



Location CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI.					Cubic Contents
					263,192.
Main Bldg	55	6	80	4	Cost per Cu Ft
Annex					.3475 cents.
Facing Stone					Contract Price
Construction	Improved.				\$ 25,035.

Kenneth S. Chitt.

The old Federal Building

Formal dedication of the Federal Building and Post Office took place on Oct. 10, 1910, when Judge D. B. Dyer opened the October term of the federal district court. The old structure, located

at the southeast corner of Broadway and Fountain Streets, served Cape Girardeau as Post Office and federal court building for 55 years, before succumbing to the headache ball in 1967.

Dedication

Five years after Congress appropriated \$12,000 for purchase of a site and committed \$100,000 for construction, the grand new Federal Building housing Cape Girardeau's Post Office was dedicated.

Not the present day Federal Building, Broadway-Fountain street, dedicated in 1968, nor the present-day Frederick street Post Office, dedicated in 1965. But a large, almost majestic building, its exterior of white stone blocks, its interior fitted with marble and fine iron work.

That old structure, which served Cape Girardeau as Post Office and federal court building for 55 years, succumbed to the headache ball in 1967.

It stood on a high terrace, at the southeast corner of Broadway and Fountain streets, occupying lots once graced by fine old homes; for example, Edward Ruesskamp's pre-Civil War residence and its 75x65-foot corner lot, along with the adjacent 50x165-foot lot owned by Mrs. Ella Wall Rodney, which sold for a combined total of \$18,000, of which \$15,000 was paid by the federal government and \$3,000 was paid by William Harrison and J. H. Himmelberger.

It wasn't until Oct. 21, 1908, that the contract for the federal structure was awarded, and construction proceeded carefully, with occasional delays caused by inclement weather, slow arrival of iron and steel reinforcing materials and the stone itself. Charles T. Bushong supervis-

ed the construction.

But by March 13, 1910, the Post Office had been moved from a temporary location in the Himmelberger-Harrison Building at the northwest corner of Broadway and Fountain streets (it had been moved from 128 North Main street in 1908) into its new home.

Formal dedication of the Federal Building and Post Office was held off until Oct. 10, 1910, when Judge D. B. Dyer opened the October term of the federal district court.

Judge Dyer presided, and other speakers at the splendid ceremony were U. S. Attorney Charles A. Houts, W. H. Miller, I. R. Kelso, T. D. Hines, and C. B. Faris.

Grand jurors from Cape County were John Rudert, Charles Behrens, William Bartels, N. C. Weiler, and Louis Wittmore. Petit jurors were Frank Tacke, Herman Bremmermann, A. C. Vasterling, L. H. Graesle, and E. A. Johnston.

Edward F. Regenhardt, President Howard Taft's tall friend, and Charles H. Daues guided visitors through the \$98,000 building, pointing out its grandeurs. E. W. Flentge, postmaster, was very conscious of his custodianship of this symbol of public pride, and George Randol, caretaker who first opened the building's doors March 13, 1910, remained with the building until he retired 43 years later.