NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Greene County Courthouse

other names/site number 055-054-41021

2. Location

street & number Main & Washington Streets n/a ☐ not for publication

city or town Bloomfield n/a ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Greene code 055 zip code 47424

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☑ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be consider significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James O. [signature] 8/6/2008

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

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☐ other, (explain:)

Greene County Courthouse
Name of Property

Greene County, IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☑ public-local
- ☐ public-state
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☑ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
5	1	objects
6	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE:Limestone
walls BRICK
STONE: Limestone
roof ASPHALT
other GLASS

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more sheets.)
See continuation pages.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- ☑ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significant within the past 50 years.

Areas of significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1885 - 1958

Significant Dates

1885

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Bunting, George

McKay & Bushman

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination if individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☑ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

_____

Greene County Courthouse
Name of Property

Greene County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References Bloomfield Quad, USGS 7.5 Minute Series.
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	505370	4319480
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille B. Fife

organization The Westerly Group, Inc. date January 2008

street & number 225 East Main Street telephone (812) 273-8826

city or town Madison state IN zip code 47250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Greene County Commissioners

street & number Courthouse telephone

city or town Bloomfield state IN zip code 47424

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Section 7. Description

Summary

The Greene County Courthouse is located in the traditional courthouse square, formed by the junction of South Washington Avenue, East Main, South Franklin and East Spring Streets in Bloomfield, Indiana. The Courthouse square is the dividing point for east-west and north-south streets. Main Street divides the streets which run in a north-south direction and Franklin Street is the dividing point for streets running east and west. Main Street is also the busy highway, State Road 54. In addition, U. S. Highway 231 enters the town from the west along Main Street and turns south along South Washington at the courthouse square. Thus, Bloomfield is at the center of two major transportation arteries within south central Indiana. It is a busy square, with considerable traffic crossing both ways.

The Courthouse is a three story brick and limestone building, with a new addition added on the south side. The new addition is just being completed in 2008. The original Courthouse was designed by George W. Bunting in the Neo-Classical style. The building is imposing within the commercial district of the Courthouse square, standing taller than most. The limestone faced clock tower on the north side of the building stands out amidst its environment. The building has seen changes over time, including the loss of its original bell tower and four square corner turrets. In addition, interior renovations have changed nearly all of the interior wall and floor surfaces. Nonetheless, the property retains adequate integrity to convey the intent of its original design, especially through exterior elements and in its construction, location, structural materials, feeling and association.

Description

The Greene County Courthouse is a massive building, rising three stories. The original building, constructed in 1885-1886, measured approximately 112 by 77 feet. It is an impressive public building, which conveys a sense of purpose to the small community of Bloomfield. The setting of the building, within the courthouse square, is very symmetrical. The square is at the hub of the downtown commercial district, which in turn is surrounded by residential buildings. Immediately around the square, commercial buildings form a typical small town shopping area.

The square itself is a Shelbyville square, one of the most common of the types found in Indiana. According to Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, it is found in 79 of the 92 counties in Indiana. The name is derived from Shelbyville, Tennessee, where it was developed in the early 1800s. [1] The notion of an open central square in the middle of a town dates back to medieval Europe, especially Germany and Poland. With Indiana's large German immigrant

[1] Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, "About Courthouse Squares", Courts in the Classroom, internet virtual tour: www.in.gov/judiciary/citc/museum/virtual-tours/courthouse squares. 12/26/2007.

population, it is not surprising to find this feature in many of its small towns.[2] Bloomfield's courthouse square falls into this ancient pattern and still retains the sense of community place which it was intended to convey.

The Courthouse dominates the square, located in the north central part of the site. As of 2007, a new addition has been added to the south side of the original building. This is the secondary entrance of the original building, so the architectural symmetry and features of the original main entrance remain. The square has been disrupted by the construction work for several years, but this did not affect the northern half of the square and the southern part is being landscaped and completed at this time. On the northern half, grass and trees provide a respite from the brick, stone asphalt and concrete of the balance of the square. These include deciduous trees in graceful groupings in the quadrants on the north east and north west sections, as well as benches.

Bounded by East Main Street on the north and South Washington Street on the east, the north east quadrant contains two artillery pieces, c. 1945 and a bell c. 1886. Two additional artillery are located on the west half of the square, one in the north west quadrant adjacent to a memorial. The other is presently located in the south west quadrant of the western half. The memorial on the lawn in the north west part of the square consists of two granite pylons, with an engraved stela or commemorative tablet at the center. The object is enclosed by a wrought iron black fence. Erected in honor of Greene County's fallen veterans from several conflicts including Korea, World War II, Vietnam and Iraq/Desert Storm, the memorial was dedicated in 1989. The bell was once located at the top of the north tower of the Courthouse, above the clock. During the extensive remodeling which occurred in 1954, the upper part of the tower was removed and the bell stored in the attic. It weighs approximately 2,000 pounds and is about 48 inches tall and more than 42 inches in circumference. It was purchased from McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore, Maryland in 1886.

Evidently the architect of the Courthouse, George Bunting, had a hand in selecting and purchasing the bell, since his name, along with the county commissioners is engraved on its surface. In January of 2007, Jim Corey, the project manager for the construction of the addition and other remodeling activities, had the bell relocated from the attic to the courthouse grounds.[3] It is displayed today on a concrete plinth in this corner of the courthouse square (See Photo No. 12).

The Courthouse is generally rectangular in plan, with slight protrusions at the four corners and a projection at front. It has a rock-faced and rusticated limestone foundation which consists of coursed stone, seven courses of which are above grade on the ground floor. There is a projecting course capping this stone which is dressed and which has a raked course below. On the north or front elevation, this course is demarked by a pediment which forms the head of an opening (See Photo 01). This same detail is repeated on the east and west elevations. Above the stone, the brick

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[2] Edward T. Price, "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat", *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture.* Ed. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986, P. 125 (quoted in HLFI, "Courthouse Squares").

[3] Greene County, "Greene County Courthouse, Courthouse Bell", www.greenecountyindiana.com/attractions/greene_county_courthouse/78, 12/26/2007.

walls are laid in a stretcher bond. An interesting detail in the masonry is the use of black, decorative bricks as a belt course which is even with the sills of the windows on the first floor, thus unifying this element horizontally across the façade. This feature is repeated at the level of the window openings and again at the center of the large stone lintels. On the second floor, the band of black brick is only found on the pilasters, below the capital supporting the springing arches of the round-arched windows. The third floor walls are marked by horizontal belt courses of limestone in the brick. There are no windows on the third floor in the original building. However, the ground, first, second and third floors are very obvious in the new addition (See Photos No. 03 and 04). As shown in the interior photographs, each of these floors in the new addition continues through into the original building at the same level (See Photos No. 15, 28, 29, 30.) The connection between the two buildings is marked by a metal relieving joint in the floor and walls.

The fenestration on the east side of the original building is ornate and conveys the Neo-classical design intent of the architect. The east elevation includes many features common to the building as a whole. Most of the windows in the long elevation of the ground floor are square and contain four lights. They are placed within the foundation wall and contain a single, rock-faced stone as both lintel and sill. Those within the projecting corner bays (which step out twice) are one-over one with a similar lintel and sill. On the south east projecting corner, the four light window contains a pedimented stone head, at the level of the horizontal belt course, a raked course and three-part dressed lintel with label molds. The windows on the first floor, in the main part of the building are paired, one/over/one lights. In the projecting corners there are single one/over/one light windows. Their sills are of simple, dressed limestone. The lintels are oversize, dressed, with miniature pyramidions decorating the label stops. Above the lintels, a course of limestone molding unifies the tops of the windows on this floor (See Photos No. 01, 02, 07, 12).

There is a plaque on the projecting north east corner. It is in the form of a rectangular tablet, of limestone, resting above the molded limestone course at the first floor line on a stone cornice above the belt course. The tablet has a pediment at the head, with half-anthemia at the left and right upper corners. It is decorated in the center of the pediment by a floral rosette similar to those on the entry piers and by carved floral designs in the central part of the plaque. There, under the incised date, "1885" are the carved names of the County Commissioners: Moses Crockett, John Miller, Jr. and Robert T. McKee, along with the Architect, George W. Bunting and the Contractors, McKay and Bushman.

There are five bays in the fenestration on the center, or main part of the second/third floor. These windows are decorated with a round-arched fan light at their heads. The crown of the arch is decorated with limestone voussoirs, all approximately the same size. Those on the four northernmost windows are rock-faced and the ones on the southern window are dressed limestone. The arches spring from pilasters topped with limestone capitals , each decorated with a frieze of four plain paterae. A projecting stone molding completes the capital on the brick pilaster which also has a dressed stone base. On this floor, the windows in the first projecting bays, adjacent to the central section are paired. The double limestone surrounds are topped by a unifying projecting molding.

Within the surround, a flat lintel above each one/over/one window defines the opening. The sills are comprised of dressed limestone. At the southernmost part of the projecting bay, a single, one/over/one light window is surrounded by a round-arched feature which is a repeat of those in the central section at this level. However, this window is also framed by a corbelled brick round-arch which fills in the extra space, along with a flat, dressed band. The matching window space on the northernmost projecting bay of this elevation is infilled with brick, since this space once contained the main courtroom. The windows on this level also serve as lights for the present third floor. A dropped ceiling has been installed at the point where the round-arched fan light begins. This is evident in the photograph taken in the attic space on the third floor where all of the fan light windows can be seen (See Photo No. 27). Only the spaces in the south projecting wing of the building are presently used on the third floor. The original court room, now represented by the attic space, once took up what is now the northern part of the second and third floors. The courtroom, with its high round-arched windows and decorative cove molding, must have been an impressive, if impractical space. Access to the original offices was possible (and still is) through the stairs at the southern part of the building (See third floor plan). The changes to the interior of all of the floors, and especially the abandonment of the original courtroom were all part of a massive remodeling which took place over fifty years ago. This remodeling occurred in 1954, and was the work of Jay C. Bixby of Vincennes. Interestingly enough, Mr. Bixby was a partner of John B. Bayard, a well-known architect who also designed the nearby Sullivan County Courthouse. Bayard died in 1933.

The western elevations of the original building, and the new annex, are extremely similar to the eastern facades. The ground floor is below ground, with square, four-light fixed windows in the main elevation (5 bays) as well as the two slightly projecting blocks adjacent to the corners. As on the east side, there is a pedimented tablet, here located in the southern corner, but this one is not inscribed. The first floor windows, like those on the east side have heavy, flat limestone heads. The second floor windows (which also serve the third floor, as the courtroom once encompassed both) are round-arched with the same ornate fan-lights and limestone surrounds. On this side, the new addition has an aluminum and glass window wall which links the old and new buildings. The delineation of the floors is clear from the fenestration on the main part of the annex. This is comprised of square windows contained within limestone surrounds, grouped together with three windows and a stone blank to make a quadruple composite. The windows on each floor to the south of this grouping are tripartite with the same wide limestone surrounds. (See Photos No. 06, 07, and 08.)

The front or north façade of the building is more ornate, as befits the main entrance to the courthouse. The original clock tower was truncated and re-faced in dressed limestone during the 1954 remodeling. The front elevation of the Greene County Courthouse retains all of the features and details in the walls, fenestration and stairs, with the exception of the turrets and tower. These features include the square, four-light windows on the ground floor and pedimented limestone surrounds on the windows at the north and south bays. The fenestration on the first floor includes paired, flat, limestone surrounded windows immediately flanking the projecting entrance bay. These

have the same, flat stone surrounds as those on the east and west elevations (See Photos No. 09 & 11) . All of the same fenestration detailing continues from the side elevations to adorn the front second/third floor windows. The surrounds in this case are of the more formal dressed, rather than rock-faced limestone. The upper limestone bands also continue on the front façade. The panels surrounding the fan-light windows which flank the projecting entry bay include half brick pilasters, capped with limestone capitals, as additional decoration.

The main entry, facing E. Main Street, projects from the building and contains the stair, the entry door, the second floor windows and the base of the present tower (See Photo No. 09). The stairs are supported by rock faced, course limestone and lead up to a preliminary entry. The actual door is deeply recessed behind stepped brick pilasters and a massive limestone lintel. The second "layer: pilasters have a modified egg and dart molding for their capitals. The brick piers flanking the steps are topped by limestone caps, with carved rosettes. This detail is also found in the interior, first floor, where the original entry piers are retained in the new addition (See Photos No. 16 & 17). The rosettes are slightly different, one carved with a leaf, the other with a floral design.

The decorative belt course of limestone molding which separates the first and second floor levels is crowned at the entry with slightly pedimented mock capitals. Above this, a limestone cornice serves as a base to the double, stepped pilasters at the second floor level. These frame the centermost second story windows, which consist of three, one/over/one narrow windows and three individual lights in the transom area. All of these elements are framed by decorative limestone, which also serves to separate the individual windows. At the top of this element, serving as capitals for the stepped pilasters, are modified Corinthian capitals, decorated with acanthus leaves with anthemia at the centers. These capitals support a wide frieze of limestone, with cornice and a second large band below the clock tower (See Photo No.09).

The main entry at the south of the building, now covered by the new addition, reveals similar detailing on the third and first floors, (See Photos No. 16, 17, 29, & 30) however the capitals on the third floor are decorated more chastely with an egg and dart molding.

Interiors of the Original Building

All of the windows and doors in the original building have been replaced by modern windows, in the original openings. The remodeling in the 1950s also added new terrazzo floors in hallways and possibly new treads on the stairs. Interior walls were changed and refinished during this time and again with the current remodeling. The existing condition of the interiors of the original building includes a central hall, the configuration of which is original, on the ground, first and second floor. The third floor, which contains the attic also contains a central hall, truncated by the attic, or original upper wall of the earlier courtroom. Like the other floors, this is nearly the original configuration. Movement between the first, second and third floors, at least since the 1954 remodeling is accomplished through the stairs on the east and west side of the building immediately behind the south entry. Terrazo floors in green and yellow in this area probably date to the remodeling. In

addition elevators are available for the general public on all floors in two locations, one in the original building and the second in the new addition (See Sketch plans).

The ground floor in the original building still retains the arched openings which were present in the original basement or ground floor. The floors on this level have been raised approximately 5 feet from the original surface which was dirt or brick. They are presently concrete with modern asphalt tile (See Photo No. 15). The ground floor also contains a large meeting room for the County Commissioners, an archiving room, men's and women's bathrooms, additional offices, closets, storage, furnace and maintenance rooms. This floor also contains a stair within the original building that connects the first and ground floors only. The first floor in the original building contains the central hall, previously mentioned, as well as the original lobby which served the main or north entrance. The door is permanently locked now, preventing access from this entry. There is also a small side stair on the north west side of the lobby which connects to the second floor from this area. Offices flanking the central hall include the Recorder, Auditor, Assessor and Treasurer. The interior finishes, counters and wood work in these offices are all modern. A typical interior is shown in Photo No. 20, taken in the Treasurer's office.

The second floor interior also features the central hall, but it has been narrowed toward the north side of the building to accommodate additional offices (See Photo No. 24). Like the other floors, new finishes and some additional walls have subdivided the spaces, providing many more offices than originally designed. This floor contains Offices of the Clerk, and the Prosecutor, as well as several conference rooms, waiting rooms and smaller secondary offices. The third floor of the original building, as mentioned before, contains a large attic space which reflects the size of the original courtroom. At the time of construction this was probably the only courtroom needed. Today, taking into account the original building and the addition, there will be three courtrooms. In addition, the third floor contains offices for county planning, public defender, as well as other county offices.

The new addition

The new addition, nearing completion, is modern in design, and utilizes similar materials as the original building, including brick and limestone. It is a rectangular, four story building with flat roof. The addition is connected to the original building through a glass and aluminum wing which is similar in height to the balance of the addition. The foundation of the addition is concrete, clad in dressed, coursed limestone up to the same level as the original building. The entrance to the addition is now the main entrance to the courthouse and consists of a limestone canopy with a modified pediment roof. This leads to a glass foyer which contains modern security screening equipment and offices for security personnel. The entrance is on the ground floor (See Photos No. 3 & 4). The windows within the aluminum wing are 5-bay, narrow two-light, with aluminum frames. They form a window wall for the hall which occurs in the building on all floors at this point, running east and west. The southern portion of the addition also contains a two story utility wing with the same finish as the balance of the building.

The windows on the addition are set within the brick wall in groups of four, three and two, with massive limestone lintels. Above the fourth floor, all elevations have an extremely wide limestone frieze topped with a limestone cornice serving as a cap. The windows in the utility wing are all blocked, as are some of the windows on the south elevation (See Photos 5 & 6). The south elevation walls follow the design of the east and west elevations, except that all of the windows are blocked except those on the east side of the elevation. In addition, the western side of the addition has two bays of blocked windows. The aluminum and glass wing connecting the two buildings is also visible from the west side of the building.

Interiors of the new addition

The interiors within the new addition have the same finishes as the original building and are all new. The ground floor interior contains, as previously mentioned, the security facilities for the building. It also contains the second public elevator, offices for general administration, the sheriff and several holding cells as well as mechanical and break rooms. There is an additional stair and elevator at the south west corner. The first floor interior contains a courtroom (presently unfinished), offices for probation and other services, judges chambers and various bathroom facilities for these offices. In addition there are additional public restrooms, a break room and staff offices, as well as the public and private elevators (See Photo No.14). The floors in the hallway in front of the court rooms on several floors contains the distinctive star design in modern composition tile which is shown in this photograph.

The second floor of the new addition follows a similar floor plan, (See Photos 22 – 25) with a central corridor, off which are placed offices and the Superior Court Room. The woodwork both on the entrance doors and the interior of this courtroom is the same for both of the completed court rooms on the second and third floor. A sample interior can be seen in Photo No. 25. In addition the floor contains a judge's office, staff offices, jury room and public rest rooms. The third floor of the new addition (Photos No. 26 – 30) contains the Circuit Courtroom, as well as a complement of offices connected with this activity, similar to the second floor. These include public and private rest rooms, jury room, break room, and the elevators, and stairs which connect to the other floors.

Chronology

The Greene County Courthouse has undergone several transitions, especially in its interior, since its construction in 1885. This is not surprising, since the population and county needs have changed considerably in the more than 122 years since its construction. Little information is available concerning changes to the courthouse from 1885 to 1954, however, the latter remodeling was responsible for many of those which are apparent today.

Some deterioration is visible in a photograph probably dating to the third decade of the 20th century, including the lowering of the two chimneys on the south side adjacent to the pediment. In addition, the roof of the bell/clock tower appears to be stained and may be leaking.

A postcard, probably dating from the turn of the century shows no such deterioration. In addition, there are six prominent chimneys, and the hipped roof above the third floor has cresting at the roof line. This possibly contained a skylight to illuminate the offices and courtroom on the third floor. An additional early photograph, probably about 1915 shows a pristine tower, but the trees are in leaf and obscure most of the building details. (See historic photos)

The remodeling which was begun in 1954 was initiated because of an accident which had occurred two years before, according to a newspaper article in July of 1952. Bricks began falling from the tower on the north east side of the courthouse, just missing passersby. In addition, a four or five foot section of the parapet wall fell to the ground. This motivated the County Commissioners to remove the towers, and upper portions of the third floor, install a new roof and make additional changes. The remodeling provided a new roof, replacing the former slate. The tower was reduced to its present size and faced with limestone. According to a contemporary account, iron beams were added (these are visible in the present attic), ceilings lowered and the wooden floors replaced with fire-proof materials. These are certainly the terrazzo floors presently found in parts of the original building, including the stair area on the south side. As previously mentioned, at this time the large courtroom which encompassed parts of the second and third floors was remodeled. Fluorescent lights were installed, new bathrooms as well as acoustical ceilings, walls and new furniture and fixtures.[4]

This 1954 remodeling, which was completed under the guidance of architect Bixby of Vincennes completed the major changes which occurred in the building. [5]

Since that time, two additional phases have occurred, a transitional phase and the present configuration. For the most part, with the exception of major changes in structural supports and floors in the ground floor, this has meant relatively minor relocations of offices and functions within the original building. The exceptions are the courtrooms. There were two after the 1954 remodeling: A circuit court on the second floor and a smaller superior court on the third floor in the area south of the present attic. These have both been moved to the new addition and their spaces reallocated to other functions. In addition, a third court room has been planned for the new

[4] Undated collection of articles, c. 1955, in a scrapbook collection at the Greene County Historical Society.
[5] Information from Drawings & documents archive, Ball State College of Architecture, Inventory of the J. C. Bixby collection as of January 9, 2008. 26 working drawings are noted, along with supplemental materials, specifications, etc.

addition. These changes occurred in two phases, to maintain as much function during construction as possible and included temporary relocation of some activities. [6]

Integrity

With the changes described above, naturally, the question of integrity looms large in this consideration. According to an online tour, prepared by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Greene County Commissioners debated the fate of the courthouse in the 1990s, but decided to retain the original building. According to this source, although the towers and turrets are gone, the building is an important example of the work of George Bunting, a key Indianapolis architect of the period. Bunting's work included many courthouses within the region and elsewhere. It maintains elements of its original classically–inspired design – adequate to convey the intent of the architect. [7] It also maintains integrity of location. Further, there has been a courthouse at this spot since 1824, a fact of pride for the local community.[8]

Materials too, can be pointed out, and workmanship, especially in the high quality of the carved limestone detailing on the exterior. Although some of the buildings around the square have been lost, the remaining are adequate to establish integrity of setting and the square itself retains a similar status. Feeling may have been lost in part, but most importantly, the building deserves to be nominated to the National Register for its association with local government over a long period of time and for the continued importance of this structure in that regard.

In the final analysis, the courthouse retains enough of its setting, massing, and exterior to convey its real and symbolic significance as the seat of Greene County.

[6] Construction phasing drawings prepared by United Consulting Engineers & Architects and DLZ, both of Indianapolis. In the offices of the Greene County Building Corporation project manager, January, 2008.
[7] Online Tour of Greene County Courthouse, www.in.gov.judiciary/ipix/greene, December, 2007.
[8] Undated articles, Greene County Historical Society.

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Summary

The Greene County Courthouse is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with local history and government, specifically the development of Greene County, its evolving local government and the natural resources which enabled it to prosper. Its significance is strongly tied to the economic life of the community, especially during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth. Bloomfield, like many other communities within south central Indiana, developed later than those located along rivers. They relied on extractive industries, railroad connections and the surrounding agricultural economy for their livelihood.

The Courthouse is also associated with one of the most prolific and well-known architects in Indiana during this period. George W. Bunting designed many such buildings in the state, as well as working in Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. Tennessee, West Virginia and Kansas are the most far-flung states with examples of his work. Today there are only six remaining courthouses in Indiana designed by Bunting.

Statement

Greene County, the third largest in the state of Indiana, was organized in 1821. The land was separated from parts of what was then Knox and Orange County.[9] Some parts of Sullivan County were also involved. Located in the central part of the state, settlement was sparse during the early decades of the nineteenth century. During that time, the Ohio and Wabash River and their tributaries served as the best transportation venues. Wooded lands covered most of the ground and travel was tortuous at best. Visitors to the territory in 1813 had to travel by pirogue down the Wabash River, to the White River, then up the White to the west fork and via the West Fork to a point above the mouth of Richland Creek. Using this route, they would arrive in present day Greene County, landing on the east side of the West Fork of the White River south of Bloomfield. [10] Thus, it is not surprising that this part of the state took several decades longer to become settled, compared to areas along the Ohio River farther to the south.

Greene County is blessed with an interesting variety of topography, from scenic hills to fertile bottomlands. Much of this is due to the action of the West Fork of the White River which passes through the center of the county, just west of Bloomfield from a point slightly south west of

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[9] Greene County, Indiana, Historical Society, *History of Greene County, Indiana, 1885-1989.* Dallas, TX: Taylor publishing Co. 1990, p.5.

[10] Goodspeed Bros., *History of Greene and Sullivan Counties,* Chicago, IL: Goodspeed Bros. & Co., 1884, p. 26.

center at the Knox County line to a point just east of the center of the county on the Owen County line. This large waterway gathers drainage from numerous streams throughout the county. Its proximity to Bloomfield was an asset to settlement in the early decades of the nineteenth century. In addition, east of Bloomfield, along present day SR 54, one encounters a high ridge which served as a stage route connecting Greene County to Terre Haute on the Wabash River. However, this route was said to have entered the county from the east at Hobbieville, near the Lawrence County line, following the ridge up to Ridgeport, then westward, and ultimately northward to Worthington, bypassing Bloomfield.[11] Today, SR 54 is a major east-west thoroughfare through the county and a route for travelers from points east and west of Bloomfield.

The political history of the county begins in 1818, with an act to convene for the formation. This took place at the house of Thomas Bradford in present day Greene County. Mr. Bradford was an early settler, living in the vicinity of present day Bloomfield. The conveners were required make some serious commitments to the growth of the new county. They would be expected to erect a courthouse and other public buildings in the new county seat, at their own expense, within twelve months of its selection. They would have to support a county library, with 10% of funds donated from the sale of lands. All of this would take effect after the act forming the new county was published in the Western Sun, then the only newspaper in the region. This auspicious event took place early in 1821.

In March of that year, the commissioners met, having been authorized to select a site for the new county seat. Land donated by Thomas Bradford, Frederick Shepard, Zebulon Hogue and others was received. The site selected was several miles from present day Bloomfield, on a bluff which came down to the White River. [12] By April, the county had been divided into five townships (today there are fifteen), and the necessary officers appointed. The board appointed James Galletly to survey the land for the county seat. He was also charged to plat streets and lots from the land donated by the citizens. They determined to call this town Burlington. James Galletly was " a Scotchman of superior intelligence and learning, and an eminent surveyor, who became well known in many of the western counties of Indiana..." He was hired to survey many public lands in the region. [13] From the first, the residents of Greene County wanted the best for their county, which they had named after General Nathaniel Greene, a prominent Revolutionary War hero. [14]

Thomas Bradford continued to play a major role in this early development. He was appointed to procure a seal for the county with a design containing a heart surrounded by an olive branch. In January of 1821 he had been deemed a "fitten character" to become the county's first sheriff and he also acted as clerk for the first few months. He continued to allow the use of his home for county board meetings through November, when the board advertised for the

[11] *History of Greene County, 1885-1989, p. 5*
[12] Goodspeed, p. 37.
[13] Ibid, p.39
[14] Unpublished mss, collection of the Greene County Historical Society.

construction of a court house. By early the following year a well had been dug, lots sold and land for the courthouse square cleared. Thomas Bradford, along with two others, J. Howell and Z. Jenkins built this new court house for $250. By February of 1823, the court house was being finished, but trouble was already in the air. The well dug the year before at considerable public cost failed to give satisfactory returns. This, along with other concerns caused local citizens to appeal to the legislature for a relocation. By the end of 1823, this act had been approved and commissioners appointed for the re-location.[15] Burlington had barely time to warm their judge's bench before it would be abandoned for a site favored by a luxurious supply of good, clean water.

Several towns vied for the honor. All appeared to have a good supply of water. Fair Play, a town on the west bank of the White River and Jonesborough (now Hobbieville), appealed to the commissioners for the honor. But Bloomfield had more than just water to sway their decision. An enterprising and extremely successful businessman, Peter Cornelius VanSlyke rushed in with a donation of 62 acres of high ground, plus a "substantial amount of money". [16] Neither of the other communities could match his offer.

VanSlyke was vastly successful in the frontier that was early nineteenth century Greene County. He was born in upstate New York in 1766, on a farm in Schenectady County. The farmland was said to be similar to the rich bottom land along the White River that he purchased in 1816. His investment included a whopping 1,000 acres, laying north and south of present day SR 54 along the east side of the White River. He was a statuesque figure, handsome and tall for the time, standing six foot four inches and weighing about 250 pounds. After felling trees and establishing a cabin on his property, he traveled back to New York. By 1818 he and his family were established in the territory, then part of Daviess County. He set up a mill and distillery which prospered. By 1821, located only two miles south of the first county seat, his businesses had prospered far beyond his expectations. In addition to a busy mill, Van Slyke produced a superior and very popular whiskey. Thus, he was in an excellent position to offer generous incentives to the county commissioners. The new county seat, at Bloomfield, near his business ventures would continue to enhance the family fortune for many years.

In February of 1824, the county board gathered and directed that Peter Van Slyke's donation be laid off into lots for the new county seat. The advertisement for the sale which was placed in the Indianapolis Gazette and the Indiana Farmer is a masterpiece of nineteenth century enthusiasm:

"The new seat of justice of the county of Greene will be sold on the 22d day of April next, on the premises. ... This town is beautifully situated on the east side of the West Fork of White River, on a rich, dry soil, plentifully watered by good springs, possessing as many natural advantages as any other new town perhaps on this river, surrounded with a very flourishing settlement contiguous to mills and mill seats. The attention of merchants, mechanics and manufacturers will be

[15] Ibid., p.44.
[16] Faye L. Flynn, "Peter Van Slyke donated land for Greene County seat." *Bloomfield News* nd, in the collection of the Greene County Historical Society.

particularly excited by the extent of surrounding country, the convenience of water works, and healthfulness of situation. From the superior natural advantages possessed by the town, and its electricity to the center of the county, it is elevated above the fear of future re-locations. EPHRAIM OWEN, SR. 7 February 28, 1824. Agent for Bloomfield."[17]

The site was rapidly cleared and by September of the same year the commissioners accepted a new log structure, 26 by 20 feet as their courthouse. It was probably much like the one which had been built at Burlington. The new site would prove durable, surviving as the home of county government to the present day. Although small, the building was made comfortable with chinking, daubing and whitewash. [18]

The spring which famously attracted this new facility to Bloomfield was located south of the courthouse. Later a well was dug nearby on the courthouse square. According to an account of 1885, the site south of the courthouse square was then "a beautiful slope covered with green grass," at the bottom was " a fine spring of pure cold water...". During the first half of the nineteenth century, access to good water was a prime consideration for settlement. It was also crucial that, while nearby streams were needed for water and transportation, towns must be high enough to survive periods of floods. The site at Bloomfield met all these expectations. Although it has long been covered over, the public spring was evidently curbed during those early years, to remain accessible to all. [19] Typically, such a spring may have been fed by the extensive aquifer which would have run underground in association with the nearby White River.

The Greene County Courthouse and its associated square represent the cultural and political life of the community, centered in this location for 184 years. The search for accommodating water, enterprising founders and rich agricultural land led here and the echoes of their aspirations still resound. It is interesting to note that, during the current construction of the new addition, a slump occurred at the south end of the courthouse, causing considerable concern for the safety of the building. Construction delays followed and legal wrangling is presently underway. No one knows whether the presence of an old spring, now abandoned, could have played a part in the drama. Nonetheless, the county stayed true to its historic building, shoring up the foundation and walls, driving pilings more than sixty feet down to bedrock, to support both old and new construction.[20]

Ten years after the first courthouse was built, the commissioners decided to build a new one. In November of 1835, plans and estimates were obtained and the cost fixed at $5,157. [21] Although the county was able to fund a bond issue to support the building, things got off to a rough start. The first contractor absconded with his $1,000 advance. Before the building was completed, it had

[17] Quoted in Goodspeed, p. 45.
[18] Excerpt from an early newspaper notice, nd, in the collection of the Greene County Historical Society, and Faye L. Flynn, "First Greene County Courthouse built in 1821" *Bloomfield News* c. 1960s..
[19] Goodspeed., p 189.
[20] Conversation with Jim Corey, Greene County Building Project Supervisor. January, 2008.
[21] Goodspeed., p. 47.

cost the county $6,271.59. Nonetheless, progress was swift and the building was completed by 1836. Constructed of brick, it was 50 feet square and 28 feet high with an octagonal cupola, belfry and spire. According to a contemporary account, the first floor was divided by a hallway with three rooms on either side. The second story contained a court room and two jury rooms. According to a printed photograph, the structure was a square block with a central entry, surrounded by sidelights and transom. Windows were nine/over/six light double hung. Trees obscure the roof but the cupola is visible. [22]

During the decade of the 1830s, Greene County began to show bursts of growth. Roads and bridges were built to enhance transportation options. By 1839 the county polls showed a population of 1,021 and acreage of 50,364.15. The county tax income was $2,739.14. State taxes contributed another $2,136.90. Nonetheless, by 1840, the county still faced economic difficulties. Mr. Downing, the contractor of the new courthouse was still owed $1,727 at 10% interest. [23]

The next decade would mark some improvement. The great Wabash & Erie Canal, the largest public improvement project ever undertaken in Indiana, came through Greene County during 1849 and 1850. The route entered the county at Johnstown, north west of Bloomfield, moving south to Worthington. Although it didn't pass directly through Bloomfield, it was located just west of the town, close enough to have an economic impact. It traveled along the west side of the White River to the town of Newberry, where a dam was built and it crossed the river, then continued into Daviess County. The county seat felt the impact of hundreds of workers as they moved through, building the canal. By 1851 boats were traveling across Greene County. Six locks were built in the county. [24] Widening the opportunities for ties to other, more heavily populated areas, the canal traveled north to Terre Haute where the National Road connected to points east and west.

For the next decade, the canal added a new dimension to the county's economic potential. Andrew Downing, an enterprising businessman of Bloomfield owned two boats which plied the canal, shipping products from his furnace on Richland Creek, two miles south of town. [25] During this period, a boom in iron production helped fill county coffers. The now defunct town of Furnace was located less than two miles southeast of Bloomfield. It was the site of Downing's Richland Furnace, located on the Creek of the same name. Opened in 1841, the furnace first produced only pigs of iron, which traveled by teamsters to Louisville, Kentucky. During the canal days, Richland furnace was turning out six to seven tons of pig-iron in twenty-four hours plus iron pots, pans, kettles and skillets. More than a hundred men were employed. Prosperity continued until the late 1850s, when the company came to a halt. Others also plied boats along the canal, to reach Evansville and the burgeoning markets along the Ohio. A descendent of Peter C. VanSlyke (also

[22] Undated newspaper articles in the collection of the Greene County Historical Society.
[23] Goodspeed., p.48.
[24] Goodspeed, pp. 69-70.
[25] Ibid.

called Peter) owned two boats that carried grain from his mill down to the river, although the canal through Greene County was never deep enough to carry extremely large loads.[26]

Ultimately, the canal route through Greene County became the rail bed for a new railroad, The Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad. A railroad was projected through Greene County before the Civil War, but not completed until 1869. It bypassed Bloomfield. By 1879 at least two railroads crossed the county, one of which came through Bloomfield from the south east and continued to Linton. Known as the St. L. B & L in 1879, it would emerge as part of the famous Monon line later in the century. [27] Many of the goods shipped on these lines were coal and other mineral products, which were plentiful in the area.

The county grew steadily from 1820 to 1880, with the decades before 1850 showing about 4,000 new persons in ten years. By 1880, growth had slowed to about 3,500 persons per year, but the total county population was 22,996. The town of Bloomfield, as the center for legal and political activity maintained a vital life, even though it was not graced with the canal, nor an early railroad. During the 1840s and 1850s it suffered. The Richland Furnace operation was not centered in Bloomfield and drew much attention away from the county seat. Immediately after the Civil War, it lost the advantage of a railroad through the town and murmurs about relocation of the county seat could be heard. But soon it began to grow. In 1870 the population was about 650 and by 1884 it had grown to almost 1,200. This spurt might have been attributed to the 1875 initiation of a Narrow Gauge Railroad through the town. [28] The decade of the 1880s would find the town in a renewed economic state, as the mercantile and legal center of the county.

Bloomfield, at nearly the center of Greene County, stood between the vast coal regions in Linton and Dugger to the west and northwest and logging to the east. The watershed area of the West Fork of the White River and its many tributaries provided good bottom land, available once systems of tiling and drainage ditches had been established throughout the county. [29] The VanSlyke family still operated a saloon in Bloomfield, offering "the best lemonade in town." The town square contained many stores, including grocery and dry goods merchants. Banking had developed in town after the Civil War and the town would be a center for such activity for decades. Brick kilns were active adjacent to the town and sand and gravel from deposits along the White River were hauled to Bloomfield's silo plant. [30] Ultimately, it was the continued presence of the courthouse and the county seat, which helped Bloomfield maintain its economic existence.

In 1883, when the Goodspeed Brothers were compiling their comprehensive history of Greene and Sullivan Counties, the commissioners were contemplating the construction of a new

[26] Faye L. Flynn, "Greene County had iron ore boom in 1840s" *Bloomfield News,* nd, in the collection of the Greene County Historical Society, and Goodspeed, p. 70.
[27] *History of Greene County, 1885-1989, p. 5.*
[28] Goodspeed. P. 193.
[29] *History of Greene County, 1885-1989, p.6.*
[30] Ibid., p. 7.

courthouse. They predicted a possible fight for re-location: "The question is yet agitated from time to time, and when a new court house will be erected lively times may be expected." [31]

But in May of 1884, when an article in the Bloomfield paper announced the coming of a new courthouse, it didn't cause a riot. It was a time when the community saw many laborers out of work. A large building project was seen as a boon to hungry families and few complained. The commissioners gave the public their reasons: The volume of records had increased dramatically since the last courthouse was built; Wages for labor and material costs were as cheap as twenty years before, thus now was a good time to build. Finally, although the commissioners agreed that it was not wise to incur a debt at any time, "Money saved is money made." The public discussion began in January of 1885 and a deadline for comment was set for April 12, 1885. The commissioners must have been confident in the enthusiasm of the public, since designs and specifications for the courthouse had already been made by the architect, Mr. George Bunting of Indianapolis. By the end of April, a contract for construction of the new court house had been awarded to McKay and Bushaw, contractors from Rockville, with the lowest bid of $68,994. The contractors made themselves immediately popular by declaring they would employ about 60 men in their brick yard near the depot, making bricks for the building. [32]

An important part of the construction was the filling of the area south of the courthouse square. The hollow which had contained the natural spring and which had given the earlier courthouse such a picturesque view was to be filled and a new street, Spring Street, created. Workmen began on South Street and worked from the spring through the summer, taking a break for harvest in the fall. By the following summer, the grading contractor was moving over 300 yards of dirt per day, with a total amount of 5,270 yards in the grade. In order to accommodate the spacious new building in the courthouse square, the old one would be demolished, along with several subsidiary structures. County offices moved temporarily to nearby quarters and the 1836 building was demolished. By July of 1885, the contractor, Mr. McKay, had purchased the old courthouse material for the grand sum of $396.00. [33]

The county commissioners vowed that this building would represent the best in new, fireproof construction. Materials and workmanship for the building, the pride of the county, would be of the highest order. Stone came from the famous Hoosier and Oolitic Indiana limestone quarries near Bedford. It was used to construct the footings and foundation of the building, as well as the many courses above grade level. Massive amounts of iron were brought in to support the structure and serve as rafters. The brickwork was extensive and varied. The building would be heated by steam. The apparatus was installed by March of 1886. The next month the gas pipes

[31] Goodspeed p. 193.
[32] Maxine Ramsey, Greene County Recorder, "Spirit of '76, The Building of A Court House", *Bloomfield News,* nd, c. 1976, in the collection of the Greene County Historical Society. Ramsey appears to rely on events recounted in various entries in the Commissioners Record November, 1882 – August 1885.
[33] Ibid.

were laid and by May of that year the last brick on the main tower was set in place. During the same month, a massive new bell arrived, weighing several thousand pounds. It was purchased from McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore, Maryland. Workers installed it in the tower on May 27, 1886. [34] Today it holds a position of prominence on the lawn of the courthouse square, as previously mentioned.

Progress on the courthouse continued through 1886. In the meantime, citizens were gaining enthusiasm for their square. Streets around the square were newly graded and graveled and property owners were asked to put in gutters on their buildings. Carpenters and plasterers had completed their work on the interior finishes and new furniture and equipment arrived. By October 1st, the Commissioners had accepted the building and by the 15th of that month the contractors were paid their final bill. The work was well done, and the contractors left with the good will of the people, according to a local article. In all, everyone agreed that the new courthouse was an imposing structure, beautiful in design and durable in construction.[35] So it has remained, for the most part, for over 120 years.

Although changes to the building have dimmed its architectural contribution, the building that the Greene County Commissioners ordered in 1885 was a fine example of the most up-to-date influences in architecture. They chose one of the most prolific court house architects in the region to design their edifice. George W. Bunting had begun his profession in Bloomington, Illinois after the Civil War. Born in Pennsylvania in 1829, the son of a sea captain, he attended local schools, and then matriculated at the renowned Girard College in Philadelphia.[36]

This private boarding school was founded in 1833 and opened in 1848. The founder, Stephen Girard, had acquired a vast fortune as a sea captain before his death in 1831. His will established and endowed the institution which was originally intended to serve poor white orphan boys. The founder's will specified that no ecclesiastic, missionary or minister of any sect could be connected with the college. Clergy were not even allowed to enter the grounds.[37] The main building on the campus was designed by Thomas Ustick Walter in 1833 and completed four years later at a cost of $2,000,000, an incredible sum for the time. The construction is fire resistant, with impeccable detailing. It is one of the finest Greek Revival style buildings in the western world.[38] Today, both the building and the campus are National Historic Landmarks. Young Bunting could not help but be impressed with the magnificence of the campus architecture. He obviously embraced elements of classical design in the Greene County Courthouse and others completed throughout his professional career.

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[34] Ibid.
[35] Ibid.
[36] Jacob Piatt Dunn, *Greater Indianapolis, The History*....Chicago: The Lewis publishing Company, 1910, p.1216.
[37] Wikipedia: "Girard College" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girard_College., January, 2008.
[38] David R. Hermansen, "Indiana County Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century", Ball State University Faculty Lecture Series, Muncie, IN, February, 1968, p. 21.

Following his training at Girard College, he apprenticed in the shipbuilders trade in Philadelphia. As a young man he relocated to Mississippi. He was there at the outbreak of the Civil War and enlisted in the Confederate Army. During his service he earned the rank of Colonel, in service with the First Mississippi Cavalry. Following the war he arrived in Bloomington, Illinois. He moved to Indianapolis about five years later, serving for a time as city building inspector under Thomas Taggart's administration.[39]

George W. Bunting specialized in designing public buildings. Among his many achievements are the Indiana Courthouses in Franklin, Johnson County, (1879-1882); Crawfordsville, Montgomery County ((1874-76); Frankfort, Clinton County (1882-1884); Bluffton, Wells County (1891); Liberty, Union County (1891); and, of course at Bloomfield, Greene County (1885-6). His courthouse at Anderson in Madison County, built between1882-1885 is now gone. Other remaining public buildings designed by Bunting include Owen Hall at IU Bloomington (1884), and Wylie Hall (1884) on the same campus (as well as Maxwell Hall, previously mentioned). These were the first buildings to rise after a disastrous fire in 1883. When constructed, and for a time thereafter, they were the only buildings on the relocated campus, then called Dunn's Woods. He also designed the Bartholomew County Asylum (1878) in Columbus, Indiana, as well as the Montgomery County Courthouse in Clarksville, Tennessee which was recently restored after a 1999 tornado.[40] A 1910 publication also credited his firm with courthouses in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Clarksburg, West Virginia and Wichita, Kansas as well as county jails and asylums in many parts of Indiana and Illinois. [41] Bunting died in 1901 and was succeeded in the firm by his son, George W., Jr. In addition to his prolific architectural output, George W. Bunting, Sr. was known as "genial, cordial, big-hearted, generous and philanthropic." He was remembered as "a man of marked vitality..." with a "deep interest in outdoor recreations and sports" and "a crack pistol shot."[42]

Among the remaining public buildings designed by Bunting, the Montgomery County Courthouse in Indiana shares much with the Greene County Courthouse. Both have a composition which features a central tower and four projecting bays at each of the corners. Both have lost their towers over the years and have a truncated tower in place. The second story front bay detailing on the courthouse in Montgomery County includes full columns under a classical portico, while the equivalent part of the Greene County building is more subdued, with brick pilasters and elaborate capitals. The courthouse in Clinton County also featured a second story classically inspired opening. In this case and that of the former courthouse in Anderson, Indiana, a central round arched opening emphasized the center and corner bays on the second floor. In Greene County, this motif is reversed with the round arched windows on the second floor featured in the bays flanking the

[39] Dunn, p. 1217.
[40] Various internet sources, including Wikipedia, Waymaking, http://faculty.evansville.edu, www.b-levi.com, December, 2007, www.montgomeryco.net.
[41] Dunn, p. 1217.
[42] Ibid.

second entrance and on the sides. The Montgomery County, Tennessee example features three, round-arched windows, with limestone surrounds as the central element of the main, projecting entrance bay.[43] Bunting has demonstrated his skill as a master of late nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture. The breadth of his oeuvre, even today, is impressive.

As previously mentioned, the Greene County Courthouse underwent a remodeling in 1954, under the hand of Vincennes architect Jay C. Bixby. This has not damaged the integrity of the structure so extensively that it no longer conveys its original intent. Nonetheless, the effort was extensive. In 1954, post-war America did not yet have the sophisticated knowledge about historic buildings which might have saved much of the lost elements. Safety was a prime consideration, and architects' took these challenges seriously. Since a near-miss accident had occurred, it is easy to understand the concern of the commissioners. Further, nearly seventy years after its construction, the needs for storage of public records and county offices had dramatically increased. During the remodeling, the parapets were raised, the corner turrets were removed, the main tower shortened and a new brick and limestone cladding added, along with a new clock. Interior renovations included adding walls, partitions, new plaster ceilings and stair soffits, as well as terrazzo floors. The main courtroom was converted and changed. However, given the concern for public safety which had occurred when the original parapet fell, it is a credit to the community that the building was not razed. [44]

[43] Photograph from the Wikipedia site: "Image: ClarksvilleCourt2.jpg. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image: Jan. 2008.

[44] Information about the Bixby remodeling, from drawings in the collection of the Ball State University Drawings and Documents Archive, interpreted by Professor Andrew Seager, January, 2008.

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Hermansen, David R. *Indiana Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century.* Muncie, IN: Ball State University Lecture Series Pamphlet. February, 1968.

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. "Courts in the Classroom" http://www.in.gov/judiciary/citc/museum/virtual-tours/ December, 2007.

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IU Archives. "Owen Hall on the campus of Indiana University" (information re: Bunting) http://faculty.evansville.edu December, 2007

Lake, D. J & Co. *Atlas of Greene County.* Philadelphia, Pa: D. J Lake & Co., 1879.

Montgomery County Government. Montgomery County Courthouse web site (information re: Bunting) www.montgomeryco.net. December, 2007

Ramsey, Maxine. "Spirit of 76, The building of a courthouse". *Bloomfield News. C. 1965* (In the collection of the Greene County Historical Society).

Wikipedia. "Girard College". http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/girard_college. January, 2008.

Section 10.
Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the south west corner of East Main and South Washington Street, staying on the west side of South Washington, continue south to the intersection of South Washington and East Spring Street, thence moving west along the north side of this street to the intersection of South Franklin Street, then continue north along the east side of South Franklin Street to the intersection of East Main Street, staying on the south side of the street and continuing east to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Greene County Courthouse includes the traditional courthouse square, which, since the construction of the building in1886, has included the property bounded by Main, Washington, Franklin and Spring Streets. This property is associated with the courthouse throughout its life and forms the center of the social, legal and civic life of Bloomfield and Greene County.

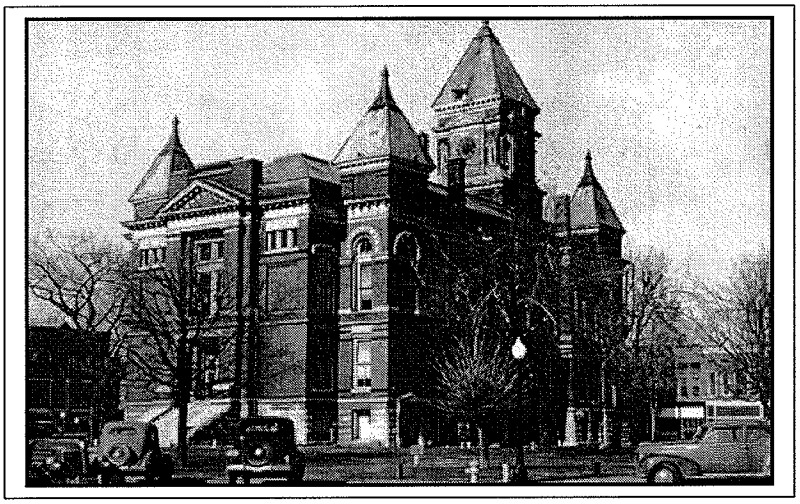


Photo c. 1935, looking north toward south entrance to the courthouse. The four turrets and the tower are clearly visible (above).

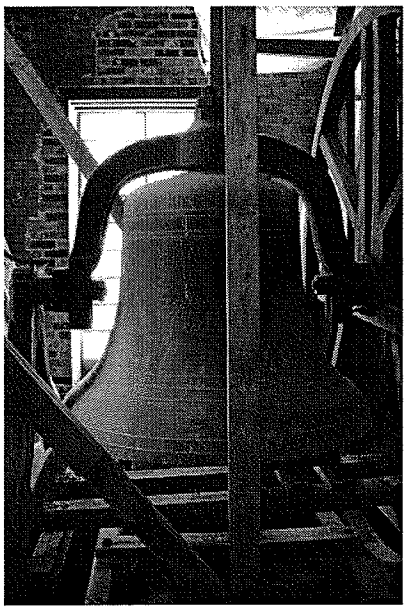
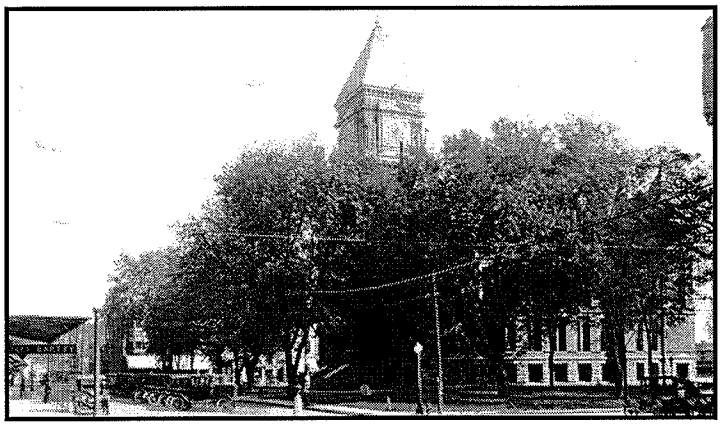


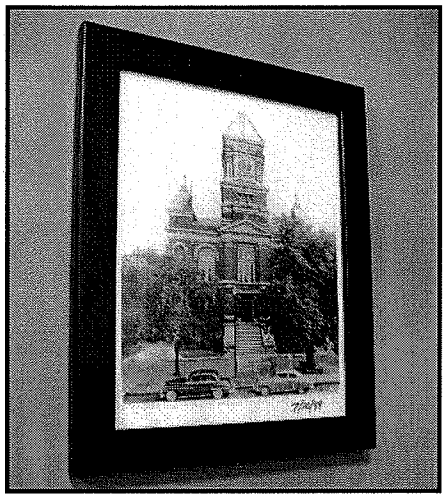
Photo above shows the bell in its storage area before moving to the square.

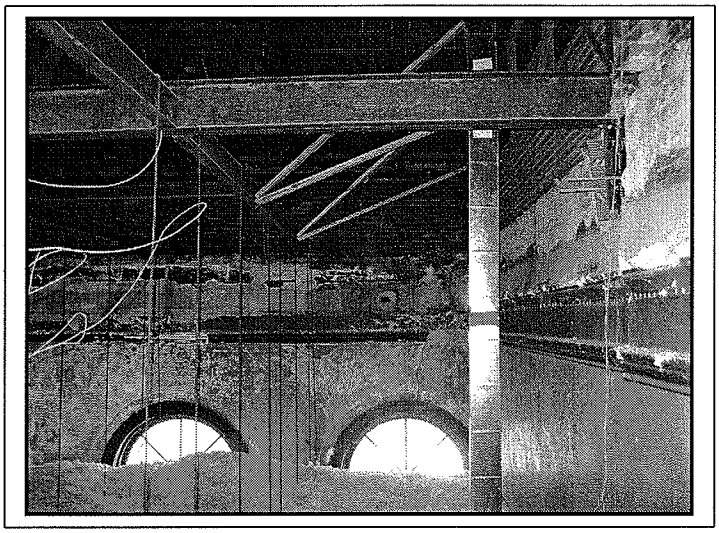


Photo, c.1915 (above).

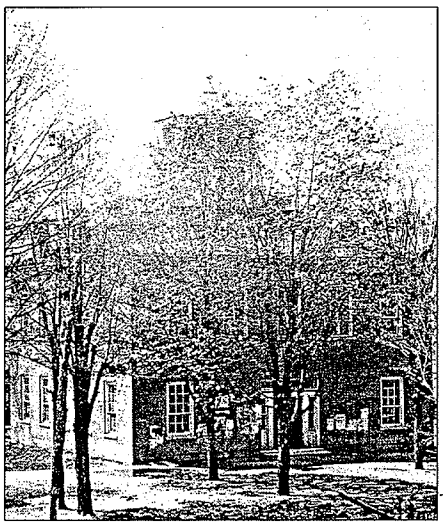
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 11 Page 23 *Greene County Courthouse, Greene County, IN*





A photograph taken a few years before the 1954 renovation shows the courthouse from the north, looking south toward the main entrance. Much of the original detailing can be seen in this photo (upper left). This photograph is presently on display in the third floor of the courthouse. At upper right, a current view looking east in attic, showing modifications for tower alteration. Below, the second Greene County Courthouse at Bloomfield. From a printed document, nd., courtesy of the Greene County Historical Society.)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation

Photo Log:
(Digital Photographs on a CD accompany this document)

GREENE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The following information is the same for all photographs unless otherwise indicated:
1. Greene County Court House, Main and Washington Streets, Bloomfield, IN 47424
2. Greene County, Indiana
3. Photographer Camille B. Fife, TheWesterly Group, Inc.
4. December, 2007.
5. Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology, DNR, 402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 (photographic prints); The Westerly Group, Inc, 225 East Main Street, Madison, IN 47250 (original digital images).

Exteriors
1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 01
6) Looking S, SW from the SE corner of Washington & Main
7) Photo 01 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 02
6) Looking W from Washington toward the East elevation
7) Photo 02 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 03
6) Looking W, NW from Washington
7) Photo 03 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 04
6) Looking W, NW from SE corner of Washington & Spring
7) Photo 04 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 05
6) Looking N from Spring Street toward South elevation of addition
7) Photo 05 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 06
6) Looking N, NE from corner of Spring & Franklin Sts.
7) Photo 06 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 07
6) Looking East from Franklin Street
7) Photo 07 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 08
6) Looking S, SE from corner of Franklin and Main
7) Photo 08 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 09
6) Close up, looking South toward Main Street entrance
7) Photo 09 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 10
6) Looking South from Main Street along east side of building, showing new addition in background.
7) Photo 10 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 11
6) Looking S, SW toward Main Street entrance from N side of Main Street
7) Photo 11 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 12
6) Looking South at east side of Courthouse square, including bench, historic bell and one of several artillery pieces.
7) Photo 12 of 30

Interiors
Ground Floor

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 13
6) Looking east from inside new addition, toward new glass and aluminum entrance.
7) Photo 13 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 14
6) Looking west from hallway next to security, toward reception and probation facilities in new addition.
7) Photo 14 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 15
6) Looking north from addition to original arch, separation between original 1885 courthouse and addition is marked by metal band on floor.
7) Photo 15 of 30

Interiors
First Floor
1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 16
6) Looking north, northwest toward the east entrance pillar of the original building. The brick and limestone element includes a carved floral rosette, slightly different on the two pillars.
7) Photo 16 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 17
6) Looking due north toward the west pillar, this close up photograph shows the carved rosette in detail.
7) Photo 17 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 18
6)Looking north along hallway in original building. The interior spaces have been refinished.
7) Photo 18 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 19
6) Looking south from hallway in original building toward new addition.
7) Photo 19 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 20
6) Looking north east into the public area of the Treasurer's office.
7) Photo 20 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 21
6) A medium close-up photograph in the entry, looking due north at the original north entry. The door is a replacement.
7) Photo 21 of 30

Interiors
Second Floor

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 22
6) Looking south toward entrance to Superior Court in new addition.
7) Photo 22 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 23
6) Looking north along corridor in original part of building.
7) Photo 23 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 24
6) Looking north, north east toward new counters and service areas.
7) Photo 24 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 25
6) Looking south east within new Superior Court room in new addition.
7) Photo 25 of 30

Interiors
Third Floor

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 26
6)Looking at attic space, showing original court room, prior to 1954 renovation. The view is looking due north from a platform within the space. The backdrop to the judge's seat and the bell tower are visible.
7) Photo 26 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 27
6) Looking south west, toward the south wall of the present attic, formerly the main court room showing one of the round arch windows and the ornate cornice and wall.
7) Photo 27 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 28
6) Looking south toward vestibule and entrance to Circuit Court room.
7) Photo 28 of 30

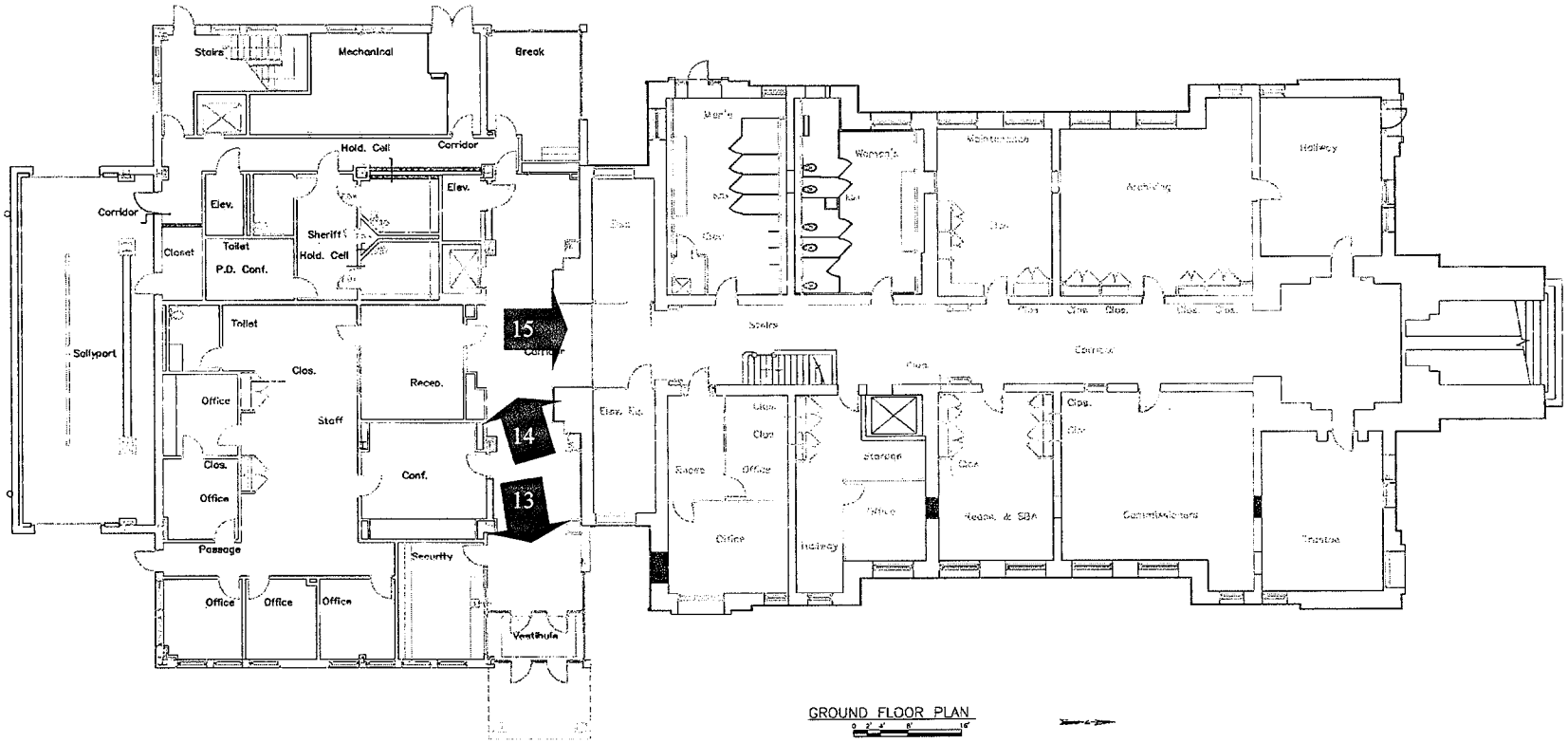
1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 29
6) Looking north west toward original entrance pillar which has been retained in the renovation. The metal band on the floor and wall is an expansion joint between old and new elements of the courthouse.
7) Photo 29 of 30

1, 2) IN_Greene County_Greene Co. Courthouse 30
6) Looking south east toward the east entrance pillar.
7) Photo 30 of 30

Greene County Courthouse
Bloomfield, Indiana
National Register Nomination
Ground Floor Sketch Plan

Photographs 1

No Scale



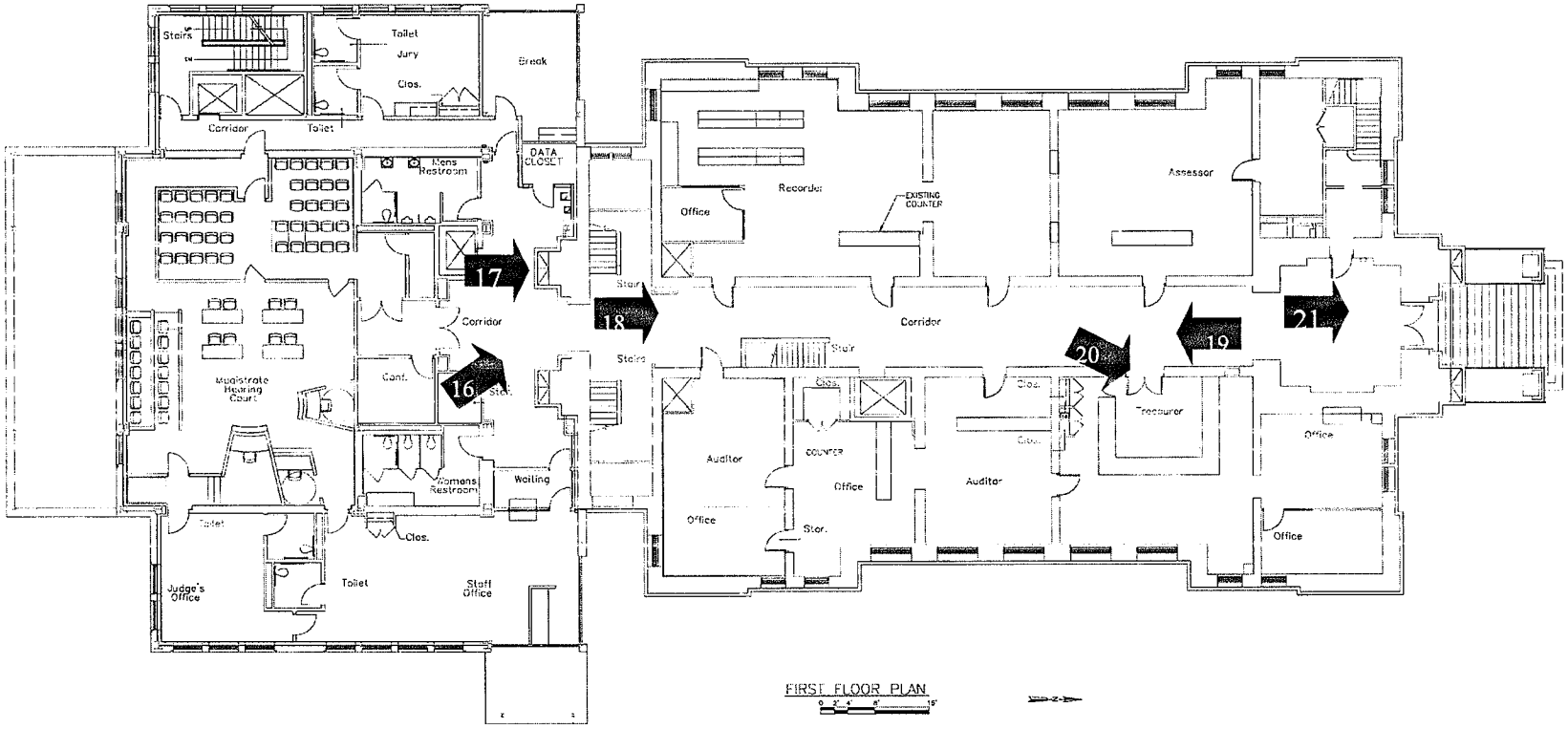
Prepared by
The Westerly Group, Inc.
225 East Main Street
Madison, Indiana

from a drawing by Strand Architects & Engineers

Greene County Courthouse
Bloomfield, Indiana
National Register Nomination
First Floor Sketch Plan

Photographs 1

No Scale



Prepared by
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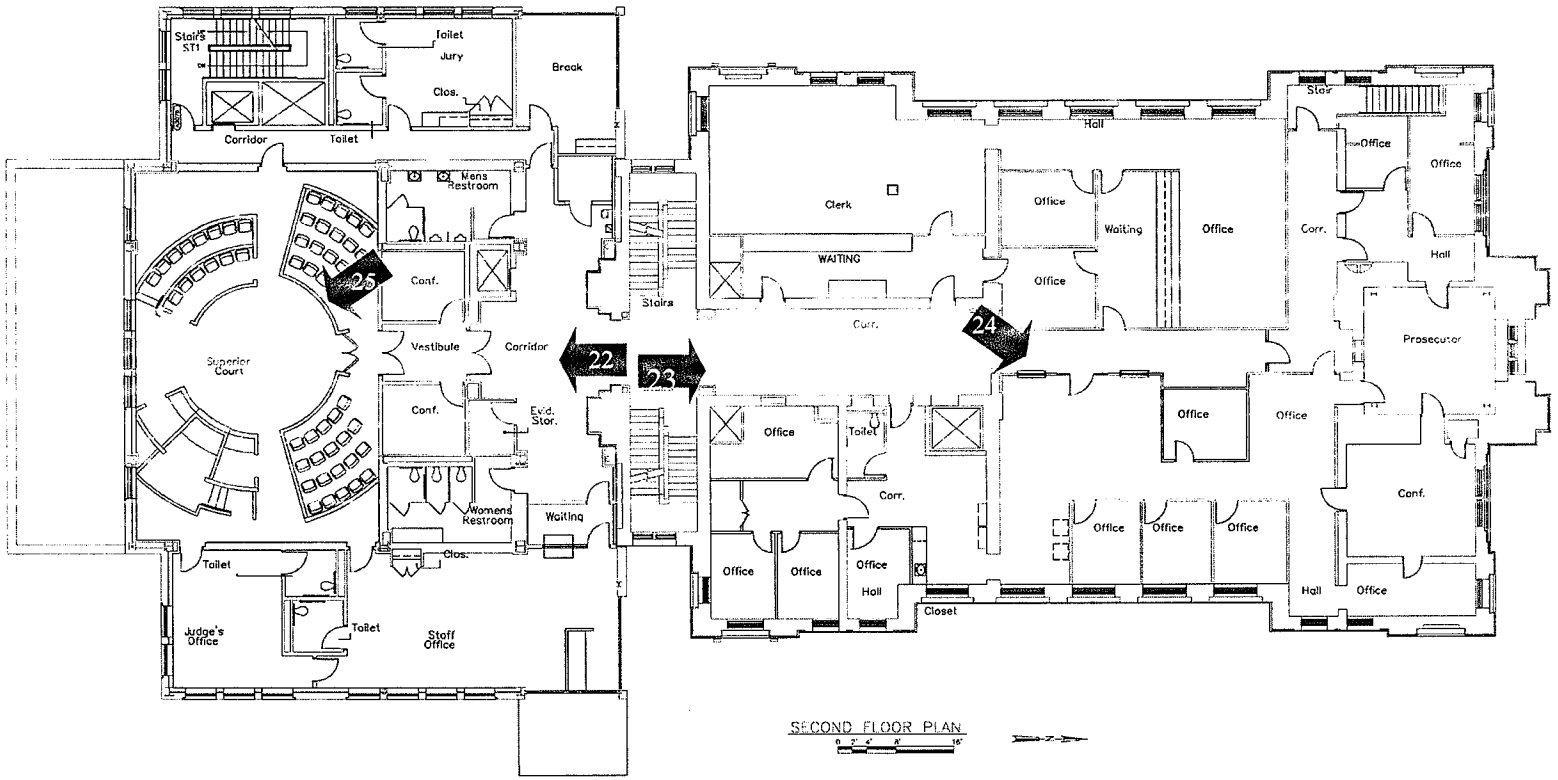
225 East Main Street
Madison, Indiana

from a drawing by Strand Architects & Engineers

Greene County Courthouse
Bloomfield, Indiana
National Register Nomination
Second Floor Sketch Plan

Photographs 1

No Scale



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225 East Main Street
Madison, Indiana

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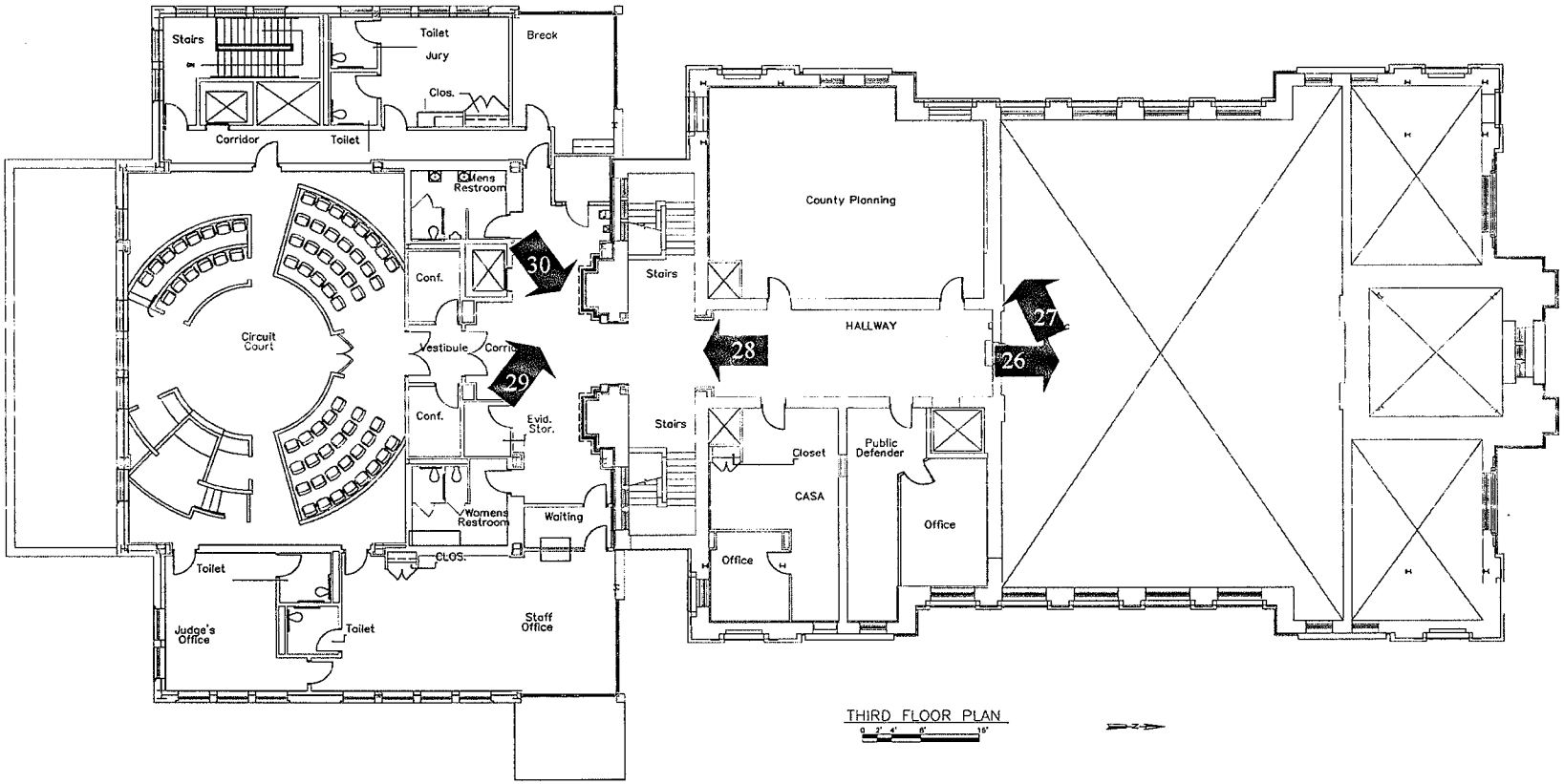
Greene County Courthouse
Bloomfield, Indiana
National Register Nomination
Third Floor Sketch Plan

Photographs 1

No Scale



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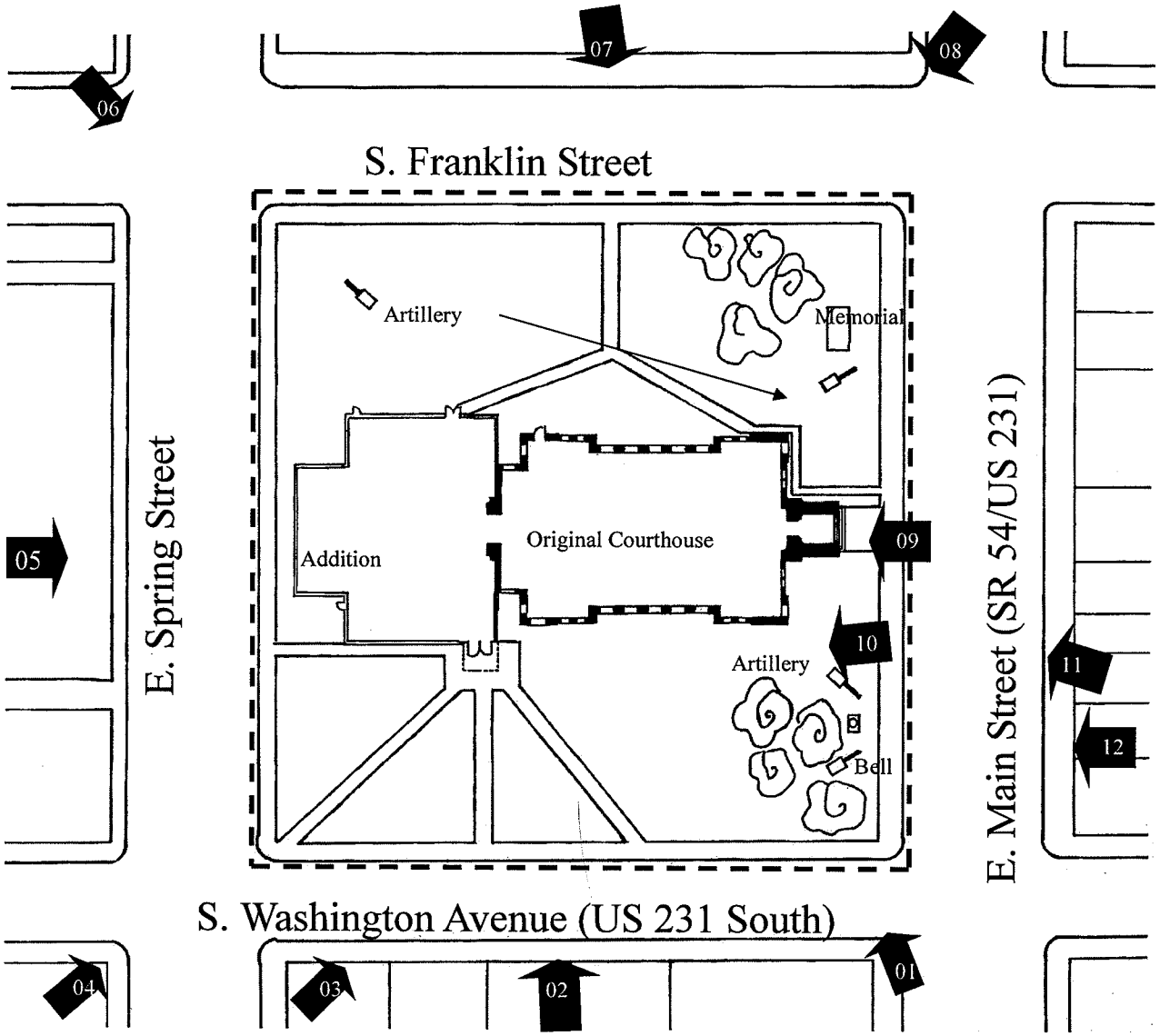
Greene County Courthouse
Bloomfield, Indiana
National Register Nomination
Sketch Site Plan

Photographs 1

Boundary - - - -

No Scale



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