

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Blackford County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Blackford County Courthouse not for publication

city, town Hartford City vicinity of congressional district 10th

state Indiana code 018 county Blackford code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Blackford County Commissioners

street & number Blackford County Courthouse

city, town Hartford City vicinity of state Indiana 47348

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Blackford County Courthouse

city, town Hartford City, state Indiana 47348

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title No has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Exterior Description

This Richardsonian Romanesque building of four stories was constructed in 1894. Its high pitched hip roof is composed of slate and its exterior walls are finished rows of rough-faced stone alternating with smooth-faced stone. A pair of massive, semi-circular towers, running the height of the structure, boldly project from the eastern and western facades, and a tall chimney of rough-faced stone is positioned next to each of these towers. An extremely high tower, which is approximately as tall as the first three stories, is located at the southwest corner of the structure, and a gabled dormer is sited above each entryway on the northern and southern sides. Belt courses separate the first from the second floor, the second from the third floor, and the roof from the towers and gables. A row of plain brackets separates the rest of the building from the roof.

The western and eastern facades are identical from the roofline to the ground level. Each has six bays, which are symmetrical. The first, third, fourth and sixth bays consist of paired triple-hung windows on the first floor, paired double-hung windows with transoms on the second floor, and paired double-hung windows with a large fan window above on the third floor. Identical towers, that were previously mentioned, occupy the second and fifth bays. There are three triple-hung windows on the first floor in each tower, three double-hung windows with transoms on the second story, and three triple-hung windows with transoms and a small semi-circular window above the transom. Each tower projects above the roof-line, and a band of small windows, utilizing Richardsonian arches, rests on the belt course.

Although there are echoes of the southern facade in the northern side, there are some significant differences between the two. Both have centrally positioned dormers with plain parapet gables the corners of which are defined by tourelles. Three double-hung windows occupied each dormer, and a semi-circular window is centered over the middle opening. Both facades are composed of three bays. A large ornamental doorway occupies the central bay on each facade, and each is composed of a compound round arched portal with enriched archivolts and a fan window. Three round arched windows, separated by Corinthian pilasters, are located beneath the fan window on the southern facade, but there are four in the northern entryway. Similarly, a row of three single-pane lights are situated immediately above the three doors of the portal on both sides. However, on the southern entryway an additional row of six single-paned lights and the date of construction in Roman numerals is inserted between the round arched windows and the three single-paned lights. Another difference between these two facades is the very tall bell tower which is located at the southwest corner of the Courthouse, as previously noted. The lower half of the tower is divided from the upper by ornate brackets, and its corners are defined by tourelles. Blind arcading and three rows of slit openings are utilized on the lower half. A typical Richardsonian Romanesque arch, supported by Corinthian pilasters, enclosed a clock on the upper portion of the tower on all four of its sides. Short Doric columns resting on a beltcourse divide the rest of the tower from the roof.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1894 **Builder/Architect** LaBelle and French, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

LaBelle and French of Marion, Indiana, designed the Blackford County Courthouse, and it was constructed in 1894 by G. Boseker and Son of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. In addition to this structure, LaBelle and French also designed the White County Courthouse at Monticello, Ohio, and the Trumbull County Courthouse at Warren, Ohio, as well as numerous schools, churches and commercial buildings throughout Indiana. The Blackford County Courthouse is quite similar to the courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which was designed by Henry H. Richardson. The Courthouse has served as the focus of governmental, political and civic affairs since its construction, and its size and architecture dominate the community's downtown.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Hermansen, David R., Indiana Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century.
Muncie, Indiana: Ball State University, 1968.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Hartford City East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

16	6	3	8	3	8	0	4	4	7	8	9	6	0
Zone	Easting			Northing									

B

Zone	Easting			Northing									

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Public Square of the original plat to Hartford City.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
none			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debra Beetem

organization Region 6 date January 1980

street & number 207 N. Talley Avenue telephone 317/285-6252

city or town Muncie, state Indiana 47303

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 6, 1980

STATE OF INDIANA



INDIANAPOLIS, 46204

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOSEPH D. CLOUD
DIRECTOR

June 9, 1980

Dr. William J. Murtagh
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Services
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Please find enclosed a National Register nomination for the Blackford County Courthouse, Hartford City, Indiana.

This nomination has been reviewed at several meetings of the Indiana State Professional Consulting Committee, and it is unanimously recommended.

Very truly yours,

Joseph D. Cloud
State Historic Preservation Officer

JDC:RAG:kj

Enclosure

P10 0821379

RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL

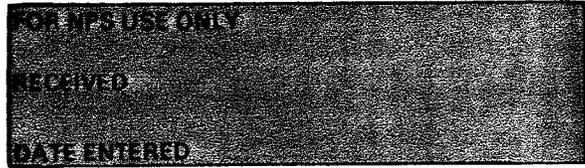
NO INSURANCE COVERAGE PROVIDED—
NOT FOR INTERNATIONAL MAIL
(See Reverse)

SENT TO DOI	STREET AND NO. W434	PO, STATE AND ZIP CODE Washington, D.C. 20243	POSTAGE \$ 67
CERTIFIED FEE 80 ¢		SPECIAL DELIVERY ¢	
RESTRICTED DELIVERY ¢		SHOW TO WHOM AND DATE DELIVERED 45 ¢	
RETURN RECEIPT SERVICE ¢		SHOW TO WHOM, DATE, AND ADDRESS OF DELIVERY ¢	
CONSULT POSTMASTER FOR FEES ¢		SHOW TO WHOM AND DATE DELIVERED WITH RESTRICTED DELIVERY ¢	
OPTIONAL SERVICES ¢		SHOW TO WHOM, DATE AND ADDRESS OF DELIVERY WITH RESTRICTED DELIVERY ¢	
TOTAL POSTAGE AND FEES \$ 1.92		POSTMARK OR DATE	
Blackford Co. CH NR app.			

PS Form 3800, Apr. 1976

CERTIFIED
P10 0821379
MAIL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

Interior Description

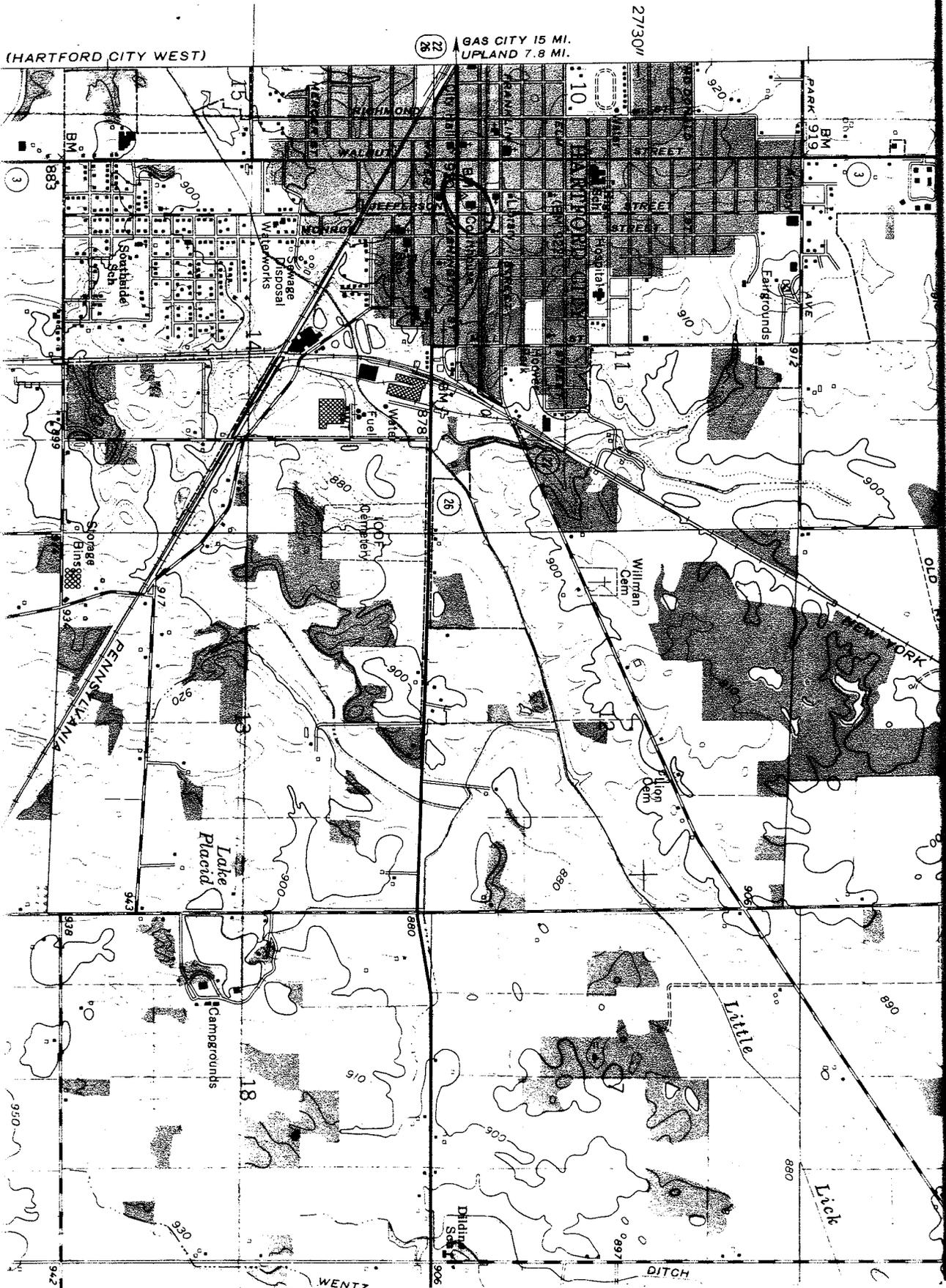
The first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse has been greatly altered. Carpeting, fluorescent lighting and acoustic ceiling tiles have been installed in the hallway and in all offices. Also, a glass wall with modern glass doors has been installed at both ends (north and south) of the hallway to form a vestibule at the entryway.

Renovation of the second and third floors is currently being conducted. Henry Husmann of Portland, Indiana, is responsible for the stenciling and artwork on these floors. The stairways to the second floor, which are located at the north and south ends of the Courthouse, are constructed of metal, and the railings are ornamental. Off-white hexagonal tiles with a patterned border of colored tiles form the flooring. Glazed, pale yellow tiles were used in the wainscoting in the hallway and up the stairs on the south end. There is no stairway between the second and third floors on the north end. The ceilings of the single, north-south hallway and of the offices which front on both sides of the hallway are molded with stenciling. There are panels on both sides of the hallway which are wallpapered or contain painted scenes, which are not originals. Walnut wainscoting is found in the offices, which are semi-circular, and brass chandeliers have replaced all the original lighting fixtures in the hallway and offices.

Approximately half of the third floor is occupied by the court room. Although this room is carpeted, the original wooden seats have been retained. It has a beamed ceiling with some molding and stenciling, and the wainscoting is also stenciled. As part of the renovation, a Lady of Justice will be painted directly behind the judge's bench. The other rooms on this floor are carpeted, have chandeliers like the ones on the second floor, and have molded stenciled ceilings.

The fourth floor is unfinished and used for storage. A slender stairway leads from this floor to the top of the bell tower.

Blackford County Courthouse
Hartford City, Indiana
UTM Reference:
16/638380/4478960



April 10, 1980

Joseph D. Cloud
Director of Natural Resources
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Director Cloud,

Received your letter on the Blackford County
court house,

I was very happy to hear that they had applied
for a National Register for historical building on
said court house. It is a beautiful building and
should be presented and maintained as such, any help
you could do in that line will be much appreciated by
myself and the City.

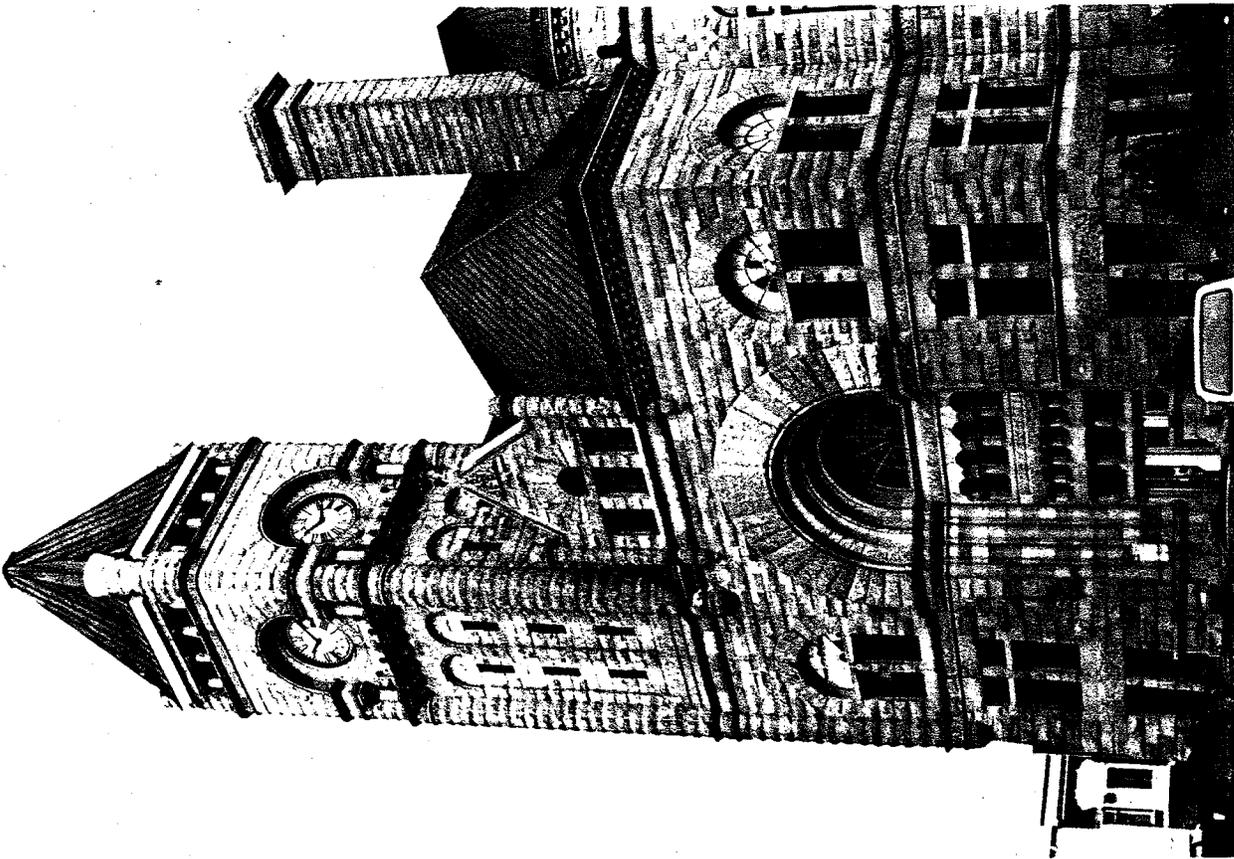
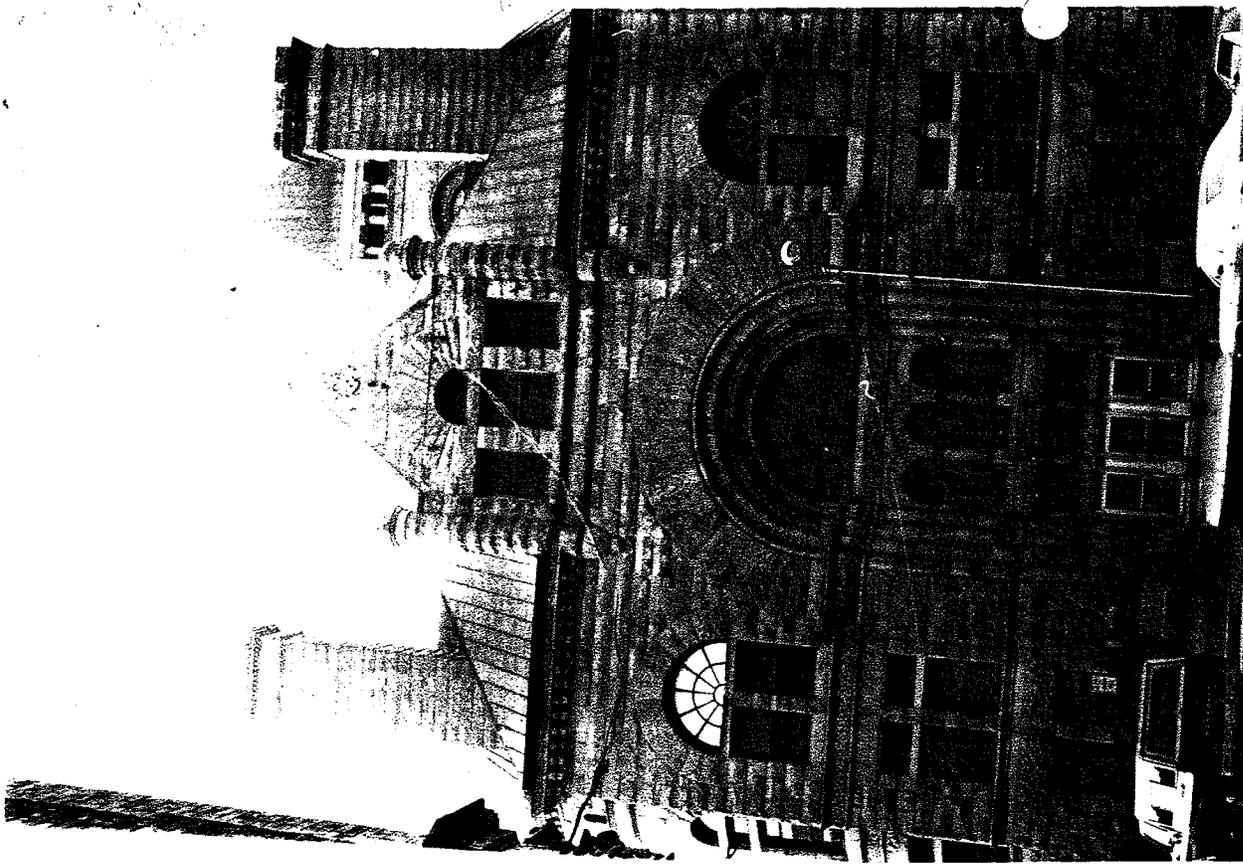
Very Truly Yours

Merle R. Headley

Merle R. Headley

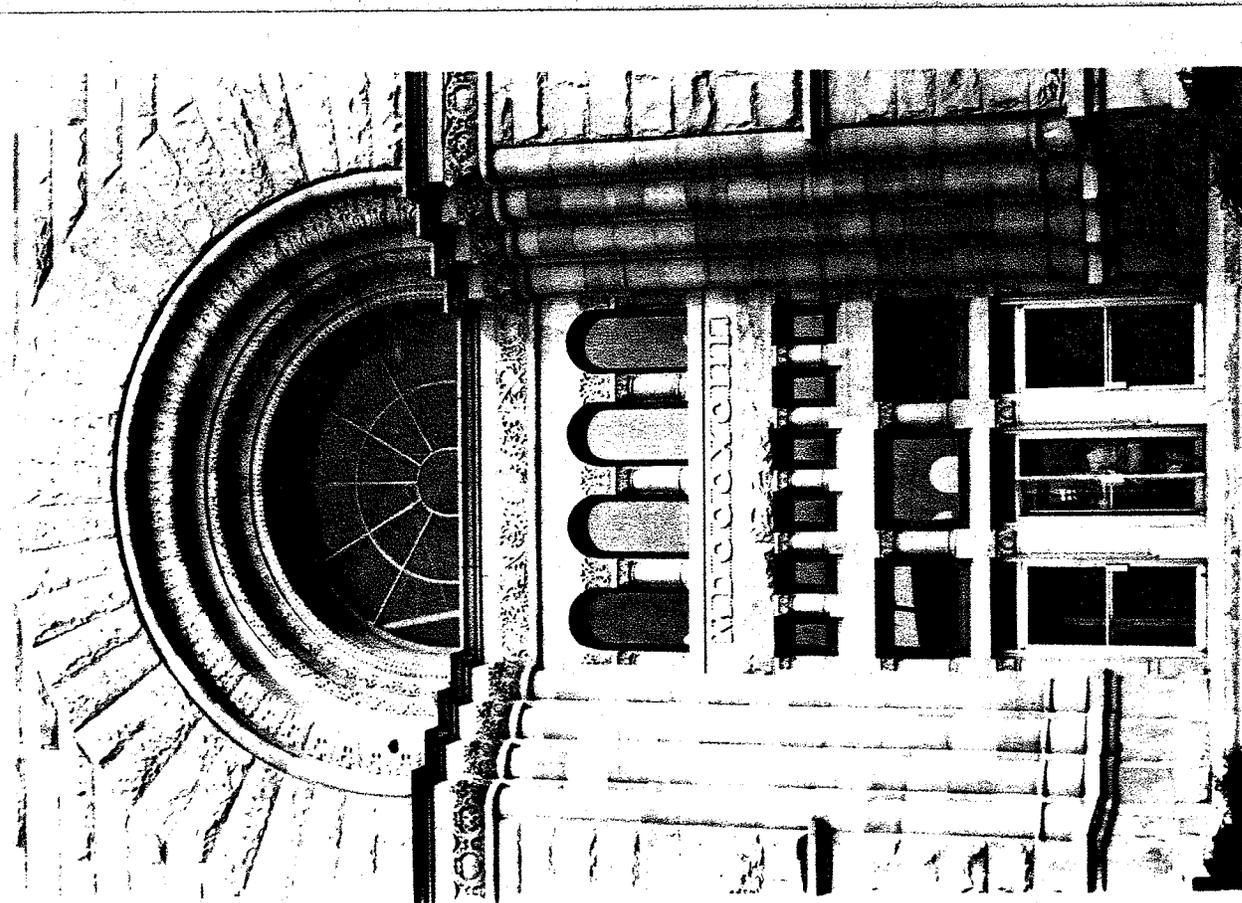
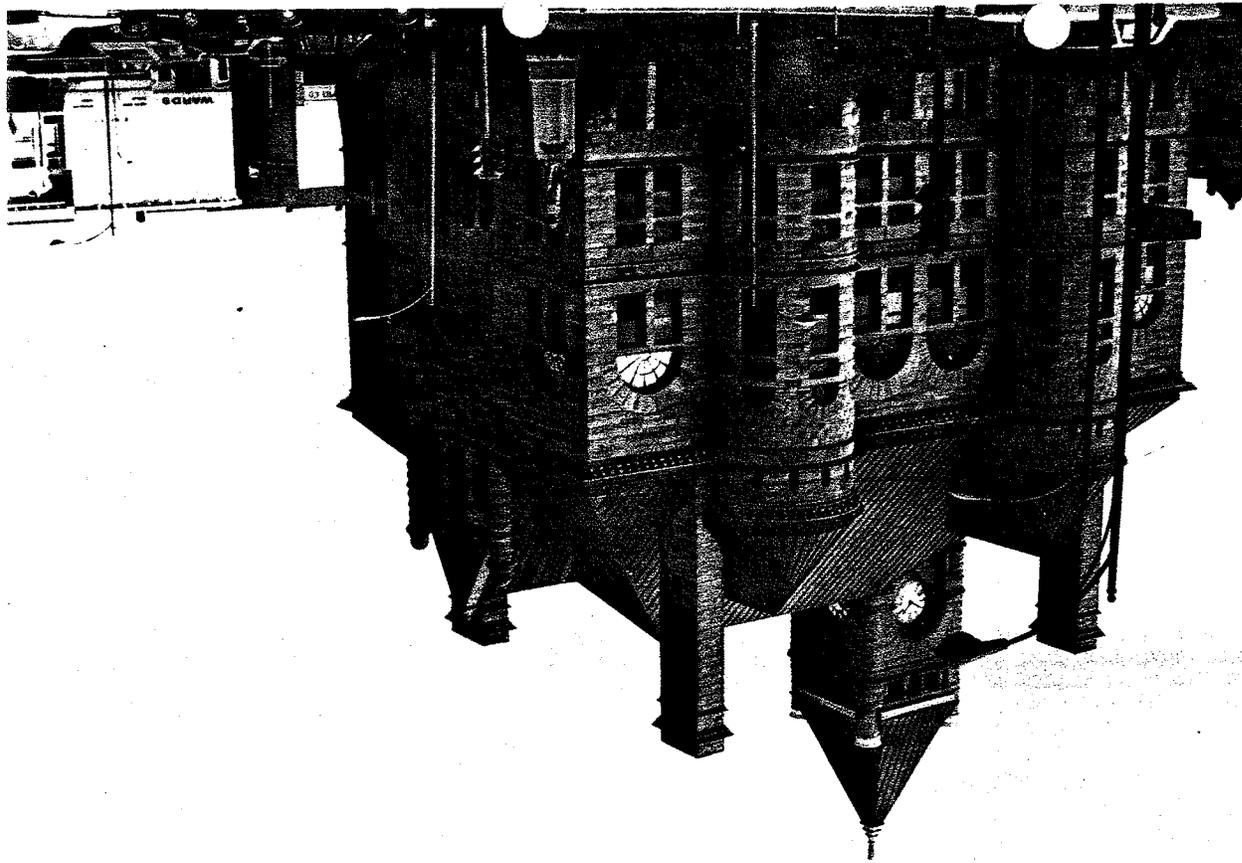
Mayor of Hartford City

01 89A



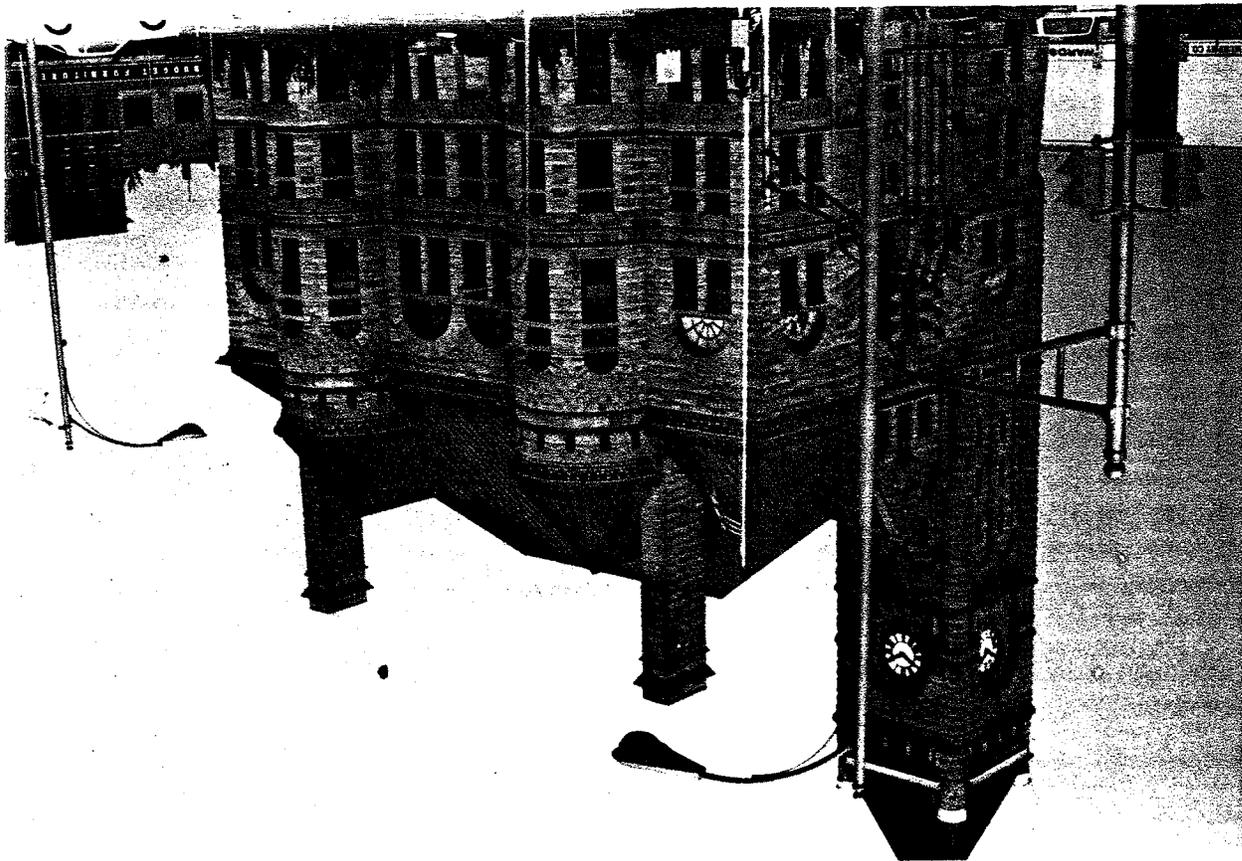
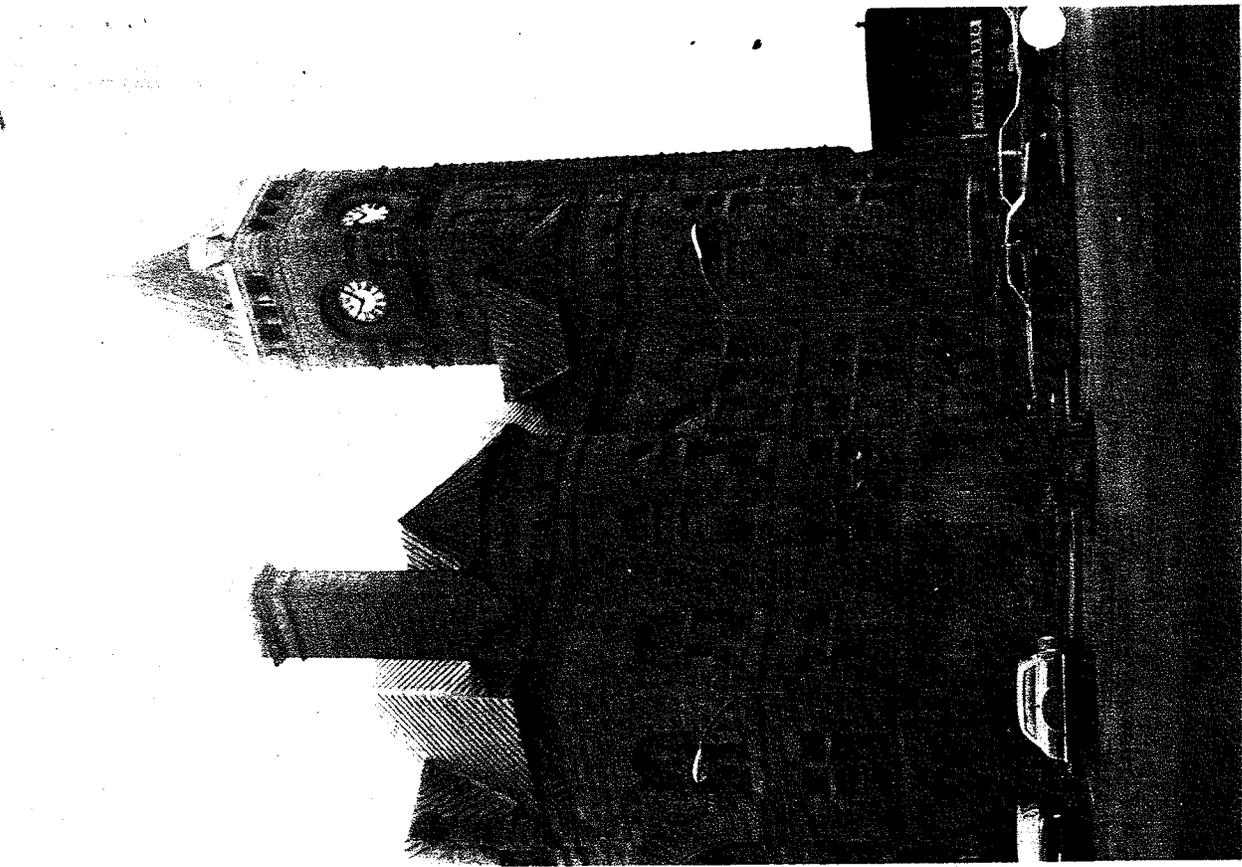
- 1) Blackford County Courthouse
- 2) Hartford City, IN
- 3) Debra Beitem
- 4) October, 1979
- 5) Region 6, 307 N. Tally, Muncie IN
- 6) north facade
- 7) # 1 of 6

- 1) Blackford County Courthouse
- 2) Hartford City IN
- 3) Debra Beitem
- 4) October, 1979
- 5) Region 6, 307 N. Tally, Muncie IN
- 6) south facade
- 7) # 2 of 6



- 1) Blackford County Courthouse
- 2) Hartford City IN
- 3) Debra Beetsen
- 4) October, 1979
- 5) Region 6, 807 N. Tally, Muncie IN
- 6) east & north facades
- 7) # 4 of 6

- 1) Blackford County Courthouse
- 2) Hartford City IN
- 3) Debra Beetsen
- 4) October, 1979
- 5) Region 6, 807 N. Tally, Muncie IN
- 6) south entrance
- 7) # 3 of 6



- 1) Blackford County
- Courthouse City IN
- 2) Hartford Beetsm
- 3) Debra Beetsm
- 4) October, 1979

- 5) Region 6, 207 N.
- Talley, Muncie IN
- 6) west facade
- 7) #5

- 1) Blackford County
- Courthouse City IN
- 2) Hartford Beetsm
- 3) Debra Beetsm
- 4) October, 1979

- 5) Region 6, 207 N.
- Talley, Muncie IN
- 6) west facade
- 7) #6