NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pike County Courthouse

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 801 Main Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Petersburg N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Pike code 125 zip code 47567

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☑ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be consider significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James A. Hess 8/6/2008

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

NPS Form 10-900
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#1042

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☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Pike County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pike County, IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-state
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
5	2	objects
6	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone
walls BRICK
STONE: Limestone
roof SYNTHETICS: Rubber
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more sheets.)

Pike County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pike County, IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significant within the past 50 years.

Areas of significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1922-1958

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dunlap, Elmer E.
Good, Jasper N.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination if individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

☑ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository:
_____

Pike County Courthouse
Name of Property

Pike County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	475700	4260170
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joanne Raetz Stuttgen for

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date April 14, 2008

street & number 759 E. Washington St. telephone (765) 349-1537

city or town Martinsville state IN zip code 46151

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Pike County Commissioners

street & number 801 Main Street County Courthouse telephone (812) 354-8448

city or town Petersburg state IN zip code 47567

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Materials, continued
FOUNDATION: Concrete
FOUNDATION: Brick

General Description
Terrain played a significant role in Petersburg's original plat, recorded 18 August 1817. The city is laid out along a large hill overlooking the White River, located one- and one-half miles to the northwest. As surveyed and laid out by Hosea Smith, the city streets are parallel and at right angles to the river. As a result, the typical orthogonal grid is skewed to the northwest. The courthouse is therefore not aligned with the cardinal points of the compass. For ease of reference, the main elevation, which truly faces northwest, will be the west elevation; other sides of the building will be correspondingly renamed within this document.

The Neoclassical Pike County Courthouse is located on a slightly elevated historic public Shelbyville plan square, comprising one square block, in the center of downtown Petersburg. The lawn is framed by a city sidewalk and bounded on the west by Main Street, on the south by S. Eighth Street, on the east by E. Walnut Street, and on the north by S. Ninth Street. A paved parking lot—the site of the former sheriff's residence and jail—is located at the northeast corner. A limited amount of shrubbery hugs the foundation of the building on all four sides, while small trees provide scattered shade. Four commemorative markers are found on the west lawn, and along Main Street are three green, cast metal architectural street lamps dating to the 1930s.

The immediate environment of the courthouse is currently commercial. Historically, according to available Sanborn maps, the square has never been ringed by commercial buildings, which were located only on the opposite sides of Main Street and the first block of Eighth Street. These commercial buildings date to c.1875-1900. Dwellings were found across Ninth Street; they have been replaced with late-twentieth century commercial buildings and surface lots. Dwellings and the Methodist Church were found across Walnut Street; a new Methodist Church has occupied the entire block since 1992.

The nominated property includes eight resources. There is one contributing building. There are five contributing objects: one GAR memorial, one veterans' memorial, and three metal street lamps. There are two non-contributing objects: a marker commemorating Pike County residents killed in the 1990 tornado and a marker placed in 1987 in memory of local veterans of the American Revolution. The period of significance is 1922-1958.

The Pike County Courthouse is in very good condition both inside and out, with little evident deterioration. The integrity is also very good. Interior alterations such as dropped office ceilings are relatively few, reversible, and detract little from the building's historic ambience.

Exterior

Measuring 114 feet by 109 feet, the courthouse consists of a nearly square main mass with slightly projecting central pavilions on the west, north, and south. On the east, the projection is pronounced in comparison. The west elevation is the primary public side of the building. It faces on to Main Street, the main commercial street of Petersburg. Today, Main Street remains the north-south traffic artery as Indiana State Road 57. Walnut Street is today Indiana State Road 61.

Exterior walls of the courthouse are poured concrete veneered with buff brick made in Huntingburg, Indiana. The visible foundation materials are concrete, a base course of red brick, and dressed Bedford stone. The basement floor is poured concrete. Other floors are fireproof structural clay tile and concrete. (Interior materials are described later.) The roof is flat and is not visible from the street; it is covered with recent rubber membrane roofing. The dome, which is visible from the street only from a distance of about one block, is covered with white rubber membrane roofing. A brick chimney is also visible from a distance of about one block. All exterior windows are anodized aluminum replacement units. Primary mullions dividing each bay into double hung windows and transoms are similar in placement to the original window units (see historic photos). Masonry opening size has not been changed.

The architecture of the courthouse strikes a classical balance between simplicity, design, functionalism, frugality. The architect treated the ground/first floor as the building's base. The articulation of the wall surface is achieved by nine raised panels of six courses each reminiscent of channeled stone blocks. Recessed windows have limestone sills. Flat arch gauged brick lintels have a faceted limestone keystone. End and mid-span bricks are struck back flush with the channels so that groups of gauged bricks form brick voussoirs. Above these windows is a limestone drip molding that extends around the entire building, visually separating the first and second floors. Above the third floor windows is another limestone drip molding that serves as a kind of architrave topped by a brick frieze and limestone modillion cornice. The parapet wall has a central blank limestone plaque or panel and limestone coping.

The entire building features aligned columns of fenestration on all three levels. These vertical elements help draw the eye upward. The second and third floors are treated as a single unit rather than as two distinct floors. A subtle articulation of the façade, the plane of the window openings is set back a few inches from the wall plane. Rectangular window openings align with the ground floor windows. Horizontal brick spandrel panels fill the space between the second and third floor windows. Paired, two-story brick pilasters with Doric-style limestone bases and capitals define the bays of the projecting portion of the west façade. Decorated with brick panels, the pavilion corners are in effect antae that frame the composition. The single bays on either end of the south, east, and west facades lack the pilasters and corner-defining brick panels. Instead, these end bays have single window groups linked vertically by a recessed brick frame and spandrel panel.

The central five bays of the west façade project slightly, leaving one bay on each end along the main rectangle of the courthouse. The entire elevation is symmetrical and includes a central grand entrance in the middle of the projection portion. The main entrance is deeply recessed into the wall plane and consists of aluminum framed security doors and a large single-light transom. The dressed limestone surround has eared corners and a shouldered architrave and cornice topped by with carved anthemion and acroteria. Three limestone slab steps and a threshold step flanked by segmented limestone walls rise from the concrete sidewalk.

The west elevation is capped by an entablature consisting of stone architrave, brick frieze, stone dentil course, and stone cornice. The brick parapet is banded on its lower courses by a belt composed of header brick sandwiched by stretcher courses. Low relief piers above the pilasters and antae further articulate the west parapet. Otherwise, the other parapets are the same.

The north and south elevations are identical. A short run of steps leads to the central entrances, which are identical to that on the main façade. The treatment of these façades is similar to the main west façade with two exceptions. The pilasters are missing, as are the brick panels framing the pavilion corners. On the north side, east of the entrance and parallel to the wall, concrete steps surrounded by metal pipe railing descend to a basement entrance.

The east elevation has no central entrance. A ground-level entrance is found near the south corner. It leads to the lobby of the sub-grade assembly room. It does not have a limestone surround; instead, it has a hood like that of the first floor windows. A basement entrance once used for transporting prisoners from the old jail is found at the bottom of a ramp near the north corner. The east elevation is also the only elevation to have a combination of single and paired window units, instead of just paired. This results in nine bays across the back of the building, with five in the deeply projecting central portion and two at each end. The projecting portion is deep enough to have a paired unit on the side walls of the ground and first floors.

Interior

Throughout the building, floors are concrete overlaid with gray and black vinyl-asbestos tile, with carpet on the stairs and in a few offices.[1] Load-bearing walls appear to be poured concrete; non-load bearing walls are brick. Base molding, eared door surrounds, doors, and counters are natural oak, most stripped and refinished, some stripped but never finished, and some with the original varnish finish. On all three floors, walls and ceilings in public areas are painted plaster; painted chair molding is the only ornament. Ceilings in public areas retain their original height of 14 feet. Dropped to ten feet, office ceilings are foam panels inserted in metal frames. A few offices—adult probation, public health, and circuit court—have added drywall partitions. Paired office doors off the rotunda on the upper floors are unpainted wood with single lights and brass

[1] Pike County surveyor Prentice Stafford remembers as a child that the floors had a gray stone- or tile-like, square-patterned finish.

hardware. Stair and rotunda railings are cast metal painted gold with a wave-like crest; handrails are natural oak.

The ground floor plan is nearly cross-axial. Short corridors lead into the rotunda from the north, south, and west entrance vestibules, whose interior doors have been removed. Within the north and south entrance corridors, shorter intersecting corridors provide access to offices and closets. The rotunda is topped with an art glass skylight illuminated with electric lights in the attic. (The dome itself has been stripped of its glass and covered with rubber membrane.) Rotunda walls are curved, with segmental arched recessed panels framed by square support piers from which radiate structural ceiling beams. These panels alternate with arched hallway openings, giving the rotunda an arcade-like feel on the ground and first floors. Globe lights in metal fixtures are suspended from the panels between the beams. Curving concrete staircases lead down and up from the northeast and southeast arcs of the rotunda.

The basement has a painted concrete floor and walls of poured concrete and brick. The area beneath the rotunda is round and remains open; square concrete columns support the floor above. Flanking areas have been divided into rooms for office space, storage, maintenance and mechanicals, kitchen, dining, and meeting areas. The original coal and ash rooms are located at the southwest corner. The coal room has been divided in two by the addition of a concrete block wall, forming a passage or "tunnel" from the adjacent jail. Off the southeast arc of the central round room, an ADA ramp leads up to an auditorium.

The auditorium is below grade and lit by three large windows on the east wall. Between the windows run concrete piers; intersecting them at the ceiling and running across the width of the room are concrete beams. The ceiling is covered with panels but retains a near-original height of an estimated 20 feet. The concrete floor is covered with red carpet. An elevated stage with red velvet curtain is on the north end of the room. At the rear or south end is an open balcony. A ramp at the southwest corner leads up to a lobby at ground level. Stairs to the balcony have been closed off by a drywall partition and locked door. The stair and balcony railing is identical to those in the rest of the courthouse. A ticket booth opposite the entrance door has been converted into a men's restroom. The closet under the stairs has been converted into a woman's restroom. Neither conversion is historic.

For the most part, historic ladies and men's restrooms throughout the courthouse retain their original porcelain lavatories and stalls. Toilets have been upgraded over the years, although a few urinals appear to date to the period of construction. Second and third floor offices are utilitarian and spacious. Offices off the main rotunda corridors have paired wood doors, sidelights, and transoms with pebbled glass. Private and semi-private offices have solid wood doors. In some offices, large windows with pebbled glass located on inside walls illuminate adjacent closed areas, such as toilets, closets, and corridors. Wood service counters have

synthetic replacement tops of hard plastic or Formica-like material. Brass restraining rails remain only in the recorder's office. A historic feature of note is the blue painted metal safe in the treasurer's office; it was removed from the previous courthouse.

Like the courthouse in general, the circuit court is relatively unadorned. Acoustical foam paneling painted white covers the walls. The twenty-foot ceiling is covered with dropped foam panels inserted in metal frames. Plaster pilasters, in truth structural piers, line the walls; they are decorated with small wood plaques painted gold. The floor is covered with blue carpet. The original oak judge's bench is against the south wall; behind it is a narrow corridor leading from office corridor. The original oak witness bench is located in front of the judge, and to his left. The jury box is under the east windows; chairs are contemporary upholstered swivel rockers. An original Mission-style oak railing with turned balusters divides the courtroom. Audience seating appears to be original; it consists of individual wood, theatre-style seats with cast iron legs aligned in rows with aisles along the side and back walls and down the center.

The small claims and family court has no historic features of note. It has a contemporary oak judge's bench and witness stand and short sections of oak railings.

In the basement and on the ground/first and second floors, an altered historic feature is the secondary staircase tucked against the primary staircase off the north side of the east corridor. Once used for transporting defendants from the basement, to the sheriff's office, up to the clerk's office and court room, these steps have been blocked off and covered with plywood. The landings have been converted to storage.

Outside, on the west courthouse lawn, are found four monuments. At the northwest corner is a gray granite veterans memorial consisting of a central obelisk with flanking slabs. Erected by the Gold Star Association, it dates to c.1950. In front of the north flank of the west elevation is a gray granite slab, erected in 1987, in memory of Pike County soldiers and patriots of the American Revolution. In front of the south flank of the west elevation is a gray granite slab on a rusticated base commemorating Pike County residents who were killed in the tornado of 2 June 1990. Last, at the southwest corner of the courthouse is a gray granite boulder commemorating the GAR. It was erected c.1930.

Three green, cast metal architectural street lamps are found along Main Street. They appear to date to the 1930s. The manufacturer is not identified.

The Pike County Courthouse is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is the most significant governmental building in the county, the core of Petersburg's historic commercial district, the only identified outstanding public example of the Classical Revival style of architecture in the City of Petersburg, and is an important work of Elmer E. Dunlap, an architect known for planning public buildings in Indiana.

History of Pike County and Petersburg

Pike County, established in 1817, is located in the southwest part of Indiana. It is bounded by Knox and Daviess Counties to the north, Gibson County to the west, Dubois County to the east, and Warrick County to the south. The East Fork of the White River forms its northern border, and the Patoka River, and the Patoka National Wildlife Area, cuts east and west through its center. The White River bottoms provide the best farmland. Coal underlies the entire county, with approximately one-third of the total having been mined. In Patoka, Marion, Lockhart, and Monroe Townships, many of these mines have gone back to nature, with pine trees and scrub brush overtaking the land.

The earliest extraction of coal was from surface deposits. Underground mining began in the early 1800s, with the first shipment of coal from a mine northeast of Petersburg occurring in 1835. Organized mining began in the 1860s and strip mining in the 1920s. The Depression brought the consolidation of independent mines. The World War II years brought the first challenge to the industry, as railroads switched from coal to diesel. In the 1960s, mines became subsidiaries of large corporations, such as Standard Oil, which itself became a subsidiary of British Petroleum. Today, small strip and underground mines remain in operation, but the local industry is not what it once was.[1] Since about 1890, gas and oil have also been extracted from county wells.[2]

With an overall size of 338 square miles and a population of about 12,000, Pike County is one of the state's smallest counties. It is also one of the poorest. The city of Petersburg, the county seat, has a population of approximately 3,000. Platted in 1817 and named for Peter Brenton, the principal donor of land, the city is located along the Buffalo Trace, a historic route used before 1790 between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River, and on the Wabash and Erie Canal. The canal was completed in 1852, and Petersburg became an important shipping center, with goods being shipped to the Ohio River and then on to New Orleans. A number of factories located here, and the population increased with the influx of new residents. However, a cholera outbreak in 1853 was blamed on the canal; people fled the city, with only twelve families remaining behind. The canal was soon abandoned.[3]

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[1] *The Coal Miner's Cry: Coal Mining in Pike County, Indiana from 1835-1999*, eds. Beth Bohnert and Dixie Cooper, 98-99.

[2] In 1937, there were 500 oil and gas wells in the county. "Twenty Historical Markers Erected in Pike County," p. 89.

[3] *History of Pike and Dubois Counties, Indiana* (Chicago: Goodspeed Bros. and Co., 1885): 246, 336, 339-40.

In direct opposition to the canal, work on a railroad—the Straight Line—from Evansville to Indianapolis was begun but quickly failed. The first railroad to reach Pike County, in 1879, was the Air Line branch of the Southern Railway connecting Evansville and Louisville through the Marion Township communities of Winslow and Velpen. [4] In 1882, the Straight Line branch of the Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad was completed. It was built on top of the canal banks, and the pilings for the aqueduct over the White River were used as bridge piers.[5]

The failure of the canal and the cholera outbreak resulted in Petersburg's slow growth. In 1850, there were 480 residents. In 1855, there were 589. With the arrival of the railroads in the 1870s, the city began to reach maturity, as marked by the establishment of an important flouring mill and Citizen's State bank, the city's first. By 1892, according to the Sanborn map, Petersburg boasted a tile factory and brick yard, several planning mills, and a flour mill, all within blocks of the public square and the commercial district along Main Street. The 1907 Sanborn maps records typical Main Street commercial businesses: drugstores, groceries, restaurants, a confectionery, jewelry store, and hotels, etc.

History of the Pike County Courthouse

The existing courthouse, built 1920-22, is the fourth to serve the needs of Pike County. The first log courthouse was erected on the block immediately east of the public square in 1818, one year after formation of the county. The second courthouse, a two-room, one-story brick building, was built on the public square in 1838. It was replaced in 1868 by a two-story brick building with county office on the first floor and a large courtroom with several small anterooms on the second.

Controversy over the fourth and present courthouse may have occurred for almost 20 years.[6] The main issues seem to be where the county seat should be located, with the neighboring town of Winslow hoping to lure it away from Petersburg, and the cost of a new building. On 5 August 1919, the county commissioners declared their intention to build a new courthouse, contracted with architect Elmer E. Dunlap of Indianapolis to design it, and requested that $250,000 to pay for it be appropriated from the county revenue. The money was not available, so they requested borrowing the sum and issuing bonds.[7]

Articles, letters, and ads by county residents taking one position or another appeared in the county newspapers during late 1919. The results of a public referendum were 3,140 voters against and 2,444 in favor of the construction of a new court house. The State Board of Tax

[4] Beulah B. Gray, "Early History of Pike County," *Winslow Dispatch*, no date.
[5] Untitled essay in a bound collection of articles from the Pike County Historical Society, p. 117. The 1876 map of Pike County shows both railroads as "proposed." *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana* (Chicago: Baskin, Forster and Co.).
[6] Sandy McBeth and Rose Evans, "Pike County Courthouse," no date.
[7] Commissioners Record W: 160-62.

Commissioners denied the county commissioners' request for $250,000 in bonds. Upon appeal by the county commissioners, the State reversed its decision in February 1920 and approved the issuance of $150,000 in bonds.[8]

On 30 August 30 1920, the county commissioners contracted with Jasper N. Good of Columbus for the construction of the basement and ground floor (today's basement and first floor) of the new Pike County Courthouse. The total cost was $165,000. The work was to be completed and ready for acceptance and occupancy by 1 November.[9] On 15 September 1920, the old courthouse was sold at auction to Charles E. Jones, who razed it, and salvaged whatever materials he could, and cleared the site of debris. County offices and the court were temporarily relocated to two buildings on Main Street, and the sheriff's office was moved into his residence at the southeast corner of the public square.[10]

Because of the lack of available funds, the present Pike County Courthouse was built in two phases. A single bid from Jasper N. Good was received for construction of the second phase—the first and second floor (today's second and third floor)—on 19 November 1920. It was rejected.[11] On 25 February 1921, Good was awarded the contract for $90,793 in a second round of bidding.[12] On 13 April 1921, the county commissioners petitioned the State Board of Tax Commissioners for a second sale of bonds of $100,000. They were denied. The State Board's engineer modified and changed the plans and specifications so as to materially decrease the cost of the new courthouse, and the county commissioners ordered architect Dunlap to modify his plans accordingly.

Jasper N. Good also agreed to modify his contract accordingly. The State then authorized the sale of $100,000 in bonds.[13]

On 6 April 1921, the cornerstone for the new courthouse was laid, with attendant pomp and ceremony that included a parade, huge reception, and luncheon. The county hired an Evansville decorating firm to decorate Main Street from Fifth Street to Ninth Street. A special train was dispatched from Evansville to bring all of the dignitaries to the event.[14]

Construction was well underway when, in March 1922, the shortage of funds again became apparent. The county commissioners opted to eliminate the decorating of the courthouse interior

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[8] Commissioners Record W: 265. In July 1920, three Petersburg banks—First National, Citizens State, and Peoples Loan and Trust—sold the bonds for a total of $151,068.49, including accrued interest.
[9] Commissioners Record W: 392-95.
[10] Commissioners Record W: 392-96. No evidence has been found that the third courthouse was destroyed by fire in the late 1920s, as is popularly believed.
[11] Commissioners Record W: 415.
[12] Commissioners Record W: 451-54.
[13] Commissioners Record X: 145-46, 150-51.
[14] "Pike County Courthouse"

in order to meet the project's $250,000 projected total cost. Jasper N. Good also agreed to complete the general contract work of the entire upper floor, something that was not part of his contract.[15]

On 8 August 1922, the new Pike County Courthouse was accepted from Jasper N. Good by the county commissioners, despite the fact that the art glass dome, electric light fixtures, furniture, and exterior grading and cement work were not yet contracted for. Contracts were signed that same day. The Mitchell and Halbeck Co. of Chicago was awarded the contract for the art glass for $1,400.[16]

The Pike County Courthouse was repaired and redecorated in 1956.[17] The extent of the work is unknown. The black and gray tile floor covering appears to date to about this period.

In 1987, the Sheriff's Residence and Jail, built in 1894, was demolished; an asphalt parking lot now covers the site.[18] Other significant alterations completed before 1990 included replacement windows, air conditioning, and other mechanical improvements and upgrades.[19] Office ceilings were lowered. Interior woodwork may also have been stripped and refinished at this time. The basement was remodeled into the senior citizens center, and several large offices were divided with drywall partitions.

From 2001 to 2003, the circuit court was rearranged for security reasons. The jury box was removed from in front of the judge's bench to the east wall. The witness box, which faced the judge's bench and the original jury box, was moved to face the present jury box. The rail and seating for onlookers were not moved.

Architecture

The Pike County Courthouse is an outstanding example of Neoclassical-inspired architecture in the City of Petersburg. A survey of Pike County historic sites and structures has not yet been conducted. It may well be that the courthouse is the sole example of the style in the county.

By the turn of the twentieth century, the Neo-classical style emerged as a dominant force in American architecture. This revival in classical models is attributed to the World's Columbian

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[15] Commissioners Record X: 247.

[16] Commissioners Record X: 338-46. Occupancy of the courthouse was expected to occur within 30 days; however, no newspaper report of the opening has yet been found.

[17] Untitled essay in the Courthouse file in the Pike County Public Library, c.1956.

[18] The sheriff's residence and jail was designed by J. W. Gaddis of Vincennes and built by Martin Lori of Jasper. "A New Court House," *Pike County Democrat*, 1 April 1921. The building's cornerstone is now located at the current Pike County jail.

[19] Courthouse employees date these alterations as "before the tornado." The June 2 tornado caused no significant damage to the courthouse, although it did destroy the Methodist church on E. Walnut Street, immediately to the south.

Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The Exposition's planners mandated a classical theme, and many of the best-known architects of the day designed dramatic colonnaded buildings arranged around a central court. The exposition was widely photographed, reported, and attended, and soon these Neo-classical models became the latest architectural fashion throughout the country.[20]

The style shows a concern for historical correctness of detail but not of overall execution or scale. Neo-classical buildings tend to be meticulously detailed and of massive scale, and as such are perfectly suited to grand public buildings of great civic importance. Architectural Neo-classicism prevailed into the 1930s, most notably in large public and commercial buildings and skyscrapers. Characteristics of the style include the use of classical elements such as a columned portico, pilasters, keystones, pedimented openings, and dentils along heavy cornices.[21]

A number of Neo-classical courthouses still grace Indiana's county seats. Besides the Miami County Courthouse, representative examples include those in Hendricks County (Danville), Huntington County (Huntington), and Putnam County (Greencastle).

Designed by Clarence Martindale and built 1912-14, the three-story Hendricks County Courthouse is clad in dressed Bedford limestone. First floor exterior walls are rusticated limestone. A soaring pedimented entrance features Doric columns between the second and third stories and massive corner pilasters. Above the entrance is a limestone hood with turned balusters and supporting brackets. All windows and exterior entrance doors are replacements. There is no dome. The interior boasts a rotunda with paired marble Doric columns, a dentiled encircling entablature, cast iron staircase and balcony balustrade, mosaic tile floors, coffered ceilings, and an art glass skylight. In the Treasurer's office is a marble, brass, and beveled glass teller's cage.[22]

Built 1904-06, the four-story, rectilinear plan Huntington County Courthouse, designed by John W. Gaddis of Vincennes, features a ribbed copper dome on a round drum pierced with rectangular windows. The dome is topped by a cupola and finial. Exterior walls are dressed limestone. First and second story windows are rectangular. Recessed third story windows are arched, separated by round Corinthian pilasters. Each of the four entrances is located in a central portico topped by a projecting pediment with decorative entablature. The pediment is supported by four pairs of Doric columns, which in turn are supported by a bracketed hood over the arcade entrance. The interior is distinguished by a spacious central rotunda, mosaic tile floors, marble columns and wainscoting.[23]

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[20] Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996): 342-43.
[21] *Miami County Interim Report*, xxx.
[22] Counts, Will and John Dilts, *The Magnificent 92 Indiana Courthouses* (Bloomington, IN: Red Bud Press, 1991), 70-1.
[23] *The Magnificent 92 Indiana Courthouses*, 76-77.

Gaddis also designed the Putnam County Courthouse in Greencastle, built 1903-05. The four-story, square plan building features exterior first floor walls of rusticated limestone and upper walls of dressed block. The first and second stories are separated by a bold drip mold. Windows are one-over-one double hung sash. The main entrance is through a full-height portico, featuring a dentiled pediment with ornamental carving and a large clock face, supported by four Corinthian columns. An oval oculus is found in the third story above the entrance. Although it is not seen from the outside, a glass dome highlights the interior.[24]

Elmer East Dunlap (1874-1954)

Elmer Dunlap may have been a native of Columbus, Indiana, where his father operated a contracting business and lumber store. The 1910 federal census records him as a 26-year-old contractor living in his parents' Columbus home. Dunlap received a degree in architecture and architectural engineering from the University of Illinois in 1897. He practiced with William Butts Ittner, a nationally known designer of school buildings, in St. Louis in 1902. He was married in Marion County, Indiana, in 1905; presumably, by this time he had opened his Indianapolis office. The 1910 federal census records him as an architect living on Ashland Avenue. His solo career was highlighted by many contracts for school and governmental buildings throughout the state. During the 1920s, following his father's death, Dunlap returned to Columbus to run the family construction business. He died in 1954.[25]

Public buildings were among Dunlap's most important works. The Pike County Courthouse is a good example of his skills in designing courthouses. Dunlap was prominent in courthouse projects; he planned three new and redesigned two old courthouses in Indiana. In addition to the Pike County Courthouse, two other Neoclassical courthouses designed by Dunlap still grace Indiana's county seats. These are the Carroll County Courthouse (1916-17; A-4) in Delphi and the Spencer County Courthouse (1921) in Rockport. Carroll County officials gave Dunlap his first chance to design a courthouse from scratch. All three courthouses incorporate circular rotundas with stained glass ceilings. All three were designed in an almost understated classic style. The big differences are embellishments. The courthouse at Delphi is Dunlap's most elaborate. The courthouse at Petersburg is his most unadorned.[26]

Dunlap also remodeled two existing French Second Empire style courthouses in 1910: Johnson County in Franklin and Jackson County in Brownstown. Despite retaining the basic bones of the 1852 building, all that remains today of Edwin May's Johnson County design is the clock tower. Dunlap flanked the original building with wings and replaced the Italian-inspired round arches with flat window surrounds and Ionic columns reflecting the Neoclassical style. For both

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[24] *The Magnificent 92 Indiana Courthouses*, 140-41.
[25] Alexandra Wenzl, Lynn Corson, and Suzanne Stanis, National Register of Historic Places nomination for Carroll County Courthouse, 2003.
[26] Ibid.

jobs, Dunlap used classical elements to obscure the older Victorian structure, including a monumental distyle in antis portico.[27]

A table of Indiana buildings whose design is attributed to Dunlap is found on the next page.

[27] Ibid. Also, http://www.in.gov/judiciary/ipix/franklin/index.html, accessed April 14, 2008. The Jackson County Courthouse is not yet listed in the National Register of Historic Places, so nothing is known about its remodeling.

BUILDING	DATE	LOCATION	STATUS IF KNOWN
Central School[28]	1904	Columbus	demolished
First Baptist Church[29]	1905	North Vernon	unknown
City School[30]	1906	Hope	demolished
Eggleston School[31]	1906	Madison	NR district
Ralph Waldo Emerson School #58[32]	1906	Indianapolis	NR
Johnson County Courthouse renovation[33]	1910	Franklin	NR
Bedford High School[34]	1911-12	Bedford	unknown
Kokomo High School and Memorial Gymnasium[35]	1914	Kokomo	NR
Brookston-Prairie Township High School[36]	1916	White County	unknown
Crestview Junior High School[37]	1916	Huntington	demolished
Carroll County Courthouse[38]	1916	Delphi	NR
Shelbyville High School, Middle School wing[39]	1917	Shelbyville	NR
Union Township School[40]	1918	Huntington County	unknown
Woodruff Place Town Hall[41]	c. 1920	Indianapolis	NR district
Spencer County Courthouse[42]	1921	Rockport	NR
John Hope School #26[43]	1921	Indianapolis	extant
John McCormick School #30[44]	1924	Indianapolis	extant
Pike County Courthouse	1920-22	Petersburg	
Lawrence High School[45]	1922	Indianapolis	unknown
Lincoln School[46]	1922	Huntington	extant

[28] Wenzl, Corson, Stanis. The date of construction is 1905-06 on the following website, accessed April 14, 2008: http://columbusin.proboards34.com.
[29] DHPA architects database.
[30] National Register Information System, www.nps.gov/history/nr/research/nris/htm
[31] DHPA architects database.
[32] National Register Information System, www.nps.gov/history/nr/research/nris/htm
[33] DHPA architects database.
[34] See fn. 26.
[35] National Register Information System, www.nps.gov/history/nr/research/nris/htm
[36] DHPA architects database.
[37] Ibid.
[38] National Register Information System, www.nps.gov/history/nr/research/nris/htm
[39] Ibid.
[40] DHPA architects database.
[41] http:// www.nps.gov/history/NR/travel/indianapolis/woodruffplace.htm, accessed April 14, 2008.
[42] Ibid.
[43] DHPA architects database.
[44] Ibid.
[45] Ibid.

Jasper Newton Good (1857-1943)
Jasper Newton Good lived nearly his entire life in Bartholomew County, Indiana. The 1920 federal census identifies him as a 43 year old house carpenter. He died January 2, 1943, in Columbus. His obituary reveals that he was involved in the construction business for many years, operating the J. N. Good Construction Company, "which built many of the larger buildings in Southern Indiana." He retired in the 1930s to devote full time to a farm operation. He had been in ill health for a long time prior to his death. Judging by references in the Columbus city directory, his was a small firm. The office was in the middle of a downtown residential district and is also listed as his residence.[47]

Indiana buildings whose construction is attributed to Good include:

BUILDING	DATE	LOCATION	STATUS IF KNOWN
Pike County Courthouse	1920-1922	Petersburg	
Vermillion County Courthouse[48]	1925	Newport	NR

Summary
The Pike County Courthouse is an outstanding yet modest example of Classical Revival style architecture. Designed by Indianapolis architect Elmer E. Dunlap and constructed between 1920 and 1922 by Jasper N. Good of Columbus, it has served as the center of county government for nearly 90 years. It is also the center of historic downtown Petersburg, a southwestern Indiana city with a long and rich history in commerce and industry. For these reasons, the Pike County Commissioners, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, are seeking its inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

[46] Ibid.
[47] Harry McCawley, e-mail to Joanne Raetz Stuttgen, 10 March 2008. McCawley is the Bartholomew County Historian.
[48] DHPA architects database. National Register of Historic Places listing is pending.

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http:// www.nps.gov/history/NR/travel/indianapolis/woodruffplace.htm , accessed April 14, 2008.

Verbal Boundary Description
Public Square, original plat, Petersburg, Indiana, specifically bounded by the northeast curb line of S. Eighth Street, the southeast curb line of Main Street, the southwest curb line of S. Ninth Street, and the northeast curb line of E. Walnut Street.

Verbal Boundary Justification
The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Pike County Courthouse.

Photographs

All digital photographs of the exterior were taken by Joanne Raetz Stuttgen on 26 March 2008, unless otherwise indicated. All interior photographs were taken by Joanne Raetz Stuttgen on 18 and 19 April 2008. A CD is on file with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Photo 1 of 15
west (front) facade
camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 15
north and partial west (front) façade, with veterans memorial
camera facing south

Photo 3 of 15
south facade
camera facing east

Photo 4 of 15
east and north facades
camera facing west

Photo 5 of 15
rotunda, with view of ground (first) and second floor
camera facing west

Photo 6 of 15
first and second floor staircases
camera facing south

Photo 7 of 15
art glass light
camera facing skyward

Photo 8 of 15
Auditor's office, second floor
camera facing west

Photo 9 of 15
Treasurer's office, second floor
camera facing southeast

Photo 10 of 15
Circuit Court, third floor
camera facing west

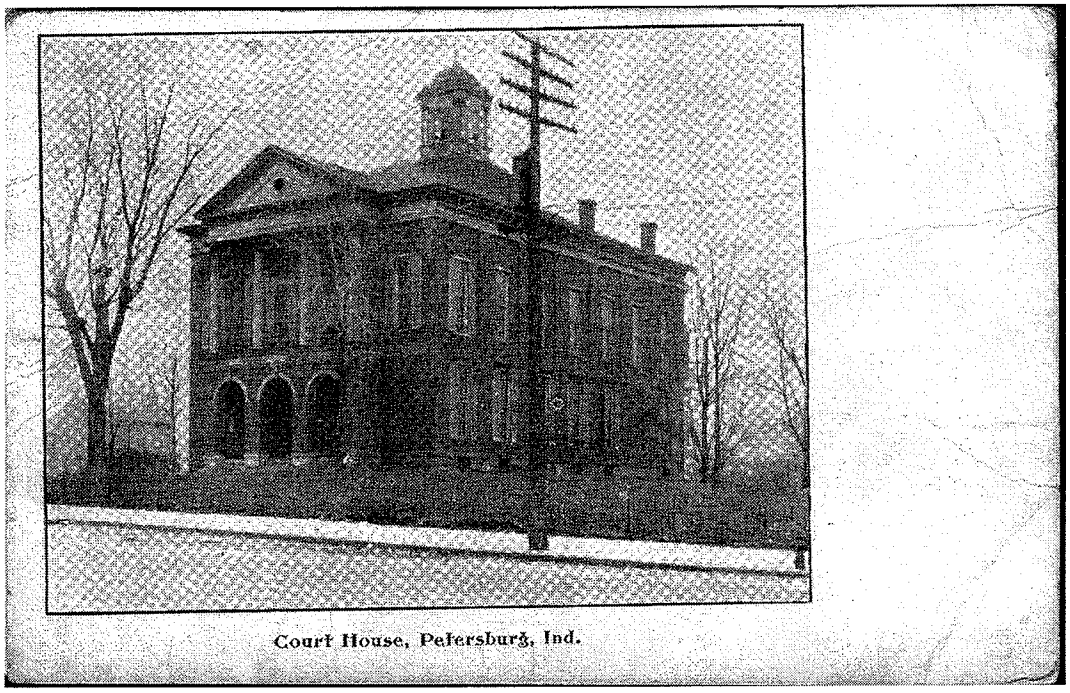
Photo 11 of 15
east-west corridor, north end of third floor
camera facing southeast

Photo 12 of 15
basement, senior citizens' center
camera facing south

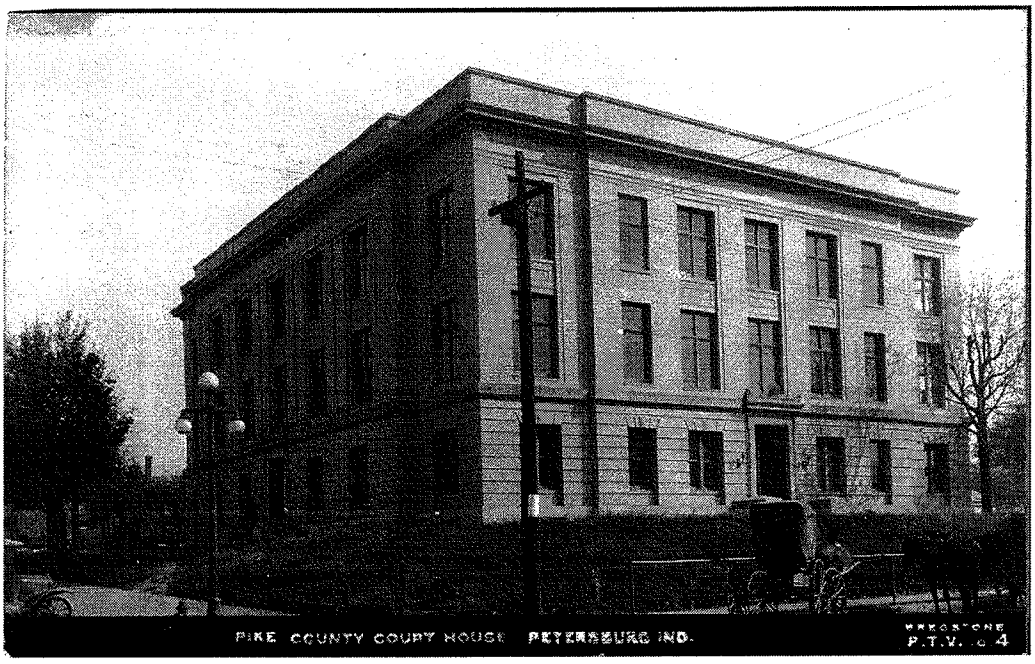
Photo 13 of 15
basement auditorium
camera facing east

Photo 14 of 15
stairway to auditorium balcony
camera facing northeast

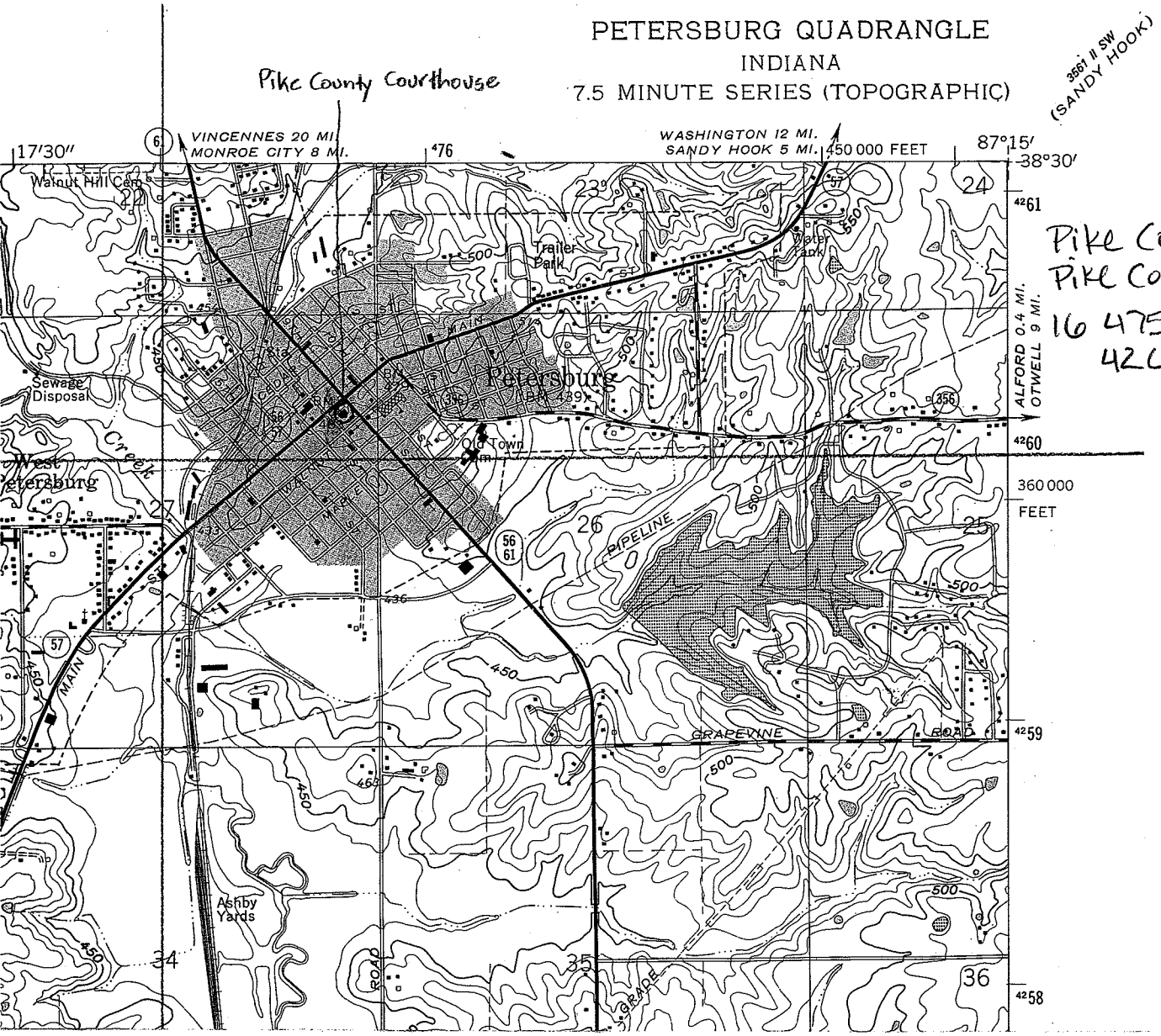
Photo 15 of 15
view of courthouse and commercial district from Eleventh and Main Streets
camera facing southwest



Pike County Courthouse built 1868. Vintage postcard courtesy of Randy Harris.



Current Pike County Courthouse, c. 1930. Real photo Bregstone postcard courtesy of Randy Harris.



Pike Co. Courthouse
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