

FINAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**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 Old Warrick County Jail  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 124 E. Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Boonville VICINITY OF Eighth  
STATE Indiana CODE 018 COUNTY Warrick CODE 173  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Warrick County Commissioners  
STREET & NUMBER Warrick County  
CITY, TOWN Boonville VICINITY OF STATE Indiana 47601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Warrick County Recorder  
STREET & NUMBER Warrick County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN Boonville STATE Indiana 47601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None  
DATE

## 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Old Warrick County Jail is situated at the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and Fourth Streets, one block east of the Warrick County Courthouse. According to a newspaper account, the building was designed by local architect J. L. Frick, and completed in 1877. Constructed of red pressed brick laid on a sandstone foundation, the building is divided into two distinct sections. The front of the structure, which faces Main Street, was the sheriff's residence; the rear was the jail proper.

The residence is a two story hip-roofed block, five bays wide and four bays deep. The central bay of the main (south) facade projects slightly, and originally terminated in a mansard roof with oculus. Window and door openings are round-arched and are ornamented with simple hood moulds over header courses. The four-over-four double-hung sashes appear to be original; the existing front door is a modern addition. Of the other architectural features which originally gave this structure an Italianate style, only the brick beltcourse remains. The original Tuscan porch, bracketed cornice, mansard cupola, and slate roofing have been removed or replaced.

The plan of the residence is reflected in the exterior, namely, a central hall plan with four rooms on each floor. Most of the interior finishes were obscured by a contemporary remodelling c. 1971; superficial inspection indicates that door and window enframements and fireplace mantels were removed completely at that time. The stair rail has survived, although it has been cut at the second floor in order to accommodate a partition wall.

The jail wing, five bays long and four bays wide extends to the north of the residence along Fourth Street. This section is one and a half stories tall, with the ridge of its pitched roof forming a small gable above its intersection with the eave of the residence to the south, and a plain parapet gable terminating the roofline on the north; the eaves along the east and west consist of a close eave which barely projects over the walls. Fenestration of the east and west elevations is composed of first floor windows capped by shaped, incised lintels, and second floor windows topped by segmental arches of header coursing. Presumably the first floor windows were four-over-four double-hung sash (they are presently covered by panels); such is the case with the sash of the two windows visible on the second floor of the north elevation. The second floor windows otherwise consist of two casement panels of four lights each, hinged at the frame.

The jail was originally entered by a door at the end (south) bay of the elevation, which led into an office where prisoners could be processed. Over the entrance is a stone inscribed with the names of the architect, the contractor, one John G. Eigenman, and the completion date. Internal access from the residence to the jail was limited to a single heavy iron door with a "pass-through" for prisoner's meals. The first floor confinement area consisted of "two halls, each of sufficient size to contain six cells and wide airy corridors all around them. These cells are constructed of bar iron...forming a lattice-work which, while more secure than solid iron, leaves the air free to circulate around the prisoners..." The half floor above contained two bedrooms for the sheriff's deputies or for use as an infirmary if necessary. The jail appears to be essentially unaltered.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT    J. K. Frick

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Warrick County Jail is an interesting example of the type of structures which housed local government in the mid-nineteenth century. Its division into two segments is based on both functional and symbolic considerations: the sheriff's residence at the front presents an Italianate facade to lend grandeur to the structure as a public building; the punched openings, sparse ornament, and heavy end wall of the jail behind plainly furnish the needed facility. The simple statement of such a distinction in the form is an interesting evidence of attitudes towards the use of stylistic ornament in the mid-nineteenth century. The structure is one of the few public buildings of this age and style extant in Warrick County.

The first jail in Boonville was an 18-foot square log structure; this two story building was constructed in 1818 on the southeast corner of the public square. The second jail was a brick building erected in 1839 to 1840 on Sycamore between 3rd and 4th Streets. In the 1870's this second structure had fallen into disrepair, and it became common for grand juries to condemn the county jail and recommend improvements and repairs. In 1877 "a new and unusually expensive county jail" was constructed at a cost of \$30,000.

The 1877 structure continued to serve as a jail until 1968. It is currently used as a senior citizens' center and meeting place for civic clubs. The jail is endangered by the pressure of commercial expansion in the town.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- History of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties, Indiana. Chicago: Goodspeed, Bros. & Co., 1885
- Boonville Weekly Enquirer, April 14, 1877.
- Evansville Journal, April 9, 1877
- Fortune, Will, ed. Warrick and its Prominent People. Evansville: Courier Comp., 1881.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Boonville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	47,610,3,0	4,21,12,1,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The east half of in lot 33 in the town of Boonville.

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

Warrick County Historical Building Preservation Committee

ORGANIZATION

c/o Warrick County Commissioners

DATE

August 12, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Warrick County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Boonville,

STATE

Indiana 47601

## 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Joseph David*

12/12-78

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER