**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

**STATE**: Indiana  
**COUNTY**: Vanderburgh  
**ENTRY NUMBER**: 70.213.0602  
**DATE**: 7/13/69

### 1. NAME

- **COMMON**: Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse
- **AND/OR HISTORIC**: Same as above

### 2. LOCATION

- **STREET AND NUMBER**: Whole City Block bounded by Vine, 4th, Court and Main Streets

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
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<td>Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site</td>
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<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
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<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Museum
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

**Cultural Center**

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

- **OWNER'S NAME**: Vanderburgh County Commissioners  
- **STREET AND NUMBER**: City-County Building, 8th and Main Streets

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC**: Same as above

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- **TITLE OF SURVEY**: No known existing survey
- **DATE OF SURVEY**:  
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**:  
- **STREET AND NUMBER**:  
- **CITY OR TOWN**:  
- **STATE**: Indiana  
- **CODE**: 13  
- **ENTRY NUMBER**: 70.213.0602  
- **DATE**: 7/13/69
The Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse is a baroque style building of Indiana Limestone. Since it was sand-blasted and pointed about eight years ago, it is in excellent condition, particularly the exterior. The interior has been well but not beautifully maintained and would require some repairs to plaster ceilings and refinishing of woodwork and walls. It was, however, used until May, 1969 as the seat of County Government and is in quite habitable condition.

Designed by Henry Wolters of Louisville, Kentucky, the Courthouse is symmetrically balanced in the classic sense. The main building is a long, rectangular structure with a broad pavilion projecting perpendicularly from each of the long sides, with a soaring dome erected on the roof at the crossing point of the pavilions and the axis of the main building. The decoration is in symmetrically organized patterns of high complexity, rusticated stones alternating with smooth ones. At the third story level are cartouche type windows surrounded by elaborate scroll designs. Along the cornice-line a marble balustrade railing encircles the entire building, interrupted only by segmental pediments placed one at each end of the main building and capped by over-life sized statuary by Franz Engelsmann, a pupil of Augustus St. Gaudens. Four bulging bays located near the corners of the structure are topped by hemispherical domes which emphasize the symmetrical balance and call attention to the doorways, which are approached by long, imposing stairs.

The interior of the building is paved with marble in the principal hallways and the walls of the main and second floors are lined with Tennessee marble panels. Elaborate ironwork guard rails are a feature of the Rotunda on each floor and the stair rails are of wrought iron as well. The central dome of the Rotunda rises to a coffered, rounded ceiling visible from below from all three floors. The Rotunda has on each floor niches and lunettes which it has been proposed that local artists treat with sculptures and murals. There are several large court rooms going through two floors, with handsome baroque plaster ceilings and wall decorations. The original judge's benches, jury boxes and railings of carved walnut are still in place. The interior construction of the upper portion of the dome rising above the clock mechanism is a masterpiece of the bricklayer's art, with bricks baked to order, rounded to fit into the curved surfaces of the dome. The brickwork is supported by a spider-web-like framework of bent iron bars. The subbasement and foundations are extremely massive, with limestone chunks 5 x 5 feet square, still showing drill marks where they were blasted out of the quarry. A tunnel leads under 4th Street to the County Jail across the street and also conducts the heating pipes from the power plant behind the Jail building.
6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Cornerstone 11/27/88; completed 1891

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Education ☐ Political
☐ Historic ☐ Agriculture ☐ Engineering ☐ Religion/Philosophy
☐ Architecture ☐ Art ☐ Invention ☐ Science
☐ Architecture ☐ Art ☐ Landscape ☐ Sculpture
☐ Communication ☐ Conservation ☐ Literature ☐ Social/Humanitarian
☐ Commerce ☐ Conservation ☐ Music ☐ Theater
☐ Conservation ☐ Conservation ☐ Music ☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse served for 78 years as the seat of County Government for Evansville and Vanderburgh County. It cannot boast of any great historical decision like the Dred Scott case or of any specific memorable event. Many candidates for State and National office appeared on its steps to address the public, including many Presidential candidates, both successful and unsuccessful.

Of some historic interest is the fact that the Courthouse occupies the site of the former turnaround basin of the Wabash and Erie Canal, completed in 1853 but having a brief life until only 1865 because of the overwhelming competition of the railroads, which took all of the canal business. The disastrous failure of the canal project bankrupted the State of Indiana and caused it to adopt the very conservative fiscal policies which persist to this day.

The main significance of this Courthouse for the State and Nation would be its grandeur as a masterpiece of architecture of its period - a remarkably pure and "uncluttered" example of the ostentatious "Neo-Baroque" style which our towns adopted in the post-Civil War Victorian period to express their civic pride and image of success and prosperity.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Architectural Heritage of Evansville" by Howard E. Wooden
Published by the Evansville Museum of Arts and Sciences

"The Evansville Story" by Dr. James E. Morlock 1956
Professor at the University of Evansville

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
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<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<td>SW</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY
OF LESS THAN 1 ACRE

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<tr>
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<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37 58 25</td>
<td>87 33 59</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF Nominated PROPERTY: 2.15 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>Vanderburgh</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None overlapping</td>
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</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Alexander L. Leich, President

ORGANIZATION: Conrad Baker Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Evansville

STATE: Indiana 47708

CODE: 32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [X]

Name: [Signature]
Title: Chief of Nat. Preserv.
Date: 8-3-70

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: SEP 4 1970

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: AUG 2 1970
E. WINDOWS ON THE END PAVILIONS ARE ARTICULATED AS ROUND ORNAMENTED LUNETTES (PAINTED OUT) THAT OPEN INTO THE TWO-STORY COURTROOMS. CAPITALS ON THE COLUMNS EMPLOY FLORAL MOTIFS, WHEREAS THOSE ON PILASTERS EXHIBIT FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, WITH NO TWO ALIKE.


THE CENTRAL DOMED AND CUPOLA REST ON A DRUM THAT EMPLOYS GROUPED COLUMNS AND ARCHED WINDOWS. ALL DOMES ARE COPPER-COVERED, STEEL-RIBBED STRUCTURES FILLED IN WITH MOLDED "TERRA COTTA LUMBER", A COMPOSITION OF CLAY AND SAWDUST. THE STEEL-BEAMED ROOF IS COVERED IN GRAY SLATE.

THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING IS APPROACHED BY FOUR MAJOR STAIRWAYS, EACH WITH MONUMENTAL STONE HANDRAILS AND NEWEL POSTS THAT ONCE SUPPORTED ELABORATE LIGHT FIXTURES. HALLWAY FLOORS ARE OF MARBLE, AND WAINSCOTING IS OF ETAWA PINK MARBLE FROM GEORGIA. MOST WOODWORK IS OAK. OTHER INTERIOR FEATURES INCLUDE BRASS HARDWARE AND HANDRAILS, IRON RAILINGS, FOUR FULL-HEIGHT LIGHT SHAFTS, MOLDED PLASTER, AND MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL CARVED WOOD JUDGES' BENCHES, JURY BOXES AND RAILINGS. A CENTRAL FEATURE IS THE ROTUNDA, WHICH IS OPEN FROM THE

F. INFORMATION SOURCES VANDERBURGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA, 1972.
A. NAME OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  C. NUMBER 82-196-16-0136
B. ADDRESS 401 COURT STREET
D. UTM References CENSUS TRACT #18.

E. BASEMENT LEVEL TO THE COFFERED DOME HIGH ABOVE THE THIRD FLOOR.
   Contractor for the courthouse was Charles Pearce and Company, a local firm also responsible for at least 3 other Indiana courthouses at Muncie, Lafayette and Frankfort.
   The scale and monumentality of the Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse make it exceptional among Indiana courthouses. The Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

F. INFORMATION SOURCES

G. PREPARED BY N. LONG  H. DATE 8/8/78
**STATE OF INDIANA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**INDIANA HISTORIC SITES AND STRUCTURES INVENTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. HISTORIC NAME</th>
<th>Vanderburgh County Courthouse</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. OWNERSHIP</td>
<td>PUBLIC/PRIVATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. LOCATION NOTES</td>
<td>Conrad Baker Foundation</td>
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<td>4. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY</td>
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<td>PRESENT PAST 6. CATEGORY</td>
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<td>6. ENDANGERED</td>
<td>DISTRICT X BUILDING(S) SITE OBJECT</td>
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<td>7. ACCESSIBLE</td>
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<td>8. PERIODS</td>
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<td>13. CONDITION</td>
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<td>16. IN ESTABLISHED HISTORIC DISTRICT</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. DATE</td>
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<td>Township Assessor: Evansville Journal 11/27/1830, N. Long</td>
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<td>20. PREPARED BY</td>
<td>N. Long</td>
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**The Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse stands on the site of the former Turnaround Basin of the Wabash and Erie Canal, built c. 1826.**  
The bearing walls of Indiana Colitic Limestone stand 3 stories high, with an additional above-grade basement and a sub-basement housing mechanical systems. The cross plan includes a long rectangle intersected at its center by a shorter rectangle, with a drum, dome, and cupola resting on the intersection. Pavilions at each end of the longer rectangle have domed semi-circular pases on each side, and originally contained courtrooms a full two stories in height. These four copper side domes are ribbed, and each has a crown-like copper lantern. These projections and pavilions—along with a variety of textures and exuberant sculpted forms—use shadow and light in a way that has prompted some to describe the style as Baroque. Although Beaux Arts would be more accurate for the period, the basement employs rusticated limestone, and the first story is situated with alternating ashlar and rusticated stone, ending in a continuous entablature with a plain, wide frieze, which serves as a water table, as well as a sill course for the second floor and a stylobate for clustered or paired two-story columns and pilasters. Third story.
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**PROPERTY** Old Vanderburgh County State Old Courthouse

**REGISTER NUMBER** 70-9/13-0002

**STATE** Indiana

**PROPERTY USE** Office

**PROPERTY LOCATION** Vanderburgh Co.
NPS Number 70-9-13-0002

Title: Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

Loc. Vanderburgh County, Ind.

View of Courthouse taken from Southwest
Title

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(TYPE all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME
COMMON: Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
City block bounded by Vine, 4th, Court, and 5th Streets
CITY OR TOWN:
Evansville
STATE: Indiana

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Dr. A.A. Larsen
DATE OF PHOTO: June, 1968
NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Conrad Baker Foundation, Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.: Central Dome; cornerstone placed on November 27, 1888

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Property Photograph Form
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME
COMMON: Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: City block bounded by Vine, 4th, Court and 7th Streets
CITY OR TOWN: Evansville

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Dr. Aubrey A. Larsen
DATE OF PHOTO: June 1968
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Conrad Baker Foundation, Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
South Pavilion and Central Dome, Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

State: Indiana
County: Vanderburgh
Entry Number: 70-9-13-0002
Date: 9/17
WABASH AND ERIE CANAL

Completed from Lake Erie to Evansville, 1853. Used till 1865. Passing from 5th St. to 1st Ave., canal widened into basin for docks covering part of this square.

INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU
Indiana
COUNTY: Vanderburgh
ENTRY NUMBER: 70-9-13-0002
DATE: 9/4

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

1. NAME
COMMON: Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse Complex

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: City block bounded by Vine, 4th, Court and 5th Streets
CITY OR TOWN: Evansville
STATE: Indiana

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Alexander L. Leich
DATE OF PHOTO: February 1970
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Conrad Baker Foundation, Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIPTION: Historical marker on lawn of Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse concerning turn-around basin of Wabash and Erie Canal located on this site from 1853 to 1865.
**Title:**

**ST ATE**

**C OUNTY**

**F OR NPS USE ONLY**

**ENTRY NUMBER**

**DATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Code</td>
<td>163</td>
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</table>

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph*

1. **NAME**
   - **COMMON:** Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse
   - **AND/OR HISTORIC:**

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** City Block bounded by Vine, 4th, Court and 6th Streets
   - **CITY OR TOWN:** Evansville
   - **STATE:** Indiana
   - **CODE:** 13
   - **COUNTY:** Vanderburgh
   - **CODE:** 163

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
   - **PHOTO CREDIT:** Dr. Aubrey A. Larsen
   - **DATE OF PHOTO:** June 1968
   - **NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Conrad Baker Foundation, Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - **DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**
     - View of 1888 date marker (date cornerstone was laid) on South pediment of Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse. Work of Sculptor Franz Engelsmann, pupil of Augustus St. Gaudens
<table>
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<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
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<td>Dr. A.A. Larsen</td>
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<td>June, 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:</td>
<td>Probate court room showing original judge's bench, jury box, and railing</td>
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</table>
DOWNTOWN EVANSVILLE RESOURCES
Vanderburgh County, Indiana
N. Long, DMD 1977

#70 View north of
401 Court Street

#66 Old County Courthouse
**1. NAME**

**COMMON:** Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse Complex  
**AND/OR HISTORIC:** Same as above

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** City block, bounded by Vine, 4th, Court and 5th Streets  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Evansville  
**STATE:** Indiana

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

**SOURCE:** J. Foster Ashburn, 309 W. 13th Street, Fort Worth, Texas  
**SCALE:** Shown in lower right corner of full size map  
**DATE:** 1967

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS:
1. Property boundaries where required.  
2. North arrow.  
3. Latitude and longitude reference. (This information is given on large scale detail maps included with this application).
1. NAME
COMMON: Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse Complex
AND/OR HISTORIC: Same as above

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
City block bounded by Vine, 4th, Court and 5th Streets
CITY OR TOWN:
Evansville
STATE:
Indiana

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE:
Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office
SCALE:
1" = 40' - 0"
DATE:
November 1969

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse
AND/OR HISTORIC: Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Block bounded by Vine, 4th, Court and 5th Streets
CITY OR TOWN: Evansville

STATE: Indiana
CODE: 13
COUNTY: Vanderburgh
CODE: 163

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office
SCALE: 1" = 40' - 0" 
DATE: November 1969

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
Please refer to the map in the Multiple Property Cover Sheet for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000186
The Honorable Stewart L. Udall  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Conrad Baker Foundation was organized to secure a 99-year lease on the magnificent baroque Vanderburgh County Court House, which is soon to be vacated for a new civic complex which will house both the city and county governments.

We intend to use the building for housing cultural, humanitarian and educational agencies. The Evansville Museum is considering an expansion of some of its exhibits into the building. We are also hopeful that our Educational Television program will be housed there. The O.E.O. has already signed a lease for office space.

Our plans call for redecorating the building, installing modern plumbing and elevator facilities and creating up-to-date office space. Above all, our object is historic preservation and restoration of corridors, rotunda and court rooms to their original splendor. The building may well be the finest example of its kind in the state of Indiana, with the possible exception of the State House in Indianapolis.

Since the capital funds needed will be approximately $550,000 we are exhausting every source of assistance. We wonder if you would be so kind as to advise us how this building might be declared a national monument and if any federal funds for historic preservation may be available.

I recall very well the day in August, 1965 when you were at New Harmony, thirty miles from here, to accept it as a national monument. Much good work has been done at New Harmony since then. The Opera House, now fully restored, will be dedicated on November 19 with Governor Branigin as master of ceremonies. The day is, in fact, being called "Branigin Day" because of the governor's deep personal interest in the restoration of New Harmony.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander L. Leich  
President

Mrs. Gwendolyn Koch  
Vice Pres.

Mrs. Adelyne Fuhrer  
Secretary

Louis Ruthenburg  
Treasurer

William C. Welborn  
Legal Advisor

Richard H. Brennan  
Administrator
Dear Mr. Leich:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the Conrad Baker Foundation Inc. concerning historic preservation of the Vanderburgh County Court House at Evansville, Indiana. We were interested to learn of your plans for the building and are glad to answer the questions raised in your letter.

Historic sites and buildings established as units of the National Park System must be judged to possess national historical significance and to meet standards of suitability and feasibility for park purposes as well. Legislation in the Congress is ordinarily required to authorize the establishment of areas administered by the National Park Service.

The determination of national historical significance is made by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666). Such determinations are usually based on the recommendations of the Secretary’s Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments. The criteria applied in making the determination are listed on pages 13-15 of the enclosed copy of "NPS Criteria for Parklands."

Your remark concerning the acceptance of New Harmony as a "national monument" indicates that there may be an understandable confusion in your mind with regard to that term. New Harmony is a National Historic Landmark, a designation that involves Federal recognition of its national historical significance but does not provide for Federal ownership or financial support.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P. L. 89-665) will eventually be a source of financial assistance for historic preservation projects. The law, which authorizes matching Federal grants for the acquisition and rehabilitation of historic properties,
is described in the enclosed information sheet. The Congress has not yet funded P.L. 89-665 in accordance with the authorization, and only limited funds are available at present. Nevertheless, you may wish to get in touch with the Indiana State Liaison Officer for this program to assure that full consideration is given to the Vanderburgh County Court House when funds become available. He is the Director, Department of Natural Resources, State of Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana 42604.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation, and we wish you the utmost possible success in your efforts to preserve the Vanderburgh County Court House.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Alexander L. Leich
President
The Conrad Baker Foundation Inc.
Court Building, Suite 502
Evansville, Indiana 47708

Enclosures 2

cc: Secretary's Reading File (2)
     DCO
     FY
     Regional Director, Northeast ) w/e of inc.
     HM - Mr. Murtagh
     HH (3)
     DAL - Mr. Melvin
     NPS Copy

FBSarlos:alt 11/7/68
FROM: SECRETARY
TO: 1. DCCO 10/30
2. [Redacted]
3.
4.

FOR:  □ APPROVAL
      □ INFORMATION
      □ PER OUR CONVERSATION
      □ COMMENT
      □ ACTION AS APPROPRIATE
      □ DRAFT REPLY FOR SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE
      □ REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY
      □ AS REQUESTED

AND:  □ RETURN
      □ FILE
      □ FORWARD
      □ SEE ME

REMARKS:

INT.-DUP. SEC., WASH., D.C.  M95715-67
April 21, 1929

The Honorable George Romney, Executive Director
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Romney:

We have been advised by the National Trust for Historic Preservation that under certain conditions there are 3% loans available for purposes of renewal of historic buildings, particularly in an Urban Renewal Area, as Evansville is.

The Conrad Baker Foundation was formed to preserve our magnificent baroque period Vanderburgh County Court House and convert it to useful purposes after local county government moves to a new building in July.

We have several possible tenants who have expressed interest, including our local Educational Television station which serves 17 counties in Southern Indiana and which would use the entire third floor. A technical training school has shown interest in the entire ground floor.

We would appreciate very much any information which your office could give us concerning the loans referred to above and what criteria are applied in granting them. Our State Senator, Robert D. Orr, suggested that we write to you about this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Alexander L. Leich
President
Mr. Alexander L. Leich  
President  
The Conrad Baker Foundation Inc.  
Court Building Suite 502  
Evansville, Indiana 47708

Dear Mr. Leich:

This is in reply to your letter of April 21, 1969, concerning the preservation of the Vanderburgh County Court House in Evansville, Indiana.

According to our Regional Office in Chicago, which has the responsibility for administering the Department's programs in Indiana, the city hall building is not within an approved urban renewal area, but is rather within the proposed Neighborhood Development Program for Evansville.

The 3 per cent loans to which you referred are available for rehabilitation of structures within an approved urban renewal area, but due to the extreme shortage of funds, most of these are limited to residential structures.

In addition, for historic structures which qualify, project funds may be used for actual restoration work.

Since this project is still in the preliminary stage, you should work directly with the Local Public Agency. Mr. Raymond A. Andersen is Executive Secretary, Evansville Redevelopment Commission, 4 N. W. 2nd Street in the Midwest Federal Building, Evansville, Indiana 47708.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to Mr. Andersen and also to our Regional Office. For further reference, specific inquiries may be addressed to Mr. Francis D. Fisher, Regional Administrator, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 360 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Renewal Assistance

CC: Russell Kuene, National Park Service
Dear Senator Hartke:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Indiana and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator Birch Bayh and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. John R. Lloyd, Director, Department of Natural Resources, State of Indiana, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register: 9/4/20

cc:
Mr. John R. Lloyd, Director, Department of Natural Resources, State of Indiana, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 42604

Duplicate letter sent to: Hon. Birch Bayh
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

INDIANA

Old Courthouse - South Bend, Indiana
Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse - Evansville, Indiana
Mr. John R. Lloyd  
Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Indiana  
615 State Office Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana 42604

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Vance Hartke and Birch Bayh and the appropriate Representatives have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register SEP 4 1970

cc: HR  
SMariusin:mm 9/3/70  
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR
Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

INDIANA

Old Courthouse South Bend, Indiana

Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse Evansville, Indiana
Mr. Roger H. Zion
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Zion:

We are pleased to inform you that the Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse in Evansville, Indiana, has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Indiana and has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Vance Hartke and Birch Bayh have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. John R. Lloyd, Director, Department of Natural Resources, State of Indiana, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 42604, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.
Director

Enclosure

SEP 4 1970

Entered in the National Register

cc:
Mr. John R. Lloyd, Director, Department of Natural Resources, State of Indiana, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 42604

Director, Northeast Region
Mr. John R. Lloyd  
Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
State of Indiana  
615 State Office Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana 42604

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

We are pleased to inform you that the Former Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Residence in Evansville, Indiana, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Vance Hartke and Birch Bayh and Representative Roger H. Zion have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Entered in the National Register on OCT 6 1970

CC: HR 10/1/70 SMarusin:drs BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR
OCT 14 1970

Mr. Roger A. Zion
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Zion:

We are pleased to inform you that the former Vanderburgh County
Sheriff's Residence in Evansville, Indiana, has been nominated by
the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the
implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in
Indiana and has been entered into the National Register of Historic
Places. Senators Vance Hartke and Birch Bayh have also been provided
with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison
Officer, Mr. John R. Lloyd, Director, Department of Natural Resources,
State of Indiana, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana
42604, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National
Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register OCT 6 1970

cc: Mr. John R. Lloyd, Director, Department of Natural Resources,
    State of Indiana, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis,
    Indiana 42604

Director, Northeast Region
OCT 14 1970

Hon. Vance Hartke
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Hartke:

We are pleased to inform you that the Former Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Residence in Evansville, Indiana, has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Indiana and has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator Birch Bayh and Representative Roger H. Zion have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. John R. Lloyd, Director, Department of Natural Resources, State of Indiana, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 42604, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosure

Entered in the National Register
OCT 6 1970

cc: Mr. John R. Lloyd, Director, Department of Natural Resources, State of Indiana, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 42604

Duplicate letters sent to: Hon. Birch Bayh
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Hon. Roger H. Zion
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
April 1, 1972

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
301 19th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Sir:

We have just seen a copy of the preliminary edition of the Historic American Buildings Survey Catalog for Indiana and are disappointed not to find listed the old Vanderburgh County Court House and Sheriff's Residence in Evansville for which we filed papers approved by the Indiana Historic Resource Committee on July 13, 1970 and forwarded to your office on August 3, 1970.

Governor Whitcomb of Indiana made a public announcement to the news media near the end of September, 1970 that our buildings had been accepted for the National Register. We would appreciate very much your verification that this information was correct. We are writing to you directly since Mr. H. Roll McLaughlin, who was our Liaison Officer, is out of the country until April 17.

We have also been informed that the former Evansville Post Office and Federal Building was accepted for the National Register in February of this year. That building is likewise not mentioned in the preliminary edition referred to above.

We would indeed be most grateful to you for a check into these matters.

Sincerely,

Alexander L. Leich
Treasurer and Director

APR 10 1972
Mr. Alexander L. Leich  
Treasurer and Director  
The Conrad Baker Foundation  
Old Vanderburgh County Court House  
Evansville, Indiana 47708  

Dear Mr. Leich:  

This letter is written in response to your inquiry of April 4 concerning the preliminary edition of the Historic American Buildings and those properties in Evansville, Indiana listed in the National Register of Historic Places.  

The Historic American Buildings Survey and the National Register of Historic Places are two distinct programs within the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. Properties listed in the National Register are not necessarily listed in the Historic American Buildings Survey catalogue.  

The three properties mentioned in your letter are entered in the National Register of Historic Places and are listed in the enclosed March 15 issue of the Federal Register. Monthly additions to the National Register are published in the Federal Register as supplements the first Tuesday of every month. You may consult future additions to the National Register at any major library designated as a Federal repository or by subscribing to the Federal Register, available through the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 20240.  

The Historic American Buildings Survey was established in 1933 to compile a graphic (architectural drawings and photographs) record of historic buildings throughout the nation. Unlike nominations to the National Register which are submitted to
our office through a State Liaison Officer, the Historic American Buildings Survey staff conducts an independent survey of historic structures. That explains why the Vanderburgh County Court House and Sheriff’s Residence, and the Evansville Post Offices are not listed in the preliminary Historic American Buildings Survey catalogue. Although the buildings are listed in the National Register, they have not yet been surveyed and catalogued by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Enclosed are brochures which explain the differences between the two programs in greater detail. If we may be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Sally A. Marusin
Writer-Editor

Enclosures

cc:
Mr. John R. Lloyd, Director, Department of Natural Resources,
State of Indiana, 615 State Office Building, Indianapolis,
Indiana 42604 w-cy/inc.
Director, Northeast Region w-cy/inc.

SAMarusin:cm 4/17/72 BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the city of Evansville, Indiana, pursuant to Environmental Review procedures governing the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, proposes to undertake Phase II of its Preservation and Adaptive Reuse Plan for the Old U.S. Post Office, Courthouse, and Customhouse using Community Development Block Grant funds; and,

WHEREAS, the city of Evansville, Indiana, in consultation with the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer, has determined that this undertaking as proposed would have an adverse effect upon the Old U.S. Post Office, Courthouse, and Customhouse, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places; and,

WHEREAS, the city of Evansville acting as lead agency for the Economic Development Administration and the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service which are cooperatively funding the above undertaking; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320), the city of Evansville, Indiana, has requested the comments of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800), representatives of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the city of Evansville, the Economic Development Administration, and the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, and the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer have consulted and reviewed the undertaking to consider feasible and prudent alternatives to avoid or satisfactorily mitigate the adverse effect; now,

THEREFORE

It is mutually agreed that implementation of the undertaking in accordance with the following stipulations and the attached plans for Phase II of the undertaking of March 1978, from Edmund L. Hafer, Architect, city of Evansville, Indiana, will satisfactorily mitigate the adverse effect on the above-mentioned property.

Stipulations

1. The city of Evansville will execute the proposed alterations in accordance with the plans submitted to the Council on April 12, 1978 (Attachment #1). Should any modifications to these plans be necessary the city of Evansville will submit the new proposal to the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for review and approval prior to construction.
2. Prior to the alteration of the interior of the Old U.S. Post Office, Courthouse, and Customhouse, the city of Evansville will record those portions of the interior to be affected so that there will be a permanent record of its existence. The city of Evansville will first contact the Historic American Buildings Survey (Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, 202-523-5474) to determine the level of documentation required. All documentation must be accepted by HABS prior to initiation of the alteration. The city of Evansville will also provide copies of this documentation to the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer.

3. Within 90 days following the completion of Phase II of the city's preservation and adaptive reuse plan, the city of Evansville will inform the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in writing of the alteration to the Old U.S. Post Office, Courthouse, and Customhouse so that modification can be made to the nomination form for the building's listing in the National Register of Historic Places as deemed appropriate by the Keeper.

[Signatures and dates]
Honorable Russell G. Lloyd  
Mayor of Evansville  
Civic Center, P.O. Box 3938  
Evansville, Indiana 47737

Attn: Mr. Douglas Stern

Dear Mayor Lloyd:

The Memorandum of Agreement for Phase II of the Preservation and Adaptive Reuse Plan affecting the Old Post Office, Courthouse, and Customhouse in Evansville, Indiana, has been approved by the Chairman of the Council. This document constitutes the comments of the Council as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320) and completes the "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). A copy of the Agreement is enclosed.

A copy of this Memorandum of Agreement should be included in any environmental assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be retained in your records as evidence of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Council appreciates your cooperation in reaching a satisfactory solution to the issues raised in this matter.

Sincerely,

Myra F. Harrison
Assistant Director
Office of Review and Compliance

Enclosure
**TELEPHONE REPORT**

**1. CALL TO:** To Nancy Long

**2. ADDRESS:**

**3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.**
Level of significance of 5 Indiana nominations

**4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION**
- Jefferson Co.
  - Madison Historic District - State
- Knox Co.
  - George Rogers Clark National Historical Park - National
  - Old Vanderburgh County Court House - Local
  - Evansville Post Office - National
  - Former Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Residence - Local

**NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL:** Nancy Silver
**TITLE:** Intern
**OFFICE:** NRHP

**DATE:** 15 September 83
**TIME OF CALL:** 3:00 PM