

Summit County Courthouse

The stately beauty of the Colonial Revival-style county courthouse is what beckons visitors up its sandstone steps and through its double glass doors. The interior, however, is why people return to the grand building that was officially dedicated on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1910.



The most striking architectural features in the octagonal main-floor hall are the magnificent golden-oak staircase and woodwork and the high ceiling from which a chandelier is suspended. Behind the reception desk is a handsome quilt that depicts various historical county places and industries. A booklet that provides more detail about the quilt's squares is on the counter for visitors to peruse. Hanging on all hallway and office walls are photos of historic sites and county "pioneers." Upstairs is the favorite, and largest, room, the current BOCC Room; originally it was the district courtroom. "Clusters of globes" hang from the beautiful pressed-tin ceiling, and eight windows let in plenty of light. Minerals found in the county are displayed in a large exhibit case in the upper lobby. Originally the lower floor contained a one-cell jail and an apartment for the building's custodian and his family. Now the only sign of a jail is the peephole through which jailers could see inmates.

Notable exterior details are the four-sided cupola that shimmers in the sunlight and two pediments that feature mining and railroading scenes in bas-relief on pressed zinc. Onlookers often try to figure out which painted scene represents mining and which represents railroading.

Directions: The Summit County Courthouse is located at 208 Lincoln Ave., Breckenridge, between Ridge and French Streets. From Blue River Plaza in the center of Breckenridge, proceed north on Main Street (toward Frisco) for one block to the stoplight at Main and Lincoln. Turn right (east) and proceed one block to Ridge. The Courthouse is located on the left side of the street.