



## 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 Dearborn County Courthouse, located in the Courthouse Square near the Ohio River, is the most prominent public building in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Built in 1870 of pearl-gray limestone quarried at Elliottsville in Monroe County, Indiana, the Greek Revival structure combines the Corinthian order with round-arched openings to create a simple, yet imposing effect.

The ground level of the building is of dressed, rusticated limestone, with rectangular window openings and round arches at the entrances. The second - and third-story openings are combined in two-story rounded compound arches. The arches are separated by simple pilasters with stylized Corinthian capitals, all of dressed limestone. These pilasters support a full entablature with dentils and modillions along the cornice. The east and west sides of the building have eight bays each, with three of the center bays projecting slightly from the rest of the building and topped by a pediment. Almost all windows have six over six lights. All openings on the ground and second floors are rectangular, except for the round-arched entrances. Third-floor openings are round-arched.

The main facade faces the river to the south, and has five bays. The center three bays are sheltered by a monumental, pedimented portico. The four fluted columns stand atop pedestals, and have ornate Corinthian capitals. The main entrance is through an arched doorway. Modern aluminum doors have replaced the originals. Above the doorway is a stone balcony. This balcony is repeated above the entrance on the east side. The second and third story windows above the doorway are the same as all others on the building, except that they have eight over eight lights.

Many of the building's interior features have survived unchanged. The cast iron stairway and the dome and skylight are the most notable. Most offices have their original wooden doors, and six offices have iron doors and folding iron window shutters. Five rooms still have their original fireplaces, although some of the chimneys have been removed. The hallways retain their original high ceilings.

The second story's black and white marble floor is original. The second floor Circuit Court has been altered somewhat, but still has its original electric and gas chandeliers and stained glass windows. Much of the old furniture is still in use.

## 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 checked="" 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** 1870-71 **Builder/Architect** George Kyle

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dearborn County Courthouse is architecturally significant as a well-preserved late example of the Greek Revival style as applied to a courthouse. It is also significant because it has served as Dearborn County's seat of government since its construction, and has thus been the center of the county's political life for over a century.

The Dearborn County Courthouse was designed by George Kyle, an architect from nearby Vevay who was also responsible for the Thomas T. Wright House (National Register, 12-10-80), and who collaborated with the renowned Francis Costigan on the James Lanier mansion in Madison, and on the Schenck-Griffith House in Vevay.

The current Courthouse is the fourth building to serve the county in that capacity. The first was destroyed by fire, and the second was demolished to make room for this structure. The third was built in Wilmington when the county seat was moved there in 1835. During the construction of the present building, the county government and courts were temporarily moved into the Lawrenceburg Odd Fellows Hall. The contract was awarded for the cut stonework to Francis L. Farman of Indianapolis, and the remainder of the work to T. J. Shannon of Lawrenceburg.

The cornerstone was laid on April 13, 1871, amidst imposing ceremonies in the presence of five thousand spectators.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Counties, Indiana, From Their Earliest Settlement (Chicago: Weakley, Harraman, & Co., Publishers, 1885), p. 119-122.  
Shaw, Archibald (ed.) History of Dearborn County, Indiana; Her People, Industries and Institutions (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1915)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acres of nominated property Approximately one acre

Quadrangle name Lawrenceburg, KY-Ind.-Ohio

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	6	8	5	9	6	0	4	3	2	8	8	8	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

Bounded on the north by Catherine St., on the east by Mary St., on the south by High St., and on the west by a line drawn parallel to Charlotte St., and 20 feet west of the west wall of the building.

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

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Telford Walker

organization c/o Dearborn County Auditor's Office

date July, 1977

street & number Dearborn County Courthouse

telephone 812/537-1040

city or town Lawrenceburg

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*James M. Riderour*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2/16/81

For HCRS use only

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

*Anna Marie ...*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/5/81

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration