

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Indiana
COUNTY: Dubois
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Town Hall & Fire Engine House (Town Hall, City Hall)

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
311 Geiger Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Huntingburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
eighth

STATE: Indiana CODE: COUNTY: Dubois CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) vacant

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Huntingburg

STREET AND NUMBER:  
411 Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Huntingburg

STATE:  
Indiana

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Dubois County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Jasper

STATE:  
Indiana

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Not applicable

DATE OF SURVEY: N.A.  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
N.A.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
N.A.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 building, in its present condition, still maintains most of the simplified Victorian architectural styles that were originally designed into the building. The use of white stone to contrast with red brick (characteristic of Romanesque Victorian Gothic) is still prominent, as well as, the symmetrical frontal design reminiscent of Georgian and Early Republican buildings. The triangular pediment is still intact along with the cornice work under the eaves of the building.

This building is typical of many buildings in the Victorian Era. Much of the architecture was influenced by earlier periods and there was a constant process of taking earlier designs and copying or modifying them to suit the architect.

Some alterations have been made on the exterior appearance of the Town Hall. The chimneys have been removed; the cupola and bell removed (approx. 1953); a fire escape added and a concrete block addition; the windows boarded up and the front doorways walled from the inside.

The interior of the building has gone through more extensive renovation. The stage has been removed from the second floor; the first floor, which used to contain at least four rooms (council room, fire engine room, and two stores) is now one large room with a vault in the center.

Much of the building can be easily restored without losing the authenticity. The original plans for the stage are in the city's possession and the original bell (purchased in 1890 from the Cincinnati Foundry Company) is in the possession of a church fifteen miles south of Huntingburg. It is hoped that the building's exterior can be restored to its original style and the interior can be renovated into an Older Americans Center, a multi-functional community meeting center and a museum for local and county historical artifacts.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Town Hall, one of the oldest buildings in Huntingburg, is an example of 19th century, Victorian, opera-house architecture. It was the focal and gathering point for community activities (meetings, banquets, shows) and is associated with early businessmen and community leaders, many of whose decendents continue to live within the city and county.

A petition was filed on September 4, 1885, by Charles Schwartz on behalf of five-eighths of the citizen owners of taxable property, to build a fire engine house and town hall combined, the same to be forty-four feet wide and eighty feet long.

The building was designed by Henry Mursinna, a well known and quite active local architect, according to Howard Wooden in Architectural Heritage of Evansville. Wilbur Peat in Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century mentioned Mursinna as one of the prominent architects in Southwestern Indiana. Nearly every large town in this state had its local architect; J. H. Frick and Henry Mursinna were mentioned for this area by Mr. Peat. Mursinna designed many types of buildings (including houses, hospitals, churches and cathedrals) in the Evansville area, and utilized a variety of the styles of Victorian architecture. The building was built by local people: Herman Dickenson Co., General Contractors; Schlessing Brothers, bricklayers; and Herman Rothert, superintendent of construction. The building was received by the town on June 10th, 1866 and by August 10, 1866 Charles Offinger, local carpenter, was hired to build the stage (see enclosed zerox of original plan) on the second floor.

Located on the main street of the town, the City Hall was the hub of community activity. The building was multi-purpose, with two stores on the first floor, facing Geiger Street, a council room, and fire engine room. The second floor, with stage, was used for everything from theatre to meetings and conventions. While a totally concise list of renters does not exist, the

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries) Statement of Significance cont'd. #8

the years. Politics was discussed when the Republican and Prohibition Parties held meetings; entertainment was offered when the Bonton Dancing Club, the Gene Dramatic Co., The Germainia Comedy Co., and The Montezuma Co. rented the hall; and various civic meetings of the Fire Co., Knights of Columbus and Dubois County Alumni Association, as well as fund raisers like the Public School Library Benefit of 1890 were held.

Being a City Hall, major decisions about the future of the community were made here. After the Town became a city (late 1890's) the mayor had his office in the building and until that time the trustees held bi-monthly meetings deciding how to obtain water for the City, granting building permits, building streets, and making other decisions affecting the future of the City. The building was used as city offices until 1971 when the building was closed. Complete record books from 1866 (formation of the Town of Huntingburg) to 1974 are in the City's possession. Reading through the 1864-1890 books one finds the names of trustees, mayors, and citizens associated with the history of the City and the City Hall. These people were store owners down town (many of whose names still remain on buildings), lawyers, and just ordinary citizens whose decedents continue to work and live in the City. It is clear from these records that the City Hall symbolizes the cultural, social, political, & economical growth of the City and its forefathers.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Town Trustee Minutes of meetings (originals) 1884-1890.

Architectural Heritage of Evansville, Howard Wooden, Evansville Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1962.

Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, Wilbur Peat, Indiana Historical Society, 1962.

AUG 15 1974  
DIVISION  
MUS. & MEM.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 , "	0 , "		38° 17' 40"	86° 57' 25"	
NE	0 , "	0 , "				
SE	0 , "	0 , "				
SW	0 , "	0 , "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approx. .25 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N. A.			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Greg R. Hyer, Intern to the Mayor

ORGANIZATION: City of Huntingburg DATE: Aug. 14, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
511 Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Huntingburg STATE: Indiana CODE:

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS