

5-24-73

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0013765

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	INDIANA	
COUNTY:	DECATUR	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	APR 27 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON: Decatur County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC: Courthouse Park

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN: Greensburg

STATE	INDIANA	CODE	18	COUNTY:	DECATUR	CODE	031
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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"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Decatur County residents

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse

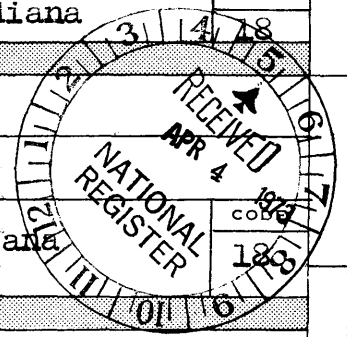
CITY OR TOWN: Greensburg 47240 STATE: Indiana CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Recorders Office

STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Greensburg 47240 STATE: Indiana CODE



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historical American Bldg. Survey - H A B S K, I H P P & S

DATE OF SURVEY: 1950 - 1968 - 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress 1950 - National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER: -U. S. Department of Interior

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Decatur County Courthouse was built 1854-1860, and is a pink brick building with stone trim and is "structurally sound".¹ Its many arches and pilasters are very much in evidence.

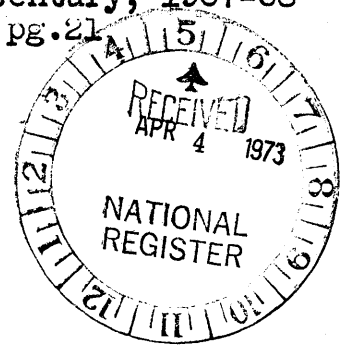
March 1890 remodeling was completed by dividing the 40' plus high court room, moving the court to the second floor, and converting the first floor to additional offices.² The old court room extended the width of the building (n to s) and the Judges stand and Jury box were north of the walkway - or where the stairway now occupies.

The stone-like stucco placed on the exterior in 1903 is failing now. Where it was scrapped off in 1972 to again show only brick and the original stone trim on the towers, one wonders why the original brick surface was ever covered. The color contrast is lost, with the gloomy stucco covering much beauty. The exterior alterations divided the windows, tho the trim above was kept to carry out the same lines of architecture.

The interior of the building has been much neglected, especially the court rooms. The offices are crowded because of the many historic files in their working rooms. Presently there is much unused space which might be utilized to better advantage. The main hall is most attractive because of its historic floor and needs no improvement. The walls in the offices and halls were decorated about 5 years ago except for the Court rooms and its been many years since the WPA painted them and there is a large decoration painted on the wall that is still discernable and a drawing of it is enclosed.

The surrounding yard is well graded, but the landscaping leaves something to be desired. Atop the 115 foot clock tower a series of large toothed aspen trees have thrived since about 1870, giving noteriety far and wide to the city of Greensburg. "But the trees seem to have clouded the architectural sign - ificance of the building!"³ Truly our Courthouse and its park is the one and only landmark that we have and should be preserved.

- Footnotes:
1. Sieco Eng. Inc. ,Columbus, Ind. 1970
 2. Greensburg Daily News Aug 18, 1966 Pg. 1 Sec 3
 3. Decatur County History - Harding 1915 pg 81
 4. Famous Trees - U.S. Forestry phamplet 1936
 5. Indiana Courthouses of 19th Century, 1967-68 pg.21
David R. Hermansen



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

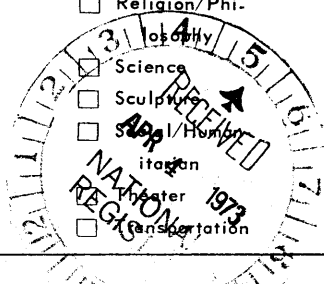
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



War Memorials

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Architecture : "The Decatur County Courthouse is one of the finest examples of the Romanesque Revival in the United States. In fact, I can think of only one better example: The old Smithsonian building in Washington, D.C.¹ Edwin May, who was the architect for several Hoosier County Courthouses and the present State Capitol Building, designed the Decatur County Courthouse.² "Although the present Decatur County Courthouse was started in 1854, it was not completed until 1860. It is an interesting and curious solution, asymmetrical in plan and picturesque and rambling in silhouette, but suggestive of the Gothic idiom. Conversely, the semicircular arches are more indicative of Romanesque expressions---!"³

Political: William Cumback was 4th Congressional District Representative in 1854 after admitted to the bar in 1853 here and later was Lieutenant Governor and collector of Internal-Revenue for 12 years tho he practiced law the balance of 40 years in the court of this building.^{4,5} It was thru his influence that Lincoln stopped here Feb. 12, 1861 enroute to his inauguration and made a brief speech, tho he had the Band play several numbers. They played weekly on the Courthouse lawn and later became the 7th Regiment Band early in the Civil War.

U.S. Senator Thomas (A?) Hendricks spoke at the Courthouse before a large political rally on Sat. April 25th, 1863. He later became U.S. Vice-President in 1884 (?)⁷

For one week-end during the Civil War, the new Courthouse became a temporary armory and its park a bivouac area for "troops" on July 11th, 1863 as word spread that "Morgans Raiders" were coming and armed advance scouts set foot in our County. The Treasurer's office had provisions to feed 10 Reg'ts.

While visiting Greensburg on a speaking tour in 1908, Wm. Jennings Bryan sat in a carriage on the S.W. corner of the Courthouse Square with Mayor Northern and his visit is remembered for his statement that the Decatur County Courthouse was the finest specimen of Gothic Architecture that he had seen in his travels throughout the world.⁶

William Allen White used the trees on the Courthouse tower as the subject of one of his famous editorials and later visited the site enroute to New York.⁹

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Compendium of National Biography by the Lewis Publishing Co.
 Chicago 1900 - Genealogical and Biographical Record of Dec.Co.
 Famous Trees U. S. Forestry Service 1936
 Greensburg Daily News 7/11/63, 7/20/63, 8/18/63, 5/3/68, 2/16/73.
 Historical Atlas of Decatur Co 1822
 History of Decatur County by Lewis A Harding 1915
 Indiana County Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century by
 David A Hermansen in 1967-68 Ball State Univ. Faculty Series
 Letters of : Calvin D. Davis, Assoc. Prof. in Dept. History Duke, Un
 H. Roll McLaughlin, 2/17/73 State Preservation,

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA **Coordinator.**

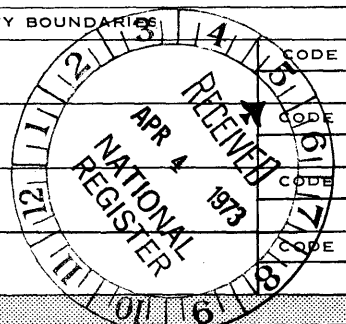
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "		
NE	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "		
SE	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	39 20 14	85 29 00
SW	° ' "	° ' "	° ' "	North lat.	West long.

UTM
 16/630680
 4355070
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approx. 1

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

STATE: None	CODE	COUNTY: None	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Dale G. Myers, Treas. of Comm. (Presid. of Historical Society**
 ORGANIZATION: **of Historical Courthouse Restoration Committee Society of Dec.Co** DATE: **19 March 16, 73**
 STREET AND NUMBER: **220 East Walnut St.**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Greensburg zip47240** STATE: **Indiana** CODE: **18**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>Dale G. Myers</i></u> Title: <u>Indiana State Liaison Officer</u> Date: <u>March 28, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert M. Wiley</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>4/27/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>4/26/73</u></p>
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3. SIGNIFICANCE

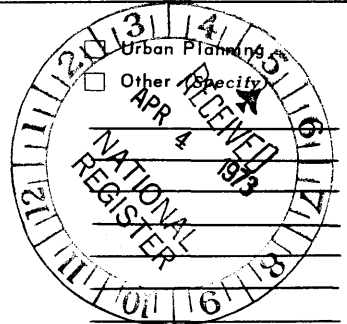
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input 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

Political con'd.
 Even with T.V. medium changing methods of Campaigning, Barry Goldwater Jr., now U.S. Representative, spoke on the west steps of the Courthouse in his father's 1964 Presidential campaign.
 Likewise Senator Robert Kennedy of New York spoke in the south side of the Courthouse Park during his fateful presidential primary campaign of 1968.¹⁰

Urban Planning

"The Courthouse is the very heart of your community around which the town grows. The town square concept is one of the early approaches to good City Planning, and was used extensively both in this country and abroad."¹¹

References:

1. Quote from letter to Greensburg Daily News, Feb. 16, 1973 by Professor Calvin D. Davis, Dept. of History at Duke University, Durham, N.C.
2. Indiana County Courthouses of the 19th Century, By David R. Hermansen publ'd Ball State Univ. Faculty Lecture Series 1967-68
3. Ibid
4. Compendium Record of Decatur County Chicago 1915 p.254-260
5. History of Decatur County, Lewis A Harding, 1955, p. 528
6. Greensburg Daily News July 20, 1963 (Bands) p.290
- 7a History of Decatur County, Lewis A Harding, 1915 p.443
8. Greensburg Daily News thurs. Aug. 18, 1966 p.1 Sec 3.
9. Ibid. p11 Sec 4.
10. National Observer 5/13/68 and Greensburg Daily News 5/3/68
11. Quote from H. Roll McLaughlin's letter to V.P. Batterton dated Feb. 17, 1973.

7b. Greensburg Daily News July 11, 1963

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

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National State Local

Name Joseph P. Caland

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

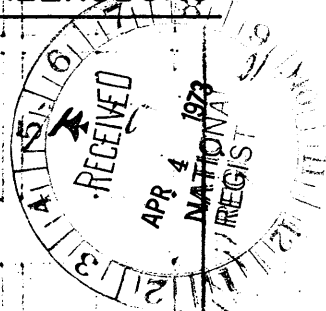
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

North East 80°

ORIGINAL PLAT
CITY OF GREENSBURG



Block No. 12

alley 16 1/2 feet wide

83	84		
82	85		
81	88	87	86

Block No. 11

75	76		
74	77		
73	80	79	78

65 72

North

Street 66 feet wide

wide

Block No. 7

alley 16 1/2 feet wide

50	51	52	
		53	
49	56	55	54

Block No. 6

59	60		
58	61		
57	64	63	62

336 1/2'

Street 66 feet wide

Washington

Block No. 6

alley 16 1/2 feet wide

42	43	44
		45
41	48	46
		47

Block No. 9
Public
Square
2.60 ACRES

66 feet wide

336 1/2'

Main

Street 80 feet wide

wide

Block No. 5

alley 16 1/2 feet wide

34	35	36	37
		38	
33	40	39	

Block No. 4

27	28	29	30
26		31	
25		32	

10 20 21 22

NORTH 39-20-14 LAT.
WEST 85-29-00 LONG.

South

Street 66 feet wide

wide

Block No. 10

alley 16 1/2 feet wide

91	92	93	94
90		95	

99	100	101	102
98		103	

10 100



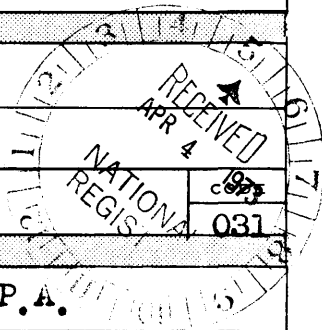
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

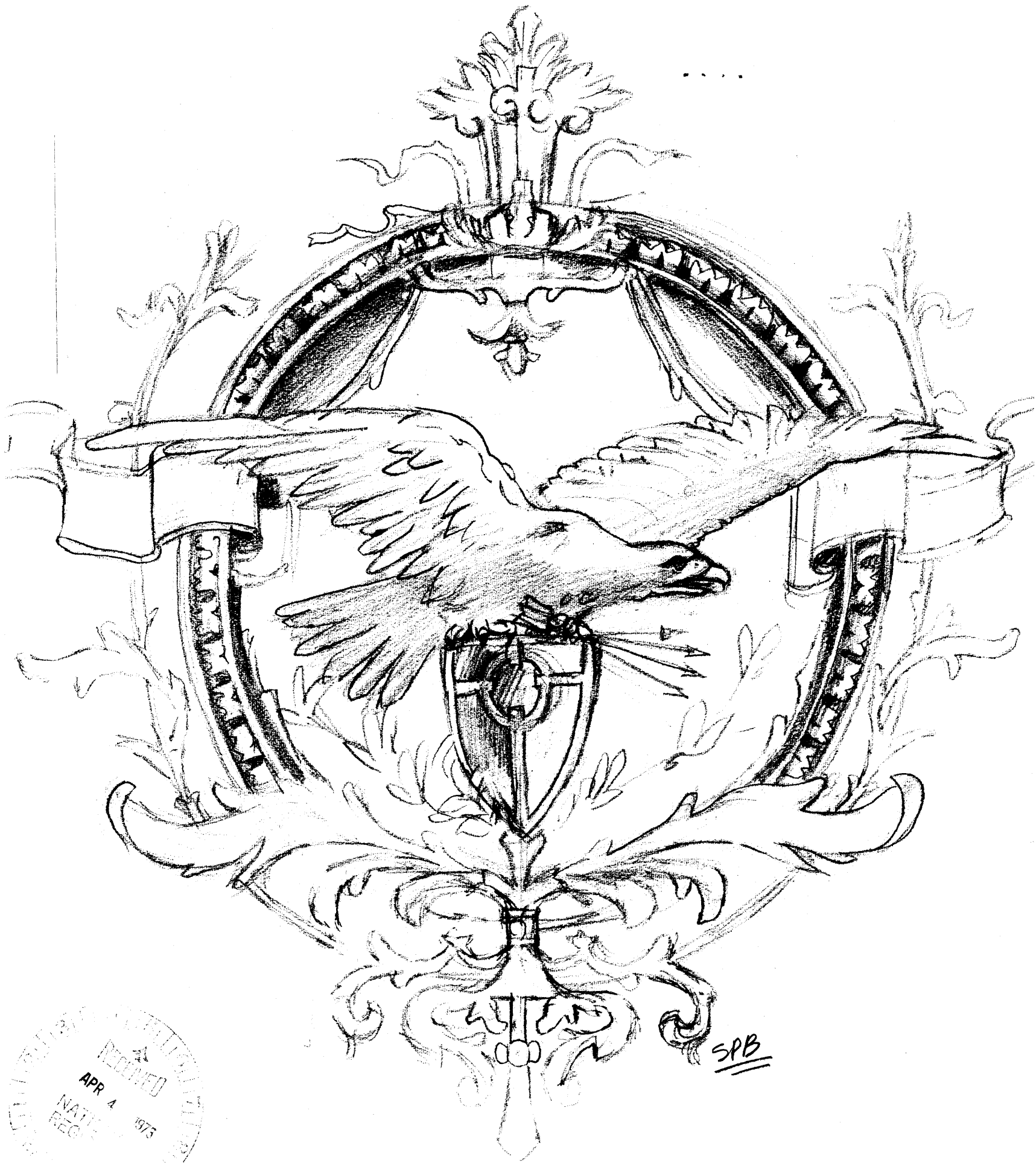
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Indiana	
COUNTY	
Decatur	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 27 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Decatur County Courthouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Courthouse Park			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse Square			
CITY OR TOWN: Greensburg			
STATE:	INDIANA	CODE	COUNTY:
	Indiana	18	Greensburg
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: In courtroom - painted on wall - probably W.P.A. Design			
SCALE: (when they painted walls)			
DATE: March 9, 1973 Drawn by Herron Student S. P. Becker, of Greensburg Indiana			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





SPB

RECEIVED
APR 4 1973
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
REGISTRATION DIVISION