

## St. Cloud Police Department Headquarters



Things have changed in St. Cloud since the first police headquarters was located in a cabin. In 1858 Bernard Overbeck agreed to keep the unruly in the cellar under his cabin. The following year the community made Bernard Overbeck the first and only police officer. He continued to work from his cabin home until 1866 when a new police station/jail was built due to “unfit” conditions at the cabin. The original cabin sits on the property of the Stearns History Museum and is the oldest structure in St. Cloud. After the cabin was abandoned, the County Board built a new jail and the police worked out of it until 1918.

**Police/Jail Building in 1866**



**Police Headquarters 1918-1987 (Courtesy of Stearns History Museum)**

In 1918 the police headquarters was moved to combine with City Hall on the banks of the Mississippi River. The police department grew to 14 officers at that time. This building served the department and the community until 1987.



**Law Enforcement Center**

The St. Cloud Police Department and Stearns County Sheriff's Department merged into one building in 1987 and formed the Law Enforcement Center in downtown St. Cloud. Upon moving to the Law Enforcement Center in 1987 the department had increased to 65 officers. The City of St. Cloud and the St. Cloud Police Department grew so fast in the 1990's that by the turn of the century most closets and storage rooms at the Law Enforcement Center were converted into work stations and office space. There were as many as six officers working in a space that was designed for one. The police department increased to 104 officers and 55 civilians. With the need for more space and no room to expand on the current site, the City moved forward with plans for a new building.



In 2006 residents of St. Cloud approved the funding for a new state of the arts police headquarters. Ground breaking for the new building was held on June 17, 2008. The new headquarters is located two blocks from the current Law Enforcement Center at 101-11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. It is a secure, fully functional headquarters with a large forensic lab located on the lower level with underground parking.