

at the end of the tour, the prisoners had to spend their time in these small jail cells for the duration of their sentence. Upon entering the Jail, your first stop is the “booking room” where you will see a display of vintage law enforcement equipment (right) and the official Sheriff’s record of prisoners dating back to the early 1900s. Your next stop is the two room jail cell (from the

Booking Room of the



Holding Cell or “Drunk Tank”



1881 jail) which was built into the “new” 1897 Jail and became the “holding cell” or “drunk tank” (left). This is a favorite photo opportunity for many visitors to the Jail

Museum! From there you tour two floors of jail cells. Originally designed to house two prisoners in each cell, the first and second floors of the jail could accommodate up to 24 inmates. Today, these jail cells house exhibits that highlight businesses, occupations, and life as it was lived in Clark County in the late 1800s and early 1900s. (i.e.- *Lumber & Logging Days, Barber shop, Doctor’s Office, Mercantile, One-room Schools, Laundry, and Judges’ Chamber*).

The final part of the tour takes you to the third floor of the jail building. This area originally housed any women or children that were confined at the

Telephone Operator



jail. Today this floor houses several exhibits. You can tour the 1940’s *Telephone Company Office* (above), complete with a lady operator who will gladly “connect your call” at the switchboard. Then spend time looking at our *Military Collection*. This exhibit displays the Museum’s flags, uniforms, pictures, newspapers and other

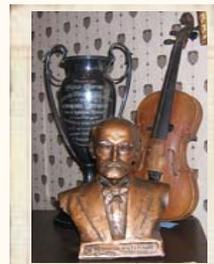
Military Floor



military memorabilia from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, WWI, WWII, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. All of

these items have been donated by area residents so we can all take time to remember the brave men and women, who served and sacrificed for all of us, in service to our country and the freedoms we all enjoy.

The Museum is also home to the *Listeman Family* memorabilia and archives. This talented family, with local ties, were world travelling musicians and an opera singer.



Bernhard Listeman
(The first Concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra)

1897 Clark County Jail Museum and Sheriff’s Residence

215 E 5th Street PO Box 41
Neillsville, WI 54456
Ph: 715.743.2150
Email: 1897ccjm@tds.net



Open Sundays 1-4 pm

(Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day)

Admission Cost:

Adults \$3.00 Students \$2.00
(Children Under Age 5— Free)

[Call for Private or Bus Tour Group Rates]

www.1897clarkcountyjail.com

The 1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax deductible donations are gratefully accepted at PO Box 41, Neillsville, WI 54456.

Built in 1897, Clark County's third County Jail was also home for each Sheriff and his family (during his term of office) from 1897 to 1974. For 77 years each newly elected Sheriff would move his family, their personal belongings and furniture into this Victorian home and live in the three-story residence. At the same time, the entire Sheriff's Department operated from within the attached County Jail, which was located in the back section of the building.



Clark County Jail and Sheriff Residence

It was a busy place—at all hours of the day and night. Prisoners would enter the Jail through the side (west) door, which was just a few steps away from the County Courthouse. Once inside the Jail, the Sheriff and his deputies would conduct the department's business including, guarding the prisoners. The Sheriff's family, in the attached residence, would go about their daily activities, which for the Sheriff's wife included the added (and unpaid) responsibility of cooking the meals and laundering the clothes for all prisoners. When the Sheriff's term of office ended, the family moved out with all of their personal belongings, making room for the next

newly elected Sheriff and his family to move into their new home.

In 1978, when Clark County's new (4th) jail was built, the County Board of Supervisors allowed the Clark County Historical Society to lease and renovate this old Jail building. Today, thanks to the restoration efforts of those dedicated volunteers, this historic building operates as a local museum and history research center. Incorporated as the 1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc. (501(c)(3) non-profit organization), the Museum is:



Open for public tours

(Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day)

Each Sunday from 1-4 pm.

Private and Bus tours available – By Appointment

Ready to start your tour?

Masons who built the Jail Museum



Meat your Tour Guide at the front door of the Sheriff's residence. They will tell you about the construction of this house and jail, the history of Clark County, its founders, businesses and of course, the sheriffs who lived in this lovely house. Built at a cost of \$15,000—seven masons

(left) helped build the castle-like structure in about six months in 1897. Local hardwoods were used for the interior construction, including the staircase, formal parlors, beautiful pocket doors and original casements and molding throughout the house.

Sheriff's Residence — Kitchen



The kitchen (at right) was renovated in 2010 to resemble the 1930s kitchen, with a wood burning stove and a 1927 GE refrigerator, both donations to the museum.

Vintage Jewelry Store



The second floor of the residence has 5 bedrooms where the Sheriff's family slept. Today, these bedrooms house museum exhibits, displayed in themed settings; like the *Children's Bedroom*, a *Jewelry Store* (above), *Records Room* (local, school, county, family books and documents) and one room used to showcase (temporary) displays of Clark County interest.

Now it's time to tour the Jail in the back of the building. As museum visitors, you will walk through the same steel doors that the prisoners did, so many years ago. But, while our visitors are allowed to leave