

11013800

STATE: Indiana	
COUNTY: Lake	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 17 1973	

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lake County Court House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Public Square or Commons in the Center of the Corporate Limits of**

CITY OR TOWN:
Crown Point

STATE Indiana	CODE 18	COUNTY: Lake	CODE 089
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments

will abandon for new Court House complex

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Board of Lake County Commissioners, for a public square

STREET AND NUMBER:
"Court House"

CITY OR TOWN:
Crown Point

STATE: Indiana	CODE 18
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lake County, Indiana Recorder Deed Record 9 page 11

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Crown Point

STATE: Indiana	CODE 18
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Town Plat of the Town of Crown Point

DATE OF SURVEY: **November 3, 1840** Federal State County

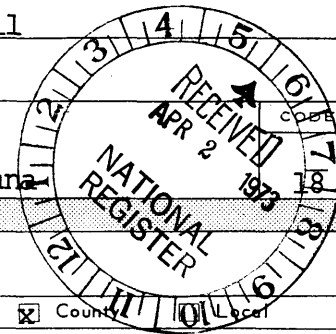
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Lake County Recorder's Deed Rec. "B" page 121

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Crown Point

STATE: Indiana	CODE 18
--------------------------	-------------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Court House is located in Crown Point, Indiana, which is a typical county seat of the Middle West when court houses were placed in the center of a business square and also centrally located in the county. The Lake County, Indiana, Court House is a focal point in a residential community because it is the biggest building in the area.

The Court House portrays a type of architecture of the Victorian Period which has made for a most interesting combination of Romanesque and Georgian styles. It has created a sort of quasi-military effect in appearance.

The Court Houses at present houses the Lake County Indiana governmental offices of the Assessor, Auditor, Board of Commissioners, Clerk, Recorder, Sheriff, Surveyor, Treasurer and the Lake Circuit Courtroom.

The Court House is built of red brick and limestone and has a red glazed roof. The foundation varies in width from 2½ to 3½ feet and is laid on oak plank. The walls are structurally sound with hardly any evidence of cracks. The roof is supported by a massive array of wooden timbers. The exterior and interior has suffered because of lack of painting for more than two decades. Some of the galvanized iron was blown off the north tower in a hundred-mile-an-hour gale in 1964, but is not beyond repair. All of the first floor hallways are lined with a marble dado.

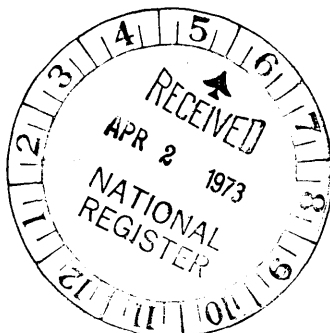
The original and central portion with the clock tower was designed by J. C. Cochran of Chicago, Illinois. On July 13, 1878, a contract was awarded to Thomas and Hugh Colwell of Ottawa, Illinois, to build at a cost of \$45,000.00.

On June 28, 1907, Beers & Beers of Chicago, Illinois, were selected as architects for the North and South, two-story extensions of the Court House. A contract was let to W. J. Turness Company, Chicago, Illinois, on September 14, 1907, for construction cost in the amount of \$78,800.00 (See copy of blueprint attached--Item #7a).

The last single-story wings were built in 1928 perpetuating the same architectural design. Henderlong Lumber Company of Crown Point, Indiana, was awarded the bid at a cost of \$85,000.00.

In the words of Martin Behnke, President of the Lake County Board of Commissioners, Its physical stability can best be expressed, "The Court House is an old fort and will last forever.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Indiana	
COUNTY Lake	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 17 1973

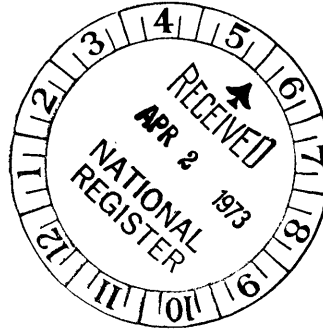
(Number all entries)

7a. (description continued)

The attached blueprint: By Beers & Beers, Architects,
Chicago, Illinois

Date: June 28, 1907

Copy of blueprint furnished October 3, 1972 by Lake County
Surveyor, Crown Point, Indiana.



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

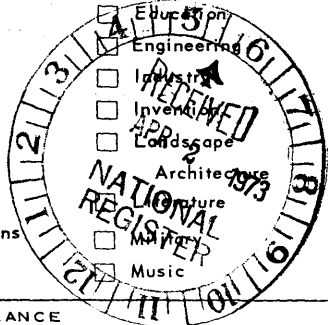
- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> Art
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry
<input type="checkbox"/> Invention
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> Literature
<input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>Museum & Cultural Center</u>

_____ |
|--|---|--|---|



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Court House has been, since its erection in 1878, a landmark in Lake County, Indiana, for many years the most massive structure in breadth and height, constructed by early settlers, that can be seen for miles on top of the continental divide.

The Court House is a most important symbol of the character of the citizens of Lake County. It stands for integrity of its citizens, an element in the character of the community, which has been built for more than a hundred years, and of which the citizens of the present are justly proud and want to maintain for future generations.

In early days the farmers held "horse sales." The horses were tethered to the chain fence around the Court House square. Those who drove a longer distance to purchase produce of any kind in those days of barter and exchange also hitched their horse-drawn vehicles to the same chain fence around the Court House.

All Memorial Day and Veterans Day services and other patriotic gatherings are also conducted on the East Court House steps. Post-humous awards have been presented by the United States military in the Circuit Court Room of the Court House.

On October 7, 1896 William Jennings Bryan, the silver tongued orator, addressed the citizens of Lake County when he was campaigning for the United States Presidency and stressed the importance of free silver.

The Court House enlarged in 1907-09 depicts an age which reflects the development and growth of Lake County, Indiana. It mirrors the changing role of local government in Hoosier life. This period reflects the great economic expanse of the oil industry started by John D. Rockefeller and the beginning of the steel mills begun by Judge Elbert Gary, making the Calumet Region of Lake County, Indiana, one of the great industrial regions of the world.

On June 19, 1909, the first major auto race in the United States was held south of the Court House over an approximate 25 mile track and known as the Cobe Cup Race. This grueling contest was the fore-runner of the famous Indianapolis "500". The winners cup was presented on the steps of the East entrance of the Court House to Louis Chevrolet, the Swiss-born master-mechanic who later became the famous engineer and designer of the Chevrolet

Motor Co.

Continued See Item #8a

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Timothy Ball, "Lake County, Indiana 1834-1872"
 Lake County, Indiana Commissioners Recrd. (7/13-1878) #4, page 35
 Lake County, Indiana Commissioners Recrd. (6/28-1907 #15, page 141
 Old Settlers Association of Lake County, Indiana, minutes of 1878
 Dr. Wm. D. Weis, "Lake County Court House" published 1950
 Powell A. Moore, "The Calumet Region" copyright 1959 by Indiana
 Historical Bureau
 "125 Years of Progress, Crown Point, Indiana" (1959)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

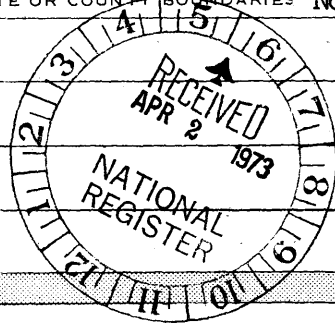
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		41	25	04
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		87	21	54
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

UTM
 16/469420
 4584940
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.53 Acres (217.5' x 307' square)**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES **None**

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Wilbur Heidbreder, Chairman, Lake County Court House Preservation Committee

ORGANIZATION: **Historical Association of Lake Co., Indiana, Inc.** DATE: **January 16, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 556

CITY OR TOWN: **Crown Point** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **46307**
18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Joseph D. Poland*
 Title: **Indiana State Liaison Officer**
 Date: **March 26, 1973**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utsey
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *5/7/73*
 ATTEST:
W. J. Neuley
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: *5 15 73*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Indiana	
COUNTY Lake	
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	MAY 17 1973

(Number all entries)

8a. (Significance continued)

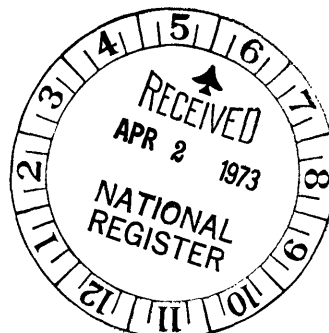
For decades, Crown Point, Indiana was known as the "Gretna Green" of the United States. Many famous movie personalities as Rudolph Valentino procured their marriage license in the Lake County Court House.

The East steps of the Court House provided the background for the photograph of John Dillinger, notorious outlaw, after his capture with Lake County Prosecutor Robert Estill at his side.

In a letter dated September 21, 1972, to the Board of Commissioners of Lake County, Indiana by Mr. David R. Hermansen, Professor of Architecture and Planning, at Ball State University and noted authority on historical buildings in the State of Indiana, it was stated, "The Lake County Courthouse is without question one of the finest architectural expressions in Indiana. It is a major monument and I would strongly recommend that it be preserved and hopefully restored to it's original luster. It is I think without question the most significant building in Lake County. I would sincerely hope an adaptive use could be found for this magnificent structure."

In a letter dated October 3, 1972 to the Board of Commissioners of Lake County, Indiana by Mr. Hubert Hawkins, Executive Secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, he asked, "In deciding the fate of the old courthouse at Crown Point you have an opportunity to make a constructive contribution to the educational facilities of your area. The old courthouse has substantial architectural merit. It is unquestionably a familiar landmark and rich in historical associations. It could continue to be a significant community asset if, as has been suggested, a museum of industry could be established there. In this capacity a valuable contribution could be made to the educational processes, both for school children and adults. As the museum developed it could become a substantial tourists attraction. It would be appropriate for such a museum to be located in Lake County which is the home of so large a proportion of the State's industrial resources."

The Northern geographical and industrial area of Lake County, Indiana is one of the "melting pots" of the United States. Numerous ethnic groups have expressed gratification to the Lake County Historical Society for the opportunity to relate its heritage in a museum - cultural center as proposed.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Indiana	
COUNTY	Lake	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAY 17 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Lake County Court House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Part of the N.W. ¼ Sec. 8 Twp. 34 N., R.8 W. of 2nd P.M.
Known as Public Square or Commons in the Center of the Corporate
CITY OR TOWN: Limits of:
Crown Point

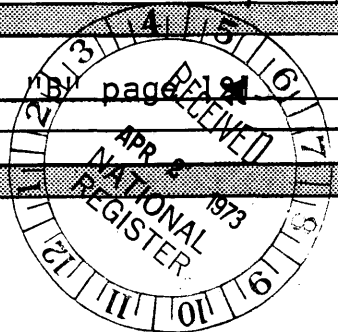
STATE:	Indiana	CODE	COUNTY:	Lake	CODE
		18			089

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Lake County, Indiana Recorder's Deed Rec. 184 page 184
SCALE: 1" = 200'
DATE: November 3, 1840

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.



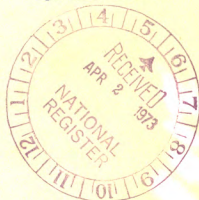
Town Plat of the Town of Crown Point
Recorded, Nov. 3, 1840

Lake Co., Indiana
Recorder's Deed Record
"B" page 121
Scale 1" = 200'

County 35 acres.

Legend Superimposed:
Blue shaded area
Present Courthouse lot
217.5 ft X 307 ft

x
Latitude and
Longitude
Coordinates



Mark - blocks 60 ft wide

111	110	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101
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Mark - blocks 60 ft wide

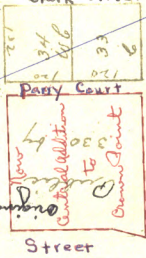
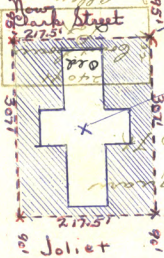
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Walnut

Street

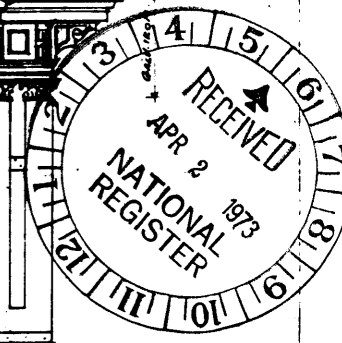
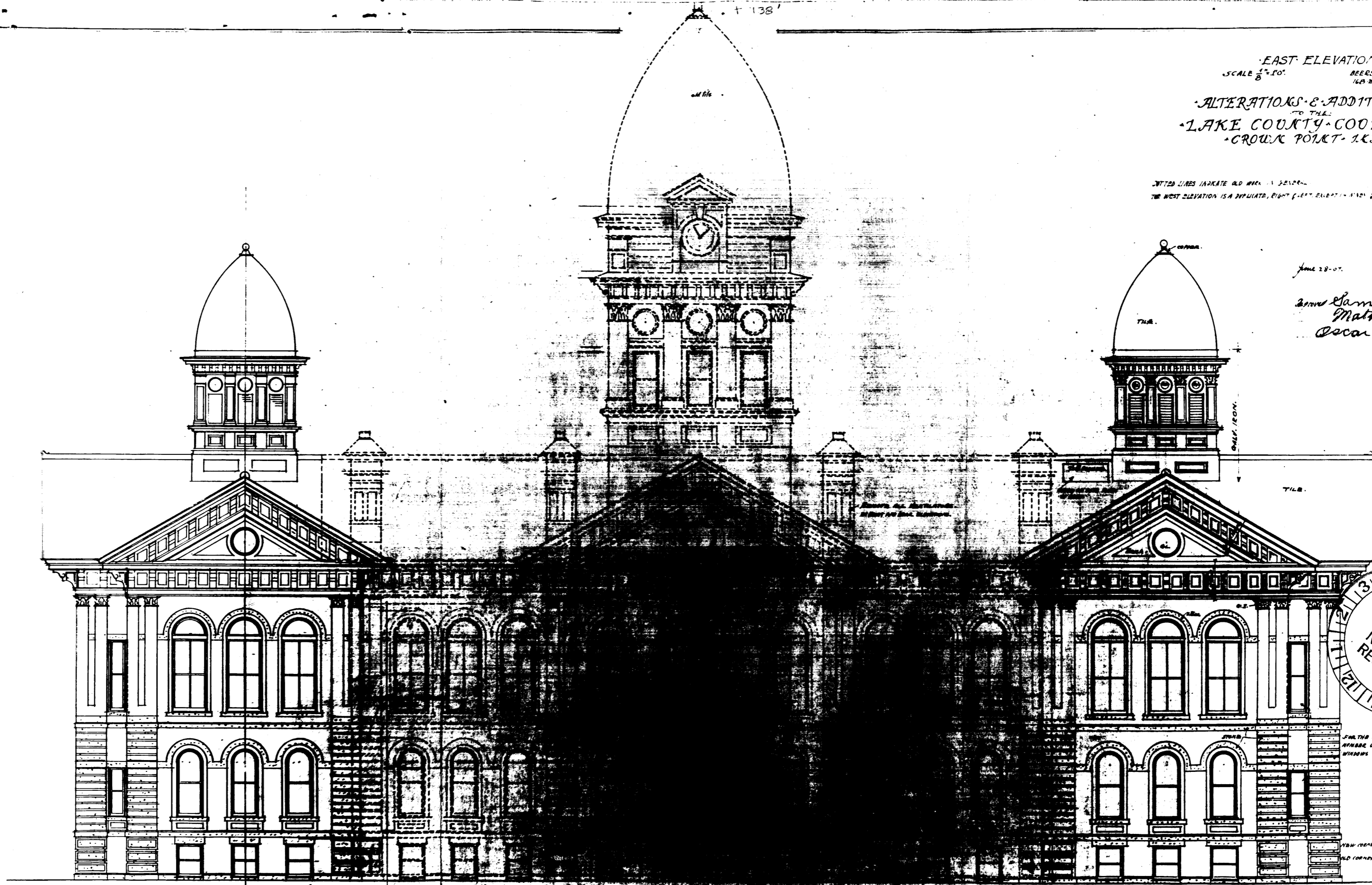
EAST ELEVATION
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
BEERS & BEERS ARCHTS.
143 BRUNNEN AVE. CHICAGO.

ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS
TO THE
LAKE COUNTY COURT HOUSE
CROWN POINT, ILL.

DOTTED LINES INDICATE OLD WORK & SHOWN
THE WEST ELEVATION IS A DUPLICATE, RIGHT & LEFT ELEMENTS ARE IDENTICAL

June 28-07

By Samuel A. Love
Matthew J. Brown
Oscar A. Krimble



FOR THE LOCATION AND
ARRANGE OF THESE
WINDOWS SEE PLANS.

NEW CORNER STONE.
OLD CORNER STONE.

Date: June 28, 1907

Blue Print: by Beers & Beers, Architects, Chicago, Illinois

Copy of Blue Print furnished October 3, 1972 by Lake County Surveyor, Crown Point, Indiana