

Johnson County Courthouse
5 Jefferson Street
Franklin
Johnson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-229

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Johnson County Courthouse

HABS No. IN-229

Location: 5 Jefferson Street, Franklin, Johnson County, Indiana

Owner: Johnson County

Present Use: Courthouse

Significance: In addition to its function as the seat of the county government, the Johnson County Courthouse stands as one of the few remaining examples of nineteenth century courthouse architecture in Indiana.

The present courthouse is the fifth courthouse, and the seventh building to hold court in Johnson County. On March 26, 1879, the board of commissioners decided to build this courthouse and four months later, they accepted the plans of the courthouse, drawn by architect George W. Buenting.

The courthouse is a three-story, red brick building on a highly rusticated base made of stone, with cut limestone detailing. The architectural solution is quite eclectic, as Buenting employed classical, Italian and French Romanesque, and Mannerist forms and details in an imaginative and positive manner. The courthouse is undeniably one of the finest existing courthouses in the state.

References: Hermansen, David R. "Indiana Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century." Ball State University: February, 1968.

Indiana Historical Society, 315 W. Ohio St. Indianapolis, IN 46204

Courthouse Renovation Project-1983, prepared by R.W. Clinton and Associates.

The Daily Journal-articles written in observation of the centennial

Prepared by: Bob Andrews and Associates,
Ball State University, May 1988.

Entry to the Charles E. Peterson Prize in 1988.