



Welcome to Ironwood's Municipal Memorial Building. The building's cornerstone was laid on November 11, 1922 to commemorate the armistice that

ended World War I four years earlier.

The Memorial Building is Greek Ionic architectural design with gray terra cotta exterior finish. Standing at the diagonal intersection of two streets, it is irregular pentagonal in form, and has two fronts. The location is just at the edge of Ironwood's business district.



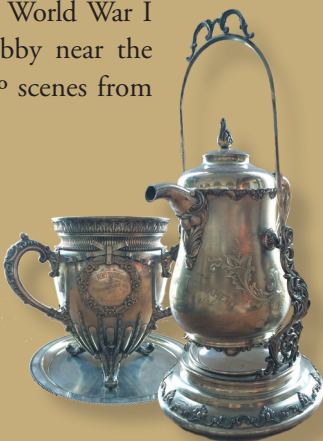
More than just home to the City of Ironwood offices, the Memorial Building is both a living memorial to local war veterans and a tribute to the community spirit that built it. American Legion Post No. 5, Ironwood Women's Club and Mayor James A. O'Neill led the effort to raise more than \$750,000 including interior furnishings in bonds issued for the building, a feat receiving national attention because Ironwood's population was only 17,000 in 1922. Remodeling in 1996 cost more than \$1.6 million; evidence of continuing community support for this multi-purpose building.

THE MEMORIAL LOBBY

As you enter the building's main lobby notice a life size statue of a World War I Doughboy; four bronze tablets honoring local men who served during the Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War I and circling the pentagram-shaped lobby near the ceiling is a frieze of paintings with 360° scenes from Ironwood early mining days.

IRONWOOD FIREMEN

Behind, on the lobby's east entrance wall is the Volunteer Fire Department's trophy case. The Volunteer Fire Department "saving lives" since 1887 takes pride in their heroic abilities.



THE AUDITORIUM FOYER

The next destination on the self-guided tour is to the right. Step into the



Foyer hall. Look up along either end and along the sides of the hall. There are eleven lunettes containing murals depicting an allegorical history of the progress of Gogebic County. The first mural is behind you as you enter the Foyer. At the far end of the foyer is a stairway leading to the Auditorium's balcony foyer.

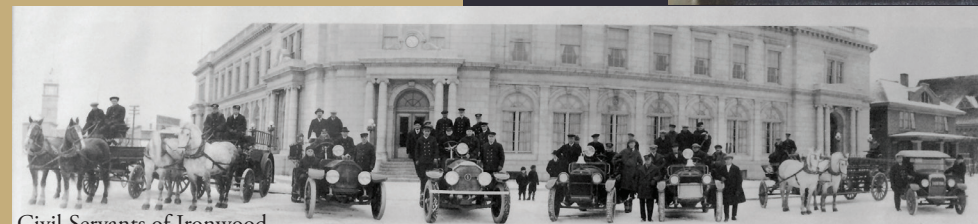
THE AUDITORIUM

Enter the Auditorium through any of the three double doorways. As you walk through, you will soon feel the vastness of this space. There is not a post supporting the balcony to cast a shadow or mar the acoustic properties.

The Auditorium is daylighted by 47 art glass windows. Shown are depictions from U.S. Air Force, Army, Calvary, Infantry, Marines, Medical Corps, and Navy to the Spanish War, Civil War and American Red Cross windows. Take time to explore each of these beautiful pictorial windows.

The Auditorium retains its original balcony seats, bronze-domed ceiling lights and richly decorated, ornamental proscenium stage.

Return to the Memorial Lobby before you climb the Grand Stairway. On your left, walk down the Municipal Offices corridor. Meander the hallway to see historic photos of Ironwood.



Civil Servants of Ironwood

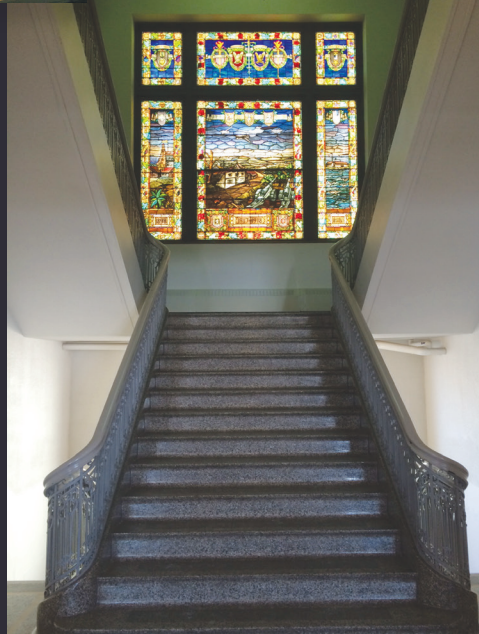
THE GRAND STAIRWAY

As you reach the first landing on the Grand Stairway's marble steps, stop to examine closely the six stained glass windows. The large center panel is a replica of the Battle of Argonne. Surrounding it are five art glass panels depicting the Civil War, Spanish-American War and memorial crests.

At the base of the Grand Stairway, steps on either side lead to the basement, housing a gymnasium, public swimming pool, showers,



storage areas and mechanical room.



Self-Guided Tour of the IRONWOOD MEMORIAL BUILDING



Dedication of the Ironwood Memorial Building- August 28, 1923



WOMEN'S CLUB ROOM

At the top of the Grand Stairway is the Women's Club Room. The Memorial Building would not exist if it were not for the Ironwood Women's Club. The IWC played a unique role in the promotion, planning and building of this Ironwood landmark. Organized in 1916, the club became an invaluable contributor to social welfare programs, women's suffrage, political rights issues and education. It supported Ironwood's Commercial Club (Chamber of Commerce) in its push to have a municipal memorial building constructed. The Women's Club was rewarded with a permanent home, a clubroom in the Memorial Building.



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BANQUET HALL

Adjoining the Women's Club Room through three partition dividing glass doors is the Banquet Hall. This hall was used by the IWC and other civic organizations.



Currently the Banquet Hall is home for the Ironwood Area Historical Society iron mining and Ironwood history exhibit. Future expansion for more exhibits is planned. Venture into this exhibit area just to the left of the Women's Club Room. Prior to walking into the exhibit area, notice the 1895 photograph of Ironwood outside the Women's Club Room; Ironwood in its early pioneer days.

The Auditorium balcony is accessible through the Banquet Hall corridor side doors. Step out onto the auditorium balcony and enjoy all the stained glass windows up close.

The wing opposite the Banquet Hall is occupied with municipal offices, the social security administration, council chambers and municipal court room. More historic photographs can be viewed along the walls of this corridor.

AMERICAN LEGION POST #5

Legion headquarters is located in the basement, with a separate entrance from McLeod Ave. Until recently, Friday Fish Fries were served in the Legion's meeting room. If open, step inside the Legion to see the many historic photos and mementos of Ironwood's wartime heroes.



The Ironwood Memorial Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was not only built as a memorial to war veterans, alive or dead, but as a facility to house the city's various government offices. It was also constructed to be utilized by the public for a variety of purposes. It has not outlived its usefulness. It has served generations and will continue to do so.

The Memorial Building's legacy will be its continuing ability to meet the community's needs and define its spirit.

City of Ironwood Memorial Building
213 S. Marquette St., Ironwood, MI 49938
906-932-5050
cityofironwood.org



This brochure is made possible with funding from the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority (DIDA). Together with the City of Ironwood, Michigan we welcome you to a region rooted in history and planting the future.

Open the door and look inside the Memorial Building.

Snap this QR code to stay connected to Ironwood, a City with opportunities, adventure and history.



“To Remember Those Who Gave For Us”

A lasting tribute to all veterans,
living and dead, present and future,
of all branches of the military.