**1 NAME**

**HISTORIC**

Indiana State Capitol Building

**AND/OR COMMON**

Indiana State Capitol Building

---

**2 LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**

West Washington Street

**CITY, TOWN**

Indianapolis

**STATE**

Indiana

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**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- __DISTRICT__
- __BUILDING(s)__
- __STRUCTURE__
- __SITE__
- __OBJECT__

**OWNERSHIP**

- X__PUBLIC__
- _PRIVATE__
- _BOTH__

**STATUS**

- ___X__OCCUPIED__
- _UNOCCUPIED__
- ___WORK IN PROGRESS__

**ACCESSIBLE**

- ___YES: RESTRICTED__
- ___YES: UNRESTRICTED__
- _NO__

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**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**

State of Indiana

**STREET & NUMBER**

West Washington Street

**CITY, TOWN**

Indianapolis

---

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

Marion County Courthouse

**STREET & NUMBER**

East Washington Street

**CITY, TOWN**

Indianapolis

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**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**

Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey

**DATE**

1972-1974

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

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

**CITY, TOWN**

Indianapolis

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

Outdoor Indiana, November 1974

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 2

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<th>NORTHING</th>
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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</tr>
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Eric Gilbertson/Charles Reed

ORGANIZATION
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

STREET & NUMBER
Indiana State Museum, 202 N. Alabama St.

CITY / TOWN
Indianapolis

STATE
Indiana

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

DATE

DATE
Indiana State Capitol Building

Indiana State Capitol Building

INDIANAPOLIS WEST, IND.
N3945—W8607.5/7.5

1967

AMS 3763 I SW—SERIES V851

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