

= Indiana State House =

The Indiana State House is the state capitol building of the U.S. state of Indiana . Housing the Indiana General Assembly , the office of the Governor of Indiana , the Supreme Court of Indiana , and other state officials , it is located in the state capital Indianapolis at 200 West Washington Street . Built in 1888 , it is the fifth building to house the state government .

The first statehouse , located in Corydon , Indiana , is still standing and is maintained as a state historic site . The second building was the old Marion County courthouse which was demolished and replaced in the early 20th century . The third building was a structure modeled on the Parthenon , but was condemned in 1877 because of structural defects and razed so the current statehouse could be built on its location .

= = History = =

= = = First statehouse = = =

When Indiana became a state in 1816 , the capital was located in Corydon . The first capitol building was a humble , two @-@ story limestone building constructed in 1813 to house the legislature of the Indiana Territory . The building was constructed by a company owned by Dennis Pennington , a member of the early territorial legislature . Construction cost \$ 1 @, @ 500 , paid for by the citizens of Harrison County , and was completed in three years . It measured forty @-@ feet square with walls two @-@ feet @-@ thick and ten @-@ foot ceilings . The building was made of limestone cut from a nearby quarry and , at the time of its completion , was one of the largest buildings in the state .

The capitol contained three rooms and quickly became too small for the state government , which had to erect additional office buildings across the street for the state 's administration . The lower floor of the statehouse was used by the Indiana House of Representatives . The upper floor was split into two rooms , one for the Indiana State Senate and another for the Indiana Supreme Court , with a narrow hall between them . The building was abandoned as the capitol in 1824 and was given to Harrison County to use as a courthouse . The old capitol building is still preserved and is now a state historic site .

= = = Second statehouse = = =

When the state government relocated to Indianapolis in December 1824 , the government was housed in the Marion County Courthouse . The courthouse had been constructed with state funds in 1822 after Indianapolis was chosen as the site for the new capitol . The courthouse served as the state capitol building for twelve years . At the time Indianapolis was a frontier site , nearly 60 miles (97 km) from the nearest settlement of significance , making large scale construction impractical .

The relocation to Indianapolis was an arduous task . At the time it was an eleven @-@ day journey by horseback from Corydon to the new capital . To complicate matters , no road existed and a path for the wagons had to be cut through the dense forests during the winter transit as the long caravan moved north . The caravan was large because it contained the state treasury , state library , state records , the furniture of the General Assembly , Supreme Court , and Executive Offices , along with a whole host of other implements to aid the caravan on its long journey . Colonel Samuel Merrill , the state treasurer , was authorized by the General Assembly to oversee the move . Ultimately , it took more than a month to relocate the government to Indianapolis . The first session of the General Assembly convened there in January 1825 .

= = = Third statehouse = = =

In 1831 , the Indiana General Assembly approved construction of a new statehouse . The building

was to be funded by the sale of lots of land in Indianapolis . A commission was established and Commissioner James Blake offered a \$ 150 prize to the architect who could design the best statehouse . The firm of Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis created the winning design . Their plans were for a structure that was inspired by the ancient Greek Parthenon . The building looked very much like the Parthenon except for a large central dome . Town and Davis was awarded the contract to construct the building , and completed it ahead of schedule in 1835 .

The statehouse was built of blue limestone , two stories high . The governor and the Supreme Court occupied the lower floor , and the legislature occupied the upper floor , with each house in its own wing . The building was the site of many great events in its history , including a bier for Abraham Lincoln . The building was popular after its construction but by the 1860s Greek Revival architecture had fallen out of style , and the building was beginning to become decrepit . The building 's limestone foundation began to fail , and many feared a general structural collapse of the building . In 1867 the ceiling in the chambers of the Indiana House of Representative collapsed . A debate was held in 1873 about how to preserve the building but no solution was found . By the time that Governor James Williams was elected to office , the building was about to be condemned . It was finally demolished in 1877 .

= = = Fourth statehouse = = =

When the third statehouse was condemned in 1876 the government abandoned the building . The General Assembly relocated to a large office building that had been built in 1865 and was already housing the Supreme Court . The Governor and the executive staff relocated to another office building . The office building was used as the statehouse during the interim period that the new statehouse was being built . In 1887 , before the new statehouse had been completed , enough of the lower floors were usable for the government to move out of the cramped office space and begin holding sessions in the new structure .

= = Current Statehouse = =

= = = Construction = = =

With Indiana 's rapid increase of population during the middle of the 19th century , the state 's government increased in size , causing the previous capitol building to become crowded . In 1865 , a state office building had to be constructed to house some of the burgeoning government , and the Supreme Court and several bureaus were relocated into the new building . When the statehouse was condemned in 1877 , the state was without a real capitol building , and the administration of Governor James D. Williams proposed the construction of the current state capitol building . The plan was approved by the Indiana General Assembly during the legislative session of 1878 . After the third state capitol building had been razed , the new building was constructed on the same site . Two million dollars (USD) were appropriated for construction of the new building , and it was completed in 1888 . Governor Williams , who was famed for his frugality , was able to complete the project for \$ 1 @. @ 8 million and returned the extra \$ 200 @, @ 000 to the general fund .

A team of commissioners , including former Civil War general and civil engineer Thomas A. Morris , planned and oversaw the project . The structure was designed by Edwin May , an Indianapolis architect . Not wanting to repeat the mistakes made in the construction of the previous statehouse , the legislature required the new capitol to be built on a solid foundation , so that it would last for many decades . Construction began in 1880 and the cornerstone was laid on September 28 . Edwin May died in February of that year , and Adolph Sherrer supervised the project for the entire construction period . The interior was modeled in the Italian Renaissance style . Wherever possible , materials native to Indiana were used . Doors were made of Indiana oak , and Indiana limestone was used throughout the structure . The building 's cornerstone is a ten @- @ ton block of limestone quarried in Spencer , Indiana . The central dome was completed in 1883 . The building was also

wired for electricity , even though Indianapolis did not yet have an electrical power grid . In 1887 , the new capitol was sufficiently finished for the first legislative session to be held there . Construction ultimately endured eight years , and the building was finally completed in October 1888 . With the pinnacle of the building reaching 256 feet (78 m) high , it was the second tallest building in the state at the time of its completion .

A hole was bored in the cornerstone , and a time capsule was placed inside containing forty @-@ two items . The items included annual reports from all the government agencies , a Bible , samples of several varieties of crops grown in Indiana , several new coins , local maps and newspapers , a book on the history of Indianapolis , and pamphlets from many of the city 's institutions .

The building is designed in the shape of a cross . A large central rotunda with a glass domed ceiling connects the four wings . The structure is four stories high . The first floor houses the executive offices of the administration . Offices for the Indiana House of Representatives are on the second floor 's east side , while those for the Indiana State Senate are on the second floor 's west side . Offices of the Indiana Supreme Court are on the north end of the second floor . The seventy @-@ thousand volume Supreme Court Law Library is located on third floor . The third floor also holds the House , Senate , and Supreme Court chambers , and the fourth floor holds the Indiana Court of Appeals courtroom and the offices of nine of the fifteen judges on the Court . Additional executive office and storage space . The building was constructed for the purpose of holding the entire government of the state . For several decades all the government bureaus were housed within the building , until the government again outgrew the structure ; most of the state 's bureaus have gradually been moved out of the building . In front of the Statehouse stands a statue of Oliver Morton , governor of Indiana during the Civil War .

= = = Renovation = = =

In 1988 , the administration of Governor Robert D. Orr proposed that the Indiana General Assembly renovate the statehouse as part of " Hoosier Celebration ' 88 " , the building 's one @-@ hundredth anniversary . The General Assembly approved , and the building had an extensive , 11 million dollar renovation that continued until 1995 .

During the renovation process , all of the statehouse 's stonework , consisting of marble , granite , and limestone columns and blocks , was cleaned and polished . All of the buildings woodwork was repaired or replaced . Broken glass in the central dome skylight was replaced . The building 's lighting was updated with new chandeliers based on the original designs , and most interior walls were repainted . The building was wired for a new data network to make the building ready for 21st @-@ century technology .

In 1984 the statehouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places , and it remains a protected building . The statehouse is open for public tours during the work week and with limited tours during weekend mornings .

= = = Public artworks = = =

Located inside and around the Statehouse property are more than 40 works of public art that depict many important individuals and events related to the state of Indiana . The collection spans more than 130 years of artistic activity in a variety of mediums .

= = = Gallery = = =