

# Pierce County Courthouse

Photo taken by Ingrid Bjerstedt Rogers.



Pierce County was created in 1853. The original county seat was located in Prescott at the confluence of the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers. In the 1860's, the County Board decided to locate the county seat at a central location in the county on a high hill in the Town of Perry. The area was renamed Ellsworth after the first person killed in the Civil War, Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth. The original courthouse was built in 1879, and the present one was completed in 1905.

Weekday visitors to the Courthouse can see the inside of this 1905 structure where beautiful murals depicting the four corners of the county are preserved on the inside dome of the courthouse. The painting to the south is Maiden Rock with the Burlington Railroad track running below it, to the west is the Kinnickinnic River running between the rock wall of the Lone Pine Coulee in Clifton Township, on the North is the Kinnickinnic River, and on the east is the Eau Galle River in Spring Valley. This building, located at 414 W. Main Street, was constructed for a cost of \$80,000 and was completed in 1906.

On the front lawn of the courthouse stands an Austrian Cannon 88 from World War I. The cannon was obtained from an arsenal in New Jersey. Along with the cannon, a memorial to those residents of Pierce County who have served in the armed forces stands with names etched in stone.