



FOR ASSISTANCE IN COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION...

If you believe your county courthouse requires preservation, restoration, or renovation, or faces jeopardy due to space shortage, call the Indiana Landmarks office nearest you:

Headquarters/Central - Indianapolis
317-639-4534 / 800-450-4534

North - South Bend 574-232-4534;
Hobart 219-947-2657; Wabash 260-563-4534

South - Jeffersonville 812-284-4534;
Aurora 812-926-0983; Evansville 812-423-2988

East - Cambridge City 765-478-3172

West - Terre Haute 812-232-4534

For contact names and email addresses at each office, and for information on membership in Indiana Landmarks, call our headquarters at the number above or visit

www.indianalandmarks.org

SAVING INDIANA'S COUNTY COURTHOUSES



INDIANA'S HISTORIC COURTHOUSES

symbolize our forebears' confidence and pride in democratic government and American justice. They display high-style architecture, executed on a grand scale in expensive materials—brick, limestone, and granite, with interiors featuring ornate marble, carved plaster, and decoratively painted and stenciled surfaces. The buildings' placement—almost always in the heart of the county seat—offered additional proof of their central importance to the community. The presence of the courthouse attracted businesses and traffic in the nineteenth century, and it still does today.

TIME MARCHES ON, however, and what was state-of-the-art in 1880 may fall short of the mark in the twenty-first century. Growth of population, crime, and government functions may leave the courthouse short of space. Accessibility standards require elevators and suitable restrooms. Energy efficiency is always a concern. And their beloved, even iconic status has not insulated courthouses from threats of demolition, improper renovation, and incompatible additions.

THE GOOD NEWS is that courthouses are adaptable, and no deficiency should be fatal. Skilled architects can remedy both common and uncommon courthouse problems and concerns while preserving the historic appearance and inherent character. The money for courthouse restoration and retrofitting can come from many different sources.

BECAUSE POPULAR SUPPORT REMAINS

HIGH for these pre-eminent landmarks, Indiana has lost only eight of its historic county courthouses since 1937. Instead of replacement, many county governments have commissioned restorations, additions, off-site annexes—individually and in combination—in modest phased programs and in mammoth all-at-once projects. A sampling of excellent courthouse preservation projects undertaken shows the range of possibilities.



"Courthouse preservation is a matter of civic will and respect for the high ideals of our forebears. These beautiful structures reflect our better selves; they should be saved, restored, and honored."

—The Hon. Randall T. Shepard
Chief Justice, Indiana Supreme Court



FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Brookville

When Franklin County commissioners faced a space shortage in the 1910 courthouse, they solved the problem by restoring the abandoned Brookville High School as a courthouse annex. Built in 1912 with a 1950s addition, the building had been abandoned after the 2001-2002 school year. The restoration of the school as the county office annex revealed long covered-up features of the landmark and came in \$400,000 under budget.

Cost: \$3.1 million (2006)
Funding Sources: General obligation bond
Project Architect: Lamson and Condon, Indianapolis



ALLEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Fort Wayne

With the county's blessing, the Allen County Courthouse Preservation Trust was incorporated as a nonprofit organization to restore the elaborate interior of the 1902

Beaux-Arts courthouse. Recognizing that the project would require more funding than the county alone could provide, the Preservation Trust mounted a broad-based campaign that raised \$8.6 million for the courthouse restoration, including \$1 million in influential participation from the area's legal community.

Cost: \$8.6 million (2002)
Funding Sources: County funds, Build Indiana Fund grant, and donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations
Project Architect: MSKTD and Associates, Fort Wayne



HOWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Kokomo

The Howard County Courthouse, completed in 1937, is one of only two Hoosier county courthouses to employ the Art Deco style. In the 1990s, the county purchased and renovated two buildings in downtown Kokomo to accommodate its need for additional space. Later, the county updated the mechanical systems in the historic courthouse, replaced the roof, cleaned the building's exterior, and converted office spaces into courtrooms and clerks' offices.

Cost: \$4 million (2002)
Funding Sources: County cumulative capital fund
Project Architect: William H. Bassett, Kokomo



TIPPECANOE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Lafayette

Because of a growing population, Tippecanoe County needed two new courts by the 1980s. To solve the problem without detracting from the 1884 courthouse, architects converted the third floor—which had 25-foot ceilings—into two separate floors, gaining an additional 22,000 square feet. The courthouse project was the starting point for Lafayette's downtown revitalization.

Cost: \$8 million (1992)
Funding Sources: Bond issue and county's cumulative capital fund
Project Architect: Schmidt Associates, Indianapolis



OHIO COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Rising Sun

The Ohio County Courthouse in Rising Sun, built in 1845, is Indiana's oldest courthouse in continuous use. To accommodate increased space needs, the courthouse was enlarged with additions in 1989 and 2002. In both cases, commissioners determined that additions were more cost effective than demolition and new construction. The 2002 project also included renovation of the original courthouse interior.

Cost: \$618,400 (1989); \$2.6 million (2002 addition/renovation).
Funding Sources: County cumulative capital fund (1989), tax revenue from the Grand Victoria Riverboat Casino (2002 addition/restoration).
Project Architect: Preservation Architecture Services Team, Cincinnati, OH



SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Scottsburg

Completed in 1874, the Scott County Courthouse in Scottsburg is in the heart of downtown Scottsburg's historic district. County commissioners cited two main reasons when they voted for an addition to the 8,000 square-foot courthouse: economics and the convenience of having all county offices under one roof. Approved by the local historic preservation review board, the 24,000 square-foot addition emulates the style of the original Italianate building.

Cost: \$3.4 million (1997)
Funding Sources: General obligation bond
Project Architect: Ratio Architects, Indianapolis

