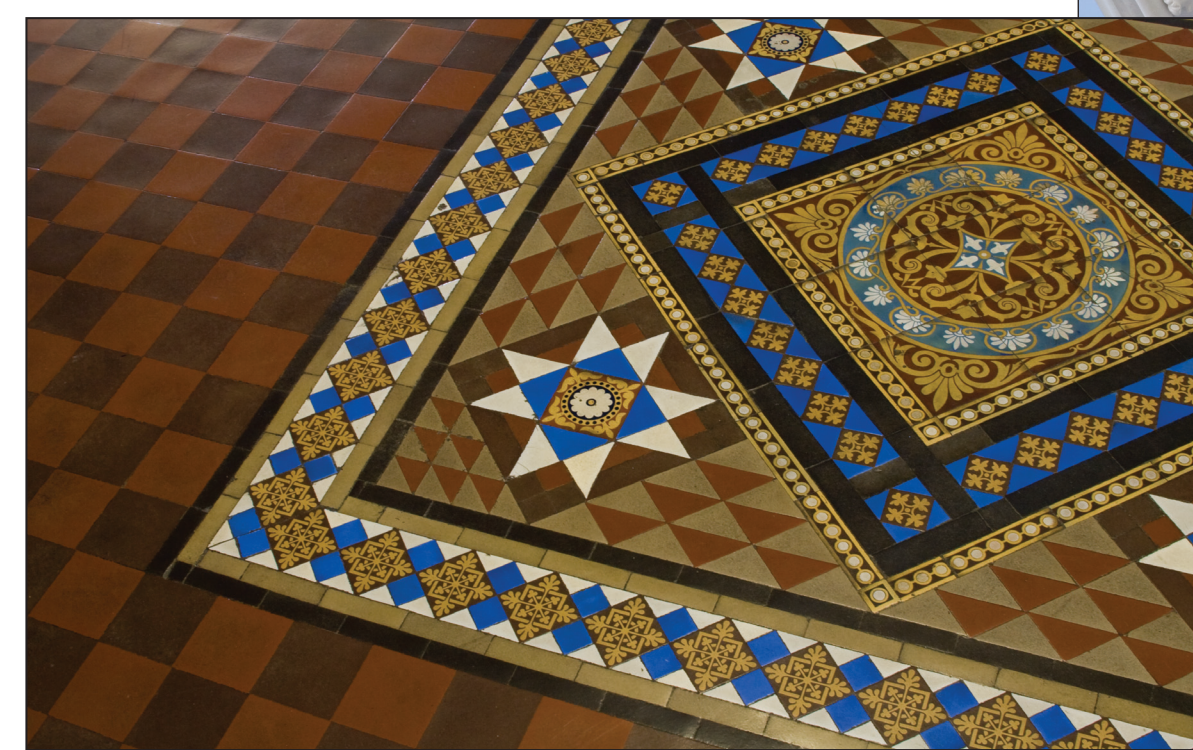


# Gibson County Courthouse



Gibson County is home to one of the premier courthouses in the Midwest. The cornerstone of the courthouse was laid on June 17, 1884. Located in the county seat of Princeton, Indiana, the courthouse is the most significant historical structure in the county and one of the best examples of nineteenth century architecture in Southern Indiana.

The architectural style may be classified as Romanesque Revival. Four corner towers frame four original center entries forming a Greek cross in design. A central clock tower rises monumentally above the center of the structure ending in a diagonally set widow's walk where the United States flag is displayed.

The interior of the courthouse features black walnut and plaster reliefs extensively. Beautiful mosaic tiles make up the hallways of both the first and second floors with most offices retaining original oak floors. The Gibson County Courthouse was also used as the model for the Dept. 56 Original Snow Village Courthouse. The courthouse is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tours are available by appointment. (812) 385-0999.

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE GIBSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

### Did you know that ...

- in 1884 the original total construction cost of the courthouse was \$188,661.00; in 1983 the total cost of replacing windows throughout the courthouse was \$100,000.00.
- certain items were placed in the cornerstone where it was laid, including a list of local lodges, local newspapers, vials of corn and wheat, and a set of artificial teeth.
- court was first held in the courthouse on February 2, 1886.
- the courthouse basement originally had a dirt floor and was used by locals to house livestock and store feed.
- during construction, the workers amused themselves by inviting visitors up into the bell tower for a view. Then, the workers would remove the ladder and refuse to put it back until the visitors contributed a bucket of beer from a tavern on the east side of the square.
- the courthouse tower was the site of a double wedding in 1929 as a part of a promotional event by the Princeton Ad Club. Spectators watched the nuptials from the lawn below. The two couples shared \$35.00 in cash prizes.
- the Gibson County Courthouse was the site of the murder trial of the notorious Leslie Irvin in 1955. The case was eventually appealed to the United States Supreme Court.
- the Gibson County Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

### Offices Located in the Gibson County Courthouse:

#### Basement:

- Court Appointed Special Advocate:** serves as an advocate for children involved in court proceedings
- Surveyor:** provides maps and records which document property boundaries in the county
- Probation:** supervises adult and juvenile probation programs as directed by the courts
- Reassessment:** works with the Assessor's office to reassess property.

#### First Floor:

- Auditor:** the principal financial officer in county government; distributes funds to government agencies; prepares tax duplicates showing the value of property and the taxes assessed against each taxpayer
- Treasurer:** prepares and sends tax statements for 10 townships, 8 towns, and 2 cities; collects property taxes from taxpayers
- Recorder:** records and keeps records of all deeds, mortgages, assignments, and other documents which prove ownership in the county
- Clerk (of Gibson Circuit Court)/ Voter Registration Office:** files court documents including criminal and juvenile dockets, adoptions, probate proceedings, civil lawsuits, divorces, petitions for guardianship, insanity, change of name, coroner's inquests, marriage applications, drainage records, passport applications, support payments for child support and welfare, county and city elections, bookkeeping for courts, drawing of juror names, and voter registration.
- Assessor:** assess value on all property located in the county, both real and personal

#### Second Floor:

The second floor contains the Circuit and Superior courtrooms and the offices of the judges currently serving.

