

Collection #
P 0544

INDIANA COURTHOUSE POSTCARDS COLLECTION, 1906–1975

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 5" x 7" x 10" box, 1 5" x 7" photograph box

COLLECTION DATES: 1906–75

PROVENANCE: Margaret M. Huffman, Zionsville

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Counts, Wilmer I., and Jon Dilts. *The Magnificent 92 Indiana Courthouses*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999. General Collection: F527.C86 1999; Hermansen, David R. *Indiana County Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century*. Muncie, Indiana: Ball State University, 1968. Pamphlet Collection: NA4472.I6 H47 1968; Wallace Spencer Huffman Indiana Automobile History Collection. Manuscript Collection: M 0159

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0242

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Wallace Spencer Huffman (1918–1991) was a prolific amateur historian who served as president of the Howard County Historical Society. Born in Huntington County, Indiana, he moved to Kokomo with his family in 1927. After serving in the Army during the Second World War, he worked as a traffic supervisor for the Kokomo Police Department, and then later was a child consultant for the Indiana Department of Public Welfare. Throughout his life, Huffman held an interest in Indiana state history, particularly automobile history. In 1955 he published *Indiana Built Automobiles*, to which he made three sets of updates, the final one being in 1989. He also published articles in the *Indiana History Bulletin* and *Antique Automobiles*, wrote a short biography of Elwood Haynes, and collected postcards depicting Indiana county courthouses.

In Indiana there are ninety-two designated county courthouses and city-county government buildings. About two-thirds of these were built in the nineteenth century, though only eight are pre-Civil War. The late-nineteenth century building boom can be attributed to the necessity of replacing earlier fire-prone buildings, a desire for economic growth, and competition among Indiana towns for county seat positions. Most of the twentieth-century courthouses were built prior to 1930, and only a few midcentury modern examples exist.

Sources:

Collection Materials

Counts, Wilmer I., and Jon Dilts. *The Magnificent 92 Indiana Courthouses*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999. General Collection: F527.C86 1999

Wallace Spencer Huffman Indiana Automobile History Collection Guide. Manuscript Collection: M 0159

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection comprises Wallace Spencer Huffman's collection of postcards depicting Indiana county courthouses. Seventy-nine of the state's ninety-two counties are represented. Not present are Crawford, DeKalb, Fayette, Greene, Hamilton, Howard, Jackson, Jennings, Ohio, Pike, Scott, Sullivan, and Warrick Counties. Also present in this collection are postcards of the Indiana Statehouse and the old Corydon Territorial Capitol building, which are filed under their respective counties. Most of the images are photographic, but a high percentage feature non-photographic halftone prints. There are 365 cards in all.

The buildings are typically shown from the most descriptive angle, and provide a clearer view of each structure than most illustrations in books discussing the courthouses. The most popular style in the nineteenth century appears to have been Romanesque, followed by Neoclassical, Italianate, and Second Empire styles. These were constructed in either brick, limestone, or both. The Neoclassical style dominated in the early twentieth century, and nearly all such buildings were of limestone. Due to strong resemblances, it is apparent that in several cases architects borrowed or reused plans, as with the courthouses in Dearborn and Floyd counties.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Indiana County Courthouse Postcards (A– S), 1906–
75

Indiana County Courthouse Postcards (T–W), 1906–
75

CONTAINER

Postcards
Box 1 of 1

Postcards
Box 2 of 2

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0544).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.