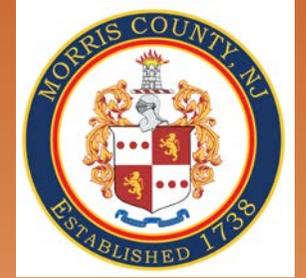


COUNTY OF MORRIS COURT FACILITIES CONSIDERATIONS



- County Administrator John Bonanni
 - Introduction
- Assignment Judge Stuart Minkowitz
 - Court Space Challenges
- Sheriff James M. Gannon
 - Security and Navigation
- Law & Public Safety Director Scott DiGiralomo
 - Life Safety Concerns
- County Engineer Christopher J. Vitz
 - Courthouse Expansion

COURT SPACE CHALLENGES

ASSIGNMENT JUDGE STUART MINKOWITZ

- Nearly impossible to modify space
- Utilization of space is at full capacity
- Difficult to ensure efficiency in any of the operational divisions
- Mostly small rooms scattered about the complex
- Divisions are separated by floors and in some cases buildings



4th Floor closet converted to an office



2nd Floor copy/supply room converted to office

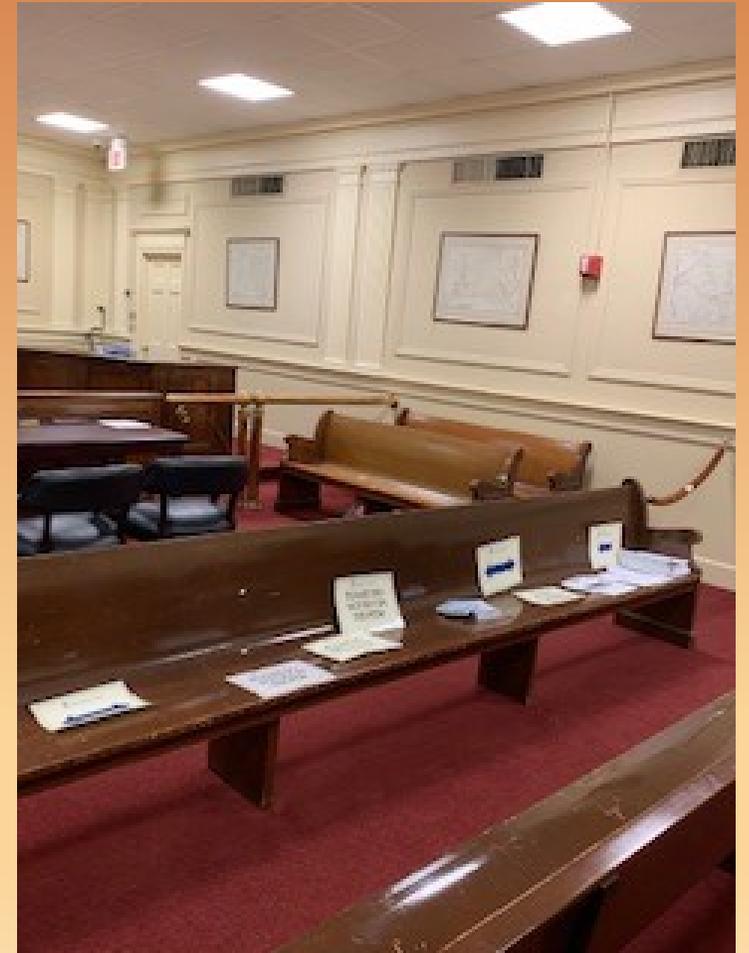


- Lack of modern technology in courtrooms, including power sources to support charging stations and smart technology.
- Exposure of wires on floors in order to support technology.
- The galleries in the courtrooms accommodate no more than 49 people (often with standing room only).

- Due to the gallery limitations, the selection of juries requires multiple panels and significant wait time before determination of juror eligibility.
- Judges have no separation from the public to gain access to chambers and courtrooms.



- Training Rooms were eliminated to create offices for staff and secure space for Grand Jury.





- Criminal jury rooms are cramped and uncomfortable.
- Sixteen (16) jurors are empaneled for lengthy criminal trials.
- The jury spends hours and hours in a 11'4" x 15' 10" jury room.
- During trial and deliberation, jurors must have sufficient space to consider evidence and foster thoughtful consideration.

FACILITIES CHALLENGES

- Access for the disabled is impossible in some areas of the courthouse, and difficult at best in the rest of the courthouse.
- Needed repairs that cannot be addressed without approval from Historic Preservation and specialized contractors, causing lengthy delays.
- Lack of safe accommodations for vulnerable litigants and visitors, including victims of domestic violence and violent crime, as well as undercover police officers and confidential witnesses.
- Judges are placed into vulnerable security positions, and subjected to inappropriate communications with litigants and attorneys that might affect the outcome of the court proceeding.

GROWTH OF COURT SERVICES

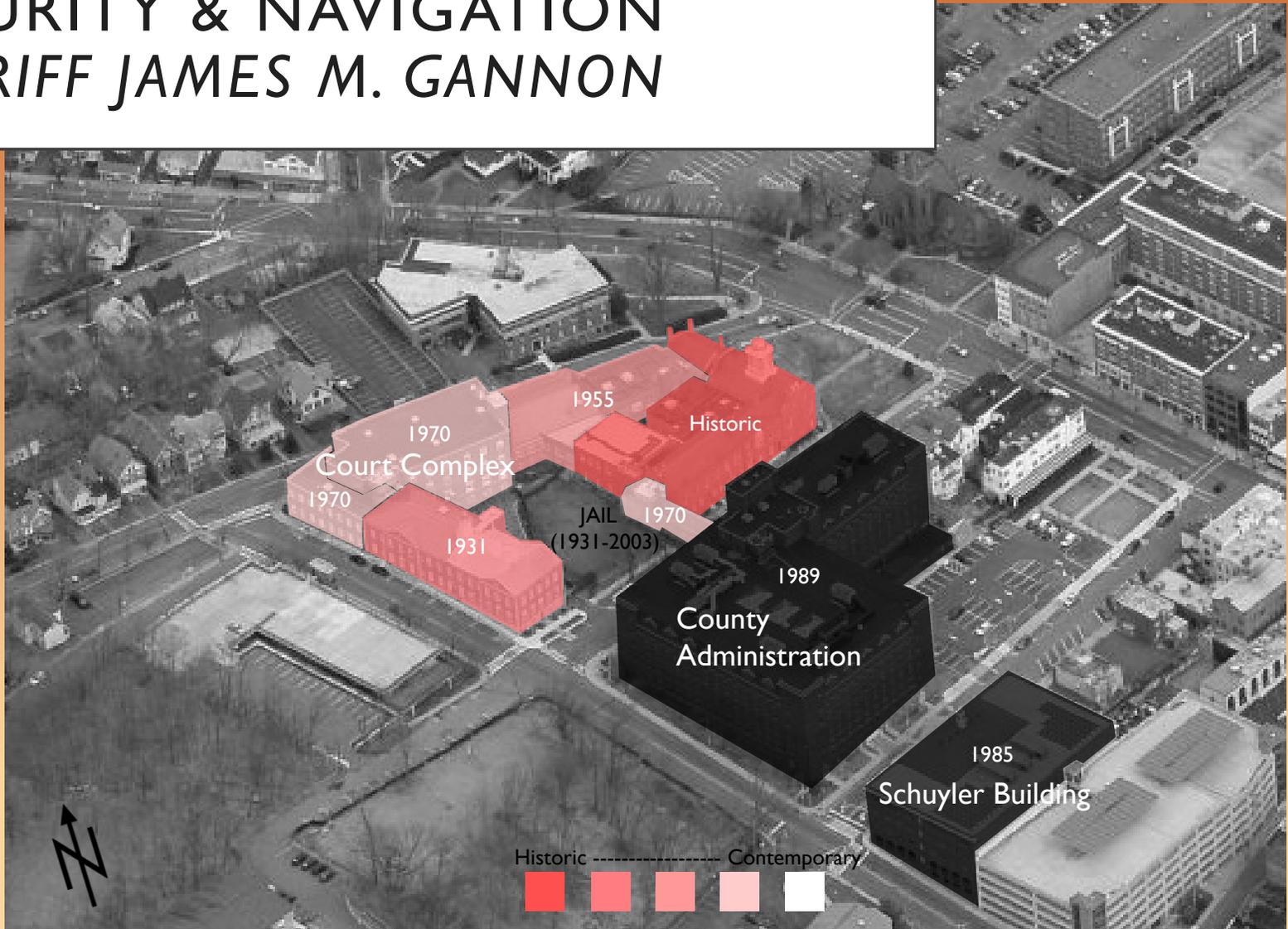
- The court's presence is not reducing, but getting larger, as we are tasked with more participation in social programs.
- With the last addition to the courthouse in 1974, there were 10 judges assigned to Morris County. When the four courtrooms in the Administration & Records building were built in 1992 there were 14 judges assigned to Morris. Currently, Morris County has 19 full-time judgeships assigned, 3 recall judges, 1 full-time Tax Court judge, 3 hearing officers and a Central Judicial Processing courtroom.
- In 1974 Morris County filings were 6,081. In 2018 filings were up to 25,693.

SECURITY & NAVIGATION

SHERIFF JAMES M. GANNON

Building Ages/Groupings

- Historic Component (1827-1940s)
- 1931 Addition
- 1955 Addition
- 1970 Addition
- 1970 Bridge
- 1985 Schuyler Bld'g. expanded
- 1989 County Admin. Building Expanded



SECURITY

- About 600,000 persons in 2018 were screened at the Courthouse Complex.
- 170 Prohibited items removed from visitors:
 - Knives
 - Pepper spray
 - Scissors
 - Throwing stars
 - Lock pick kits
 - Handcuff keys



THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FACES:

- **Security Challenges** – an increased threat picture, with no set backs off the street; challenge keeping litigants, witnesses, victims, survivors, and defendants apart from each other, managing threats against Judges and the like. The movement of prisoners in public hallways is always a concern.
- **Restrictions due to National Historic Site requirements**
- **Difficult navigation and wayfinding for seniors, public, and attorneys unfamiliar with the Courthouse, complex, handicapped and non-handicapped Visitors** - lack of ADA compliance and circulation limits of someone trying to enter and traverse the courthouse complex in a wheelchair; difficult for people without disability due to stair pitch.
- **Safety Challenges** - lack of fire suppression system, poor egress, slip/ falls, and the like. This is very problematic during rapid evacuation drills.

LIFE SAFETY CONCERNS LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR SCOTT DIGIRALOMO

VERTICAL OPENINGS

- 7 out of 10 stairwells are considered to be open vertical stairways that need to be enclosed. Enclosure also impacts means of egress.
- Building separation of historic structure could eliminate need.



Freeholder

-

19



10

LIFE SAFETY CONCERNS

MEANS OF EGRESS

- Main entrance needs to be capable of 50% building occupancy load.
- Courtrooms 1, 5, 6 and 7 have reduced occupancy (49 persons) due to single means of egress (only one way out).

COMBUSTIBLE INTERIOR FINISH

- Courtrooms 1, 10, 11 and 12 have a greater than allowed amount of combustible interior trim.

WINDOWLESS STORIES

- Basement areas greater than 3,000 sq feet require sprinklers.
- Potential installation of ballistic glass on Western Avenue could create a windowless story requiring sprinkler installation.

COURTHOUSE EXPANSION

COUNTY ENGINEER CHRISTOPHER VITZ



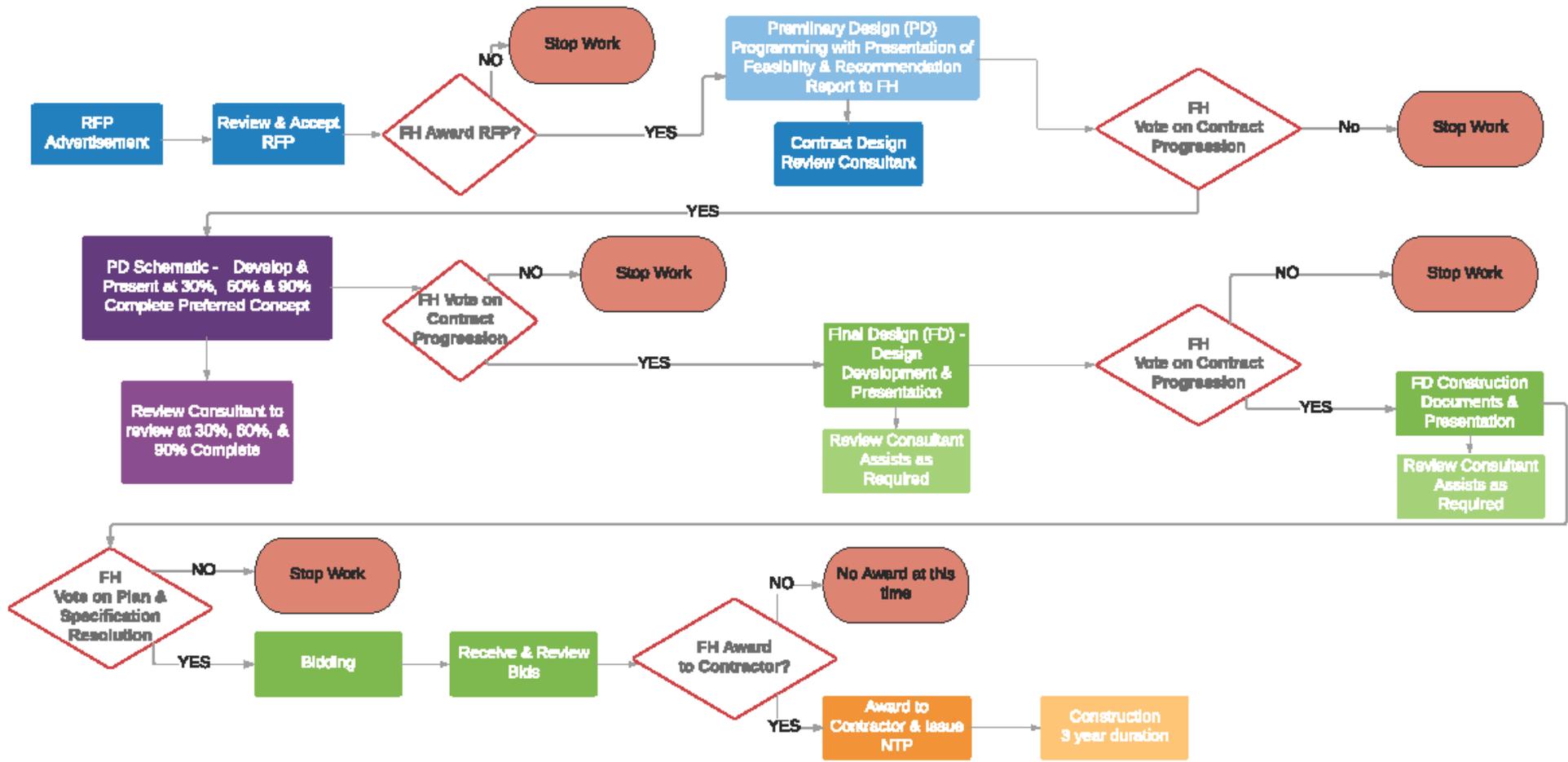
BENEFITS OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

- The expansion will allow the entire Criminal Court function to move from the existing historic courthouse into a new building that meets the current function, safety, and mobility needs required for court facilities.
- Constructing 8 new court rooms and collegial space for judges on the Schuyler Place parking lot will not result in any loss of property ratables as the County already owns this property.
- Legal services and functions will remain within the complex for the duration of construction.
- Proximity to compatible uses, secure parking, and safe inmate transfers achieved.
- The relocation of Criminal Court functions provides space within the historic courthouse to allow for relocation and renovation. We can keep intact the historic fabric of the 1827 and 1850s structure for future generations and adaptively reuse the space for civil court functions and other uses.
- Design and construction of this new space for Criminal Courts will allow Morris County to remain the hub of Northern New Jersey's legal system well into the future.

CHALLENGES OF TEMPORARILY RELOCATING COURT SERVICES

- Extended lease periods for each court set
 - Location(s) have not been identified
 - Costs are unknown
- Need for renovation of temporary space
- Division and expansion of Sheriff's security
- The legal industry in Morristown contributes \$170 million to our economy annually. Losses in revenues from temporary relocations would be significant.

Preliminary and Final Design of the Morris County Courthouse Expansion PERT Chart



NEXT STEPS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JOHN BONANNI

- This presentation has been videoed and will be posted tomorrow on the County's website: <https://morriscountynj.gov/>.
- Also posted will be this PowerPoint presentation and the Space Needs Assessment Full Report and Executive Summary. Redactions of these documents have been made to protect the safety and security of those that use the facilities and the structures themselves.
- Public comment may be provided this evening and at the Freeholder Public Meeting on January 23rd at 7:00 pm.
- Comments may also be submitted through a form posted with the previously mentioned materials on the County's website. Comments will be accepted for 30 days, ending Friday, February 8th.
- Thank you for your attention and consideration.