

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

FINAL

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Hendricks County Jail and Sheriff's Residence

and/or common Hendricks County Museum

**2. Location**

street & number 170 S. Washington Street N/A not for publication

city, town Danville N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Hendricks code 063

**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"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Hendricks County Commissioners

street & number Hendricks County Courthouse

city, town Danville N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46122

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hendricks County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Danville state Indiana

**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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Hendricks County Jail is a large brick structure located just one block south of the Courthouse Square in Danville, Indiana. Completed in 1867, the building was designed to provide both jail facilities and a residence for the County Sheriff, and remained in use for over 100 years. Since the construction of a new jail in 1974, the building has housed the Hendricks County Museum and the offices of the local Civil Defense.

The front section of the building, the former Sheriff's residence, was constructed in the French Second Empire style and features a mansard roof, a raised basement, and an irregular plan. The basement area features double-hung windows set in segmental-arched openings, with plain wide hood molds. A stone water table separates the basement area of the structure from the ground floor, and also forms the sills for the first floor windows. The northernmost window unit on the ground floor level of the east (main) facade consists of a pair of segmental-arched windows separated by a cast iron pilaster; similar segmental-arched windows with label hood molds are used individually throughout the rest of the ground floor.

The main entry to the building is located in a recessed area on the east facade, and consists of a pair of wood panel doors contained in a large segmental-arched opening. A wide, plain label hood mold appears immediately over this opening. The small porch roof which shelters this entryway originally featured cast iron pilasters, but these have been removed. Immediately south of this entryway is the building's three story, square tower. Identical to the rest of the building on the basement and first floor levels, this tower features smaller segmental-arched windows on the second floor level, with those on the east facade paired. A delicate stone string course appears above these windows, separating them from the low, wide, rectangular windows located just below the cornice line. The wide, heavy cornice here has also been stripped of its modillions, and the tower's mansard roof, originally slate, has been recovered with asphalt shingles. Rounded arch dormers with oculus windows originally appeared on each face of the tower, but these have been removed.

The jail section of the building consists of a one story wing with a hipped roof projecting from the west (rear) side of the building. This section lacks the decorative elements employed on the front section of the building, except for the large, overhanging cornice. Windows in this section are rectangular, and still feature the iron bars installed to prevent prisoner escape. On this section of the building, also, the cornice modillions have been removed and the slate roof replaced with asphalt shingles.

Three major additions have been made to the building since its construction in 1867. The first of these, constructed shortly after the turn of the century, is a one story, flat-roofed, brick structure located on the north side of the jail. Referred to as the powerhouse, this addition housed the equipment which supplied heat and electrical power to the third county courthouse. This addition features segmental-arched windows and a stone water table. The low parapet wall above the roof features a tile cap. The second addition, dating from 1958, projects out from the south side of the jail wing. Constructed of brick with a stone foundation, this addition has rectangular windows with detailing similar to that found on the jail windows. This section, built to house juvenile offenders, also has a flat roof. Its parapet wall is topped with a stone cap. In the 1960's a third addition was constructed on the north wall, east of the powerhouse. Less sensitively designed than the previous two additions, this structure is a plain concrete block garage with no ornamental detailing.

The interior of both the jail wing and the Sheriff's quarters remain substantially unaltered. The original cells, barred windows, and other ironwork are still in place in the jail wing. All but one of the fireplaces in the Sheriff's quarters have been covered over, but the floors, ceilings, and woodwork throughout this section of the building have been either preserved or restored.

## 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 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** 1866-67

**Builder Architect**

Martin Gregg

**Statement of Significance (~~is one paragraph~~)**

The Hendricks County Jail is significant for its role in the county's governmental system for over a century. Constructed in 1866-1867, the building is an example of French Second Empire style architecture adapted to suit local needs. It remained in use as both jail and Sheriff's residence until 1974, when a new jail was built. Now the home of the Hendricks County Museum, the building remains a prominent local landmark.

According to local government records, county officials recognized the need for a new jail in January, 1865. Martin Gregg, one of the county commissioners, was authorized to examine the jails in the neighboring counties and prepare an estimate of the cost of erecting a new jail building in Danville, the county seat. Gregg, who served as a commissioner for 14 years and also supervised construction of the second county courthouse and poor-house, had plans prepared by a local architect and received permission to begin construction in December, 1865. The building was completed in early 1867 at a cost of just over \$25,000, and was used for the next 107 years. Additions were made to the building at three different times, but finally, in 1974, it was judged inadequate and a new jail was constructed.

Both sections of the building have retained a significant amount of integrity on the interior, with the unaltered jail wing being of particular interest. Three additions have been made to the structure, but their low elevations prevent them from being overly obtrusive.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hadley, John V., ed. History of Hendricks County. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen and Company, 1914  
History of Hendricks County. Chicago: Interstate Publishing Company, 1885.  
 McDowell, John, ed. History of Hendricks County, 1914-1976. Danville, Indiana: Hendricks  
 County Historical Society, 1976.  
 "Minutes of the Meetings of Hendricks County Commissioners," 1865-1975. Unpublished.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Danville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 4 and 5, Block 28, of the original plat of Danville, Indiana

### 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 Dorothy Kelley, Curator  
Hendricks County Museum Board

organization Hendricks County Historical Society date July 21, 1981

street & number R. 1, Box 217 telephone 317/852-2810

city or town Pittsboro state Indiana 46167

## 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 J. M. Kidenon

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 5-16-83

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

