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(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Boone County Courthouse

and or common

2. Location

street & number Courthouse Square N/A not for publication

city, town Lebanon N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Boone code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	X government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Boone County Commissioners

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Lebanon N/A vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Auditor's Office, Court House

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Lebanon state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory #011-349-26014 has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1982 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Indiana State Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
good	ruins	altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Boone County Courthouse is located in Lebanon and is situated in the Court House Square.

The three-story structure is constructed of granite and Bedford limestone and is Neo-classical in style. From the center of the roof rises a windowed, octagonal stone foundation for the glass dome which is surmounted by the clock tower.

The Courthouse is rectangular in shape and is 105 feet wide with a total length of 142 feet, exclusive of entrance projections. The distance from the ground to the top of the clocktower is 120 feet and a flagstaff extends 20 feet above this point.

The north and south elevations are the principal facades, while the east and west facades, though similar, have less prominent fatures.

The stonework is dressed granite and Bedford limestone, with the exception of narrow courses of rock-faced stone alternating with courses of dressed stone located on the ground floor between the water table and a prominent beltcourse above the first floor windows.

The monumental pedimented central portico on the south facade has four smooth dressed Ionic columns, each of which is 35 feet 5 1/2" in height, 48" in diameter at the base and 40" at the top. The columns support a full entablature with a low relief decorated frieze and a denticulated pediment. The tympanum features high relief figural sculpturing.

The elaborate double entrance that is sheltered by the pediment is highlighted by Ionic columns, a balustraded balcony at the second story, and a broken scroll pediment above the second floor. A set of three fixed art-glass windows are located just above the scroll pediment. The entrances originally had two pairs of wooden doors, but now have aluminum replacements.

All windows flanking the entrance portico are recessed, double-hung sash, one-over-one light. The first and second story windows are rectangular and plain trimmed, while those on the third floor are round-arched with an archivolt, keystone, and springers. The second and third stories are tied together by low relief molding. creating a shallow, arcaded effect. At the corners of the building are pilasters with a low relief pattern just below Ionic caps.

The decorated entablature from the portico is continued around the rest of the building, underscoring a denticulated cornice. An enriched parapet, alternating in solid and decorated stone,runs along the roof line and, at the corners, a section of solid stone projects slightly, as a continuation of the corner pilasters.

Rising from the center of the Courthouse roof is the art glass dome, its foundation, and the clocktower. The dome foundation is octagonal, constructed with dressed stone; each face features sets of three fixed, arched windows with pilasters, an entablature, and a balustrade. The art glass dome, also octagonally shaped, is 52 feet in diameter and is said to be the second largest dome in the state. An octagon-shaped cupola rests atop the dome and houses four clock faces, with four open arched, balustraded, intermediate sections. A heavy entablature separates the cupola's faces from its dome and flagstaff.

On the east and west elevations are the less prominent pediments, which are supported by smaller, paired columns. The columns rest on pedestals which continue the treatment of the ground floor, having courses of dressed stone alternating with narrow courses of rock-faced

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1909-1911 **Builder Architect** J. T. Hutton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Boone County Courthouse is significant for its role as the center of county government for over 75 years. Architecturally, it is significant as a fine example of the Neo-classical style, being designed by Joseph T. Hutton, of Hammond, Indiana.

The present structure is the fourth courthouse for Boone County. The first, built in 1833, was a two-story log structure located on the north side of the courthouse square. The second, built in 1839-40, was a small, two-story brick building set in the center of the courthouse square. A more substantial courthouse was built 1856-57, and cost $33,000. The architect was William Tinsley, who designed Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Center Hall, at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana. The fourth and present courthouse was ordered by the county commissioners in 1909.

The commissioners, in association with a citizens' committee, employed Joseph Hutton as architect to draw up plans and specifications. The contract for the building was let to Caldwell and Drake, of Columbus, Indiana, who had also worked on several other courthouses. The building was completed in December, 1911, at a total cost of $265,000. On January 1, 1912, the courthouse was opened to the public and it was dedicated on July 4 by former Vice-President Charles Warren Fairbanks.

The Boone County Courthouse is thought to be the only public building in the world that is bisected by a principal meridian line.[1] The second principal meridian line passes through the center of the courthouse and is marked by a tablet, consisting of an arrow in white and black marble tiles, with the words, "Meridian Line," in bronze letters.

The Boone County Courthouse is renowned for its eight monolithic limestone columns, which are reportedly the world's tallest columns made of a single piece of stone.[2]* On both the north and south elevations are four columns, each being over 35 feet tall, exclusive of cap and base, and weighing nearly 30 tons.[3] Another noteworthy feature of the building is the 52-foot diameter art glass dome, which is the second largest in Indiana, exceeded in size only by the dome of the West Baden Springs Hotel.[4]

* According to William McDonald of the Indiana Limestone Institute, the Boone County Courthouse columns are the largest turned columns in the United States.

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[1] Indianapolis Star, May 15, 1954, p. 12, c. 8

[2] Indianapolis News, November 13, 1967, p. 16, c. 4-6

[3] Ibid

[4] Ibid

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Lebanon, Indiana Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	545330	443000
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The square in Lebanon, Indiana, bounded by Lebanon Street, Washington Street, Meridian Street and Main Street

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Jane Brandenburg		
organization	Committee to place the Courthouse on the National Register	date	March 17, 1986
street & number	265 W. 250 North	telephone	317/482-6261
city or town	Lebanon	state	Indiana 46052

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: Richard Hunt for J. M. Robertson

title: Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date: 7-23-86

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 884-788

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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stone. The pedestals extend to the top of the first floor where they are connected by a pediment that shelters the entrance. Above and behind the entrance pediment are columns surmounted by a broken scroll pediment and a central arch. As reported in the History of Boone County, (1914) the floors of the corridor, rotunda, lobbies, and public space in offices on the second floor are ceramic tile, and the floors in various rooms are 1¼" quartered oak. The wainscoting of the corridors and rotunda is a white Italian marble, five feet high on the first floor and three and one-half feet on the others, having a green Vermont marble base. The most outstanding feature of the interior is the four-story, open rotunda with the stained glass dome overhead. The columns in the rotunda are heavy steel, protected by concrete and covered by scagliola.

Item number 9

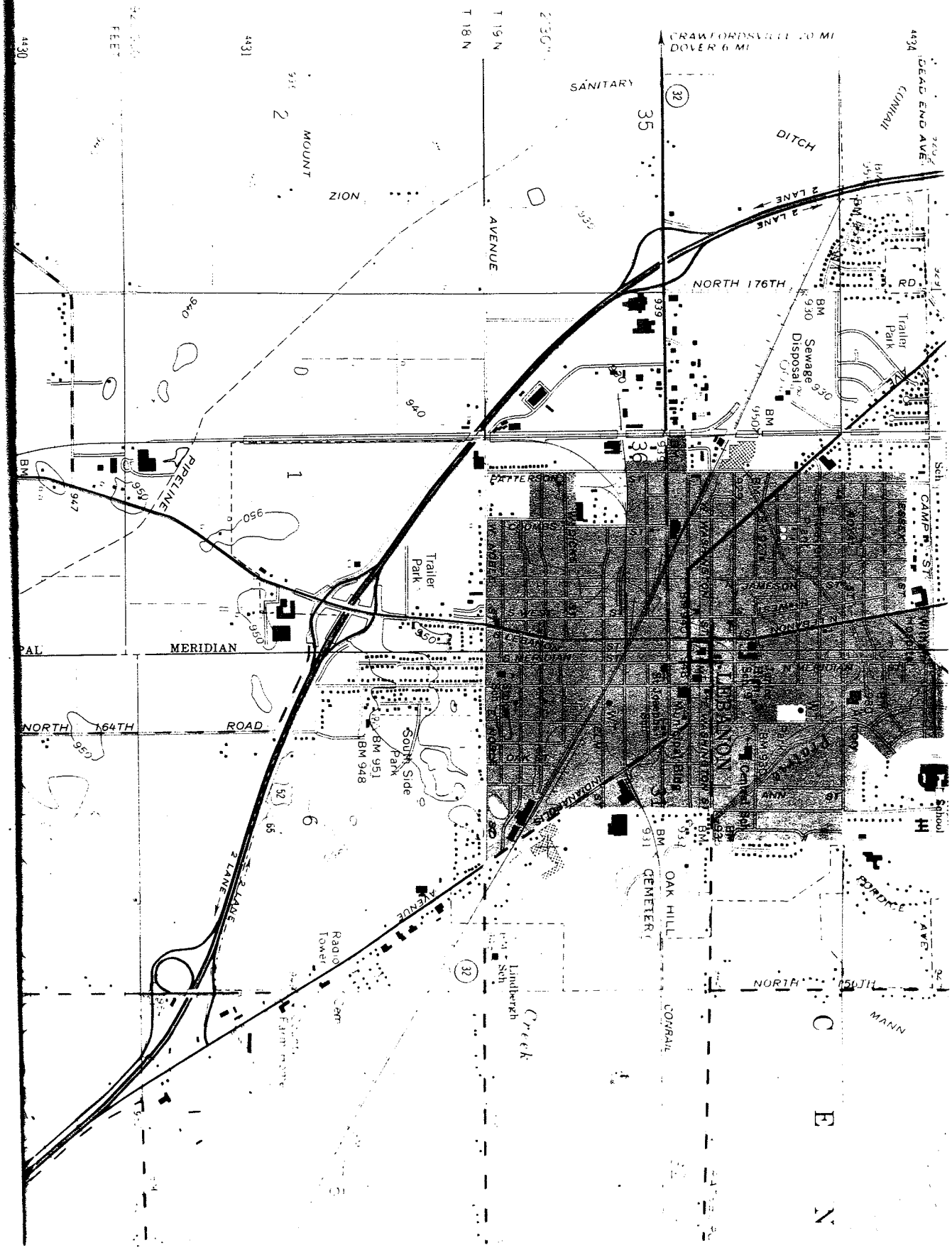
Master's Thesis, W. P. Hutton

Boone, Your County Magazine, July, 1976, page 10

History of Boone County, Indiana. L. M. Crist, Vol. 1. Indianapolis: A. W. Bowen and Company, 1914.

History of Boone County, Indiana, compiled by the Boone County Historical Society and Friends. n.p., 1984.

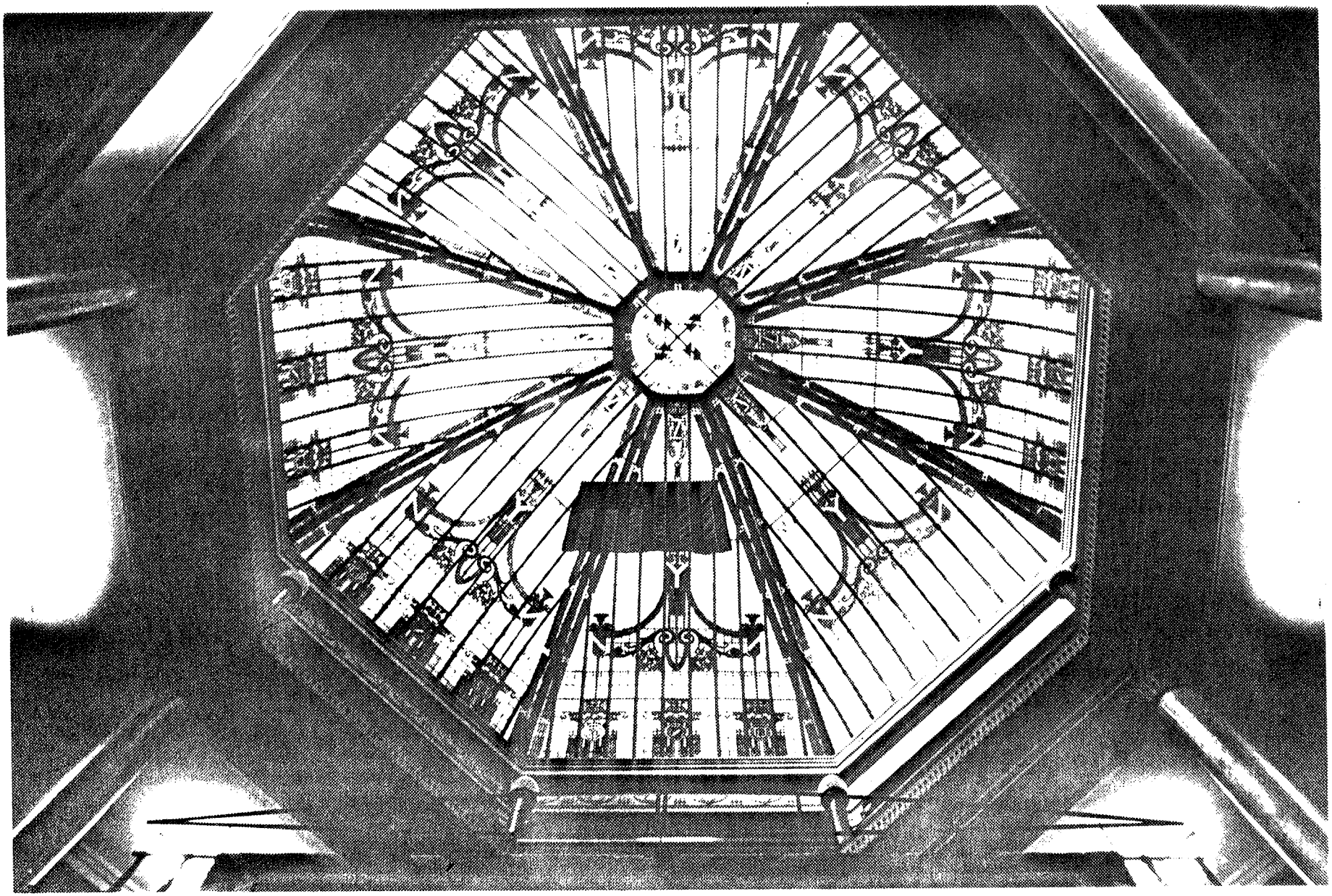
Boone County Courthouse
Lebanon, Indiana
UTM Reference: 16/545330/4433000



Viewing
Court House
From south
east

Boone County Courthouse
Lebanon, Indiana
J. McCoy Miller before 1980
Ng: " " "
General view, camera facing northwest
Photo #1 of 12

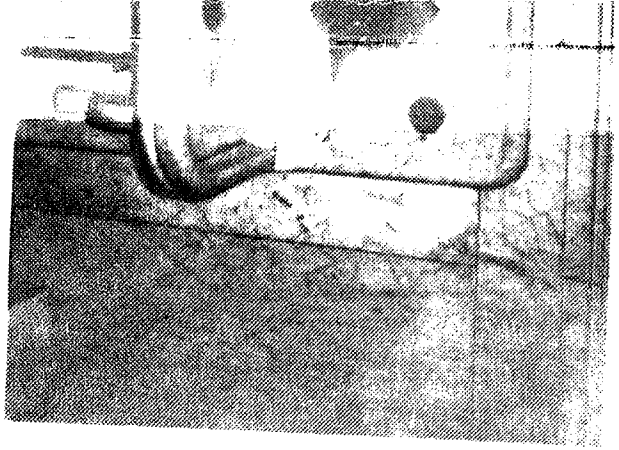
J McCoy Miller Rt.
321 W North St. / Box 55
Lebanon IN 46052

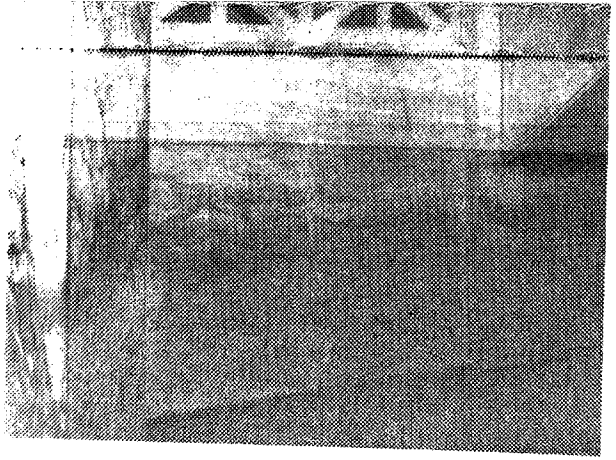


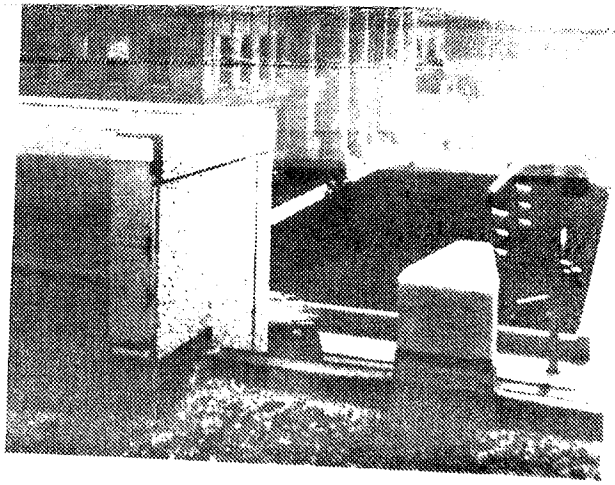
Boone County Courthouse
Boone County, IN
Lebanon, Indiana
J.J. McCoy Miller before 1980
Negative
Stained glass dome
Photo #2 of 12

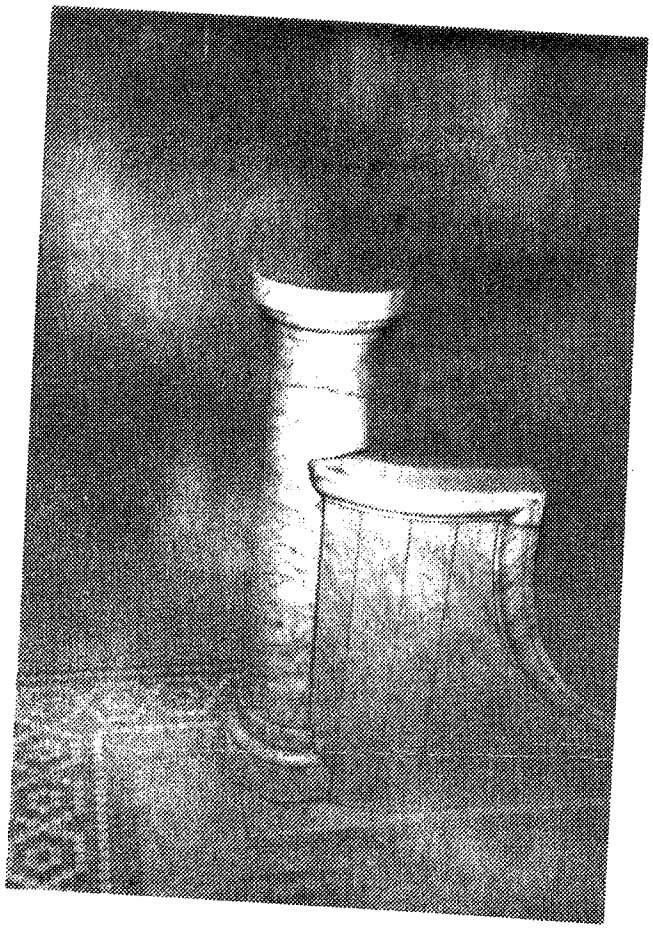
J McCoy Miller Rt.
321 W North St. Box 55
Lebanon IN 46052

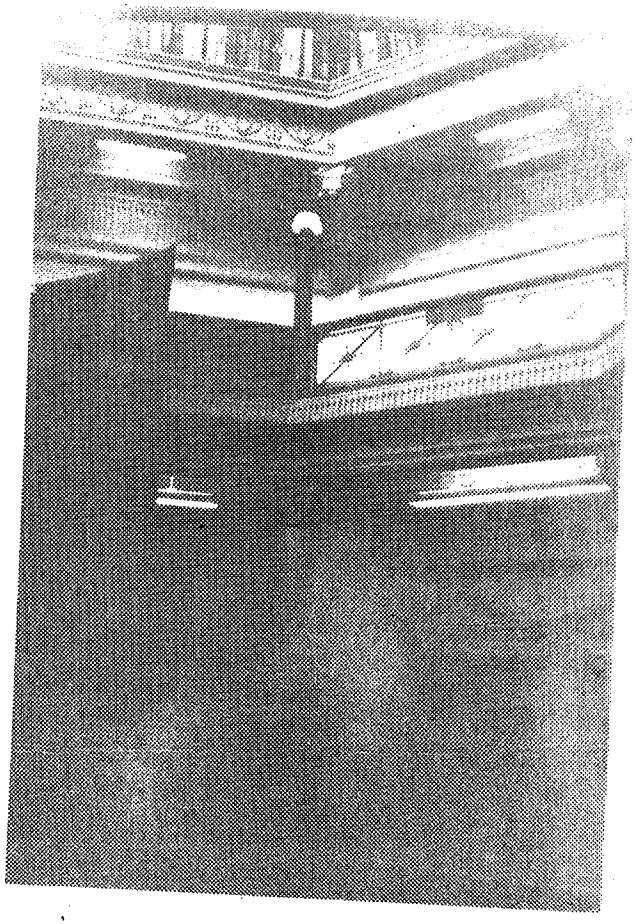
Courthouse dome

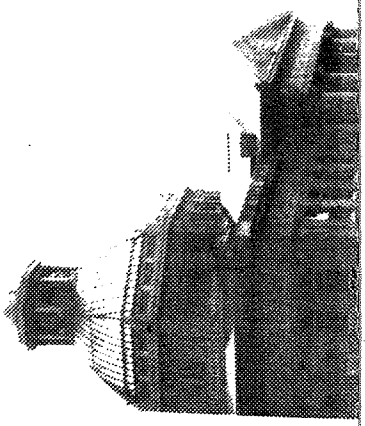


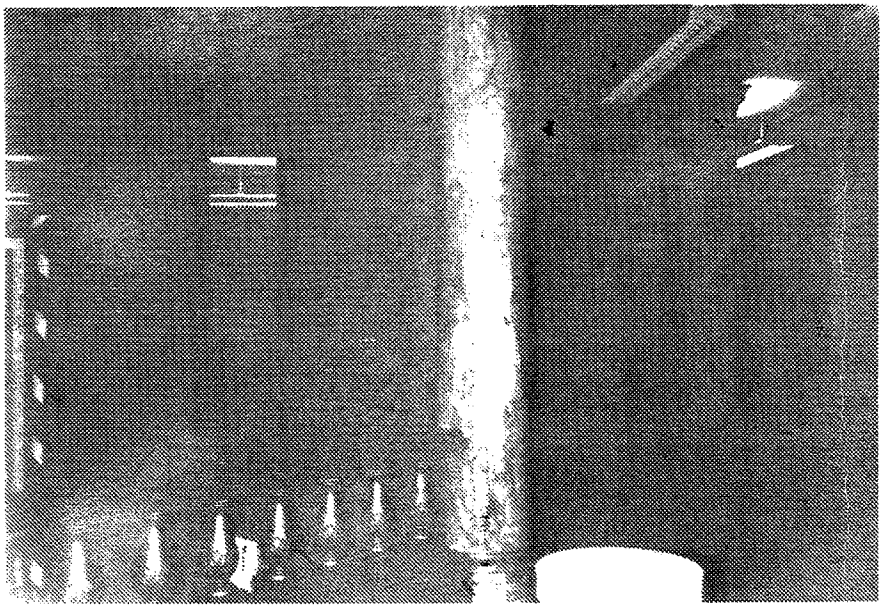


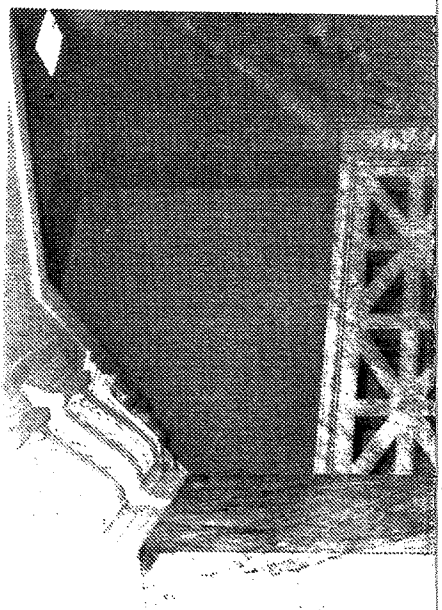


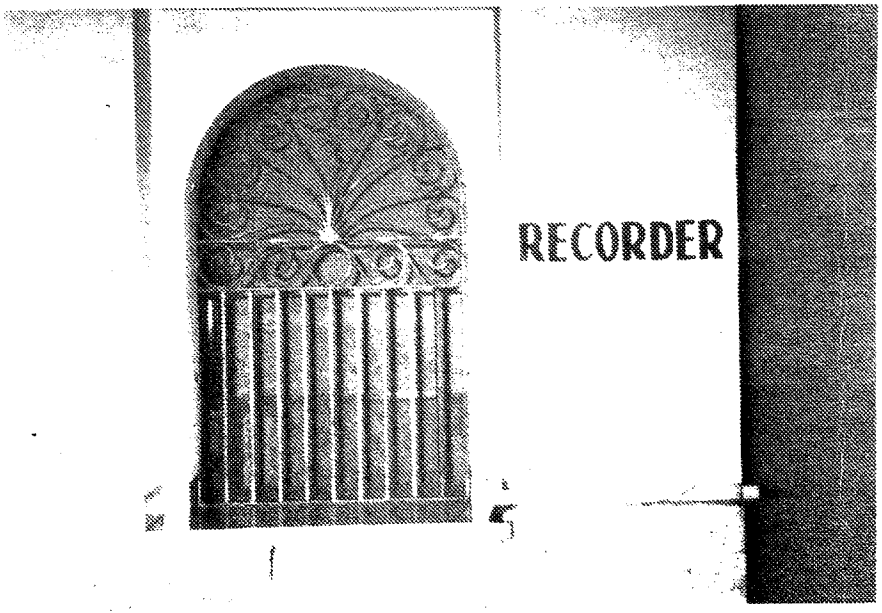








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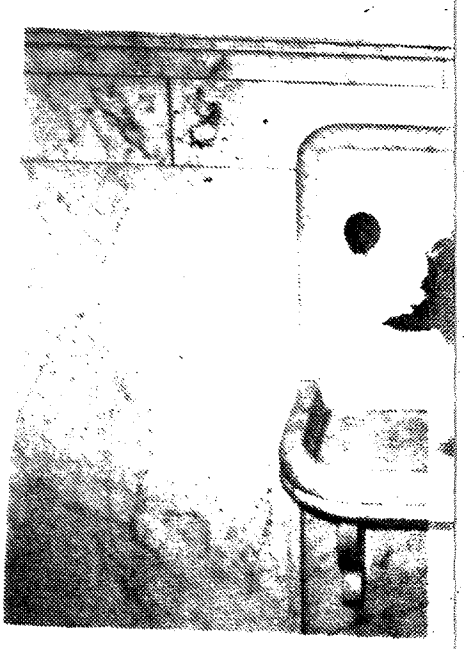
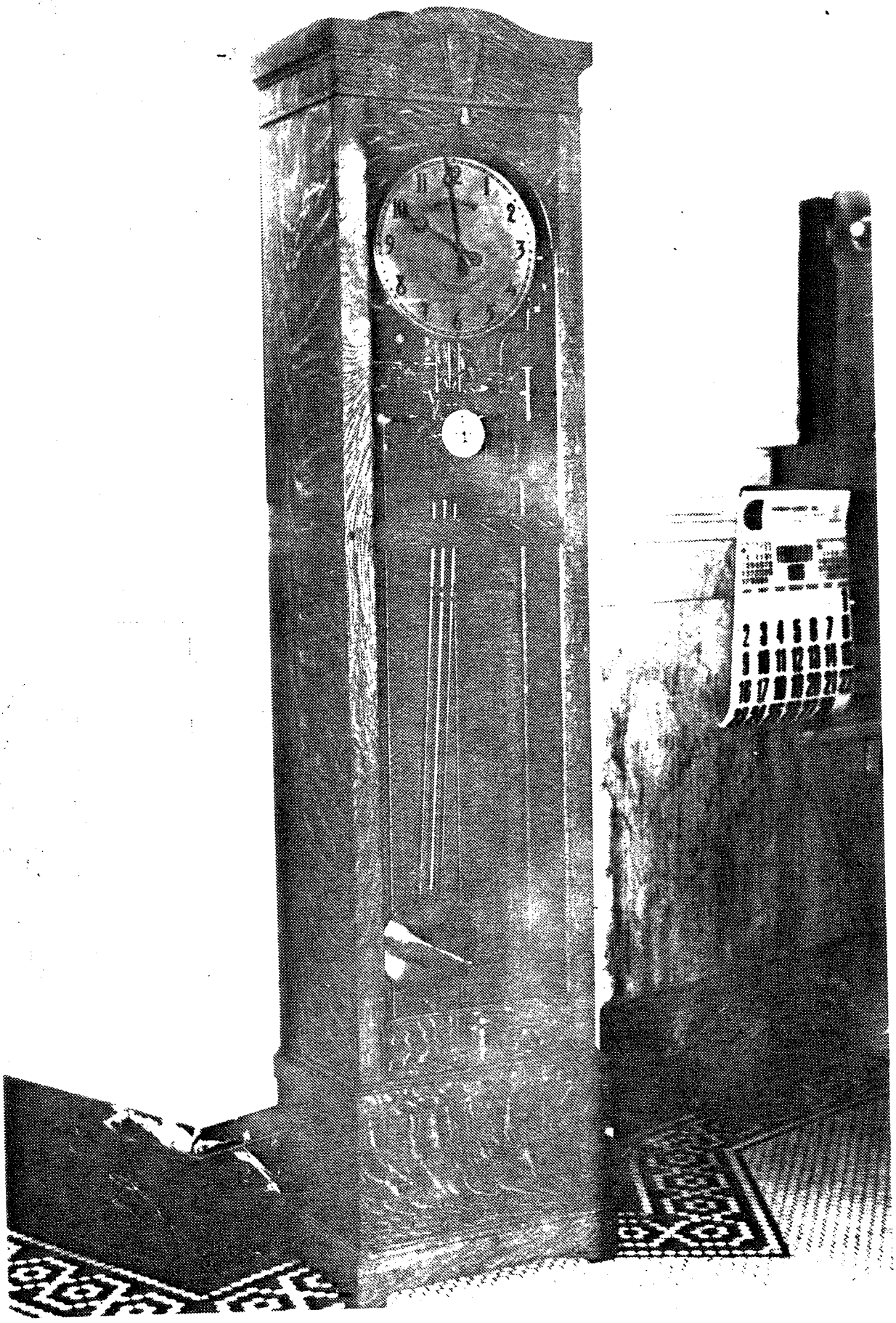
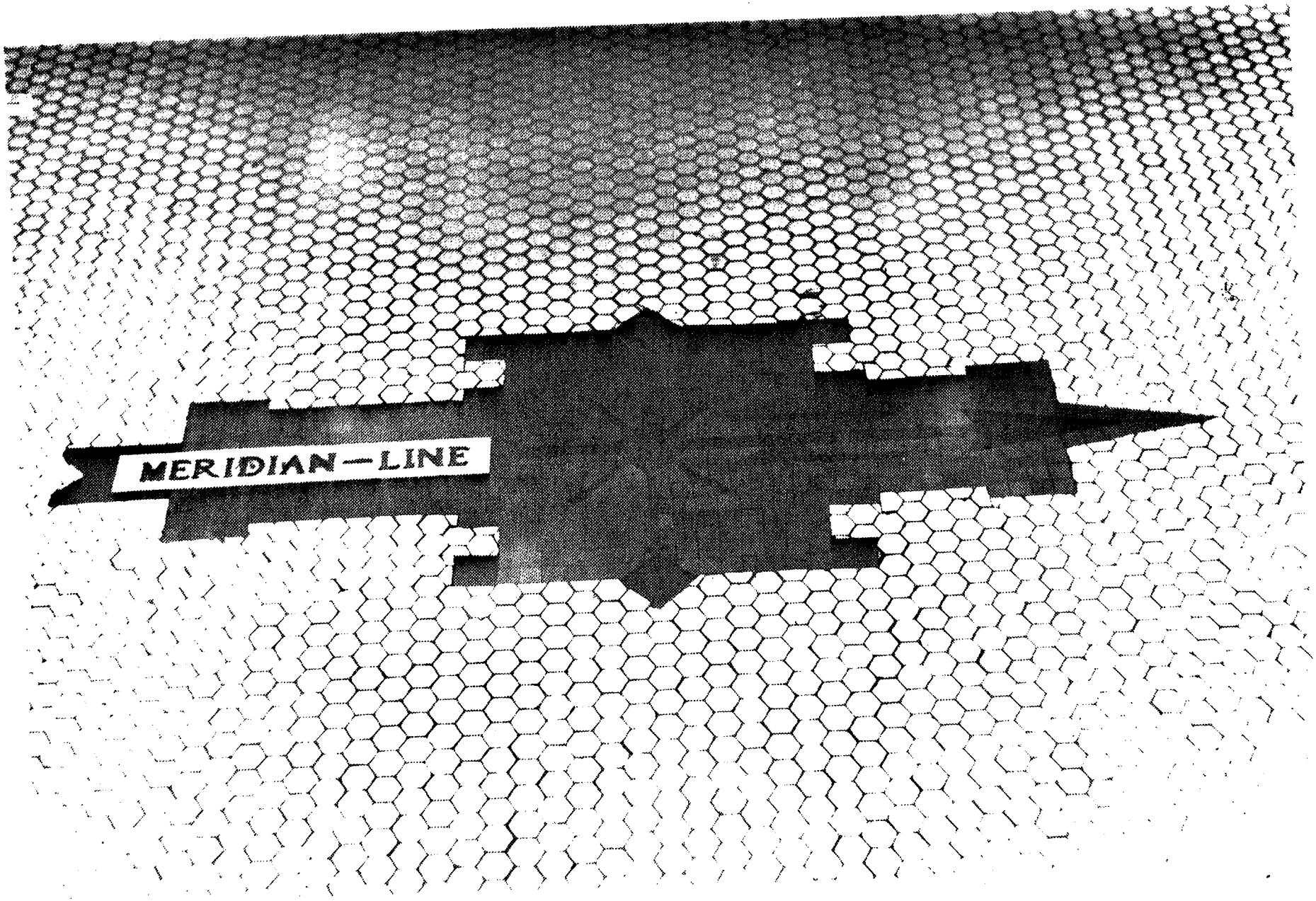


"original slave clock"

Boone County Courthouse
Lebanon, Indiana
J. McCoy Miller before 1980
Neg: " "
Clock
Photo #4 of 12

J McCoy Miller Rt.
321 W North St. / Box 55
Lebanon IN 46052




MERIDIAN—LINE

N/S meridian
line dissecting
INDIANA in Half.
Incenter of carthouse

Boone County Courthouse
Lebanon, Indiana
J. McCoy Miller before 1980
Neg: " "
Meridian line marker in rotunda
floor
Photo #3 of 12

J McCoy Miller Rt.
321 W North St. / Box 55
Lebanon IN 46052