

Superior Court of Justice
277 Camelot Street



Year Built: 1924

Architect: Frank R. Heakes

Added to Register: June 22, 2009

Description:

The Court House was built in 1923 and opened in 1924. Described as a “fine example of modern architecture” this building was built in the classical revival style that was popular from the 1880s to 1930s for public and commercial structures. Architect Frank Heakes blended a number of styles from the 1880's to 1930's period in designing the building's exterior. Each floor of the Court House has unique architectural features. The imposing exterior of the building includes the Classical pediment above the main entrance which is supported by four Corinthian columns. The white Tyndall limestone used for the columns, sills and the window casement rim contains visible fossils. The building is on a symmetrical plan, and is constructed of structural steel, with brick walls.

Upon entering the Courthouse, one is struck by the high, broad column lined corridors extending the length of the building's main floor. The main floor houses the main courtroom, "Hall of Justice."

The main floor main courtroom ceiling extends one and one half floors in height and is adorned with decorative plaster cornice and a spectacular chandelier once hung from the ceiling illuminating the entire courtroom. Many other details of beauty and style can be appreciated such as the polished brass door knobs with relief depiction of the official Crest of the Province of Ontario, quarter cut oak wainscoting and the handsomely carved oak pews and handrails for the jury galleries. However, the highlight of the "Hall of Justice" is the Judge's Canopy of quarter cut oak standing at twelve feet above the floor at the north end of the courtroom extending over a raised dais where the presiding judge sits.

The main floor symmetrical plan is dissected by the 8' wide steel grand staircase with ornamental railing and polished birch handrail which divides and wraps around to the second floor.

The basement, second and third floors housed administrative offices, additional courtrooms, libraries and judges chambers which afford a splendid view of Lake Superior. Each floor has unique details and architectural features.

Of further note are the basement corridors of terrazzo and oak trim which lead to the male and female jail cell rooms fitted with the latest "breakout proof" chrome steel doors and bars. The basement once housed a gigantic heating plant with enough area capable of storing 480 tons of coal.