

Corydon

Birthplace of Indiana Statehood

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In 1815, Indiana was still a territory. A census taken in 1815 (required for achieving Statehood) recorded the population of Indiana as 63,649. In comparison, records from the U.S. Census Bureau now estimate Indiana's population at over 100 times that number. Although local historical documents do not include an official record of Corydon's population at the time, most sources simply refer to "a few hundred people."

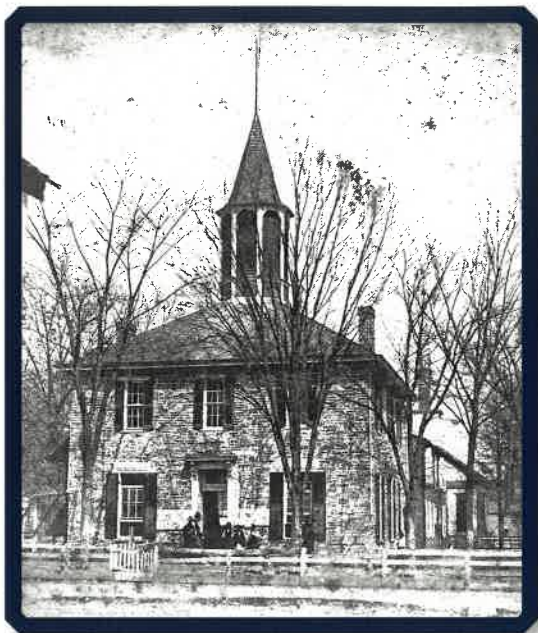
In June of 1816, 43 delegates met in Corydon to draft the first state constitution for Indiana. On August 5, 1816, the first state election was held and Jonathan Jennings was elected the first governor of Indiana.

The original capitol building, which is located in the heart of downtown Corydon, was constructed between 1814 and 1816 from local limestone and timber. In November 1816, the first General Assembly of 29 representatives, 10 senators and the lieutenant governor met in the new capitol building, and on December 11, 1816, Indiana was formally admitted as the 19th state. James Madison was President of the United States at the time.

Corydon remained the state capital until 1825 when the capital moved to Indianapolis, and the capitol building in Corydon became the Harrison County courthouse. When the present courthouse in Corydon was completed in 1929, the old capitol building was restored and opened as a state memorial in 1930.

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Pictured is the original Capitol as it appeared in 1878. Behind it are county buildings (now gone) that were used when the capitol served as the Harrison County Courthouse.

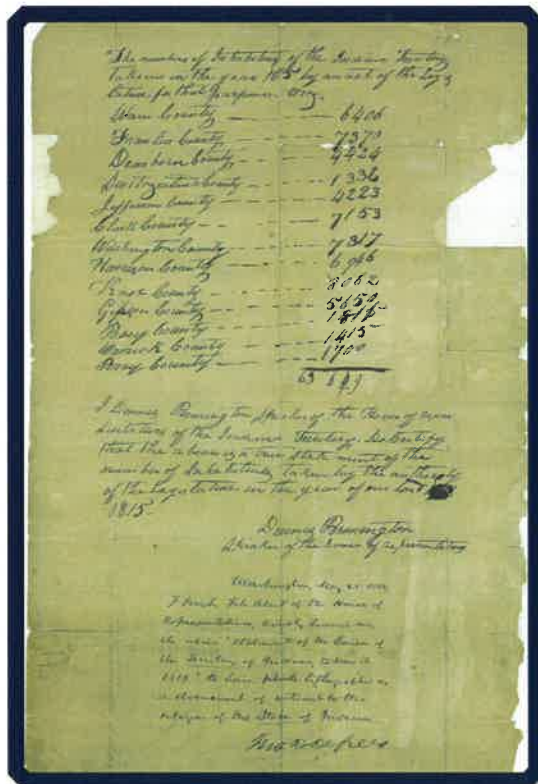


The original Capitol as it appears today. It recently underwent a large renovation project to install drainage to protect the building, new electric, and new landscaping.



Governor Hendricks' House is also located on the Corydon Capitol State Historic Site. William Hendricks was governor of Indiana from 1822-1825. The building is one of nine original buildings from the time Corydon served as the state capital.

Historical facts and images courtesy of the Corydon Capitol State Historic Site. For more information about Corydon, Visit: IndianaMuseum.org



Indiana (Territory) Census, 1815, Indiana History mss., Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.