



Richland Co. Sheriff's Office - Richland County History Room photos.

### Richland County Sheriff's Office and Jail, 179 West Seminary Street -1904.

Designed in the Romanesque Revival style by architect Lew Porter, this red brick hip roofed building is characterized by twin round two-story towers with conical roofs, small round frieze windows, and Tudor arched windows. Corbeled brick, white stone lintels and sills, a white stone elevated foundation, and a triple arched entrance further characterize the jail and former sheriff's residence. When erected in 1904, it appeared as an imposing, modern structure to Richland Center citizens. Its basement contained the kitchen and dining room for the use of the sheriff's family. The sheriff's quarters and office occupied the front part of the building while the remainder contained separate cells for female, male, and juvenile prisoners. The third floor contained the hospital and the building accommodated 15 to 20 prisoners. In 1909 revamping the building became highly recommended; the space was cramped, the plumbing inadequate, transients housed on the same floor as the prisoners, and minor offenders adjacent to hardened criminals. Tramps and vagrants were finally segregated in 1932 to an old barn. In 1980, the county remodeled the jail building for use as the sheriff's department and added a new wing to the rear connected by a walkway.



The 1904 jail reflects some of the attitudes toward penal institutions in the later part of the nineteenth century. Counties often erected their jails adjacent to the courthouse which included the sheriff's residence giving the institution an aura of paternalism. In addition to containing felons, they also housed the homeless, poverty-stricken, orphaned, and insane.





Sheriff D.O. Dietzman during prohibition era. The Richland Observer newspaper archive.