

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL

**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

Montgomery County Jail and Sheriff's Residence

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

225 North Washington Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Crawfordsville

VICINITY OF

7th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Indiana

18

Montgomery

107

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Montgomery County

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse I

CITY, TOWN

Crawfordsville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Crawfordsville

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Engineering Record

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Montgomery County Jail, completed in June 1882, combines Romanesque, Gothic and Italianate architecture in a red brick structure with limestone trim and detailing. It cost, excluding land, \$26,000. The plans, drawn by E.J. Hodgson of Marion County, cost \$600. The iron work for the cells and rotary machinery were made by Benjamin Haugh of Indianapolis for \$10,850 and the building was constructed by Julian W. Hinkley and James Norris of Indianapolis and Burlington, Iowa at a cost of \$15,150.

This jail and sheriff's residence is built in two units connected by a short section only slightly smaller than the jail in cross section. The residence has 2½ stories with a basement and high hip roof. It is of irregular massing and eclectic in concept. A central main entry has on the left a two story tower with three bay windows on each floor and a semi-circular arched window of three bays in the roof section. The gable end of the tower matches that of the door except that in the semi-circular section of the door gable the date and names of the county commissioners appear. There are two pairs of windows on the right of the door with label lintels that match those of the tower and a small porch with paired columns that extends to the wall.

The side facing the same street as the jail is decorated with a false chimney that extends into the gable with a window on each side of each side. All windows are one over one sash type and all trim is finished limestone. The roof is rimmed on the front with boxed cornice. This and the common bond brick give the house and jail unity and continuity. The jail, much less decorated than the house, is a square block with a hip roof with cut corners and windows on the main facade and wall gables of the same pitch as the residence but larger semi-circular three part windows. Below the gables are large windows with segmental arched lintels that have been covered for protection recently. Since the jail and sheriff's residence is situated on the corner the facade of the jail faces a cross street rather than Washington as the sheriff's residence does. The massing, material, trim and decoration give this building a unity that is complimented by the eclectic architecture.

It is the interior machinery of the jail that makes this particular example of a combined structure unique. The rotary, or lazy susan jail section, is a large cylinder constructed of plate and bars with sixteen (16) cells arranged on two (2) levels like cuts of a pie. As the cylinder was turned by a hand operated crank each cell presented itself to a single door on each level for access. This must have worried the prisoners but certainly would have been a deterrent to mass escapes -- even in case of a fire. The State Fire Marshall did, in fact, condemn this jail in the late 1930's. This revolving cylinder was welded in place in 1938 but is operable in all other respects. At this time doors were also cut in each cell.

Neither the jail nor the residence have undergone any extensive alteration, although there is some deterioration as they have been empty for several years.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

		Architect	Builders
SPECIFIC DATES	1882	BUILDER/ARCHITECT E.J. Hodgson	Julian W Hinkley James Norris

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Montgomery County Jail and Sheriff's Residence is significant as a good example of a popular construction combination in the 19th century and as a unique example of cell construction. It is rare that a jail and sheriff's residence, even though they are often connected structures, have the unity of form, mass, and detailing of this particular example. The jail section, while more elaborate than most, can be clearly identified as a jail from the exterior while the residence is a good example of the imposing eclectic architecture of the period.

The rotary section of the jail is a remarkable and unique application of technology to what society saw as their needs in a place of incarceration in the 19th century. It is the oldest and best surviving example of what was a short lived Midwestern phenomenon in jail construction. It is the only known example of a rotary jail in Indiana and one of two left in the nation. That it has survived in workable condition for this long indicates it was something of a feat of engineering and construction. It also clearly points to a system that had little concern with the safety and comfort of prisoners and maximum concern that they not escape. The Montgomery County Jail and Sheriff's Residence is a strong example of a style of law enforcement that has passed.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crawfordsville Star 1882

Gronert, Ted, Sugar Creek Saga, Crawfordsville, 1958

Landen, Walter A, Journal of Architectural Historians, Dec. 1959

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	5	0	8	4	1	0	1	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING			

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING			

C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING			

D

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Max Tannenbaum

ORGANIZATION

Montgomery County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

604 East Wabash Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

Crawfordsville

DATE

January 14, 1975

TELEPHONE

317-362-3314

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