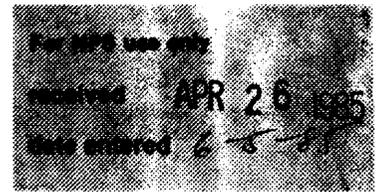


**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
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Third St. Joseph County Courthouse
105 S. Main Street
141-56167-598
d. 1897

OWNER: St. Joseph County Board of
Commissioners
7th Floor
County/City Building
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Description:

Photo #41, 72; Building #24

The Third St. Joseph County Courthouse is located at the southwest corner of Main and Washington Streets and is in the West Washington National Register Historic District. A small parkway with a soldiers and sailor monument (#37) is immediately to the north, a ramp to the St. Joseph County jail is directly south, and the second courthouse is on the west. A cut-stone retaining wall surrounds the lawn.

The Third St. Joseph County Courthouse is a Neo-Classical building of limestone with a granite foundation. It is two stories and an attic over a raised foundation. A large dome defines the cross axis of the gable roofs with pedimented ends. Set on a stone drum embellished with a garland motif, the dome, as well as the gable roof, are tiled.

The Bedford stone and granite walls are divided into three sections: the foundation level of massive smooth-cut stone, the first floor of horizontal stone rustication, and the upper level which is smooth-cut stone articulated with pilasters, string courses and recessed blind arches. Entrances to the courthouse are located in the east and west center pavilions. The west entrance was remodeled in the late 1960's. However, the east entrance retains its original paired column portico.

The majority of the window openings on the ground level and the first floor have been covered over. On the second floor small, single lights alternate with paired, double-hung rectangular windows which are set in round-arched surrounds. Oval windows fenestrate the attic floor of the east, center pavilion and a clock is located in the tympanum of the pediment.

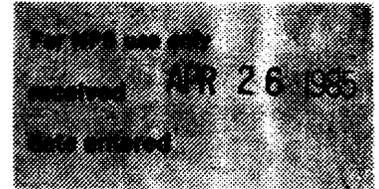
Significance:

The Third St. Joseph County Courthouse stands in the same location as its predecessors and is located on the lots designated for the courthouse by Lathrop Taylor and Alexis Coquillard in the original plat of South Bend.

Construction of the courthouse began on October 31, 1896. The Third St. Joseph County Courthouse was designed by the Chicago office of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, an office opened by George Shepley to facilitate the firm's work at the Columbian Exposition. The impact of the Neo-Classical theme of the 1893 Exposition and Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge's work with classical revival structures is clearly reflected in the Third St. Joseph County Courthouse.

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The courthouse was built by James Stewart and Company for a cost of \$184,246. The supervising architect for Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge was George Selby, who eventually began his own practice in South Bend. It is the earliest and one of the finest examples of the Neo-Classical style in the downtown.

The Third St. Joseph County Courthouse has been in continual use by the county since its opening in 1898, and continues in use, although a new County-City Building was erected in 1967.

UTM Reference: 16/562240/4613830

Acreeage: 1.25 acres

Legal: Lots 247-250 and North 44 feet of Lot 251, and East 1/2 vacated alley West and adjacent, Original Plat of South Bend

Parcel #18-3006-0178