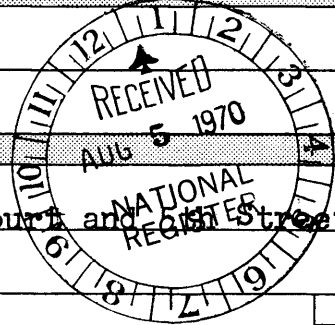


PH0091002

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Indiana	
COUNTY: Vanderburgh	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.9.13.0002	DATE 9/4



1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same as above

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Whole City Block bounded by Vine, 4th, Court and 6th Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Evansville

STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **13** COUNTY: **Vanderburgh** CODE: **163**

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"/> Public* <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both * Leased to Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Cultural Center

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Vanderburgh County Commissioners

STREET AND NUMBER:
City-County Building, 8th and Main Streets

CITY OR TOWN: **Evansville** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **13**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Same as above

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE: **13**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
No known existing survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE: DATE: **9/4**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **IND.**

COUNTY: **VANDERBURGH**

ENTRY NUMBER: **70.9.13.0002**

DATE: **9/4**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse is a baroque style building of Indiana Limestone. Since it was sand-blasted and pointed about eight years ago, it is in excellent condition, particularly the exterior. The interior has been well but not beautifully maintained and would require some repairs to plaster ceilings and refinishing of woodwork and walls. It was, however, used until May, 1969 as the seat of County Government and is in quite habitable condition.

Designed by Henry Wolters of Louisville, Kentucky, the Courthouse is symetrically balanced in the classic sense. The main building is a long, rectangular structure with a broad pavillion projecting perpendicularly from each of the long sides, with a soaring dome erected on the roof at the crossing point of the pavillions and the axis of the main building. The decoration is in symetrically organized patterns of high complexity, rusticated stones alternating with smooth ones. At the third story level are cartouche type windows surrounded by elaborate scroll designs. Along the cornice-line a marble balustrade railing encircles the entire building, interrupted only by segmental pediments placed one at each end of the main building and capped by over-life sized statuary by Franz Engelsmann, a pupil of Augustus St. Gaudens. Four bulging bays located near the corners of the structure are topped by hemispherical domes which emphasize the symetrical balance and call attention to the doorways, which are approached by long, imposing stairs.

The interior of the building is paved with marble in the principal hallways and the walls of the main and second floors are lined with Tennessee marble panels. Elaborate ironwork guard rails are a feature of the Rotunda on each floor and the stair rails are of wrought iron as well. The central dome of the Rotunda rises to a coffered, rounded ceiling visible from below from all three floors. The Rotunda has on each floor niches and lunettes which it has been proposed that local artists treat with sculptures and murals. There are several large court rooms going through two floors, with handsome baroque plaster ceilings and wall decorations. The original judge's benches, jury boxes and railings of carved walnut are still in place. The interior construction of the upper portion of the dome rising above the clock mechanism is a masterpiece of the bricklayer's art, with bricks baked to order, rounded to fit into the curved surfaces of the dome. The brickwork is supported by a spider-web-like framework of bent iron bars. The sub-basement and foundations are extremely massive, with limestone chunks 5 x 5 feet square, still showing drill marks where they were blasted out of the quarry. A tunnel leads under 4th Street to the County Jail across the street and also conducts the heating pipes from the power plant behind the Jail building.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Cornerstone 11/27/88; completed 1891

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

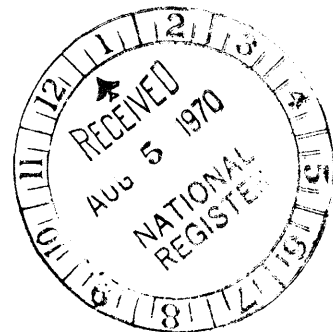
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse served for 78 years as the seat of County Government for Evansville and Vanderburgh County. It cannot boast of any great historical decision like the Dred Scott case or of any specific memorable event. Many candidates for State and National office appeared on its steps to address the public, including many Presidential candidates, both successful and unsuccessful.

Of some historic interest is the fact that the Courthouse occupies the site of the former turnaround basin of the Wabash and Erie Canal, completed in 1853 but having a brief life until only 1865 because of the overwhelming competition of the railroads, which took all of the canal business. The disastrous failure of the canal project bankrupted the State of Indiana and caused it to adopt the very conservative fiscal policies which persist to this day.

The main significance of this Courthouse for the State and Nation would be its grandeur as a masterpiece of architecture of its period - a remarkably pure and "uncluttered" example of the ostentatious "Neo-Baroque" style which our towns adopted in the post-Civil War Victorian period to express their civic pride and image of success and prosperity.

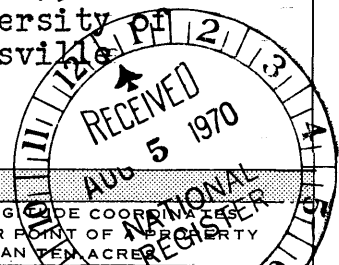
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Architectural Heritage of Evansville" by Howard E. Wooden
 Published by the Evansville Museum of Arts and Sciences

"The Evansville Story" by Dr. James E. Morlock 1956
 Professor at the University
 Evansville, Indiana



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		37 58 25	87 33 59	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.15 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Indiana	13	Vanderburgh	163
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
None overlapping			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Alexander L. Leich, President

ORGANIZATION: **Conrad Baker Foundation** DATE: **February 18, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: **Evansville** STATE: **Indiana 47708** CODE: **32**

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 ^{MS 2/183}

Name: *John R. Rloyd*

Title: *Dir of Nat. Preserves*

Date: *8-3-70*

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Arnet Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *SEP 4 1970*

ATTEST:

William J. Muntz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: *AUG 20 1970*

NO UTM
 CX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

70-66

C. NUMBER 82-196-0136

B. COUNTY Vanderburgh

E. TOWN/CITY Evansville

A. NAME OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

F. QUAD SHEET Evansville South
TRACT #10
4202080
449740
16
I. UTM Reference
HAER
HABS
H. NHL X NR
D. ADDRESS 401 Court Street
G. SITE X STRUCTURE

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY

1. HISTORIC NAME Vanderburgh County Courthouse
 2. OWNERSHIP: PUBLIC PRIVATE
 NAME Conrad Baker Foundation
 ADDRESS 201 N.W. Fourth Street
 3. LOCATION NOTES
 4. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: X YES NO

5. USE PRESENT PAST
 Residential (sing.)
 Residential (mult.)
 Commerce
 Industrial
 Agriculture
 Transportation
 Organization
 Military
 Political
 Unknown
 Vacant
 Other COURTHOUSE

6. CATEGORY DISTRICT
X BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

7. ACCESSIBLE
X YES/RESTRICTED
 YES/UNRESTRICTED
 NO

8. ENDANGERED
X YES/NO
 YES/BY WHAT

9. DATE 18910
 10. ARCHITECT/BUILDER
HENRY WOLTERS
LOUISVILLE, KY.

11. PERIODS: PREHISTORIC 17TH/18TH CEN. 1800-1890 X 1881-1899 1900-PRESENT

12. AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE
 Archeology-Prehistoric Conservation Law X Sculpture
 Archeology-Historic Economics Literature Social/Humanitarian
 Agriculture Education Military Theater
X Architecture Engineering Music Transportation
 Art Exploration/Settlement Philosophy Other (Specify)
 Commerce Industry X Politics/Government
 Communications Invention Religion
 Community Planning Landscape Architecture Science

13. STYLE Federal
 Greek Revival
 Gothic Revival
 Italianate
 Second Empire
 Stick Style/Eastlake
 Queen Anne
 Romanesque Revival
 Colonial Revival
 Neo-Classical
 Bungalow
 Vernacular BEAUX ARTS
 X Other (Specify) ARTS

14. CONDITION EXCELLENT
X GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

15. ALTERATIONS UNALTERED
 MINOR
X MAJOR

16. SITE INTEGRITY X ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE

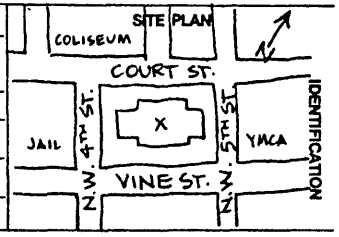
17. OUTBUILDINGS/SECONDARY STRUCTURES
X NO
 YES

18. IN ESTABLISHED HISTORIC DISTRICT
X NO
 YES/NAME

19. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL AND MAN-MADE) OCCUPIES ENTIRE BLOCK DOWNTOWN. ALSO ON THE SQUARE ARE THE OLD COUNTY JAIL, COLISEUM, LOCKYEAR BUSINESS COLLEGE, YMCA, AND COURT BUILDING.

20. INFORMATION SOURCES TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR; EVANSVILLE JOURNAL 11/27/1890; NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM; A PICTORIAL STUDY OF THE OLD (cont'd)

21. PREPARED BY N. LONG 22. DATE 8/8/70



Architectural Information



THE OLD VANDERBURGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE STANDS ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER TURN-ROUND BASIN OF THE WABASH AND ERIE CANAL. THE BEARING WALLS OF INDIANA OOLITIC LIMESTONE STAND 3 STORIES HIGH, WITH AN ADDITIONAL ABOVE-GRADE BASEMENT AND A SUB-BASEMENT HOUSING MECHANICAL SYSTEMS. THE CROSS PLAN INCLUDES A LONG RECTANGLE INTERSECTED AT ITS CENTER BY A SHORTER RECTANGLE, WITH A DRUM, DOME, AND CUPOLA RESTING ON THE INTERSECTION. PAVILLIONS AT EACH END OF THE LONGER RECTANGLE HAVE DOMED SEMI-CIRCULAR BAYS ON EACH SIDE, AND ORIGINALLY CONTAINED COURTROOMS A FULL TWO STORIES IN HEIGHT. THESE FOUR COPPER SIDE DOMES ARE RIBBED, AND EACH HAS A CROWN-LIKE COPPER LANTERN. THESE PROJECTIONS AND PAVILLIONS—ALONG WITH A VARIETY OF TEXTURES AND EXUBERANT SCULPTED FORMS—USE SHADOW AND LIGHT IN A WAY THAT HAS PROMPTED SOME TO DESCRIBE THE STYLE AS BAROQUE, ALTHOUGH BEAUX ARTS WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE FOR THE PERIOD. THE BASEMENT EMPLOYS RUSTICATED LIMESTONE, AND THE FIRST STORY IS STRIATED WITH ALTERNATING ASHLAR AND RUSTICATED STONE, ENDING IN A CONTINUOUS ENTABLATURE WITH A PLAIN, WIDE FRIEZE, WHICH SERVES AS A WATER TABLE, AS WELL AS A SILL COURSE FOR THE SECOND FLOOR AND A STYLOBATE FOR CLUSTERED OR PAIRED TWO-STORY COLUMNS AND PILASTERS. THIRD STORY

NAT'L REG. 6 OCT 1970

82-196-0136

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STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY

Additional Architectural Information

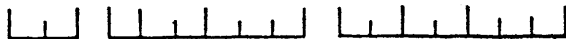
PAGE 2

A. NAME OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

C. NUMBER 82-196-18-0136

B. ADDRESS 401 COURT STREET

D. UTM References



CENSUS TRACT #18

E. WINDOWS ON THE END PAVILLIONS ARE ARTICULATED AS ROUND ORNAMENTED LUNETTES (PAINTED OUT) THAT OPEN INTO THE TWO-STORY COURTROOMS. CAPITALS ON THE COLUMNS EMPLOY FLORAL MOTIFS, WHEREAS THOSE ON PILASTERS EXHIBIT FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, WITH NO TWO ALIKE.

ABOVE THIS IS ANOTHER ENTABLATURE, WITH PLAIN FRIEZE AND DENTIL MOLDING, AND A BALUSTRADE. FREE-STANDING SCULPTURES APPEAR ABOVE THE SEGMENTALLY ARCHED SIDE ENTRANCES THAT CARRY THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF INDIANA. OVER-LIFE SIZED FIGURES ALSO GRACE THE VINE AND COURT STREET ENTRANCES, BENEATH AN EAGLE AND FLANKING A BAS-RELIEF PANEL. SCULPTURE WAS DONE ON THE SITE BY FRANZ ENGELSMANN, A STUDENT OF THE FAMOUS AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS, AND HIS CREW.

THE CENTRAL DOME AND CUPOLA REST ON A DRUM THAT EMPLOYS GROUPED COLUMNS AND ARCHED WINDOWS. ALL DOMES ARE COPPER-COVERED, STEEL-RIBBED STRUCTURES FILLED IN WITH MOLDED "TERRA COTTA LUMBER", A COMPOSITION OF CLAY AND SAWDUST. THE STEEL-BEAMED ROOF IS COVERED IN GRAY SLATE.

THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING IS APPROACHED BY FOUR MAJOR STAIRWAYS, EACH WITH MONUMENTAL STONE HANDRAILS AND NEWEL POSTS THAT ONCE SUPPORTED ELABORATE LIGHT FIXTURES. HALLWAY FLOORS ARE OF MARBLE, AND WAINSCOTING IS OF ETTAWA PINK MARBLE FROM GEORGIA. MOST WOODWORK IS OAK. OTHER INTERIOR FEATURES INCLUDE BRASS HARDWARE AND HANDRAILS, IRON RAILINGS, FOUR FULL-HEIGHT LIGHT SHAFTS, MOLDED PLASTER, AND MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL CARVED WOOD JUDGES' BENCHES, JURY BOXES AND RAILINGS. A CENTRAL FEATURE IS THE ROTUNDA, WHICH IS OPEN FROM THE

F. INFORMATION SOURCES VANDEBURGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA, 1972.

G. PREPARED BY N. LONG

H. DATE 8/8/78

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY

Additional Architectural Information

PAGE 3

A. NAME OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE C. NUMBER 82-196-18-0136

B. ADDRESS 401 COURT STREET

D. UTM References

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 CENSUS TRACT # 18.

E. BASEMENT LEVEL TO THE COFFERED DOME HIGH ABOVE THE THIRD FLOOR.
CONTRACTOR FOR THE COURTHOUSE WAS CHARLES PEARCE AND COMPANY,
A LOCAL FIRM ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR AT LEAST 3 OTHER INDIANA COURT-
HOUSES AT MUNCIE, LAFAYETTE AND FRANKFORT.

THE SCALE AND MONUMENTALITY OF THE OLD VANDERBURGH COUNTY
COURTHOUSE MAKE IT EXCEPTIONAL AMONG INDIANA COURTHOUSES. THE
COURTHOUSE WAS PLACED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
IN 1970.

F. INFORMATION SOURCES _____

G. PREPARED BY N. LONG H. DATE 8/8/78