

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dubois County Courthouse

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number One Courthouse Square N/A not for publication

city or town Jasper N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Dubois code 037 zip code 47546

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia R. Roberts

11-20-95

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	1	objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof ASPHALT

other STONE: granite

METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Dubois County Courthouse
Name of Property

Dubois County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .53 acre (less than one acre)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	5 0 6 0 2 0	4 2 4 9 0 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Fierst, Kenneth Kremp and Paul Diebold

organization Dubois County Historical Society date June 6, 1995

street & number 737 West 8th Street telephone 812-482-3074

city or town Jasper state IN zip code 47546

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Dubois County Commissioners

street & number One Courthouse Square telephone 812-481-7045

city or town Jasper state IN zip code 47546

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1894-1945

Significant Dates

1894

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Milburn, Frank Pierce and Heister, Michael
Stillwell, William

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Jasper Public Library

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In the center of the town of Jasper, Indiana lies the one-half acre courthouse square with the historic courthouse, a contributing Soldiers and Sailors Monument, and a non-contributing War Memorial. The courthouse square is of the Philadelphia Square type, with the square lined by a street and main street terminating into the sides of the square. This may have affected the design of the courthouse, which is bilaterally symmetrical about its 144 feet by 65 feet, 8 inch footprint dimensions. The courthouse was designed by Milburn, Heister & Company and completed between 1909 and 1911 at a cost of over 62,000.00. William Stillwell of Lafayette, Indiana was the contractor.

The courthouse is the third county government building on this site. It is three story (plus raised basement) masonry building with the cupola rising to 100 feet at the highest point. The foundation is of poured concrete, the first, second, and third floors are of reinforced concrete capable of withstanding 125 pounds per square foot. Areas with record vaults can hold 350 pounds per square foot. Exterior walls are of brick 3-4 courses thick. Many interior walls are of brick also. Below grade, walls were coated with saturated roofing felt and a hot mix application of asphaltic cement and coal tar pitch to waterproof the basement. Exterior building materials are primarily brick and stone. The raised basement is veneered in limestone; above this walls are of light buff dry press Huntingburg face brick in running bond with joints having a Peerless brown mortar stain with V joints. The cupola is a wooden structure covered in painted sheet metal.

The east and west elevations are virtually identical, but the east doors are considered to be the main entrance (photo 3). The Soldiers and Sailors Monument is on axis with the entrance on this elevation, acknowledging the "main" entrance. The long axis of the building is displayed on the east and west sides. The overall massing uses the Neo-Classical Revival technique of a central block, articulated by end pavilions, and punctuated by central porticoes. The pedimented, full height tetrastyle portico is reached by a wide flight of stairs, providing a stylobate. Unfluted Scamozzi Ionic limestone columns support the brick entablature enriched with stone dentils and modillions. The pediment has a raked cornice detailed like the entablature and

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brick tympanum with multiple coursed oculus vent. The ceiling underneath the projecting portico is of coffered pressed metal. Egg-and-dart capital brick pilasters join the portico to the main block of the building.

A fairly recent aluminum and glass vestibule shelters the main doors under the portico. The stone surround has a console bracketed hood which is partly obscured by the vestibule. Sheltered by the portico are one-over-one windows with segmental arched, multiple coursed headers having an outermost projecting rowlock course (photo 5). Two flank either side of the entrance. On the second level underneath the portico are three massive story-and-one-half tall round arched openings infilled with tripartite windows. Heavy wood mullions divide a wider central double hung window and flanking narrow sash. Above this, the mullion forms a concentric semi-circle to the masonry arch and mullions radiate from this inner semi-circle to fill the arched opening. The openings have stone sills, and the brick arches are similar to the first floor arches in detail, but have a brick stringcourse connecting them (photo 7).

Flanking the portico section are a two and one-half story sections, divided from the end pavilions and portico by quoined pilaster strips. These sections have two bays of segmental arched windows similar to those under the portico. The third, or attic level, has horizontal rectangular openings with a continuous stone sill. Some of these openings have been extended into the entablature area, but originally, each opening had a classical fretwork casement window. Several original windows of this type can be found on other elevations. The dentil course and modillions of the portico extend to these flanking bays, and around the entire building.

Corner pavilions project forward from the mass at either end. Quoined pilaster strips frame the corners of the one bay wide pavilion. The first floor opening is a single window with no header treatment. The second floor window has a stone sill, double hung sash, and a stone pedimented hood on console brackets. The

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attic level has the same horizontal openings as the flanking bays.

The massive hip roof of the courthouse is supported by large wooden joists, beams and wood decking. The original roofing material was natural terra cotta tile, since replaced with asphalt shingle. On the east and west elevations, a small separate hip roof stands over the pavilion projections. The large, sheet metal sheathed cupola takes the form of a Renaissance dome, with plain base, tall chamfered drum with corner niches and six-over-six windows in each major face, and dome with clock face on each major elevation. Originally, two columns were recessed on each major face of the drum; these have been removed. E. Howard & Co. of Boston, MA provided the clock apparatus, still in use and visible inside the cupola (photo 14). An 1845 bell cast by C.B. Coffin for a previous courthouse is also still in the tower, but is not used currently.

As mentioned earlier, the west elevation duplicates the east elevation with few exceptions (photo 4). Records have revealed that the portico was added to this elevation while construction was underway. It would seem likely that the clients and architects realized the benefit of having a totally symmetrical appearance, granted that major streets intersect the center of each side of the square. The west portico, however, has no stairs. It is closed off by a classical balustrade instead. In lieu of the stone entrance surround, the middle opening is a broad segmental brick arch. In 1978, an anodized aluminum entry was added to this center opening and a basement level handicapped entrance ramp was installed beside the portico. This elevation has a tall chimney, which was extended to its present height shortly after construction.

The north and south elevations virtually match one another (photos 1 and 2). Each has the monumental portico already described, with the portico sheltering only three bays which are more generously spaced than under the east and west porticoes. The central entrance is similar to the east entrance, including the aluminum vestibule. Only one window with segmental arch is on

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either side of the entry. Rather than the large round arched windows, there is a central rectangular tripartite window with segmental multiple coursed arch and blind tympanum of brick. Single segmental arch windows flank this central composition. The attic level has three openings: a centered triple group of fretwork casements and flanking single fretwork casements. Several of these casements have been removed and the opening enlarged as described previously. Marking each corner is a vertical section of corner pavilion, detailed as already described, except that on the north and south elevations, the corner pavilions are flush.

The interior of the Dubois County Courthouse continues the classical theme of the exterior in plan and detail. A hallway runs north to south and is bisected by a corridor from the east entrance. No corridor runs from the west portico. Offices are located along the perimeter of the building. Steel staircases with simple classical newel posts and railings have white Alabama marble treads (photo 19). Main hall floors are of 2" hexagonal ceramic tile with 3/4" square tiles forming borders and Greek Key designs (photos 19 and 20). Main corridor walls are typically load-bearing brick covered with plaster. Dark stained oak moldings include door casings, sills, and window surrounds. Hall baseboards are 6" white marble strips. Many of the original oak paneled doors remain along with transoms, hardware, and Synite obscure glazing. Ceilings for the first floor hall show the exposed concrete beams which support the second floor. Beams are treated as large coffers, each with a simple cornice molding.

Within offices on the first and second floors, spaces have been modified. Typically, plywood paneling was installed over walls in these areas, and carpet or linoleum was placed over the wood floors (wood floors are over the concrete subfloor structure). Moldings and other original cabinetry have been retained in most offices. Some have suspended ceilings.

On the second floor, hallways have terrazzo floors and walls have a plaster finish. Decorative pressed metal ceilings and light fixtures remain in some areas. There is a north-south corridor on

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the second floor, but no hallway from the east. The west-central portion of the building houses the courtroom (photo 27). The large tripartite round arched windows visible on the west elevation light this room, which retains the original judge's bench and floor mounted swiveling juror's chairs (photo 28). Most unfortunately, this grand two story high space has been subdivided to create another level with courtroom. Wooden joists were inserted at window crown height, adding an extra floor. A suspended tile ceiling hides the floor structure. Paneling and carpeting were installed in the historic courtroom and new courtroom. Typical doors in the new courtroom are flush birch doors and modern casings. The original pressed metal ceiling is in place behind the suspended ceiling in the newer courtroom. This remodeling was completed in the 1970s and though aesthetically unfortunate, it did add useful space to the courthouse.

The attic level is reached by a wooden staircase and is used for light storage.

Other items of interest inside the courthouse include many original furnishings and items moved from the previous courthouse, such as a rolltop filing cabinet made by Jasper Furniture Company in 1897; two original oak tables in the court offices; an original counter in the recorder's office; and original bookcases in the Law Library. Restrooms retain tile floor finishes and marble partitions.

On the grounds of the courthouse square are several monuments of note. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument, 1894, is on the east lawn of the square (photo 31). Michael Durlauf, county engineer, was the architect, and Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Conn. provided the "white bronze" sculpture work (sources describe all metal work as white bronze, but due to paint over the metal, it is difficult to determine exactly what type of metal was used). It is Neo-Classical Revival in overall form, but Romanesque Revival in its treatments and details. An original cast iron fence surrounds the monument. The form of the monument suggests a truncated obelisk placed on a tall base. The tall granite and marble base is

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actually a vault with metal door on the west side. The base has rock-faced corners enframing bronze relief tablets on the north, south, and east sides. The dressed stone capping the base has a cornice and battered top, leading to a rock-faced section with cross-gable like ornaments and a frieze of raised squares. The next course is dressed and carved with names of decisive Civil War battles (Chickamauga, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Antietam), one per side. Next, a battered rock-faced section takes the form of a bunker with metal cannon barrels centered in each side opening. Several addition tapered section with ornamental friezes top the bunker, leading to a stylized Corinthian capital. A white bronze figure-a Union infantry man in full dress, including great coat and rifle-tops the monument.

A non-contributing monument is located immediately adjacent to the west portico (refer to photo 4). A stone tablet in the form of an open book is engraved with names of Dubois County deceased who served in World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War. A large metal flag pole is part of the memorial as well.

Section 8-Statement of Significance

The finest example of monumental Neo-Classical Revival architecture under National Register Criterion C in Dubois County is the County Courthouse, designed in 1909-1911 by Washington, D.C. architects Milburn, Heister & Company. Citizens and county officials traveled to the Columbian Exposition of 1894 to gather ideas for civic buildings, and were greatly influenced by the grand classical architecture of the fair. The construction and use of the courthouse are significant under Criterion A. The courthouse and square have been the center of governmental affairs and public gatherings continuously since the completion of the building. Construction of the building itself became a rallying point for the community. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument, 1894, completes the square and links it to previous structures on the parcel. It has significance as a good example of Victorian public sculpture. The period of significance, 1894-1945, begins with the completion of the monument and acknowledges the

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continuous importance of the square as a seat of county government and local center of civic life.

Dubois County was founded in 1818 with Portersville as the county seat. Portersville would remain the seat until an act of the State Legislature named Jasper the county seat in 1830. Jasper was centrally located and was near the Buffalo Trace, an early settlement trail through Dubois County. Also nearby was the only reliable ford across the Patoka River. The original plat of Jasper consisted of several blocks surrounding a central "Philadelphia Square" for the courthouse. Quakers from the Carolinas were predominant among early settlers and it can be postulated that the use of the Philadelphia Square is a distant remembrance of their origins. Only three other Indiana counties feature the Philadelphia Square type as the courthouse square. A log courthouse was erected in 1831 and served until 1839, when a fire destroyed it. All county records were lost in the blaze. Various sites served as the courthouse until 1844, when a new courthouse was built. A contractor was selected, but he abandoned the job after foundations were complete. Father Joseph Kundek, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, agreed to complete the building. This second courthouse was a brick Greek Revival building, two stories in height.

By the late 1800s, many things had changed in Dubois County. Hard-working German immigrants became the dominant population. Branching out from its simple agrarian roots, the economy had become much more industrial, with timber harvesting, woodworking, and furniture making being at the forefront. The increase in population and businesses placed a heavy burden on the old courthouse, which soon became inadequate for record storage and court proceedings.

In 1894, business and civic leaders of Dubois County attended the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Among them were the county engineer, auditor, judge, sheriff, and a county commissioner. There, they would have experienced first hand all the city beautiful movement could offer to growing cities and towns—a sense

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of order and grandeur through classical architecture and Neo-Baroque city planning. No doubt, the architecture of the exposition influenced county citizens and leaders to push for a new, classically inspired courthouse.

In May 1909, the county council met to appropriate funds to repair the old courthouse once again. After discussion, no funds were given to repair the old courthouse, but the idea of a new courthouse was proposed. In June 1909, a formal motion was adopted to build a new courthouse. It passed by a five to two vote. A public hearing on the issue found no objections.

Several items link the current courthouse to the second courthouse. Brick from the old courthouse was used for interior walls, the old bell was installed in the new courthouse, and safes from the old building were saved for the new building.

William Stillwell, the contractor, was well known in Southern Indiana. He built other Indiana courthouses, depots at French Lick and West Baden, buildings at Indiana University, and the French Lick Hotel. In 1909, he was president of the Henry Taylor Lumber Company and vice president of the West Lafayette Water Works. He lived in Lafayette.

The selection of Milburn, Heister & Company of Washington, D.C. as architects is explained by Frank Pierce Milburn's family connections to Dubois County. Some Milburn family members had lived in the county since 1859, and they were well respected. Richard Milburn, a State Senator and Attorney General of Indiana, along with his brothers John and James and sister Mattie, certainly provided much support for retaining their cousin as architect of the new courthouse. It is also known that most of these family members attended the Columbian Exposition.

Frank Pierce Milburn was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1868. He was educated and raised there. His father, Thomas, was a builder and architect. Frank later attended the University of Arkansas and Arkansas Industrial University at Fayetteville. From

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1884-89, Frank lived in Louisville, Kentucky probably continuing to study architecture; for in 1889 he collaborated on a Kentucky county courthouse with his father.

Milburn pursued many other courthouse projects, mainly in the southeast. After securing courthouse projects in North Carolina, he moved to that state. His largest and most controversial project was the completion of the 1852 South Carolina State House in Columbia, awarded in 1899. Milburn relocated to Columbia and took on other commissions nearby. His completed designs for the State House were not well-received, but Milburn continued to obtain commissions. Sources describe Milburn as a "consummate salesman", a quality which would have been useful for securing the Dubois County commission.

In 1902, Milburn was retained as an architect for the Southern Railway Company. Michael Heister became Milburn's partner in 1903, and the firm moved to Washington, D.C. in 1907. The firm designed many railroad depots, 26 county courthouses, nine college buildings, and other projects mainly in southern states. Milburn's trademark was a reliance and mastery of classical forms and ornament. Porticoes and central domes were common on grander designs. The Dubois County Courthouse is typical of Milburn's best and most elaborate work. As the firm matured, office buildings in the Washington, D.C. area became a specialty.

Milburn lived in Asheville, North Carolina at the time of his death in 1926.

As an example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture, the Dubois County Courthouse compares favorably with neighboring examples. Certainly, the Vanderburgh County Courthouse (1888-90, NR) is the among the grandest classical statements in Indiana. Both it and the Warrick County Courthouse are much more Victorian in spirit, inspired by the Second Empire and Renaissance Revival styles. Likewise, the Perry County Courthouse in Cannelton (1897) was probably already planned before the resurgence of strict classicism fueled by the Columbian Exposition could have had an

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influence. Perhaps most comparable within a broader region is the Owen County Courthouse, completed in 1910. It too reflects the stricter classicism of the Neo-Classical Revival style, although it lacks the grand porticoes of the Dubois County Courthouse. Although more altered than some of these courthouses, the Dubois County Courthouse still retains the elements of Neo-Classical Revival architecture. Interior alterations have diminished the historic character of the building, but it is still easily recognizable as the best example of its style in the county, and it is among the better examples in the region.

Section 9-Bibliography

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Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description

The public square in Jasper, Dubois County, Indiana is defined as an extension of Main Street. The .53 acre parcel which includes the courthouse, contributing monument and non-contributing monument as described above is defined by inside street curb lines on the north, south, east, and west sides. These curb lines would be considered curb lines of Main Street on all sides.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary.

