



The Indiana State House

House

A Self-Guided Tour

History

Welcome to the Indiana State House!

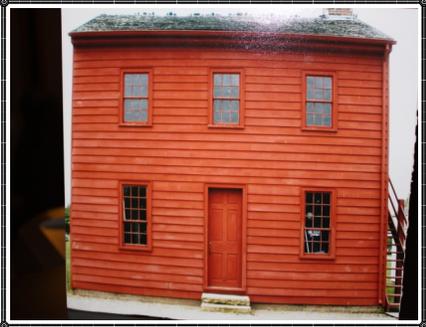
Completed in 1888, the State House is home to officials from all three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial.

To become acquainted with this important and historic building, begin by exploring some State House history.

Certain areas are not available for viewing without the presence of a State House Tour Guide. These areas include the Supreme Court, House and Senate Chambers and office areas. If you would like to be able to step inside these rooms, please contact the Tour Office.

We hope you enjoy your tour!

The Indiana Territory was carved in 1800 from the Northwest Territory. The new territory contained all of what is now Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, a great portion of Michigan and part of Minnesota. The first seat of government for the Indiana Territory was located in Vincennes (1800-1813); the government building, believed to have been built in 1800, is now a State Historic Site.



Indiana Territory Capitol at Vincennes

The seat of government was moved to Corydon in 1813. Corydon was a logical choice at the time because settlers and supplies heading west arrived via the Ohio River a short distance away. Indiana became a state on December 11, 1816, and Corydon remained the seat of government. The original State House is now a State Historic Site. It was built at a cost of \$3,000. The building is made of Indiana limestone.



First Indiana State House in Corydon

As more roads were built and settlement moved northward, a centrally located seat of government was needed. In January 1821 the site where Indianapolis is now located was designated as such, and the city was created. The name Indianapolis comes from the word Indiana, which means, "land of the Indians" and the Greek word for city, Polis, which means, "center of." Indianapolis is located geographically in the center of the state. The city was designed by Alexander Ralston, an assistant to Pierre L'Enfant. L'Enfant designed the layout for Washington, D.C.; Ralston modeled his plan for Indianapolis in the same pattern.

State records and the state treasury physically moved to Indianapolis in October 1824. The trip took eleven days and required four, four-horse wagons. The roads were such that only two and one-half miles were made the first day. The roads were often covered with water so deep that they were impassable. Delays were caused by the felling of trees to make roads for the wagons. The government of the state was officially transferred to Indianapolis on January 10, 1825, when the legislature convened for its regular session.



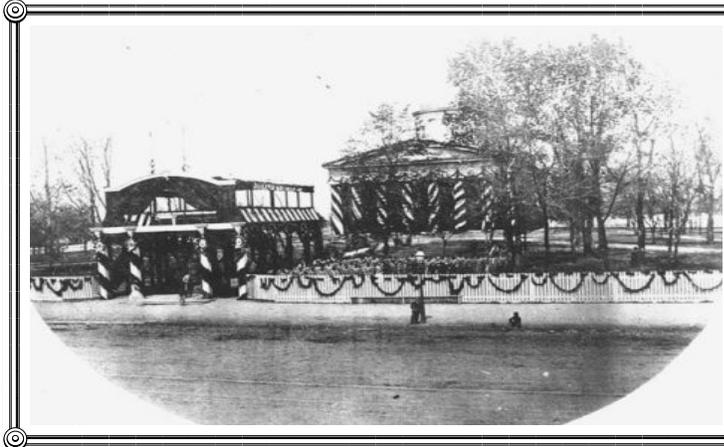
First State House in Indianapolis being demolished, 1877

conditions in the building led to the 1873 creation of a New State House Committee to study the issue. In 1877, a Board of State House Commissioners was created to complete construction of a new building at a cost not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Architect Edwin May submitted a plan for the new State House, *Indianapolis* dubbed *Lucidus Ordo* (Latin for “a clear arrangement”). The Board selected this plan from among the two dozen proposals submitted. The U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C influenced May’s classic Corinthian style, finalized in 1878. The interior was done in a modern Renaissance style. The construction project was awarded to Kanmacher and Denig of Chicago; construction on the new building began in October 1878. May died in 1880, and his draftsman, Adolph Scherrer, was named to succeed him as supervising architect.

The cornerstone, a ten-ton block of limestone from Spencer, Indiana, was laid during a formal ceremony on September 28, 1880. It was simply inscribed, “A.D. 1880.”

In 1883 construction on the building was halted. The Commissioners declared the contract abandoned and solicited new bids. Work began again in September of 1883 after selection of new contractors, Gobel and Cummings of Chicago.



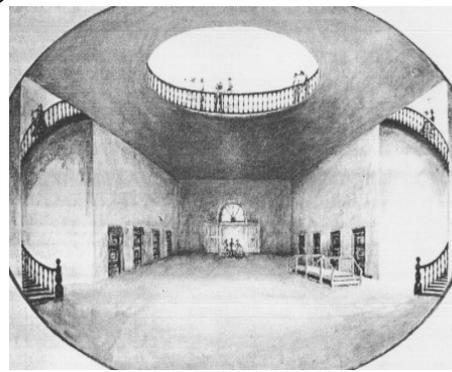
First State House in Indianapolis, draped for Lincoln’s casket. The funeral entourage stopped briefly before continuing on to Springfield, Illinois.

Until 1835 Indiana had no formal building in which to conduct the business of state. State offices were scattered across the new city in a host of houses and storefronts, and sessions of the General Assembly were held at the Marion County Courthouse.

A new State House was finally authorized in 1832. The building was completed in 1835 at a cost of \$60,000. The building was Grecian Doric in design, with the exception of the Italian Renaissance dome. It stood on the south end of the present State House grounds, facing Washington Street.

In 1867, the ceiling of the House Chamber collapsed. The damage was repaired, but dilapidated and unsafe

View into the rotunda of the first State House in



The exterior of the building was completed on July 3, 1886, and the focus of construction moved to the interior. The General Assembly held its first session in the new State House on January 6, 1887. Although work was still underway, the House and Senate Chambers, rotunda, corridors and atriums were complete. Construction work continued until October 1888, when grading and seeding of the grounds were completed. The total cost was \$1,980,969.18.

Migration to the Ohio Valley was well under way when the American Revolution (1776-1783) began. The English had few forts west of the Alleghenies, but the young country had to struggle to maintain the frontier. General George Rogers Clark, commissioned by the Commonwealth of Virginia, led the most significant campaign. In 1778 he led an expedition of 175 men, capturing forts at Kaskaskia and Cahokia (Illinois). On July 14, 1778, he took Vincennes. The British retook Vincennes, but Clark returned again in February of 1779 to capture and keep the fort.

The Treaty of Paris with Great Britain in 1783 ended the Revolutionary War. The area of land now known as Indiana entered the United States as the new country claimed the Northwest

In 1798 William Henry Harrison resigned his commission with the United States Army and secured the post of Secretary of the Northwest Territory. In 1799 he was elected a Territorial Delegate to Congress. He persuaded Congress to divide public lands into homestead lots, legalized by the Land Act of 1800. In 1800 the Indiana Territory was carved out by legislation pressed by Harrison, and he was appointed Territorial Governor. This commission was renewed in 1803, 1806 and 1809. He held this post until 1812. While serving as Territorial Governor, he speculated in land and built grist (grain) and saw mills.

The construction is limestone, marble, brick and mortar. Footings for the outer and inner walls of the basement are of Blue Limestone from St. Paul, Greensburg, and North Vernon, Indiana. Outer walls are of Oolitic Limestone from Monroe, Lawrence and Owen Counties.

Eight large columns of polished Jonesboro Granite from Maine support the dome. Columns and pilasters for the second, third and fourth stories are of Sutherland Falls Marble from the East. Chandeliers, brackets and doorknobs are made of brass, and the interior finish was completed in Indiana oak, maple and walnut, with white oak used for the office finishes.

The building appears to have remained largely unchanged until 1904, when the first major renovation was begun. At that time, the wall painting designs were redone in oil to remedy darkening of the original watercolors used on the walls. Much of the woodwork was refinished, and in 1906 the gilding was renewed on the lantern of the dome.

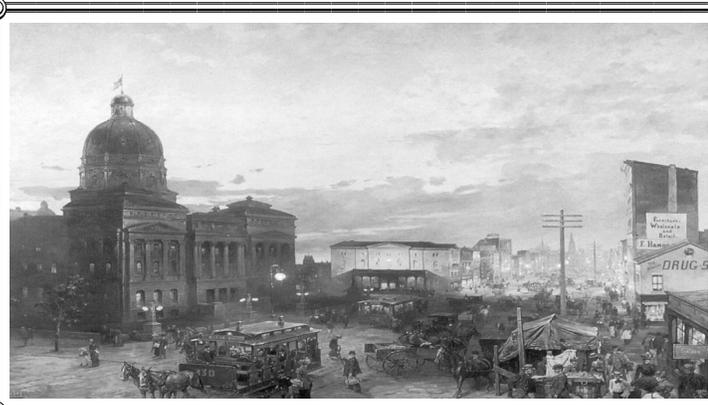
Major remodeling was done between 1917 and 1920. In a project supervised by architect Herbert Foltz, additional office space was provided by conversion of the stables on the first floor into finished space. No longer needing the carriage ramp at the base of the north steps, access to the first floor was improved by the addition of interior stairways and exterior doors. Electric chandeliers replaced all of the original combination gas/electric fixtures on the second floor, in the Governor's Office and in the Senate and House Chambers. The greatest change in the appearance of the building was made in 1917-1920 by repainting the original wall painting in shades of green, buff and yellow highlighted with red and blue. These new designs were later painted out in a 1928-1929 renovation, the last improvement until after World War II.

The outside of the building received its first cleaning in 1931 when steam was used to remove a black coat of soot presumably caused by the widespread burning of coal and the advent of the automobile.

By the post-World War II era Victorian architecture had plummeted to its lowest popularity. Also, a great deal of maintenance had been postponed since the Depression in the 1930s. In a 1946-1948 remodeling project, the electrical wiring was updated, aluminum and glass entry doors were installed at all second (main) floor entrances, and the original monumental oak doors on the north and east sides of the building were removed. Original cast iron lampposts were removed from limestone bases on the retaining wall around the grounds and florescent fixtures replaced the 1919 sconces on the east portico. Corridor walls were painted a neutral pastel color.

The most vivid change in the character of the building, however, was the remodeling of the House and Senate Chambers for the first time since the original construction. Originally, each chamber took up a very large area: its current space plus several feet around it, reaching all the way to the outer walls. In 1947-1948, to accommodate senators and representatives, offices were built within the original chambers. Now behind each chamber are four floors of small offices. The inner chambers were then decorated with paneled wainscoting surmounted by murals. The mural completed in the House Chamber remains today; the Senate murals were removed in a subsequent remodeling. The corridors were painted in a turquoise blue / sunflower yellow scheme.

In 1964, the exterior of the building was sandblasted, the dome was painted with gold



An artist's rendition of the Indiana State House as it appeared in 1888

Indiana Territory boundaries were altered twice: in 1805 with the formation of Michigan Territory, and in 1809 with the formation of Illinois Territory.



epoxy, the north parking lot was enlarged, fifty spotlights were installed on the grounds and the Governor's Office was remodeled. In 1966, the House Chamber was again remodeled. The Senate followed suit with additional remodeling in both 1974 and 1986.

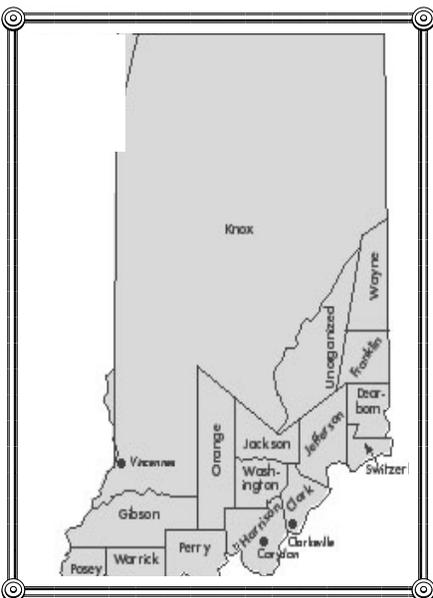
In 1968, a number of original corridor chandeliers, which had been cleaned and rewired in 1958, were removed and replaced with modern fixtures. The sconce fixtures on the spandrels of the atriums on either side of the rotunda were removed at the same time.

In the wake of the American Bicentennial in 1976 tastes once again began to change. In 1978, the dome was given its first new copper cladding as a part of the building's first major roofing replacement. In 1984, the art glass dome of the rotunda was cleaned and repaired.

In 1986, plans for a major re-creation of the building's original appearance began as a prelude to the centennial celebration of the completion of the State House. This massive undertaking was completed in 1988 at a cost of \$10,937,292.

The designs now seen in the hallways and on the ceiling are the original designs. When the old paint was scraped off, 13 coats of paint were discovered over these designs. The colors are as close as possible to the colors used in the original construction.

The chandeliers on the fourth floor are the only remaining originals. When the building opened in 1888, Indianapolis did not have the capacity to produce enough electricity to light the entire building. Rather than go to the expense of building a new generating plant, the Commissioners decided to first light the building with gas candles. The globes that are up-turned were the gas candle lights. The down-turned globes were installed to incorporate electricity when it became available.



The wall sconces are authentic reproductions of the original fixtures. By chance, one original sconce was found; the owners allowed it to be used to develop the reproductions.

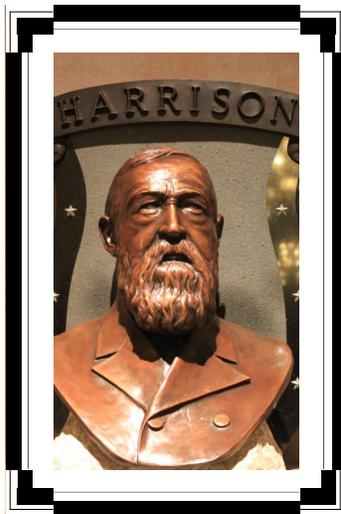
The State Seal is on every doorknob on the original and replicated doors of the offices. There are eight sets of monumental entrance doors; four sets are replicas and four sets have been restored. Each door weighs 1,000 pounds.

Indiana as it entered statehood in 1816

Governor Harrison persuaded native peoples to give up claims in the southern part of the territory, but many natives were resentful. The Shawnee Chief Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa (the Prophet) formed an alliance with other native tribes to oppose further encroachment on their lands. The alliance established a village near the confluence of Tippecanoe Creek and the Wabash River. In 1811 Harrison received permission to break up the alliance. While Tecumseh was away, Harrison marched against the village, camping one mile away. He requested a meeting with Prophet, but on November 7, 1811, Prophet attacked. He was thrown back, and the army marched on and burned the village.



When the War of 1812 broke out, Harrison received an army commission. He believed the British had aided Tecumseh, and he undertook the task of driving the British from Canada. President James Madison appointed Harrison Brigadier General in charge of the Illinois and Indiana Territories. His campaigns won many victories. In 1813, at the Thames River in Canada, he led his troops against British and Native American forces. He captured the British and Tecumseh was killed in the fighting. Harrison's victories secured the Northwest from the threat of British invasion through Canada.



Benjamin Harrison

At the time of statehood, Native Americans were officially recognized as the owners of most of central and northern Indiana, about two-thirds of the state.

Main Floor (Level 2)

Begin your tour in the rotunda, which is the center of the building on the main floor. Standing in the center, you are below the stained glass dome, which is 72 feet in diameter and supported by eight granite columns. The dome begins ninety feet above the main floor, and rises to 105 feet above the floor of the rotunda.

Above this dome is another dome with yet a smaller one on top. The top of the copper exterior dome is 235 feet above the ground. The flagpole stands at the top. There are three spiral staircases in the upper areas of the building leading to the flagpole that weighs 1,200 pounds.

The room inside the second dome is painted white and lighted so that even on cloudy days the beautiful colors of the stained glass will shine through.

You will notice eight marble statues, representing hallmarks of civilization, which encircle the rotunda at the third floor level. Alexander Doyle carved the statues from Italian Carrara marble. The statues represent Law, Oratory, Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Liberty, History and Art. Mrs. May Wilson, wife of an Indiana Judge, heard the statues had been commissioned and requested the honor of posing for one. Her likeness is seen on the figure of Justice. The other statues have classic Italian features.

The atriums (North, South, East and West) lead away from the rotunda. As you walk into any of the atriums, look up to see the graduated design of the columns supporting the dome. The style on the main (second) floor is Doric. The columns on the third floor are done in Ionic style, and the fourth floor columns are done in Corinthian style.

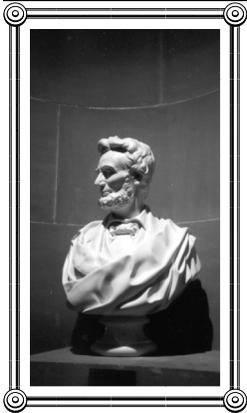
Alcoves in the support structures surrounding the rotunda hold bronze and plaster busts honoring former U.S. Presidents as well as some celebrated Hoosiers. Start your tour of these items from the north end of the rotunda, by the Information Desk. As you face the rotunda, move left, or east, around the outside of the rotunda to view them in this order.

◆ **Benjamin Harrison** (1833-1901)

Born and educated in Ohio, Benjamin Harrison moved to Indianapolis in 1854 to read law. He served during the Civil War climbing to the rank of Brigadier General. He served as US Senator from Indiana from 1881 to 1887 and was elected as the 23rd President of the United States in 1888 (the same year this building opened). After serving one term in office he returned to Indianapolis to practice law. Ending his career as a dignified, elder statesman, he died in 1901.

◆ **Abraham Lincoln** (1809-1865) served as President of the United States (1861-1865) during the Civil War. He came to Indiana in 1816 and moved to Illinois in 1830. He served in the Black Hawk War (1832), was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives (1834-1842), and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives (1847-1849).

In 1818 the federal government purchased Native American lands in central Indiana to encourage settlement. The "New Purchase" was opened for settlement in 1820.



Just past the bust of Lincoln, you will be standing at the end of the hallway that leads to the entrance facing Capitol Avenue at Market Street. As you face the entry door, the office of the **State Budget Agency** is on your left.

◆ **Henry F. Schricker** (1883-1966) was the thirty-sixth and thirty-eighth Governor (1941-1945, and 1949-1953). He also served as Lieutenant Governor (1937-1941). From Knox, he was the first Indiana Governor to serve two four-year terms.

◆ **Richard Owen** (1810-1890), born in Scotland, came to New Harmony in 1828. He assisted his brother David Dale Owen in surveying the Northwest Territory, was a Professor of Natural Science and Chemistry in Kentucky and Tennessee, and served as the State Geologist in 1859. He attained the rank of colonel in the Union Army and served as Commandant of Camp Morton, a Civil War prisoner of war camp in Indianapolis. He was a Professor of Natural Science at Indiana University (1864-1879), and he served briefly as the first president of Purdue University (1872-1874). Because of his kindness, former Confederate prisoners paid for this sculpture.

At this point, you will be standing at the hallway that faces the Washington Street entrance. Facing the entry door, which is at the south end of the building, the **Office of the Governor** and the **Office of the Secretary of State** are on your left, and the **Office of the Auditor of State** and the **Office of the Treasurer of State** are on your right.

- ◆ **Sherman Minton** (1890-1965) served as Public Counselor of Indiana (1933-1934), U.S. Senator (1935-1941), Judge of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit (1941-1949), and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1949-1956). From New Albany, Justice Minton is the only Hoosier to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. President Harry S Truman appointed him to that post.
- ◆ **Stephen Neal** (1817-1905) was the author of the original draft of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1868. The 14th Amendment was designed to protect the rights of southern blacks and restrict the political power of former Confederates. It encouraged Southern states to allow blacks to vote, without actually requiring it, by reducing the congressional representation of states that disfranchised male citizens. From Lebanon, he was a member of the Indiana House of Representatives (1846-1848), and Judge of the Boone County Circuit Court (1890-1896).

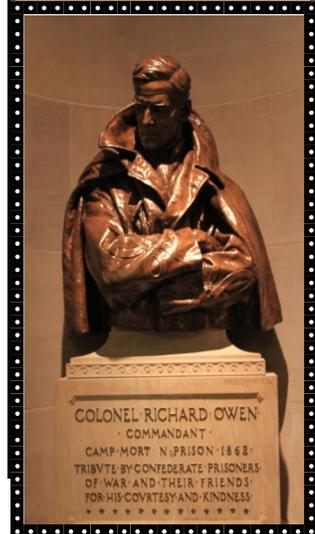
Facing the entry door from this vantage point, you are looking at the door that leads to Government Place, a plaza area that fronts the State House and both **Indiana Government Center** buildings. To your right is the **Legislative Information Center**, which provides legislative information to the public, state and local government, and the news media. Computer terminals are available for anyone to access information on the status of current legislation.

- ◆ **Daniel W. Voorhees** (1827-1897) supported legislation to greatly improve the Library of Congress. From Terre Haute, he served in the U.S. House of Representatives (1861-1866 and 1869-1873) and the U.S. Senate (1877-1897).

Again, you are at the north end of the rotunda. The entry faces Ohio Street. As you face the entry, to your left is the **Office of the Superintendent of The Department of Education**, and to your right are the **Office of the Attorney**



In late 1834 or early 1835 Frances Slocum, then in her late 60s, revealed her identity to a trader. Delaware Indians had kidnapped Slocum at age five from her home in Pennsylvania. She married a Miami chief (Shepoconah) and settled on Miami land just east of Peru. After her "discovery," her family moved to Indiana to be near her. Her burial place, now known as Slocum Cemetery, is a State Historical Site. She was buried initially in the Miami way, as she requested. Later her body was exhumed and given a Christian burial. The Miami name she was given, Maconaqua, means, "little bear woman."





In Indiana, the history of Native Americans as organized bodies ended in 1872, when the state's few remaining Miami dissolved their tribal bonds.

Indianapolis experienced slow growth at first because of a lack of good transportation. The White River was too shallow to sustain navigation. Increased population arrived following construction of the National Road in the 1830s and railroads after 1847. Rapid growth, however, began only with the Civil War when the Union Army chose centrally located Indianapolis as a training and staging ground for troops. The city also became a major supply depot, and Camp Morton, a Confederate prisoner of war camp, was located here.



Plaque honoring Wendell Willkie

General and the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

Once again, you are standing by the Information Desk. This desk was built by the inmates of Indiana Women's Prison. The desk was built to specifications for this building, using red oak and Baltic birch. The detail matches other pieces found in the State House, also built by IWP inmates. The desk was installed in 2002.

To continue the tour, move into the center of the rotunda. Walk to the left, or east, to view these items in the order printed. As you stand in the entry to the rotunda from the north, you will note two plaques (one on either side) that were donated by the American Legion. They honor **Hoosier law enforcement officers and firefighters** killed in the line of duty.

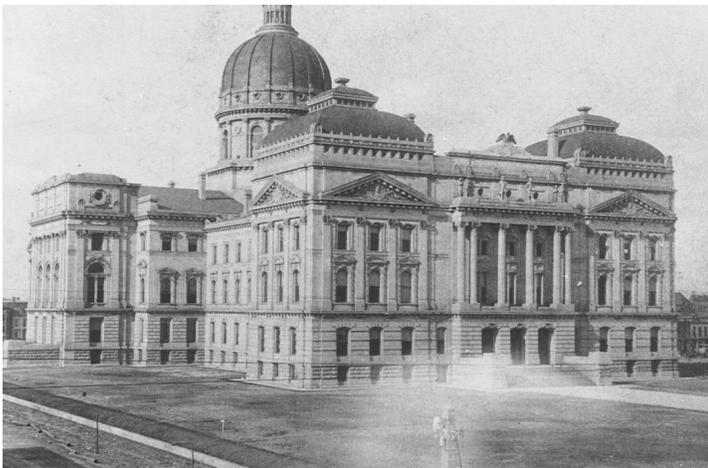
- ◆ The Department of Indiana Woman's Relief Corps donated a complete rendering of the **Gettysburg Address**, delivered by President Abraham Lincoln. One of the most famous speeches in American history, it begins, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
- ◆ **Sarah T. Bolton** (1814-1893) was the pioneer poet who wrote, "Paddle Your Own Canoe" and "Indiana." In 1850, she led a women's group that lobbied the Indiana Constitutional Convention on the subject of women's property rights. She owned Beech Bank Farm, now known as Beech Grove.
- ◆ The Sons of Indiana of New York have honored a **Hoosier of the Year** from 1939 - 1979.
- ◆ The American Mother's Committee has a **Mother's Hall of Fame**.
- ◆ The original **1816 Constitution** (Corydon) and the original **1851 Constitution** (Indianapolis) are on exhibit each year from Statehood Day in December through the final session of the General Assembly, and on other significant occasions. The display case was donated by the Indiana State Bar Association. The Indiana Bar Foundation funded the restoration of the constitutions.
- ◆ A plaque announcing the dates of the **State House construction and the total cost** is around the corner, and across the way is a plaque honoring the **Board of State House Commissioners** during the initial construction.
- ◆ A poem by **William Herschel**, "Ain't God Good to Indiana," is at the next corner.
- ◆ **Wendell L. Willkie** (1892-1944), the 1940 Republican Party nominee for President of the United States, was an attorney from Elwood. Willkie was also the author of *One World*, calling for unified world order.
- ◆ A plaque honoring the **Hoosier Millennium Charter Communities** lists those communities choosing to celebrate their history while looking forward to the year 2016, the 200th anniversary of Indiana's statehood.
- ◆ A plaque honors **Hoosier Medal of Honor Recipients** from the Civil War through the Viet Nam War.
- ◆ **Lew Wallace** (1827-1905) was the author of the classic novel *Ben Hur*, among other works. He served in the Army during the Mexican and Civil Wars. Governor Morton appointed him Adjutant General during the Civil War. He commanded the 11th Indiana Regiment, reaching the rank of Major General.

The original train station in Indianapolis was built in 1852. It was designed to handle multiple railroad lines. The building that still stands (Union Station) was built in 1888.

- ◆ Frances Elizabeth Willard (1839-1898) was instrumental in reviving the women's suffrage movement west of the Appalachians. She was a leader in the worldwide Woman's Christian Temperance Union.
- ◆ A plaque acknowledging that the first formal religious service in Indianapolis was held on these grounds in 1819 is also displayed. The Meridian Street Methodist Episcopal Church, formerly the Wesley Chapel, whose members held the first service, donated the plaque.



Thousands of escaped slaves were helped to travel through Indiana via the Underground Railroad. Indiana was just across the river from a slave state, had canal towpaths, roads and highways that ran north and south, and had many inhabitants who were outraged by the harsh federal Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. A particularly active route was the one through Wayne County, largely populated by members of the Society of Friends, or Quakers. The house of Levi Coffin, a leading Quaker of Wayne County, is a National Historic Site. Between 2,000 and 10,000 escaped slaves were sheltered in that house on their way north to freedom.



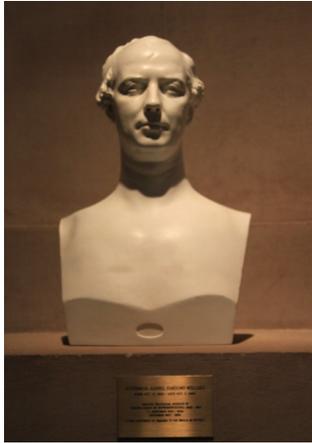
View of the Capitol from the Southwest September, 1888-Anton Scherrer bequest to the Collection of the Indiana Historical Society.



Whites who settled the state were at first largely from the upland South, but by 1850 large numbers of German and Irish immigrants were coming in.

Third Floor

Take time again to enjoy the painting and the architecture of this lovely building, and view the rotunda from this vantage point. Standing at any railing around the rotunda, look down to view the brass lights with the gas globes facing up and the electric globes facing down. The tour will recommence at the north end of the rotunda.



**Ashbel
Parsons Willard**

Before the 1860 elections South Carolina had threatened to secede from the Union if Lincoln won the Presidency. In December 1860 it did so. Other states followed and in February 1861 declared themselves a confederacy. In April 1861 Confederate forces bombarded a Union fort, beginning the American Civil War (1861-1865). Lincoln asked states to send troops to quell the rebellion. Governor Oliver P. Morton responded at once. Morton had won office as the Lieutenant Governor in 1860. Two days after the inauguration Governor Harry S. Lane resigned, and Morton succeeded to the office. As Governor, he enjoyed widespread popular support in the early part of the war. It was in large part due to his encouragement that Indiana contributed

The mural found in the House Chamber

- ◆ **Ashbel Parsons Willard** (1820-1860), the eleventh Governor (1857-1860), was originally from New York. After serving as Lieutenant Governor under Joseph A. Wright (1853-1857), Willard was elected Governor. He was the first Governor to die while in office. He served in the Indiana House of Representatives (1850-1851).
- ◆ **Otis R. Bowen** (b. 1918) was the first Governor in modern times to serve two consecutive terms. An amendment to the State Constitution made this possible. He was the forty-second individual to serve in the office, and the forty-fourth Governor (1973-1981). From Bremen, he was a physician in the Army during World War II. He also served in the Indiana House of Representatives for fourteen years; he served as Minority Leader (1965) and as Speaker of the House (1967-1972). President Ronald Reagan appointed him Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1985-1989).

At this point, you are standing at the doors of the **House Chamber**. The large **chandelier** in the center of the room contains 100 lights, one for each member of the House. It weighs approximately 1,200 pounds and can be lowered to desk level by pushing a button.

Another notable feature is a **mural** entitled “**The Spirit of Indiana**” by Eugene F. Savage. In the middle is a woman representing statehood, wearing an empire gown typical of 1816. Pictured with her is William Henry Harrison. Just behind are a Sycamore tree, the Wabash River Valley and the Wabash and Erie Canal.

To the right is the Goddess of Agriculture, Ceres. She is surrounded by industrialization. Ships in the background are carrying Indiana’s products to all parts of the world.

Education is presented on the left. This figure is throwing cherished materialistic possessions into the sacrificial fire. The rising fumes form Pegasus, and Apollo is shown with his drawn bow sighting on the inspirational heights.

Indiana’s eras of historic growth and progress are depicted in the cloud formations



showing pioneers, settlers, soldiers and achievements of technology.

Beneath the mural, on black marble, is a bronze plaque of the **State Seal**. This seal has undergone many changes over the years. The earliest

preserved specimen of its use, so far as is known, is on the petition of the Vincennes convention of 1802. It was not until 1963 that an official version of the state seal was adopted.

There are many interpretations as to the meaning of the seal. One interpretation is that the sun rises on a new commonwealth, west of the Allegheny mountains. The woodsman represents civilization subduing the wilderness and the buffalo, fleeing to the West, represents primitive life retiring in that direction. Another version describes a sun setting in the West, a woodsman felling a tree, and a buffalo leaving the forest and fleeing through the plain to a distant forest in the East.

Outside the House Chamber to the South are busts of two famous Hoosiers.

- ◆ **William H. English** (1822-1896), from Lexington, was elected to the State House of Representatives and served as Speaker of the House (1851-1852). He served in the U.S. House of Representatives (1853-1861) and was instrumental in planning and financing the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Circle in downtown Indianapolis.
- ◆ **George Rogers Clark** (1752-1818) conducted a campaign on the western frontier during the Revolutionary War that established American claims west to the Mississippi and that paved the way for the westward expansion of the United States. Clark was responsible for capturing the fort at Vincennes.

Turn around to face the south end of the building. To your right, you will see the **Office of the Lieutenant Governor**, designated President of the Senate by the State Constitution. The **Legislative Services Agency**, the service and administrative arm of the legislature, occupies the south end of the third floor. This agency drafts bills and conducts research on constitutional and fiscal implications of proposed legislation.

- ◆ **Frank Lewis O'Bannon** (1930-2003)

Frank O'Bannon was born and raised in Corydon, Indiana, which was Indiana's first state capital city. He earned his undergraduate and Law degrees from Indiana University. After serving two years in the US Air Force he practiced law in Corydon until being elected to the State Senate in 1970. In 1988 he was elected to the office of Lieutenant Governor with Governor Evan Bayh. They served two terms after which Frank O'Bannon was elected Governor in 1996. After winning a second term he died in office in September, 2003.

House Chambers before the 1947-48 remodeling



Opposition to Morton and Lincoln arose as the War drew on. After a federal law was passed permitting the drafting of soldiers (1863), there were frequent anti-draft riots in Indiana, mainly in the southern part of the state. In 1863 the hostility between the Governor and the Legislature led to a complete cessation of constitutional government and a failure to appropriate funds to carry on state functions. For the next two years Morton ran the state and financed military operations with money obtained through his personal credit. At this time the State Constitution did not allow a governor to serve more than one consecutive terms. Because he had not yet been elected to the office of Governor, Morton ran and was elected Governor for a full term in 1864, thus vindicating his stand against the Legislature. He resigned as Governor to enter the U.S. Senate in 1867.



Farmers prospered in the early 1900s. After World War I (1914-1918) inflated costs and declining prices contributed to a farm recession that continued through the 1920s.

Beginning about 1890 Indiana was swept by a wave of industrial growth that was to transform it into a predominantly industrial state by 1920. Growth during this period was focused primarily on heavy industry, especially in the Calumet region of northwest Indiana. Before 1889, when a large oil refinery was built at Whiting, the Calumet was a sparsely populated strip of swamps and sand dunes. In 1905, a major steel corporation located its Midwestern mills there. The Calumet Region attracted a generation of African American sharecroppers' children fleeing the poverty and racism they had experienced in the Deep South.

You are now at the doors of the **Senate Chamber**. As you look up and around the walls of the Chamber, you will see the offices of Senators and their staffers, with windows looking out upon the floor.

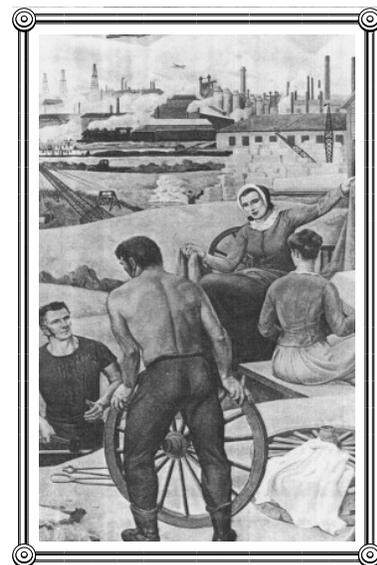
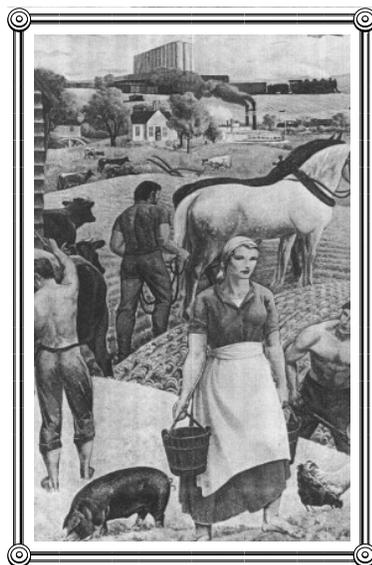
The mazes of corridors behind both chambers are quite interesting. The four floors of corridors and small rooms were constructed from the original two floors. This created a smaller chamber but provided more office space.

Both chambers have seen extensive renovation not in keeping with historic tradition. The desks in both chambers have accommodations for telephone and Internet access; the voting apparatus in each chamber allows legislators to cast a vote which all who are viewing the proceedings can see.

- ◆ **Robert D. Orr** (b. 1917), was the forty-fifth Governor (1981-1989). He was the forty-third individual to serve in this position. From Evansville, Orr served in the State Senate (1969-1972) and as Lieutenant Governor under Otis R. Bowen (1973-1981). President George Bush later appointed him Ambassador to Singapore.
- ◆ **Matthew E. Welsh** (1912-1995) was the forty-first Governor (1961-1965), the thirty-ninth person to serve in this position. Born in Detroit, Michigan, Welsh served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He also served as U.S. Attorney, in the State House of Representatives, and in the State Senate.

Two of the three murals painted in the Senate Chamber, that were removed in the 1970s.

The picture to the left depicts Agriculture and Industry is on the right.



In the 1920s the Ku Klux Klan was prominent in Indiana, helping to elect a sympathetic governor (Ed Jackson). Governor Jackson was later indicted for bribery.



The **Supreme Court** is located in the North wing. The present courtroom appears much as it did in 1888 when the State House was completed. The furnishings in the chamber are original, including a chandelier made of solid brass. The first carpet was purchased in the early 1900s; the carpet you see is a replica, installed in 1985. Portraits of former Justices line the walls of the courtroom, including that of the first Chief Justice, James E. Scott, seated in 1816. The Law Library is in the northeast corner.



***Historic
Supreme Court Room as it looks
today***

Picture by John L. Krauss



Industrial workers fared better than Indiana farmers in the 1920s, although there were bitter strikes in Indiana's coal and steel industries and on the railroads in the years just after the war. The 1930s, a time of worldwide economic depression, was a difficult era for most Hoosiers. Widespread unemployment led to federal and state aid programs. In January 1937, natural disaster added to Indiana's difficulties when the Ohio River flooded. Hundreds of Hoosiers who lived in the counties along the river died in the flood, and property damage was estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.



Indiana's economy, like that of the nation, experienced a resurgence during World War II (1939-1945).

Fourth Floor

Continued prosperity marked the postwar era. Manufacturing remained the leading economic activity, and farming continued to become increasingly mechanized. Although farm production increased, the number of farm workers and the total number of farms decreased, often because small farms were merged to form larger, more efficient units. During the 1950s there was continued industrial growth. This growth was aided by the opening of the Indiana Toll Road in the 1950s, the 1970 opening of the Indiana Port Commission's Burns Harbor and the opening of southern ports on the Ohio river by 1978.

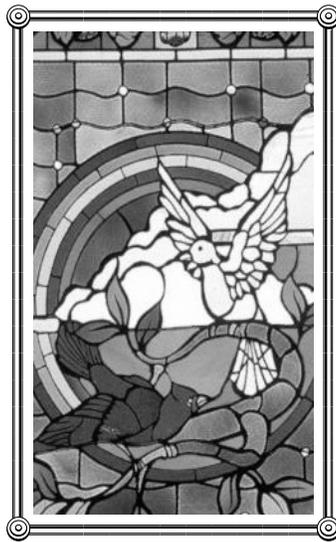
Again, on this floor, take a look at the architecture and painting, and view the rotunda from yet another level. Recalling information about the chandeliers, this is a wonderful floor to view the beautiful originals, showing both the down-turned lamps for electricity and the up-turned lamps for gas.

On the North end of the building above the desk of the State Police you will find individual pictures of all of the former Judges of the Court of Appeals. This court was permanently established in 1901 to handle all first appeals from the lower courts. The Court of Appeals courtroom is located to your right along the North East hallway. The current 15 Judges are pictured in the Courtroom and their offices are located along each side of the North atrium.

On the northwest corner of the rotunda, you will find Indiana's **Official State Stone**. This block of limestone was designated "official" by an Act of the General Assembly in 1871.

The **House Gallery** is in the east wing, and the **Senate Gallery** is in the west wing. From these galleries, the public can view the House and the Senate in action during the legislative session.

- ◆ Calvin Fletcher (1798-1866), an early Indianapolis settler, was originally from Vermont. Fletcher was a lawyer, banker and civic leader involved in many charitable and cultural organizations. He served in the General Assembly (1826-1833) and was well known for his comprehensive diaries.



Art glass window in chapel

On the south wing of the fourth floor is the **Indiana Chapel**, a tribute to Elizabeth Steinmann "Beth" Bowen, wife of Governor Otis R. Bowen. This chapel, established in 1962 as a "meditation room," is the first such chapel installed in any capitol in the United States. The border around the **stained glass motifs** depicts the leaf, blossom and fruit of the tulip (or poplar) tree, Indiana's state tree. The **painting** is "Cox Ford Bridge" by Omer Seamon. All of the items in the chapel have been donated.

Ground Floor (Level 1)

The first floor houses Senate and House committee meeting rooms and press and administration offices.

This area was originally a stable with access by a ramp from ground level at the North side of the building. Today that entrance has an outside stairway leading directly to the main floor.

Acknowledgements

Documents pertaining to the history of the State House can be found in collections at:

- ◆ the Indiana Historical Society;
- ◆ the Indiana State Museum;
- ◆ the Indiana State Library; and
- ◆ the Indiana State Archives, a division of the Commission on Public Records.

Other excellent sources of historical data include:

- ◆ The Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly, 1816-1978, by Justin E. Walsh;
- ◆ The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis, edited by David J. Bodenhamer and Robert G. Barrows (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1994).

Historical information was taken in large part from Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia, 1998, articles on Indiana and Indianapolis, contributed by David J. Bodenhamer. Photographs are courtesy of the Indiana State Library, Manuscript Section, the Indiana State Archives and the Indiana Supreme Court Historical information was edited by Alan January, Indiana State Archives.

This brochure was edited by Jennifer Hodge, Tour Office Indiana Department of Administration.

To schedule a guided tour, contact the State House Tour Office at (317) 233-5293, or send email to captours@idoa.state.in.us. For additional information about the State House, and to find other publications ready to download, visit our web site at: www.IN.gov/statehouse.

If you take a guided tour, you will get State House folklore as well as detailed information about the building's architectural and historical significance. Tour guides also help with information about state government and legislative protocol. Tours can be arranged for large or small groups or for individuals. Tour guides will gear the presentation toward the age of the group.

The State House Tour Office is a division of the Indiana Department of Administration.

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