

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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**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

Columbus City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

S.W. Corner Fifth and Franklin Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Columbus

VICINITY OF

Ninth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Indiana

018

Bartholomew

005

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Columbus

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, Fifth and Franklin Sts.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Columbus

VICINITY OF

Indiana

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Washington Sts.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Columbus

Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Columbus-Bartholomew County Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Preserve to Enjoy Inc.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Columbus

Indiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

City Hall is one of three buildings in Columbus which show the influence of the Romanesque style. The building consists of a central mass four bays square, with east-west masses six bays long and two bays wide attached on the north and south; a four story tower is centrally placed at the north end, with its base projecting slightly from that elevation. Each mass has a steeply pitched slate roof, the tower has a square pyramidal roof, and there are prominent parapet gables on the ends of the east-west wings. Flanking the gables and at the corners of the tower are octagonal corner buttresses capped with conical finials.

The elevations consist of a high basement of rock-faced ashlar limestone beneath smooth brick walls, with a string course between the first and second floors and machicolations under the eaves. The basement windows are deeply recessed square openings; those above have only slight reveals, and are topped with round arches of header coursing. All windows have their original two-over-<sup>two</sup> double-hung sash; those of the second floor additionally had large transom lights, now replaced with solid panels. In each of the gables there are two fixed single-glazed square windows in file with the openings below, and the apex is filled with diagonally laid coursing.

The treatment of the tower on the main (north) elevation is the building's principal feature. In the base, the main entrance is recessed within a large round arch, whose smooth surfaces contrast with the rock-faced coursing from which it springs. There are two sets of entrance doors; outer weather doors and heavily carved inner doors. All doors are double glazed leaves, with transom and side lights. Immediately beneath the impost of the arch on either side are inscriptions with the date of construction and the names of the architect and builder; the the wall above the entry, a large tablet lists the names of the mayor and city council. The two windows on the second story of the tower are rectangular, with no visibly expressed lintel; directly above them is a tablet with the building's name. At the third floor level a single round window with four lights set inside header coursing is centered on the north wall. A string course separates the third and fourth tower levels above them, wooden louvers fill masonry openings identical to those of the second floor windows, and brackets of corbelled brick extend beneath a masonry reveal just below the crown mould of the eave.

All interior walls and floor systems are wood frame, still in good condition. The roof structure consists of large timber trusses bearing on the exterior masonry walls. The masonry shows no signs of settlement or deterioration.

# 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

1895

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Charles F. Sparrell

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Columbus City Hall is significant both in its architectural design and in its architect, Charles F. Sparrell.

In style, the City Hall combines elements of two Victorian Romanesque revivals. The expanses of smooth wall and the shallow window reveals are typical of the earlier Romanesque Revival of 1840-1880. The rock-faced coursing of the basement, corner buttresses, and particularly the treatment of the central arched entry derive from the Richardsonian Romanesque mode. The building is a conservative attempt to reconcile the desire to use then-fashionable Richardsonian devices with established methods of construction. The occurrence of the Romanesque Revival in Columbus is limited to three buildings; of these, the City Hall is the most impressive example.

Charles F. Sparrell was Columbus' only practicing architect in the nineteenth century. Sparrell's commissions in the 1890's were numerous, and included large school buildings, commercial structures and residences, but the City Hall is his best-known work. Sparrell was the only architect in Columbus to design buildings in the Romanesque Revival style.

Plans for a new city hall building have been drawn; when that building is complete, new uses will have to be found for the old City Hall.

As the City Hall the building has been a major structure in the lives of Columbus residents. It has served as the focal point for municipal political and governmental activities in Columbus for almost eighty-five years.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Evening Republican, February 2, 1895.

Columbus, Indiana: A Look At Architecture. Columbus, Indiana; Visitors Center, 1974.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

## UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1/2 (22,500 sq.ft.)

QUADRANGLE NAME Columbus

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,6 | 5,9,3 | 2,4,0 | 4,3 | 3,9 | 6,7,0 |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

    ZONE    EASTING    NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Northeast corner of lot 52 of Irwin, Jones and Mounts Add to City of Columbus bounded by a line from a point 10' west of the west curb of Franklin St. and 10' 6" south of the south curb of Fifth St., running south 114', then west 65', then north 114', then east 65'.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cheryl Griffith; Craig Leonard; and Cynthia Lynch, Director

ORGANIZATION

Preserve to Enjoy Inc.

DATE

October 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

524 Third Street

TELEPHONE

(812) 372-2407

CITY OR TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Indiana

# 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 9-27-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-15-79

ATTEST:

William H. Brauman

DATE 11.13.79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION