

**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 Blackford County Courthouse

and/or common

**2. Location**

*IN 3*

street & number Blackford County Courthouse \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Hartford City \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 10th

state Indiana code 018 county Blackford code 009

**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 Blackford County Commissioners

street & number Blackford County Courthouse

city, town Hartford City \_\_\_ vicinity of state Indiana 47348

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number Blackford County Courthouse

city, town Hartford City, state Indiana 47348

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title No 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

### Exterior Description

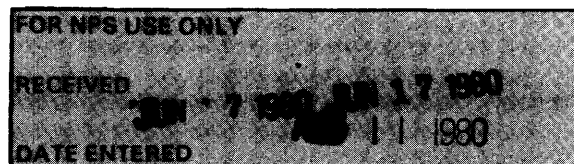
This Richardsonian Romanesque building of four stories was constructed in 1894. Its high pitched hip roof is composed of slate and its exterior walls are finished rows of rough-faced stone alternating with smooth-faced stone. A pair of massive, semi-circular towers, running the height of the structure, boldly project from the eastern and western facades, and a tall chimney of rough-faced stone is positioned next to each of these towers. An extremely high tower, which is approximately as tall as the first three stories, is located at the southwest corner of the structure, and a gabled dormer is sited above each entryway on the northern and southern sides. Belt courses separate the first from the second floor, the second from the third floor, and the roof from the towers and gables. A row of plain brackets separates the rest of the building from the roof.

The western and eastern facades are identical from the roofline to the ground level. Each has six bays, which are symmetrical. The first, third, fourth and sixth bays consist of paired triple-hung windows on the first floor, paired double-hung windows with transoms on the second floor, and paired double-hung windows with a large fan window above on the third floor. Identical towers, that were previously mentioned, occupy the second and fifth bays. There are three triple-hung windows on the first floor in each tower, three double-hung windows with transoms on the second story, and three triple-hung windows with transoms and a small semi-circular window above the transom. Each tower projects above the roof-line, and a band of small windows, utilizing Richardsonian arches, rests on the belt course.

Although there are echoes of the southern facade in the northern side, there are some significant differences between the two. Both have centrally positioned dormers with plain parapet gables the corners of which are defined by tourelles. Three double-hung windows occupied each dormer, and a semi-circular window is centered over the middle opening. Both facades are composed of three bays. A large ornamental doorway occupies the central bay on each facade, and each is composed of a compound round arched portal with enriched archivolts and a fan window. Three round arched windows, separated by Corinthian pilasters, are located beneath the fan window on the southern facade, but there are four in the northern entryway. Similarly, a row of three single-pane lights are situated immediately above the three doors of the portal on both sides. However, on the southern entryway an additional row of six single-paned lights and the date of construction in Roman numerals is inserted between the round arched windows and the three single-paned lights. Another difference between these two facades is the very tall bell tower which is located at the southwest corner of the Courthouse, as previously noted. The lower half of the tower is divided from the upper by ornate brackets, and its corners are defined by tourelles. Blind arcading and three rows of slit openings are utilized on the lower half. A typical Richardsonian Romanesque arch, supported by Corinthian pilasters, enclosed a clock on the upper portion of the tower on all four of its sides. Short Doric columns resting on a beltcourse divide the rest of the tower from the roof.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

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Interior Description

The first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse has been greatly altered. Carpeting, fluorescent lighting and acoustic ceiling tiles have been installed in the hallway and in all offices. Also, a glass wall with modern glass doors has been installed at both ends (north and south) of the hallway to form a vestibule at the entryway.

Renovation of the second and third floors is currently being conducted. Henry Husmann of Portland, Indiana, is responsible for the stenciling and artwork on these floors. The stairways to the second floor, which are located at the north and south ends of the Courthouse, are constructed of metal, and the railings are ornamental. Off-white hexagonal tiles with a patterned border of colored tiles form the flooring. Glazed, pale yellow tiles were used in the wainscoting in the hallway and up the stairs on the south end. There is no stairway between the second and third floors on the north end. The ceilings of the single, north-south hallway and of the offices which front on both sides of the hallway are molded with stenciling. There are panels on both sides of the hallway which are wallpapered or contain painted scenes, which are not originals. Walnut wainscoting is found in the offices, which are semi-circular, and brass chandeliers have replaced all the original lighting fixtures in the hallway and offices.

Approximately half of the third floor is occupied by the court room. Although this room is carpeted, the original wooden seats have been retained. It has a beamed ceiling with some molding and stenciling, and the wainscoting is also stenciled. As part of the renovation, a Lady of Justice will be painted directly behind the judge's bench. The other rooms on this floor are carpeted, have chandeliers like the ones on the second floor, and have molded stenciled ceilings.

The fourth floor is unfinished and used for storage. A slender stairway leads from this floor to the top of the bell tower.

# 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**                      1894                      **Builder/Architect**                      LaBelle and French, Architects

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

LaBelle and French of Marion, Indiana, designed the Blackford County Courthouse, and it was constructed in 1894 by G. Boseker and Son of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. In addition to this structure, LaBelle and French also designed the White County Courthouse at Monticello, Ohio, and the Trumbull County Courthouse at Warren, Ohio, as well as numerous schools, churches and commercial buildings throughout Indiana. The Blackford County Courthouse is quite similar to the courthouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which was designed by Henry H. Richardson. The Courthouse has served as the focus of governmental, political and civic affairs since its construction, and its size and architecture dominate the community's downtown.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Hermansen, David R., Indiana Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century.  
Muncie, Indiana: Ball State University, 1968.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 acres **UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle name Hartford City East Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

A	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Public Square of the original plat to Hartford City.

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

state	<u>none</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debra Beetem

organization Region 6 date January 1980

street & number 207 N. Talley Avenue telephone 317/285-6252

city or town Muncie, state Indiana 47303

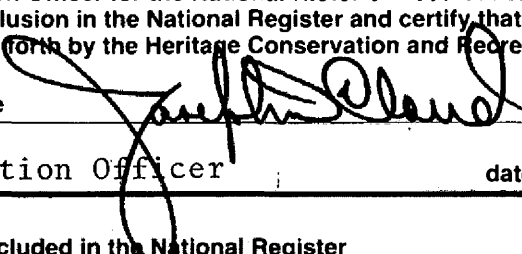
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 June 6, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Sally S. Alder</u>	date <u>8/11/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>W. Ray Luce</u>	date <u>8/11/80</u>
Chief of Registration	