

White County Courthouse

The White County Courthouse has been an important part of Searcy and Arkansas history for a long time. White County was founded October 23, 1835 and the first courthouse was a log building built in 1839. After that, Israel M. Moore donated land for a new courthouse. There was a question about the land ownership, which was settled by the United States Supreme Court in 1839. The court ruled that Moore owned the land, which he then re-donated for the new White County Courthouse.

In November 1859, a committee reported the need for a new courthouse, but the Civil War postponed plans until 1869. The present courthouse was built in 1871 and remodeled in 1912. This courthouse is the oldest Arkansas courthouse still being used for its original purpose.

According to Searcy, Arkansas: A Frontier Town Grows Up With America by Raymond Lee Muncy, "The courthouse was an imposing structure. Rising above the center of the building was an ornate tower containing one of Arkansas' oldest town clocks. There is a bell in the tower which resembles the Liberty Bell."

In the yard of the courthouse are a Civil War monument and a monument honoring soldiers of World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. There is also a Vietnam Memorial at the courthouse.

The courthouse, which is 138 years old, is still a very important place to the people of Searcy and White County. They may be involved in court there, or they may go to a social event or even vote there.

Mary-Lou Dunn, great-granddaughter of Israel M. Moore, says "Think of all the stories this old courthouse could tell about the people of this town from its beginning until now."

I hope the people of Searcy always take care of our Courthouse so that it will always be here.

Caily Moore

10-year old 4th grader at Harding Academy