

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

Indiana State Capitol Building

AND/OR COMMON

Indiana State Capitol Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

097

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**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Indiana

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey

DATE

1972-1974

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of Museums & Memorials

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

A decade after 1825 the capitol of Indiana was moved from Corydon to Indianapolis, a beautiful Greek Revival building was constructed. However, the building was more handsome than it was durable and in 1878 it was torn down. Work on the present capitol building began shortly after, under the direction of architect Edwin May, who was replaced by Adolph Scherer in 1880. Scherer stayed on until the structure was completed in 1888 at a cost of \$1,980,969.00. With the exception of a minor remodeling of the main (east) entrance in 1946 and the addition of other minor modern day conveniences, the State Capitol Building remains in its original condition, the focal point of Indiana government.

The four story, Greek cross plan building is sheathed in native Indiana limestone with the exception of a rock faced granite plinth, the basis of the foundation. The first floor is rock faced limestone, while the corners and protrusions of the second floor have a sculpted rusticated stone. The rest of the building is coursed cut stone. A stone beltcourse defines the first floor window line, while a sculpted entablature demarcates the second and third floors and defines the area above. Engaged Corinthian columns separate the bays. The roof of the main axes is a low gabled style while at the intersection is a 73 foot diameter dome with a fifteen foot diameter cupola atop the dome, both are sheathed in metal pointed gold. The roof style used in the four corner towers is a rectangular, pyramidal dome, with a similar shaped cupola atop it. The four corners and the main entrance are pedimented with a decorated frieze. The State Seal adorns the main pediment. The roof line on the south facade is adorned by an eagle who rests atop statues of an Indian family, a Pioneer family, a Blacksmith and a Hunter.

The first floor windows are rectangular with an iron grating protecting the glass while the second story windows are segmented with radiating voussoirs. The third floor windows are semicircular with decorated, bracketed hoods excluding the corners where plain and segmented pediments alternate. The fourth floor has rectangular openings with sculpted lintels. The main entrances have segmental openings with radiating voussoirs. The original carved wooden doors remain intact, however, modern glass doors have been installed behind them. All main entrances are reached by a straight flight of stairs although there is access to the building at ground level. The four main protrusions are graced by columned porticos which extend from the top of the second floor to the top of the fourth.

The grounds contain many statues and plaques relating to the history of the building and the state. Among these are statues of Oliver P. Morton, Thomas A. Hendricks, Christopher Columbus, and a coal miner.

The interior is as exciting as the exterior. The plan focuses on the center rotunda which casts an austere blue light from the octagonal stained glass ceiling. Statues of figures representing Law, Oratory, Agriculture, Commerce, Liberty, Justice, History and Art keep watch over a replica of the liberty bell. Along the North-South axis are 68 foot wide corridors lit by natural skylights which provide a delightful contrast to the somber rotunda. Yellow painted woodwork, elegantly proportioned marble columns and light blue painted ceilings make the corridors airy and open - a preoccupation of modern architecture. The floors are covered with three hues of marble as are the stairs.

Intricately carved butternut doors with elaborate surroundings accent the corridors as do the original gas light fixtures which have been wired for today's electricity.

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Indiana State Capitol Building
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The Supreme Court Chamber has elaborate painted mouldings on the ceiling, stunning woodwork which encases the judge's stand, the jury box and witness stand and stained glass windows, that diffuse the light into soft hues. Both legislature chambers have been recently re-modeled yet they house the original murals which depict Hoosier life and virtues. Except for several plywood office cubicles which are placed in the upper halls, the corridor views unchanged.

The grandeur that Hoosiers of the 1880's saw in the building which housed their government, remains today as vital and as beautiful as when the ribbon was cut on October 2, 1888.

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 1878 - 1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edwin May/Adolph Scherer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Indiana State Capitol comes from the site being the location seat of state government for nearly 150 years and thus being the location where the laws of the state were made and executed. Activities in this building, over nearly a century, have directed the development of Indiana and have effected the lives of every citizen.

Representing what was considered ideal in governmental structures, this building reflects the best in design, decorating, and detail for the period. Special care was obviously taken in every aspect of the construction.

It is also significant as an example of public building architecture built with a philosophy that the seat of government should be something special and significant from the start. Not just another building but a building that exemplifies the ideal in architecture and thus in government. This philosophy is reflected in the choice of Edwin May, one of Indiana's best architects, to design the new capitol and in the choice of the best available material to execute it. Ten years were devoted to making this the best public building in the state and a true seat of government. It continues to awe visitors because of its fine spaces and detailing.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives (State of Indiana) Records of original Statehouse Commission; Report of said commission, drawings submitted by said commission.

Outdoor Indiana, November 1974

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 571730 4402200
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
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

Eric Gilbertson/Charles Reed

ORGANIZATION

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

DATE

7/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

Indiana State Museum, 202 N. Alabama St.

TELEPHONE

317-633-4948

CITY OR TOWN

Indianapolis

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER 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



INDIANA STATE
CAPITAL,
INDIANAPOLIS,
UTM. REFERENCE
16/51730/4402200

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



INDIANAPOLIS WEST, IND.

N3945—W8607.5/7.5

1967

AMS 3763 I SW—SERIES V851

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

NAME

HISTORIC Indiana State Capitol Building

AND/OR COMMON

Indiana State Capitol Building

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Marion

STATE

Indiana

MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S. Topographic 7.5 min. series Indianapolis West Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24 000

DATE 1967

REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES