FINAL

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 Sullivan County Courthouse

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 100 Courthouse Square N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Sullivan N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Sullivan code 153 zip code 47882

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 A. Glass 11/10/2008

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:)

Sullivan County Courthouse
Name of Property

Sullivan 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
0	1	objects
1	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/ Beaux Arts

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone
walls Limestone
roof Asphalt
other

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

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
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1928 – 1958

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bayard, John
Heath, Walter

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:
_____

Sullivan County Courthouse
Name of Property

Sullivan County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 Acres +/-

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	464680	4327225
2	16	464800	4327225
3	16	464800	4327120
4	16	464680	4327120

☐ 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 Sullivan County Commissioners

street & number 100 Courthouse Square telephone (Clerk) (812) 268-4657

city or town Sullivan state IN zip code 47882

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 Sullivan County Courthouse is located in the courthouse square, in the city of Sullivan, Indiana. It was begun in 1926 and dedicated in 1928, designed in the Neo-Classical/Beaux Arts style by Vincennes architect, John B. Bayard. The land on which the courthouse sits is slightly elevated above the surrounding grade, but in general the topography is flat in this part of Sullivan County. The county is located in west central Indiana, in the physiograhic area known as the Wabash Lowland with its western border in the Wabash River. Sullivan County is one of six Indiana counties where the mining industry has been most active. The county seat was first located at Carlisle, (1816 – 1819) then moved to Merom on the Wabash River (1819 – 1842) and was finally located in Sullivan, because of its central location, in 1842.

The courthouse is a near duplicate of one built in 1924 in Vermillion County, also in west central Indiana and also designed by John Bayard. This was no accident. The Sullivan County Commissioners visited several Indiana courthouses with the architect, including the one in Vermillion County. Obviously they liked what they saw. The Sullivan County Courthouse differs from its northern cousin in the former's Beaux Arts detailing, which shows the influence of that taste during the first decades of the twentieth century. In addition, Sullivan County's building is richer in design and materials, including a lavish central rotunda, complete with stained glass dome, two story columns and extensive use of marble. The courthouse is in nearly pristine condition. Only minor changes have occurred to the building and most of the furnishings are intact. Although re-painting has occurred in several rooms, most public areas contain original stone finishing. The integrity of the building is remarkable, considering the changing demands in county government over the years.

Narrative Description

Setting:

As is typical of most Indiana courthouse squares, the Sullivan County Courthouse is centrally located in a Shelbyville or Block Square, which is formed by four streets intersecting at each of its corners. The square was once surrounded on all four sides by nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings. Today, there are full blocks of such buildings on the south and west sides, with partial blocks on the north and east sides. There have been losses from fire and demolition, particularly on the north side along W. Washington Street. Along the eastern side, some early commercial buildings remain, with a large modern bank on the northern part of the block. (See site plan). Even though loss has occurred, there is adequate remaining fabric to portray an active commercial section surrounding the courthouse. Parallel to Court Street (the north-south street on

the west side of the square), on the West, is Section Street. This is also a commercial street, with some residential buildings interspersed. Thus, the atmosphere which surrounds the Sullivan County Courthouse is heavily commercial. As such, the building crowns an area which is a vivid reminder of the economic vitality of the community.

The square within which the building is sited is covered in grass with both deciduous and evergreen trees gently dispersed in a naturalistic pattern around the lawn. Concrete walks lead from the center of the four city blocks to the four entrances and around the building on all sides. There is a diagonal walk which contains a (non-contributing) memorial to Sullivan County's veterans from several wars. The monument consists of a central, pink granite stela with the names of veterans incised in it. This is set on a rock faced stone plinth. The monument was installed first, then two similar stelae were added on either side. The whole is surrounded by a circular walk, ringed with flag poles (See Photo 0003.)

Exterior

The building is a nearly square mass, approximately 105' x 120', containing a partial basement, ground, first and second floor. It is constructed of concrete and steel (See Figures 1 & 2.) Photographs taken during construction demonstrate the massive steel I-beams which formed the frame work for the structure. The entire exterior stone work up to the parapet was completed before the interior was finished as can be seen in Figure 2.

General Description

The entire building is faced in dressed limestone. All four elevations are nearly identical. Thus, a description based on the western façade, provides a general model for the others. Beginning at the foundation, a course steps slightly back with a cima recta molding to indicate the top of the water table. Above this is a recessed course, then, moving up, a wide projecting course and another recessed course. The overall effect of this composition is that of an oversized rusticated course. Above this is another projecting course, much narrower, which also serves as the unified sill for the ground floor windows. (See Photos 0001 and 0002.)

The five courses of stone on the ground floor of the building, which frame the window and door openings, are wide and rusticated. Serving as heads of the windows are oversize voussoirs. The window heads are flat and the chamfered rustication joins a course of rusticated stone above the window line. This in turn is crowned by a projecting combination stone molding forming a belt course. Resting on this course, at the center of the elevation on the first floor, are four half and two quarter engaged columns. The central seven bays of the elevation project forward so the six engaged columns are attached to a wall section that is on the same plane as the ends of the elevation. The columns are of the signature Composite Order. (See Photos 0017 and 0025 for examples of this Composite capital on the interior of the building.) The windows between the columns are all flat headed with simple stone surrounds. Decorative carved panels adorn the space between the first and

second floor windows. The columns support a full entablature that wraps around all four elevations. The frieze on the west elevation contains the name of the building "Sullivan County Courthouse". Two floral swags are carved in the projecting pavilions to the left and right of the central frieze.

Above the frieze containing the building name, is a traditional Corinthian Composite cornice. Over this, two courses of dressed stone support the parapet which is capped by a molded stone coping. In the center of the façade, the parapet is graced with a round stone arch containing a clock.

Similarities and differences between the elevations of the building.

As previously mentioned, the composition of the parapet features a prominent clock on each of the four elevations. Within the round arch surrounding these clocks is a carved stone wreath. (See Figure 3.) Two round fleurons flank the sides of the clock. Slight projections, at regular intervals along the parapet form a modified element, reminiscent of the tryglyph in a classical column entablature. In the same area on these two projecting bays, can be found floral festoons carved in raised relief in the stone. These differ slightly between the four elevations. On the north and south, a single larger draped festoon has been used, while on the east and west facades, there are two similar decorations.

The outer sections of the façade, forming the ends of the elevation and the four corners of the building repeat the horizontal elements which are present on the rest of the building. The fenestration of the building is uniform, consisting of an upper, fixed horizontal light with two vertical casement lights below. All of the windows have projecting stone sills.

All four elevations of the building are the same with regard to the elements described above. There are slight differences however, in the entries, the window treatments and the detailing of the four facades. The south elevation projects more than the others.

A quick comparison of the measurements on the four sides of the building reveals that the central elevation element on the north and south facades is approximately 68 feet wide, varying only a few inches. The depth of this element however, is strikingly different. On the north side it is 33 inches deep, while the south side projects approximately five feet, ten inches. A comparison of the same element on the east and west sides reveals a width of 76 feet (+/- five inches) and a depth of 33 inches on both elevations. Although the dimensions between the east/west and north/south elevations are different, the columns and details on all four elements is nearly the same. All four entrances to the building have the same surround which consists of an ornate, bracketed and pedimented hood, as well as chamfered rustication over the entry with a central keystone. The brackets are carved with acanthus leaves, scrolls and a fleuron at the center front. (See Figure 4.)

Within the pediment is a carved eagle and floral design. All four entries have stone plinths flanking the approach with decorative antique style street lamps attached. (See Photo 0004.) The differences are in the doors, all of which are modern replacements. On the east, west and north sides, these consist of double leaf aluminum doors with a large aluminum transom above. On the

south side (the former entrance to the auditorium) the door is the same style but with dark brown anodized frame and panels. At present this entry is blocked. The only other noticeable difference is found in the window treatments on the first and second floors within the projecting bays. On the east and west elevations, these bays contain single, standard sized windows, with a swag in the panel below the second story window and a bracketed projecting head above the first floor window. (See Photo 0002.) On the north and south facades, these windows are narrow, single lights and do not have the decorative swag or cornice. (See Photo 0007.)

Interior

Like the exterior of the building, the interior of the Sullivan County Courthouse has a high degree of integrity. The only drawings which have been found are a set of fragile blueprints made a year after completion. They do not include drawings of the basement or attic. A comparison of present conditions with these drawings, made in 1927 to accommodate the interior furnishings, cabinets and furniture reveals that only a few changes have been made over the years. Further, most of the cabinets and furnishings are also intact. (See Figures 5, 6, 7, & 9)

Basement

The basement is a utilitarian space, accessed by a stair leading off the ground floor rotunda. The door to the stair is below the north west stairway leading to the first floor. Within the basement, the original elevator shaft, a concrete enclosure, is visible (Photo 0009) as well as the concrete wall supporting the rotunda. There are spaces dedicated to storage, furnace and maintenance functions. The area under the auditorium stage, at the south west side of the building is dedicated to storage. The raked auditorium floor brings part of the room to the basement level. (See Basement Sketch Plan.)

Ground Floor (See Ground Floor Sketch Plan)

The ground floor contains the auditorium on the south side which is accessed by an interior stair in an area behind the elevator shaft, at the south east part of the building. (See Figure 5) There is an original ticket booth to the right, before you enter the stairs. A second entrance to the auditorium (the south entry to the building) is presently closed off. The auditorium has a raked seating area which is now used for extensive storage. The original seats were removed a few years ago. There is a proscenium stage at the west end of the auditorium. The floor of the stage is raised. Entrances to the former backstage area are found to the left and right. These are now converted to offices, as is the stage area which has been blocked. However, the proscenium surround is intact and demonstrates the graceful rows of carved floral molding which step back to frame the opening. (See Photo 0013.) The upper wall, at the juncture with the ceiling, is decorated with a painted or stencil floral motif. The ceiling is coffered by the large, steel beams which everywhere support the

structure. Original electrical fixtures, in an ovate, pendant shape with globes around the upper ring, still illuminate the space.

One of the few adaptations made in the building occurs in the room just east of the interior entrance to the auditorium. Here, in a space which was originally a 'Ladies Rest Room" with chairs, bed settee and other furnishings, two offices have been built. A hall was created to provide access to the toilet which remains, with only the addition of an accessible stall (See Photo 0012). The original marble stalls, wainscoting and terrazzo floors remain. The new offices are of standard modern construction (See Photo 0011.) The original Men's toilet is intact, but the original rest room to the right of the east entry has been converted to an office. The areas now used by the Prosecutor's office were once dedicated to the County Agent and other functions, however the walls and spaces are all the same as originally designed. One other modification has been made on this floor, in the hall leading from the west entrance toward the stage area. This has been blocked and a large safe, still with its original graining, now takes up some of this hall (See photo 0015.) In addition, a handicapped lift has been installed, taking up a portion of the west entry stair.

One arrives at the entrances to the stairs and the three halls leading out of the building under an elliptical arch, finished in plaster (See Photos 0014 and 0015.)

The Rotunda

The rotunda at this level is surrounded by square pillars whose capitals include a course of bead and reel molding, a cima reversa acanthus molding, a plain surface, topped by another acanthus molding and, finally, a smaller flat edged course. These pillars support the paneled ceiling around the rotunda. The inner face of the rotunda at this level is decorated with fluting, interspersed with a scrolled leaf and wreath surrounding a light socket (See Photo 0014.) Above this course is a running ornament. These elements are separated by horizontal moldings. The rotunda floor is decorated with an ornate compass design in black and red grained marble against a ground of beige stone. Black marble outlines the square columns on the floor and highlights the stair. The center of the rotunda contains the U. S. and State flags.

The ground floor demonstrates interior finishes which are typical throughout the building. These include grey or beige marble floors, terrazzo floors within offices, marble wainscoting and marble staircase. The stairs are paired on the west side of the building, with one on the north and the other on the south. These carry visitors from the ground floor, to the first and second with a 90 degree turn, open at the center (See Photo 0026.) The newel posts are circular, with the shaft made of individual balusters. The same decorative balusters are used in the stair rail and those which encircle the open rotunda space on the first and second floors (See Photo 0014). The curved landings of the stairs are particularly graceful.

The rotunda at the first floor is supported by a monumental Composit Order set on plinths that runs to the base of the dome. The interior ring, between the first and second floors, is decorated with a more ornate raised relief garland and wreath detail which surrounds the light

fixtures. (See Photo 0016.) On the wall of the hall surrounding the rotunda are square, faux marble pilasters. On the first floor, these pilasters are topped with graceful dropped floral pendants cascading from the capitals. On the second floor, the pilasters are completed by modified Composite capitals. The coffered ceiling in the first floor hall is decorated with a similar composite molding found on the ground floor. At the center of the coffer the ceiling is plastered in a stucco finish.

The First Floor

The first floor contains The Treasurer, Auditor, Assessor and Recorder's offices with their attendant filing and supplemental spaces. Based on the 1927 drawings, all of these offices, including most of the counters and other furnishings continue in their original configuration and use. Although the original proposal for $100,000 to install custom furnishings was pared to $80,000, many of the cabinets and furniture shown in the drawings can be seen in the building today. [1] The present Hamilton Township Assessors office was once a grand jury room, and the former Commissioners Court is now the Commissioners/Superior Courtroom. The present map room was once a private office for the Auditor (See Figure 6.) With only these small changes, this floor remains remarkably like it was shown in 1927. Throughout the various offices, original cabinets, desks and even chairs remain as shown on the furniture plans (See Photo 0020 and Figure 7.) The back wall of the Commissioners/Superior Court is decorated with a romanticized mural of the American west, completed by the local artist Roy J. Taylor c. 1959 (See Figure 8.) In addition to the mural, the ceiling in this courtroom has been dropped to accommodate fluorescent fixtures, although the furnishings and most of the other components are intact.

The Second Floor

The second floor of the Sullivan County Courthouse contains a large courtroom used by the Circuit Court (See Photos 0022 and 0023). The interior decoration of this room is chaste but impressive. The only changes include moving the jury box to the front of the judge's seat and removing the last four rows of seats to accommodate large shelves for law books and a place where lawyers can pursue research.

The interior decorations in this courtroom include a massive oak backdrop to the judges bench. This feature includes raised carved floral detailing in the central panel and a pediment above, which encloses a carved eagle with its wings unfurled. The doors and window surrounds are of the same oak and have projecting cornices. Carved floral capitals, matching those in the backdrop are also present on the rails around the jury box and on other furnishings. The walls of the courtroom are punctuated by fluted Composite pilasters resting on oak wainscoting. The coffered ceiling is outlined with combination dentil moldings and decorative plaster medallions containing the dropped

[1] Tour brochure in the collection of the Sullivan County Historical Society. c. 2000.

light fixtures. The original fixtures are similar to those in the auditorium but more ornate (See Photo 0023.) Several original fixtures are present, although additional modern fluorescent lights have been added. There is an ornate carved ceiling medallion at the center of the courtroom (See Figure 10) which includes a lighted surround for the original dropped fixture. There are classically inspired low raised relief floral elements at the corners of the central coffer within which the ovate plaster surround is located. The decoration features scrolls at the four cardinals, as well as swags, both joined by an egg and dart molding. A ring of lights fills the mid section and the area at the center contains ornate raised floral motifs within an oval of molding. The bronze, glass and electric globed fixture hangs suspended from a round plaster base, replete with classically-inspired acanthus leaves and other decoration.

The original law library, located in the space on the west side of the building, has been converted to the Sullivan Circuit Court. The Jury rooms, the Clerk's offices and the judge's chambers all remain the same. Although room configurations have not changed, the present probation, magistrate and superior court offices once served other purposes (See Figure 9.)

This floor also contains the stair to the attic level, accessed by a door in the east hall off the rotunda (See Photo 0029.) Photo 0027 shows the hallway or corridor leading to the judge's chambers and the telephone room which was built into the structure. Photo 0028, looking into the hall toward the magistrate's office, shows some of the original woodwork which is featured throughout the building. With few exceptions, the window and door surrounds are of plain fumed oak. Some cabinets and metal items have been grained to coordinate with this décor.

The Dome

The view of the dome in the rotunda as seen from the second floor reveals the exquisite patterns of this work as well as the interesting details of the surround (Photo 0017.) As previously mentioned, the ceiling and dome are supported by two-story Composite columns in the rotunda. Surrounding the dome is a combination of decorative moldings alternating with wider expanses of plaster. The moldings include various floral motifs, egg and dart and dentils. There are eight columns supporting the dome. At the point where each joins the ceiling feature, there is a light receptacle, with a floral surround. There is a similar fixture between each of the columns, approximately sixteen in all. At the ring which immediately joins the stained glass dome, a row of alternating shell and fleur-de-lis motifs can be seen (Photo 0025.) The cames at the center of the dome divide it into four sections, but as the pattern moves toward the outer edges, the pattern is organized in groups of five, with twenty segments at the far outside. The motifs in the design include arrow, circle and chain shapes. An interesting feature is the row of red five pointed stars which encircles the dome at about the mid-point. The outer ring contains an alternating motif of circles and ellipsoidal shapes.

The Attic

The attic floor contains the dome and the open space at the four sides of the building, above the second floor ceiling. (See Photos 0029, 0030, 0031 and 0032.) The 1927 set of blueprints did not include the attic or basement, but from observation, it appears that the attic is exactly as it was originally built. Only additional granular insulation and utility lines have been added in the side bays. This floor also contains the glass skylight which provides illumination for the dome. It is a steel framed structure with a pyramidal roof. The skylight is visible in a c. 1970 aerial photograph (Figure 11). It is also possible to view the upper structural supports and the back sides of the cames in the dome. This element and the skylight have a high degree of integrity, although a cleaning could enhance their condition.

Integrity

The Sullivan County Courthouse, as has previously been stated, is in a pristine state of repair and thus relatively unchanged. The courthouse square once contained a low concrete wall around its perimeter. (See Figure 12.) This wall has been removed probably within the last fifty years. The parking area on the north was also probably completed long after the building opened, but has been present for a long time.

The building's interior is both originally well-appointed and nearly intact. All of the elements which give it architectural significance are present. Especially notable are the workmanship and materials used in the exterior and interior. The design qualities portray the building as a high-style example for its time and place. Its setting is still very viable, even with the loss of some of the original commercial buildings around the square. The quality of feeling is maintained through the remaining buildings, the comparatively pristine lawn and landscaping and the original details of the design. The location is intact and the association of the building with the commercial and political life of the county remains viable.

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Summary

The Sullivan County Courthouse is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the political, social and economic development of the city and county within which it is located. As the county seat, it reflects the area's political and social development. As a major building constructed with public funds, it reflects the economic strength and life of the community during the years before the Great Depression. It is also significant under Criterion C for the quality of its workmanship and as the work of a master architect, John Bayard. The building's design also reflects the influence of classical references during the first few decades of the twentieth century, and as such is an outstanding example of the aspirations of its time and place. The period of significance begins with 1928, the date when the courthouse was dedicated and ends in 1958, expressing the continued integrity and association with county government which are embodied by the building and the courthouse square.

Narrative:

The Sullivan County Courthouse is a symbol of local government in west central Indiana. Its historical theme hearkens back to the early formation of the county, and reflects both the social dynamics which played a role in the location of the county seat and the economic life of the area. Located in west central Indiana, Sullivan County has an area of about 454 square miles, 7 of which is water. It is bounded by Vigo County on the north, Clay and Greene counties to the east and Knox County to the south. Its western boundary is the Wabash River. Sullivan County's economy has always been tied to its extractive resources – particularly the rich coal deposits which underlay much, if not all of the county. Several seams of coal existed from the early nineteenth century and mining is continuous to this day. One of these types was estimated of "choice quality" for fuel and engine use during the nineteenth century .[2] The coal and other related extractive industries in Sullivan County were the economic engine which fueled the county's economy. The success of this industry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century made it possible to build and furnish a new and well-appointed courthouse during the 1920s. In addition to the Wabash River, the county's rich water resources include Busseron, Turman and Turtle Creeks, their lesser streams and numerous springs.[3]

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[2] Goodspeed Brothers, *History of Greene and Sullivan counties*.... Chicago, IL: Goodspeed Bros, 1884, pp. 459 – 460.

[3] Goodspeed, p. 447.

Patterns of Early Sullivan County Settlement

Ever since the early years of the new American republic, county political organizations were important to keep government close to the people. During the first years of the nineteenth century, settlers in the states of the new west preferred to elect these local officials, rather than suffer appointments as had been the case during colonial times. Indiana's first constitution provided for the election of a wide range of county officials.[4] Sullivan County was established in 1816, the same year that Indiana became a state. Located along the Wabash River just north of the ancient French outpost of Vincennes, established in 1732, Sullivan County's roots coursed deep. The area was influenced by French military and trading activities during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The southern portion of the county was ceded to the French by a treaty made in 1742.

After 1787, all of present day Indiana and much of the Midwest became part of the Northwest Territory, under the control of the United States Congress. Unfortunately, many fraudulent land speculations occurred and settlers were driven north from the Vincennes area to parts of what would become Sullivan County. By 1803, a second Indian treaty, completed by General Harrison, established a boundary line in present day southern Sullivan County. The first settlements in the county occurred south of this line, probably around 1803. [5] This part of Sullivan County traces its history back to the French and to post-Revolutionary America. The area also had a more unusual group of immigrants. Between 1808 and 1812, a group of Shakers founded a 1,300 acre settlement in northern Knox and southern Sullivan Counties. [6] Ultimately the group left the area, but the land around this former settlement is still known as Shaker Prairie (today in Knox County.)

During the early nineteenth century, local settlers built several "block houses" as protection from Indian attack. Not all Native American tribes in the locale understood or agreed with Harrison's treaty. The block houses were located near present day Carlisle, south of the city of Sullivan, and near Busseron Creek. John Haddon, one of the settlers who peopled the territory, was elected a territorial legislator, probably the only one from present day Sullivan County. In 1809, three years before the War of 1812, another Indian Treaty was signed, granting all of the land in the county and parts of present day Vigo County, to the United States. Called the "New Purchase", this treaty was violently opposed by the native leader, Tecumseh. Much of the land within present Sullivan County was the site of Indian conflict. This continued through the War of 1812. Lands within this part of the future Sullivan County would not be open for sale and occupation until 1816, well after the war ended. [7]

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[4] NACO, "The History of County Government, Part I.", pp. 3-5, www.naco.org.
[5] Thomas J. Wolfe, ed, *A History of Sullivan County*...New York, NY: The Lewis Publishing Co., pp 7-10.
[6] Robert M. Taylor, Jr., *Indiana: A New Historical Guide.* ,Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Historical Society, 1989, p.291
[7] Wolfe, pp. 10-14.

Roots of County Formation

In 1815, hopes flared for the creation of Sullivan County in the lands north of Vincennes. The town of Carlisle saw a boom in land sales during that year, in anticipation of becoming the county seat. Other towns sprung up, hoping to be contenders for the honor. By December of 1816, preparations for the creation of the new county had been laid and an act of formation had been passed by the legislature. It would be created out of lands formerly a part of Knox County. The act was effective on January 15th, 1817 with the requirement that a county seat had to be located by February. The lands which would become Sullivan County in 1817 also included much of what is known today as Vigo County. The house of James Sproule in the recently platted town of Carlisle would serve as a courthouse until the permanent seat could be established. [8]

Carlisle and the house of Mr. Sproule served as the county seat, unofficially, for about two years, when the enterprising town of Merom was granted that honor. The year 1819 is traditionally credited as the year that Merom attained the privilege of the county seat. [9] The years between 1818 and 1819 saw the division of the northern territory into Vigo County and part of the western edge into Owen County. In 1821 and 1825 Greene and Clay County were created out of some of the lands in eastern Sullivan. These acts fixed the northern and eastern boundaries rather closely, but it would take many more years and an act of the legislature to fix the southern boundary. This delay was probably due to the complex and confusing land claims of French and other early settlers. [10]

Merom probably attained the distinction of county seat because of its location on the Wabash River, for it was certainly not centrally located. But travel during the early part of the nineteenth century was still river-oriented. A contemporary account by the agent selling lots provides this description: "It is situated on the east bank of the river, thirty-five miles above Vincennes, on that elevated ground known by the name of The Bluff...From the most elevated point of the bluff, the eye can be gratified with the charming view of LaMotte prairie, immediately below in front; and with Ellison and Union prairies on the right and left; the whole stretching along the river a distance of not less than thirty miles, and all now rapidly settling." [11]

The town of Merom enjoyed both the prestige and the economic vitality which came with the establishment of the county seat until about 1830. In that year an act to change the location was approved by the legislature. Fortunately for the residents of Merom, it seems that no one came forward offering the required land and donations to provide for a courthouse and other amenities. To their joy, the seat remained where it was for more than another decade. [12]

Finally, between 1841 and 1842, the removal of the county seat to a more central location became a reality. Records from this period and later were all destroyed in a courthouse fire in

[8] Wolfe, pp. 22-28.
[9] Wolfe, pp. 31-32.
[10] Goodspeed, p. 481.
[11] Wolfe, P. 193.
[12] Goodspeed, pp. 482-484.

February of 1850, so factual evidence is sparse. Nonetheless, it is known that the town of Sullivan was founded to fulfill the requirement of a seat as close to the geographic center of the county as possible. After so much hesitation and delay, county officials settled on a site which would serve the purpose. The undeveloped land was wet and swampy, but located nearly at the center of the county. The town site was deeded to the county agent, to divide it into lots. One-sixth of the proceeds of their sale were to go to the owner who deeded the land and the balance of the sale would support the costs of a courthouse and the relocation. The survey was completed in May of 1842 when lots went on sale. The original plat was four blocks on a side and contained the present courthouse square. [13]

Sullivan's Five Courthouses

A private house probably served as the first courthouse, in Carlisle, during the years when the official site was awaiting confirmation. By 1819, when it was located at Merom, a separate building served as the home for courts and records. Although the records have not survived, local legend hints that it was a log structure somewhere in the town. When the seat was moved to Sullivan, in 1842, a more substantial building would have been required. Although the records of this first structure have also been lost, it too was undoubtedly a modest structure. When a disastrous fire occurred on the night of February 7, 1850, the county commissioners were sparked into action. In March, they determined to build anew. After a hesitant start, they authorized $2,500 for the building and by October of that year supplies were delivered, including lumber from a local supplier and 150,000 bricks.

Ambitions for the building continued to grow, and the budget along with them. Based on specifications completed by Edwin May, a contract to build the courthouse was given to James F. Pound and William Reed for a total of $7,853. The building was to be complete by January of 1852. It was to be 40 x 60 feet. Ultimately it was finished within the time allotted, but the cost rose to nearly $9,000.[14] This structure served as the repository of county business and legal matters until 1872, when it was substantially remodeled. However, the central portion of the building remained within the enlarged structure (See Figures 14 and 15).

While the older building was somewhat stilted, with exaggerated crenelations on the parapet, the newly remodeled courthouse embraced the latest Italianate design. It featured bracketed cornices, round arched windows with ornate hoods, iron cresting at the upper ridge line, and an ornate clock tower with an elaborate spire (See Figure 15, previous page.) Sullivan was nearly as up-to-date as any county in the area (Knox County's edifice, was substantially grander.) W. Greenlee

[13] Ibid., and Wolfe, pp. 163 – 164.
[14] Goodspeed, pp. 487 - 488

and J. H. Robertson were awarded a contract for $28,807 to remodel the building in 1872. By 1874, an iron fence had been erected around the square and two years later, a great bell was installed. [15]

Change and Growth – A Symbol of Prosperity

The county had invested a considerable amount of funds in its courthouse which had served well for fifty years (more than 70 from the original construction date). By 1924 the commissioners had determined to build again. The earlier building was deteriorating. Space was at a premium and and the County Commissioners were concerned about the safety of county records, in a structure that was not fireproof. With the great wealth brought by coal, railroads, and the resultant population increases, their dream for a glorious new building seemed possible. Their decision was fortuitous, made in the flush of 1920s prosperity, before it would all vanish in the devastation of the Great Depression. They were determined to have a fitting symbol of the wealth brought by Sullivan County's great extractive industries. The building would have the most modern of facilities and it would stand as a tribute to the community's hopes for the future.

The county commissioners selected a well-known Vincennes architect, John B. Bayard to design a building which would be, "modern in every detail, and absolutely fire proof."[16] Sullivan had suffered a history of devastating fires, including the 1850 fire, another in 1878, and at least a dozen between 1885 and 1908. These culminated in January of 1909 with a catastrophic conflagration which destroyed property and goods valued at more than $150,000.[17] Sullivan residents had good reason to value modern fire proof technology.

Bayard was contracted to begin his design work in the fall of 1925[18]. The building was estimated to cost a whopping $400,000. Financing would be arranged through a special tax levy the next year, and a bond issue over ten years. Two of the county commissioners, Mr. Percy Wolfe and Mr. Ward Engle took an automobile trip with architect Bayard to inspect several courthouses in the state. Among those they visited was the recently completed Vermillion County Courthouse which had been designed by Mr. Bayard, with a collaborator, H. L. Filinger. The basic plan and many of the exterior and interior details were similar to those which would be employed in Sullivan, but the latter would be much more elaborate in its materials and details. The commissioners and their architect also visited courthouses in Brazil, Greenfield, Danville, Greencastle and elsewhere.[19] Nonetheless, it was the Vermillion County building which was most persuasive. Their new Sullivan Courthouse would be a near duplicate.

[15] Goodspeed., p. 491.
[16] *The Sullivan Union,* Wednesday, September 30, 1925.
[17] Wolfe, pp. 182-184.
[18] Sullivan County Commissioners Record, Vol. 24, p. 321, September 26, 1925
[19] *Sullivan Union,* 9-30-1925 and HLFI in www.in.gov-courts in the classroom

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The New Courthouse Becomes a Reality

By January of 1926, feeling that a state of emergency had arisen, the commissioners authorized a 20-year bond issue for the construction of the building. The budget was $400,000 as planned. Architect Bayard had nearly completed his plans. The new building would be spacious, with an auditorium for public events. It would be of stone and steel and would have three stories with a basement. [20] Matters were progressing nicely. By July of the same year, a contractor was hired, [21]Mr. Walter Heath of Greencastle, Indiana with a bid of $359,520,800 to cover the construction, heating, plumbing and electrical work. The contract provided for a Standard Clock system, the installation of an elevator and, "all of the details of the plans of Architect Jack (sic) Bayard of Vincennes."

Downtown Sullivan was all in a dither. Excitement abounded. Within a few weeks, demolition was begun on the old courthouse, which had stood in the center of town for as long as anyone alive could remember. As the local paper breathlessly reported:

> "Exactly one week, one hour and six minutes after the "first blow" in the destruction of the old courthouse had been struck, the last wall of the old structure crashed to the ground. This was on last Thursday, and hundreds of people gathered around the public square to watch the old wall give way. "

A local photographer "snapped" the event for posterity. Many hoped that a rumored gold coin and a bottle of whiskey (along with some records) would be found in the building's cornerstone, but to no avail. It had never existed or was lost forever. Progress was rapid. Supplies for the new building were being hauled to the site as the debris was carted away and concrete work was scheduled to start at the beginning of August.[22] During the first week of August, excavation was well underway. The new building would be nearly twice as large as the old, requiring the removal of some trees from the courthouse square. The excavator's shovels were creating mounds of dirt, to be used later for grading around the structure. [23]

By November, the commissioners held a ceremony to dedicate the cornerstone of the new courthouse. The local Masonic Lodge would officiate, with the county commissioners, council, architect Bayard, the contractor and the construction superintendent all in the honored party. Judge Arthur E. DeBaun would provide the obligatory address. [24] A photograph in *The Sullivan Union* of November 17, 1926, shows the cornerstone and the dedicatory dais. Steel is already in evidence as well as the first courses of stone. The photographs in the collection of Ball States Drawings and Documents Archives (Figures 1 and 2) show the progression of the steel installations, in two stages.

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[20] Sullivan County Commissioners Record, Vol. 24, p. 336, January 4, 1926 and *Sullivan Union,* January 6, 1926.
[21]Sullivan County Commissioners Record, Vol. 24, pp. 368-377, July 6, 1926 and *Sullivan Union* , July 7, 1926.
[22] *Sullivan Daily Times,* July 28, 1926.
[23]Sullivan Daily Times, August 4, 1926.
[24]*Sullivan Union,* November 10, 1926.

In addition to the Sullivan and Vermillion Courthouses, John Bayard was the architect of several prominent buildings in Vincennes, Indiana, including the First National Bank. He was the resident engineer on Vincennes George Rogers Clark Memorial, and engaged in preparing plans for a new post office building, when he committed suicide in April of 1933. He was in ill health. The contractor for the Sullivan courthouse, Walter R. Heath, of Greencastle later became the contractor for the prestigious Memorial in Vincennes.

By the fall of 1928, the courthouse was complete. Designs for the interior furnishings were ordered from architect Bayard in the summer of 1927 and approved for bid at the Commissioners meeting in July. These were originally proposed to cost $100,000 additional. Taxpayers protested and after intervention from the State Board of Tax Commissioners, the cost was amended to $78,000.[25] Ultimately, they were ordered and installed. The contractor's work was accepted and final payment rendered on August 11, 1928.[26] The edifice was ready for its formal dedication which would take place on the courthouse lawn, September 29th, 1928. At last, the community could celebrate this great endeavor. And a large crowd attended the event which was held in the courthouse park. The gala day began on Saturday afternoon with a parade from the American Legion home on north Court Street to the courthouse square. The Elks band strutted its way to the bandstand and provided a concert for the appreciative audience. Prayers, musical solos and oratory completed the program along with congratulations to the officials, the architect and the builder. A highlight was an address by the guest speaker, Mr. Walter Myers of Indianapolis, who called the courthouse a "temple of trust and justice". The latter, he extolled was "justice that knows no race nor creed nor previous condition, justice that ever strives to perpetuate the nobility of the living and the glory of the dead."[27] High-minded ideals which the gleaming stone and marble of the building promised to fulfill for all the residents of the county.

At their meeting on October 1, 1928, the County Commissioners formally expressed their admiration for Mr. Myers "high character, his lofty ideals and his brilliant attainments." Their resolution effusively thanked him for the dedicatory address ... and for refusing to accept any remuneration.[28]

Industry, Transportation and Growth

As previously mentioned, coal was Sullivan County's economic blessing. It was the base for community prosperity during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It is still a major industry today. Thus, the employment, profits and other economic benefits which this industry engendered were as important to the construction of the courthouse as the mortar which bonded its stones.

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[25] Sullivan County Commissioners Record, Vol. 24, pp. 477, 480,483,485, 486, 487, 506-508.
[26] Sullivan County Commissioners Record, Vol. 24, p. 556.
[27] *The Sullivan Union,* October 3, 1928.
[28] Sullivan County Commissioners Record, Vol. 24, p. 561.

The great geological structure called the Illinois Basin sweeps from northwest Illinois down to western Kentucky, passing through west central Indiana on its way. [29] According to a contemporary traveler up the Wabash River in 1816, a new coal mine could be seen in the channel of a small brook near the Turman settlement and prairie in Sullivan County. Mining and use of coal during these early years was confined to small scale private extraction. Blacksmiths and farmers took what was needed from near-surface locations on private lands. The abundant forests were a ready source of fuel at the time.

By the 1830s, Wabash Valley coal was being sent downstream to the lower Mississippi, and commanding competitive prices. But the industry did not begin to prosper in Sullivan County until 1854 when the first railroad ventured into town. A report of the Terre Haute and Indianapolis Railroad in 1852 had foreseen the potential, projecting coal transport as a large part of the railroad's future business. The first practical coal mine was founded near the tiny village of Farmersburg, in 1855. The industry grew slowly, but by 1863, during the Civil War, large quantities of superior quality coal were being shipped from the county. But when it came to quantities of coal produced and shipped, Sullivan was the little sister of Indiana's coal counties in 1883, producing only a little over 87 thousand tons. Clay, Daviess, Parke and Vigo all mined greater amounts. Clay County alone was mining more than seven times Sullivan's production. [30]

At the opening of the twentieth century, the tide would begin to turn. At first only third or fourth, Sullivan County advanced to second and then, by 1906, held first place among its peers for coal production in Indiana. The 37 mines operating in Sullivan County during that year produced an amazing 2, 262,428 tons of coal. Adjacent Greene County held second position with over two million tons. The two counties would vie for top production honors over the next few years. Coal would continue to be an important source of employment and wealth in the county for many years to come. Some indication of its importance at the beginning of the twentieth century can be gleaned from the population figures. In 1900, with about 26,000 people in the county, miners represented 3,666, an important element of the total. A geologist's report of 1898 indicated that four-fifths of the county was under laid with coal, with over 4.6 billion tons estimated in the deposits. At that time, the thickest vein in the county ranged from nine to eleven feet. [31] The riches of these deposits created a ripple of economic benefits through wages spent, equipment bought and investor income for decades. It might be said that the 1926 courthouse was, in large part built on the foundation of coal, along with the investors and the workers who produced it.

[29] "Distribution of Coal in Indiana", www.indiana.edu/~librcsd/etext/hoosier/CO-08.html
[30] Wolfe, pp. 246 – 248.
[31] Wolfe, pp. 249 – 250.

Railroad Times

Like most Indiana counties, agriculture was a prominent economic factor during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Transportation of farm and other goods was a crucial factor. Sullivan was served by a lone railroad line for over twenty years. Several attempts to add new lines failed to get county support and funding until the mid 1870s, when a short hop was completed. A narrow gauge road struggled through many economic and equipment failures during the 1880s and ultimately failed. But the Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad (first called Evansville and Crawfordsville) which had steamed into the town of Sullivan in 1854, continued to stimulate county growth. Through consolidations and other alignments it provided service to Chicago in 1872, a boon to the coal industry. In 1900 it consolidated with the well-known C. & E. I. under Rock Island management. Ultimately, a network of short lines in the northeast quarter of the county emerged to serve the mining interests, several with extensions to Sullivan. [32]

As the twentieth century dawned, Indiana plunged headlong into the greatest development of electric railway and interurban development in its history. Ultimately Indianapolis was destined to become the Interurban center of the world, with more than 600 cars per day to more than 300 towns. Sullivan benefited from the frenzy for fast rail in 1905 when the Terre Haute to Sullivan Interurban began construction. By 1906, trains going "nearly a mile a minute" were speeding across the countryside and slowing down to enter the town. They passed along the courthouse square, "down one of the finest streets of the city," enthused the Terre Haute newspaper. The line turned at the square, with a "Y" at Court and Washington Streets. [33]

The Interurban cars carried freight as well as passengers, and stimulated the economy by tying Vigo and Sullivan counties together via a swift and reliable rail. The line gave passengers an unprecedented view of the workings of a coal mine. Outside Shelburn, north of Sullivan, the road passed under the tipple of the Shelburn Coal Company mine, providing a rare view down the deep black hole from the car windows. Local newspapers offered congratulations to the Terre Haute traction company for making regular connections with, "one of the richest territories in western Indiana." [34]

The joy of trolley transport was short lived. By 1931, only a few years after the Sullivan County Courthouse was dedicated, the line to Sullivan was abandoned for economic reasons, leaving the citizens of the county bereft of their interurban link.[35] When the Depression lifted, America plunged into World War II, dedicating all her energies to that conflict. There was no time or money for infrastructure improvement. After the War, bus and truck transport replaced mass transit systems, and the interurban was not revived. Sullivan County's coal still benefits from the network

[32] Wolfe, pp. 148-158.
[33] Robert A. Brown, *Electric Railroads in Sullivan County 1906 – 1931.*,(quoting the Terre Haute Tribune, various issues.) Unpublished MSS in the collection of the Sullivan County Public Library, pp. 2, 8-15.
[34] Brown, pp.12, 18.
[35] Brown, p.19.

of railroad lines which ply the coal fields and towns of west central Indiana. Then, as now, the economy which fueled the construction of the courthouse was coal, and it is still a major industry .

Criterion C
Architectural Themes

Public buildings, such as the Sullivan County Courthouse evolved stylistically over the years. Primitive log structures were replaced by chaste Greek Revival, Gothic Revival and other early nineteenth century styles, to be once again replaced by the exuberantly romantic Late Victorian styles, like the Italianate. The courthouses which preceded the present Sullivan County building followed this pattern of evolution. The long period between the construction of the present building and its immediate predecessor, meant that the new building fell into a period of dramatic change in building techniques and architectural ideas.

With the opening of the twentieth century came a new global and internal awareness of America's power as a nation and a trend-setter. In 1908 two influential academic authors examined this change in status: John H. Latanbe of Johns Hopkins in *America as a World Power* and Archibald Cary Coolidge of Harvard's *The United States as a World Power.* Along with this new national dignity came an Academic architectural response, based on European precedents, but interpreted within the context of a more mature, broader outlook. [36] The influence of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, 1893 was unparalleled. Richard Morris Hunt, first of the great academic architects of the nation, was one of the major figures of that event. The spirit of the academic movement has been called "genuinely national"... it was widespread throughout the middle class, in an era when middle-class sentiments were the ones that set public taste. It was also sublimely expressed in the McMillan Commission of 1909's grand monuments, museums and vistas in Washington DC – tributes to the spirit of the era. [37]

Not all architects of the time were enthusiastic about the Chicago fair's unabashed promotion of architectural traditions of past ages (in particular those espoused by the Ecole des Beaux-Arts – known as L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts after 1863.) Louis Sullivan, the bold architect of Chicago's Auditorium and Carson Pirie Scott buildings, bitterly remarked that, "the damage wrought to this country by the Chicago World's Fair will last half a century." Although his reaction may have seemed unwarranted, his prophecy regarding the impact of the fair on American architecture was correct. Like much of the rest of the country, academic styles prevailed in Indiana's courthouse architecture during the first three decades of the twentieth century. These included the sub-types Beaux-Arts, Neo-Classic and Colonial Revival. Sigfried Giedion, somewhat grumpily termed the academic, "mercantile classicism" in a series of lectures, delivered at Harvard in 1938 – 1939. He

[36] Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture, Social Function and Cultural Expression.* New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1992, P.211.
[37] Gowans, P. 213.

too acknowledged that it won country-wide ascendency following the 1893 Exposition, saying, "The spirit behind it had now come to possess authority for American architecture as a whole." By 1908 *Architectural Record* noted that the Ecole (des Beaux-Arts) was the model for all American schools of architectural design. [38]

It was no surprise that the architect and client who built the Sullivan County Courthouse chose a style within the Beaux-Arts sub-type of the academic or classical revival genre. With its recollection of classical orders, formal planning and rich decoration, it elevated buildings in the public eye. Between 1846 and 1918, over 400 Americans studied architecture in Paris and many more were imbued with a French-inspired curriculum in U. S. ateliers and schools of architecture. [39] This influence would have trickled down to a regional architect like John Bayard. In any case, the wreaths, swags, scrolls and other embellishments on the Sullivan County building demonstrate, albeit modestly, the outward expression of the style. Even more, the symmetry of its massing, its well-defined axis and sequential spaces are fundamental to the aesthetic as practiced in its latter phase. [40]

New Technology in a New Age

As the second decade of the twentieth century emerged, craftsmanship and art were beginning to merge. The innovations of the Chicago School at the end of the nineteenth century and the rise of New York's skyscrapers marked a distinct change in America: For the first time, the schism between construction and architecture, between the engineer and the architect, was healed.[41] John B. Bayard, the architect from Vincennes who designed both the Vermillion and Sullivan Courthouses, was locally educated at Vincennes University then transferred to Purdue where he earned a degree in electrical engineering. In this regard he shared (on a modest scale), some of the background of the great architect-founder of the Chicago school, William LeBaron Jenny. Jenny was an engineer before he was an architect. An engineering perspective was important to meet the challenges of new technology in a new age. The use of ferroconcrete in reinforced concrete construction became the trademark of new architecture between 1910 and 1920. [42] The construction gave both strength and fireproofing benefits, both of which were top priorities in the construction of the Sullivan County Courthouse.

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[38] Sigfried Giedion, *Space, Time and Architecture, the growth of a new tradition.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1952, Pp. 327 – 329 (also quoting *Architectural Record,* April, 1908, P. 242.)

[39] Isabelle Gournay, definition of "Beaux-Arts" in *The Grove Dictionary of Art,* www.magma.ca/~djeanes/"Beaux-Arts"%20Quotes/Beaux-Arts%. Accessed February 27, 2008.

[40] Ibid. and Sarah Bradford Landau, Carl W. Condit, *Rise of the New York Skyscraper: 1865-1913, pp. 184-5, 191.*

[41] Giedion, p. 316.

[42] Giedion., pp. 256, 305.

Bayard, and his contemporaries, the Indiana architect Elmer Dunlap and Vincennes' J. W. Gaddis were responsible for eight of the approximately 23 Indiana courthouses built in some variant of the Academic or Neo-Classical style in Indiana between 1900 and 1930. Of the nearly two dozen, those built during the later years tended, like the Sullivan example, to be bereft of an exterior dome. Some, like Bayard's work in Sullivan, internalized the concept with a grand rotunda and interior dome. As has been previously mentioned, the basic plan and exterior form of the courthouse are nearly identical to one by the same architect in Newport, Vermillion County. Eliza Steelwater, in a nomination for the Vermillion County Courthouse, has pointed out the similarities between the buildings designed by Bayard. These include elevations divided into three sections, with columns grouped at the center above a rusticated ground floor. The columns are attached and set within a recess. The interiors, however, are slightly different. Sullivan is organized around a central rotunda below a glazed dome, while Vermillion's interior is organized around a square light well. Both continue interior motifs of marble wainscoting and segmental arches. Both circuit courtrooms are similar in appearance but with different detailing. It is noteworthy that seven courthouses in Indiana built between 1916 and 1928 share similar massing and form and are constructed using variations of the Classical Revival design. The similarity of these buildings may be due to the fact that five of them were designed by only two architects, Bayard of Vincennes and Dunlap of Indianapolis, and the sixth by a Vincennes architectural firm, Sutton and Routt. But the modest design of these courthouses, all of which lack a towering dome, and which tend to share a bulky square massing also implies other influences. The similarity of construction methods certainly had much to do with the design. But architectural technology of this period was capable of producing buildings such as the skyscrapers of New York. Steelwater concludes that budget was a large design consideration for county governments. Undoubtedly this is true. [43] But there were other factors as well.

Architect Bayard surely influenced the choice of design and construction methods when he took the Sullivan County commissioners on a tour of courthouses in Vermillion, Clay, Hancock, Hendricks and Putnam counties. Only one, the Richardsonian Romanesque courthouse in Greenfield, Hancock County, was an exception to the Beaux-Arts Revival style. The commissioners would have enjoyed Hendricks County's rotunda, with its columns, sweeping marble staircases, mosaics and stained glass, as well as the even more ornate version of these elements in Clay County's edifice. Because of his recent work on the Vermillion County building, Bayard could propose a swift completion of similar plans, with the interior beauty of a rotunda and stained glass, for a budget of $400,000.

All this compared favorably with Vermillion County's final cost of $358,000. Ultimately, Sullivan County would spend nearly $500,000 for their courthouse and its interior furnishings. Of the 23 courthouses built in Indiana between 1900 and 1930, only the Allen County Courthouse exceeded this cost, including the initial budget. The Sullivan County Commissioners were evidently

[43] Eliza Steelwater, "National Register Nomination, the Vermillion County Courthouse" July, 2007, pp. 19-21.

not afraid to allocate a considerable amount of money to this important project. In 1920, Sullivan County had a larger population than the others who were building courthouses at the same time. Daviess County, for example, spent $317,136 on their courthouse in 1928-1929. Their population in 1920 was only 26,856, while Sullivan's for the same time period was 31,630. [44]

A Building for its Time

It may seem surprising that, with their generous population and budget resources, Sullivan County chose to build a comparatively modest structure, which was, externally, nearly identical to another similar building. After all, this was the most important public building to be constructed in over fifty years. Why didn't they choose to emulate Greenfield, for example, with a Romanesque temple and tower soaring above the surrounding town? They had visited the town with architect Bayard at the beginning. Why did they build their home for all the county's treasured documents and the seat of legal endeavors only a bare three stories – on a par with the commercial buildings which surrounded it. Why did it have four nearly equal entrances --three accessible from the street? Perhaps a clue can be found in the rhetoric of their keynote speaker on the day of dedication:

> "In this temple may the rich and poor, the high and the low ever stand equal before the law. For justice knows no rank, and in the complex civilization of our day, ...(it is) the fortress of the mighty and the refuge of the oppressed." [45]

The Sullivan County Courthouse, in its design as well as its implementation, is a true reflection of the spirit and hopes of its time. This was the era of the new automobile, the model T, manufactured by Mr. Ford to be within the reach of every family. To Ford, and most of his contemporaries, the automobile was the engine that ran the economy as well as the mechanism for enlarging the sphere of the common man. This was the era, after World War I, when Herbert Hoover as Secretary of Commerce, extolled the efficiency of simplification and the virtue of standardization in the name of the public good. It was the era of Modernization. Uniform design had become a virtue. The population bought homes from a catalog, moved to designed suburbs, lived in comfortable craftsman cottages and hoped for poultry in every pot. The very air (radio air waves that is) would be owned by the public for the general benefit. Even time had finally been regulated -- by the railroads. It was no accident that the most prominent feature above the parapet

[44] U. S. Census Bureau, Indiana Business Research Center – Stats, IN.
[45] *The Sullivan Union,* Wednesday, October 3, 1928.

line on each elevation of the Sullivan County Courthouse was a clock – suitably enwreathed and framed in stone. [46]

The Sullivan County Courthouse is a significant local architectural wonder. First, because its workmanship and materials are of the highest quality available. But also because its design exemplifies the aspirations and values of its time. Lacking ostentation, it fits comfortably within the context of the two and three story commercial buildings which surround the square. Its place as a representative of the popular Beaux-Arts family of styles popular after the turn of the century is easily recognized. Well-chosen decorative elements on the exterior recall their French antecedents, subdued, but hinting at what might be within. Like justice, the courthouse was designed to be open to all, on four sides (the fourth was an entrance into the gathering place, or auditorium.) Like mercy, its elevation is gentle. Like spiritual values, extolled by Sullivan's dedicatory speaker in his closing remarks, the courthouse reveals its greatest visual joys within.

[46] www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/hh31.html, September, 2008, and Camille Fife, "Policy?" Unpublished MS in the author's collection.

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_____. August 4, 1926. "Basement Work on Court House will be Rushed"

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Section 10. Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the south east corner of West Washington and South Court Streets, continue east along the south side of West Washington Street to the south west corner of West Washington and South Main Street, then, turning south, follow the west side of South Main to the intersection of South Main and West Jackson Street, turning west, follow the north side of West Jackson to the intersection of South Court and turn north, along the east side of South Court to the place of beginning. (Note: North Court Street and North Main Street begin on the north side of West Washington Street, as shown on the sketch plan)

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the traditional courthouse square which has been associated with the seat of county government in Sullivan County since approximately 1842.

Additional Documentation

Figure 1, left.: Construction Photograph, looking up from ground or first floor, showing the heavy steel structural framework and part of the concrete work in the background center. Courtesy of the Drawings and Documents Archive, Ball State University, 23-18B-007_s_t.

Figure 2, below: Cconstruction photo, looking down from above roof level. Note heavy I-beams and circular framework for the rotunda. The limestone facing has been applied and two of the four clock surrounds are visible on the parapet. Drawings and Documents Archive, Ball State University, 23-18B-007_s_t.

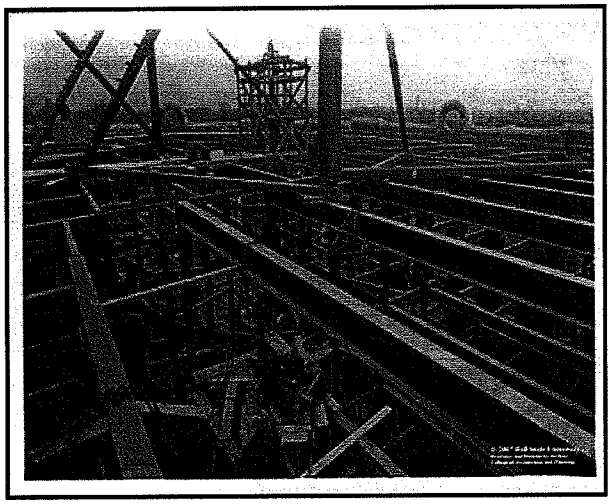


Figure 3: Below: Close up of one of the four identical clocks which decorate the parapet of the Sullivan County Courthouse. (The Westerly Group, Inc. 2008)

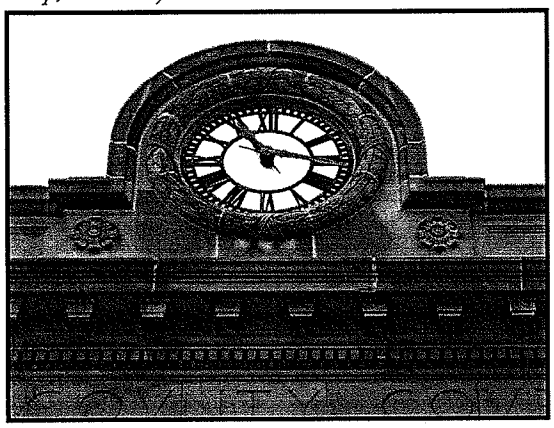


Figure 4: Below: a close up of the ornate carved stone bracket surrounding the entry on the east elevation of the building. (Photo: The Westerly Group, Inc. 2008)

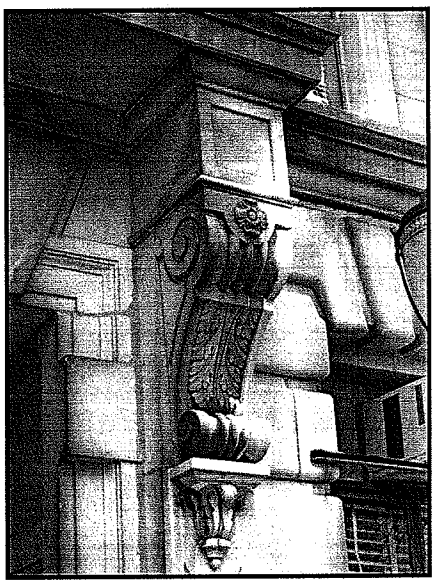


Figure 5, Below: Photograph of the ground floor plan of a set of blueprints located in the map room of the Sullivan County Courthouse. These drawings were made in June of 1927 to show the furniture, cabinets and furnishings supplied for the building. They are extremely fragile. (Photo: The Westerly Group, December 2007)

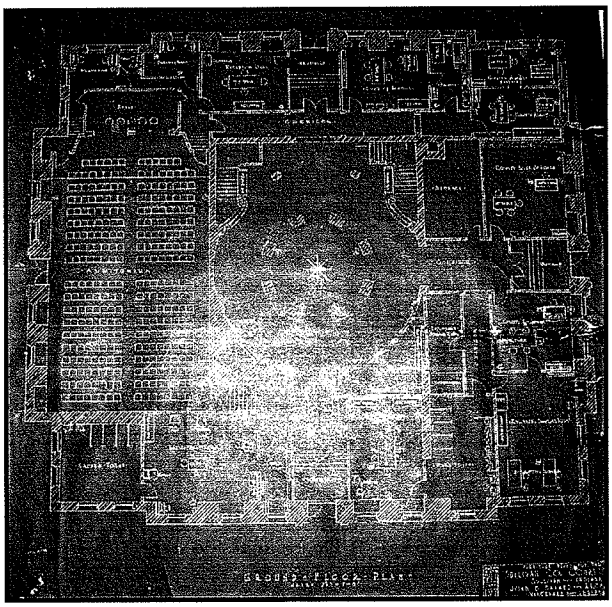


Figure 6:Below: Firt Floor Plan from 1927 drawings.

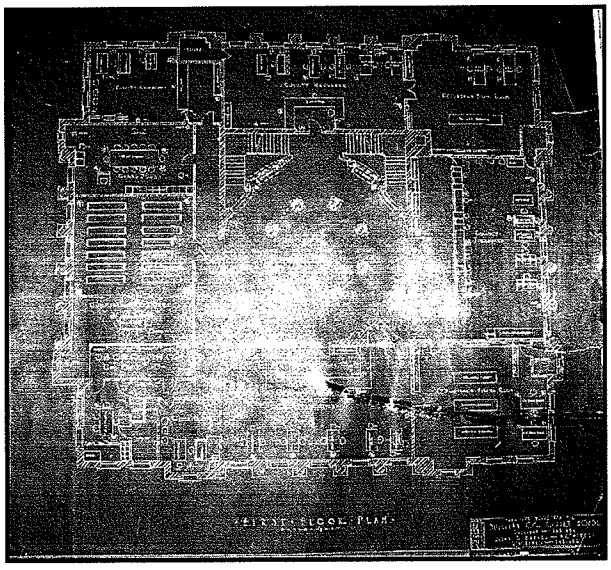
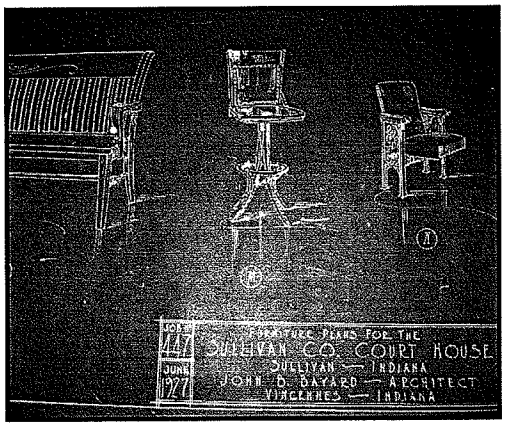


Figure 7: Below Left. An excerpt from the 1927 furniture plans showing the stool which can be seen in the filing room and Photo 0020. The theatre seats, shown at right are no longer in the auditorium, but the benches can be seen throughout the building.

Figure 8: Below Right: The courtroom on the first floor with the mural. The egg and dart frame is also painted. (Image courtesy of the web site: www.in.gov/judiciary/sullivan/)



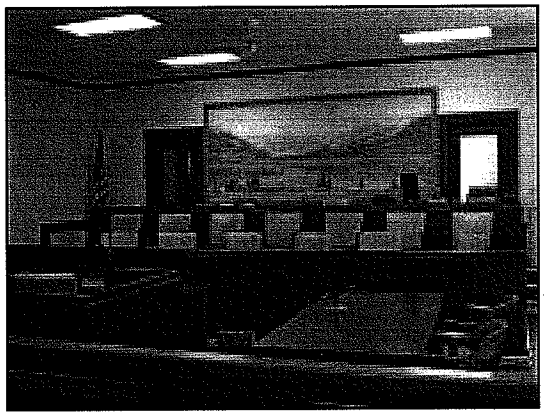
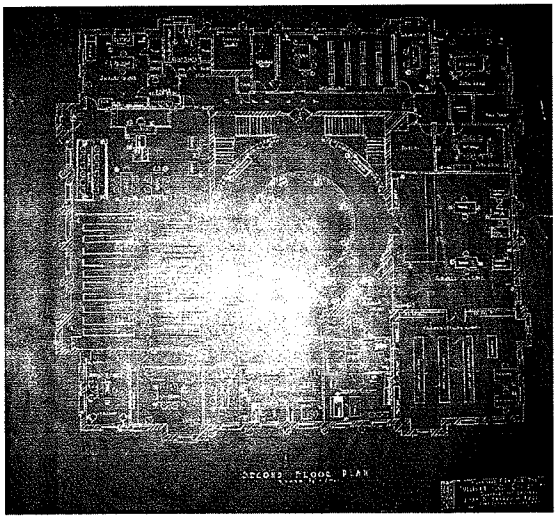


Figure 9, below. Image of the second floor plan from the 1927 blueprints.

Figure 10,left. The ceiling medallion in the second floor court room.



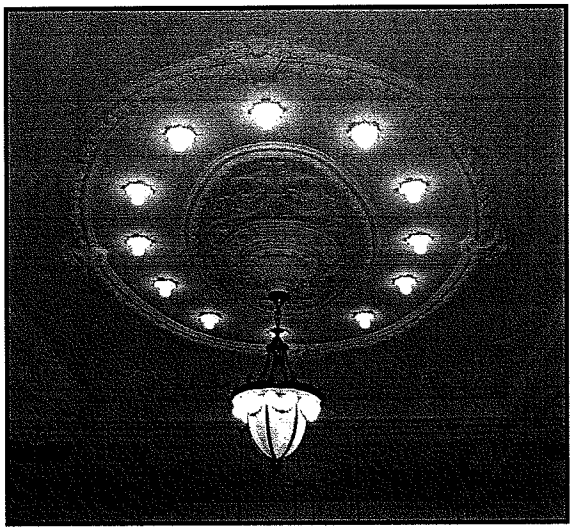
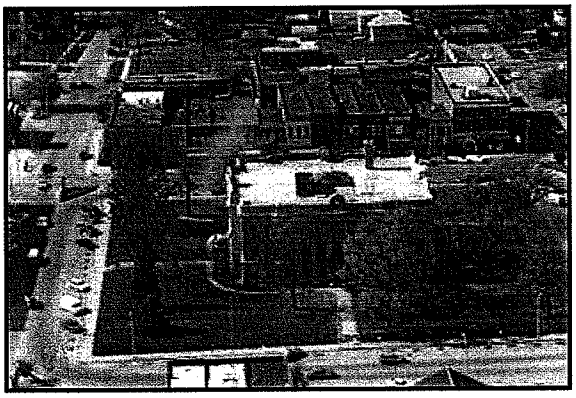


Figure 11, below. A c. 1970 aerial of the courthouse (Source www.getimage.com)



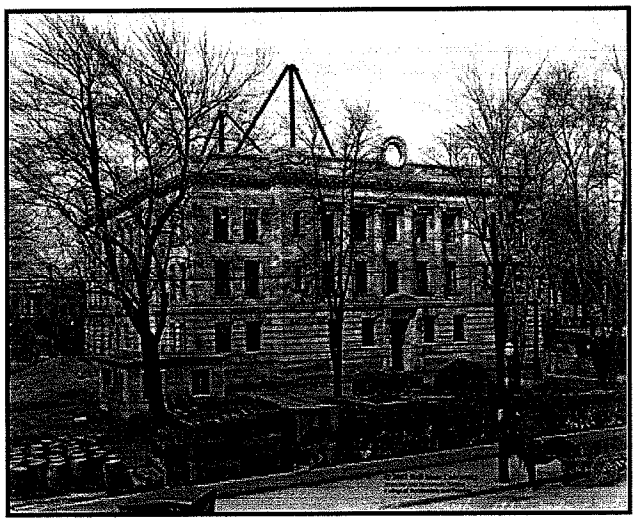
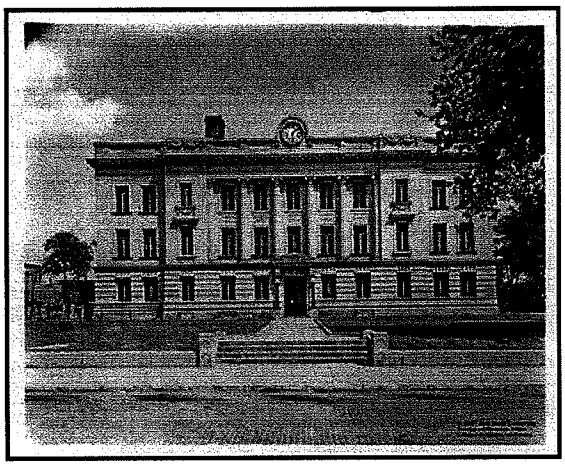


Figure 12, Right. A photo taken c. 1926, during construction, showing the stone exterior and the low perimeter wall. (Drawings and Documents Archive, Ball State University, 23-18B-001_s_t)

Figure 13, Below, left. A photo taken not long after the building was opened, showing the perimeter wall, and steps. (Courtesy of Ball State Drawings and Documents Archive, 23-18B-002_s_t)
Figure 14, Below, right.. The 1850 Sullivan County Courthouse, c. 1865. Two of the men shown are thought to be James W. Hinkle, the County Clerk at the time and Joseph W. Wolfe, a prominent lawyer and county commissioner.



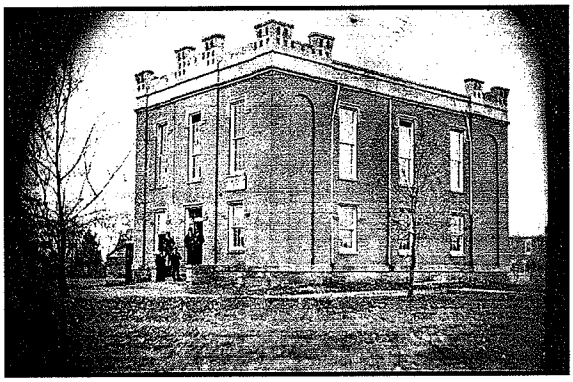


Figure 15, Below., left: The remodeled Courthouse after c. 1875. The older courthouse is said to be the central wing with windows re-worked. (Source: The Sullivan County Public Library.) Figure 16, Below, right: The Interior of the Second Floor courtroom, historic photograph in the Drawings and Documents Collection, Ball State University (23-18B-004_s_t.) Originally the ceiling decoration and walls were highlighted by decorative painting.

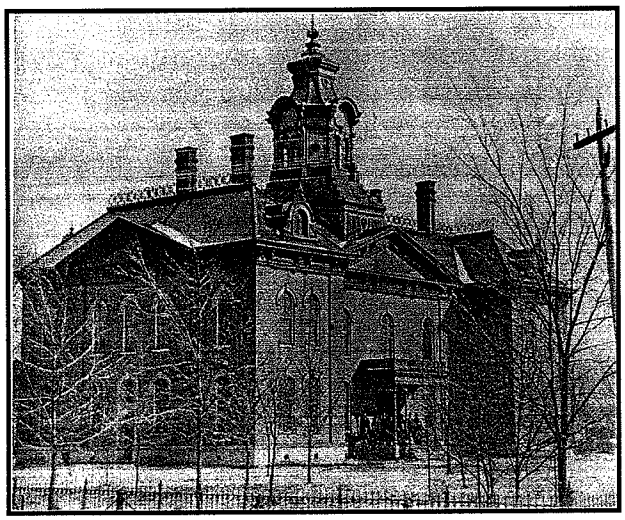


Figure 17, Below: An image in the collection of the Sullivan County Public Library, showing the officiating dias on the day of the laying of the cornerstone, November 11, 1926. Several rows of stone and the steel framework are visible.

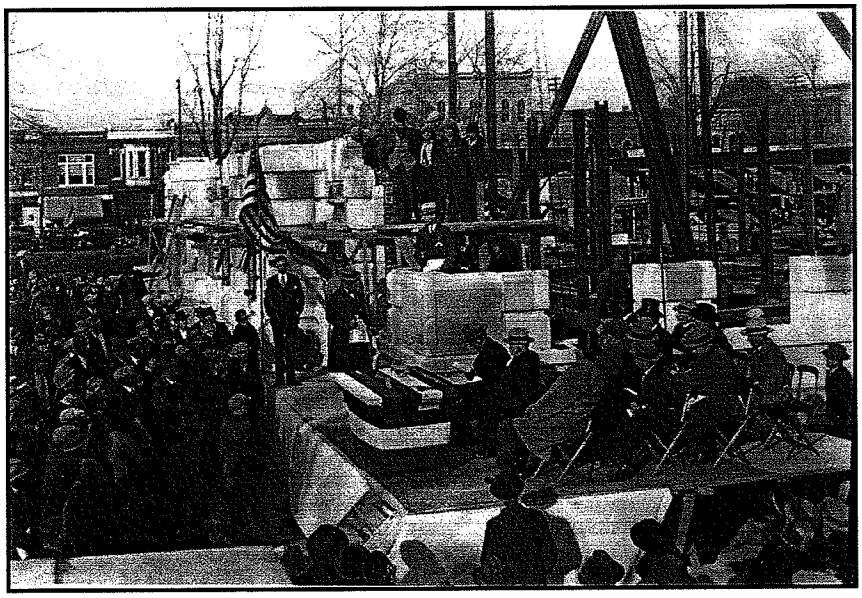


Figure 18, Below: Interurban traveling on the courthouse square, c. 1910. (Courtesy of the Sullivan County Public Library.)

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs unless otherwise indicated.

1. The Sullivan County Courthouse
2. Sullivan County, Indiana
3. Camille B. Fife, The Westerly Group, Inc.
4. December 28, 2007, April 3, 2008
5. The photographs are digital, no negative exists.

Exterior

6. An image looking east toward the west entrance to the courthouse, along South Court Street
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0001

6. Looking east, north east from South Court toward the west façade.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0002

6. Looking north east toward the south east corner of the courthouse and the war memorial.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0003

6. Looking north west toward the south entrance. This is the former entrance to the auditorium.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0004

6. Looking west toward the east entrance to the courthouse.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0005

6. Looking south west toward the north east corner of the courthouse.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0006

6. Looking south, south east toward the north entrance to the courthouse and the parking lot.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0007

Interior
Basement

6. Looking west toward the lower tier of the steps leading from the ground floor to the basement.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0008

6. Looking south from the interior hall on the east side of the rotunda, toward the elevator.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0009

Ground Floor

6. Looking south, south east toward the elevator on the ground floor.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0010

6. Looking south, south east along a hall, just south of the east entry and adjacent to the stairs leading to the auditorium. This photo shows two interior offices, the only additions made to the original courthouse.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0011

6. An image, looking west, within the women's restroom at the south east corner of the building. The photo shows the original stalls plus the new accessible addition.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0012

6. This photograph, a long shot looking west from the back of the auditorium toward the stage, shows the present use of this space, as storage. The seats have been removed, but the stage, the lighting and the decorative wall painting are intact.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0013

6. Looking south, south west through the rotunda, this photo shows an example of the decorative iron balusters and newels which adorn each of the stair landings.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0014

6. Looking west, south west through the arch leading from the rotunda to the entry, this photo shows a grained safe which has been placed in a former hall. The hall has been blocked behind the safe with a standard construction modern wall.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0015

First Floor

6. Looking through the rotunda toward the elevator on the first floor, showing two of the massive columns and their decorative capitals.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0016

6 Looking up toward the stained glass dome and showing some of the ornamentation around the dome and on the capitals. Taken from the first floor.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0017

6. Looking east within the Treasurer's office, showing the extensive wood counter and windows.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0018

6. Looking north west within the Auditor's office, showing the entry door, the counter, and in the background, one of the grained safes.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0019

6. Detail of original wooden chair, shown on drawings of 1927 and still present in the auditor's file room. Most of the original furnishings are still within the building.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0020

6. View looking west, showing the rail, separating the court from the spectators, and some of the benches. The details of the original carved appliqué are shown.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0021

Second Floor

6. View looking south west from gallery of the courtroom, toward the judge's bench and jury box.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0022

6. An image looking due east within the courtroom, showing the area where benches have been removed to provide shelving for law books and the rear or east door of the courtroom.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0023

6. A view looking due north and down toward the rotunda, showing the inlaid marble compass in the floor, the columns and other details.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0024

6. A photograph taken from the same position as 0024, looking directly across the rotunda toward the Clerk's office.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0025

6. Looking down the stairs from the west side of the rotunda. Photo looks south.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0026

6. This image, looking south south west was taken within the hall near the entrance to the Circuit Court and faces doors to the court, with the second door being an enclosed telephone room. At the end of the hall are the judge's chambers.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0027

6. Looking north north east, this image shows the doors to the magistrate's office and the short hall, with its terrazzo floor and marble wainscoting.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0028

Attic (Approximate Plan)

6. An image, looking down the metal stairs leading from the second floor to the attic.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0029

6. Looking approximately south east, a close up of the stained glass dome showing the came and individual pattern.

7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0030

6. Taken from the same position, a photograph looking above the stained glass dome toward the glass skylight above which lights the dome.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0031

6. Looking approximately north west, a view into the open areas around the perimeter of the attic showing the reinforced concrete beams and other structural details.
7. IN_SullivanCounty_SullivanCountyCourthouse_0032