

**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 The Spencer Town Hall & Fire Station

and/or common The Spencer Town Hall & Fire Station

2. Location

street & number 84 South Washington Street N/A not for publication

city, town Spencer N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Owen code 119

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Elmer E. Lyon

street & number P.O. Box 132

city, town Spencer N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47460

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office of Owen County

street & number Courthouse

city, town Spencer state Indiana 47460

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Spencer Town Hall and Firehouse is a Romanesque Revival style structure located on the southeast corner of the Town Square in Spencer, Indiana. The building is a two-story structure of rectangular plan with a bell tower in the southwest corner. The exterior walls are of rock-faced blocks of St. Genevieve limestone and are eighteen inches thick. Dormers and tower areas above the cornice line are covered with metal shingles. The structure has a hipped roof covered with asbestos shingles and features chimneys near the northeast and southeast corners. The building is long and narrow, measuring 24 feet in width and 61 feet in length.

The west facade of the building faces Washington Street and contains the main entry. This facade is divided, vertically, into two halves, with the south half containing the tower and the north half consisting of a rectangular unit surmounted by a triangular dormer. The ground floor of the north half contains a large, overhead door, which formerly provided egress for the fire department's equipment. This opening is spanned by an iron lintel. The second floor features a pair of rounded-arch, one-over-one casement windows with dressed limestone sills and hoods. Similar dressed limestone is used to create two belt courses which connect all of the second floor windows; one of these runs at sill level while the other is at the arched window hood's impost level. A plain frieze and cyma reversa cornice separate the lower two floors from the triangular dormer area, which is sided with metal shingles and features a small, rounded-arch ventilator. The south half of this facade contains the three-story bell tower, which projects one foot from the rest of the facade. This tower is one bay wide, and has a single-entry door with a transom on the first floor level. The second floor features a rounded-arch window identical to those in the north half of this facade. The frieze and cornice are continued, but the frieze, here, is decorated with dentils. Immediately above the cornice, the tower begins to narrow; consequently, the metal-shingled walls are concave from the cornice to the bottom of the third-floor window openings. It is in this third floor area that the original fire bell and the more recent siren are located. Louvers are used in the window openings at this level to protect these items from the weather. Above these louvers is a frieze with modillions supporting the tower's pyramidal-shaped roof.

The south facade continues several of the design features of the west facade. The tower's south face is identical to its west except that the ground floor level contains a tall, narrow, rectangular window instead of a door. Towards the center of this long facade is a two-story bay, with a triangular dormer. This bay, which projects out about a foot, has an entry door with a transom on the first floor, while the second floor and dormer areas are identical to those on the north half of the west facade. The frieze in this area is also decorated with dentils. Other windows are situated at random throughout the rest of the facade, with rounded-arch, doublehung windows employed on the second floor, while rectangular windows with simple stone heads are used on the first floor.

The north wall of the building is a party wall with the adjacent building, and has no openings. The east facade has been largely obscured by a concrete block addition of recent construction.

The interior of the building is relatively austere, and was obviously built with an eye toward practicality. The ground floor consists of a single, large, rectangular space, once used by the fire department. A simple staircase with plain balusters leads to the second floor, formerly used as city offices and public library space. The entire interior has recently been renovated; the woodwork has been refinished, the plaster repaired, the floors refinished, and new wallpaper hung. Necessary exterior restoration was also accomplished at this time. The building is now being used as commercial and professional office space.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1897-98

Builder/Architect Repath and Pickens

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Spencer Town Hall and Firehouse is significant for its architecture and for its importance in the civic functions of Spencer, Indiana.

The structure was designed by the architectural firm of Repath and Pickens and was completed in 1898. Its Romanesque design was carefully executed in St. Genevieve limestone, a building material native to the area, whose supply has since been exhausted. The building is considered a classic example of the stone architecture once common to the area, now largely replaced by more modern structures. Prominently situated on a corner lot of the Town Square, the building became a local landmark immediately upon its completion.

The building is also significant because of its role in city government and services for over 75 years. The structure contained the local fire department on the ground floor, and housed city offices, along with the Spencer Public Library, on the second floor. By performing these functions it played an important role in the daily lives of Spencer's citizens. The building continued to figure prominently in local affairs until 1975, when the city completed a new municipal building and vacated this structure. It has since been purchased and renovated by a private individual, and is currently being used for office space.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Town of Spencer. 1897 to 1906
Book of Account, Town of Spencer. Records are kept in Town Clerk's Office, Spencer, Ind.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Spencer, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	2	0	6	0	0	4	3	4	8	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 south 24 feet of Lot 96, Town of Spencer

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elmer E. Lyon, Owner

organization N/A

date May 27, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 132

telephone 812/829-2855

city or town Spencer

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 Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 12, 1982

For NPS use only

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

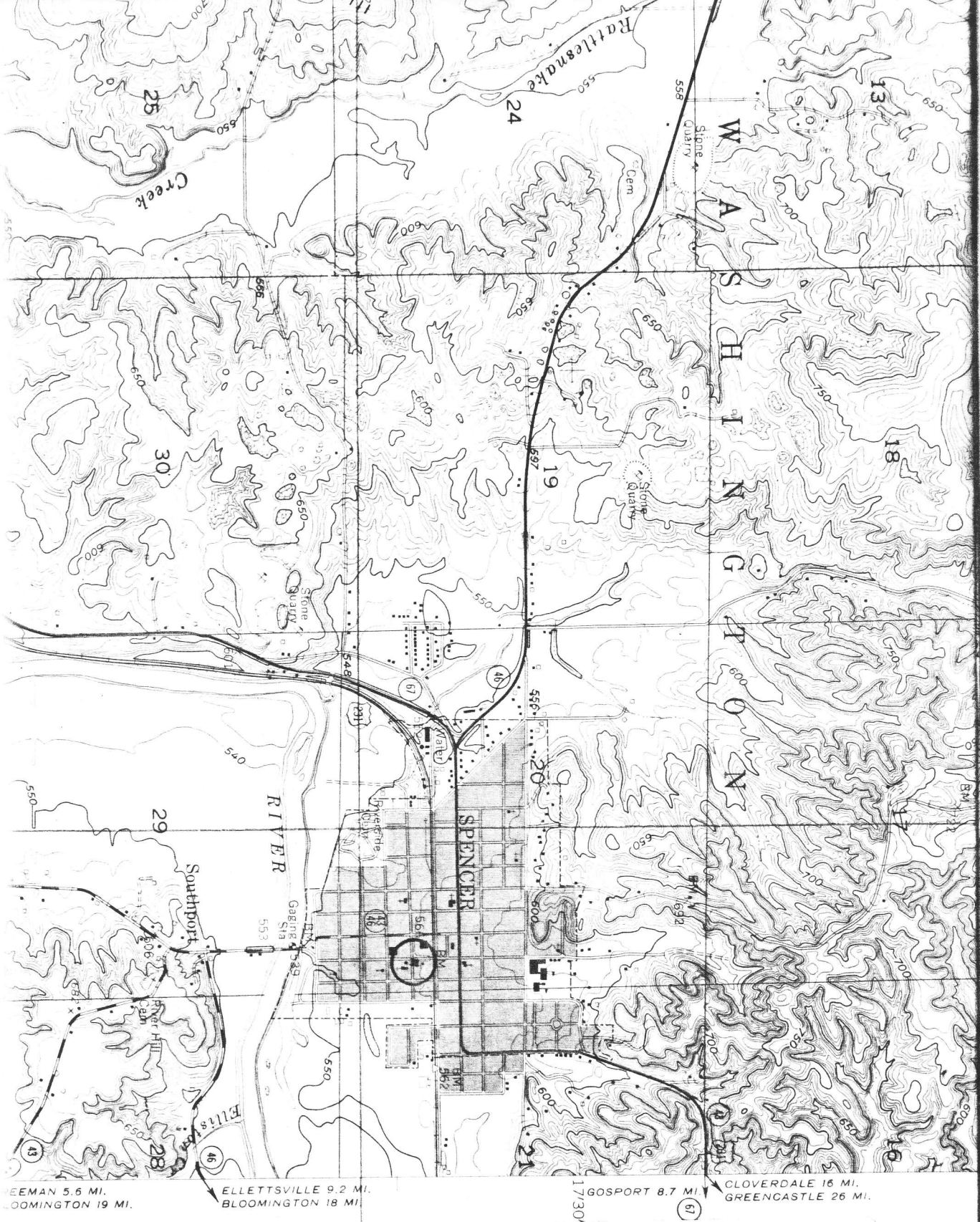
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



HEEMAN 5.6 MI.
 BLOOMINGTON 19 MI.

ELLETTSVILLE 9.2 MI.
 BLOOMINGTON 18 MI.

GOSPORT 8.7 MI.
 17/30

CLOVERDALE 16 MI.
 GREENCASTLE 26 MI.

Spencer Town Hall and Fire Station
 Spencer, Indiana
 UTM Reference:
 16/520600/4348240