

## = Delta County Courthouse =

The Delta County Courthouse is a historic , three @-@ story courthouse building in the city of Cooper , in Delta County , Texas , United States . The building is located at 200 West Dallas Avenue , and functions as the meeting place for the county government . The building also houses all of the county records . The county 's first courthouse was built in 1873 , in Cooper . A courthouse was built to replace the original in 1898 . After the Great Depression , the new courthouse was built by the Works Progress Administration ( WPA ) , helping the community to grow . The building has remained virtually unchanged since .

## = = History = =

### = = = Background = = =

During the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1868 , the delegates paid attention to northeastern portion of the state , especially the increasing need for the creation of new counties in the region . At the time , there were a total of twenty counties located in the region , compared to twenty @-@ three presently . The convention originally met to write a new state constitution , but members quickly tried to shift the focus to other issues . During the convention , the Committee on Counties and County Boundaries presented proposals for the creation of three new counties in the region . They were to be called Delta , Webster , and Richland . Delta County was established on July 29 , 1870 , by the Twelfth State Legislature . The proposals for Webster and Richland counties , however , were not passed .

### = = = Creation and development = = =

After Delta County was established , it held its first election on October 6 , 1870 . The first five members of the county commissioners board were chosen in the election . Cooper was established as the county seat for the newly formed county . However , a courthouse was not established for the county government until 1873 . Constructed in the county seat , the courthouse was built in the town square . Confederate and Union veterans of the Civil War planted pecan trees on the square around the courthouse , to symbolize the end of conflict . The building , which was two stories tall , was designed by architects R.C. Andrews and E. Blackwell , for a price of approximately \$ 6000 ( equivalent to \$ 118 @,@ 500 in 2016 ) .

In 1898 , the newly incorporated city of Cooper passed a \$ 40 @,@ 000 bond ( equivalent to \$ 1 @,@ 137 @,@ 800 in 2016 ) to begin construction of a new , three @-@ story brick courthouse . While construction of the new courthouse was underway , the original courthouse was destroyed in a fire . Construction of the second courthouse was completed in 1900 .

Delta County 's economy plummeted in 1926 when the local cotton crop failed . The county 's economy was slow to recover , finally reaching a steady level in the late 1930s . In 1940 , the Works Progress Administration ( WPA ) began working on improving several items in Delta County . Among these projects was the demolition of the existing courthouse and the construction of a new one . The new courthouse was built at a cost of \$ 110 @,@ 450 ( equivalent to \$ 1 @,@ 865 @,@ 600 in 2016 ) . The courthouse was designed by architect Hook Smith . The building was constructed in a modern architecture style , and is three stories tall . The present courthouse was constructed two blocks west of the previous building , on the site of the former Blackwell Livery Stable , which had closed in 1912 . The site of the former courthouse is still surrounded by the brick roads that were constructed for the courthouse and is now home to a gazebo .

## = = Location and usage = =

The present courthouse is located at 200 West Dallas Avenue , two blocks west of the center of the

city of Cooper . The building and its property take up half of the city block . It is bordered by Texas State Highway 154 ( Dallas Avenue ) to the south , Bonham Avenue to the north , NW 2nd Street to the east , and a small alleyway to the west . The courthouse is located slightly south of the geographic center of Delta County . The courthouse serves as the offices for most of the county government , including the county judge , commissioners ' court , county auditor , clerk , sheriff , and the justice of the peace . The court also houses all of the county 's historical records .