

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received OCT 25 1984

date entered NOV 23 1984

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

1. Name

historic Washington County Jail and Sheriff's Residence

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 106 South Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Salem N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Washington code 175

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Washington County Commissioners

street & number County Courthouse, Public Square

city, town Salem N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47167

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Washington County Courthouse, Public Square

city, town Salem state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Washington County Jail and Sheriff's Residence is located on the northeast corner of South Main Street and East Poplar Street, one block south of the Courthouse Square, and faces west.

The residence is in the French Second Empire style and is two and one-half stories tall. Main support walls are 12" thick. The west facade is three bays wide and is of dressed limestone. The sides and rear of the building are brick. The roof is a straight sloped mansard which has recently been covered with asphalt shingles on the lower slope, and metal roofing on the upper slope.

A one and one-half story cell block is attached to the rear of the building and has outside walls of heavy stone 18 inches thick; floors and ceilings are made of very hard stone slabs 10 inches thick. The six cells in the cell block are clad with steel plates and have heavy iron lattice fronts. A prisoners' walk three feet wide around the cells is enclosed with heavy iron lattice extending from floor to ceiling. A 28 foot by 14 foot office addition, built in 1974, is located south and east of the cell block.

The front steps leading to the residence are limestone. The original ornamental iron fence is intact. The front porch originally had wooden posts with arched supports at the top and ornamental iron side rails; however, these have been replaced with ornamental iron posts set on a low wall of decorative, cast stone blocks. There are two entrances from front porch: the west entrance, which consists of a set of double, paneled doors, with a rectangular transom in a segmental-arch opening; and a south-facing door, a single door with a rectangular transom.

Windows on the main facade are recessed in deep stone frames. Windows on the first story of the projecting northern section of the facade are paired, with segmental-arch openings and frames, flat-headed surrounds with a simple cornice, and bracketed sides. Windows above these are the same, except with round-arch heads and frames, with an archivolt that springs from a string course surrounding the building. On the remainder of the facade, first story windows have segmental-arch openings and frames, and second story windows have round-arch openings, frames and heads, but with simpler detailing than those previously described. All of these windows are double-hung with one light in each sash.

Windows in the west bay of the south side are paired with segmental-arch openings, frames and heads on the first story, and with round-arch openings, frames and heads on the second story. These are also double-hung with one light in each sash. Windows in the east bay are small and rectangular, and covered with iron lattice. Windows in the cell block are smaller, rectangular, and are covered with iron lattice or metal bars.

There are five chimneys, each with decorative brickwork. The roof has a dormer window above the north bay of the facade and one in the center of the south side. Both of these have flat openings and segmental-arch heads. There are smooth stone quoins set in the southwest and southeast corners of the building. A smooth stone water table surrounds the building just above the rough-cut stone, slightly raised (about two feet above ground level) foundation.

The 7'10" wide central hallway extends east and west the full length of the residence with a living room (originally an office) and a kitchen/dining room to the north, and a parlor and Sheriff's office (originally one of the cells) to the south. In the kitchen there is a doorway to the outside on the north. Also, there is a 12 inch by 20 inch food service window with heavy iron door in the east wall of the kitchen through which meals

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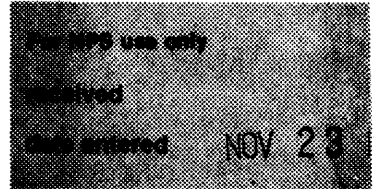
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Washington County Jail

Continuation sheet and Sheriff's Residence

Item number 7

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are served directly to the prisoners. A winding oak stairway with decorative scrollwork leads to the second floor which has two bedrooms, a large storage room, bathroom, one prisoner's cell (intended for women prisoners) and a large storage room in the attic extending over the cell block.

Ceilings in the residence are 11 feet four inches down and 10 feet eight inches up, and 8 feet five inches in the cell block. Walls in the residence are plastered, with the exception of the two cells which have heavy metal plates on both the walls and ceilings. There are two metal mantels on the first floor in the two front rooms, and the heating system is steam heated with natural gas. Floors in the residence were originally oak hardwood floors, but now have asphalt tile or carpeting.

The 1974 office addition is connected by a long hallway alongside the south wall of the cell block. When the cell downstairs in the residence was turned into an office, a new doorway was made in the east wall to give access to the room adjacent to one of the cell block entrances. The original entrance to the cell block from the residence was through a heavy iron door at the end of the central hallway. The main entrance to the jail and office is now located on the south side of the building.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1881

Builder/Architect Joseph Balsley

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Washington County Jail and Sheriff's Residence is significant for its role in county government for over 100 years. The building has been in continuous use as a jail since its completion in 1881. It is also significant for its architecture. Designed by Joseph Balsley (1835-1912), it is similar to many late-19th century pattern book buildings, and is one of the better examples of Victorian-era architecture in Salem.

Balsley came to Indiana in 1858 from Pennsylvania where he was trained as a carpenter and stair builder. After serving in the Civil War, he settled in Seymour and worked as an architect, designing residences, churches, and commercial and public buildings.

His design for the Washington County Jail and Sheriff's Residence was chosen by the County Commissioners from a group of several submitted. Contractors hired were H. H. Routh, of Salem, for the woodwork, Alfred Shrum, of Salem, for the brick work, and Krumb and Melchoir, of New Albany, for the stone work.

The residence is in the French Second Empire style, with the mansard roof, round-arched windows and stone quoins being its most notable features. The jail was attached to what was regarded as a stylish residence for the Sheriff, a common practice for the period.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inland Architect and Builder, March, 1885, June, 1885, and April, 1886.

Indianapolis News, obituary, May 3, 1912.

Warder W. Stevens, Centennial History of Washington County, Indiana. Indianapolis, 1916

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Salem

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	7	8	3	3	0	4	2	7	3	1	0	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

Zone		Easting					Northing						

C

Zone		Easting					Northing						

D

Zone		Easting					Northing						

E

Zone		Easting					Northing						

F

Zone		Easting					Northing						

G

Zone		Easting					Northing						

H

Zone		Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification A part of Lots 15 and 16 of the original plat of Salem described as follows: Beginning at the corner of S. Main and Poplar Streets, thence East 144', thence North 41'5" to a point, thence West 144' to a point, thence South 41'5" to the place of beginning.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Clark, Member of Community Betterment Committee

organization Chamber of Commerce date September 24, 1982

street & number 201 North Main Street telephone 812/883-4303

city or town Salem state Indiana 47167

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-9-84

For NPS use only

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


Keeper of the National Register

date 11-23-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration