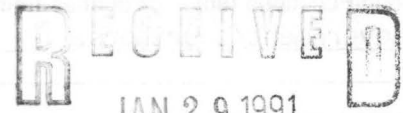


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lenawee County Courthouse  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 309 North Main Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Adrian N/A vicinity  
state Michigan code MI county Lenawee code 091 zip code 49221

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 1-16-91  
Acting SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 2/28/91

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/courthouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/courthouse

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/sandstone

walls Brick

Terra Cotta

roof Asphalt

other Granite columns

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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## Description:

The Lenawee County Courthouse was designed in 1884 by Edward O. Fallis of Toledo, Ohio and is a Romanesque-inspired building constructed of red brick with stone coursing on a rusticated stone foundation. Its finest feature is the extraordinary display of iconographic and floral terra cotta. The massive building displays impressive gabled entrances on three sides and a decorative gable on the fourth. An impressive central tower topped by a rounded cupola crowns the hip-roof structure.

The courthouse stands upon a rectangular "square" bounded by Main, Maple (formerly Railroad), Winter and Front Streets at the north end of Adrian's central business district. The building faces east on Main Street and from that side it is most natural to enter it, although there are entrances on Maple and Front Streets that are equally "massive and handsome."<sup>1</sup> The front of the square is covered with lawn, trees and walkways that lead to broad stairs at all entrances; the rear has been paved for use as a parking lot. The building measures 134 by 108 feet, with the top of the central tower 132 feet above the ground. The tower was surmounted by a 21 foot flag pole that has since been removed. The building has a main hip roof that tops the north-south rectangle of the plan. There is a secondary hip roof behind the gables on each side of the building that is formed from the east-west rectangle of the plan. The four gables form a juncture in the middle of the building from which the central tower rises. Four prodigious chimneys project from the north-south hip roof a distance of 23 feet. Their sides are ornamented by decorative terra cotta. The original slate roof was laid by Shiver, Weatherby & Co. of Grand Rapids.<sup>2</sup> Near the center of the roof a horizontal band of green tile extended entirely around the building. The entire polychrome roof was replaced by asphalt shingles in 1973. However, the hips of the roof are still adorned with splendid terra-cotta crestring.

The foundation, which rises six feet above the ground surface, is of rusticated sandstone from Monclova, Ohio. The foundation is topped by a beltcourse of Stony Point sandstone from Jackson County, Michigan. Above the stone commences the brickwork, of which the main structure is formed. A pressed brown-red brick from Zanesville, Ohio was used, laid in white mortar.<sup>3</sup> As the eye continues upward there is a row of windows with a course of cut stone at the base; at the crest there is a double course of cut stone with a band of decorative glazed tiles set between the courses. Another beltcourse of stone comes beneath the second-floor windows; connected with the stone at the windows are panels of terra-cotta ornament. Above these windows are heavy carved sandstone panels, while still higher is the terra-cotta frieze. Above the frieze is a dentil cornice made of galvanized iron and painted in imitation of the sandstone.<sup>4</sup> The central tower is built of brick and culminates in a classical cornice with a central gable on each side. Under each of the gables is an oculus window above a columned arcade. Springing from the tower columns is a mansard roof topped by a domed cupola. The tower is built of brick, stone, galvanized iron, terra cotta, lead and tin. The public once had access to "standing room for many persons" just below the dome of the tower with stairs leading "that far up from the interior of the building."<sup>5</sup> This space is now closed.

The gabled entrances are the glory of this grand building. Each entrance has its own detailing upon the same basic shape. The Main Street side is, perhaps, the most elaborate as it serves as the main entrance. In the summit of the gable is a stone-encased oculus window, flanked on either side by the American eagle in terra cotta. Just under the gable is a low attic with a row of round-arched windows, each pair separated by engaged brick columns with stone capitals. A terra-cotta plaque adorns the broad pier at each end of this row of windows. The attic and gable rise above a broad stone archway over the entrance. A great archway is a feature of each of the three entrances and helps to give the courthouse its monumental, Romanesque appearance. The arches spring from polished gray granite columns from Vinalhaven, Maine. Within the arch on each side is a double window topped by a semicircular fanlight. The gables on Front and Maple Streets are each also distinguished, near the apex, by a circular window. Below the oculus is an arcade with stubby twisted columns. There are terra-cotta reliefs decorating all of the arches.

Cutting under the main entrance staircase on either side is a stairway leading to the basement. The original stone steps have been replaced by concrete and are guarded by iron railings. The basement can also be reached by a barrier-free entrance installed in 1980 as part of a renovation project begun in 1973. The walkway leading to the entrance was cut into the earth on the southwest corner of the building. There are glossy white concrete walls on either side of the walkway that are flush with ground level. An elevator was installed to service all floors and is located down the hall from this entrance; these additions make the building handicap-accessible. The basement has lost much of its former character. Where once were offices set in the rusticated Monclova stone foundation, now exists a maze of electrical conduit and heating and air conditioning ductwork in the midst of painted concrete walls. The entire north half of the basement is occupied by the printing department of the county. The northwest corner formerly housed the "mammoth" boiler used to heat the building. The floor in this area was three feet lower than the rest of the basement to accommodate the size of the boiler. The floor has since been raised to meet the basement level. The southwest corner of the basement houses the photostat room where the county microfilms its records. Also in this corner are the elevator and two bathrooms completed in 1981.

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From the outside, one goes up broad stone steps to double doors made of white pine, beautifully carved from the solid wood. Each door has a panel of glass set in a frame of attenuated columns, rising from a projecting cornice and supporting a full entablature. The bronze fixtures have been restored; knobs are of hematite (ferrous oxide) with bronze trimmings. Upon entering one steps onto encaustic tile laid in geometric designs, cut into patterns with borders and centerpieces, and laid in Portland cement. The work was done by the U.S. Encaustic Tile Company of Indianapolis.<sup>6</sup> The centerpiece of the tilework is laid in the center of the first floor. It is a symmetrical design of crossed cornstalks laid in mosaic. The ceiling of thirteen feet one inch is now concealed by a drop ceiling of acoustical tile and fluorescent light fixtures. This new ceiling cuts across the archways which framed the "crossing" below the tower, in the center of the first floor. The engaged columns with their floral capitals remain as a testament to the rich detailing and grand scale of the interior.

The plan of the Lenawee County Courthouse creates the volumetric grandeur of the structure. The office space is cruciform in shape created by two broad rectangles at right angles to each other. The hallways form a low and broad T-shape with the arms cutting through the north-south axis and the foot at the east side. This form makes the west side less volumetric and leads the visitor to treat the east side as the main entrance.

The visitor would once have found the doorway to the office of the Register of Deeds to the left inside the main entrance. This office was built to give the utmost possible security from fire and theft. In 1956, this doorway was filled in to match existing plaster and woodwork. The vault door on the south wall was replaced and the room received a three-quarter inch metal lath and plaster ceiling to replace the original ceiling of jack arches bound by iron girders and iron tie-beams. To the south of this room was the former "apartment" of the Register. This area is still occupied by the Register's Office, though it has gone through significant changes. The floor and joists were cut in the 1956 project to allow for the installation of a stairway to the basement photostat room. The Georgia yellow pine woodwork has been painted with medium yellow-green enamel. The floor is covered with yellow green carpeting. The lowered ceiling, found in all offices, cuts across the top of the fenestration. A new office was created within the main office in the 1956 renovation; blonde paneling separates it from the outer office. A fireplace in the north wall of the Register's Office was filled in and plastered over. The date of this modification cannot be confirmed.

Moving west across the north-south hall one comes to the Bookkeeping Office, formerly the County Clerk's Office. This room was much like the Register's Office, "being the same size as that apartment, and having all the accoutrements."<sup>7</sup> In addition, it had a private stairway to the court room which opened into the judge's private office on the floor above. The judge's private office and the staircase have given way to the installation of the elevator. The Bookkeeping/County Clerk's Office has also had its fireplace filled in on the west wall. As in all other offices in the building a drop ceiling of acoustical tile has been installed with fluorescent lighting. This room has been painted beige. Originally, "on its east side double doors, fireproof and burglar puzzling, and fitted with combination locks," led to the vault.<sup>8</sup> The ceiling of the vault was arched and then covered with heavy, seasoned oak; the floor was made of Bedford limestone.<sup>9</sup> Half of this vault was eliminated in 1981 to allow for the installation of the elevator.

In the northwest corner of the building is the County Treasurer's Office. This office was the office and court room of the judge of probate. The main room is twenty-five feet by twenty-nine feet six inches in ground dimensions. A private office sixteen by twenty-three feet is equipped with closets and a washroom. All offices were equipped with closets and washrooms when the courthouse was built. This office contains the only existing fireplace. It, too, has a drop acoustical tile ceiling and fluorescent lighting and has been painted pale yellow.

The entire northeast corner of the first floor is now vacant. It originally housed the County Treasurer's quarters, comprising both a public and private office. It boasted ceilings two inches higher than the thirteen foot one inch height of the rest of the floor (no reason was given for this added height). The original ceilings have been concealed, as in all rooms, by drop acoustical tile and fluorescent lights. This room has been painted light green.

There are two grand stairways from the first floor to the second, located on the north and south sides of the center of the side hallway. The newel posts and banisters are of carved cherry and the newels have a heavy, handsome Romanesque design. The rise and tread of these great staircases is of Georgia yellow pine to match the woodwork and wainscoting of the interior finish. The tread has, unfortunately, been covered with red-orange carpeting. The carving of the staircases was done by De Graff, Vrieling & Co. of Grand Rapids.<sup>10</sup>

These staircases lead to the north-south hallway of the court room floor. The court room, now used for meetings of the Board of Commissioners, is the largest and most ornate area of the interior. It is forty feet four inches in width by sixty feet eight inches in length. The court room ceiling was twenty-three feet two inches high. This has been lowered slightly with the installation of an acoustical tile

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ceiling. The room was lighted in the earlier years by two ten-light gas chandeliers from the ceiling and three "standard" lights inside the bar.<sup>11</sup> The gas light fixtures have been removed; the room is now lit by fluorescent ceiling lights. A handsome carved cherry railing serves to separate the audience from what was the operating body of the court, now the commissioners' desks. The judge's seat still sits on a dias sixteen inches from the floor. The "opera" chairs for the audience are as they were in the early days of the courthouse. They are beautifully made of wrought iron with wooden backs, arm rests and seats. There is no longer a jury box. The room was heated by steam radiators with heat supplied from the massive boiler in the basement. The building is now heated from the county jail located on the southwest corner of Winter Street and Maple Avenue. The Georgia yellow pine woodwork is still in place, but the walls have been paneled and painted. The walls were initially covered with frescoing done by Romeo Berra of Toledo, Ohio and the frescos were considered the highlight of the court room.<sup>12</sup>

The judge's private office could be entered directly from the court room and also from the main hall outside. As explained above, this office no longer exists due to the installation of the elevator. At either end of the hall was a witness room. The one at the south end was for female witnesses and the other for male witnesses. The south witness room was adjacent to the judge's private office. It has been opened up so as to lead directly into the reception area of the County Coordinator and now serves as office space for the County Coordinator's secretary.

The County Coordinator's Office is in the southeast corner of the building. It too has had its fireplace plastered over. The original wainscoting has been replaced by a burlled-walnut imitation made of masonite. The upper half of the office is covered with pale yellow vinyl wallcovering. As in most of the other rooms on the second floor, the ceiling has been lowered with acoustical tile. The ceilings had previously been thirteen feet eight inches on the second floor, the exception being the court room.

In the rear of the court room was a law library, consultation and cloak room. This has been replaced by a conference room for the county commissioners. The original jury rooms, each seventeen feet nine inches by sixteen feet six inches, are located on the east side of the building. These rooms currently serve as conference rooms. The jury room in the northeast corner is the only room in the building which retains its original ceiling.

The room which was used as the assembly room of the Board of Supervisors is on the east side of the building directly opposite the court room. A large double window opened onto the front veranda above the Main Street entrance. As the ceilings have been lowered and the windows replaced, these no longer fill the space built for them. There are two smaller windows on either side of the double window. The assembly room measures thirty-seven feet four inches by twenty-two feet six inches in ground dimensions. Double swinging doors provide access to the room. Connected to the assembly room by folding doors were the main committee rooms, twenty-two feet four inches by twenty-two feet six inches in size. These rooms currently house the offices of the Human Services Coordinator. The walls are covered with a light beige vinyl wallcovering. The original doors to all of the offices are still in use, but the transoms have been blocked because of the lowered ceilings.

The functions of the courthouse as a dispenser of justice have been moved into the Lenawee County Judicial Building located across Front Street on Main Street. This new structure was completed at an approximate cost of \$4,340,000. Construction began October 1977 with occupancy taking place August 1979. The building houses two circuit courts, probate court, two district courts, mini-court, probation departments, Friend of the Court, prosecuting attorney's office, law library, county clerk and meeting rooms. However, the county would use the earlier court room as a third circuit court if necessary.<sup>13</sup>

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1884-85

Significant Dates  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Edward O. Fallis/Toledo, Ohio

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS): None  
 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:  
 State historic preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property About 1 1/2 acres

UTM References

A 

1	6	7	4	5	9	4	0	4	6	4	2	9	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

  
C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

  
D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Entire block bounded by N. Main, W. Maple, N. Winter, and W. Front. Also described as Lots 176-181, Original Plat of the Village, now City, of Adrian, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 1, Lenawee County Records.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Includes the entire courthouse block.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Michelle Koch, Historic Preservation Intern  
organization Bureau of History date Nov., 1990  
street & number 717 W. Allegan telephone 517/335-2719  
city or town Lansing state MI zip code 48917

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## Significance:

The Lenawee County Courthouse stands as a testament to Lenawee County's enormous growth and prosperity in the sixty years since the county was established. Despite its numerous interior alterations, the courthouse remains one of the most impressive of Michigan's surviving late nineteenth-century courthouses. It is an important work in the career of its architect, E. O. Fallis of Toledo, Ohio, who designed eight massive courthouse buildings in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kansas in the 1880s.

The importance of the courthouse led to heavy competition over the location. Lenawee County was organized in 1826, two years after its first settlers had arrived. Tecumseh, the first settlement and the largest, became the county seat. Adrian had been settled a year after Tecumseh by Addison J. Comstock. Comstock had great plans for Adrian and built its first saw mill and gristmill and served as its first postmaster. In November 1838 the Michigan State Legislature designated Adrian as the governmental center of Lenawee County. It is said that Comstock, who donated the land for the new courthouse, was instrumental in effecting this decision.<sup>14</sup> It was also later suggested by the Adrian Times and Expositor that Adrian was deemed a more appropriate central location after the county had been settled more thoroughly. A jail had already been constructed and, in 1839, a courthouse was erected upon the donated land.<sup>15</sup>

This first courthouse of Lenawee County was destroyed by fire 14 March 1852 and the records of the County Clerk's Office were lost. The site of the courthouse was an important consideration due to its significance within the community. When the courthouse burned there was much discussion as to whether a new building should be erected on the same location at Clinton and Front Streets; The Michigan Expositor believed that it would only be fair to the people who owned land around the site. The author of the editorial intimated that proximity to the courthouse would give land added value. Two months later six men from Adrian offered to donate "the ground situated between Main and Winter Streets, and Front and Railroad (now Maple) Streets, provided your board (the board of supervisors of Lenawee County) will erect thereon the court house and other public buildings."<sup>16</sup> This proposition was accepted the next month after some deliberation. A contract for construction was let to James Berry, Esq. of Adrian to erect a building for the accommodation of county offices for "the judge of probate, register of deeds, county treasurer and county clerk."<sup>17</sup> The circuit court was held in the Odd Fellows hall until 1865 when it was moved to the Methodist Episcopal church on Toledo Street.<sup>18</sup> According to The Adrian Times and Expositor the proposition to raise the money to erect a new building had been "several times submitted to the people" but it was always defeated until 7 November 1882, thirty years after the fire. A proposition was carried at the general election that year to raise \$50,000 to build a courthouse. In October 1883 a building committee consisting of Ira Swaney, Hudson; Alfred James, Tecumseh; Thomas M. Hunter, Adrian; Horace Holdredge, Raisin and William M. Corbet, Blissfield was chosen by the Board of Supervisors. They were to act as a supervisory committee to "carry out the will of the people."<sup>19</sup>

Edward O. Fallis of Toledo, Ohio drew up the plans and specifications for the building. He was a prominent architect in Toledo who was well known for his design of courthouses in Michigan and Illinois. Edward Oscar Fallis was born 8 June 1851 in Lagro, Indiana, the son of John and Martha Craig Fallis. The Fallis family, including his father, John, his grandfather, Jonathan, and uncles were millers and mill builders, and were highly migratory.<sup>20</sup> His family moved to Toledo in 1866 after his father's mill in Indiana had failed. He married Maria Elizabeth Harris of Toledo, the niece of former President Millard Fillmore, about 1871. They eloped to Lambertville, Michigan but returned to settle in Toledo.

In 1867, at the age of sixteen, Fallis entered the architectural offices of Charles C. Miller. As an errand boy, and later as a draftsman, he remained with Miller for five years. C. C. Miller was a celebrated architect during the mid to late nineteenth century; his influence was most significant in the publication of two popular pattern books, both co-authored by Marcus F. Cummings. At the end of his apprenticeship in 1872, Fallis purchased C. C. Miller's practice when Miller moved to Chicago.<sup>21</sup> Fallis became one of the people who helped shape the architectural face of Toledo and the surrounding area. Though he had only a high school education, he took it upon himself to educate himself.

His desire to learn took him to Europe at least twice, and spurred the development of his vast and varied library . . . At some time between 1871 and 1873, Fallis went to Europe to study architecture, and travelled to Italy and Spain, spending time in both Rome and Toledo . . . Fallis also often traveled in the United States with fellow architect and friend David L. Stine.<sup>22</sup>

Another compulsion, other than supplementing his lack of education, was his desire to be a "supervising architect," which meant that he took an active role in the construction of his designs. This was curious considering his association with C. C. Miller, who was a "designing

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architect.<sup>23</sup> He was even responsible for the dismissal of one of the workers during the Lenawee County project. This supervisory role allowed for meticulous attention to the fidelity of his design.

E. A. Fallis is known to have designed eight county courthouses in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Kansas. They are:

Monroe County Courthouse, Monroe, Michigan, 1880  
Schuyler County Courthouse, Rushville, Illinois, 1881  
Kalamazoo County Courthouse, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1884-85  
Lenawee County Courthouse, Adrian, Michigan, 1884-85  
Montgomery County Courthouse, Independence, Kansas, c. 1886  
Noble County Courthouse, Albion, Indiana, 1887-88  
Paulding County Courthouse, Paulding, Ohio, 1888  
Williams County Courthouse, Bryan, Ohio, 1888-89

The Lenawee County Courthouse was the fourth courthouse in Fallis' career. The first two, of the early 1880s, were inspired by the Renaissance and are significantly more delicate than the later, Romanesque designs. The Lenawee County Courthouse was from this later group. All of the remaining six were more volumetric than the earliest designs. Each was prominently positioned on a city block, surrounded by lawns and walkways that created a community "square." "All were Romanesque, but in varying modes of expression within the style, and all were massive in scale."<sup>24</sup> They all had multiple entrances, the Lenawee Courthouse has three, though all had a main entrance. Each courthouse was topped by a central tower and each was covered with the rich detailing so characteristic of the Romanesque style. "Yet while they shared numerous characteristics, each had its own "mark of distinction," such as . . . the fantastic display of iconographic and floral terra cotta seen on the Lenawee County Courthouse."<sup>25</sup> The courthouse was a showpiece of Fallis' greatest work. In it Fallis demonstrated his "mastery of artistic expression and eclecticism" and one can see many of his trademarks throughout the building.

The building contract was entered into 2 April 1884 with Allen & VanTassel of Ionia for \$47,460 for the construction of the building. The contractors on 20 October 1884 turned the work over to their bondsmen, Knapp, Avery & Co. According to The Adrian Times and Expositor, the original contractors left debts exceeding \$7,000 and the final costs exceeded the bid by this much or more. The building committee withheld payment to Knapp, Avery & Co. because of their predecessors' unpaid debts according to the contract. Eventually the matter was settled in court and Knapp, Avery & Co. "spared no pains to have the work substantially and satisfactorily completed."<sup>26</sup>

Certainly the people of Lenawee were pleased with the final result.

As the weary mariner, long buffeted by wind and wave, looks forward to relief and rest, or as the traveler across the desert anticipates a delicious draught of cool, clear water, so may the people, and particularly the officials, of the richest agricultural county in the union, be said to have waited for the erection of this temple of justice.

said The Adrian Times and Expositor 30 September 1885. Once the people had agreed to put forth the required money, they awaited the new courthouse with eager anticipation. This was easily seen on two occasions: the laying of the cornerstone (28 June 1884) and the day the courthouse was opened to the public (1 December 1885). The laying of the cornerstone was a traditionally grand event. The ceremonies were, officially, begun at 2:00 p.m. and, according to The Adrian Times and Expositor, a large crowd had gathered by noon. The Adrian City band marched to the site at 1:30 escorting the honorable men of the day. There were prayers, speeches and songs. They placed twenty-six items in a "hermetically sealed metal case" which was placed inside the cornerstone.<sup>27</sup> The items were evidence of the history and recent prosperity of the county. It was a grand event reported in full in the local paper, including transcripts of the speeches of the day. The day on which the courthouse opened was almost as exciting. Crowds gathered to hear the first trial; the paper rewrote its description of the building to speak mainly of the courtroom itself and spoke of the honor and excitement of the change. The courthouse was, officially, a success with the people of Lenawee County.

1. "The Court House: Lenawee's New Temple of Justice Near Completion," Adrian Times and Expositor, 30 September 1885.
2. Ibidem

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3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. Ibid.

9. Ibid.

10. Ibid.

11. Ibid.

12. Ibid.

13. "Lenawee County - Judicial Building: Dedication," Michigan History Division, Department of State, 26 May 1980.

14. Roger L. Rosentreter, "Michigan's 83 Counties: Lenawee County," Michigan History, November/December 1985, p. 12.

15. "The Court House"

16. Ibid.

17. Ibid.

18. Ibid.

19. Ibid.

20. Theodore J. Ligibel, "E. O. Fallis: Master Architect in Perspective," Bowling Green State University, Master of Arts, December 1981.

21. Ibid.

22. Ibid.

23. Ibid.

24. Ibid.

25. Ibid.

26. "The Courthouse"

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27. Ibid.

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- "The Court House Contract is Let," 4/4/1884, p. 3.
- "The Corner Stone of the New Court-House Is Laid with Due Ceremony," 6/30/1884, p. 2.
- "Rumored Trouble at the Court House," 10/21/1884, p. 3.
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Rosentreter, Roger L. "Michigan's 83 Counties: Lenawee," in Michigan History, Nov./Dec., 1985, pp. 12-15.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Lenawee County Courthouse  
Adrian, Michigan  
Photographer: S. V. Z. Petrie  
August, 1989  
Neg.: BOH

- Photo 1 -- Exterior from the east
- Photo 2 -- South side elevation detail from the south
- Photo 3 -- Main corridor staircase detail, first floor
- Photo 4 -- Second-floor courtroom detail
- Photo 5 -- Fireplace detail, first floor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lenawee County Courthouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Lenawee

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/12/91  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/28/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/91  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91000212

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 2/28/91 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification
\_\_\_materials
\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_summary paragraph
\_\_\_completeness
\_\_\_clarity
\_\_\_applicable criteria
\_\_\_justification of areas checked
\_\_\_relating significance to the resource
\_\_\_context
\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance
\_\_\_justification of exception
\_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage \_\_\_verbal boundary description
\_\_\_UTMs \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps \_\_\_USGS maps \_\_\_photographs \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed Date



Benawee Co. (Hse.  
Adman, MI  
#1

29(14A)

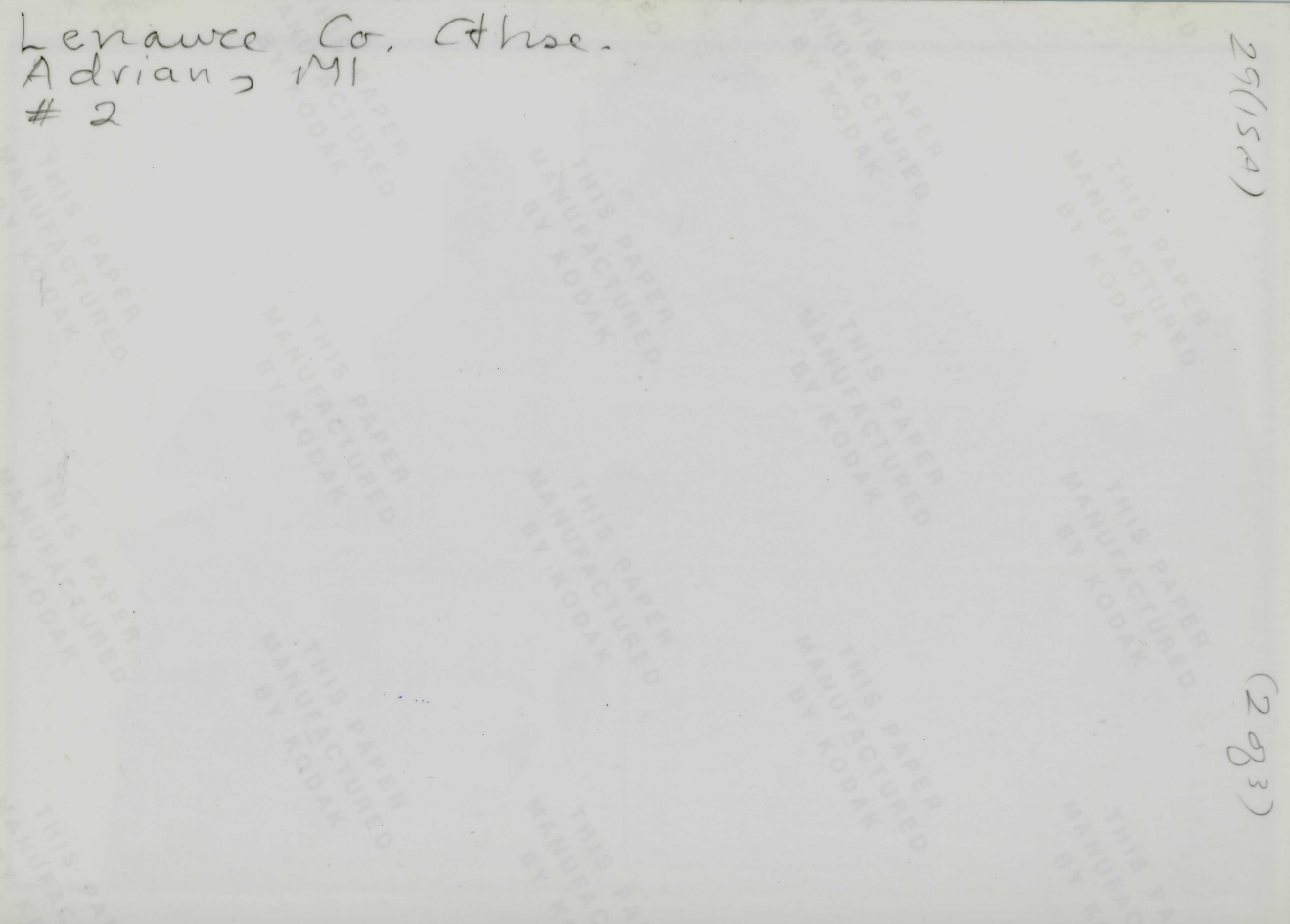
(23)



Lerawce Co. Ctise.  
Adrian, MI  
# 2

29(15A)

(293)

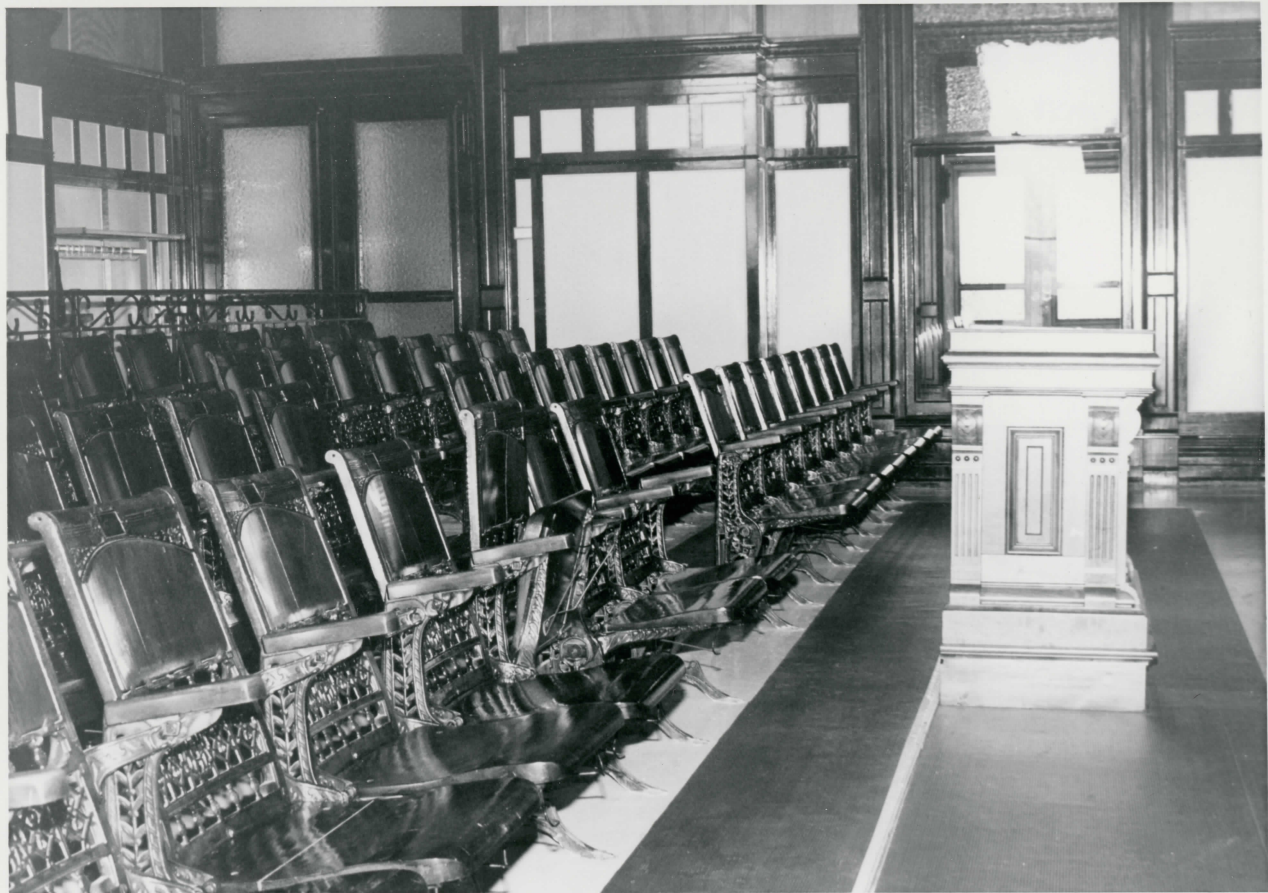




Lenawee Co. Ctise.  
Adrian, Mi  
#3

31. (124)

(323)

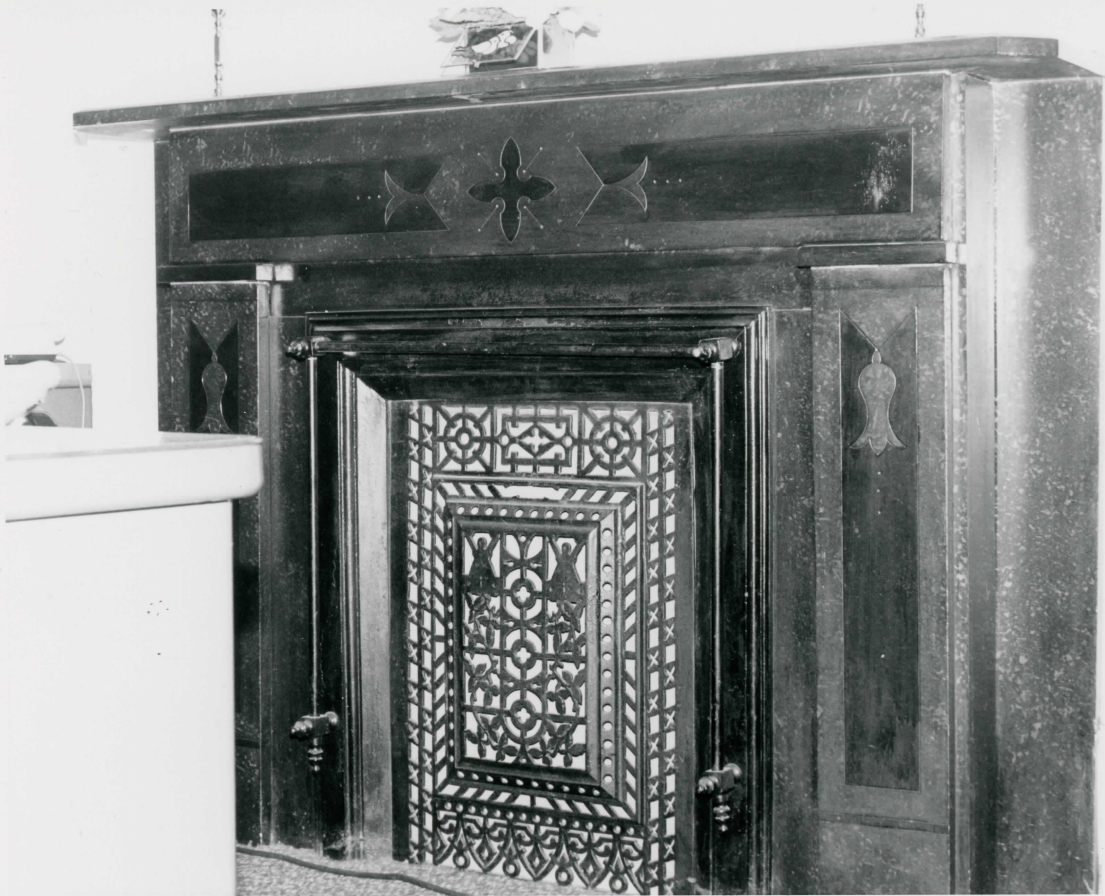


LJ Cera

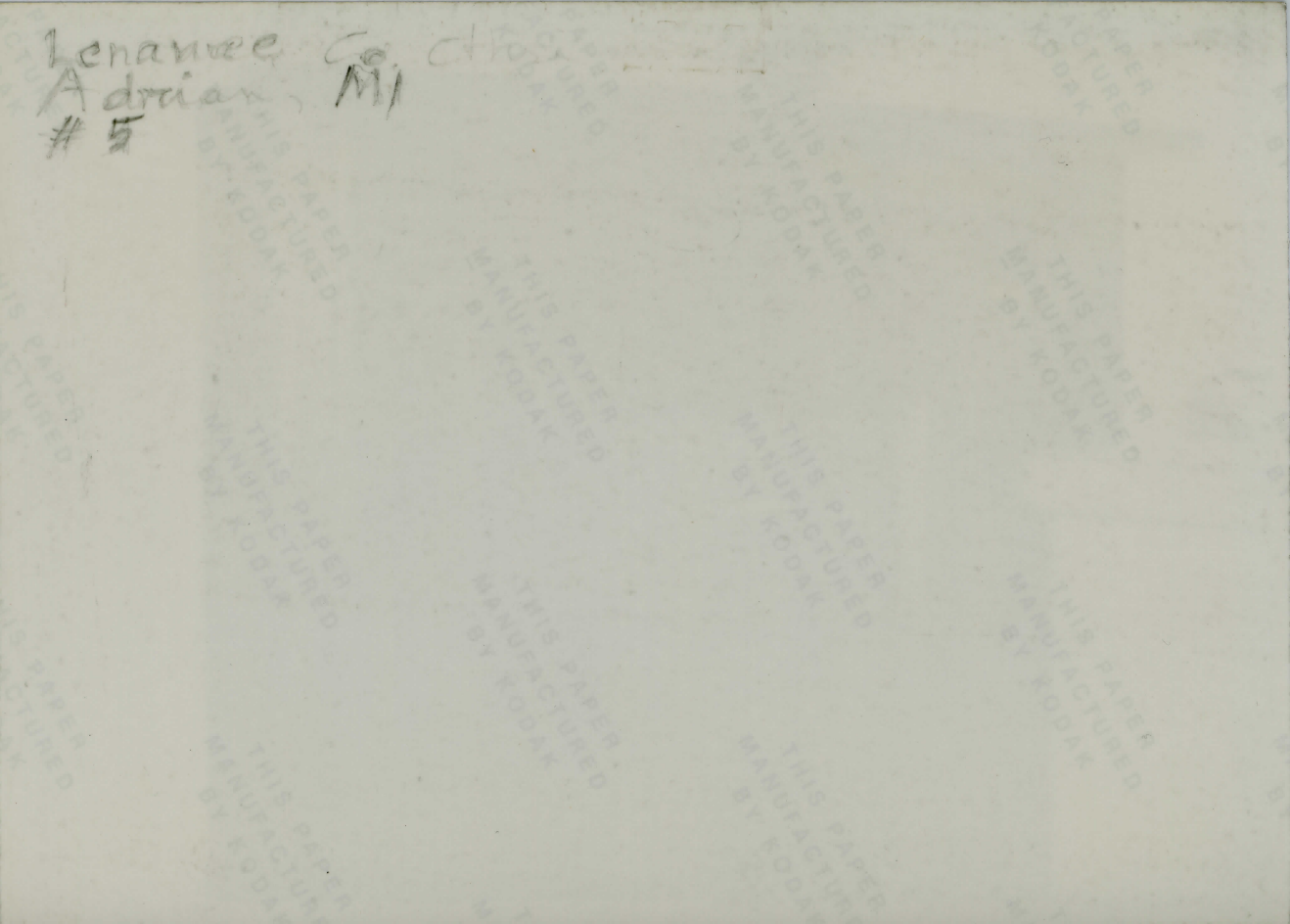
Kenawee Co, Ctise

Adrian, MI

#4

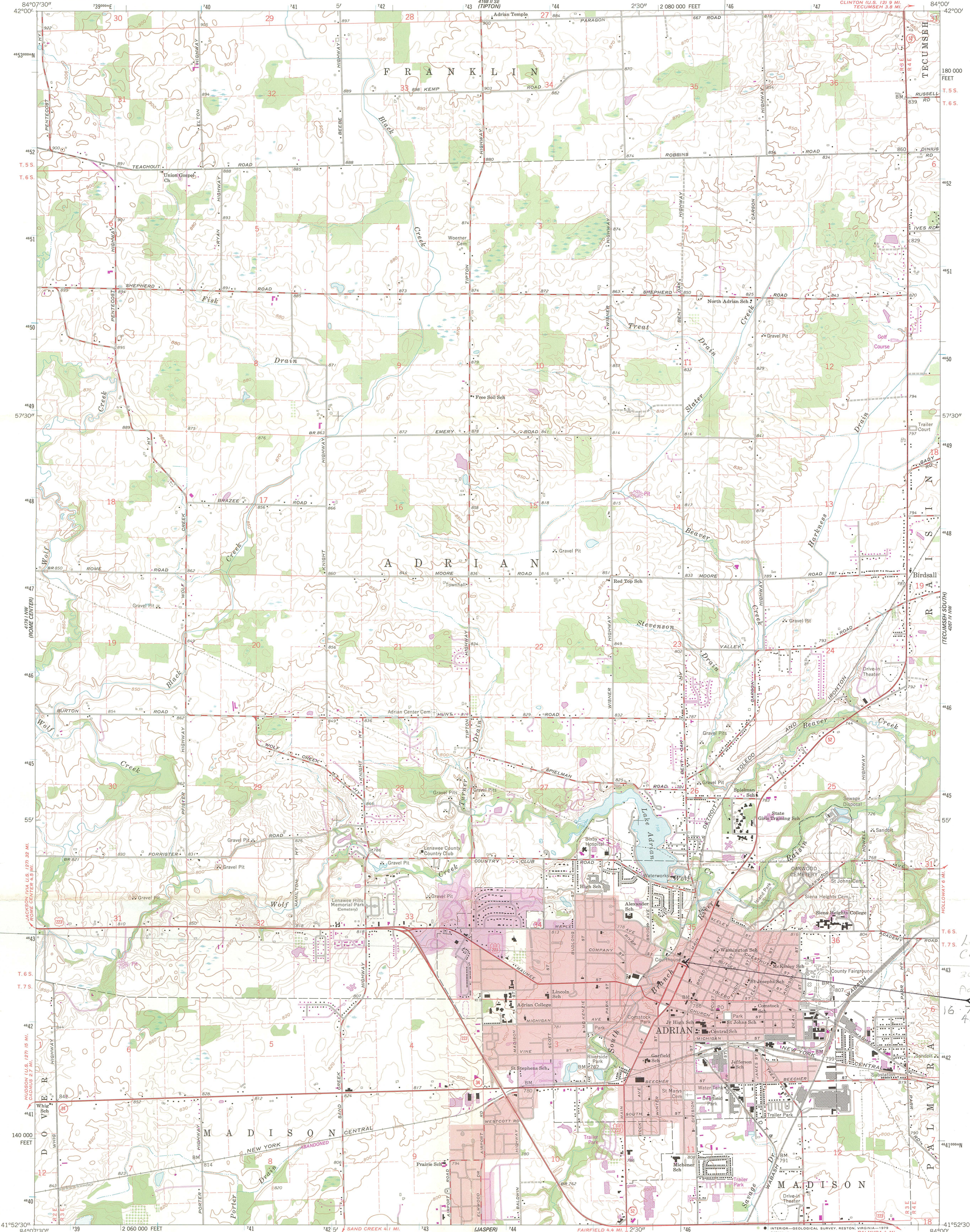


Lenawee Co Ct. Ho.  
Adrian, MI  
# 5

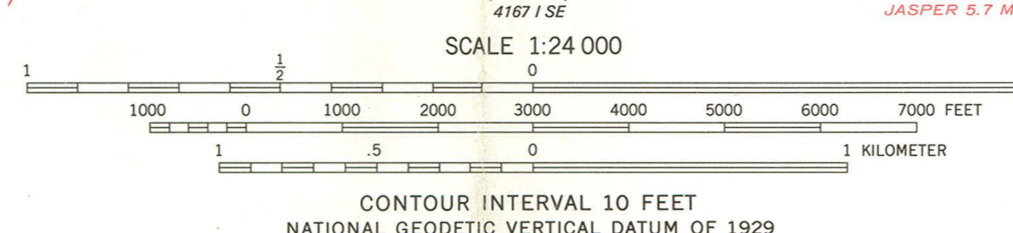
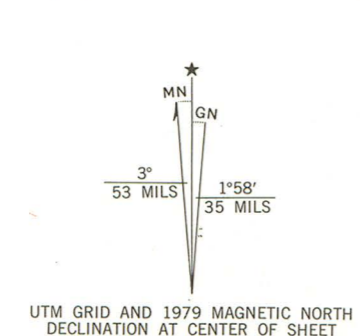




TECUMSEH NORTH  
TECUMSEH SOUTH



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1962  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, south zone  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 0 meters south and  
5 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U.S. Route      State Route

ADRIAN, MICH.  
N4152.5-W8400/7.5  
1962  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
DMA 4167 1 NE-SERIES V862

Lenawee County  
Courthouse  
309 N. Main St.  
Adrian, Michigan  
16-745740  
4642390

RBs

LENAWEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Courthouse  
Adrian, Michigan 49221



CHAIRMAN  
Harry J. Dusseau  
Phone: 265-7243

VICE-CHAIRMAN  
Charles B. Lockwood  
Phone: 263-7518

SEP 17 1990

Norman Kerentoff  
Richard W. Platt  
Harold Easton  
Mearl Betz  
Larry J. Gould  
Genevieve Quigley  
Hugh Flippo

September 6, 1990

Ms. Kathryn B. Eckert  
Bureau of History  
Michigan Department of State  
Lansing, MI 48918

Dear Ms. Eckert:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 1990 informing us that the Lenawee County Courthouse is being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board. I wholeheartedly support placement of the Lenawee County Courthouse on the National Register.

The County would appreciate receiving any material you may have regarding financial assistance for preservation efforts. The County government has expended substantial sums of money over the past fifteen years to preserve the Courthouse. It is becoming increasingly difficult to adequately fund the necessary preservation and restoration activities without some type of outside assistance. Perhaps having the Courthouse on the National Register will provide more access to different funding sources for historic preservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry J. Dusseau".

Harry J. Dusseau, Chairman  
Lenawee County Board of Commissioners

HJD/tjm

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RICHARD H. AUSTIN SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING  
MICHIGAN 48918

JAN 29 1991

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

January 9, 1991

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are National Register of Historic Places nomination materials for the Lenawee County Courthouse in Adrian, Michigan. I certify that the intent-to-nominate notification requirements have been fulfilled. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register. All notarized statements of objection and written comments concerning this nomination submitted to us prior to the submission of this nomination to you are enclosed.

Please direct all questions concerning this nomination to Robert O. Christensen, National Register Coordinator (517/335-2719).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathryn B. Eckert".

Kathryn B. Eckert  
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer  
Bureau of History

Enclosure