

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

1. Name

historic Noble County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Courthouse Square _____ not for publication

city, town Albion _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 4th

state Indiana code 018 county Noble code 113

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

4. Owner of Property

name Noble County Commissioners

street & number Noble County Courthouse, Room 200

city, town Albion _____ vicinity of _____ state Indiana 46701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Auditor's Office

street & number Noble County Courthouse

city, town Albion _____ state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NONE has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

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 Noble County Courthouse is designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque mode, of red brick with limestone trim. The plan of the two and one-half story building is, in essence, two superimposed rectangles, with projecting entrance bays. The building has a squarish, weighty appearance, and the steep hipped roof culminates in a massive square center tower.

The east and west elevations are identical, as are the north and south elevations. The foundation story of the building is of random rock-faced ashlar. Secondary entrances are on the north and south elevations at this level. The primary entrances on the east and west sides are approached by steps, with the doors located about half-way between the foundation story and the first floor. All entrances are through wide brick arches, with narrow stone archivolts.

On the main (east and west) facades, the left side of the central projecting bay is formed by a round tower, that extends a full three stories and culminates in a belvedere with an octagonal roof. To the right of the entrance arch, the wall plane continues an additional bay on the first story level, and curves to form a one-story circular bay with a parapet roof.

On the second story of the entrance bay are three windows, separated by dressed stone columns with Corinthian capitals. Each window features an arched transom (now bricked in) above the heavy dentilled lintel. This pattern is repeated in paired windows on either side of the projecting entrance bay on this story. The second story of the building is embellished by four belt courses of rock-faced limestone, that continue around the entire building. Another rock-faced belt course forms the cornice. The central bay continues above this level, with five windows, smaller versions of the ones below, and a circular window set in the gable.

The north and south central bays are essentially the same as those on the east and west, except that the entrance is at the foundation level, and there is no turret or one-story circular bay. Rather, the corners of the projecting bay are finished off on the third-story level by small tourelles.

All windows on the building, except those already mentioned, are rectangular, double or triple-hung, with massive rock-faced limestone lintels.

The roof of the building, originally green ceramic barrel tile, is now standing-seam copper. In the center of the hipped roof is the clock tower, a square mass that is nearly as tall as the building itself. The lower half has rectangular and arched openings, with stone belt courses. Above this are stone modillions and a wide belt that curves outward slightly, and above this a clock face on each side. Above the clocks is a bracketed awning, then a small corbelled arcade, topped by a pyramidal roof. The four corners of the clock tower are curved and capped by coned roofs.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1887-1888 **Builder/Architect** E.O. Fallis & Co./ M.J. Malone & Bros.

Statement of Significance

The Noble County Courthouse is significant as an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style utilized on many courthouses of the period, and as the seat of the Noble County government.

The building was designed by E. O. Fallis and Company of Toledo, Ohio. Contractors for the project were M. J. Malone and Brothers, also of Toledo. The contract was signed in August of 1887, and the building was probably completed in the following year. Other Indiana courthouses in this style include those in Wells County (Bunting, 1889-91), Blackford County (LaBelle and French, 1894), Hancock County (Wing and Mahurin, 1896), and Fulton County (A. W. Rush & Son, 1895). All of these buildings were executed in limestone, so that the Noble County Courthouse, besides being perhaps the earliest extant in this style, may also be the only one constructed of brick.

The building has been in continuous use since its construction, and has thus served Noble County as the center of political activity for over 90 years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Commissioners' Records for 1887.
History of Noble County, Indiana and greater Albion, Roof, 1908.
Unpublished Records, Albion Public Library.

ITEM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property Approx. 2 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Albion, IN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	3	1	7	1	0	4	5	8	3	6	9	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

Noble County Courthouse Square

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eugene Paul Graham, A.I.A.

organization M W Inc., Architects-Engineer

date 8-21-78

street & number 700 N. High School Road

telephone 317/243-8321

city or town Indianapolis

state Indiana 46224

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-7-81

For HCERS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/12/81

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration