

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

FINAL

STATE: INDIANA
COUNTY: MARION
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Indiana State Museum	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Indianapolis City Hall	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 202 North Alabama Street, Heritage Square			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 11th	
STATE Indiana	CODE 46204	COUNTY: Marion	CODE 097

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: State of Indiana - Department of Natural Resources			
STREET AND NUMBER: 100 North Senate Ave. State Office Bldg. Room 608			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis,	STATE: Indiana	CODE 46204	CODE 18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City-County Building Marion County			
STREET AND NUMBER: 200 East Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	STATE: Indiana	CODE 46204	CODE 18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Department of Natural Resources			
STREET AND NUMBER: 100 North Senate Ave. State Office Bldg. Room 608			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	STATE: Indiana	CODE 46204	CODE 18

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Indiana
COUNTY: Marion
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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 Indiana State Museum Building (formally the Indianapolis City Hall) is an adaptation of Roman Classic Architecture by the firm of Rubush and Hunter. The cornerstone was laid on July 27, 1909 and the building was dedicated on December 21, 1910. It is located on the Northwest corner of Ohio and Alabama Streets four blocks Northeast of the circle that marks the center of Indianapolis on a lot with 202 1/2 feet on the front and 135 feet deep. The building itself occupies an area 188 by 133 feet. The longest side being the main entrance and facing East onto Alabama Street.

The four story and basement structure was constructed of hard burned brick faced with large slabs of Indiana Bedford limestone with a granite foundation. All sides of the building, even those facing on narrow alleys, are equally well finished. Much of the interior work is done in red construction tile, most commonly 12 by 12 by 4 inches, although other sizes are used. The use of this tile may account for the short time needed to construct the building. The total cost of the building exclusive of ground and portable fixtures was \$699,239.83.

The decoration is typical of Neo-Classical Revival buildings. The first floor has three double bronze doors with bronze torchiers at the sides. These are framed with low pediments and carved lotus buds on the lintels. The second and third stories have recessed Roman Doric engaged columns banded at the top by a egg and dart motif. The columns are topped by a square abacus. A simple architrave with disks spaced over each column decorates the frieze while a continuous dentil runs under the cornice topped with an egg and dart. The fourth story attic conceals a low flat roof.

Entering through a marble columned lobby, one finds the floors of all lobbies and corridors inlaid with colored marble, while the walls have marble wainscoting panels and pilasters. Columns in the rotunda area are scagliola matching the Antique Verde bases. Much of the original mahogany woodwork can still be seen in many areas. The Rotunda stretches eight-five feet above the lobby and is capped by a magnificent 750 square foot stained glass dome typical of the "Tiffany Era." Wreaths with acorns, peaches and other ripe fruit entwine themselves among the geometrical pattern of a bewildering array of multicolored glass. Light streaming through the dome casts a soft glow throughout the center and balconies on each floor. A Foucault Pendulum now hangs from the dome and swings majestically over a compass rose design in marble which was an original feature of the rotunda floor. From each of the balconies one can sense the feeling of immense space inspiring a sense of pure visual delight within the building.

The Cincinnati art firm of William F. Behrens was commissioned to provide all of the murals decorating the interior. Each have simulated gold backgrounds, with animal symbols of the zodiac with a heavily laden wreath of fruits and flowers and ribbons. Inside the wreaths are heads of chaste maidens with sweet smiles and down cast eyes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE INDIANA	
COUNTY MARION	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

From 1964 to 1966, under the direction of James Associates of Indianapolis, the state invested nearly a million dollars in renovating the building for Museum purposes. The exterior was cleaned and repointed, and all windows openings were sealed except in the third floor office area. Interior surfaces were painstakingly cleaned or painted. Ceilings in the exhibit areas were lowered to permit installation of air conditioning, humidity controls, and additional wiring. Paneling and a traffic resistant floor covering was installed in all exhibit areas. In spite of the sealed windows, the original architectural character has been retained, and inside, the tremendous enclosed space bespeaks of another era. Since 1966 the building has been occupied by the Indiana State Museum. The most recent addition to the exterior of the building are two carved limestone eagles that flank the entry stairs. They were removed from the famed interurban traction terminal (1904-1968) and given to the Indiana State Museum in 1968.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input 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 checked="" 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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Indianapolis City Hall, now the Indiana State Museum was completed in December of 1910. At the dedication of the cornerstone in July, 1909 Mayor Charles Bookwalter stated firmly, "One thing is certain and that is I am going to build a City Hall and have city officers installed in it before I go out of office." Although he used a bond issue that had originally been made to build a Civic center and the building was completed in a surprising one and a half years, his promise was unfulfilled. A former auctioneer vaudevillian and utter individualist, Samuel Lewis Shank, greeted people in his new office with one leg thrown over the arm of his chair and smoking a cigar on the day of the dedication. That day, December 21, 1910, the building was opened to the public with great fanfare, including an orchestra and speeches by Governor Thomas R. Marshall, and six former mayors, Bookwalter being last on the program. In spite of the rapid construction, the race for occupation, and flamboyant mayors the building served the people of Indianapolis for over half a century. The city offices were moved to the new city county building down the block and the State of Indiana leased the structure in 1963.

The Old Indianapolis City Hall is considered one of the finest examples of early 20th century public buildings in the area. The exterior is a clear illustration of Neo-classical revival architecture and the interior is a fine example of what was considered the height of decorative art at the time. The quality of construction is witnessed by the fine condition and usefulness of the building today. As the Indiana State Museum the public still enjoys access and the building is being carefully maintained.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Indianapolis Star, 11/18/08, 7/28/09, 2/3/10, 3/5/10, 11/6/10, In 8/5/62
 "Pillars of Progress"

Indianapolis News, 11/23/08, 3/6/09

Indianapolis Times, 6/1/54

Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780, 1969.

Sir Banister Fletcher, History of Architecture On The Comparative Method, 1961

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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 ' "		39 ° 46 ' 13 "	86 °	9 ' 10 "
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mary Jane Meeker and Eric Gilbertson

ORGANIZATION Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Indiana State Museum

DATE

6/12/74

STREET AND NUMBER:

202 North Alabama Street, Heritage Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Indianapolis,

STATE

Indiana 46204

CODE

18

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

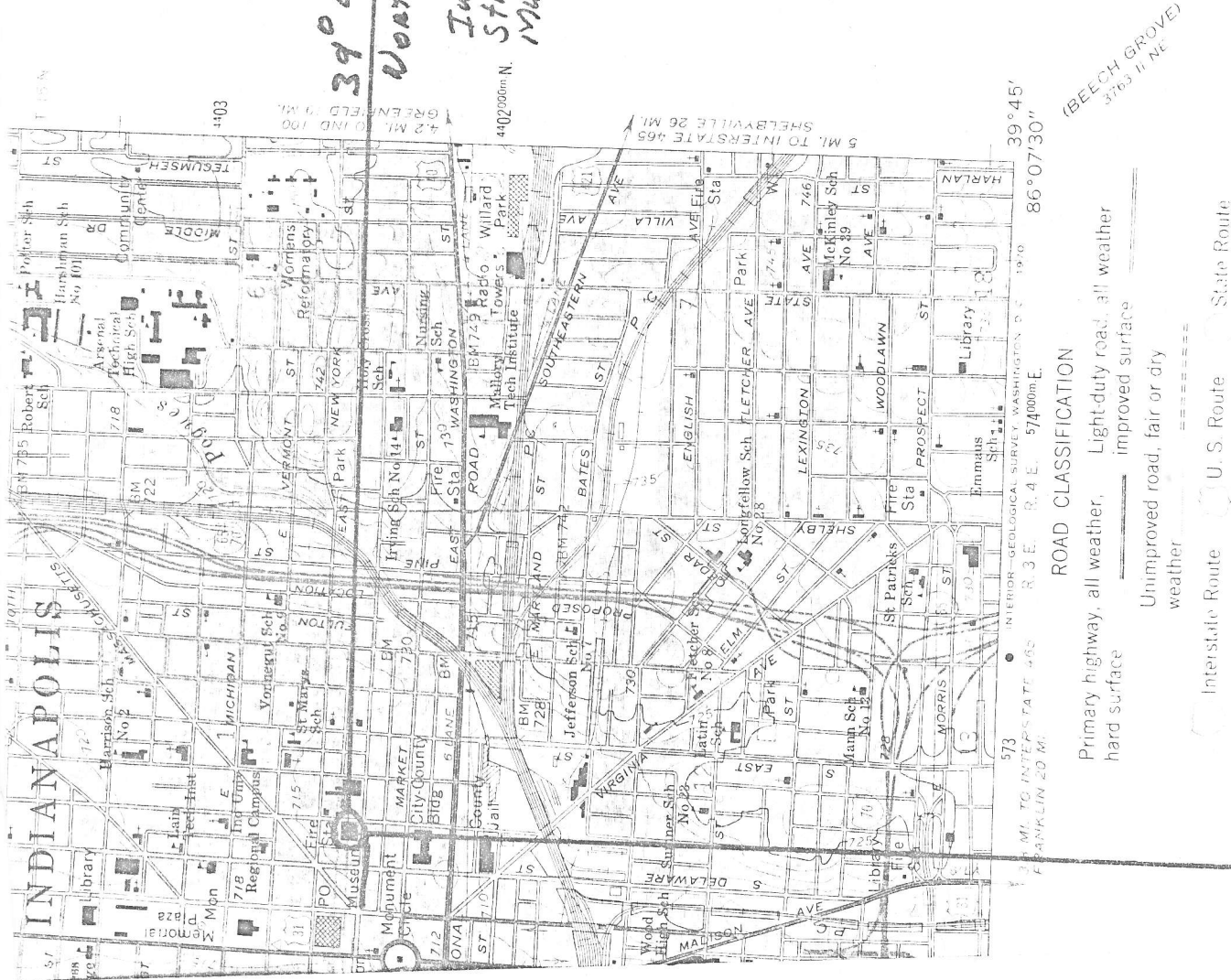
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

SECTIONS INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME		Indiana State Museum	
COMMON:		AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Indianapolis City Hall	
STREET AND NUM BER:		202 North Alabama Street, Heritage Square	
CITY OR TOWN:		Indianapolis	
STATE:	Indiana	46204	MAP REFERENCE
COUNTRY:	Marion	18	CODE
CODE	097		
SOURCE:			
U.S. Geological Survey, Quadrangle 7.5 Indianapolis West			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1967			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-148/1441 3-1



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
 Light-duty road, all weather improved surface
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

86°9'10"

West Long.

INDIANAPOLIS WEST, IND.

N 39°45'—W 86°07'30"

1967

AMS 3763 I SP. 03-0000-100