

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Illinois
COUNTY:	Putnam
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:	Putnam County Courthouse
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 4th Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hennepin		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 15th-Congressman Leslie Arends	
STATE Illinois	CODE 17	COUNTY: Putnam	CODE 155

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Putnam County	STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:		

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Putnam County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER: 4th Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Hennepin	STATE: Illinois	CODE: 17

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois  
COUNTY: Putnam  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original building was built in 1839 in Greek post and lintel style with four Doric Columns at main entrance. The walls are about 18" thick. There is a basement and two added stories, plus an attic.

Report of preconstruction meetings indicate the original brickwork was painted red, however, the present appearance is unpainted pink brick. The window frames, columns and all other exterior wood are painted white.

A north wing, containing document rooms and vault was added in 1873. The basement was renovated during the period of the W.P.A. Some minor remodeling has been done to interior, but the only work done on exterior was sand-blasting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1839

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When formed by the state legislature in the early 1830's. Putnam County was the largest county in the state. Since that time, nine other counties have been carved from it, leaving Putnam County the smallest county in the state.

In 1836 the county commissioners advertised for bids for the construction of the courthouse in the Sangamon Journal and the Chicago Democrat. The contract was awarded to Gorham and Durley (probably from Hennepin) who received \$14,000 upon the completion of the building in 1839.

While always used primarily as a courthouse, the county permitted "religious worship" in the building in the early years of existence.

In 1893, J.A. Williams' low bid of \$4,780 was accepted for the construction of the two-story addition to the north side of the building which was completed in the same year. At the same time the Fenton Metallic Manufacturing Company of Jamestown, New York installed the vaults for \$1,849.30.

This is considered the oldest courthouse in the State of Illinois still used as a courthouse. The courthouse at Galena was constructed in the same year but has been extensively remodeled while the Putnam courthouse has only undergone minor alterations on both the exterior and interior.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ellsworth, Spencer. Records of the Olden Times: Organization of the Counties of Putnam and Marshall. Lacon, Illinois. n.p.1880  
 Ford, Henry A. The History of Putnam and Marshall Counties. Lacon, Ill. Henry A. Ford. 1860.  
 Warren, H. Valette. History of Putnam County. Hennepin, Ill. n.p. 1877.  
 Burt, John Spencer. Past and Present of Marshall and Putnam Counties. Chicago: Pioneer Press. 1907.  
 Resume of the meetings of the Board of Supervisors of Putnam County. Office of the Circuit Clerk of Putnam County. Hennepin, Illinois.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		41 15 12	89 20 33	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mary Alyce Witzig

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER:  
518 E. Peru Street

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
Princeton Illinois 17

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____  <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____  <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      ILLINOIS

Date Entered      MAR 4 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Putnam County Courthouse	Hennepin Putnam County
South Shore Country Club	Chicago Cook County

**COPY OF COMMISSIONER NOTIFICATION**

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy  
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, III  
Hon. Tim L. Hall  
Hon. Ralph H. Metcalfe





Photograph of the building at the top of the page. The building is a classical structure with a pediment and columns. The photograph is high-contrast and black and white.

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archaeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archaeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date: **1839**

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture    |   |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. **1st and only permanent courthouse in county's history. Oldest courthouse in the style used as a courthouse. Excellent example of Greek Revival public bldg. Good enough for National Register**

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: TH Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street and number: \_\_\_\_\_

City or town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.





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[REDACTED]  
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