FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

[redacted]

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

1. Name

historic Dearborn County Courthouse

and/or common 029 - 347 - 31065

2. Location

street & number Corner of High & Mary Streets ___ not for publication

city, town Lawrenceburg ___ vicinity of congressional district 9th

state Indiana code 018 county Dearborn code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	X government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dearborn County Commissioners

street & number Dearborn County Courthouse

city, town Lawrenceburg ___ vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Dearborn County Courthouse

city, town Lawrenceburg state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NONE has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dearborn County Courthouse, located in the Courthouse Square near the Ohio River, is the most prominent public building in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Built in 1870 of pearl-gray limestone quarried at Elliottsville in Monroe County, Indiana, the Greek Revival structure combines the Corinthian order with round-arched openings to create a simple, yet imposing effect.

The ground level of the building is of dressed, rusticated limestone, with rectangular window openings and round arches at the entrances. The second - and third-story openings are combined in two-story rounded compound arches. The arches are separated by simple pilasters with stylized Corinthian capitals, all of dressed limestone. These pilasters support a full entablature with dentils and modillions along the cornice. The east and west sides of the building have eight bays each, with three of the center bays projecting slightly from the rest of the building and topped by a pediment. Almost all windows have six over six lights. All openings on the ground and second floors are rectangular, except for the round-arched entrances. Third-floor openings are round-arched.

The main facade faces the river to the south, and has five bays. The center three bays are sheltered by a monumental, pedimented portico. The four fluted columns stand atop pedestals, and have ornate Corinthian capitals. The main entrance is through an arched doorway. Modern aluminum doors have replaced the originals. Above the doorway is a stone balcony. This balcony is repeated above the entrance on the east side. The second and third story windows above the doorway are the same as all others on the building, except that they have eight over eight lights.

Many of the building's interior features have survived unchanged. The cast iron stairway and the dome and skylight are the most notable. Most offices have their original wooden doors, and six offices have iron doors and folding iron window shutters. Five rooms still have their original fireplaces, although some of the chimneys have been removed. The hallways retain their original high ceilings.

The second story's black and white marble floor is original. The second floor Circuit Court has been altered somewhat, but still has its original electric and gas chandeliers and stained glass windows. Much of the old furniture is still in use.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music		
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	X politics/government	___ transportation	
		___ invention		___ other (specify)	

Specific dates 1870-71 **Builder/Architect** George Kyle

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dearborn County Courthouse is architecturally significant as a well-preserved late example of the Greek Revival style as applied to a courthouse. It is also significant because it has served as Dearborn County's seat of government since its construction, and has thus been the center of the county's political life for over a century.

The Dearborn County Courthouse was designed by George Kyle, an architect from nearby Vevay who was also responsible for the Thomas T. Wright House (National Register, 12-10-80), and who collaborated with the reknowned Francis Costigan on the James Lanier mansion in Madison, and on the Schenck-Griffith House in Vevay.

The current Courthouse is the fourth building to serve the county in that capacity. The first was destroyed by fire, and the second was demolished to make room for this structure. The third was built in Wilmington when the county seat was moved there in 1835. During the construction of the present building, the county government and courts were temporarily moved into the Lawrenceburg Odd Fellows Hall. The contract was awarded for the cut stonework to Francis L. Farman of Indianapolis, and the remainder of the work to T. J. Shannon of Lawrenceburg.

The cornerstone was laid on April 13, 1871, amidst imposing ceremonies in the presence of five thousand spectators.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Counties, Indiana, From Their Earliest Settlement (Chicago: Weakley, Harraman, & Co., Publishers, 1885), p. 119-122.
Shaw, Archibald (ed.) History of Dearborn County, Indiana; Her People, Industries and Institutions(Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1915), p. 133 (photo facing)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately one acre

Quadrangle name Lawrenceburg, KY-Ind.-Ohio **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	685960	4328880
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded on the north by Catherine St., on the east by Mary St.,on the south by High St., and on the west by a line drawn parallel to Charlotte St., and 20 feet west of the west wall of the building.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Telford Walker

organization c/o Dearborn County Auditor's Office **date** July, 1977

street & number Dearborn County Courthouse **telephone** 812/537-1040

city or town Lawrenceburg **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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James M Rideroux

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 2/16/81

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

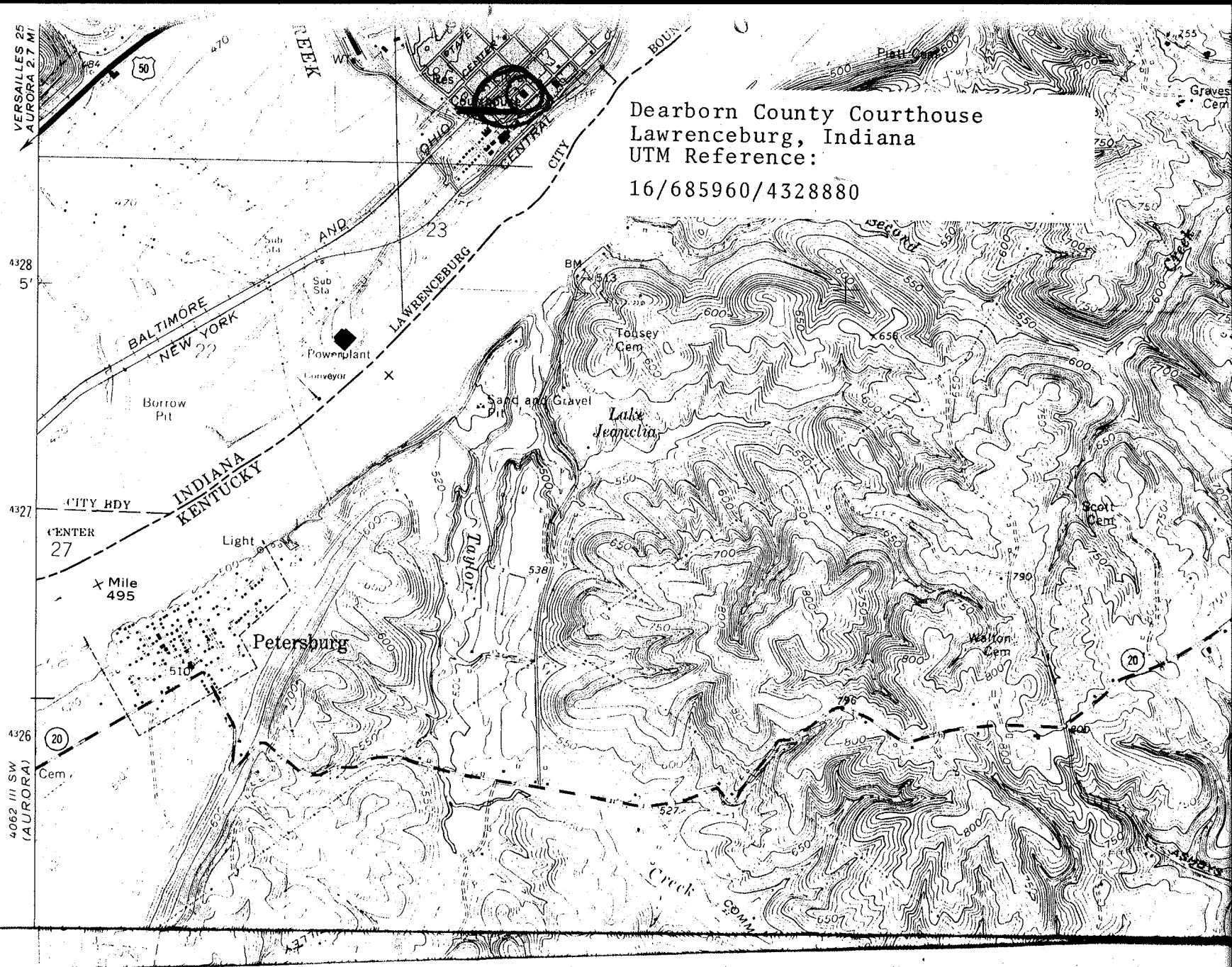
Keeper of the National Register

attest:

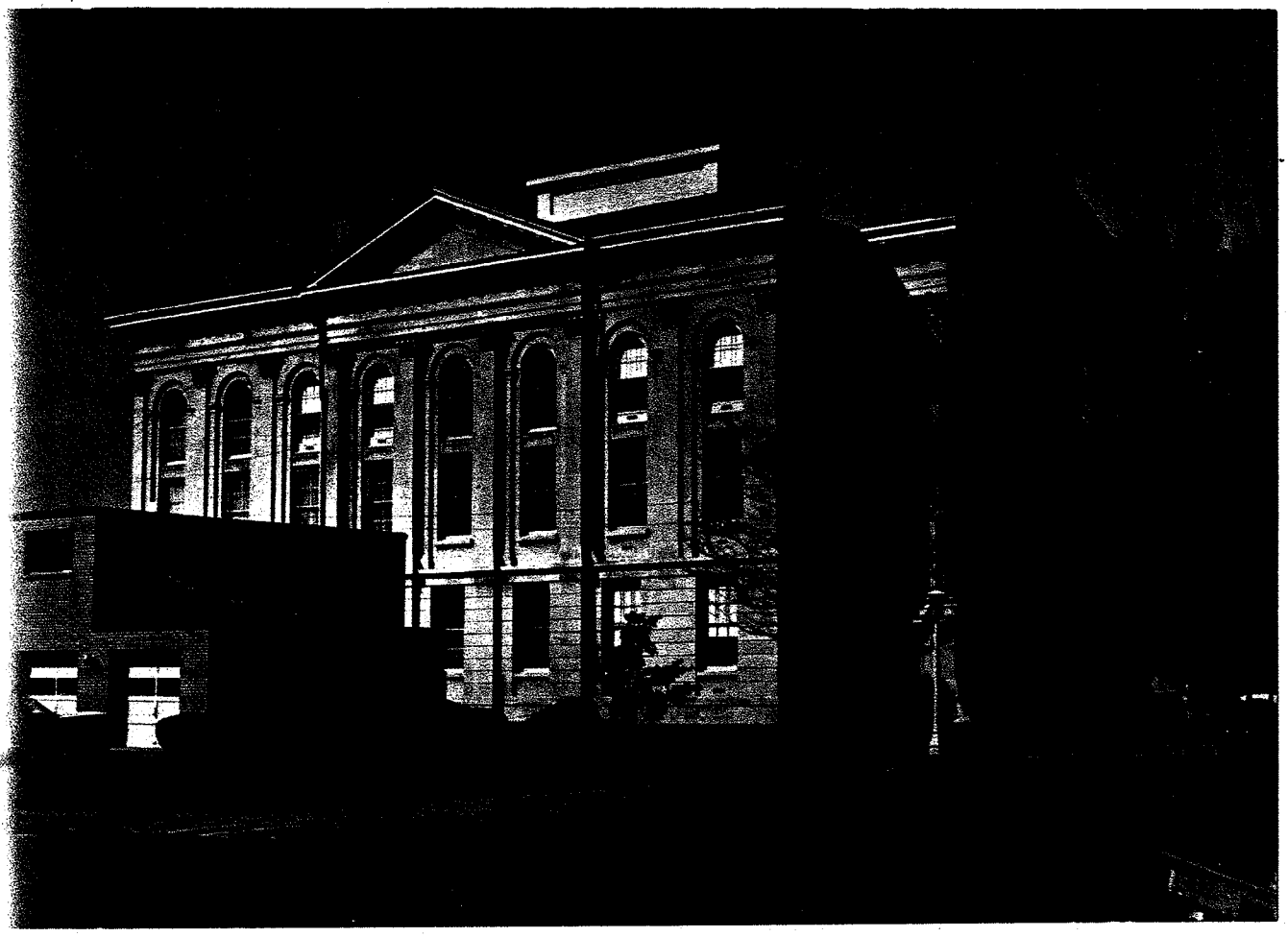
date

Chief of Registration

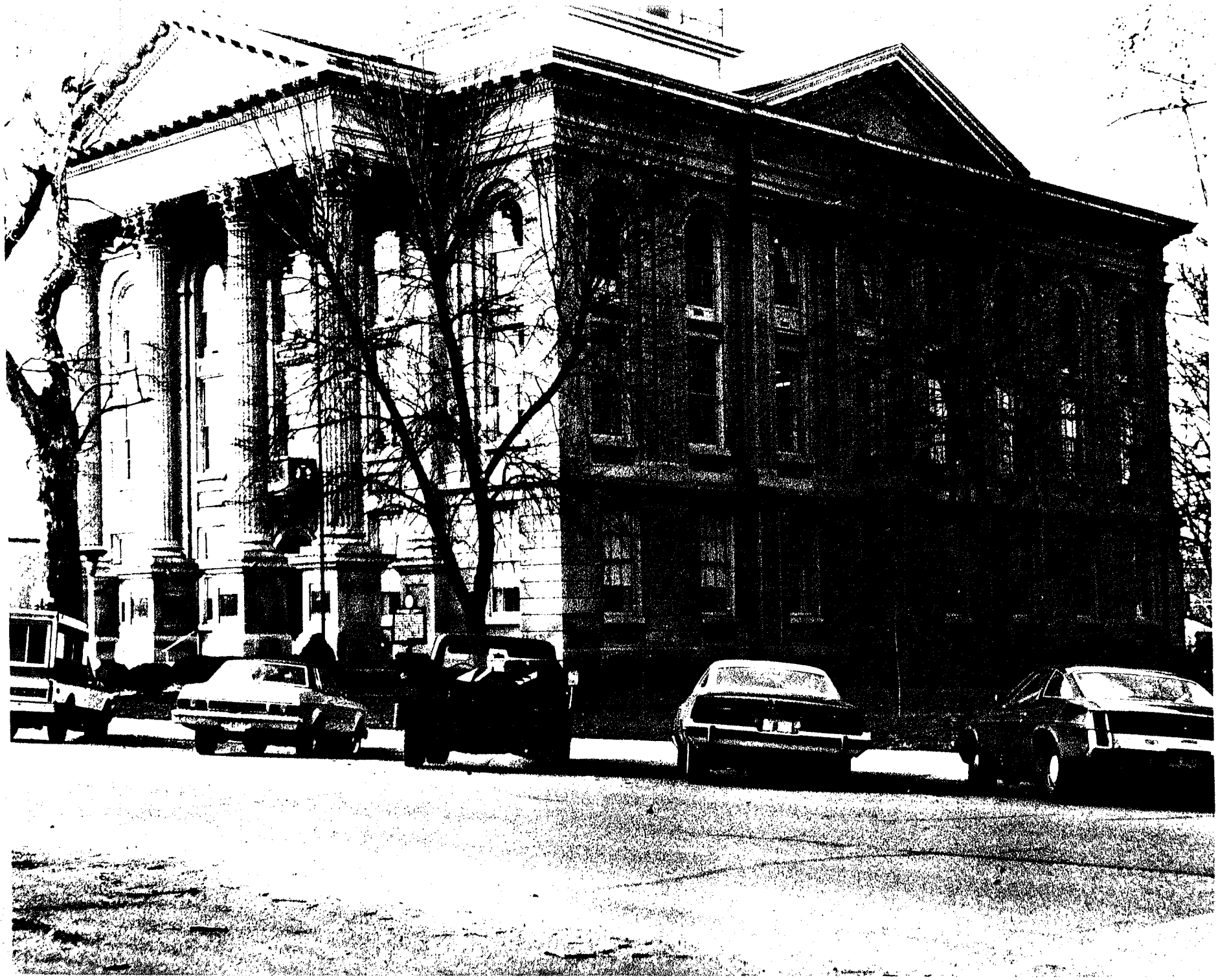
GPO 938 835



Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
UTM Reference:
16/685960/4328880



Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker 1977
Dearborn Co. Auditor's Office
South and west sides of building,
camera facing north
Photo #1 of 10



Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker January 18, 1978
Dearborn Co. Auditor's Office
South and east sides, camera facing
west
Photo #2 of 10

Dearborn Co. Court House
Jan 18, 1978
Front and Side View

Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker January 18, 1978
Dearborn Co. Auditor's Office
Main facade, camera facing northwest
Photo #3 of 10

Jan 18, 1978
Dearborn Co Court House
Front View

ASSESSOR
AND
SERVICE OFFICE
101

Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker January 18, 1978
Dearborn Co. Auditor's Office
Ceiling molding inside main door
Photo #4 of 10

Jan 18, 1978
Dearborn Co Court House
Ceiling on First Floor

RECORDER
102

Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker January 18, 1978
Dearborn Co. Auditor's Office
Interior-Iron fire doors
Photo # 5 of 10

Jan 18, 1978
Dearborn Co Court House
Original Iron Fire Doors

Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker January 18, 1978
Dearborn County Auditor's Office
Interior, fire doors, fireplace, and
iron window shutter
Photo #6 of 10

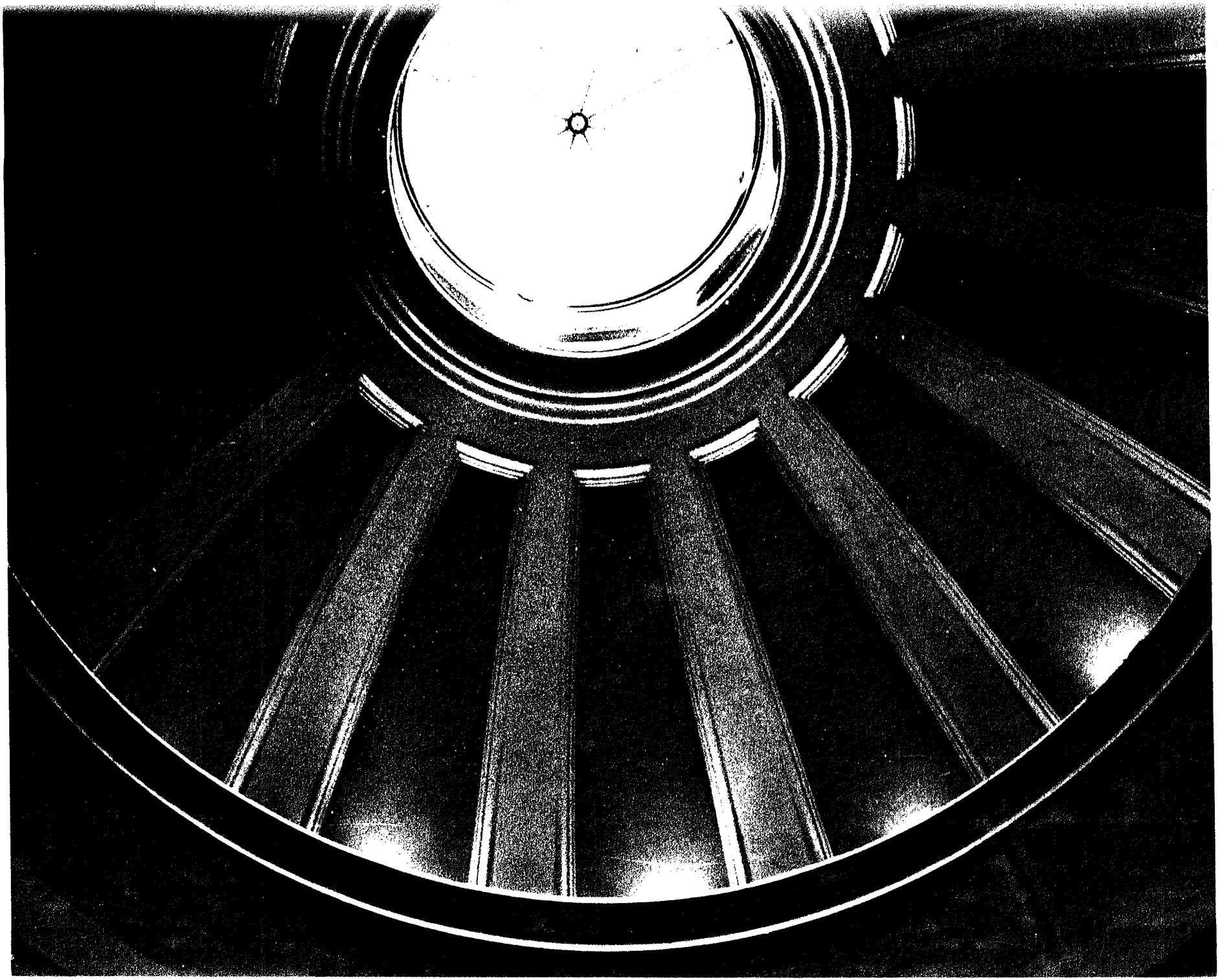
6 of 10

Jan 18, 1978
Dearborn Co Court House
Original Fireplace and Iron
Window Shutter

Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker January 18, 1978
Dearborn County Auditor's Office
Iron stairway
Photo #7 of 10

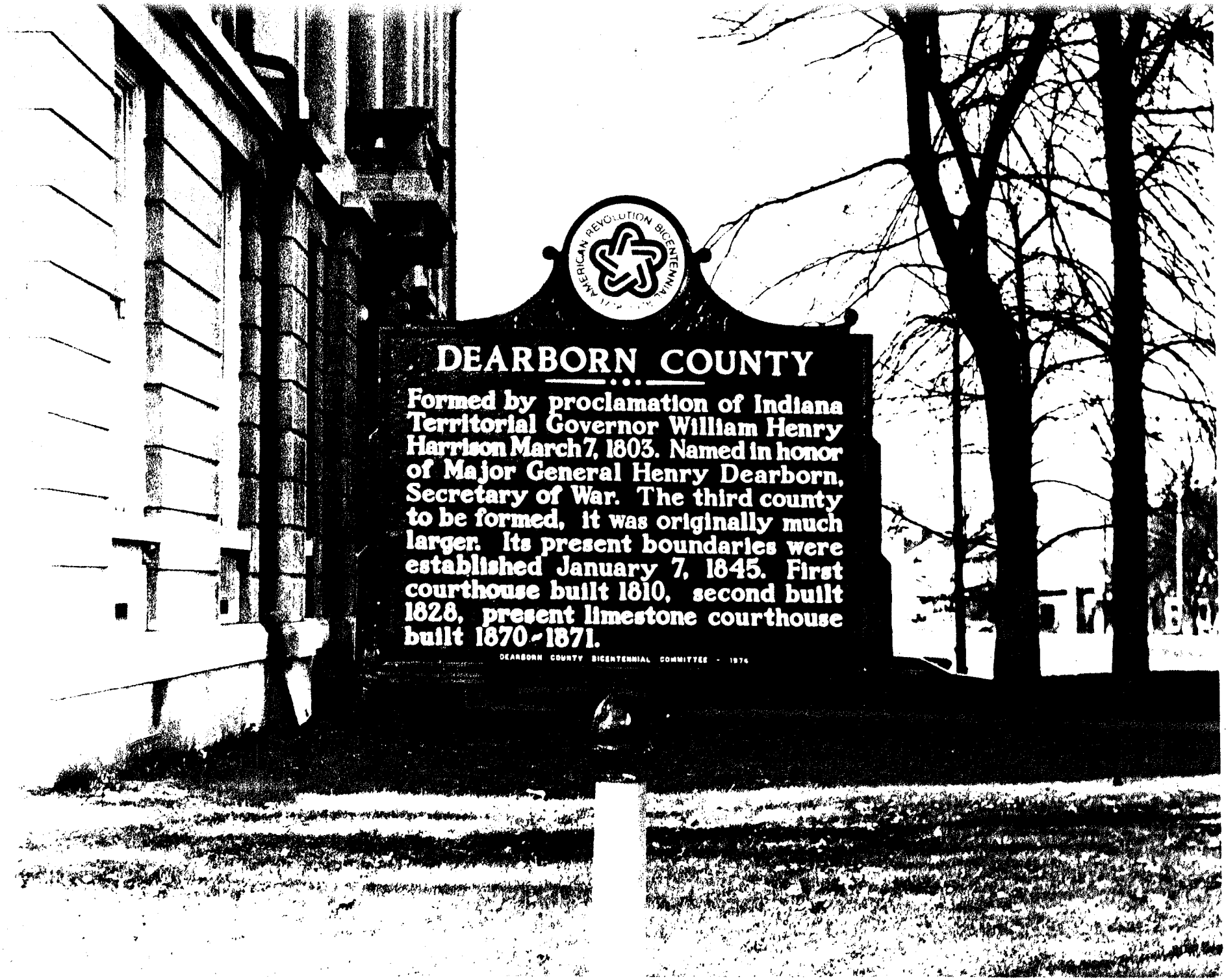
Jan 18 1978
Dearb Co Court House
Original CastIron Banistered Stairway

Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker January 18, 1978
Dearborn County Auditor's Office
Second floor courtroom
Photo #8 of 10



Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker January 18, 1978
Dearborn County Auditor's Office
Skylight and dome
Photo #9 of 10

Jan 18, 1978
Dearborn Co. Courthouse
Skylight and Dome


AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL
DEARBORN COUNTY
Formed by proclamation of Indiana Territorial Governor William Henry Harrison March 7, 1803. Named in honor of Major General Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War. The third county to be formed, it was originally much larger. Its present boundaries were established January 7, 1845. First courthouse built 1810, second built 1828, present limestone courthouse built 1870-1871.
DEARBORN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - 1976

Dearborn County Courthouse
Lawrenceburg, Indiana
Telford Walker January 18, 1978
Dearborn County Auditor's Office
Historical marker in front lawn
Photo #10 of 10

Jan 18, 1978
Dearborn Co Court House
Bicentennial Marker
In Yard