

**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 Kokomo City Building

and/or common Kokomo City Building

**2. Location**

street & number 221 W. Walnut Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Kokomo \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Indiana code 018 county Howard code 067

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 City of Kokomo

street & number 221 W. Walnut Street

city, town Kokomo \_\_\_ vicinity of state Indiana 46901

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Recorder

street & number Howard County Courthouse

city, town Kokomo state Indiana 46901

**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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kokomo City Building is located on the southeast corner of Walnut and Washington Streets, on the edge of the downtown business district. Walnut is the main eastbound thoroughfare of the downtown, and Washington is the major north-south thoroughfare through the city. The building occupies the entire site, its walls abutting the sidewalks.

The building is in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, of rock-faced, ashlar limestone on the foundation and first stories, and alternating bands of rock-faced and dressed stone on the upper story. It stands two stories above the raised foundation level. The massing is basically in three sections. The northernmost section is the largest, a rectangular mass with a steep hipped roof. On the main, north facade are a gabled wall dormer above the central entrance bay, and massive round towers on the corners of the building. Entrance is through a broad arch, with embellished stone voussoirs. On the keystone is a carved face. (See photo #6.) The recessed doors are approached by stone steps.

Above the entrance arch is the inscription, "City Building," flanked by a frowning and a smiling face. A stone gutter is above this, running between the two towers, with the downspouts issuing from the mouths of two lions. (See photo #4.) The wall dormer begins above the gutter, with a pair of doublehung windows surmounted by smaller multi-paned windows, all separated by stone mullions. The multiple panes are repeated above in an arched window. This ensemble of windows is flanked by Corinthian columns, from which springs a stone arch. Flanking the arch are small tourelles. Rising from these is the gable, with a stone finial. This central entrance bay is flanked by a doublehung window on each side at the two main story levels. The corner towers of the main facade extend the full height of the building, with embellished friezes and modillions, and terminating in conical roofs with finials. The entire roof of this main block is of slate, with tile ridges.

The west facade of this main section is three bays wide, counting the corner tower as one. It has a ground level entrance in the center bay.

The middle mass has two bays plus a round tower fronting on Washington Street. Although it, too, has two stories above the raised foundation level, its roof is about three feet lower than that of the main mass and it is pierced by a large rectangular chimney. The roof on this section has been replaced with asphalt shingles. There was an entrance in the northernmost bay of this section, and there is another in the southernmost bay of the tower. All windows are doublehung.

The last, southernmost section of the building housed the fire department until 1979. It is two stories high, with gabled dormers at the third level, and the hipped slate roof is several feet lower than on the other building sections. The stone facade of this section faces west, and has three arched vehicle entrances and a pedestrian entrance on the ground level. Above the arches are the words "Fire Department." A stone ledge separates the arched entrances from the four doublehung windows at the second level. The south facade of the Fire Department is of painted brick, with segmentally arched openings and corbelled brick detailing at the cornice level. A smaller chimney pierces the roof on this side, and a three-story tower is on the eastern end. Also visible on the south facade is a buff brick addition, connecting the building to the former Elk's Club on the east.

The eastern facade of the building is of brick, but is obscured by the adjacent Elk's Club building.

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The interior of the building has been remodeled, with dropped ceilings, panelling and fluorescent lighting. However, the Council Chamber, which extends across the front on the upper level, has changed little.

# 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 1893

Builder/Architect Wing & Mahurin, Arch., Heinzman Bros., Builders.

**Statement of Significance** [REDACTED]

The Kokomo City Building is significant as an outstanding example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture, and as one of the few buildings in downtown Kokomo from the 1890's which is still standing and unchanged from its original appearance. All alterations are in the rear of the structure, and are not generally visible from the street. The Kokomo City Building is the only structure ever owned and built by the City of Kokomo to house the offices of city government. In addition to the offices of city government, the City Building also housed the Kokomo Chamber of Commerce, c. 1894-1920.

The Kokomo City Building was designed by the architectural firm of Wing & Mahurin of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, with Heinzman Brothers as builders. Construction was begun in 1893 and the building was ready for occupancy in July of 1894. The building was constructed with Bedford limestone, and was the first public bldg. in Kokomo to be faced with stone. Wing & Mahurin was a well known architectural firm in Indiana, building city halls and courthouses in Ft. Wayne, Bloomington, and Greenfield as well as Kokomo. The Old City Hall in Ft. Wayne was built in the same year as the Kokomo City Building and is quite similar in detail.

In 1886, natural gas was discovered in Kokomo. In 1886 the population of Kokomo was 4,000, but by 1893 the population had reached 15,000. This rapid growth was a direct result of the natural gas discoveries and the consequent influx of industry and commerce. In 1886 the offices of city government were housed in the business block on the west side of Main Street, between Mulberry and Taylor Streets. The rapid growth of the city placed an unprecedented burden upon the city--particularly in such matters as streets, sewers, and fire and police protection. These demands required that the city construct its own building to house the offices of city government necessary to meet public obligations. A note in the Kokomo Daily Tribune, 22 February 1893, reads: "Kokomo is beginning to awaken from her lethargic slumbers, and has just accepted plans for a \$30,000 city building which is to be constructed of Bedford stone during the present season." On 7 August 1894 it was noted that "...the furnishings of the council chamber are of the solid substantial sort, and lend a dignity to the surroundings." The Common Council continued to meet in the building until 1980.

The Kokomo City Building, in addition to being an outstanding example of its style of architecture, has been the center of local government since 1894. While the Common Council has stopped meeting in the building, the city building still houses the major offices of municipal government, including the mayor's office and the Kokomo Police Department. Until 1979, the City Building was the headquarters of the Kokomo Fire Department as well. More importantly, the Kokomo City Building represents a major era in the history of Kokomo, Indiana. Within a few short years, Kokomo was transformed from an agricultural village to take its place as a major industrial center of the state of Indiana. The City Building was built as a direct result of the discovery of natural gas, and as such serves as a symbol of Kokomo's industrial and commercial heritage.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"City Hall Here May Celebrate 40th Birthday." The Kokomo Tribune, June 25, 1934, page 1.  
 "Kokomo's City Hall Erected Fifty years ago." The Kokomo Tribune, January 28, 1943, page 1.  
The Kokomo Daily Tribune, February 22, 1893, and August 6, 1894.  
Moulder, O. L. Kokomo, Past Present, Future. Kokomo: The Kokomo Enterprise Company, 1893.

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Kokomo West, Ind.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A 

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

Lot 87 in the original town of Kokomo.

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 Richard A. Kastl, Curator/Director

organization Howard Co. Historical Soc., Inc. date 13 October 1980

street & number 1200 West Sycamore Street telephone 317/452-4314

city or town Kokomo state Indiana 46901

## 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 *J. M. Ridenour*

title James M. Ridenour date April 24, 1981  
Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
<u><i>Delores Byars</i></u> <u>Entered in the National Register</u> date <u>6.4.81</u>
Keeper of the National Register
Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration