

Operation: Old Orange County Courthouse

Originally built in 1901, the Santa Ana Courthouse is the oldest court building in southern California. The building is relatively unchanged since its construction and provides a unique glimpse into early life in Orange County. At the time of its construction, the courthouse served a county population of 19,000 residents. As the population of the county grew, additions were made to the building to accommodate more people.

The original building on this site was not a courthouse. What was it? Head to the north parking lot to see if you find any additional evidence of the original building. What did you find?

Hint: Look for the brick and stone outline.



Clue: Find the scales of justice visible on the carved balcony on the side of the building. Look for the key you need to solve this operation.

As you walk around the Courthouse,
count your steps. You can total your
steps below:

_____ steps to the key

_____ steps back to your car

_____ total steps

When this Courthouse opened in 1901,
the main way that people got around
was on foot. Imagine if you had to
walk from your house to the
Courthouse. How many steps do you
think it would take?

Hint: It takes about 2,000 human steps
to walk a mile.



Did you figure out what the original building on this
site was? Sketch the brick and stone outline you
found in the north parking lot.