

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: INDIANA	
COUNTY: KNOX	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Indiana Territory State Memorial

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Territorial Capitol of Former Indiana Territory

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bounded by Harrison, First, Scott and Park Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Vincennes

STATE:
Indiana

CODE: **18** COUNTY: CODE: **083**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Admission Fee
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Administered by</u> <u>Vincennes University</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Indiana, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 608 State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Knox County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Busseron, Broadway, Seventh and Eighth Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Vincennes

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
**U.S. Surveyor General, Public Lands Survey Plats (Buntin)
For Indiana, Vol. 5, Page 168**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1807** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
**1. National Archives, Washington, D. C.
2. Indiana State Archives, State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana**

STREET AND NUMBER:
(See Above)

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D. C. and Indianapolis

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
18

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The structure, sometimes known as Legislative Hall or the Territorial Capitol, is a simple, two-story frame building with shake-shingle roof, stoop porch and outside stairway at the west end of the building.

The tulip tree lumber employed in the siding is evidence that the lumber was produced at a time when sawmills were crude and dimension lumber was years in the future. In fact, the building may be slightly out-of-plumb; but then one must remember that it is on its fourth site, having been moved three times.

According to available information, the structure was erected during the French period, but it may not have been built until 1805 at what later became 217 Main Street. It was first moved to 911 N. 3rd Street but date of moving is a bit hazy. Then in 1919 it was moved to what was known as Harrison Park; and in 1933 it was altered somewhat in a restoration project. Records are not complete on this but the large beam on the 1st floor was installed to support the 2nd floor.

In 1949 the structure was moved to its present site to make way for the expansion of Vincennes University. Not much was done in the manner of alteration except to restore siding; and the exterior stairway was rebuilt. Insofar as data is available the building was restored to known conditions.

Painted white, and with green shutters the house or Hall presents a charming appearance in the close company of William Henry Harrison's "Grouseland" and the replica of Elihu Stout's Print Shop next door.

The interior of the Capitol compliments the pleasing simplicity of the exterior. A plain, wood wainscot rises from the floor to the window sill of the 1st floor. Offices for the territorial officials, probably the Governor and Secretary, were housed on the 1st floor. Furnishings include the office desk of General John (Horsehead) Gibson, Secretary of Indiana Territory during all of the territorial period 1800-1816; and a desk reputedly that of Wm. Henry Harrison, Governor of Indiana Territory 1800-1812.

From 1800 to 1804 the governing body consisted of a Governor and 3 Judges. The peculiarly-shaped table which they reputedly used is on the 2nd Floor. The ten Assemblymen (which became the Legislative body in 1805), presumably met for at least some of its sessions in the building up until the time the capitol of Indiana Territory was removed to Corydon. The members of the Assembly used plain, hard benches such may be seen on the 2nd floor of the building.

Dimensions of Structure.

Wide: 19' - 6½"; Long: 26' - 1 3/4"; High: 18' + to eaves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD. (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Territorial</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Government</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In the closing years of the eighteenth century, the new government of these United States established in its expanding public domain, a model colonial policy which was one of the most progressive governmental experiments in history. The Indiana Territory State Memorial is maintained as a tribute to the Federal government of that period and this experiment.

Indiana (and Ohio) thus assumed the role of being the "proving ground" for American territorial policy. Further, the territorial government became considerably more democratic for Indiana, the precedents of re-election of Council members and territorial delegates being implemented in this building.

The memorial to Vincennes as the capital of the Indiana Territory now consists of the subject structure which is reputed to have been the Capitol. Adjacent is a reconstruction of the print shop of Elihu Stout where was printed the first newspaper in Indiana Territory, as well as early laws.

Indiana Territory was the second territory within the Old Northwest, and Indiana was the second state carved from the region. Although most of the Old Northwest was included in the new Indiana Territory in 1800, the territory did not reach its maximum size until the addition of eastern Michigan and the Gore in 1803 when Ohio became a state.

Indiana Territory was the advance base for future expansion of the U.S. Vincennes was the seat of government, and the structure known as "Legislative Hall" became the Indiana Territorial governor's headquarters.

The Capitol is believed to have housed some sessions of the Governor and Judges as they met in their legislative capacity; also the sessions of the General Assembly during the first thirteen years following the creation of the Territory which became effective on July 4, 1800.

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE INDIANA	
COUNTY KNOX	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance

During 1804-1805 the northern part of Louisiana Territory (which had been acquired from France in 1803) was attached to Indiana Territory for administration purposes, and the Governor and Judges adopted such laws as were necessary. Thus Vincennes might be considered to have been the seat of government for this area west of the Mississippi, as well as for Indiana Territory.

For more than 120 years after the first white men came to Indiana, there had been no capital or seat of government for the territory. Congress passed a bill creating the Indiana Territory out of the Northwest Territory, and a capital complete with governor and three judges, was set up at Vincennes. The Act became effective July 4, 1800 as indicated above. The territory designated included the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and that part of Minnesota lying east of the Mississippi River. The governor and judges presided over the Indiana Territory until 1805, when a legislative body was established.

Captain William Henry Harrison received the appointment as governor from President Adams in 1800. Harrison, himself, built "Grouseland" which as fate would have it is just (west) across the street (Park Street) from the present site of the Capitol. Please note that, as indicated in Section 7. DESCRIPTION, paragraph 2, the Capitol has been moved three times and is on its fourth site. Its proximity to "Grouseland", however, enhances its position. The visitor may be inclined to think that the group may have been part of original planning but it is our responsibility to emphasize that it came to pass almost 150 years after the two structures were originally erected on other sites.

It is important to note that one of the persons closely associated with this structure went on to great fame. Wm. Henry Harrison, Territorial Governor 1800-1812, treated with the Indians for land; fought with them near Prophets Town and there gained a reputation for military leadership which ultimately led to the campaign slogan "Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too!" In 1840 our same General Harrison was elected president as candidate of the Whig Party. He was not destined for completion of his term of office and died early in the term.

Presumably Indiana's first two U. S. Senators, Waller Taylor and James Noble, were associated with the legislative meetings held in the Capitol. They were seated in the U. S. Congress in December 1816.

The structure may well be considered as a tangible memorial to the Federal government and to the State of Indiana during its early territorial period of 1800's.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(1) Ind. Hist. Bur. The Indiana Capitol: Its Predecessors and Related Buildings, Indianapolis 1938; 1957 edition. (2) Shake, Curtis G. The First Capitol of Indiana Territory (1800-1813) and of the District of Louisiana (1804-1805), Vincennes, 1938. (3) Ind. Dept. Cons. The Indiana Territory State Memorial, 1956. (4) Ind. Univ. & Ind. Hist. Soc. Indiana Magazine of History, Vol. XLIII, No. 1., March 1947. (5) Ind. Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Engineering records (File #S-31-1) (6) Indiana Dept. of Public Instruction Bull. 245 Handbook on Indiana History, 1961, 2nd reprint 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38°	41'	06"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		87°	31'	31"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Adm. office
Robert D. Starrett, Assistant Director, Division of Museums and Memorials

ORGANIZATION: Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Indiana

STREET AND NUMBER: 207 North
Room 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis, STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name S. Donald Durfee, Acting Director

Title Department of Natural Resources

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS