



MODERN TECHNOLOGIES PROTECT

Historic Landmark

CAMERAS BLEND WITH PELCO CUSTOM MATCH

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Founded in 1855, and in many respects still a farm community, Champaign, Illinois, is about 135 miles south of Chicago and is a blend of old and new, low- and high-tech. It is perhaps most well known for sharing the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with its neighboring city of Urbana and features a large technology and software industry. With a research park backed by the university, and many high-tech companies such as Intel and IBM having offices there – including a Yahoo! research facility – it is one of the technology hubs in a geographical area known as the Silicon Prairie.

From historic to modern, the City of Champaign's architecture is also notable, from new commercial projects opening this year to its oldest building dating back to 1850, two theatres from 1913 and the 1920s, and its City Building from the art deco period of the late 1920s and 1930s. With its ornate decoration and copper roof, characteristic of art deco, the historic City Building is still a prominent part of the downtown Champaign cityscape and serves as administrative offices as well as City Hall.

Form Meets Function

When city officials went looking for a video security system for this landmark, they needed to keep in mind the historic nature of the building. Originally used as headquarters for the fire department, it later became police headquarters before becoming the current city offices.

“One of their major concerns was centered around maintaining the aesthetics of the building while providing safety and security for city administrators. They also wanted exterior perimeter coverage

on the west side of the building for their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to observe the weather, and we determined they needed a PTZ for that purpose,” said Brad Juergens, Vice President Sales, Marketing, and Business Development for system integrator SEICO, Inc., located in Perkin, Illinois. “We chose Pelco because we knew they would get the job done, and our client also liked the Custom Match Program, so the exterior cameras would blend in with the building.”

Before looking to their integrator and Pelco, the city did not have a video security system at this facility. “And they knew they were at risk by having nothing at all. So we selected the equipment based on the city's objectives, keeping in mind mounting considerations, lighting conditions, aesthetics, ease of use, functionality, and above-horizon viewing for their weather monitoring requirements,” Juergens said.

“As a local government facility, city management identified the need to monitor activities in and around the City Building and uses the security system in two main ways,” said Jeff Hamilton,



Telecommunications/AV Technician for the city. “The first is to monitor entrances/exits, hallways, and areas in and around the building, watching for anything suspicious.” Hamilton said that the second use is for their Emergency Operations Center also located in the building. “During weather events, our EOC staff can use the outside cameras – particularly the Pelco Esprit System – to monitor incoming storms and monitor responders as they gain entrance into the building and EOC.”

Selected not only for their aesthetic design but also their functionality and overall capabilities, Spectra IV dome camera systems and Spectra Mini domes

are installed throughout the facility. In addition to the exterior Spectra domes, an Esprit Positioning System was selected and is used by the EOC staff to monitor weather conditions. Camclosure dome camera systems, a DVR5100 Series digital video recorder, and KBD5000 keyboard round out the main components of the installation.

“Most interesting is that we had the outside camera housings color-matched to the outside brick color. This is a historic building, and we wanted the cameras to blend in with the building as much as possible,” Hamilton said. “We have been extremely pleased with the level of

support from the Pelco factory, as well as our manufacturer’s rep, Keith Parker and Associates – especially Mark McCormack and Richard Sapitro, who were great and assisted with the entire project, from the initial demonstration to final deployment,” Juergens said.

SEICO designs, services and sells video security, access control, and burglary/fire alarm systems and has been protecting commercial, industrial, and financial businesses since 1972. According to Juergens, “The City of Champaign has multiple buildings they are looking at adding video security to and plan to use this project as a standard going forward.”