

FINAL

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: INDIANA	
COUNTY: ST. JOSEPH	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-9-13-0003	DATE 9/4

**1. NAME**

COMMON: THE OLD COURTHOUSE

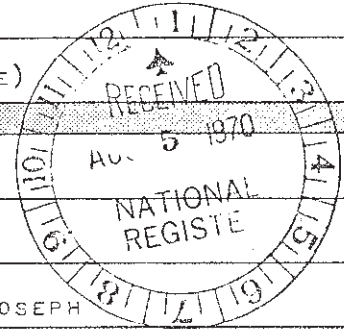
AND/OR HISTORIC: (SECOND ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COURTHOUSE)

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 112 SOUTH LAFAYETTE BLVD.

CITY OR TOWN: SOUTH BEND

STATE: INDIANA      CODE: 13      COUNTY: ST. JOSEPH      CODE: 141



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

STREET AND NUMBER: COUNTY-CITY BLDG.

CITY OR TOWN: SOUTH BEND      STATE: INDIANA      CODE: 13

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: COUNTY-CITY BLDG.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: SOUTH BEND      STATE: INDIANA      CODE: 4580 13

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 19TH ST. NORTHWEST

CITY OR TOWN: WASHINGTON      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 108

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: INDIANA

COUNTY: ST. JOSEPH

ENTRY NUMBER: 70-9-13-0003

DATE: 9/4

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

J.V.S. (Check One)  
 Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed  
 (Check One)  
 Altered  Unaltered (Check One)  
 Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

THE ORIGINAL APPEARANCE IS DESCRIBED IN THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FORUM, SEPT. 29, 1855, SOON AFTER COMPLETION OF THE BUILDING. HERE IS A CONDENSATION OF THAT DESCRIPTION.

LOCATION: CORNER MAIN & WASHINGTON STS. FACING EAST ON MAIN. EXTERIOR DIMENSIONS: 61 FT. WIDE, 93 FT. LONG (INCLUDING 12-FT. PORTICO), 100 FT. HIGH (INCLUDING 12½ FT. FIRST STORY, 20½ SECOND, ATTIC & CUPALO). COLOR: CREAMY (LEMONT STONE). MATERIALS: STONE FOUNDATION, STEPS, PORTICO FLOOR; WALLS OF BUSH-HAMMERED ATHENS ASHLAR STONE ANCHORED TO BRICK BACKING 18 IN. THICK; PORTICO COLUMNS BRICK, CEMENT COATED; TIN ROOF PAINTED W. LEAD; PINE WOODWORK WITH PARTS OF CUPALO, & CORNICE, TINCOVERED. STYL-ISTIC DETAILS: WALLS HAVE 18 STONE PILASTERS. 6 PORTICO COLUMNS 3 FT. 3 IN. AT BASE TAPER TO 2 FT. 8 IN. AT TOP, ATTIC BASED, EACH W. 16 SEMI-ELLYPTICAL FLUTES, CAPITALS FINISHED WITH PLAIN WATER-LEAF FOLIAGE, EACH 32 FT. HIGH. FOUR 42-FT. BUSH HAMMERED STONE STEPS AT FRONT; 12-FT. STEPS AT REAR. CORNICE ON ALL SIDES OF BLDG.; PEDIMENT AT EACH END, WITH TYMPANUM CEILED WITH NARROW PINE, PUT TOGETHER W. WHITE LEAD. CUPALO STANDS 12 FT. BACK FROM FRONT OF PORTICO. IS IN 3 SECTIONS, EACH AN OCTAGON. BASE SECTION 20 FT. IN DIA.; FINISHED WITH HEAVY PILASTERS ON CORNERS, CORNICE; 2ND, BELL SECTION HAS HEAVY DIMINISHING TRUSS PILASTERS ON CORNERS. SLAT BLINDS, CIRCLE HEADS, CIRCLE LABEL CAPS, ORNAMENTAL WREATH CORNICE; 3RD, CLOCK SECTION HAS CORNICE WITH ORNAMENTAL MODILLION TRUSSES, 4 CLOCK DIALS, CORNICE, BLOCKING COURSES, DOME 8 FT IN DIA. AT BASE. LIGHTNING ROD. (A SLIGHTLY LATER PICTURE SHOWS 6 CHIMNEYS, 3 ON EA. SIDE.) INTERIOR PLAN: 13-FOOT WIDE LOBBY, THEN CENTRAL HALL GOING LENGTH OF BLDG. 3 OFFICES ON EACH SIDE, EACH ABOUT 22 X 24. TWIN STAIRWAYS ASCEND FROM LOBBY TO 2ND FLOOR LOBBY 13 FT. WIDE. LIGHTED BY LARGE WINDOW. COURT ROOM 52'8" X 57', JUDGE'S BENCH OPPOSITE ENTRANCE FROM LOBBY. BEHIND COURT ROOM 2 SIDE ROOMS FOR JURORS, CENTRAL WITNESS ROOM.

THE BUILDING WAS TURNED AROUND AND MOVED TO THE LOT NEARLY BEHIND IT ON LAFAYETTE ST. IN 1896, WHEN A LARGER COURTHOUSE HAD BEEN DECIDED ON. LITTLE BASIC ALTERATION HAS TAKEN PLACE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING. ONLY THE FOLLOWING: A HIGHER BRICK FOUNDATION ON THE NEW SITE, WITH STEEPER SET OF STEPS AND NEW PORTICO FLOOR COVERING; REAR ENTRANCE CHANGED TO A LARGE WINDOW; REPLACEMENT OF ORIGINAL ROOF; REMOVAL OF CHIMNEYS; REPLACEMENT OF FRONT DOORS. WORK NOW PROGRESSING ON COUNTY-CITY COMPLEX (OF WHICH OLD COURTHOUSE IS A PART) WILL COVER THE BRICK BASEMENT WALLS WITH CONCRETE TERRACING, PUT STEPS AGAIN AT FRONT OF PORTICO (FULL LENGTH). CARE WILL BE TAKEN IN REPAINTING OF WOODWORK TO CHANGE FROM WHITE TO ORIGINAL COLOR. EXTERIOR WOODWORK, PILLARS AND ROOF BADLY NEED REPAIR & APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR THIS IS BEING MADE. INTERIOR CHANGES ARE MORE NUMEROUS. IN 1873 ONE FRONT STAIRWAY WAS REMOVED TO MAKE OFFICE SPACE, THE COURT ROOM WAS CONSIDERABLY NARROWED & ITS AXIS CHANGED TO NORTH-SOUTH, AND JURY-JUDGE ROOMS ENLARGED. IN 1906 WHEN THE BUILDING WAS READIED FOR MUSEUM USE THE DOWNSTAIRS OFFICE-HALL PARTITIONS WERE REMOVED & SIX STEEL PILLARS INSTALLED. MUCH INTERIOR WOODWORK DETAIL REMAINS ESPECIALLY ON SECOND FLOOR. IN THE 1930'S A REAR STAIRWAY AND HALLWAY WERE CREATED, THE STAIRWAY BEING TAKEN FROM A PIONEER RESIDENCE. NOW THE LARGE FIRST FLOOR ROOM, THE COURT ROOM AND ONE OF THE JURY ROOMS ARE MUSEUM DISPLAY AREAS; THE SECOND JURY ROOM IS A LIBRARY. THE BASEMENT IS USED FOR MUSEUM STORAGE, WORK AREA.

M. M.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

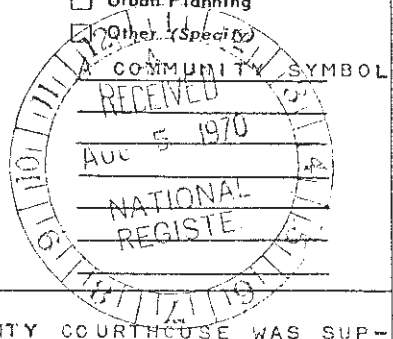
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

THE PLAN AND DESIGN OF THE 2ND ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COURTHOUSE WAS SUPPLIED IN 1853 BY JOHN M. VAN OSDEL, CHICAGO'S FIRST ARCHITECT. IT IS IN MANY RESPECTS SIMILAR TO THE SECOND COOK COUNTY, ILL. COURTHOUSE DESIGNED BY HIM IN 1851.

THE COURTHOUSE IS IN THE GREEK REVIVAL STYLE. THE CENTRAL MASS OF THE BUILDING IS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND CLASSICAL IN ITS PROPORTIONS. CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE OF DESIGN IS EXPRESSED IN THE DETAILS AND TRIM, AND IN THE PORTICO COLUMNS AND ENTABLATURE, WHICH ARE THINNER AND LIGHTER IN CHARACTER, MORE IN THE CLASSICAL ROMAN TRADITION. THE SIX FLUTED TWO STORY COLUMNS ARE PAIRED AND CENTERED; THE CAPITALS ARE OF A MODIFIED CORINTHIAN ORDER, THE LEAVES OF WHICH ARE LIKENED LOCALLY TO LEAVES OF CORN. THE COLUMNS ARE BRICK, FINISHED WITH CEMENT. THE WOODEN CUPOLA IS WELL PROPORTIONED, WITH AN AGREEABLE ARRANGEMENT OF FRIEZES, CORNICES AND VOLUTES (OGEE CURVES). THE PLAN, THOUGH NOW ALTERED, WAS TYPICAL OF THIS TYPE OF COURTHOUSE. CONSTRUCTION OF BRICK BEARING WALLS, FACED WITH "ATHENIAN MARBLE" (LEMONT LIMESTONE), WITH TIMBER FLOORS, INTERIOR WALLS, AND TRIM, WAS TYPICAL OF THE IMPORTANT STRUCTURES BUILT BOTH IN SOUTH BEND AND CHICAGO BEFORE THE FIRE.

THE OLD COURTHOUSE IS PROBABLY THE OLDEST BUILDING IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF SOUTH BEND, AND IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE CITY'S FEW REMAINING GREEK REVIVAL BUILDINGS. IT IS ONE OF SIX CLASSICAL COURTHOUSES REMAINING IN INDIANA. IT REPRESENTS AN INDIVIDUALISTIC APPROACH TO THE CLASSICAL REVIVAL STYLE, AND IS AN IMPRESSIVE AND STATELY BUILDING. THE FACT THAT IT WAS MOVED OVER AND TURNED AROUND ON ITS OWN BLOCK DOES NOT DETRACT FROM ITS SIGNIFICANCE AS A LANDMARK PIECE OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH BEND.

IT WAS BUILT WITH PRIDE AND GREAT EXPECTATIONS, WHICH IN FACT EXCEEDED ITS CAPACITY, AND WAS FROM THE TIME IT WAS BUILT UNTIL IT WAS MOVED IN 1896, THE CENTER OF INTENSE POLITICAL ACTIVITY. IT WAS A COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACE AND A POLITICAL PLATFORM, ESPECIALLY DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND THE ASCENDING CAREER OF SCHUYLER COLFAX, THE SOUTH BEND NEWSPAPER EDITOR WHO BECAME VICE PRESIDENT UNDER U. S. GRANT. IN ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE PRE-CIVIL WAR AND CIVIL WAR PERIODS AND ALL THAT CAME TO PASS WITHIN THEM, IT BECAME A SYMBOL OF HISTORY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA. THIS SYMBOLISM WAS REINFORCED BY LATER USE OF THE BUILDING AS G. A. R. HEADQUARTERS AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM, AND WAS TESTED SEVERAL TIMES WHEN PLANS WERE AFOOT TO CHANGE, MOVE OR DESTROY THE BLDG. NOW THAT THE DOWNTOWN AREA IS BEING MODERNIZED & ENLARGED, THE BLDG. REMAINS A UNIQUE LINK, A REAL & VISIBLE ONE, WITH SOUTH BEND'S EARLY HISTORY.

J. W. S.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

ANDREAS, A. T., HISTORY OF CHICAGO	HOWARD, T., HISTORY OF ST. JOS. CTY
BENJAMIN, ASHER, THE AMERICAN BUILDER'S COMPANION	RANDALL, FRANK A., THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IN CHICAGO
COMMISSIONERS RECORD, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, VOL. 3, CTY. COURTHOUSE	ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FORUM, SEPT. 29, 1855
ERICSSON, 60 YEARS A BUILDER	
HAMLIN, TALBOT, GREEK REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE IN AMERICA	PAPERS OF NORTHERN INDIANA HIS- TORICAL SOCIETY; HERITAGE SOCIETY
HERMANSEN, DAVID, HISTORIC INDIANA COURTHOUSES	

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

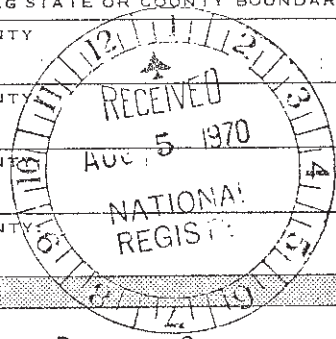
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds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

1420' WEST OF AND 210' NORTH OF  
40° 38' 58" 86° 15' 0"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/3 ACRE

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO UTM  
EX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
MISS MARTHA MERRILL, ACTING CURATOR / MRS. DONALD SPORLEDER, ARCHITECT

ORGANIZATION: NORTHERN INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY      DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
112 SOUTH LAFAYETTE BLVD.

CITY OR TOWN: SOUTH BEND      STATE: INDIANA      CODE: 13

**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: John R. Rlayal

Title: Dir of Nat. Resources

Date: 8-3-70

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

Ernest Allen Connolly  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEP 4 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William J. Mumtigh  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: AUG 19 1970

X