

DESIGN

—FOR—

A COURT HOUSE

—BY—

C. ERNEST HAIR.

THESIS FOR

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

—IN—

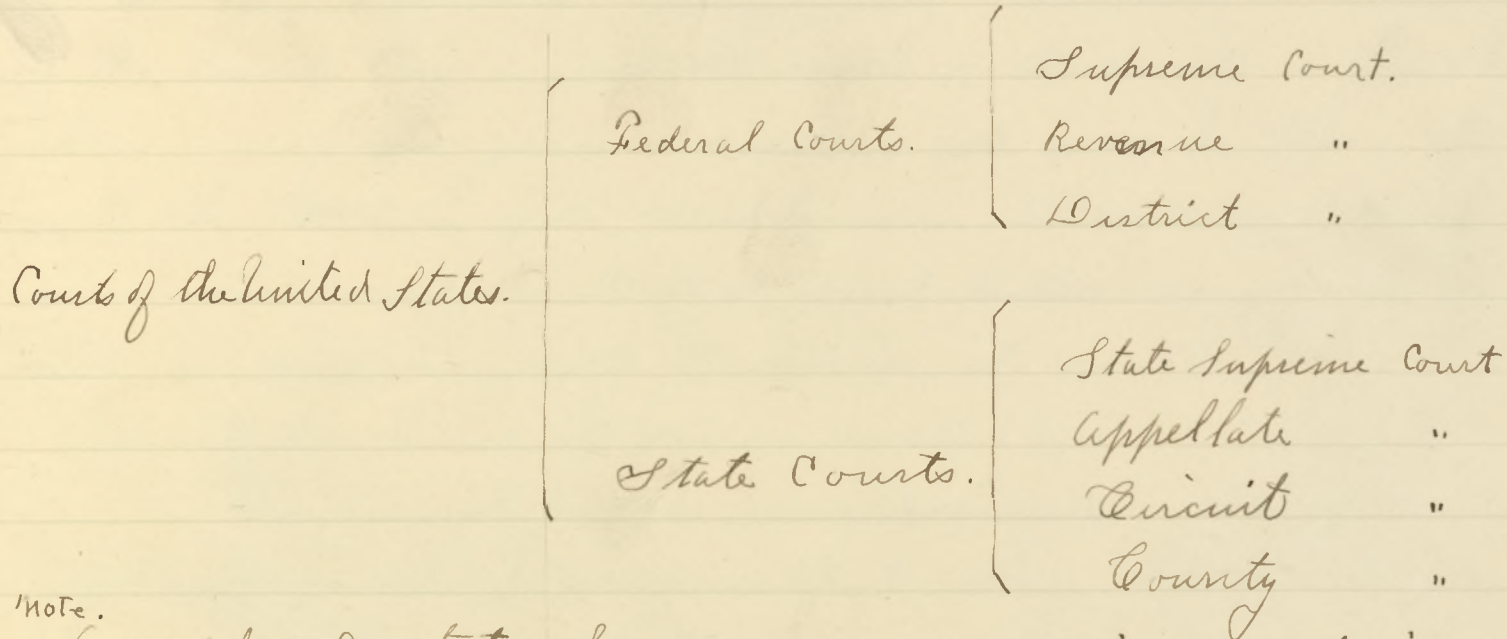
ARCHITECTURE.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS,

1898.

Design for a Court House.

The Courts of Justice of the United are divided into two classes, which in their turn are subdivided into more exact classification, according to their relative powers as a court.



Note.

A number of states have one or more minor courts in addition to the above, which are the requirement of Illinois.

The building requirements of these courts differ according to the number and duties of their several officers.

My problem was to design a building to hold the two most common courts of Illinois and their accessories. Of the two the Circuit Court is the most important in the lesser populated districts, but in the city the County Courts require as much floor space as the Circuit Court. These County Court Houses are erected at the expense of the County, and as near the center of the county as practicable.

Once every ten years a popular vote may be taken by the County as to the location of its court house. It requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to move the county seat to a point farther away from center of county and an even majority to move it nearer.

Circuit Court and its Requirements.

The Circuit judges should have a suite of rooms opening off Court room and convenient to library. The Circuit Clerk should have easy access to the Court room, as he is clerk of this court. His office should be convenient to the public. The State-

Attorney is allowed a room near the Court room. ~~Two~~ jury rooms must be provided for the petit jury of this court. These rooms should be near the Court room, and away from the more used part of the building. They should be pleasant and have, each, a well ventilated toilet room.

This jury never contains more than twelve men.

In this part of the building may be placed the "Grand jury" rooms with their, toilet rooms etc. This jury consists of a larger number of men than the petit jury. One grand jury man is elected from each township of the County.

The County Sheriff and his deputy should have a suite of rooms near the prisoners dock. One of these rooms should contain one or two cells and have a private entrance. The Court room itself should contain sittings of from five to seven hundred

Reserving 35% of floor space for the bar. This should contain raised seats for the jurymen, judges desk or a rostrum, a witness stand, and a space fenced off for the clerks of the Court. Waiting rooms should be provided for ladies and one for

gentlemen with toilet rooms.

Average size of the rooms are taken from the Rock Island (22000 voters.) Lewistown Court-House (2271 voters and Wommouth Court house (15000 voters)

Circuit Court Room.	2436 SQ FT	Circuit Clerk rooms	1312
Grand jury "	546 " "	County "	1614
Petit " "	245 " "	Treasurer "	480
Waiting "	480 " "	County Court }	" 2000
Judges Private "	212 " "	Judges room }	
		Sheriff.	500

County Court and its Requirements.

The County Court does not require so much room as the circuit court. The judge of this Court requires a suite of rooms off the court room. In case of trial by jury in this court one of the judges rooms may be used for the jury room.

The County Clerk is clerk of this Court and keeps the

the records of its proceedings, consequently his rooms should be near the court room. In addition to the above he issues marriage licenses, makes out the assessors books and has charge of the board of supervisors. The supervisor's rooms should be near the county clerks and should be designed to suit the county's population. One supervisor is sent from each town ship and one for every four hundred votes polled above five hundred. Some counties in this state do not have supervisors, that is they do not have town ship organization, but elect town ship directors. The County Superintendent of schools requires a suite of rooms. It is generally the custom for this officer to hold his examinations in the school house of the county seat, but occasionally he is forced to use his own rooms, so they must be large enough to accommodate him. School elections are also held in his room. The Coroner in some court houses has a room allotted to him. It does not need to be very large as his jury never consists of more than six

men.

An account of the valuable nature of the papers kept in these buildings, they should be as nearly fire proof as possible, and contain vaults in addition. The County Clerk, Circuit Clerk and Treasurer's ~~rooms~~ each contain one or more of these vaults.

In the Lewistown Court-House 12% of the area covered by building is taken up by the walls, 61% by halls corridors and passages.

The Rock Island Court house has 19% taken up by walls and 50% by halls.

The Lewistown Court-house cost about .22 cents per. cu. ft. measuring from basement floor to one half the height of the roof. Rock Island cost about .40 cents

Kidder estimates the approximate cost of per. cu. ft. to be between 32 and 34 cents. per. cu. ft.

In my plan for my Court house I think I have embodied as many good points as the limiting conditions would permit.

I have no dark corners or passages, every room is easy of access and located according to its relative importance.

I have solved my problem in a style similar to the French Palaces of Justice. The large lobby or "salle des pas," makes a suitable promenade, and is not a waste of floor space as I have devoted only 39% of my available space to corridors, which is 10% less than Rock Island Court house. The only narrow corridors I have are the ones connecting the Circuit clerks room and rear of Court room, and another just like it for the judge.

I have endeavored in this design to show the relative importance and purpose of each room by the position it occupies and by its external treatment.