



Fig. 2. Cedar County Courthouse. 1938-. Architects: Marshall and Brown (Courtesy: State Historical Society of Missouri)

Only two months later, in February 1868, the court issued orders to repair the leaking fireproof roof. In the following months several references indicate continued problems with leaking, and in May 1869 the court appointed James A. Cogle to superintend the repairs and put on an entire new roof, if necessary. Porches were added later. This courthouse continued in use until the 20th century courthouse was built. The court sold the building in 1939 for \$100.

Cedar Countians voted down bond proposals to finance a new courthouse in November 1937, but when the opportunity came to apply for federal assistance, they approved a \$60,000 indebtedness matched by a Public Works Administration grant of \$49,050. James D. Marshall and M. Dwight Brown, an architect-engineering firm of Kansas City, presented a plan to the court.

The first site, with four streets entering in the center of the small block, proved inconvenient, so the city gave the county one block 160 feet square, plus one-half of the block to the west. The site was south of the original square and large enough for sufficient lawn on all sides. The slope of the land permitted a useful ground floor at the rear with full-length windows in one section. Marshall and Brown pointed out that the monolithic cement building would be fireproof in addition to other advantages (Fig. 2).

W. F. Edgell and Son, Leavenworth, Kansas, con-

tracted to build the courthouse for \$94,104. Hare and Hare, landscape consultants, assisted with the plan. A cornerstone was not possible with the poured construction, so the copper box containing the traditional local memorabilia (coins, papers, pictures, Bibles, etc) was placed in the cement floor of the first story. Dedication took place January 4, 1940. Final costs amounted to \$112,600. This was reported to be the first monolithic or architectural concrete public building in the state.

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