

## CCHS Heritage Notes for 4-22-14

The dedication of a new municipal building in Vermillion on Thanksgiving Day in 1920—built in conjunction with the city's light plant on the corner of Center and National—became a matter of primary concern for the various women's organizations because of its inclusion of a women's rest room. Following the rejection of a proposal to erect a separate adjoining structure for the fire department by a tie vote in April 1918, a revised plan was drawn up. This proposed a larger two story building that would not only provide additional office room and quarters for fire equipment, but also City Council Chambers, a firemen's club room and public rest room for women.

A proposed \$60,000 bond issue for the structure was approved in the April 1919 city election by a vote of 469 to 139. Approximately a third of the total vote was cast by women voters, using their voting right for the first time in a Vermillion municipal election.

Through the energetic efforts of various women's organizations, the new rest room was completely furnished by the time the building was available for public use. Initial fixtures included a table, rocking chairs, a crib and wall pictures. Following its formation in March 1921, the Civic Council assumed the responsibility for providing whatever furnishings were required for the women's public rest room located in Vermillion City Hall.