

## RESTORATION

The Coryell County Historical Commission launched a **Restoration Project** campaign in 1986 to restore and renovate certain areas of the Courthouse. Replacements were needed for the bronze eagle and the two Goddess of Liberty statues which were destroyed during storms at some point in time. The two Goddess of Justice statues were restored at the same time. The renovation included the addition of an elevator, handicap access, central heat and air, a communications system, upgrade of electrical and plumbing systems, renovated restrooms and full utilization of the basement area for the Commissioners' Courtroom, storage areas, and the County Clerk's additional space to archive records. The District Courtroom false ceiling was removed; new chandeliers and fans designed like the originals were replaced, and the lighting for the Judges' bench was upgraded. The restoration cost to the County was \$1,022,000 with an additional cost of \$110,000 to repair the statues and eagle.

On July 28, 1988, the four statues were returned to their places on the roof and the eagle to its perch atop the bell tower. Western artist Don Hunt of Gatesville sculpted the replica of the eagle which had been missing most of the 20th century. The eagle was returned to its original location facing South toward Leon Street.

Gatesville held "A Centennial Celebration" in 1998. At that time, a statue by local artist Jon Brown, depicting the "spirit" of James Coryell was situated in the rotunda on the first level of the Courthouse. The *time capsule sealed on October 3, 1998* is beneath the statue where bench seating is available.

## MORE FACTS...

**Courthouse Perimeter Wall:** Built in the winter of 1898 -1899 by Tom Lovell, who also laid sidewalk and leveled the yard for \$2,350.

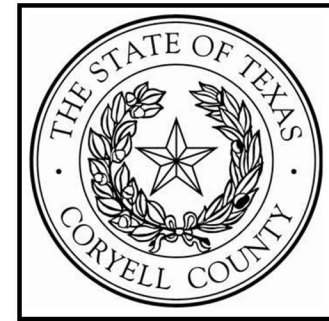
### Stained Glass Dome



**Additional Improvements/Facts:** During the depression years of the 1930's, the County was given a load of cement which was used to install a concrete floor in the basement and W.P.A. labor was used. In early 1960, a renovation estimated at \$85,000 was initiated to install a terrazzo tile floor on the first level, window air conditioners, and a false ceiling in the District Courtroom.

The Texas courthouse boom of the late 1800s known as the "Golden Age of Texas Courthouses" helped to bring architects from Europe and Eastern US, such as J. Gordon Reily, Alfred Giles, A.N. Dawson and Oscar Ruffini, who became famous around the state. With these architects came designs such as Second Empire, Romanesque Revival, Texas Renaissance Revival, Classical Revival and Beaux Arts.

Noted for the design of six courthouses in the state of Texas, Architect Dodson, a Waco resident, drew the courthouse plans in Lampasas, Parker, Hill, Hood, and Denton Counties between 1883 and 1896 with Coryell County being the last courthouse which depicts two styles of architecture.



## CORYELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE



620 EAST MAIN STREET  
GATESVILLE, TEXAS

