Wood County Courthouse Presentation

Ohio County Courthouse Symposium – May 16, 2014

- Thank you for your kind invitation to speak with you today about the Wood County Courthouse
- I am pleased to share this time with my friend and colleague Don Brown from Franklin County

First a bit of history – Good example v. Bad?

- This is the 4th courthouse in Wood County
  1st built in Perrysburg, Ohio 1823 – log construction
    - Cost $895
  2nd built in Perrysburg – started in 1837 and completed 6 years later – 2 story brick
    - Cost $20,000
    - County seat moved to Bowling Green in 1868
    - Building burned in 1872
  3rd built in Bowling Green – 1868-1870 – 2 story brick
    - Cost $23,000
    - Located where the southeast corner of the present Courthouse is.
  4th and current built in Bowling Green – started in 1893 finished 1896 – stone carving 1897
    - Cost – furnished - $255,746.84
    - BG newspapers – “the county’s new palatial temple of justice.” “Grand beyond any anticipation.” “as magnificent a piece of architecture as you will ever deserve to see.”

From 2001 to 2004 – The Wood County Courthouse Complex was under construction.

- Exterior Restoration of the Courthouse and Old Jail
- Re-purposing of the Old Jail to serve as the County Records Center and Law Library
- Construction of an Atrium to connect the Courthouse, Office Building, Records Center

This morning I would like to review each of these projects with you and then talk about issues common to all as work proceeded.

First slide – This is the Wood County Courthouse in Bowling Green, Ohio

- How did the exterior restoration project begin?
  - In 1998 – Two Commissioners and the Administrator were walking to lunch and noticed stone chips and chunks in the corners of the building
Look up! When they looked up they observed areas of stone that were flaking apart, cracks in the stone, and areas of stone that if not addressed would likely fall.

- Much discussion ensued
- The building had been in service for 102 years with little exterior attention.
- The interior had been restored from 1979 to 1981 at a cost of $3,216,668 (12 times the original cost of the entire building)

- Hired architectural consultant Historical Design Group of Worthington, Ohio to examine and create specifications that would address significant exterior issues – stone, gutters, roof.

- Through this examination, the Commissioners developed the vision of a 100 year restoration.
  - The courthouse had served the citizens of Wood County for 100 years
  - The restoration would prepare it to serve for the next 100 years
  - Restoration of the Courthouse Clock was necessary
  - Discussion also included the Old Jail – built in 1902 and vacated in 1989.

Planning process and financing

- The planning took place during the regular meetings of the Commissioners
- Widely reported in the local newspapers
- No special committee or task force
- A general expectation from the public that the Commissioners will be good stewards of these buildings. The Commissioners have a strong belief in this as well.

Result – Plans for complete exterior renovation of the Wood County Courthouse and the Old Jail

- Replacement of clay tile roofs and accompanying gutter systems, cleaning of the stone surfaces, tuck pointing, replacement of weather damaged stones, restoration of the clock – sand and paint metal surfaces, replace glass, replace clock hands, new lights, bird netting.

- Sand stone from the original quarry in Amherst, Ohio
- Clay roof tile from original manuf.

- Construction started in March 2001

- Contractor – Grunwell – Cashero, Toledo, Ohio

- Cost: $3.1 million – all paid from the county permanent improvement fund.

- 2003 – Award of Merit from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society, and Golden Trowel Award from the International Masonry Institute

Old Jail

- Much discussion had occurred about what to do with the Old Jail.
• Decision was made to convert it to the county records center and law library
  o Law Library was in rented space blocks away – required to be on campus
  o Records were stored in all areas of the complex – attic, basement, hallways

• Centralize records management for thousands of boxes of paper records stored throughout the complex

• Enabled active management – correct retention schedules – microfilming and digitizing – correct disposal

• Worked with Poggemeyer Design Group of Bowling Green, as well as two archivists associated with Bowling Green State University to develop concepts and plans.

• Building interior was gutted. Existing walls were supported by the jail cells – therefore adapting this structure to a new use was not practical.

• Built a new building inside the old shell.

• Construction started in October 2001

• Contractor – Rudolph/Libbe

• Cost: $2.4 million - $1.75 million grant through the State Capital Budget – remainder paid from county permanent improvement fund.

• 2003 Award of Merit from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society for preserving, restoring, and re-use of the Old Wood County Jail.

• 2004 American Institute of Architects Toledo Design Award

**Atrium**

• Needed to address several items
  o Court Security as defined by the Ohio Supreme Court – Single Secure Entrance
  o Many drainage issues with the plaza area among the 3 buildings – Courthouse, Office Building, Records Center
  o Access among the 3 buildings and meeting space

• Courthouse Atrium was the concept

• Architect/Engineer – SSOE Studios of Toledo, Ohio
• General Contractor – Mosser Construction of Fremont, Ohio

• Construction Started – July 2003

• Cost - $2.7 million

• $1 million grant from the State of Ohio – State Capital Budget

Managing All of These Projects

• What do they all have in common?

• Communication and Logistics
  o Employees - Elected Officials - Visitors - Citizens
  o Where can I park?
  o How do I enter the buildings?
  o Contractor areas for equipment and materials – trailers
  o We are conducting business inside these buildings every day
    ▪ Much activity and noise outside
    ▪ Court schedules
    ▪ Grinding mortar joints
  o You should just tear those buildings down and use the money for pay increases
  o Seeing the big picture – Maintaining County facilities - Part of the budget process
  o Replacement value - $300 million - Steward of county buildings and history.

Falcons in the clock tower P

Questions

Thank you