

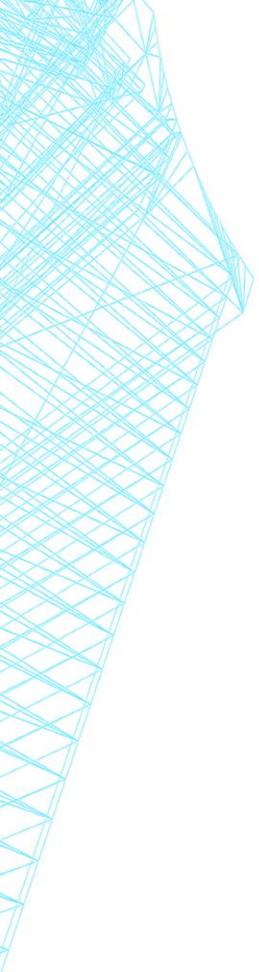
COURTHOUSE SQUARE MEMORIAL WALL

**Presentation to the
Rock Island County Board
April 16, 2019**

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WHO KNOWS RICO HISTORY?

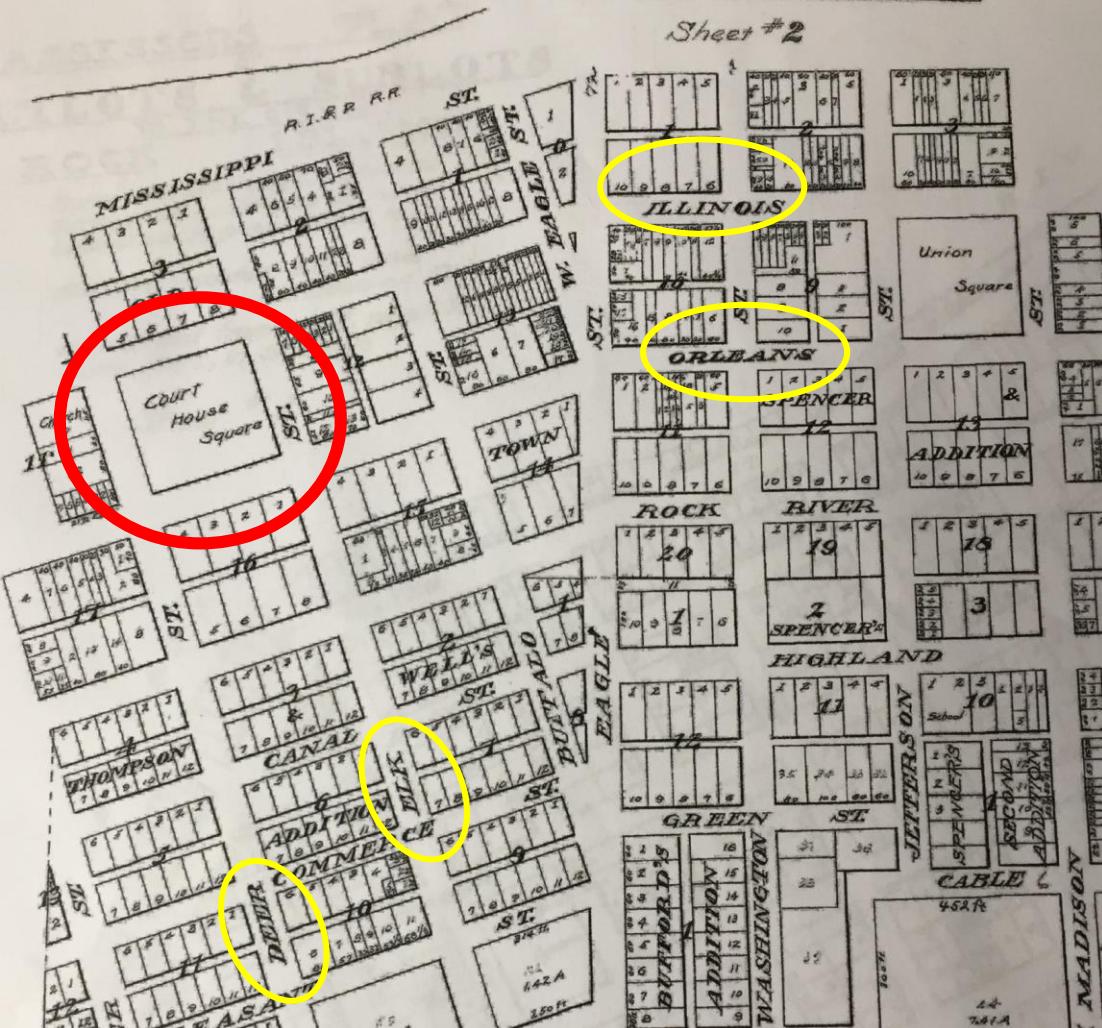
6 Questions provided in advance.

Test knowledge of RICO history.

Review answers at end.

RICO BUILDINGS COME & GO

- 1st County Office Bldg. ...14 years (1883-1897).
- 1st Jail ...22 years (1835-1857).
- 2nd Jail ...66 years (1857-1923).
- 3rd Jail ...62 years (1923-1985).
- 1st Courthouse...4 years (1833-1837).
- 2nd Courthouse ...60 years (1837-1897).
- 3rd Courthouse ...121 years (1897-2018).



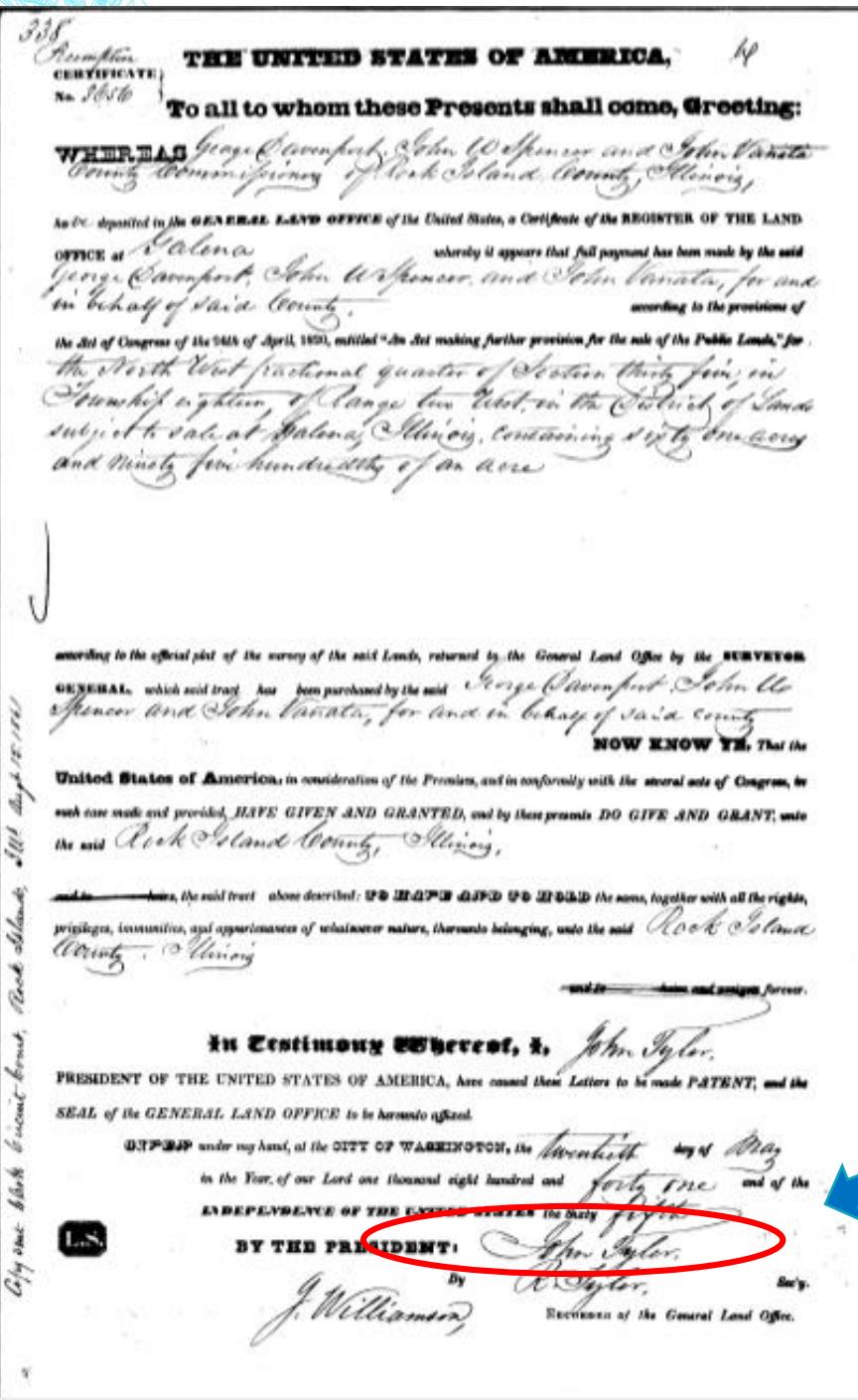
Plat from RICo Recorder of Deeds

1835 ROCK ISLAND PLAT

- Land is constant.
- Honor the history of
Courthouse Square.

COURTHOUSE SQUARE MEMORIAL WALL

- Museum quality acrylic panels displaying:
 - 1897 Courthouse floor plans.
 - County records.
 - Pictures.
 - Timeline.
- 28' wall in Annex.
- Educate students & citizens.
- Site of 2nd Jail.



Display Examples

- 1833 RICo formed.
- 61.95 acres includes:
 - Downtown City RI
 - Courthouse Square
- 1841 Deed from U.S. President John Tyler to RICo.

1ST RICO COURTHOUSE

1833-1837

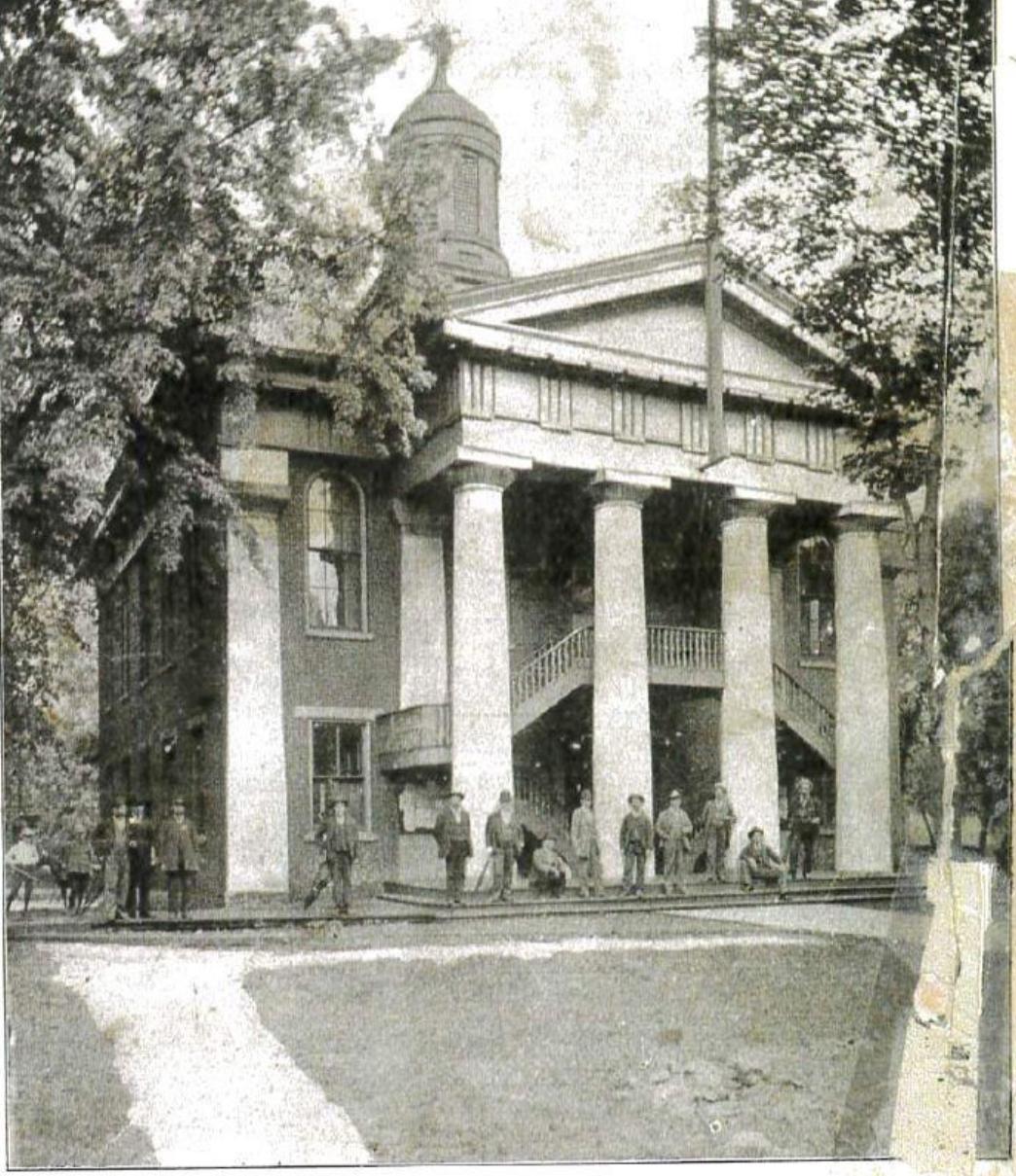
- John Barrel House 30th St. & 4th Ave.
- First County Election 1833
 - New Commissioners select county seat.
 - Hampton vs. Farnhamsburg (Rock Island)
- 1840 County Pop. 470.



1ST COUNTY JAIL

1836-1857

Now COB Parking Lot



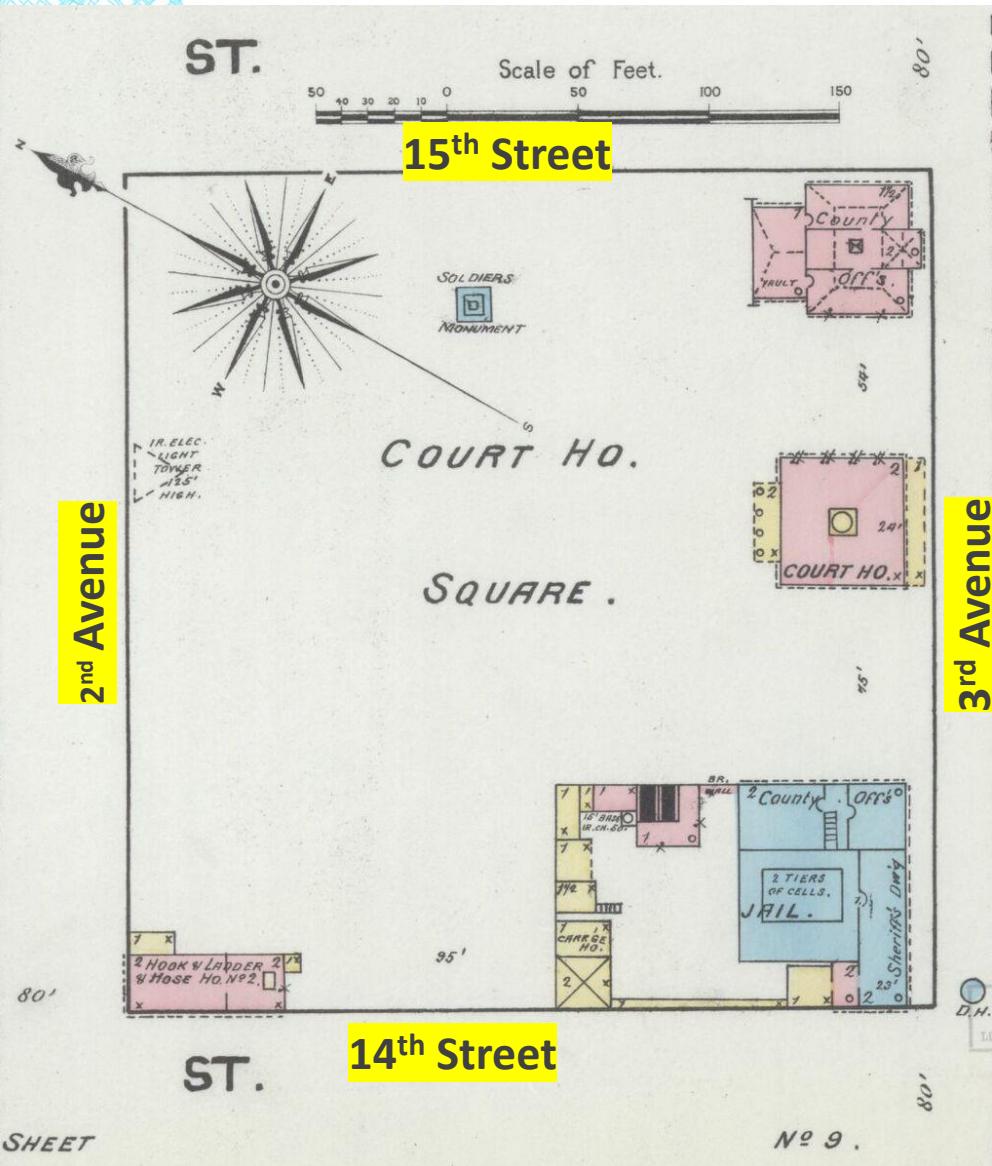
2nd RICo Courthouse 1837-1897

- 1st Bldg. on Courthouse Sq.
- Brich Estate Retires Debt.
- 1845 –Col. Davenport
Murderers Convicted.

This picture courtesy of the Rock
Island County Historical Society.

COURTHOUSE SQUARE 1883-1897

- 1st County office bldg.
(1883-1897)
- 2nd Courthouse (1837-1897)
- 2nd Jail (1857-1923)
 - Site of Courthouse Square Memorial Wall



- Cost \$112,201 to construct.
- 80 tons of copper used.
- Two courtrooms.
- Heat supplied by the Jail.
- County pop. 55,000

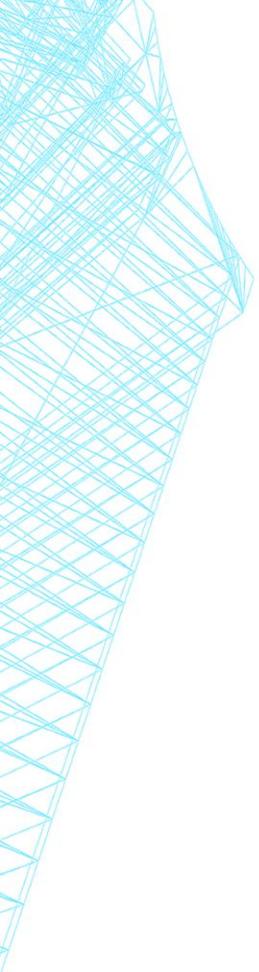
1897 COURTHOUSE

RICO'S THIRD COURTHOUSE

DEDICATED MARCH 13, 1897



1897 Courthouse Under Construction

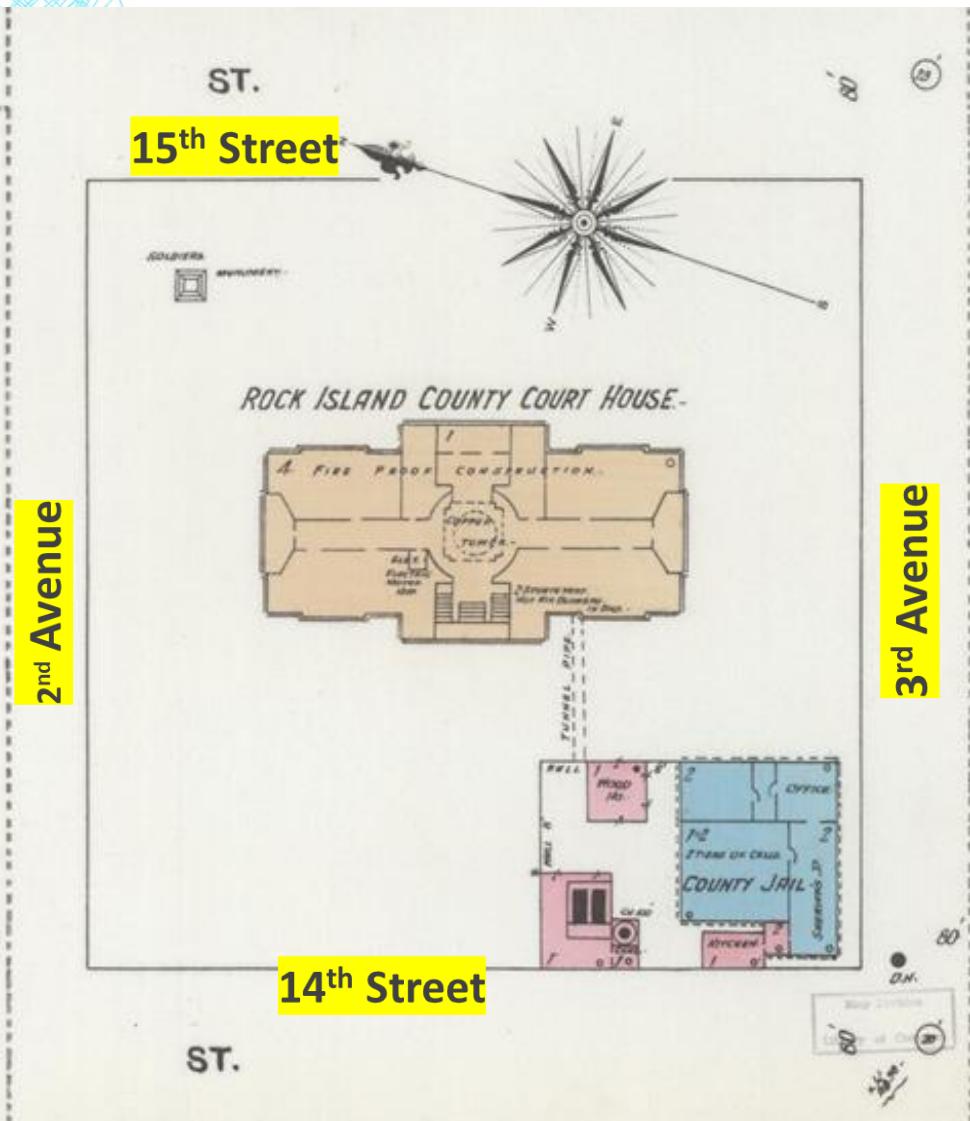


QUOTE FROM CHARLES J. SEARLE MARCH 13, 1897 COURTHOUSE DEDICATION

The 1897 Courthouse

*“...will perhaps remain the
seat of justice of the county
for a century.”*

COURTHOUSE SQUARE 1898-1923



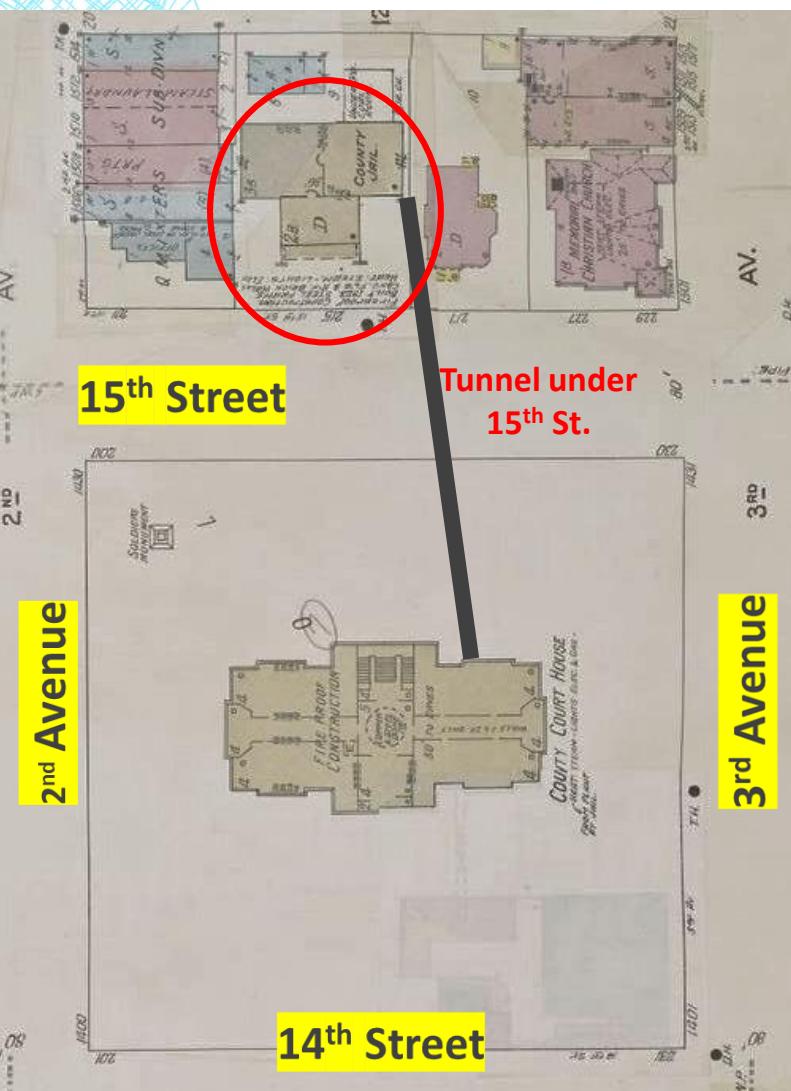
- 1883 COB Razed.
- 1837 Courthouse Razed.
- Jail supplied heat.

COURTHOUSE SQUARE 1923-1985

- New Jail (RICO's 3rd)



- New Jail supplied heat via tunnel.
- 1857 Jail Razed.



**To Save a Valuable Building
and Keep It Usable—**

**VOTE 'YES' ON THE
COURTHOUSE
BOND ISSUE REFERENDUM**

Join the hundreds of your fellow citizens who recognize the need and advisability of repair and rehabilitation NOW of the Rock Island county courthouse. A dollar spent at this time will SAVE THREE later on.

**The Facts Are:
Your Courthouse Is
WEARING OUT!**

The foundation of the building is sound, and rests on solid rock. The walls of stone are sturdy and good for many more years. BUT...

1. Plaster is down.
2. Rain pours through ceilings and walls. (Downspouts are in the walls now; the copper sheathing is leaky, and tick-pointing is needed to seal open joints in the masonry).
3. Serious fire hazards exist.
4. Valuable records are kept in exposed places.
5. Courtroom facilities are inadequate and inconvenient.

**The Wear and Tear
Goes On—
The Building Is Shabby**

All This Can Be Corrected Now, If You

VOTE 'YES' TUESDAY

—Courthouse and Jail Committee
Rock Island County Board.
—C. Arnold Serenius, Chairman
Roger Potter
Glen Bull.

**1948-1953
4 COURTHOUSE REFERENDUMS
FAIL**

- Roof leaks.
- Downspouts faulty*
- Electrical issues.
- Cited by State Fire Marshal for:
 - Open Stairway
 - Open Rotunda

*Fixed in 1958—other issues remain a problem even today.

Citizen's Advisory Chairman after 4th Courthouse referendum fails:

“...county citizens are opposed to repairing the courthouse and that no action will be taken on a large scale until the present building is beyond repair and a new one is needed--at much higher cost.”

Boeye's Comment.

Robert W. Boeye, chairman of the citizen's advisory committee that recommended the bond issue, had this to say about the election results:

“People apparently are sick and tired of anything that has anything to do with increasing taxes”

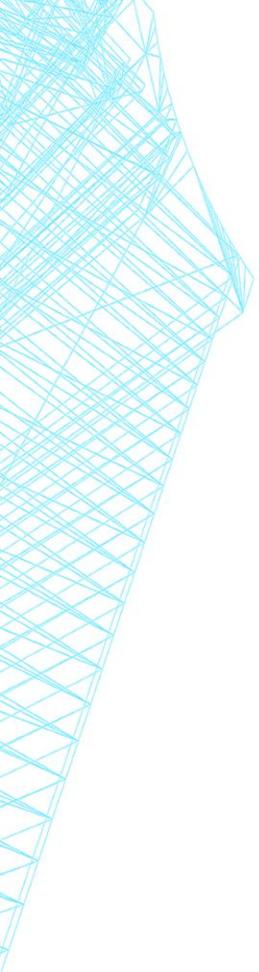
He said he noticed no organized movement against the bond issue

and concluded from this that the vote was “an expression of just how the average taxpayer feels at this time”

Boeye said he believed county citizens are opposed to repairing the courthouse and that no action will be taken on a large scale until the present building is beyond repair and a new one is needed--at much higher cost

1958
COPPER
DOMES
REMOVED
ROOF LEAKS
DID NOT STOP





1960

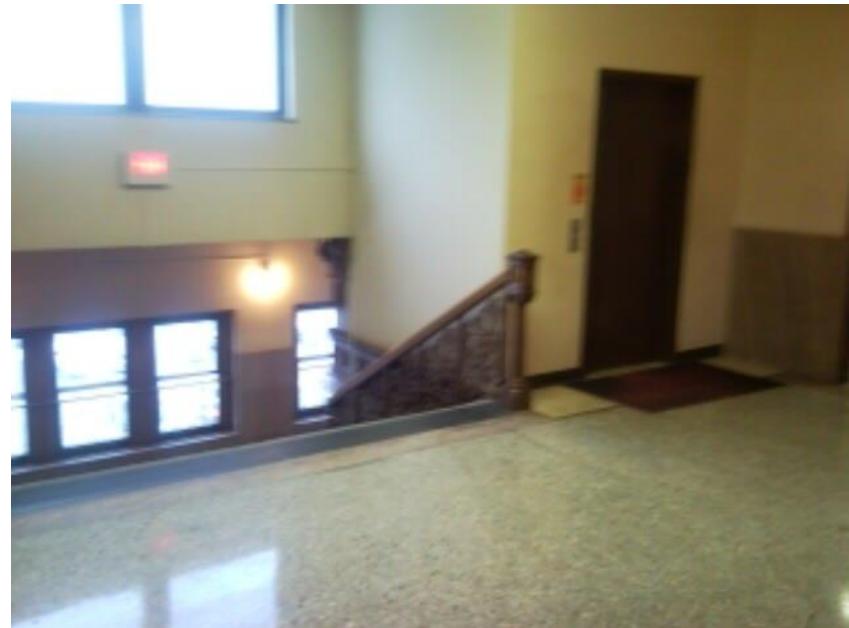
**3RD FLOOR CIRCUIT
COURTROOM**

(2 STORIES HIGH IN 1897)

- Split into 2 courtrooms.
- Courtroom 2nd story filled-in for offices.
- County pop. 150,991.

CHANGES TO 1897 COURTHOUSE DURING 1970'S

- General Gov't moved to current COB.
- Courtrooms added.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ the double staircase removed to install current elevator.
- County pop. 168,734.



2001 Justice Center

1985 Jail



**FEDERAL
LAWSUITS
JAIL
OVERCROWDING**

- 1985 Jail.
- 2001 Justice Center
- 1/2 Justice Center on Courthouse Square



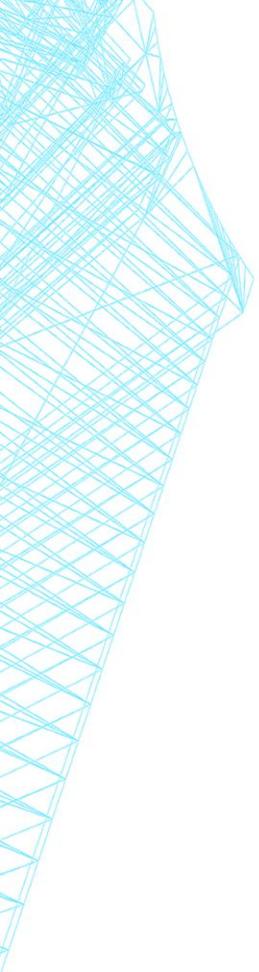
**ANNEX DEDICATED
DECEMBER 3, 2018**

**RICo's 4th Courthouse
Located on Courthouse Square**

WHO KNOWS RICO HISTORY?

ANSWERS

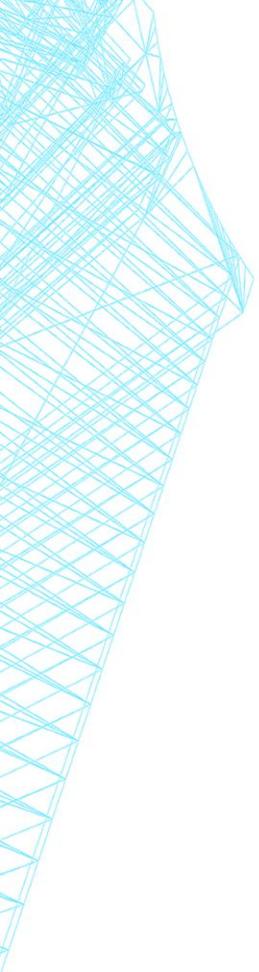
1. Courthouse Square is located between **14th (Deer)** and **15th (Elk)** Streets and **2nd (Illinois)** and **3rd (Orleans)** Avenues.
2. Besides Rock Island (Farnhamsburg), the town of **HAMPTON** also wanted to be the county seat.
3. RICo came into some money to retire the mortgage on the 1837 Courthouse. The source of that money was **REV. JOHN BRICH ESTATE.**



WHO KNOWS RICO HISTORY?

ANSWERS

4. A famous murder trial occurred in RI Co in 1845. The murder victim's name was **COL. GEORGE DAVENPORT.**
5. There were **TWO** (number) courtrooms in the original 1897 Courthouse.
6. In year **1958** the 1897 Courthouse domes were removed.



COURTHOUSE SQUARE MEMORIAL WALL

Invitation to unveiling later
this month.

Watch for further
announcements.

Courthouse Square

Honor the past, look to the future.

