



## RESCUING A NATIONAL TREASURE



Magnificent today, the courthouse was not always so grand. In 1994, facing alarming deterioration of the murals and scagliola, the Allen County Courthouse

Preservation Trust, Inc., a

501(c)(3) organization, was formed with the mission “to assure that the Allen County Courthouse is an active and appealing community resource and national historic destination for generations to come.”

Toward that mission, the Trust oversaw the monumental task of restoring all the grand artistic elements of the aging structure. An outpouring of support came from the community, particularly from the local Bar Association. Eight years and \$8.6 million allowed the restoration to be completed just in time for the building’s centennial anniversary on September 23, 2002.

Entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, the building was further distinguished in 2003 as a National Historic Landmark, recognizing its value as a national historic treasure.

For more information about the building visit our website at [www.allencountycourthouse.org](http://www.allencountycourthouse.org) or to schedule a tour, contact the Allen County Courthouse Preservation Trust office at (260)449.4246.

With sincere thanks to our underwriters:

Stephen L. Chapman

Howard L. Chapman



ALLEN COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION TRUST

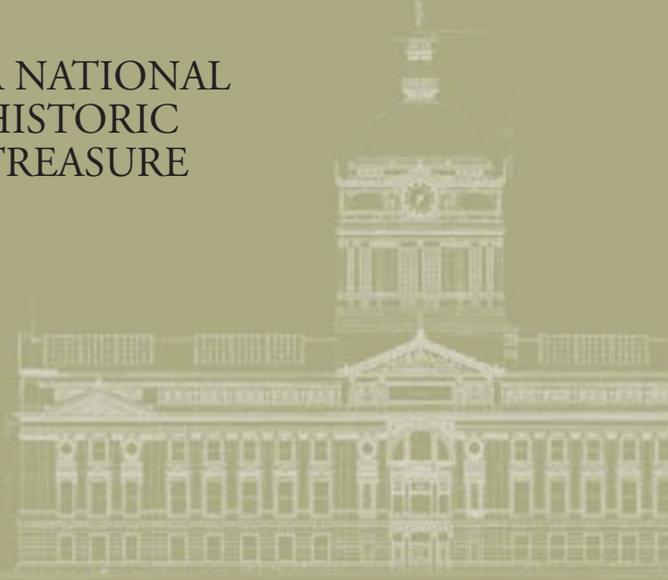
715 South Calhoun, Room 300  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

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# THE ALLEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE FORT WAYNE, INDIANA



## A NATIONAL HISTORIC TREASURE



# 1902

### A GRAND STRUCTURE FOR A PROUD COMMUNITY

More than 100 years ago, community leaders convinced taxpayers to erect the grandest of courthouses to better serve this growing county and to “...anticipate the needs of the county for at least a century...” Due to the vision of our forefathers, the Allen County Courthouse remains one of the most significant courthouses of its era in the nation.

Completed in 1902, the Allen County Courthouse in Fort Wayne, Indiana, stands as a monument to the civic pride and progressive spirit of the citizens of Allen County, expressing in art and architecture the dignity of the government, the supremacy of the people, and the grandeur of the law.



During restoration, Lady Liberty stands tall inside the courthouse awaiting her return to the top of the dome.



*Superior  
Courtroom 1*



*The Rotunda Dome*

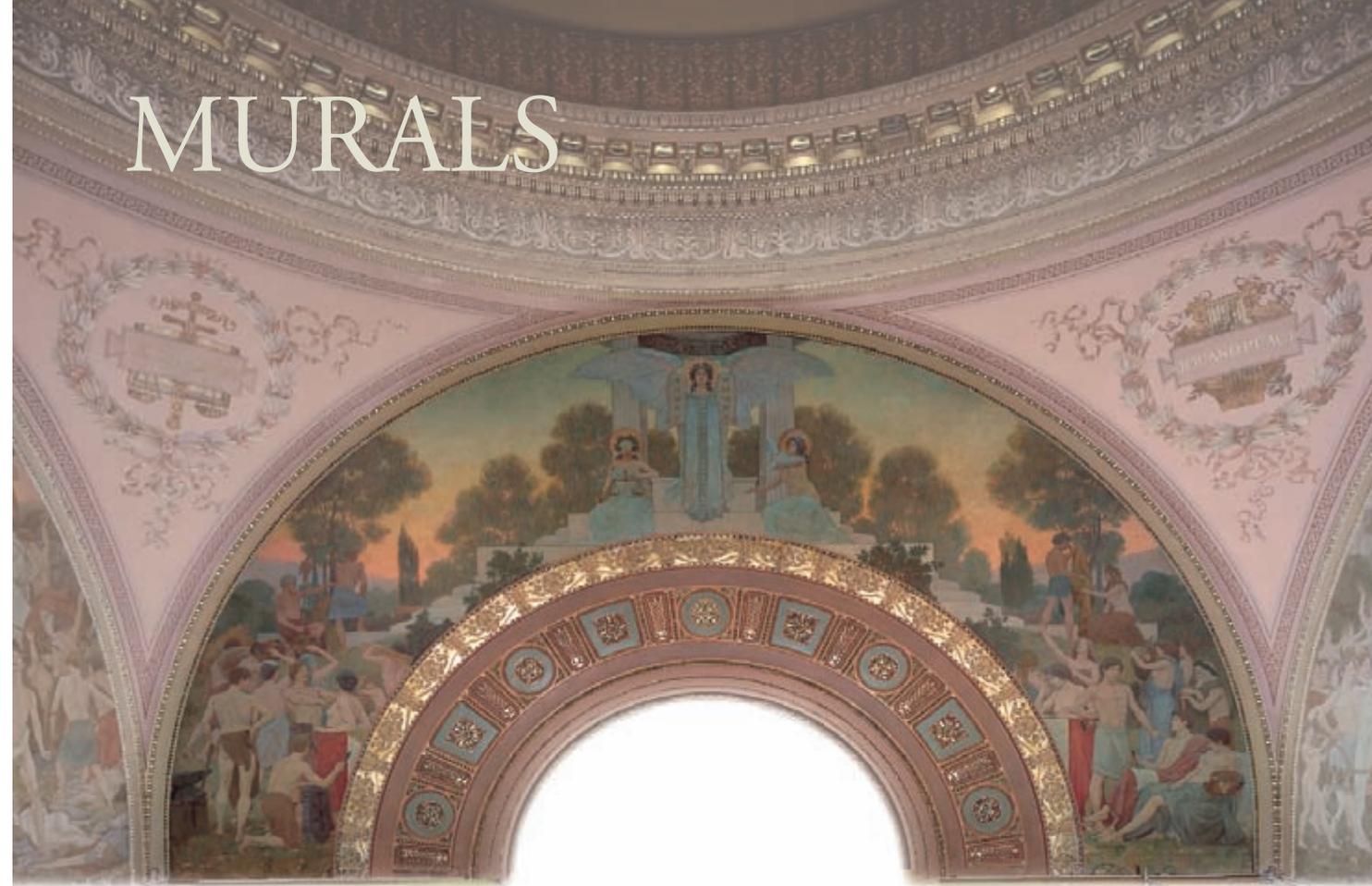
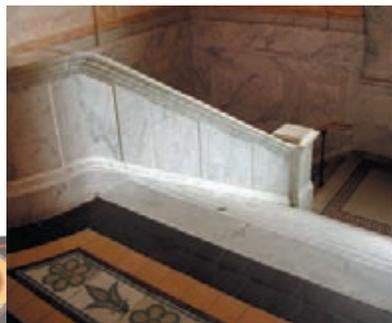
## ART GLASS

Art glass to light and delight

Upon entering, visitors are first struck with the magnificent dome that towers 110 feet over the main rotunda. Light filters into courtrooms and hallways through stained glass ceilings and domes, conveying a sense of reverence for the law and setting an awe-inspiring tone for the legal proceedings.

Floors with the footprints of history

The rich patina of the encaustic floor tiles complements the colors and textures of the building's interior. Worn places in the amazingly intricate patterns speak to the thousands of people who have walked these halls carrying out the business of county government.



*'Law and Order' Mural in Rotunda*

## STORIES TOLD IN PAINT...

Law, Justice, and Mercy stand guard in the magnificent rotunda murals. In courtroom murals, stories of the Battle of Fallen Timbers come alive, and Justinian teaches us about the origins of our current laws.

*Circuit Courtroom*



## ...STORIES TOLD IN SCULPTURE

Sculptures inside and out help us understand our past. Chief Little Turtle, Samuel Hanna, Colonel John Allen, and other important figures of history are all present. Other sculptures tell of arts and industry ... of war and peace ... and of law and order, reflecting a community steeped in culture and progress.



## GILDED CEILINGS



*Superior Courtroom 1 Ceiling Detail*

## CEILINGS OF GOLD

Hand painted stenciling in fine and varied patterns abounds on ceilings and cornices. Intricate plaster moldings gilded with gold, aluminum, and copper leaf showcase the opulence of the era and reflect the civic pride that was so important in the planning of this building

## CLASSICAL BUILDING BLOCKS: FAUX MARBLE, REAL MARBLE

The pride of the planners is evident in the staircases, balustrades, and walls made of the finest white Carrara marble. The broad palette of colored marble is actually a wonderful deception – a faux marble technique called scagliola. Covering the walls, moldings, and columns, scagliola enhances the grandeur of all the spaces.

## MARBLE



David Hayles of Bristol, England, and one of the few persons skilled in the art and craft of scagliola today, noted that "...the scagliola in Fort Wayne is undoubtedly the most important example of the craft to be found anywhere in the world...."

## SCAGLIOLA