

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH068 4139

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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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 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 VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____
STATE Indiana 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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		

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

PREHISTORIC
 1400-1499
 1500-1599
 1600-1699
 1700-1799
 1800-1899
 1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
 AGRICULTURE
 ARCHITECTURE
 ART
 COMMERCE
 COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING
 CONSERVATION
 ECONOMICS
 EDUCATION
 ENGINEERING
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
 INDUSTRY
 INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 LAW
 LITERATURE
 MILITARY
 MUSIC
 PHILOSOPHY
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION
 SCIENCE
 SCULPTURE
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 THEATER
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

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.

