

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

INDIANA

COUNTY:

ORANGE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Orange County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Public Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Paoli

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Eighth (8th)

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY:

Orange

CODE

117

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☒ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) _____
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious _____
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Orange County, Indiana

STREET AND NUMBER:

Public Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Paoli

STATE:

Indiana

CODE

18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Orange County Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

Public Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Paoli

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

Capitol Hill

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington, D.C.

Post-it® Fax Note

7671

Date

3-21-06

of

pages

3

To D. KROLL

From

F. HURDIS

Co./Dept.

Co.

Phone #

Phone #

Fax #

433-4153

Fax #

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
INDIANACOUNTY:
ORANGE

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Orange County Courthouse is a fine example of Greek Revival temple style architecture executed with feeling, taste, and a consciousness of its surroundings. Five fluted doric columns cross the south facing main facade, and there are five pilasters running down each side, and four across the back. Even the back door which is seen on the approach from the north is carefully executed with pilasters, an entablature as well as transom and side lights.

The history of the Court House of Orange County, Indiana of which Paoli is the county seat is characteristic of many such structures in the State. The first court house was a log building erected about 1816 at a cost of about \$25.00 and was used only until such a time as a larger and more substantial structure could be erected. A second building was finished in 1818. Even before its completion in 1817, preparations were being made to build a permanent court house and the County Board decided to erect a "creditable building". This structure fulfilled the needs of the community until 1839, at which the Board finally agreed to prepare specifications for the present court house.

It was not until 1847, however, that the Board actually voted to erect a new and larger court house on the Public Square. The Court House Committee hired Andrew L. Burke to make the brick at \$7.50 per 1000 for the ordinary variety and \$10.00 per 1000 for those for the columns. Michael Ombaker was engaged to lay "stone foundation at \$1.25 per perch" and to erect brickwork, while William Harman was employed to do the woodwork.

All this labor seems to have been contracted for individually, no such thing as a "general contract" being drawn. Work on the structure was continued until 1850, when it was turned over to the county, fully finished at a cost of \$14,000. The building was considered in its day the handsomest and best built court house in southern Indiana. The columns are of the best brick covered with cement of great durability, while the capital is of plain hydraulic limestone quarried in the country just north of Paoli. Four chimneys stand on either side of the roof and two more stand on either side of the clock tower.

The distinct slope of the public square necessitates a high portico at the south end of the structure, although at the north end of the main floor is only three steps above grade. The building, 53 x 74, is simple in plan. The main floor is bisected longitudinally by a corridor 10 feet wide, with the county official's rooms either side. In order to reach the front doors of the building an iron staircase must be climbed to get to the first floor door. The second floor, approached by an iron stairway from the south portico, is devoted to the court room and its appendages. Both these were made by Seward and Co., a pioneer iron works in Bloomington, Indiana. At the center of the ridge is a cupola bearing a clock and weathervane, a gift of the citizens of Paoli, put up in 1856.

The interior of the building has undergone considerable alteration in order to maintain its usefulness to county government.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1847

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☒ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☒ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Orange County Courthouse is significant as one of the best examples of Greek Revival Architecture in the mid-west. This importance is compounded because it was built with local talent and interest on a site that has held the seat of Orange County government since its organization. The builders and designers clearly had in mind the relation of this building to the topography of the site and created a monumental impression with a relatively small building through the placement of the primary facade on the downhill slope.

Paoli is still a small, southern Indiana town and the Courthouse continues as the predominant feature on a very compatable square. Its stature and preservation reflect the importance of this building to the government, daily business, and politics of Orange County.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Architectural Forum, February 1928, "A Greek Revival Court House in Southern Indiana," by Rexford Newcomb, Professor of Architecture, University of Illinois.
 American Bar Association Journal, January 1969, Feature Article.
 The County Commissioner, Volume 4, #1, 1971
History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, Goodspeed Bros. and Co., Chicago 1889.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"		
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
No overlap			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		DATE
James M. Tucker, County Attorney		
ORGANIZATION		
Board of Commissioners, Orange County, Indiana	October 28, 1974	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Paoli	Indiana	18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE INDIANA	
COUNTY ORANGE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Orange County Courthouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC: 			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 			
Public Square			
CITY OR TOWN: 			
Paoli			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Indiana	18	Orange	117
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: 			
U.S. Geological Survey, 7.5 Series, Paoli, Indiana Quad			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1970			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



LATITUDE
38° 33' 22.5"

LONGITUDE
86° 28' 06"

ORANGE
COUNTY
COURT
HOUSE

