

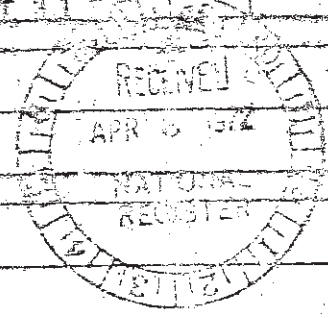
Form 1000
(July 1959)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE



1. NAME

COMMON: **Tippecanoe County Court House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Public Square**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lafayette**

STATE: **Indiana 47901** CODE: **15** COUNTY: **Tippecanoe** CODE: **157**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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 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"/> Commercial <input 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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Tippecanoe County**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Public Square**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lafayette** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **15**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: **Recorder's Office, Tippecanoe County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Public Square**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lafayette** STATE: **Indiana 47901** CODE: **15**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **William Bigby's survey of original townsite**

DATE OF SURVEY: **May 25, 1825** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Recorder's Office, Tippecanoe County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Public Square**

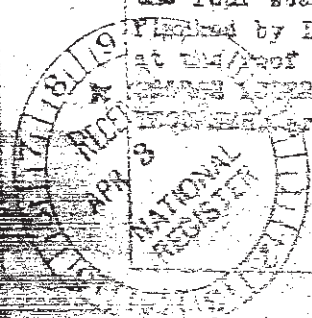
CITY OR TOWN: **Lafayette** STATE: **Indiana 47901** CODE: **15**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

	(Check One)			
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexcavated		
	(Check One)		(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If Known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE				
<p>The Tippecanoe County Court House on the Public Square in Lafayette, Indiana, the third on the same site, was begun in 1881. The contract for its erection had been awarded to Farman & Pearce, a non-local firm, for \$207,999 but Farman died in 1882 before completion of the first floor necessitating a second call for bids to finish the structure. Charles Pearce of the previous partnership was the successful bidder at \$241,000, with Elias Max to be his builder and James F. Alexander superintendent of construction. Both Max and Alexander were local men.</p> <p>The architectural style of the building reflects the Neo-Classical influence of the times in its departure from the traditional classic style which had dominated American public buildings for a century or more. Its design and plans have been attributed to Elias Max, a local contractor, but recent research indicates this may have been an error. A study of factual events and the political overtones which plagued the planning and construction phase of the building show that in the initial call issued by the Board of Commissioners for both local and non-local architects to submit plans and specifications, those of James F. Alexander, a local architect, were among those submitted. He was, however, unsuccessful in acceptance of his plans.</p> <p>Alexander, a native of Lafayette, began training in architecture in St. Louis, later graduating from the University of Toronto, and following this formal preparation by some practical experience in Chicago before returning to Lafayette to practice his profession. He specialized in the use of stone in both public and domestic architecture and many of Lafayette's finest houses erected in this period were his work.</p> <p>With the onset of the second phase of construction when the much heralded "Max Plan" was adopted, it was observed to be identical with those earlier but unsuccessfully submitted by Alexander, except for a few minor details. One tends to conclude that recognition is long overdue the man who probably first conceived the design of this court house, the Lafayette man whose identity as a well qualified architect has been too long shrouded by the indiscriminate title, "Superintendent of Construction".</p> <p>The laying of the cornerstones, conducted by the Masonic fraternity, took place on October 26, 1882. It was a gala occasion. Completed in 1884, the total cost approximated \$300,000. The plan is that of a large cross, 150 feet square, with corridors from a center rotunda on each of the four sides. A slender dome surmounted by a 14 foot statue of INDUSTRY, rises from its top, the whole being supported by the hexagonal clock tower. The overall height from ground level is 92 feet. Beneath each of the four clock faces is a niche containing a 9 feet female figure in classic form representing one of the four seasons. Other statuary is in the general group of figures (JUSTICE flanked by INDUSTRY and AGRICULTURE) of the east and west pediments which rise at mid-roof level. Those in the identical north and south pediments portray GEORGE WASHINGTON, here of the old Northwest, GEORGE WASHINGTON, and the great Shawnee Indian chief of Tippecanoe fame.</p>				

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Colonial 18th Century 19th Century 20th Century
 19th Century 20th Century 21st Century

SPECIFIC DATE (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The principal building is a two-story, symmetrical structure with a central entrance. The interior trim is wood ornamented. The basement and first floor were finished in red oak, the second and third in oak, all of which is still in place. That in the basement has been added. The original floor in the second and third hallways was in red oak. The original floor in the second and third hallways are massive carved wood. The original floor in the second and third hallways remain. The marble tile floor was largely replaced by a new floor of other present-day materials. The original floor in the second and third hallways iron cage is still in use. The main entrance is a two-story portico which is mounted from the north and south ends of the second and third floors of the building. Their heavy iron brackets are supported by a circular railing around the central portion of the second and third floors. The fourth level is covered in a similar manner.

Beginning in 1959 an alteration was begun involving the removal of the center section of the entrance and a new, two-story portico was added. This provides easier access to the basement at several levels. The last major alteration in 1970. From this time other modifications have occurred. The last major alteration took place in 1981 with the new portico and the new court chambers to provide additional room for the courts and their respective offices.

The excellent style of this court house was pointed out to me by Tippecanoe County Historical Museum executive, Mrs. Alameda Holliday, in April, 1960, when Mr. Arvid C. Christiansen of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., discovered it while touring Indiana in connection with historical art resources within the state. The old architecture, Mr. Christiansen praised its perfection as an example of the Greek style influence which had swept the country by the 18th century. The exterior consisting of the harmonious, skillful and well proportioned blending of the many classical forms which had previously dominated architectural styles in America. "It is one of the finest I have ever seen. Don't want to see it torn down!" was his parting observation.

Dr. David R. Harmanen of the College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, in similar praise of its elegance has called attention also to the considerable imagination with which the style has combined in such harmonious proportion, and to the use of the finely carved classical ornament.

PART & PARCELS IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Vol. 1, p. 136
 by R. P. DeBart

INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES OF INDIANA, Historical Records
 Survey, 1941, No. 73, Tippecanoe County, p. 115, 117, 118

ORIGINAL SPECIFICATIONS, 1883

15. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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.	• • •	• • •	25	53	20
NE	• • •	• • •	40	25	05
SE	• • •	• • •			
SW	• • •	• • •			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One city block

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY

16. PERSON INFORMATION

NAME AND TITLE: Alameda McCallough, former curator

ORGANIZATION: Tippecanoe County Historical Association

STREET AND NUMBER: 939 South Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lafayette STATE: Indiana 47901

17. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: October 16, 1972

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: [Signature]

[Signature]

Date: [Signature]