

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 6 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Town Hall (Also Castle Hall)

and/or common Zionsville Town Hall

2. Location

street & number 65 East Cedar Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Zionsville N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Boone code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Old Zionsville Town Hall Partnership

street & number First Federal Building, 2138 E. 116th Street

city, town Carmel N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46032

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Boone County Courthouse

street & number 115 Courthouse Square

city, town Lebanon state Indiana 46052

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September, 1980/August, 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Zionsville Town Hall is a two story, 54' x 80', rectangular building of common bond (every eighth row on the north facade is coursed h-s-h-s-h-s-h) red brick with a distinctive corbie or step gable on the north facade (Photos 1, 2, and 3). The ground floor of the north facade has a large, 8' x 17' recessed rectangular entrance in the center with a pressed metal ceiling. The brick wall above the entrance is supported by two parallel iron I-beams decorated with rosettes. The firm name of "Jones and Laughlin" is stamped on the outside beam (see Significance). Two 4/4 light windows flank the main entrance. On the far left side is a single wooden entrance door which once led to public lavatories inside. On the far right side are double wooden doors which open into the staircase hall leading to the second floor. A second level of two 4/4 light windows originally illuminated an interior "mezzanine" level at the north end of the first floor. A final third level of three 1/1 light windows for the second floor interior completes the north facade fenestration. All the window and door openings have segmental double rowlock brick arches above and wooden lintels below. The north facade apparently did not have window shutters (see Photos 2 and 3) until the 1960's. The two original 1902 limestone dedication tablets survive—the lower inscription reads "TOWN HALL/1902/J.J. KNOX, HARRY McDANIEL/MILTON HUSSEY,/TRUSTEES." Rust from a metal grill installed for ventilation (after 1935) has stained the limestone. The upper inscription reads, "CASTLE HALL/K. OF P./LODGE NO. 251/A.D. 1902."

The east and west facades were altered in 1935 when the interior was remodeled for motion picture viewing. Double doors were cut into the center of the facades. Three windows of the west facade and four windows of the east facade were bricked up (date not determined—bricks easily removed). The exterior chimneys are original. The south facade (Photo 4) has three different service entrances. A step-down (now a ramp), single door entrance in the center leads to the basement. A double door, raised five feet above ground level, serves as a loading dock entrance for the stage area at the south end of the first floor. Roofed wooden stairs ascend to the second floor lodge entrance. Four rowlock segmental arch windows (all originally 1/1) at the second floor level complete the south elevation fenestration.

The single space first floor interior, although altered in 1935 when several posts were removed and a steel truss added to support the second floor, still has most of its original 1902 pressed metal ceiling. The mezzanine and stage areas have been subsequently altered several times after 1935. The second floor cove molding pressed metal ceilings (Photos 5, 6, and 7), also survive in good condition and are exceptionally high quality. The tin, linear, almost "Adamesque" designs are unusually ornate and complex. There are three different, but related patterns. Some wall stenciling (Photo 8) and much of the 1902 pine woodwork, trim, and doors (Photo 8) remain intact. Elaborate floral wallpaper with a Knights of Pythias crest (Photo 9) has been discovered under layers of later coverings.

Much of the original 1902 exterior and interior fabric of Zionsville Town Hall, then, remains. The building is unique to Boone County and is architecturally important both to Zionsville's local history and to the county's heritage, as well. It may be one of only a few large, multi-purpose town hall/lodge structures left in Indiana.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1902 Builder/~~Architect~~ J. F. Wild & Company

### Statement of Significance (~~in one paragraph~~)

Zionsville Town Hall is significant for its architecture and for its role as the seat of government in this central Indiana community for over 30 years. The building also has a long association with the local chapter of the Knights of Pythias, an international fraternal organization, and has also been used as a motion picture theater at various times over the last 80 years. The building's corbie, or stepped, gable on the north facade is unique in the county. One of the last remaining multi-functional town hall structures in the state, this was Zionsville's first town hall building and retained this role until 1935.

The building's origins date back to 1902, when the Zionsville Town Board accepted a citizens' petition to borrow \$2,500 in order to erect a town hall building. The Board contracted with the Knights of Pythias local lodge No. 251 to construct a two story, 52' x 80', brick masonry, town hall/lodge structure wherein the town would use the first floor as meeting rooms and offices for the town marshall and the Knights of Pythias would occupy the second floor as their lodge and "maintain the roof forever." J. F. Wild & Company was hired as builder. Twenty thousand bricks were purchased from B. F. Hendrick of Lebanon for \$7 per thousand. The final cost, however, was about double the initial \$2,500. The best interior details are the pressed metal ceilings (refer to Part 7: Description of Physical Appearance). The Zionsville Town Board has been the principal governing body of the town since official adoption of town by-laws in 1883, and has contributed continuously to the development of Zionsville for over 100 years. The list of elected Board members reads like a Zionsville "Who's Who", starting with J. W. Higgins, the first President of the Board, and J. J. Knox, Harry McDaniel, and Milton Hussey, who were the Trustees in 1902 when Town Hall building was erected. See The Zionsville Times article of November 2, 1961, entitled, "Town Board Mirrors Growth of Zionsville Community", for an in-depth, chronological history of the Town Board.

The contract between the Zionsville Town Board and the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 251 to construct and jointly occupy a sizable, multi-functional structure represents a significant cooperative venture intended to promote the social and humanitarian interests of Zionsville citizens. Many of the Town Board members also belonged to the Knights of Pythias. J. J. Knox, Harry McDaniel, and Milton Hussey, for example, were members of both in 1902. The Supreme Lodge of the Knights of Pythias of the World was organized on February 19, 1864, in Temperance Hall in Washington, D.C., as a men's society, although secret, whose "business and operations" were basically social and humanitarian, and whose ultimate purposes were friendship, benevolence, and charity. The letters F, B, and C appear in the emblematic crest floral wallpaper uncovered in the south room on the second floor. The first lodge of the Knights of Pythias in Indiana was organized on July 12, 1869, in Indianapolis, and was designated as Marion Lodge No. 1. Lodge No. 251, first organized in 1902 in Zionsville, was dedicated as Castle Hall (as were most Knights of Pythias lodges) on February 10, 1903. According to the Indiana Knights of Pythias constitution, each lodge was chartered "solely and only to disseminate the great principles of Friendship, Benevolence, and Charity," and were principled by toleration of religion, obedience to the law, and loyalty to government.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Indianapolis Star, July 5, 1964, Section 2, page 5

Lovell, Lois. History of Zionsville. J. C. Pamphlet. n.d.

Please see Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Zionsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	6	5	6	3	1	2	0	4	4	2	2	4	2	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** A part of Lots. No. 13 and 18 in Cross' Second Addition to the Town of Zionsville, Boone County, Indiana, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, page 63, in the Office of the Recorder of Boone County, Indiana, described as follows: (Please see Continuation Sheet)

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Samuel A. and Sheryl D. Roberson for  
Old Zionsville Town Hall Partnership

organization Old Zionsville Town Hall Partnership date September 11, 1982

street & number First Federal Building  
2138 East 116th Street telephone 317/844-0029

city or town Carmel state Indiana 46032

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 14, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Keoper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

6/9/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet Zionsville Town Hall

Item number 8

Page 1

The Lodge's constitutional principle of "loyalty to government" was, of course, interlocked with the Board's function of socially responsible government.

The building's association with the theater began less than a year after the structure was completed.

The first floor of Town Hall was rented soon after completion and income fees for the town were received from Columbia Vaudeville Company (November, 1903), Zionsville Dramatic Club (December, 1903), Goldy Wade's Imperial Lady Minstrels (January, 1904), among others. Early "Flickers" were shown. The interior was remodeled specifically for motion pictures in 1935. Current plans call for the renovation of the building for commercial and office use.

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Continuation sheet Zionsville Town Hall

Item number 9

Page 2

Zionsville Times, October 8, 1936, page 1.

Zionsville Times, March 28, 1963, page 1.

Zionsville Times, July 18, 1968, page 1

Zionsville Town Board Minutes, Zionsville Town Hall, July, 1902, through February, 1903.

History of Boone County, numerous authors, n.d.

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Continuation sheet Zionsville Town Hall

Item number 10

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Commencing at the northwest corner of said Lot No. 13 and running thence northeast on the north line of said Lot No. 13, 63 feet to a point, thence southeast parallel to the west line of said Lots. No. 13 and 18, 91 feet, thence southwest parallel to the north line of said Lot No. 13, 63 feet, more or less, to the west line of Lot No. 18, thence northwest on the west line of said Lots No. 13 and 18, 91 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning.