth markers were erected on the north side of the courthouse. One is a history of Adair County and the other about the three Adair County Courthouses.

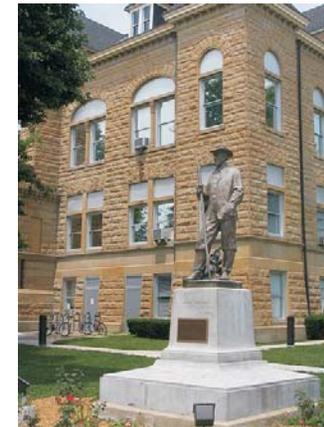
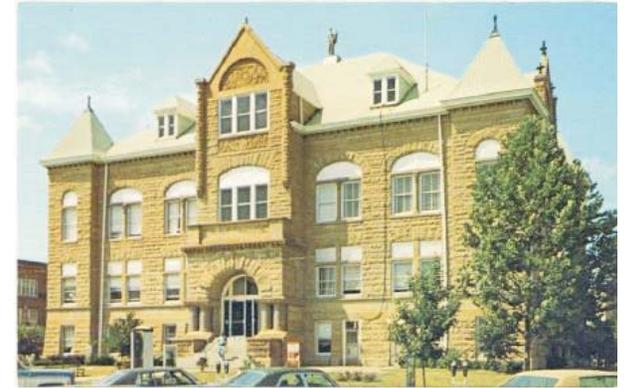
The ACHS board believes that these markers add significantly to the downtown area by making the area historical appealing to both residents and visitors. The board envisions as many as fifteen markers could be placed around Adair County. Each one of these historic markers cost approximately \$2,000. ACHS is accepting donations from members, non-members, service organizations and businesses. Any non-member who makes a \$15 donation or more will receive a membership to the historical society. Any individual or organization who makes a donation of \$1,000 or more will have the name inscribed on a plaque at the historical society. All donations are fully tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Please make your check out to The Adair County Historical Society.

Thank you for your support!

Adair County Historical Society
211 South Elson St.
Kirkville, Missouri 63501

Kirkville Courthouse



Adair County Historical Society
211 South Elson St.
Kirkville, Missouri 63501
660-665-6502

Hours: 1:00-4:00 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
<http://www.adairchs.org>

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The Kirksville Courthouse

County: Adair County Missouri

Organized: in Jan 29, 1841 from Macon County

Courthouse: Adair County

Tradition says Adair County's first courts met in a schoolhouse two miles south of Kirksville. The first courthouse, which cost \$1,000, dates from 1843. It was a low, one-story, brick temporary building, located on a lot across the street from the square. John B. Earhart was the builder, and John D.

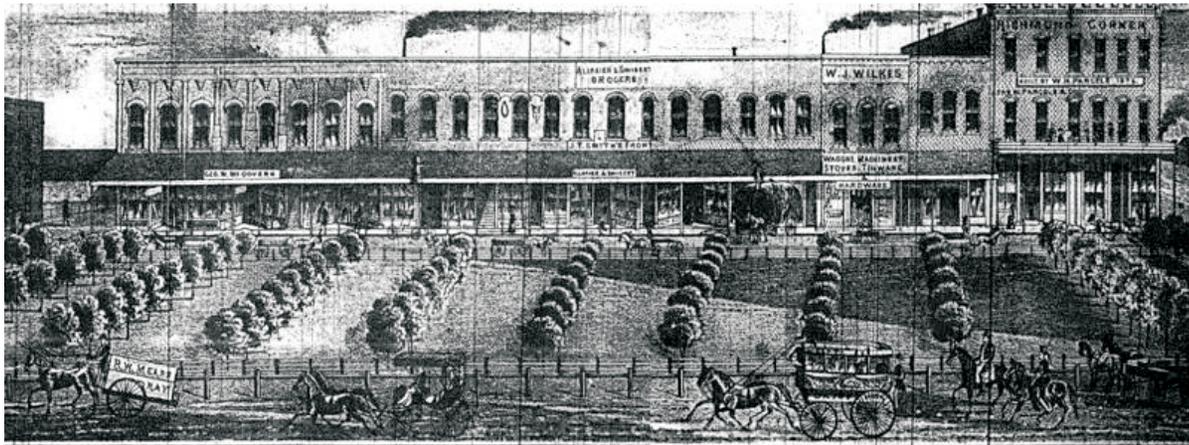
The Square was reserved for the permanent court-house. The court ordered the first permanent building in February 1852 and initially appropriated \$2,200. William H. Parcels was appointed superintendent and was sent to Knox County, just east of Adair County, to get the plan for its recently completed building at Edina. Adair County then adapted the foursquare design and built it on the public square. On March 8, 1852, the contract was awarded to Galyon and Douglass, who completed the work in 1853. The first floor contained offices: a few additional rooms and the courtroom were on the second floor. Fire destroyed this courthouse April 12, 1865, and the county remained without a courthouse for 30 years. For many of these years, the public square was known as the "Park." An illustration from the atlas of 1876 shows a portion of the square filled with a geometric pattern of trees.



Adair County Court House, Kirksville, Mo.

The third and present Adair County courthouse dates from the turn of the century.

As Adair Countians contemplated a new courthouse, some proposed a different location where only one main facade would be necessary. This would reduce construction costs considerably and leave the square for a public park.



VIEW OF THE WEST SIDE OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE, KIRKSVILLE ADAIR CO. MO.

In April 1896 the people voted to put the building on the square.

Several bond issues failed before one inspired the majority of voters, on August 3, 1897, to finance \$50,000 for building a replacement. .



<http://library.truman.edu/gallery/courthouse.asp>

<http://www.dnr.missouri.gov/shpo/Adair.htm>