

**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 Carroll County Courthouse
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 101 West Main Street N/A not for publication
city or town Delphi N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Carroll code 015 zip code 46923

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date 11.8.03

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
- district
- site
- structure
- object
- landscape

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
3	0	objects
4	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)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone
walls STONE: Limestone
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _____

ART _____

Period of Significance

1888 _____

1916-1953 _____

Significant Dates

1888 _____

1916 _____

1918 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Dunlap, Elmer E. _____

Richards, Myra Reynolds _____

Schwarz, Rudolf _____

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 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:

Carroll County Historical Society Museum _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid with 4 rows and 3 columns (Zone, Easting, Northing). Row 1 contains values: 16, 527520, 4492650. Row 2 is empty. Row 3 is empty. Row 4 is empty. A checkbox 'See continuation sheet' is present.

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 Alexandra Wenzl & Lynn Corson; Suzanne Stanis
organization Delphi Preservation Society; HLF I date 04-14-2003
street & number 6678 W 200 N telephone 765/ 564-2324
city or town Delphi state IN zip code 46923

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 Carroll County Commissioners
street & number 101 West Main Street telephone 765/ 564-3172
city or town Delphi state IN zip code 46923

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.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 7 - Description

The Carroll County Courthouse sits on a landscaped square bounded by Main, Washington, Franklin and Market streets with late nineteenth century commercial architecture surrounding it. Located on the courthouse property is a Civil War Soldiers and Sailors monument on the southeast corner of the square, a modern gazebo on the northeast corner, a World War II artillery gun on the northwest corner, and a sculptural drinking fountain on the southwest corner. The monument, artillery gun, and drinking fountain are considered contributing objects; the gazebo is a non-contributing structure. A gambrel-roofed tool shed on the west lawn is not a permanent structure and is not counted.

The courthouse is rectangular in plan. Only the west facade, with its three-story projecting center pavilion, interrupts the otherwise rectangular design. Three of the four elevations (south, east, and north) are very similar to one another. The courthouse is three stories tall, and constructed of Indiana limestone. On each facade the placement of pilasters and window and door openings creates a feeling of symmetry and balance.

The main, or east facade, like each of the other elevations, exhibits a classically inspired limestone parapet with recessed panels and a centrally located round clock face housed within a raised, round arched surround. (Photo 1) Tassels, a wreath, and consoles on either side enframe the clock. Below the parapet are limestone modillions accenting the cornice line. The frieze of the north, south and west facades is inscribed with "Carroll County Court House" and flanked by decorative wreaths. The main facade is likewise inscribed with "Carroll County Court House," but it is flanked by the date 1916 in addition to the wreath ornamentation. This facade also differs from the other three in that it possesses six, engaged, Tuscan columns. Connecting the plinths of each column is a limestone balustrade. The north, south, and west facades employ the use of pilasters. To provide room for the columns, the central five sets of windows on the east facade are recessed from the primary plane of the building, and spandrel panels divide the two stories within the colonnade. The original windows on the east facade, as well as each other elevation, have been replaced with aluminum frames and tinted glass.

The ground floor is treated as a rusticated base for the whole composition, with deep, horizontally channeled masonry resting on a dressed stone foundation. This treatment is also carried up to the flanking end bays of each facade, making them oversized "antea." The ground floor rhythm echoes those of the floors above, with seven segmental arched openings aligning with those of upper floors. The first floor of the east facade has a centrally located recessed door. The double doors are aluminum replacements. The doorway has a segmental arched opening with molded surrounds and a limestone scroll keystone. Lanterns flank the doorway. Also flanking the doorway are six (three on each side) windows with limestone radiating voussoir headers. The rusticated work of the end bays embraces rectangular window openings on the upper stories, each rusticated pilaster-like element defined by a simple base and capital. A two story molded surround, recessed behind the

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flanking pilaster-like elements, also vertically connects the end bay windows. Below the third floor windows, at either end of the facade, is a decorative limestone garland. Below the second floor windows at each end is a small balcony with a balustrade supported by limestone brackets.

The north and south elevations are identical, except that the north side has an accessibility ramp with metal railing. (Photos 2-4) As mentioned, the upper floors of the central bay are highlighted by four pilasters. Windows on the second and third floors are identical in size with the exception of the narrow windows located on the outside edges of the central bay. Like the main facade, third floor windows on the east and west bays have decorative garland motifs; the first floor windows of the same bays do not have projecting balconies, but rather limestone balustrades.

The west facade differs primarily in the projection of the central bay. (Photo 5) Again the use of pilasters, limestone balustrades and garland motifs is present. The double rusticated pilaster treatment of the corners is reserved for the main section of the building on this elevation. The projecting section has single rusticated pilasters at the corners. Additionally, four small rectangular windows (two on each the second and third floors) are located on the primary body of the building just north and south of the projecting section. There is no entrance on this facade. On the first floor are three windows on the central bay, and one each on the north and south bays.

The interior of the courthouse is far more ornate than the exterior, with a rotunda being the focal point of the building (Photo 6). Entering by the south, north and east elevations, there are large segmental archways which spill into the circular space created by the rotunda. There are eight pairs of marble columns placed around the circumference of the rotunda; each one topped with consoles. Encircling the rotunda is a plaster entablature molding decorated with dentils and egg and dart designs. The consoles support decorative beams that divide the ceiling into coffered panels. The first floor is adorned with a large mosaic of repeating floral designs in red, green, yellow, white and burgundy. The mosaic is surrounded by white tile with a circular border, which reaches the boundaries of the room (Photo 7). Entering on the south side of the building, before reaching the rotunda space, is the Surveyor's office on the west side of the building, and a stairwell to the basement. The northeast corner houses the Carroll County Health Department, and the northwest corner houses the county Assessor's office.

On the west side of the rotunda, sits the historic bell, which was retrieved from the first two courthouses (Photo 8). There are also several Carroll County veterans' plaques on display on each side of the rotunda. On the northeast side is a plaque reading: "Roll Of Honor Citizens of Carroll County who served Their Country in the Korean Conflict." On the southeast side the plaque reads: "Roll of Honor Citizens of Carroll County who served in the Vietnam War." Next to this plaque is a smaller one reading: "Roll of Honor Citizens of Carroll

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County who served In the Persian Gulf War.” On the northwest side, above the historic bell, is a plaque that reads: “Roll Of Honor Citizens of Carroll County Who Served Our Country in World War II, 1941-1945.”

There are two curving marble staircases located on the south and north side of the rotunda that ascend to the second floor. Both have cast iron handrails decorated with a repeated design. The second floor is similar in design to that of the first, but instead of large sets of marble columns, there are pilasters in their place. The decorative ceiling molding from the first floor continues on this floor as well. On the south side of the second floor is the Treasurer’s Office, on the east side is the Auditor’s Office, on the west side is the Recorder’s Office, and on the north side is the Commissioners’ Chambers.

The third floor is also very similar in design to that of the second floor, and has the stained glass dome of the rotunda as the ceiling. (Photo 9) The third floor houses the courtrooms and the law library (on the north side of the building). On the east side of the building is the Carroll County Superior Court, on the south side is the Superior Court Office, and on the west side is the Carroll County Circuit Courtroom--the oldest courtroom in the building.

The Circuit Courtroom is very large with three panels of stained glass skylighting in the center of the ceiling (Photo 10). The ceiling is separated into coffered panels by cross beams, which have the original chandeliers hanging from the intersecting beams. The walls of the courtroom complete the classical imagery with pilasters supporting a simple entablature. Pilasters are spaced to mark the locations of ceiling beams. On the south side of the room is one large window, while the west side has four large windows, and the north side has one window. The main courtroom entrance is located on the east side of the room, with a large oak door frame and transom window, topped with a clock. There is also a doorway to the judge’s chambers located on the north side of the room (front part of the room), and another entrance located on the south side of the room. The four paneled walls are painted in a traditional Victorian color scheme with deep and light shades of blue, bordered with white ornamental molding. The back of the room (south side), is a seating area with four rows of wooden seats (72 seats), taking up a third of the room. The judge’s bench is located on the north side of the room with the seal of the State of Indiana above it. The jury seating, across from the judge’s bench, takes up the remainder of the space on the east portion of the wall. In front of the judge’s bench are two desks, one each for the plaintiff and defendant. This section is separated from the viewers’ chairs by a wooden rail.

On the southeast corner of the block sits the Soldiers and Sailors Monument constructed in 1888 (Photo 11). On the northeast corner of the block is a modern gazebo; on the northwest corner is an artillery cannon; and on the southwest corner sits a drinking fountain with a bronze sculpture serving as a centerpiece. The artillery cannon has a plaque attached to the backside of it reading; “In Appreciation of the Spanish American War

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Veterans who Gave Their Cannon from This Site for World War II-Harry Bohannon Post, No.75 American Legion, May 30, 1949.”

Across from the cannon, on the southwest corner, is the *Murphy Memorial Drinking Fountain* donated through the will of Mrs. Clara G. Murphy, who died in 1917. (Photo 12) The well-known Indianapolis sculptor Myra Reynolds Richards (1882-1934) created the bronze girl holding a cup-like spout as the centerpiece of the fountain (Photo 12). The same granite used on the Soldiers and Sailors Monument is also incorporated into the design of this fountain. Myra Richards was born in Indianapolis in 1882. She later attended the John Herron Art Institute and in 1918 became the head of the school's department of anatomy and sculpture. Myra Reynolds Richards created several other works of art on display throughout the state of Indiana, including: *The Pioneer Family* in Indianapolis, *James Whitcomb Riley* in Greenfield and the *Juliet V. Strause* fountain in Turkey Run State Park.

The Soldier and Sailors Monument was constructed in 1888, using a combination of granite with bronze tablets (Photo 11). The two bronze tablets created by the Austrian artist Rudolf Schwarz (1846-1912), are entitled “The Return Home” and “The Dying Soldier.” Rudolf Schwarz was born in Vienna and later attended the Vienna Academy of Art. In 1887, an international competition was held for an architect for the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Monument. The architect who received the commission, Bruno Schmitz, selected Schwarz as the primary sculptor. In 1897 Schwarz came to Indianapolis where he continued to create works of art in his studio on the south side of Indianapolis and teach at the John Herron Art Institute. Other notable works by Schwarz include *Governor Oliver P. Morton* in Indianapolis and several pieces at Wabash College.¹

Section 8 - Statement of Significance

The Carroll County Courthouse is an outstanding example of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture that was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Built in the center of Delphi, this courthouse was designed by Hoosier architect Elmer E. Dunlap, who was known for schoolhouse and governmental building commissions throughout the state. The current courthouse is one in a series of three to grace the center of town, and still serves as the seat of county government and associated activities. Its rating of “outstanding” in the 1980 Carroll County Interim Report speaks to its architectural significance within the county and state and justifies its eligibility under Criterion C. The property also meets Criterion C for its collection of public art. The courthouse’s association with the government and politics of Carroll County addresses Criterion A.

¹ Bodenhamer. *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, p. 1242.

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The period of significance includes the artistic legacy of the courthouse square. The first period of significance, 1888, includes the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. The second period of significance acknowledges the continuous role of the courthouse from its construction in 1916 through 1953.

In America, the language of classical architecture has long been synonymous with democracy. Various throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, colonists and Americans borrowed classical forms and styles to provide the proper stamp of authority to courthouses, town halls and other public places. When finally, builders of the Victorian age began to waver from classicism, two significant events brought formal classicism back into favor for governmental projects, not to be dislodged until after the Second World War. First, the planners of a major architectural event, the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, selected Beaux-Arts classicism as the style for most major pavilions. Next, in 1897, James Knox Taylor was appointed Supervising Architect of the Treasury. Taylor used his position to select formal, strict classicism as the new image for all federal courthouses, post offices, and office buildings. Local governments throughout the nation also followed the move toward classicism, as libraries, courthouses, town halls, schools and other public buildings rose to meet the demands of growing industrial nation.

Classicism inspired by the 1893 Exposition and Taylor's new post offices reflect the permanence they were meant to have. Rooflines are flat or hipped, obscured by parapets or balustrades. Masonry construction was a must, Indiana limestone was used nationally. The language of Greco-Roman classicism is well expressed: columns, entablatures, arcades, marked by symmetrical plans. Interiors often have grand public spaces, richly ornamented with classical motifs. The builder's art is often revealed in rich materials: marble patterning, mosaic, scagliola, plaster work, or stained glass. The Carroll County Courthouse demonstrates all the significant traits of 20th century classicism. Indeed, in 1916, there being few as compelling styles for a governmental building in Indiana at that time, the county commissioners likely gave little thought to any other style of building.

The Carroll County Courthouse also meets Criterion C because it is a major work of a significant architect. Columbus, Indiana native Elmer E. Dunlap (1874-1954) received a degree in architecture and architectural engineering from the University of Illinois in 1897. He practiced architecture with nationally known school designer William Butts Ittner in St. Louis in 1902 and moved to Indianapolis by about 1906, perhaps as early as 1903.² He designed Central School in Columbus in 1904, City School in Hope, 1906, Eggleston School in Madison in 1906, schools in Bedford and Huntington, and Indianapolis schools #26 and #30 in the 1920s. About this time (1925), Dunlap moved back to Columbus to manage the family's construction business following his father's death. Dunlap's experience with county courthouses began in 1910. Both the Franklin

² Thayer, Laura. Shelbyville High School, NR nomination, and Greiff, Glory-June. Spencer County Courthouse, NR nomination. Other information on Dunlap from DHPA, Historic Architect's Database.

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County Commissioners and the Jackson County Commissioners awarded Dunlap contracts to remodel existing French Second Empire style courthouses that were deteriorating. For both jobs, he used classical elements to obscure the Victorian structure, including a monumental distyle in antis portico. Carroll County officials gave Dunlap his first chance to design an Indiana courthouse from scratch in 1916. Two other counties awarded him courthouse commissions following this; Spencer in 1919 and Pike in 1921. The Spencer County Courthouse is markedly similar to his earlier Carroll County design, while the Pike County Courthouse varies in detail. Three counties including Carroll commissioned Dunlap to build new courthouses.

The courthouse, occupying the original square designated for such use, is historically significant for its association with the ongoing activities of county government. The beginnings of Carroll County date to May 15, 1828, when William Wilson donated 100 acres of land to the county commissioners for the site of county seat. A year later, officials incorporated the town under the name of Delphi. In the early stages of the formation of the county, citizens used the Baum cabin, located on the north side of Deer Creek, for governmental hearings. In the spring of 1831, the commissioners gave notice to "contractors and builders" that they would accept plans and specifications for a new courthouse. A.E. Kemmer of Lafayette, Indiana received the construction contract.

In July, 1831, construction of the first courthouse commenced, taking a total of seven years to construct at a cost of \$3,500.00. The two story structure had dimensions of 50 feet square and was covered by a hipped, wood shingled roof. A 12 foot high cupola with a 12 foot base capped the New English-looking courthouse. Commissioners placed a bell salvaged from the 1839 Ohio River steamboat wreck of the *Othello* and *Peru* in the cupola. The residents of Delphi petitioned for the bell to be saved and for \$93 it was raised from the shipwreck.

Realizing that the existing courthouse could not handle the current level of traffic, commissioners voted to demolish the structure in order to construct a larger building. The second courthouse was built between 1856 and 1859 at a cost of \$170,000.00. Logansport, Indiana architect M.J. McBride designed this new courthouse in the Second Empire style. The building included two large towers at each corner with a clock located on one of the towers of the main façade. The bell from the first courthouse was incorporated into the 1856 building.

In 1916, the commissioners razed the 1859 courthouse and graded the square to make way for the present building. Care was taken not to disturb the Civil War Monument constructed in 1888. The current courthouse was completed at a cost of \$250,000.00.

Lastly, the Carroll County Courthouse is significant for the artistic sculpture included on its lawn. The 1888 Civil War Memorial was created by Rudolf Schwarz, who, as noted earlier, came to America to work on the

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Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis. Though not of the scale of the Indianapolis design, the Carroll County monument gave a preview of what the completed Soldiers and Sailors Monument might look like. Schwarz combined the Egyptian obelisk form with Romantic classical elements, and bronze figural sculpture with a masonry base and pedestal, much like its larger Indianapolis cousin. The more intimate scale of the Carroll County allowed a refinement not possible on a larger monument: the bronze relief panels on the flanks of the base, depicting battle scenes. The panels show a mastery of perspective, texture and detail. The artistry of the monument transcends its function as a commemorative piece.

Myra Reynolds Richards' *Murphy Memorial Drinking Fountain*, on the other hand, was intended purely to enrich the courthouse square. Completed in 1918, it is a good example of her work, and is perhaps the most visible and public of her works. Richards was one of two well-known sculptresses in Indiana, the other being Helene Hibben. As noted earlier, Richards was a department chair at Herron Art Institute. In contrast to Schwarz' stark and formal realism (such as proffered by the French Salon), Richards favored a naturalistic, impressionistic style and the figure in the Murphy commission well reflects the best of her work.

Despite minor alterations over the years, the Carroll County Courthouse maintains a high level of integrity, demonstrating the political, historical, artistic and architectural heritage of the county.

Section 9 - Bibliography

Bodenhamer, David J., ed. *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Burnet, Mary J. *Art and Artists in Indiana*. Neddlefork: The Century Co., 1921.

Gerard, C.E. *The Carroll County Sesquicentennial Publication*. Lafayette: Haywood Printing Company, 1977.

Greiff, Glory-June. Spencer County Courthouse, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 1998.

Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Historic Architects Database.

Phillips, Steven. *Old House Dictionary*. Lakewood: American Source Books, 1989.

Thayer, Laura. Shelbyville High School, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 1995.

Carroll County Courthouse
(Property Name)

Carroll County, Indiana

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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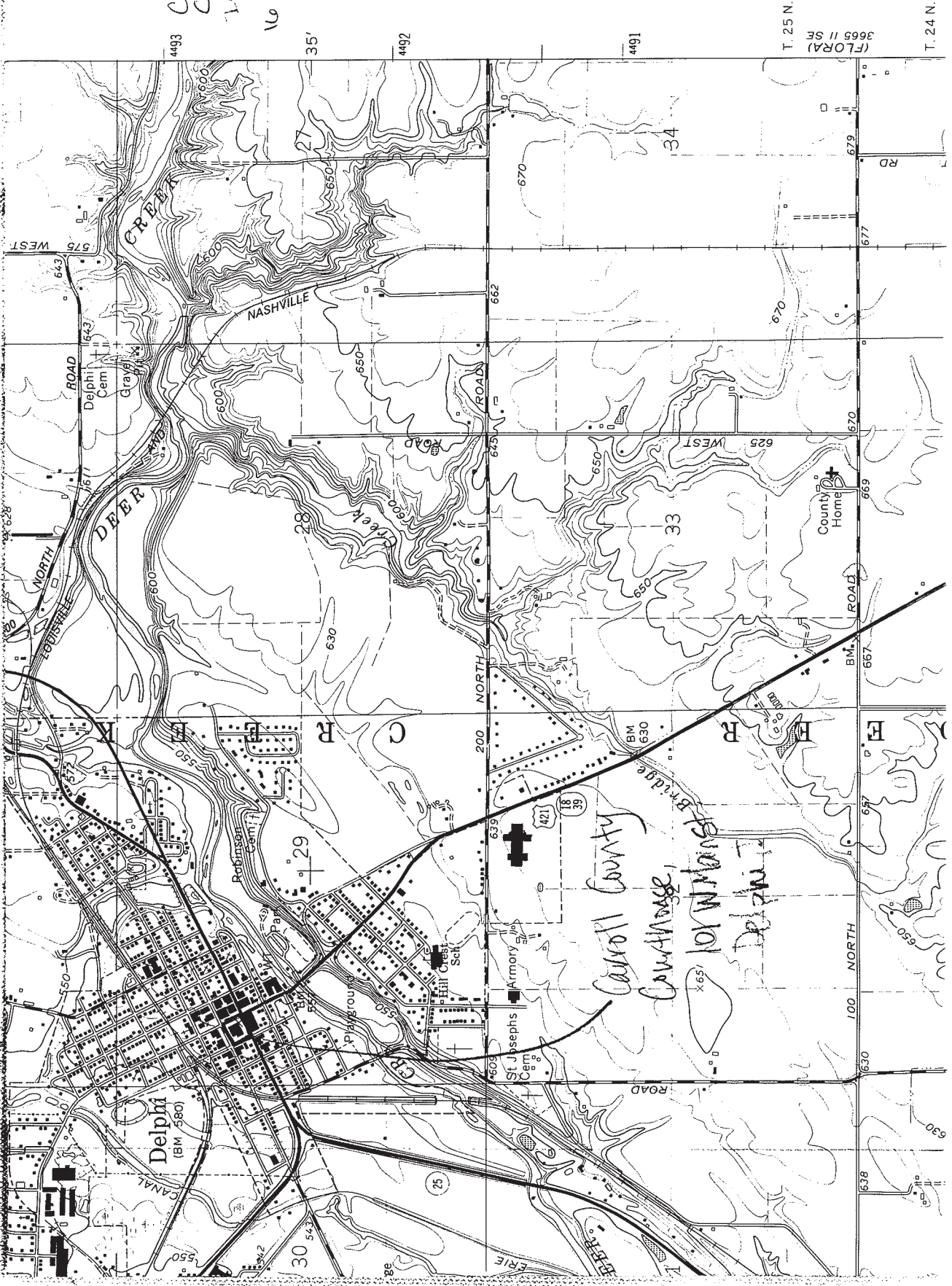
Section 10 - Geographic Data - Verbal Boundary Description

The courthouse square is located in Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana, and includes the land bound by the south curb line of Franklin Street, the west curb line of Washington Street, the north curb line of Main Street, and the east curb of Market Street.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic boundary of the property.

CARROLL COUNTY
CORATHOUSE
DELIHI, INDIANA
NO 527520 444265X



T. 25 N.
(FLORA) 3665 11 SE
T. 24 N.