

Mercer County Courthouse and Jail Expansion



Stanton, North Dakota

Year Completed: 2017

Electrical Construction: \$1,651,720

Project Manager: Paul Soderquist

Project Foremen: Ryan Holweger
& David Kritzberger

Architect: Klein McCarthy & Co., Ltd.

The \$11 million Mercer County Courthouse and jail expansion project consisted of an addition that joined the existing courthouse with the nearby law enforcement center/jail and a remodel of both older buildings. The addition included a new jury courtroom, court administration space, jury deliberation, indoor rec area, full service kitchen, two dormitories and tow pod like situation cells and other court support areas. The jails addition of 28 beds increased the total to 54 beds that included dedicated medical services.

The Sheriff's department was reconfigured to better accommodate the staff needs and the jail is now connected to the court room, eliminating the escort of inmates outside and through public and staff areas. Bergstrom served as the prime electrical contractor on the job and started construction in early 2016.

The electrical portion of the project included:
800A/480V service
130,000 feet of wire
36,000 feet of EMT
471 light fixtures

And complete installation of:

- Lighting control system
- Fire alarm system
- Data/Comm system
- Sound Systems



- Video recording system
- Security system

A unique security system for the jail and courtroom was installed. The cameras were equipped with microphones, personnel were equipped with personal duress devices, door lock controls with monitors and all receptacles, lighting and water are controlled by the officers in a master control room through a PLC program.

One challenge was that the site was built on an old Indian Village and the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office was on site and they were digging test pits a 1/4" at a time and washing all the dirt through a screen to preserve artifacts, etc. Bergstrom was not allowed to dig through one area after discovering an old fire pit. NDSHPO directed Bergstrom's crew to offset the pipes to the top of the soil, have infill brought in to cover them, and then put a concrete slab over the top for preservation of this area.

The project took an estimated 8,965 man-hours and was completed in September of 2017.

