

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

SULLIVAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING**

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southwest corner of Main & Muncy Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Laporte

VICINITY OF

11th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Sullivan

113

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Sullivan County

STREET & NUMBER

Main & Muncy Streets

CITY, TOWN

Laporte

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 18626

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sullivan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main & Muncy Streets

CITY, TOWN

Laporte

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

12/15/77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sullivan County Courthouse was designed by Wagner & Reitmeyer, Architects, and was constructed in 1894 by Lawrence Brothers Builders. The building is located on the southeast corner of the town square in Laporte and is surrounded by beautiful, mature Lombardy Poplar trees. A large public park is located directly across the street from the north entrance to the courthouse.

The building is two stories high with a full basement and has a four-story bell tower that is visually prominent from the surrounding countryside. The primary exterior building material is a medium range red brick with a limited amount of cut stone incorporated into the elevations through foundation walls, window accents, and site walls. The brickwork is generally of a running bond pattern; however, detailed articulation is evident at the window and doorways and on the bell tower. The wood double-hung windows have arched heads or transoms. The wood entrance doors have heavy wood frames and arched transoms above. The building has a centrally located brick chimney which has minimal visual impact on the building exterior.

The original slate roof has been replaced with gray asphalt composition roofing shingles. The building's structure is of heavy wood frame carried by 1"-6" thick load bearing masonry walls. The building plan is basically rectangular with a projection on the south side containing the old county jail. Overall building size is approximately 92' x 60", and the jail projection is approximately 28' - 0" square. The first floor plan consists of a cruciform corridor providing access to the building from three directions. Key county offices flank the four corners of the corridors providing excellent public access. The jail and the sheriff's apartment are isolated from the public areas. The second floor contains a large courtroom (50' x 60') with judge's chambers and a series of small related offices.

The interior of the building includes a heavy wooden monumental stair and the original wood wainscoting and plaster walls. The courtroom contains the original public seating benches, jury box, and judge's alcove.

The building is structurally sound and in good repair. The exterior masonry work is in good condition and all windows are as originally constructed. The interior planning and room finishes are basically unchanged, with the exception of new suspended ceilings and carpeting in some areas.

The courthouse is an excellent example of rural courthouse architecture in Pennsylvania. The design is Romanesque in style; however, there is an obvious simplicity and straightforwardness that reflects the region and its people, successfully blending the large formal building with the small town and wilderness that surrounds it.

Additions and alterations to the original building include the following:

- 1935 Construction of a new registers and recorder's vault and minor repartitioning.
- 1962 Replacement of the original slate roof with asphalt composition shingles.
- 1969 Construction of a small annex and connection link adjacent to the south side of the courthouse
- 1973 Interior renovations required to install emergency lighting.
- 1977 Updating and improvement of the heating system.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lawrence Brothers/Wagner & Reitmeyer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sullivan County Courthouse is an excellent example of late 19th century Romanesque Courthouse architecture in America. It remains the most important and prominent building in Sullivan County as it has been for the past 83 years. The building houses the smallest county seat in Pennsylvania and because of the elevation of Laporte, the highest county seat in Pennsylvania.

*Best architectural
only building of
any pre tension
Sullivan Co. in*

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Guide Book of Art, Architecture and Historic Interests in Pa., ed. Margaretta Archambault, Philadelphia: The John C. Winston Company, 1924, p. 477

Ingham, Thomas J., History of Sullivan County, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1899.

Striby, George, History of Sullivan County, Pa., Dushore: Sullivan Gazette Printing, 1903.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.53

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 375140 4586640

B

C

D ZONE EASTING NORTHING

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas C. Crabtree

ORGANIZATION

John M. Kostecky, Jr. & Associates

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 386

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Camp Hill

STATE

Pennsylvania 17011

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Sullivan County Courthouse
Sullivan County
Zone 18 E375140 N4586640

