

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

LET TO D.C.  
7-2-04

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 Henry County Courthouse

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 307 W. Center St.  not for publication

city or town Cambridge  vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Henry code 073 zip code 61238

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 considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter L. Lohm / SAPO 7-1-04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting 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
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain) _____	_____	_____

Henry County Courthouse

Name of Property

Henry County, Illinois

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		buildings
		sites
		structures
1	1	objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse

Recreation and Culture/Work of Art

Recreation and Culture/Monument-Marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse

Recreation and Culture/Work of Art

N/A

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Second Empire

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

Sandstone/limestone

roof Slate over zinc

other Limestone trim

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See attached.

Henry County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Henry County, Illinois  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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, or 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 significance within the past 50 years

**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 of 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Criterion A: Politics/Government

Criterion C: Architecture

**Period of Significance**

Criterion A: 1880-1954

Criterion C: 1880

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Tolan & Son, Architects

Julian W. Hinkley, Builder

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository

Henry County Courthouse

Henry County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Henry County, Illinois  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Lot 6 acres; Bldg. >1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	15	734697	4576098
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mark D. Hunt and Robin Astifan

organization Bi-State Regional Commission

date Mar 22, 2004

street & number 1504 Third Avenue, PO Box 3368

telephone (309) 793-6300

city or town Rock Island

state IL

zip code 61204-3368

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 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 Henry County (Contact person is Dick Erickson, Henry County Admin Assistant)

street & number 307 West Center St.

telephone (309) 937-3574

city or town Cambridge

state IL

zip code 61238

**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 existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement.** Public reporting burden for this form 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 this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

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**Henry County Courthouse, Henry County, IL**

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**Narrative Description**

**EXTERIOR**

Henry County, Illinois has a primarily agricultural landscape, dotted with evenly dispersed small towns and villages. The county is located in the northwest region of the state, bordering the more densely populated Rock Island County. Countywide population in 2000 was 51,020, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Village of Cambridge, the longtime county seat, has a Census 2000 population of 2,180. Cambridge is centrally located in the county and falls within the township bearing the same name. Situated at the intersection of State Highways 82 and 81, Cambridge is known for its impressive courthouse and active main street improvement program.

The Henry County Courthouse is a three story Second Empire structure located at Courthouse Square in Cambridge, Illinois. Courthouse Square is bordered by West Street to the west, Center Street to the north, Main Street to the east, and Court Street (Highway 81) to the south. In addition to the courthouse, two war monuments are located on the square, one recently dedicated, the other dating back to 1885 (Hewitt). College Square Park is located along Center Street across from Courthouse Square, and is the location for many community activities.

Over the years, Henry County had several courthouses at various locations before officials agreed in 1878 to build the current structure at Courthouse Square. Work was completed in 1880 for a total cost of \$77,147.08 (Polson 66). The 1880 structure is made of brick and is capped with a mansard roof and ornate clock tower. The brick is laid in a stacked bond pattern and trimmed with stone. The building includes a full basement and short third story that has been converted from attic to office space. Geographically, its walls and main entrances align with the cardinal directions. The original building has a nearly square footprint that covers about 9,000 sq. ft. The basic design for each elevation consists of a central pavilion balanced by terminal pavilions at each corner. Recessed walls span the distance between the pavilions. Windows and ornamentation on the structure are symmetric, aligning with the vertical and horizontal axis of each elevation. Windows are paired in groups of two or three, and often run the height of each story. The original courthouse's detail is prototypical Second Empire. The many windows, rooflines and doorways are boldly molded in a classical style, especially along the top story and clock tower. Moldings, cornices and beltcourses are often complex with three-dimensional elements.

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**Henry County Courthouse, Henry County, IL**

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**East Elevation (Façade)**

The courthouse façade faces east, parallel to Main Street. It is symmetric containing a central pavilion, topped with a clock tower. Terminal pavilions at each corner provide balance and symmetry to the dominant central pavilion. Detailed cornices, beltcourses and moldings are present throughout the elevation. Impressive 16-foot long, double-hung windows line the façade's first and second story. The general transition between each story is as follows (starting with the top of one story and moving upward to the bottom of the next):

1. stone molding
2. raised stone beltcourse (or bracketed cornice at rooflines)
3. stone molding often with decorative balustrades or geometric patterns.

Along the top of the second floor, strips of dentil molding exist directly below the cornice.

The following detailed description of the façade first addresses the entire central pavilion and clock tower, because of their dominating presence over the elevation. The remainder of the façade is described level-by-level starting at the foundation and working toward the roof.

Central Pavilion and Clock Tower:

The central pavilion rises four stories, with its top story rising half the height of those below. It is lined with quoins at the corners and constructed entirely of stone. The pavilion's first floor contains the original front entrance to the courthouse. On either side of the entrance, pilasters, which mimic the style of the adjacent quoins, span the first and second story. Access to the door is gained via simple concrete stairs that are not original to the structure. The transition between the first as second floor is noticeably plain here due to the removal of the original covered, stone porches.

The central pavilion's second story houses a centered pair of double-hung windows, with a single, round-arch window above the pair. Engaged columns of stone outline the double-hung windows. A stone arch, topped with a keystone, details the arch window. Carved stone circles decorate the pavilion walls next to the arch window. A segmental arch pediment caps the pavilion's second story. The intrados of the pediment contains bracketing. Within the pediment exists an arch of dentil molding. The transition here from second to third story follows as previously mentioned, including a strip of dentil molding and geometrically decorated upper molding.

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The central pavilion's third story contains four, triple-hung windows, each flanked by pilasters. The tops of the windows are rounded and trimmed by stone arches with keystones. Two windows are paired in the center of the story, while the two remaining windows occupy either corner. The transition from the pavilion's third story to the half-story above follows the previously established pattern.

The top story of the pavilion is housed within the mansard roof. At the east (Façade) and west elevations, this story simply consists of the gray, shingled slope of the mansard roof, which gives way to the clock tower. The north and south elevations of the pavilion's top story each contain a small, arched dormer-window, with flared eaves. The mansard roof terminates into a flat surface above the dormer and gives way to the clock tower.

The clock tower emerges from the central pavilion's top story, and is visible from all elevations. Rising through the mansard roof, it is vertically aligned on a central axis with the pavilion below. The tower is comprised of an upper and lower section. The lower section is wide and square housing the belfry. The upper section forms a spindle and houses the tower's four clock faces.

On the tower's lower section, ornately carved pilasters sit aside the enclosed belfry. A stone arch, with keystone, outlines the top of the belfry. A triangular pediment, detailed with bracketing, caps this section of the clock tower. Rising above the pediment is the upper section of the clock tower. The transition between the lower and upper sections of the clock tower is completed in a manner similar to that employed between the second and third stories.

The clock tower's upper section consists of a four-sided spire topped with a flat roof and metal balustrade. The clock faces are situated at the bottom of the spire facing the cardinal directions. Each clock face is marked with bronze colored Roman numerals set against a black disc. The clock faces are outlined by elaborate carvings, stone arches and are bordered by beltcourses below. Only subtle variation exists between the spire's four elevations.

Foundation:

A limestone foundation rises half a story and is lined with fixed windows into the basement. Originally, these walls were constructed of sandstone but were replaced in the 1940's by limestone (Polson 66). Arches of wedged limestone above the windows contain simple keystones. A limestone beltcourse marks the transition of the basement to the first story.

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**Henry County Courthouse, Henry County, IL**

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First Story:

The walls to the right and left of the central pavilion are inset slightly. The inset walls contain three double-hung windows centered on either side of the pavilion. The rectangular windows are topped with stone arches. Below each window are decorative stone balustrades. Approximately two feet from the outside window, the inset walls intersect the terminal pavilions.

On the terminal pavilions' first story are two double-hung windows trimmed in stone. The windows are outlined with simple pilasters (not truly of any Greek or Roman styling) and have segmental arches, with keystones, inset at the top. Along the inset walls and terminal towers, the transition between the first and second story is completed in the aforementioned manner, including balustrades at the top of the transition.

Second Story:

In general, the second story fenestration is nearly identical to the first story, with slight embellishments including the addition of a stone beltcourse on the terminal pavilions and a stretcher pattern across the inset wall. Ionic pilasters flank the pairs of double-hung windows on each terminal pavilion. These pilasters are also slightly longer than their first floor counterparts. At this story, all of the double-hung windows are topped with fixed, rounded-arch windows. The arch windows along the inset wall are trimmed with Romanesque arches formed from individual stone units. The arch windows on the terminal pavilions are detailed with stone arches and keystones. The transition from the second to third story is completed in the established manner and includes both dentil molding and decorative balustrades around a bracketed cornice.

Third Story:

The third story is comprised of a mansard roof housing gables and dormer windows. Intricate stonework is found throughout this shorter top story. Small arched, dormer windows are centered on the inset wall at either side of the central pavilion. The dormers' have triangular pitched roofs and are outlined by carved arches with keystones. A flat section of the mansard roof just above the dormers caps the inset portions of the third story.

On the third story of each terminal pavilion is a triangular stone gable. Atop the gables are small stone finials shaped like Turkish domes. Floral carvings embellish the face of each gable. Pairs of small, double-hung windows, outlined with pilasters and segmental arches, are located directly below the carvings. The windows' stone arches contain flower shaped



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keystones. Adjacent to the windows are vertical sections of stone wall carved with a pattern of miniature columns and arches. The roofline on the terminal pavilions rises slightly above that of the inset walls before terminating into a flat horizontal surface. The rooftops on the terminal pavilions and inset walls are edged with dentil molding below a bracketed cornice.

**West Elevation – Old and New**

Functionally and in relation to the surrounding streets, the west elevation serves as the back of the building. This elevation has been expanded upon twice, once in 1940 and again in 1999. Due to these expansions, there are now essentially two west elevations: the 1870s original courthouse, and the 1999 addition. The 1940s addition joins these two elevations, but does not have a west facing elevation as it connects the original courthouse with the 1999 addition. When viewing this elevation, the 1999 addition of the courthouse appears in the foreground, with the mansard roof and clock tower of the original courthouse appearing in the background. Here, the 1999 addition is two stories tall with a flat roof. Several windows, with stone moldings, are evenly spaced across the added elevation.

Original West Elevation

The original west elevation repeats much of the façade's detail with some variation. Structurally, the main difference relates to the positioning of the three pavilions on this elevation. Here, the central pavilion is built off a large central bay that projects forward several feet. The terminal pavilions are deeply recessed off this central bay. The 1940 addition was built onto the central bay of the courthouse along the first story. The second and third stories of the original courthouse are intact and vary only slightly from the façade. The mansard roof, upper-level windows and the clock tower, are the most visible portions of the original structure. Worth noting is the treatment of the space above the central pavilion. Where the east façade has a clock tower atop its central pavilion, the west elevation has two small windowless cupola-like structures. The cupolas are constructed of brick and align with the outside edges of the central pavilion. The brickwork forms a rectangular alcove in the center of each cupola. The bases of the cupolas are decorated with a stone molding, while the tops are capped with a steeply pitched roof. Beneath the roofs are cornices similar to those throughout the structure. Thin, stone beltcourses exist slightly below the cornices and slightly above the base moldings. Aside from the façade, this is the only elevation to have any structure above the central pavilion.

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1940 and 1999 Additions

The 1940 addition is quite small and serves as a breezeway to a second addition. Its architectural detail matches the design of the original building. The addition that houses the county jail, sheriff's office and additional courtrooms, was completed in 1999 and is not visible from the facade. It was built off the 1940 addition and connects to the preexisting county jail. Its design both contrasts and compliments the original courthouse. This addition consists of two rectangular sections constructed of brick, with a moderate amount of stone detailing. Due to the orientation of the two rectangular sections, the entire addition has a backward "L-shaped" footprint, with one segment aligned north-to-south and the other aligned east-to-west. Within the notch of the L is the previous county jail. The addition's tallest segment rises two stories, yet, is vertically aligned with the top of the original structure's first floor. The 1999 addition is non-contributing to the courthouse.

**North Elevation**

The north elevation of the original courthouse closely matches the east elevation (façade), except its central pavilion lacks a clock tower, and is constructed of brick rather than stone. Another notable difference is that only two double-hung windows exist on either side of the central pavilion, instead of the three windows used on the façade. Additionally, while the façade employs an arched pediment atop the central pavilion, the north elevation's central pavilion is capped with a triangular pediment. Both additions are visible extending from the western edge of the elevation, but are clearly identifiable as secondary construction, especially the 1999 addition.

**South Elevation**

The south elevation of the original courthouse is identical to the north elevation.

**INTERIOR**

Entering the courthouse from any of its remaining original doorways reveals remarkably well preserved main halls. The common spaces such as hallways and the main courtroom remain nearly unchanged since 1880. Among the significant features existing within much of the building are corrugated-steel ceilings, arches, oak doors, wooden benches, walnut trim, ornate

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metal staircases and marble floors. Many of the building's original rooms have been suitably repartitioned or remodeled over the years.

The main floor and basement have multiple hallways, which converge at the building's center. For these two levels, each hall is referred to (in the following description) by the direction it leads away from the building's center. Most of the detail provided relates to the main halls of each floor, as they are representative of the interior's original appearance. A description of the building's well-preserved courtroom is also included.

**First (Main Floor)**

The main-floor halls align directly with the original courthouse doors and converge at the building's center. At the convergence, each hall terminates with a circular arch. The corrugated ceilings form repeating segmental arches, at a height of 18-feet on the first (main) and second floors. The flooring of both the main and second floor is constructed of black and white marble tile.

East Hall:

The east hall retains most of its original configuration. The ceiling, doors, floor and trim are all original and styled as previously stated. Doorways off this hall lead to the treasurer's office on the south side and to the assessor's office on the north side. The office doorways here, as with many on the main floor, are accessorized with steel shutters. The shutters, which are original to the building, can be clasped as a safeguard against thievery. A glass case, displaying the names of fallen WWI military personnel, lines both sides of the hall. The shutters and WWI monument remain in good condition today.

North Hall:

Here too, the original elements remain intact. Worth noting is the ornate, iron staircase leading to the courthouse's second floor. The staircase's newel post displays organic forms in geometric alignment and is embossed at the base with the name Haugh & Company Manufacturing. Each baluster has a column-like design with organic and geometric ornamentation at the top and base. An elevator, which was installed in 1966, opens onto the east side of this hall (Polson 66). Two other doors, also on the east side of the hallway, provide

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access to the assessor's office. The west side of the hall contains one door leading to the county clerk's office.

South Hall:

With the exception of the elevator, the south hall mirrors the design and layout of the north hall. Two doors on the east side of the hall lead into the treasurer's office, while a single door on the west leads to the county clerk's office.

West Hall:

In 1940 when the first addition was added, this hall was closed off and became part of the county clerk's vault (Polson 67). Subsequently, the hall has been reopened, linking the original courthouse to the first and second additions. Now open, the hall closely resembles its original design. Up to the intersection of the first addition, the hall matches the original flooring, doors and trim. Westward from the intersection into the new additions, exists a great contrast in design and style from the original courthouse. The new portions of the building are fully carpeted and pose relatively little woodwork.

**Second Floor**

The building's second floor contains the same significant interior features as the first floor. The layout here consists of one main hall aligned north-to-south. Intersecting each end of the hall are narrow corridors, which provide access to judges' chambers, other offices at the building's corners. Only the northeast corner of the floor does not contain such a corridor. Several rooms extend off the main hall including the building's large courtroom. Two doors on the west side of the hall provide access to this impressively decorated room. Directly off the main hall's east side is the small courtroom, law library and a computer room. A set of stairs leading to the third floor was added at each end of the main hall in 1969. The additional staircases are metal and match the style of the original stairs, but are less ornate. The new stairs are located in front of the large windows at each end of the hall; ample amounts of ambient light pass through their thin balusters.

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Main Courtroom:

The large main courtroom contains many of its original features including elaborate ceiling paintings, a marble fireplace, and wooden benches. The four separate ceiling paintings depict the late 1880 skylines of Cambridge, Galva, Geneseo and Kewanee. The paintings are the work of German immigrant Frank Dirkson, who moved to Peoria, Ill., in 1871 (Hewitt). Mr. Dirkson is also credited with artwork appearing in Peoria's St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church ("St. Martin de Porres"). During a 1950's remodeling, the courtroom was repainted in deep blue to contrast the oak woodwork (Polson 67). The color remains today. In 1897, electricity first served the building (Polson 67). A large chandelier was installed near the center of the room in 1969 (Hewitt). The massive fixture hangs by chains from the ceiling and consists of two metal bands, each supporting eight globe-shaped light fixtures. Workers purportedly cut the chandelier in half to get it into the courtroom and then welded in back together before positioning it on the ceiling (Hewitt).

**Third Floor**

The courthouse's third floor originally served as attic space. During a 1969 renovation, workers converted much of this space into offices. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor offices are plain in their design and possess just eight-foot ceilings, much shorter than the first and second floors. The most significant element on this floor is located within the office at the northwest corner of the building. Here an original skylight provides gracious amounts of ambient light into the county zoning office. Other interesting architectural details on this floor exist in the remaining attic space where Roman arches, concrete ceilings and metal crossbeams are visible. Also within the attic space are the mechanics of the courthouse's unique Seth Thomas clock.

**Basement**

The courthouse's basement is not completely without architectural detail, as many of the elements incorporated into the upper floors are also present here. The basement consists of two halls, with walls made entirely of brick. The main hall runs north and south. The second hall exists as an eastward extension off the main hall. A segmental archway marks the entrance to the east hall. Several small rooms used for storage and maintenance purposes are located here. An arched and corrugated metal ceiling covers the nearly entire expanse of the basement level. Two segmental brick arches cross the metal ceiling in the basement's main hall. These arches

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occur about one-third the distance from either end of the hall. At both the north and south ends of the main hall, alcoves lead to the understructures of the original stone porches present there. Within the alcoves, the bare limestone foundation is visible.

**Monuments**

Located on the lawn of Henry County's Courthouse Square are two monuments honoring U.S. military veterans. The oldest dates back to 1885 and contributes to the building's significance under Criterion A. The newest, which was installed in June 2001, does not contribute to the building's significance under the guidelines established by the National Park Service.

Civil War Monument:

At the northeast corner of Courthouse Square, a granite Civil War monument rises 40 feet and incorporates figures of Columbia and two U.S. servicemen. The monument is in excellent condition, showing almost no signs of deterioration from its original construction. It has a multiple-tiered, square base supporting a three-column shaft above. The east side of the base is inscribed with the following passage, *"To all her soldiers and sailors, who, on land or sea, periled their lives in defense of liberty and law, Henry County dedicates this monument. (1861-1865)."* Directly below the inscription, carved into the sheer face of the monument's base, is the image of a cavalryman, mounted on horseback. The opposite side of the base is without an inscription, but does include the carved image of a U.S. serviceman stationed at a cannon. A statue of a union soldier is perched, facing south, near the upper portion of the monument's base. The soldier's hands are clasped together around the barrel of a vertically held musket. His head and shoulders are lowered slightly toward the ground in a non-aggressive pose. On the monument's opposite side is a statue of a U.S. sailor holding a spyglass across his body. The sailor's eyes are focused on the horizon, the spyglass seemingly held lightly in his hands. Four civil war cannons surround the monument forming a circle, with a radius of about four yards. From her vantage atop the monument, the figure of Columbia appears watchful over the servicemen and cannons below. Columbia faces east and is posed with her eyes to the horizon, right hand on her chest and a shield, held to the ground, in her left hand.

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20<sup>th</sup> Century Veterans Monument:

The newer monument is located on the southeast corner of Courthouse Square. The monument consists of three east-facing stone tablets and two brick-lined walkways. The bricks are inscribed with the names of Henry County veterans. The tablets display written inscriptions honoring all Henry County Veterans, who served during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Carvings on the tablets include the symbol of each U.S. military service and the likenesses of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Coast Guardsmen.

**Integrity**

The Henry County Courthouse retains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The original building has retained much of its 1880 detail with only minor changes to the exterior. As is evident from historical photographs, the clock tower belfry has been closed off at its previous openings on the east and west elevations. The exact date or reason for the change is not known. However, the clock currently rings via a bell mounted on the courthouse roof. In 1942 workers replaced the foundation's exterior sandstone with limestone, because the former had eroded to the point of allowing water into the basement (Polson 66). Another change was the addition of a one-story expansion to the courthouse's west side in 1940 (Polson 66). The expansion resulted in the demolition of the west elevation's first story and its stone porch. By the mid 1950s, the three remaining porches had fallen into disrepair and were removed (Polson 66). The simple concrete staircases that replaced the covered porches left the building much plainer in appearance. The 1999 addition is placed at the rear of the building, is set back from the original courthouse, and while two stories tall at its highest point, it is situated so it does not surpass the height of the original structure's first floor. The interior is remarkably intact, with its original woodwork, marble floors, ceilings, and staircases. The courtroom remains virtually unchanged since its construction. The original courthouse and subsequent additions continue to serve the citizens of Henry County today.

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**Henry County Courthouse, Henry County, IL**

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**Statement of Significance**

The Henry County Courthouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for local significance for its association with government in Henry County and under Criterion C as a good local example of the Second Empire Style. The period of significance under Criterion A is from 1880, when the building was finished, to 1954, the current terminus dictated by the National Park Service. The period of significance under Criterion C is 1880, the year the courthouse was completed.

**CRITERION A**

Most historic events relating to Henry County's government have occurred at or been associated with the county's courthouse in Cambridge. Much of the following history comes from the book, Corn Commerce and Country Living: A History of Henry County, Illinois, edited by Terry Polson, and recent articles by Cambridge historian and writer Lawrence Smith.

County Origins:

Located in northwestern Illinois, Henry County has, since its inception in 1825 by an act of the Fourth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, remained primarily an agricultural county. The Rock River, a large tributary to the Mississippi River, forms the county's northwest border with Rock Island County. Interstate 80 runs east and west through the county's northern half, while Interstate 74 runs north and south along its western edge. Other important geographic features include the Hennepin Canal and an Iowa-Interstate rail line, both of which generally follow Interstate 80. Portions of the county are also traversed by Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail lines. Henry County likely has two namesakes—the well known patriot Patrick Henry and a lesser known General Henry, who fought Native Americans along the Mississippi River Valley (Polson 15). What would become Henry County was first primed for America's western expansion following the war of 1812, when portions of the county were made available, free of charge, to veterans as a reward for their bravery (Polson 16). However, the first permanent settlers of European descent did not arrive in the county until 1835 (Polson 19). By 1860 the township was home to 1,097 people (Polson 339). Overall, the county grew 23 percent from



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Henry County Courthouse, Henry County, IL

1900 to 1960 according to U.S. Census Bureau figures, with a 1960 population of 49,317. The Census Bureau puts the county's 1950 population at 46,492. The 14 townships (of 24 within the county) that gained population between 1860 and 1960 are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1:  
Population of Henry County Townships from 1860 to 1960

Township	1860	1900	1940	1960
Annawan	N/A	N/A	1200	1266
Atkinson	N/A	N/A	1249	1404
Cambridge	1097	N/A	1927	2245
Colona	N/A	N/A	1019	4366
Edford	N/A	N/A	539	574
Galva	N/A	N/A	3375	3632
Geneseo	N/A	N/A	4575	5950
Hanna	N/A	N/A	448	648
Munson	N/A	N/A	674	781
Osco	N/A	N/A	697	705
Oxford	N/A	1081	1099	1209
Phenix	N/A	N/A	509	511
Western	825	1303	1432	1987
Wethersfield	N/A	N/A	2924	4292

County Government:

The first county elections occurred in June 1837. Three county commissioners, a sheriff, recorder, surveyor and coroner were elected, with the race for recorder decided by just two votes. In that contest, Joshua Harper defeated Thos. R. Sanders, 24 to 22 (Polson 23). The first commissioners elected were Ithamar Pillsbury, Phillip K. Hanna and Joshua Browning. They held the first commissioners' court eight days later in

Dayton (near the present day Cleveland on the Rock River) at the home of George Brandenburg. Though fairly prominent in the county's initial history, Dayton no longer exists as a town within Henry County.

One of the most influential figures in Henry County's early history was an abolitionist named James Allan, who held several important positions within the county's government including county clerk and circuit clerk (Polson 64). During the 1830s and 1840s, Allan held great influence over the organization and structure of the county's government. Because Allan had roots in Alabama, he purportedly worked to get Henry County's government modeled after the commission style found in the Southern states (Polson 68). However, Allan's affinity for commission style government conflicted with the desires of many New Englanders, who preferred the township model. On April 13, 1857, the Henry County government officially changed from commission to township form. During the meeting, county officials approved 24 townships (Polson 68).

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**Henry County Courthouse, Henry County, IL**

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The Early Courthouses:

The description of events leading to the construction of the current Henry County Courthouse illustrates the development of the county's government from the late 1830s to 1880. During this period, the style and location county officials found suitable for the courthouse changed from a small, wooden building in the northwest portion of the county to the impressive Second Empire building centrally located within the county.

Henry County built several courthouses before constructing the present building at Courthouse Square in Cambridge. The first courthouse existed in the now abandoned town of Richmond (midway between Cambridge and Geneseo along Highway 82). This two-story frame building burned to the ground just one month after its first use in April of 1839 (Polson 64). A second courthouse was commissioned in June of 1841 in Morristown, which like Richmond, has since disappeared. Geneseo also vied to host the county's second courthouse but was unable to match the amount of cash and land offered by their competitor. Morristown, which was located in the extreme northwest portion of the county, was an unpopular site. By June 1843, a new site had been chosen in what is now the Village of Cambridge. In September 1843, the county commissioners agreed to have the small Morristown courthouse moved via oxen and runners to Cambridge's College Square. This arrangement was viewed as temporary by the commission, and by the summer of 1845 a large two-story, wooden courthouse was completed in Courthouse Square across the street from the transplanted Morristown courthouse (Polson 65). This, now the third courthouse built for the county, served more than 30 years before being replaced by the fourth courthouse, which continues to serve the county today.

The Fourth (and current) Henry County Courthouse:

In 1878, Henry County's commissioners contracted with Julian W. Hinkley of Indianapolis to build the current courthouse at Cambridge (Polson 66). This building, the county's fourth courthouse, was completed in 1880 and still serves in its original capacity.

Ever since a spring day in 1878, when a Cambridge farmer named John Boyd, began to dig its foundation, the courthouse has continually touched the lives of nearly every citizen to live in Henry County ("Many Stories" 2). Beyond the ordinary processing of vital records and conduction of county business, there have been several events associated with the courthouse that stand out in the history of the county. Given the building's judicial purposes, many of the events relate to significant trials held at the courthouse.

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**Henry County Courthouse, Henry County, IL**

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Two of the most infamous cases involved the county's only court-directed hangings ever to occur. The Henry County Court first ordered capital punishment of this style in the summer of 1881. On orders issued at the Henry County Courthouse, Sheriff Benjamin H. Goodell executed by hanging Clement L. Gallion, a local farm worker, for the murder of Caroline Dilley. Gallion was actually indicted for the murders of both Caroline and her husband, Thomas. Gallion killed the sleeping couple at their home near Colona on Dec. 10, 1880. Mr. Dilley's children, (from a previous marriage) ages three to twelve, found the bodies and alerted neighbors. Prosecutors first chose to try Gallion for the more grisly murder of Caroline. Due to the conviction and death sentence Gallion received for bludgeoning Ms. Dilley, prosecutors never pursued the second indictment. In order to keep the execution private, a small enclosure was built near the county jail to conduct the punishment. Sheriff Goodell reportedly had to seek the assistance of a local militia, commanded by General Isaac H. Elliot, to deter an angry group of Colona citizens from tearing down the enclosure and making the event public. The execution was carried out on Sept. 16 1881.

*The previous description of the Gallion case was summarized from an article titled, "Murder Case Ends in First County Execution," by Lawrence Smith, which appeared in the December 11, 2003 issue of the Cambridge Chronicle.*

The second and final court-ordered hanging in Henry County happened less than two years after Gallion was put to death. In this case, Sylvester K. Mackinson, 24, was executed by hanging for the murder of Maggie Copeland. Sylvester quickly confessed to shooting Copeland, a wife and mother from Kewanee Township, and plead guilty at the county courthouse in Cambridge. Judge George W. Pleasants presided over the case. Mackinson reportedly hoped his guilty plea would save him from the gallows. However, Judge Pleasants decided Mackinson's crime deserved the ultimate punishment and sentenced him to death. His sentence was carried out on May 11, 1883 near the county jail.

*The previous description of the Mackinson case was summarized from an article by Lawrence Smith, which is scheduled for publication in the Cambridge Chronicle in June 2004.*

Numerous cases were tried at the Henry County Courthouse between 1880 and 1954, each taking its place within the history of the county. Some like the two previous examples have undeniable historical value, because of their ability to indicate happenings of local importance, while simultaneously providing insight to the status of legal affairs during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and mid 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

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**Henry County Courthouse, Henry County, IL**

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**CRITERION C**

The Henry County Courthouse in Cambridge, Ill., is locally significant under Criterion C as a distinct example of Second Empire architecture in the county. Designed by T. J. Tolan & Son and built by Julian W. Hinkley, the men collaborated to design an impressive building that is without an equal in Henry County. The building's period of significance under this criterion is 1880 the year it was built.

Background

The lives of three men are intertwined in the overall design and construction of the Henry County Courthouse—Thomas J. Tolan, Brentwood S. Tolan and Julian W. Hinkley. The Tolans served as architects and Hinkley as the general contractor.

Thomas J. Tolan (1831-1883) founded in the mid 1800s the architectural firm that became T. J. Tolan & Son. The elder Tolan and his son Brentwood S. Tolan (1856 -1923) designed many courthouses, jails and other buildings throughout the Midwest. Thomas, an Ohio native, got his start as a marble artisan and eventually became an architect, based in Delphos, Ohio ("Fort Wayne Planning"). In 1875 Thomas moved his family and business to Fort Wayne, Ind. ("Death of Thomas J. Tolan"). The Henry County Courthouse was one of the last buildings the well-respected elder Tolan designed. Interestingly, his sudden death had a connection to Henry County. The Feb. 2, 1883 edition of the Fort Wayne Gazette reported the following: "... Mr. (Thomas) Tolan's sudden death fell with crushing force on this community, where he was so honored and respected. He went to Chicago as a witness in a case in the United States court, between the county of Henry, Illinois and contractors for a courthouse for which he was the architect. His death was caused by the passage of a gallstone ..." (6).

The author of Thomas' obituary also includes a testament to the self-made architect's skill. "Mr. Tolan was without doubt one of the most skillful and most eminent architects in the west, and the many masterpieces of architecture that rise all over the western states will each be proof of this, and a lasting monument to his memory" (6).

Born in 1856, Brentwood S. Tolan followed his father into the architecture business, joining the company in 1872. Brentwood had some artistic training, but essentially learned his

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trade by apprenticing under his father. Brentwood continued to operate the family business from Fort Wayne following his father's death. His exclusive designs (all in Indiana) include the Whitley County and Allen County courthouses, and Fort Wayne's Old National Bank Building, Masonic Temple and Opera House (Hawfield & Westfall 31). It is difficult to discern which Tolan chiefly designed the Henry County Courthouse. Only the stamped company logo, void of any signature, appears on the remaining architectural drawings. Yet, one can surmise, with some degree of certainty, that the Tolans were fond of Second Empire architecture. Currently, eight listings in the National Register of Historic Places include Tolan buildings, four of which are Second Empire style courthouses. The architectural vision of Thomas and Brentwood Tolan made a lasting impact on numerous Midwestern communities. Towns currently known to display Tolan architecture include Fort Wayne, Columbia City, Warsaw and La Grange in Indiana; Bloomfield, Iowa and Van Wert, Ohio.

While Thomas and Brentwood Tolan provided the architectural inspiration for the Henry County Courthouse, Julian W. Hinkley oversaw the building's transition from pencil and paper to brick and mortar. Currently, Hinkley's background and accomplishments are not as well chronicled as the Tolans. Yet, Mr. Hinkley is not completely lost in history. He worked as a general contractor based in Indianapolis (Polson 66). Less than two years after completing the Henry County Courthouse, Hinkley helped build Indiana's Montgomery County Jail, which attained listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. In constructing the jail, Hinkley again worked with Haugh & Company Manufacturing, which provided the metal staircases in the Henry County Courthouse. Haugh & Company Manufacturing is noted for providing, at Montgomery County, the United States' first rotating jail cellblock, a design the company patented in 1881 ("Why a Rotary" 6).

Second Empire Architecture:

Starting in the mid 1850s, Second Empire architecture gained prominence worldwide. The hallmark element of Second Empire architecture is the mansard roof. Other common traits include dormer windows, central and terminal pavilions and classically detailed moldings. The style is rooted in the work of French architects L.-T.-J. Visconti and Hector Martin Lefuel, who worked together in designing the 1852 expansion of the Louvre in Paris (Trachtenberg & Hyman 434). The Second Empire name refers to Louis Napoleon's (Napoleon III) rule of France from 1852 to 1870. It was in Napoleon's honor that the Louvre was expanded (Roth 128). While the

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Louvre expansion embodies the internationally recognized application of the style, many will agree that Second Empire style most likely spread to the United States through England. "The New Louvre was the central building of the Second Empire style. However, its influence in America was more often than not indirect. Designs inspired by it that were entered in the competition for a new foreign office and a new war office in London in 1857 were illustrated more widely, and therefore imitated more frequently, than the Parisian prototype (Whiffen 103).

The use of Second Empire architecture in the United States first emerged in large East Coast cities. Architects often chose to use the style on public buildings for cities, states or the federal government. One reason for the American association of government buildings with Second Empire style was the appointment of Alfred B. Mullett as supervising architect for the federal government in the mid 1800's. Mullett employed Second Empire Style on many government buildings including the former State, War and Navy Building (now the Executive Office Building) in Washington D.C., which was finished in 1875 (Roth 128). "Post offices, like those in St. Louis or New York by Mullett, spread this style to every major city; other architects took it up as well so that it became the 'official' style of civic and municipal buildings" (Roth 128).

Other notable civic structures designed in this style include Boston's City Hall, completed in 1865 and the large Philadelphia City Hall that was built between 1871 and 1901 (Roth 130).

As an example of Second Empire architectural style, the Henry County Courthouse qualifies in both form and function. The courthouse's architectural elements epitomize Second Empire style. Easily identifiable are the requisite mansard roof, pavilions (central and terminal), dormer windows and abundant classical molding, especially on the upper levels. In keeping with the tradition, the building has always and continues to function as a public building. This function is not unique to Second Empire structures, but is, however, characteristic of the style's general application throughout the United States.

The courthouse's architectural style and detail is without an equal in Henry County. Currently Henry County has no Second Empire buildings listed on National Register of Historic Places. While the county does contain some Second Empire style homes, these buildings are not of the same magnitude as the courthouse. The 125-year-old Miller House in nearby Geneseo, Ill., serves well to illustrate the difference between the courthouse and other Second Empire

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building's in Henry County. Though both are clear examples of Second Empire architecture, they are drastically different in terms of scale, material and function. Where brick and stone are found on the courthouse, wood is present on the Miller House. Where an ornate clock tower exists on the courthouse, a small chimney is the lone architectural element above the Miller House roofline. The uniqueness of the Henry County Courthouse, compared to similar buildings in the county, demonstrates its high level of local significance as an example Second Empire architecture.

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**Henry County Courthouse, Henry County, IL**

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The current Henry County Courthouse is located on parcel # 18-07-326-001-9000 in the Village of Cambridge. This parcel is commonly referred to as Courthouse Square and is clearly defined by West Street to the west, Center Street to the north, Main Street to the east, and Court Street (Highway 81) to the south. A copy of a circa 1842 plat map for the Village of Cambridge follows this continuation sheet. Court House Square and the surrounding streets—with the exception of Main Street—are clearly labeled on the map. The original map resides in the Henry County Recorder's Office.

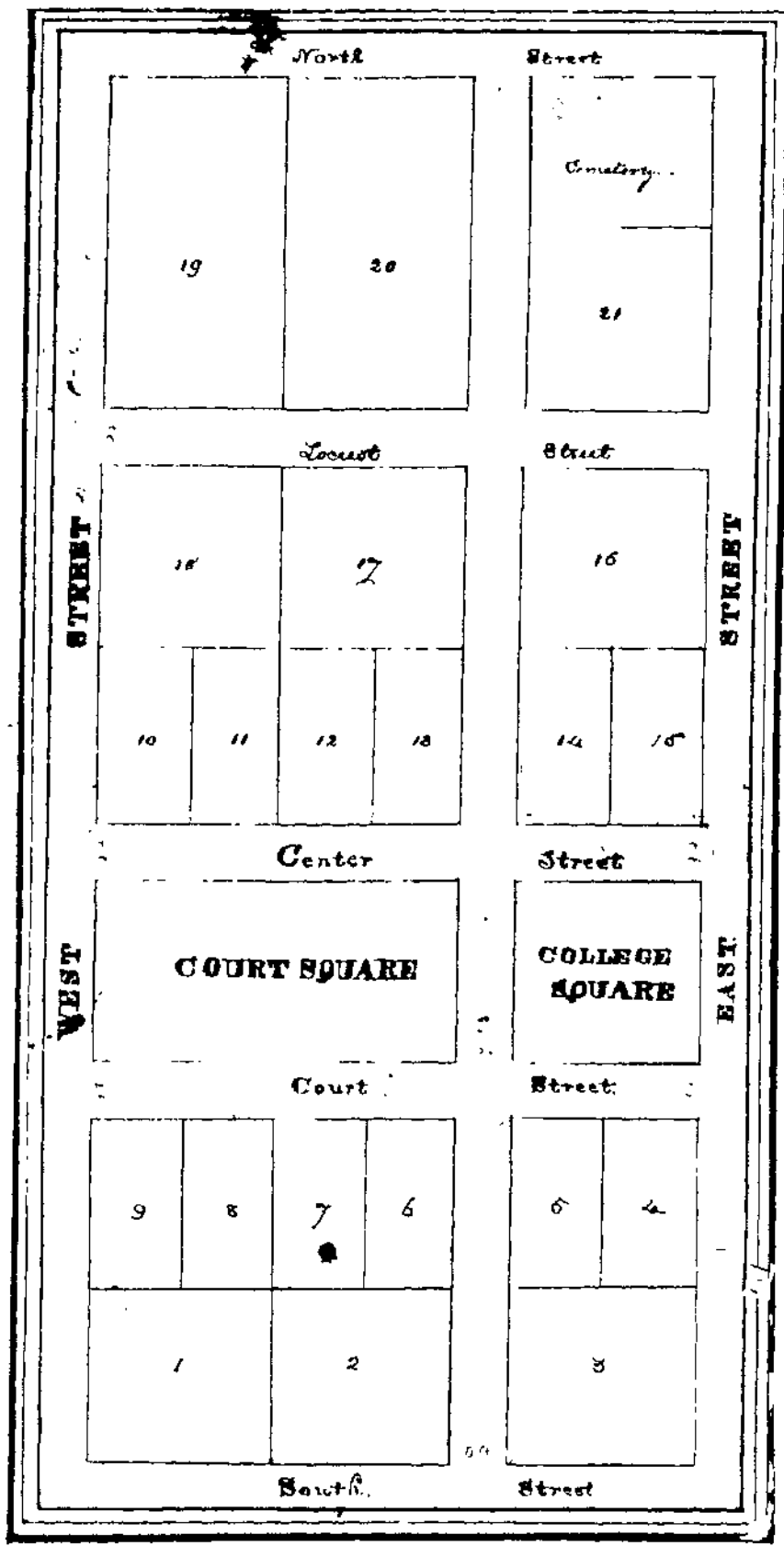
**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries of the previously indicated parcel have remained constant since the construction of the courthouse. Plats of the village dating back to the 1840s clearly show the parcel, known as Courthouse Square, outlined by the same streets that define it today. The entire courthouse and its associated monuments are contained within Courthouse Square. Historical literature regarding the courthouse refers to Courthouse Square as the location of the Courthouse. At no time has the courthouse been moved from this parcel.

PLAN

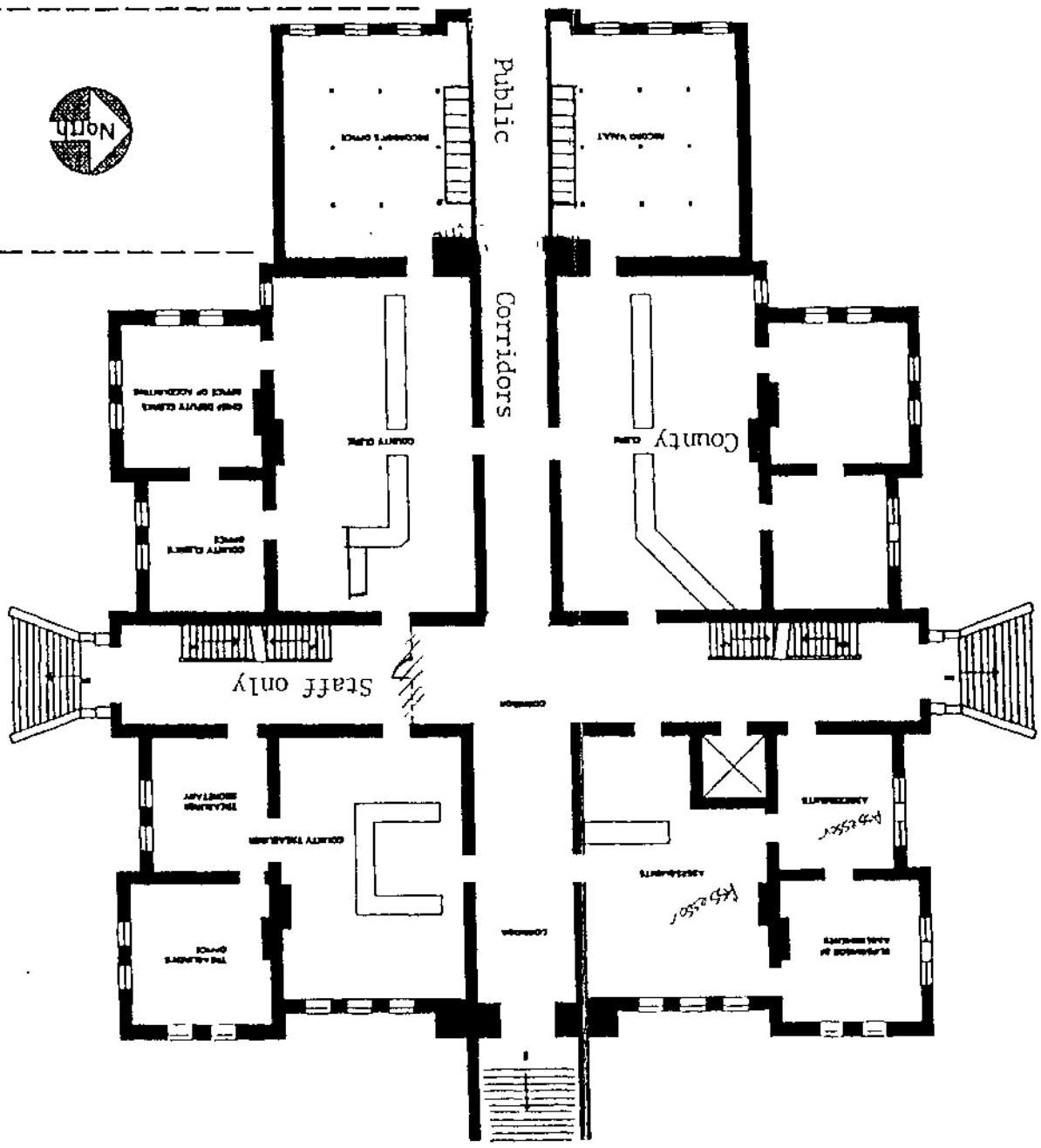
OF

# CAMBRIDGE



# Henry County Government Center

## First Floor Plan

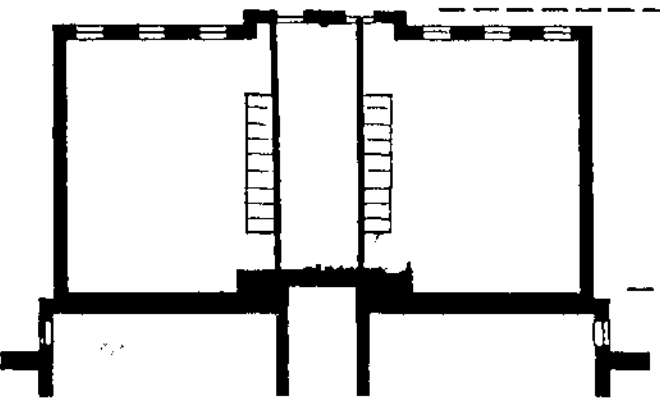


Departments Using First Floor  
EMERGENCY EXITS ONLY

County Board  
County Clerk  
Supervisor of Assessments  
Treasurer

Gross Area = 9,310 Sq. Ft.  
Net Area = 6,811 Sq. Ft.

## Mezzanine



First Floor Plan

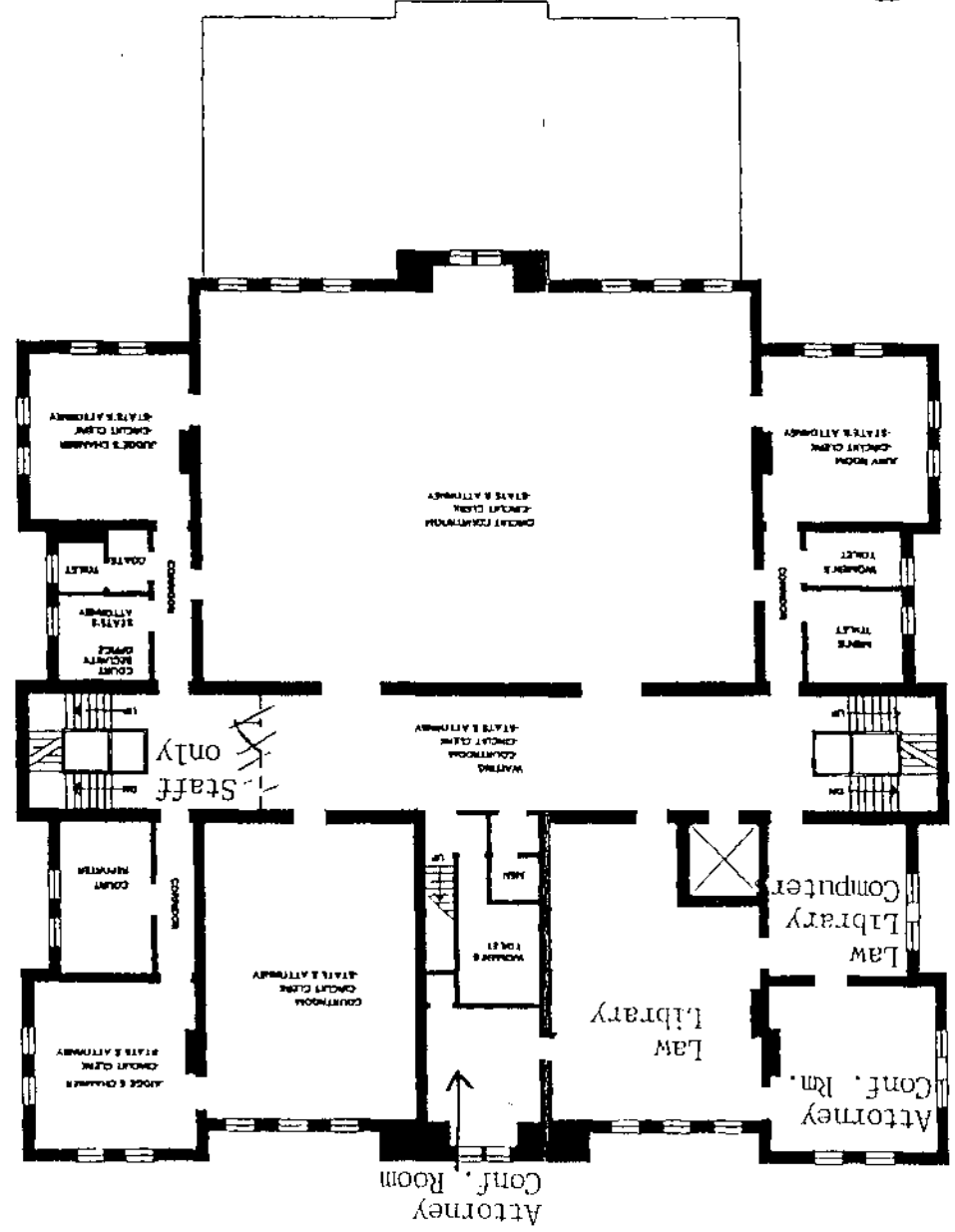
Courthouse Building Facts

A-12

# Henry County Government Center



## Second Floor Plan



Gross Area = 7,947 Sq. Ft.  
 Net Area = 6,599 Sq. Ft.

Circuit Clerk  
 Courts/Judges  
 States Attorney - Court

Departments Using Second Floor

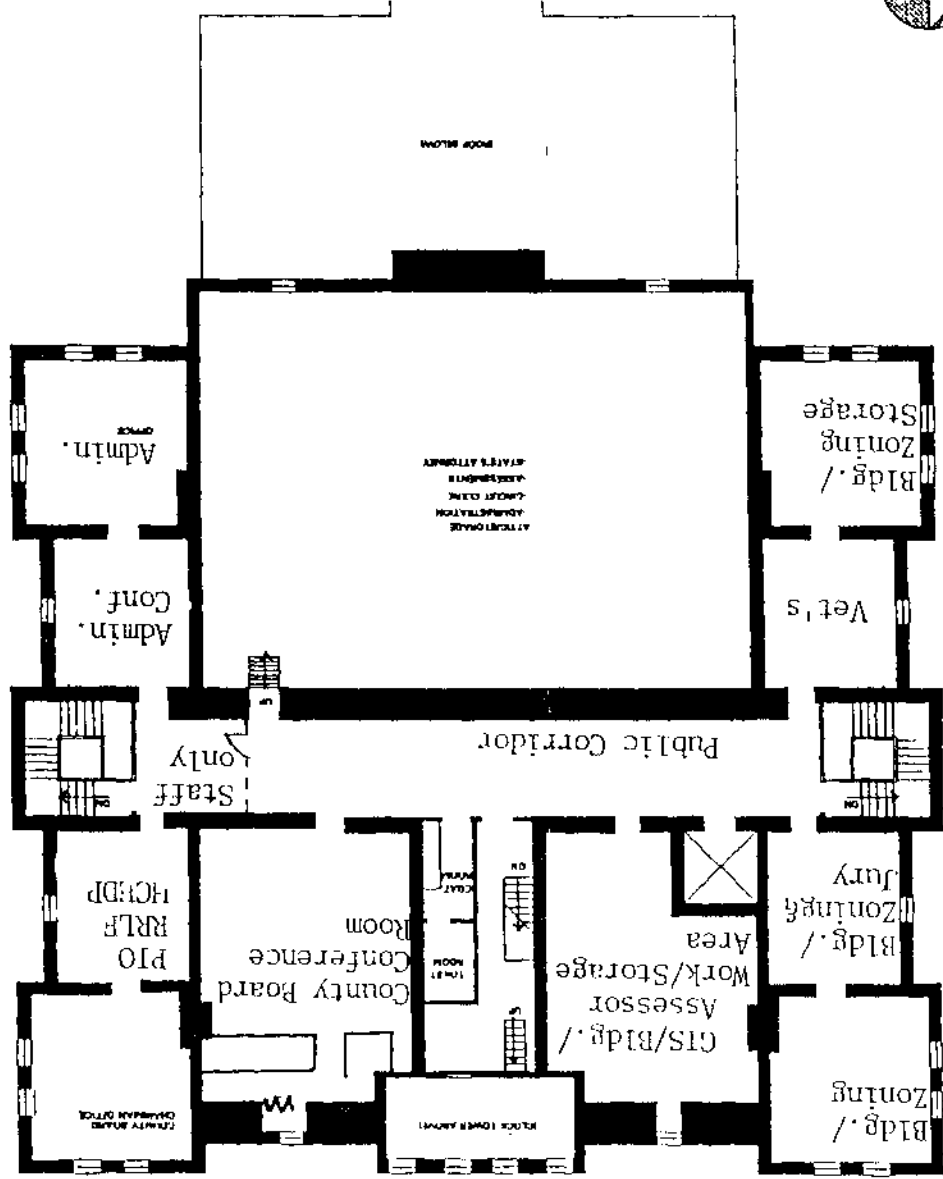
Courthouse Building Facts  
 Second Floor Plan

A-14

# Henry County Government Center



Third Floor Plan



Gross Area = 7,847 Sq. Ft.  
 Net Area = 6,336 Sq. Ft.

## Departments Using Third Floor

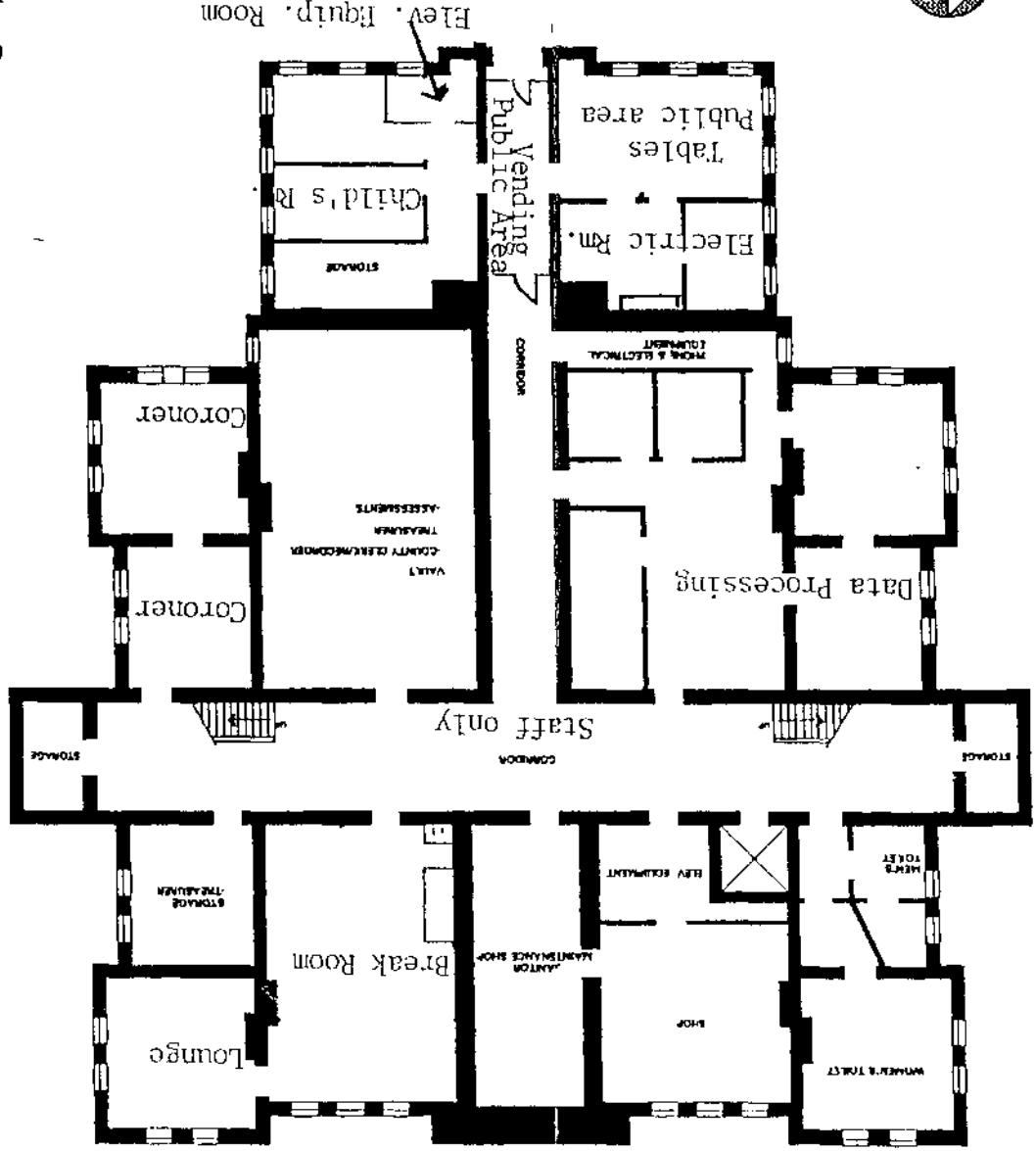
- Circuit Clerk - Storage
- County Board
- Jury Commission
- Assessments - Storage
- Zoning & Building
- State's Attorney - Storage

# Henry County Government Center

## Basement Floor Plan

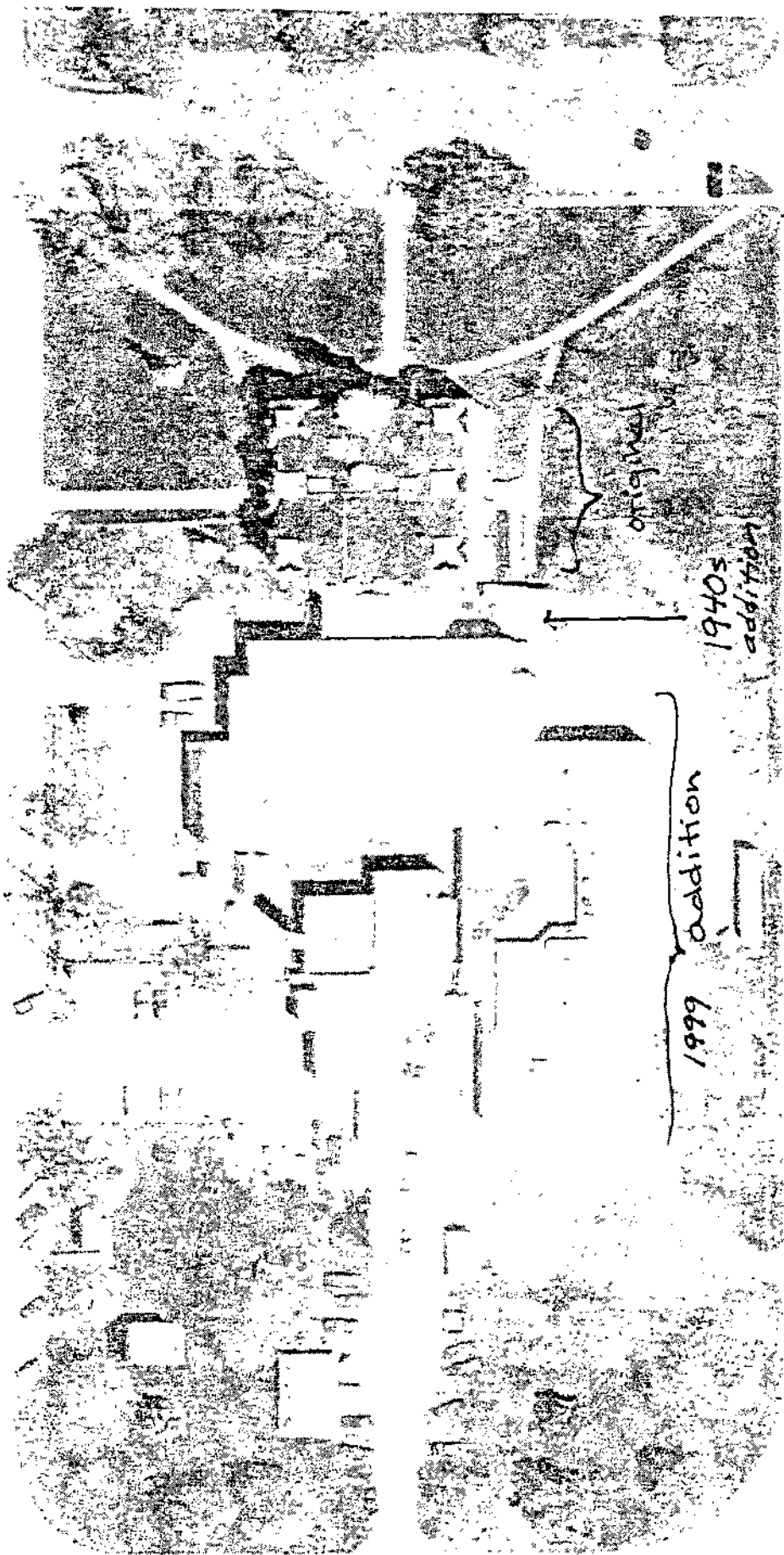


Gross Area = 9,310 Sq. Ft.  
Net Area = 6030 Sq. Ft.

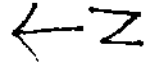


- Departments Using Basement
- County Board - Storage
  - County Clerk - Storage
  - Court Services - Storage
  - Data Processing
  - Maintenance
  - Supervisor of Assessments - Storage
  - Treasurer - Storage
  - State's Attorney - Storage
  - Public - Vending/Table Area





Henry County Courthouse  
aerial



Henry County Courthouse, ca. 1884



Henry County Courthouse, ca. 1915

