

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Old Perry County Courthouse

and/or common Room Schoolhouse

2. Location

street & number In the Center of the Town Square not for publication

city, town Rome vicinity of congressional district 8

state Indiana code 018 county Perry code 123

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Community Center

4. Owner of Property

name Perry Central Community School Corporation

street & number

city, town Leopold vicinity of state Indiana 47551

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Perry County Courthouse

street & number Corner of Seventh & Taylor

city, town Cannelton state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The former Perry County Courthouse is the only structure located on the Town Square of Rome, Indiana. The building still appears very much as it did in early photographs. It is a simple two-story brick square, with a central cupola. There are three bays on each side, both on the first and second stories. The exception is on the west wall, where there are only two openings on the first story.

The foundation was originally a low course of sandstone, but in 1917 it was plastered up to the level of the first floor window sills. The main entrance is on the east side, and has a pair of narrow wood doors, unglazed, and a blind transom. The windows and door on this side have flat arches, although other elevations have segmentally arched openings on the ground floor. The standing-seam metal roof is hipped, and is surmounted by a cupola with wood siding. The shingled roof on the cupola, originally white oak, was replaced with redwood in 1967. The cupola originally had windows, and these were replaced by louvered panels many years ago. Two chimneys located on the east side were taken down in 1960.

It is not known what the original interior was like. Presently there are two rooms and toilets on the first floor, with a stairway up and another down at the west end, and a 1930s fire escape on the west exterior. Two rooms and a hall are on the second floor. The building also has a full basement.

Changes, besides the plastering of the foundation, include the alteration of first floor windows, which were originally shorter with twelve-over-twelve sash. The entrance was round-arched and located on the south side. This was apparently changed in the 1930s. Steam heat was also added at this time.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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** 1818 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The former Perry County Courthouse is significant for its association with the founding of the town of Rome, and as the seat of County government for forty years. The building, prominently sited in the Town Square with a view of the Ohio River, also served as the town's school for many years.

The county seat was originally located downriver at Troy, until 1818 when Spencer County was created. The Perry County seat was then re-located to a more central location, on land donated by Uriah Cummings and laid out in 1818 to include a public square for the purpose of erecting a courthouse. This building was constructed that same year.

The building served as the seat of county government until 1859, when the county seat was moved to Cannelton. The former courthouse opened in 1860 as the Rome Academy, offering "advanced learning" in higher mathematics, chemistry, composition, mental philosophy, and classical languages. The building was later leased to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, at Cannelton, who changed the name of the school to St. Alban's Academy. In 1902 the Tobin Township Schools took over the building as a public school. The building was a public school until 1966, when the new Perry Central School was built.

The building is presently leased to the Rome Community Center, Inc., for the purpose of restoring and preserving the building for use as a community center.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Perry County: A History. Thos. James De La Hunt, W. K. Stewart Co., 1916.

History of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties.

Goodspeed Bros. & Co., 1885.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.32 Acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References Rome, Ind-Ky.

A 

1	6	5	4	1	8	6	0	4	1	9	7	2	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Town Square of Rome, bounded by Mulberry Street on the north, Main Street on the east, Chestnut Street on the south, and Market Street on the west. The block measures 240 feet on each side.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

## 1-1. Form Prepared By

name/title James J. Groves President

organization Perry County Historical Society

date March 1, 1977

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

telephone 812/836-2535

city or town Rome

state Indiana

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

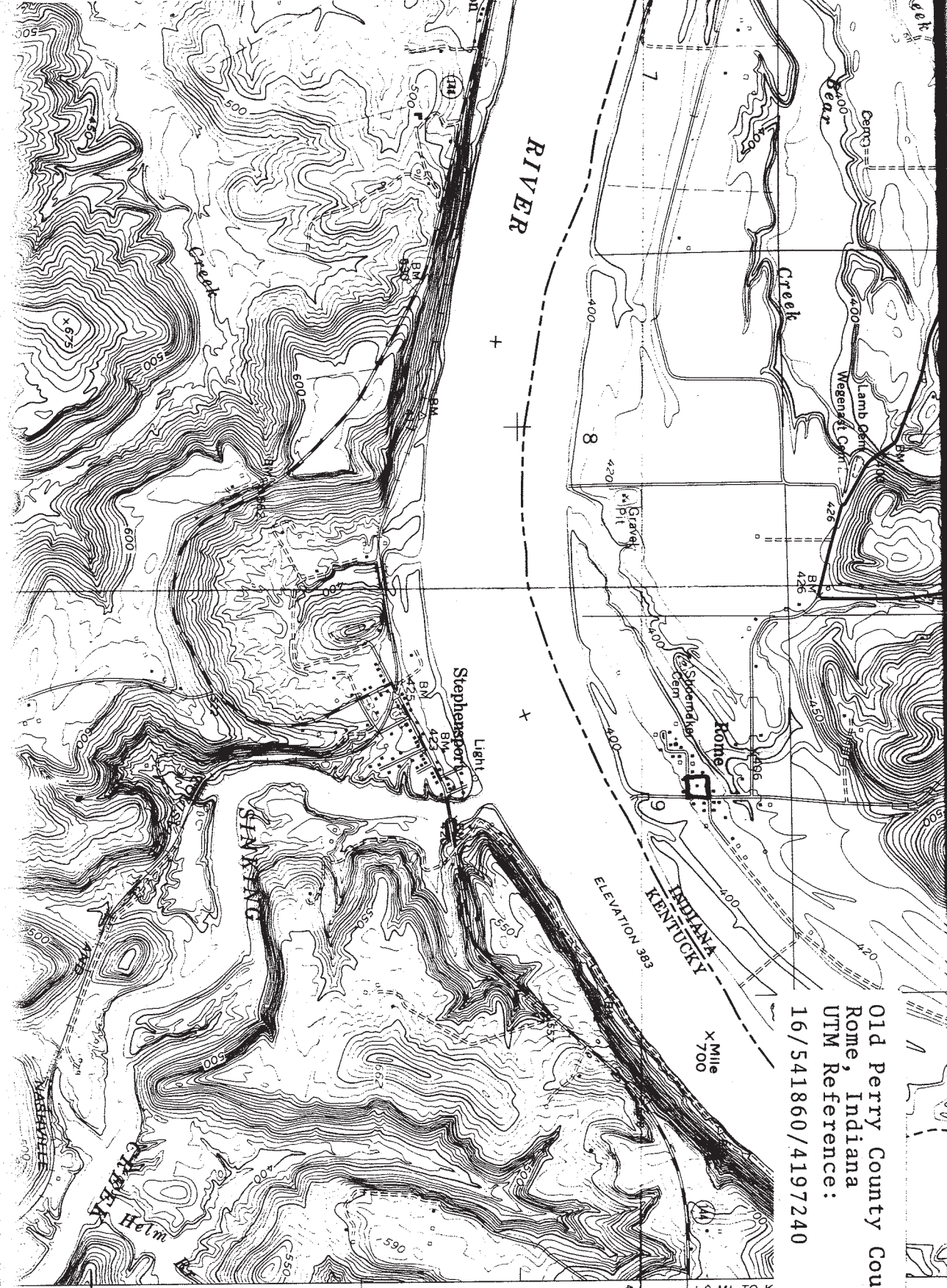
national  state  local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature John T. [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-3-81



RIVER

7

8

9

Ceng  
Bear

Creek

Lamb Dam  
Wegenat C.M.T.

Gravel  
Pit

Rome

Stephensport  
Light

INDIANA  
KENTUCKY  
ELEVATION 383

X Mile  
700

Old Perry County Courthouse  
Rome, Indiana  
UTM Reference:  
16/541860/4197240

1.9 MI. TO K

4195

4196

4197

4198

4199

4200