

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL - No Sig.

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Steuben County Court House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Angola

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Steuben

CODE

151

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Steuben County

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Angola

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Steuben County Courthouse, Commissioners Record Vol. 5, pg. 290

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Angola

STATE

Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1867-1868, the Steuben County Courthouse is a two-story brick structure that generally reflects a New England influence. It illustrates a transitional phase between Greek Revival and Italianate architecture. The proportions and roof line are clearly derived from the Greek Revival while the decoration reflects a combination of Romanesque and Italianate.

The main facade of the building is the gable end facing the square and in this case the columns that would appear in a Greek Revival style building are represented by low relief pilasters joined at the top with semicircular arches. This pilaster and arch pattern is also used on the sides of the courthouse. The voids are filled with very tall (12 over 12 - three wide) windows on the second floor and a small simple (six over six) sash windows on the first. An unimposing double central door is located in the center void and is topped by a small balcony with an iron railing.

The gable end has a small sectioned circular window surrounded by a circle of relief brick work. The line of the gable roof is also emphasized by a line of relief running parallel to the gables. This creates a pair of interesting triangular shaped patterns in the gable end.

The eaves are graced by widely spaced paired and carved brackets and the roof is topped by a octagonal cupola with a square base, captains walk, and dome.

The Steuben County Courthouse is constructed of brick made at nearby Lake James by Holms and Miles of LaPorte, Indiana with Hiram A. Wakefield as the superintendent of construction. The foundation is field stone and the roof is still the original tile.

The interior has been altered to some extent to accommodate the changing role of the courthouse. An unobtrusive addition was put on the back in 1937. This structure is in good condition and continues to serve its original purpose.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      June 1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Steuben County Courthouse is in its development as an important functional structure housing the offices essential to the operation of Steuben County and as a well executed example of courthouse architecture.

In Indiana, courthouses become community centers for many reasons. Nearly everyone has some reason for coming to the courthouse -- if only to pay taxes. Because of the emphasis on county politics in Indiana it also becomes a center for political activity. This highly visible courthouse, like many others, has become a building that is familiar to the entire community. The Steuben County Courthouse has been serving this purpose for over a century.

It is not only the age of the Steuben County Courthouse that makes it significant, but also its architectural interest. Obviously based on a Greek temple format the detailing such as the paned, paired brackets and rounded arches over the voids bring an Italianate or Romanesque flavor to the building. Its simple, uncluttered look, especially exemplified by the first floor windows and door have made people notice its Federal characteristics. It is at least partly because of these fine architectural features that the Steuben County Courthouse has become a landmark in Angola.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Steuben County, Indiana 1885, pgs. 277 & 278

History of Northeast Indiana, Vol. 1, Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1920, p. 183

Orville Stevens, "100th Anniversary of Steuben County Court House", The Steuben Republican, April 7, 1968

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx 1.

UTM REFERENCES

A	116	6666665	4610890	B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Janis Kepler Layman (Mrs. Ralph E.)  
Ina Hubbell (Mrs. James)

ORGANIZATION

DAR

STREET & NUMBER

"Steinmont" (Layman) & 804 N. Wayne (Hubbell)

CITY OR TOWN

Hamilton (Layman) & Angola (Hubbell)

DATE

February 10, 1975

TELEPHONE

219-665-6734 (Hubbell)

STATE

Indiana

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER