

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH068 4139

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 8 1978

**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

Wayne County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Wayne County Courthouse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Between Main and South "A" Streets and Third and Fourth Streets

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

CODE  
018

COUNTY

Wayne

CODE

177

**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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Wayne County Commissioners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wayne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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		

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

The Wayne County Courthouse is a massive three-story building in the Richardsonian Romanesque style which dominates downtown Richmond. Measuring approximately 214' by 128', the courthouse is U-shaped with a very small rear court between the legs of the U. The facade is nearly symmetrical with a projecting entrance pavilion and an octagonal tower at the northeast corner. The foundations are of limestone with granite facing on the battered courses below the water table. The walls are brick with a veneer of Indiana limestone. The complex roof of hips and gables is steeply pitched and covered with asphalt tiles which replace the original slate. The roof is supported by a large and complex steel truss system exposed in the attic. The building has finely executed ornamental details including cushion and foliated Romanesque capitals, semicircular arches with massive voussoirs, corbel table friezes, and prominent wall dormers.

The interior is laid out around a central stairhall which rises from the basement to the ceiling of the third floor in an open well approximately 16' square. The wide stair from the first to the second floors has two straight runs with an intermediate landing. There are limestone risers, marble treads, and a heavy polished marble railing with large balusters. On the second floor the stair well is framed by polished red granite columns which support the arched walls of the well on the third floor. The skylight originally situated over the stair well is been blocked.

There are two secondary stair halls which provide access from the second floor to the third floor. Each of these originally had a skylight which is now blocked. Also in the core of the building are a light and air shaft on the south and an elevator shaft on the north.

On the first floor a north-south corridor with offices on each side extends through the building. On the second floor the corridor surrounds the central stair hall and office open off of it. On the third floor, the corridor is similar to that on the second floor but the east side is closed off by a court room. The basement, although not intended for office use, has been converted for that purpose.

Much of the interior decorative work remains in the building. Most of the golden oak and glazed tile fireplaces are still in place. Elaborate office counters can be seen in the treasurer's and auditor's offices. Although the original frescoes and light fixtures are gone, the art glass and much of the original furniture remain, and the court rooms preserve most of their elaborate paneling.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890-93

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

James McLaughlin

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wayne County Courthouse is one of the most imposing of Indiana's 19th C. courthouses and is a handsome example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style with its massively scaled rock-faced stone walls, large semicircular arches, and high-pitched roofs with large wall gables. It was designed by a prominent Midwestern architect, James McLaughlin of Cincinnati. McLaughlin designed many of Cincinnati's most important late 19th C. buildings including the courthouse, public library and art museum.

In a state which is noted for its fine county courthouses, this is one of the largest and most impressive. Built at a cost of over \$400,000, the courthouse was constructed of excellent materials and was embellished with a great deal of decorative hand work including art glass windows, wall frescoes, and wood and stone carving. Except for the frescoes, much of the interior decorative work remains intact.

The exterior of the building is impressive for the massive size of the individual stones in the veneer and their complex cutting and fine jointing. Although the courthouse is a largely monochromatic structure, there is a great play of textures which result from the rock-faced treatment of the veneer and the use of many moldings, inlays, and carvings.

Some of the original interior flavor has been lost through the removal of the fresco decorations, light fixtures, and some of the trim; however most of the fireplaces, much of the woodwork, and a great deal of the original furniture remain, giving a very good indication of the building's original appearance. The Wayne County Courthouse is one of the most impressive 19th C. governmental structures remaining in the Midwest.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hermanson, David, Indiana Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century, Muncie, 1968.  
History of Cincinnati and Hamilton Counties, Ohio, S.B. Nelson and Co., 1894, pp.893-4.  
 Kennedy, Mrs. James P. "The Wayne County Courthouse," typed paper in the Richmond, Indiana, Public Library, Feb. 1973.  
Record of the New Courthouse. Volume in the records of the Commissioners of Wayne Co. Richmond Evening Item, July 20, 1889, Jan. 29, 1890, March 20, 1893.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 179960 4410610  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C         

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*All #2, location - see 11-16-78*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Brueggmann, Field Team Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service

DATE

8/74

STREET & NUMBER

Earlham College

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Indiana

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE X 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8/1-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MONUMENTS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12-8-78

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10-9-78