

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FINAL

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: Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail  
other names/site number: 109-386-64113

2. Location

street & number: 110 West Washington Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town: Martinsville N/A  vicinity  
state: Indiana code: IN county: Morgan code: 109 zip code: 46151

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 36CFR 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 4-22-96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Name of Property

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

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

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
GOVERNMENT: Correctional Facility

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN:

foundation STONE: Sandstone

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other METAL

Narrative Description

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

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.

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
1890-1946

Significant Dates  
1890

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder  
Turner, T. I.

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	549040	4364130
	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 Cash and Joanne Reatz Stuttgen

organization Morgan County Historic Preservation Society date 1/18/1996

street & number P.O. Box 1377 telephone (317) 349-1537

city or town Martinsville state IN zip code 46151

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 Morgan County Historic Preservation Society

street & number P.O. Box 1377 telephone (317) 349-1537

city or town Martinsville state IN zip code 46151

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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail  
Morgan County, Indiana**

The Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail was completed in 1890. The 18 December 1890 edition of the Martinsville Republican provides an account of the jail and its construction. The previous sheriff's house and jail was attached to the 1859 courthouse, but was considered inadequate for its intended purpose by the 1880s. County commissioners issued a notice for sealed bids to build a new sheriff's house and jail in July 1889. In August 1889, T.J. Turner received the contract. The brickwork was sublet to W.H. Prather of Martinsville and the ironwork was executed by Lane Brothers & Co. of Newark, Ohio. No architect's name is mentioned. Ground was broken in Spring, 1890 and the building was receiving its final coat of paint on December 18, 1890, the day of the newspaper account.

The structure is situated on the northwest corner of Washington and Mulberry Streets, a block from the Morgan County Courthouse. Prior to 1890, the property was occupied by a small frame house according to the 1888 Sanborn Map of Martinsville. The environment is transitional from dense commercial uses of the square to a residential area beyond.

The building measures twenty-seven feet across its front facade and forty-eight feet deep. The foundation is of hand-quarried sandstone with a limestone water table. Walls are of soft-burned brick laid in common bond. The overall design recalls the gabled-ell house type, with the rear jail block projecting from the taller front section. In style, the building combines several late nineteenth century influences. The overall massing and asymmetry recall the Queen Anne style, while the heavy arches are a Romanesque Revival influence, and the use of polychromy demonstrated in the terra cotta tiles is often seen on Victorian Gothic buildings.

The front elevation is a vernacular three bay design, with a side hall plan (photo 1). The entry is the easternmost bay. A multiple-coursed, brick semi-circular arch with an extrados course of terra cotta tiles. The door is recessed about one foot behind the arch and paneled wood jambs line the niche. The original paneled wood door with bell knob and overhead transom remain.

Beside the door are two typical windows; rectangular, wood, one-over-one, double hung units with stone sills. The rectangular windows are set within a multiple coursed, splayed flat arch with segmental intrados and a flat extrados course of terra cotta tile. This treatment is repeated for the second floor windows, except that the center bay has a paired window group. The attic level has four small double hung windows banded together under a multiple coursed segmental arch topped by a course of tiles.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

**Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail  
Morgan County, Indiana**

The gable end has raking bands of tiles, set where brackets might be placed. The heavy sheet metal cornice with incised lines has returns with a pair of simple sheet metal brackets under each.

The east elevation has the projecting gable end of the ell and a side wall of the front section (photos 4, 5, 16). To the rear is the jail cell block. On the side wall is a small fixed window with stone sill and a brick arch similar to those in front but lacking the terra cotta ornamentation. The gable end has three openings on the first level. An entry with steps originally had a small porch which is now gone. Beside this doorway are two windows covered with iron bars. The arches over all openings on the ell are multiple coursed segmental arches. The two second floor windows are short horizontal rectangular units with segmental arches. The gable end is similar to the front gable, except that the attic window group has three double hung units rather than four.

Beside the ell is the rear jail cell block. Immediately at the junction of the ell and jail block was a projecting semi circular stair tower, added in 1974, but removed in February of 1996. Two doorway openings have been cut into the old jail block where the stairs connected to it, one on each floor. Also, the north wall of the ell had a window at this corner, but only the arch remains. The jail block has three original window openings on each floor, extending to the end of the building. The windows are like those of the second floor of the ell. The roof of the jail block has a lower pitch than the main roof.

The west elevation is more utilitarian in character (photos 2, 3, 17). The front half of the main block is a blank wall. A series of openings on the first floor continue from this point to the back. Openings have arches similar to those of the front elevation but lacking the tile work. The first is an intact window. Next is a window converted into a doorway. Beside this is a large square opening; the original arch is visible above a new lintel. A short doorway is the final opening. This doorway is parged. It is unclear if a window existed here originally. Three windows are aligned above the first floor openings. The last window has been bricked in and partially parged over, yet the arch remains. At the corner where the jail block and front section meet, the north wall of the front section has a window which has been enlarged to a doorway.

The west side of the jail block has been revealed by demolition of the 1974 additions. It has four short windows on each level, similar to the windows on the east side of the jail block. Newer doorways were cut through at the corner where the jail block meets the front section. Part of the roof cornice was removed when the addition was made. The rear wall of the jail block was blank

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

---

**Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail  
Morgan County, Indiana**

originally, but now it has three openings on each floor where halls joined an addition. The gable end had returns for the cornice.

The interior is separated by function into three basic sections. The front block was the sheriff's residence, the ell was the sheriff's office, and the jail block extends to the rear. The sheriff's residence portion has three rooms on each floor plus a stairhall, closets, and a bathroom on the second floor.

Walls and ceilings are lath and plaster. Some newer drywall partitions and suspended tile ceilings have been installed. The original plan is still discernable, since the newer partitions have very simple boards for woodwork. Original wood baseboards, incised beaded surrounds, paneled wood doors, and other historic features still exist. The woodwork is of ash and pine.

The stairhall is a key space on the interior (photos 6, 7). Surrounds here are typical of those on the first floor and feature incised work on the upper part of the overlapping vertical boards, and on all headers. Bull's eye corner blocks are used on the surrounds. The staircase is a typical Queen Anne style element. The oak staircase was built by Milton Thornberry and in 1890, was described as "some of the finest carpenter work to be found in the city." The painted oak handrails and newels form a straight run along the east outside wall. The heavy chamfered newel is canted forty-five degrees outward. The newel cap has a raised ornament, a diamond shape with flower, similar to the terre cotta tiles on the exterior arches. The railing is a rectilinear grid of incised strapwork.

The main front parlor has typical woodwork around the windows and doorways. An Eastlake style cut slate, painted black faux finished mantelpiece is in this room (photo 8). Originally, this room occupied most of the area beside the stairhall, from which it is separated by a long wall. The doorway to the parlor, now at the end of the stairhall, shows traces of having been located closer to the front wall. Two smaller rooms were added within this parlor in the 1970s, leaving the larger room with a "L" footprint. A hall leads to the ell, and to a series of small rooms to the rear. A perpendicular hall, across the rear of the house section, connects to the jail. The ell room appears to have been an office. The previously described side entry opens to a small mud room with original vertical board wainscot.

The second floor of the house portion retains better integrity. With the exception of finishes, it

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

---

**Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail  
Morgan County, Indiana**

gives an accurate impression of how the house looked in its earlier years. A large room (master bedroom?) runs across the front of the house (photo 9) with a kitchenette area over the stairway (the kitchenette function is likely not original). A central hall runs to the back of the house section, and a series of rooms opens off of either side (photo 10). The hall intersects with another perpendicular hall across the rear of the house, leading again to the jail block. Moldings are simpler on the second floor, with plain wide boards trimming doorways and windows. Vertical boards overlap as on the first floor.

The second floor of the east wing had the two original women's cells (photo 11). Each is eight feet square with riveted iron lattice instead of bars. The cell doors swing outward rather than into the cells. A hall and heavy iron security door divide the women's cells from the rest of the house. The men's jail block is four steps lower and extends to the north (photo 12).

The jail block interior has many original features. Two island rows of cells are flanked by narrow aisles on all sides (photo 14). Exterior walls, floors, and ceilings are lined with iron sheets having a pebbled texture. Newspaper accounts state that stone blocks also lined exterior walls, but demolition of the 1970s additions have not revealed this detail under the iron sheets. The same account describes the iron work as a five layer processed steel. The inner layer is iron, sandwiched by chilled steel, and outer layers of chrome steel. Lane Brothers & Company of Newark, Ohio provided the ironwork. Heavy iron doors open to the aisles from the house's rear hall. The central door has a half-cylinder of iron lattice; after opening the door, the jailer could step inside the cylinder, in the jail block, to inspect prisoners while maintaining a protective barrier (photo 15).

Heat for the jail block was provided originally by two stoves, one in the southwest corner and one in the northwest corner. Heaters and flues located in the corner of each cell appear to be additions. An external chimney still stands in the northwest corner of the residence, although it has been shortened and capped by a shed roof it still connects to the coal furnace in the basement. Two other internal chimneys on the east and west walls have been cut off below the roof line.

Other changes to the jail block have included the installation of showers at the south end of the block, toilets in each cell, and the original hammocks have been replaced with steel frame bunks.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 & 8 Page 5

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**Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail  
Morgan County, Indiana**

In 1974, extensive additions to the jail were built and the original structure was rehabilitated (photos 1-5 show the additions in various stages from complete to under demolition, while photos 16 and 17 show all additions removed). As discussed, the additions extended the building to the south and west for the most part. Very recently, all additions were removed. Openings which connected the old building to the additions are in process of being sealed with concrete block. Removal of the additions and securing of the exterior have been done by the new owner, the Morgan County Historic Preservation Society. The county sold the property to the Society, and the group hopes to sell the building to a private owner, with protective covenants attached.

*Section 8-Statement of Significance*

The Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail, 1890, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an illustration of local politics and government from the most significant period of its use, 1890-1946. Under Criterion C, the house and jail provide a fine example of this combined use facility which had evolved as the institution and role of the sheriff developed during the 19th century.

The institution of county sheriff is typically American, although the name stems from English law. In the 19th century, as in Indiana today, it is an elected position which carries some influence. The authority of the position has lost some of its scope over time, yet the position of county sheriff still carries with it the responsibility to house the convicted in suitable quarters. During the settlement period of the Midwest, the most secure way to house prisoners was to place them in the supervision of the sheriff. County sheriffs received a stipend for housing, clothing, and feeding prisoners. In time, county governments provided housing for the sheriff and family during his elected tenure and jail cells, all in one structure. Early examples, such as the former Parke County Sheriff's House and Jail (c.1840) were no more than houses with one or several secure rooms.

Later in the 19th century, the two functions of a single family home and jail block were more clearly delineated. During the era when county government was predominate, and rural populations increasing, the need to provide a more secure and symbolically fitting building type arose. Sheriffs and deputies needed to handle more prisoners, more efficiently. Novel ideas, such as the rotary cell block seen in the Montgomery County Sheriff's House and Jail (1882), were

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

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## Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail Morgan County, Indiana

tried. Overall, jails were becoming more modern in layout and appearance. As the role of county sheriff changed, the need for the sheriff to live next to the jail block diminished. Typically, sheriff's offices moved into the former residence portions of the buildings. Many Indiana sheriff's homes and jails have remained in use to recent times as county offices. With more than half of the state's 92 counties covered by the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, and additional National Register data, 28 existing sheriff's house and jail buildings have been identified. The oldest known example still in use as such is the Ohio County home (c.1840). Less than half of the surveyed or otherwise identified counties have a historic sheriff's house, making this once common type a rarity in Hoosier county seat towns.

The Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail reflects the specialization trend in its building type. The jail block and home are designed as independent structures in order to accommodate the most current planning for each at the time. On the local level, the house and jail record a significant aspect of local government in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

The Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail is the fifth correctional facility to serve the county since its organization in 1822. According to Charles Blanchard, an early historian, the first jail was a small log structure erected in 1824. It was destroyed by fire in 1826 and replaced within three or four years by a brick jail in 1826 on the approximate location of the existing courthouse annex, the former jailer's house. This second jail was abandoned after ten years and a third log jail located in the northeastern part of town was built to replace it. With the completion of the Morgan County Courthouse in 1859, a secure jail was provided within the building itself. The annex, which appears as an independent house, was the sheriff's house. It served as such for 31 years, and became county offices when the nominated building was completed in 1890. The Martinsville Republican described the jail in December 1890 as one of the finest jails in Indiana, "a model jail...of latest style and all the modern improvements." An escape from its steel lined jail block would be "out of the question". It was among few historic sheriff's house and jail buildings still in use as jail when finally abandoned in 1990.

The site for the house and jail was close to the courthouse, but in a transitional area between the square's commercial core and surrounding residential neighborhoods. One of several famous mineral water spas, the Colonial/Artesian/Cohn-Barnard Sanitarium, was built in 1906 at the southeast corner (diagonal) of the intersection where the jail stands, but it was demolished in 1963.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 & 9 Page 7

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**Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail  
Morgan County, Indiana**

In a broader sense, the house and jail were part of a period of general economic growth for Martinsville and Morgan County. Starting in the 1880s and 90s, Martinsville became known for its recreational mineral water spas. The naturally occurring mineral water of the area was said to have medicinal qualities, and city folk traveled great distances in some cases to "take the waters". As many as a dozen resorts were built in Martinsville, employing hundreds and bolstering a growing manufacturing economy. Old Hickory Chair (later Furniture) Company, several brick makers, and Grassyfork Fisheries were significant local industries in the early 1900s. The growth of county offices mirrors the economic and population growth of the community, and in this way, the development of a new sheriff's house and jail is emblematic of turn of the century Martinsville.

In the realm of popular history, the house and jail are connected to one of Indiana's most infamous criminals, John Dillenger. Verl Clark, county sheriff from 1933-34, recalls that Dillenger was convicted of robbing a small grocery in Mooresville early in his "career" and spent time here in 1925 or 1926.

*Section 9-Bibliography*

"ACCEPTED: The New Jail and Jailor's Residence is Completed..." Martinsville Republican, December 18, 1890.

Blanchard, Charles. Counties of Morgan, Monroe, and Brown, Indiana: Historical and Biographical. Chicago: F.A. Battey, 1884.

Clark, Verl. Telephone interview with Joanne Stuttgen. Martinsville, Indiana, December 15, 1995.

Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. "Architectural Contexts" binder, section on county sheriff's houses and jails, compiled by Paul Diebold, 1988-1996.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, Morgan County Interim Report, 1993.

Kaylor, Jack. Telephone interview with Joanne Stuttgen. Martinsville, Indiana, December 15, 1995.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 & 10 Page 8

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**Morgan County Sheriff's House and Jail  
Morgan County, Indiana**

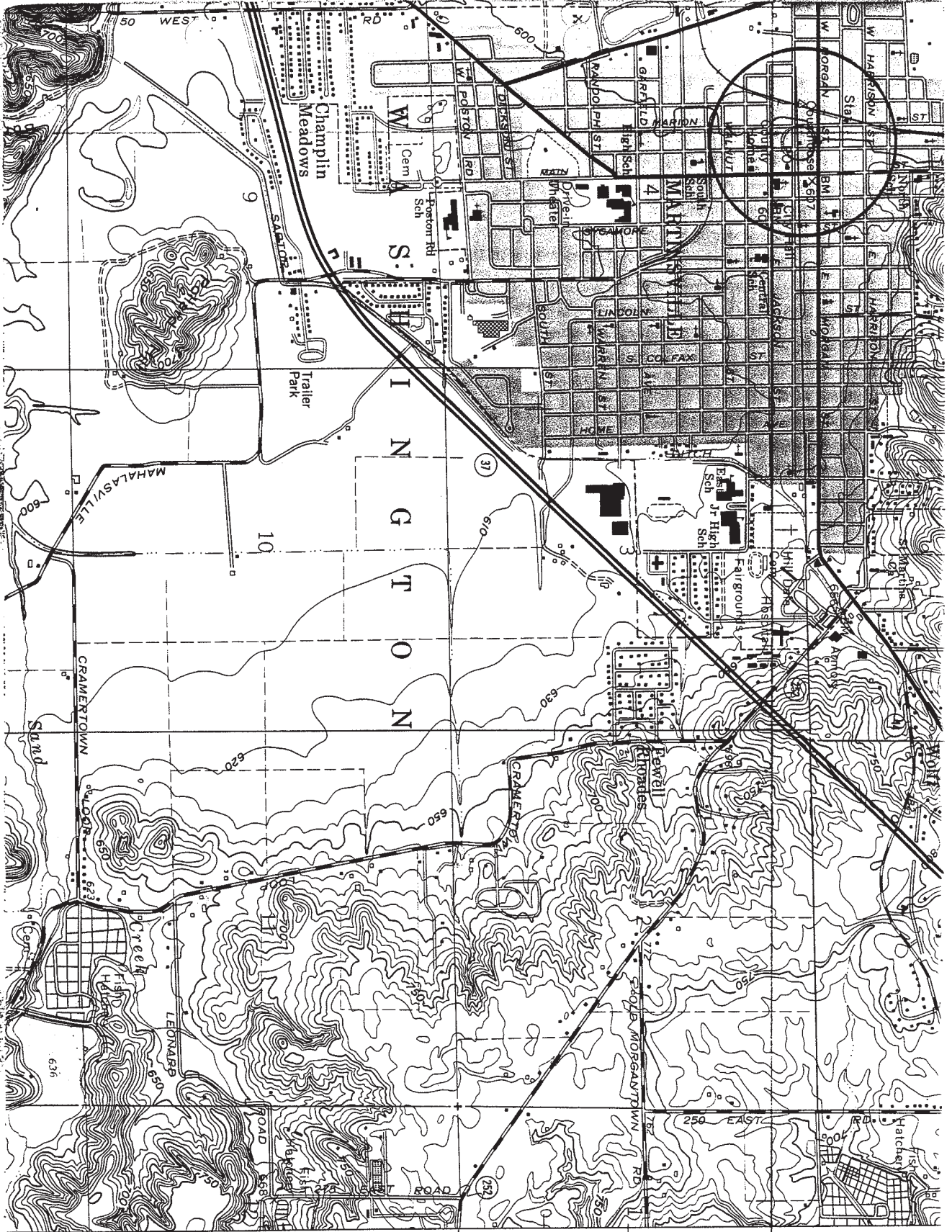
Stuttgen, Joanne Raetz. Martinsville: A Pictorial History. St. Louis: G. Bradley, 1995.

*Section 10-Geographical Data-Verbal Boundary Description*

Lot 2, Block 32, original plat of the city of Martinsville; northwest corner of Mulberry and Washington Streets.

*Boundary Justification*

This is the historic boundary.



4361  
 4362 MORGANTOWN 7 MI.  
 25'  
 4364  
 T. 11 N.  
 T. 12 N.

Morgan County  
 Sheriff's Residence  
 - Jail  
 Morgan Co. IN  
 Zone 16  
 E 549040  
 N 4364130