

# HISTORY OF THE MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBAL OFFICES BUILDING



photo courtesy of [Raynor Memorial Libraries](#)





# HISTORY FACTS

The Tribal Office Building was built in 1929 and originally served as a hospital. The name of the hospital was St. Joseph's Hospital. The wings of the building were added in 1930. The capacity of the hospital was 60 beds and the total cost to construct the building was \$63,073.23. The hospital was staffed with mission volunteers with the exception of the doctor. He was the only salaried employee.

Shortly after termination, in 1961 the Hospital closed. Prior to termination, the hospital had been completely funded by the Menominee Tribe. Because of costs associated with termination the treasury account was severely depleted and the tribe could no longer afford to fund the hospital. Although many Menominee tried to find alternative funds to maintain the hospital, the state stepped in and closed it on the grounds that it did not meet state fire standards. The cost to bring the building up to code would be too much so the Voting Trust which had assumed control of the tribal assets at that time decided that it would not be possible to keep the hospital open.

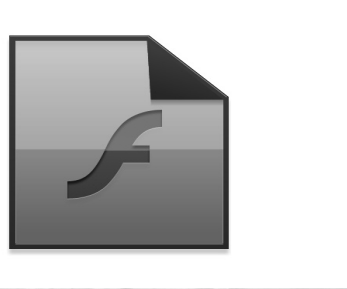
After the hospital had closed, the building was used as county offices until 1973. It then became headquarters for the Menominee Restoration Committee and operated as Tribal Offices as it is today.

## Works Cited:

Shames, Deborah, Coordinating Editor: FREEDOM WITH RESERVATION. The Menominee Struggle To Save Their Land and People.



At one point after the St. Joseph's hospital had closed the basement of the building was occupied by the Tribal Jail. The Police Department was located on the first floor.





# PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

(These items are personal accounts and memories of past events that add to the history of the Tribal Office Building)The information below was shared by some employees of MITW and is based on memories they have of the current Tribal Office Building.

When the building operated as a hospital, the area where the current boardroom is was much smaller. It housed the Chapel. The basement below the Chapel was the nuns living quarters. Later on, an addition was built making the boardroom the size it is today.

The kitchen was on the first floor where the Chair's Office is currently located and you could smell the food as you walked past. The nursery was on the second floor where Finance is currently located and you could sometimes hear the babies.

The operating room was located in the current Accounts Payable area. The morgue was located in the basement across from Enrollment and the ambulance was located on the basement level where IT is currently located.

The hospital also housed a Dental Office which was located on the first floor. The Administrative Office was located where the current Meeting Room B is, and PMA was the outpatient area.

The men's ward is where Legal is currently located. The ladies ward is where Administration is currently located. X-ray was located in the current License and Permits Office.





# **SUBMIT A PERSONAL ACCOUNT ABOUT THE HISTORY OF TRIBAL OFFICES**

If you have a personal account of the history of the Tribal Offices Building or St. Joseph's Hospital please submit them here.





# HISTORIC PHOTOS OF TRIBAL OFFICES



*Above (left & right): both photos courtesy of [Menominee Historic Preservation](#)*

*To the left: photo courtesy of [College of Menominee Nation Special Collection](#)*

