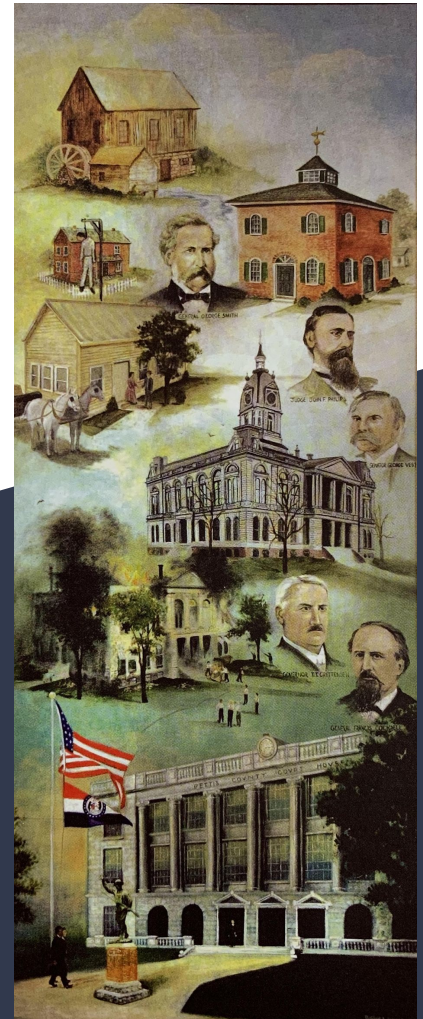


History Of The Pettis County Courthouse

Andrew Sadler



The Beginning

1885

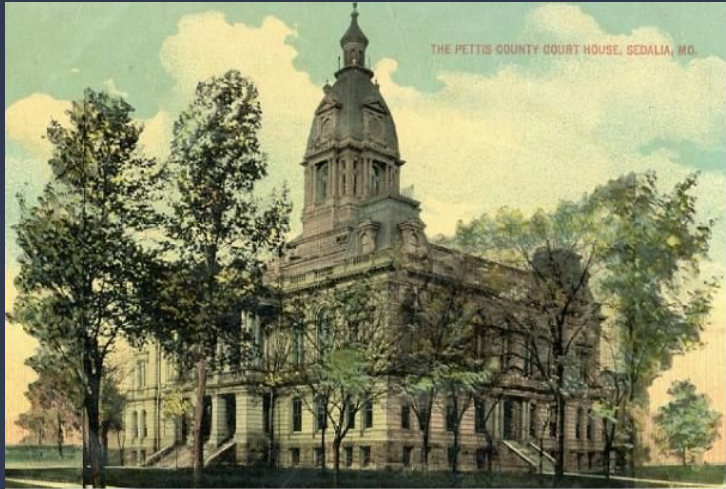


Image Provided by <http://courthousehistory.com/gallery/states/missouri/counties/pettis>

- In 1885, the first official courthouse was built in Pettis County.
- Cost \$100,000

Courthouse

1885

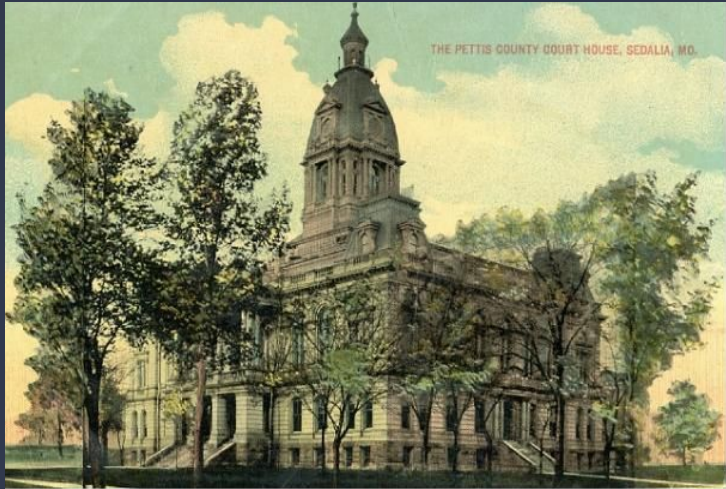


Image Provided by <http://courthousehistory.com/gallery/states/missouri/counties/pettis>

→ Described as:

- ◆ One of the finest public buildings
- ◆ Topped by a beautiful lantern
- ◆ Four corner pavilions
- ◆ Carthage stone was used (White Stone)
- ◆ Ceilings painted by Italian artists
- ◆ Oak furniture was hand carved

Courthouse Fire

1920



Image Provided by <http://courthousehistory.com/gallery/states/missouri/counties/pettis>

- Fire in 1920!
- Clear, average day
- Occured while workers were repairing its dome
- Workers stated they did not cause fire
- All evidence proves the workers were the cause
 - ◆ Bystanders ran into the building
 - ◆ All files were removed from building
 - ◆ Lady Justice mural removed and saved

The Complaint

1921



Image Provided by All Around Downtown - Sedalia, Mo. Becky Imhauser

- 15 Months Later
- Citizens complaining that the courthouse is still untouched after fire
 - ◆ “Grass is too tall!”
 - ◆ “Old shell needs re-done!”
 - ◆ “We NEED a new courthouse!”
 - ◆ “Why is it still standing?”
- Sedalia continues to overlook statements

The Attempt

1921

- Two bond issues rejected
- \$350,000 bond issue to rebuild burned-out structure
- \$400,000 bond issue to build a new building
- Bond issues failed due to voters

REJECTED

The Wait

1920-1923



- During “the wait,” court was held in small buildings at locations around Sedalia
- Many protests occurred in attempt to persuade the county to build a new courthouse
- No progress made

Construction

1923



- Bond issue for \$350,000 passed
- Construction began in October of 1923
- Quick progress
- Seemed like they were in a rush to finish

New Courthouse

1925



Image Provided by *All Around Downtown - Sedalia, Mo.* Becky Imhauser

- New Pettis County Courthouse dedicated in 1925
- Design was simple and modern
- Provided new jobs to citizens

New Courthouse Complaints

1925



- “No elevator”
- “Important offices are on second floor”
- “Very inconvenient”
- “Not enough space”

The Doughboy Memorial

1926



Image Provided by All Around Downtown - Sedalia, Mo. Becky Imhauser

- Memorial dedicated to those who fought and didn't come home during WWI
- For those who lived in Pettis County
- Only cost \$1,200

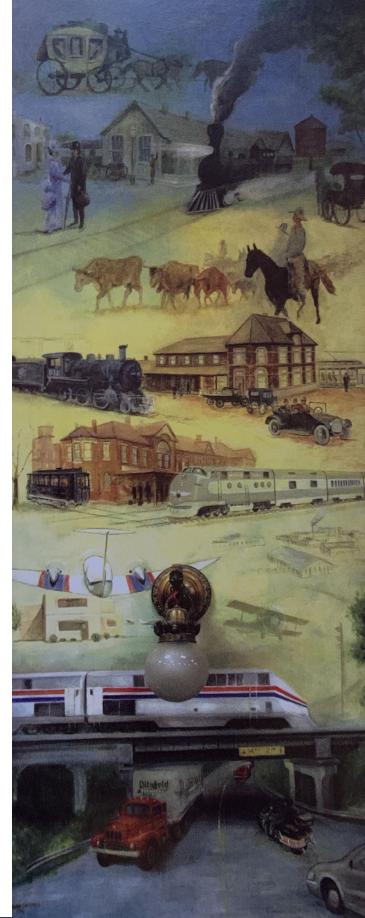
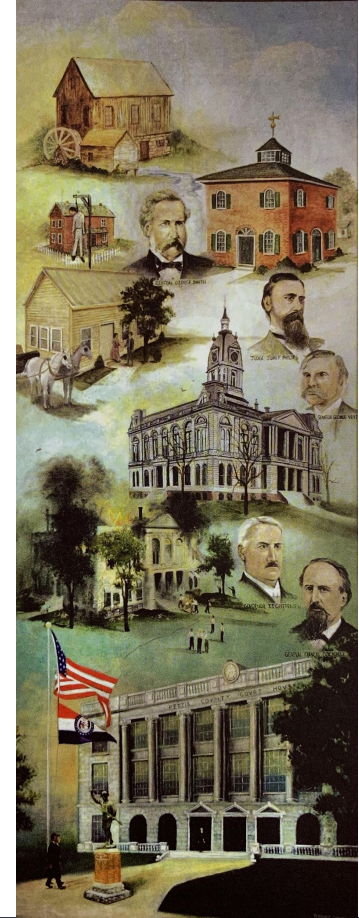
The Murals

1997



Image Provided by sedaliademocrat.com

- Judge Donald Barnes initiated a mural project
- Barbara Manes Campbell painted them
- Murals completed in 2002
- Total of 36 panels
- Depict 31 historical times



Murals in Pettis County Courthouse



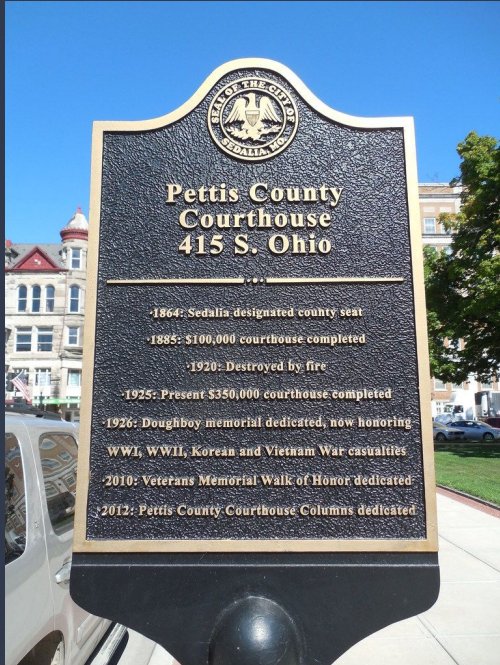
Murals in Pettis County Courthouse



Lady Justice

“Remember”

-Present



- Sign donated
- Sign was placed on sidewalk next to courthouse
- Contained the dates of all major historic times for the courthouse
- We continue to remember the history

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