INDIANA STATE LIBRARY ARCHITECTURE

BUILDING OVERVIEW

- Built 1934
- Architects: Pierre & Wright
- Remodeled two times: 1976 & 2000
- Exterior: Indiana limestone
- Interior walls: sandstone from St. Meinrad, in southern Indiana
- Interior wooden walls: Indiana walnut
- Murals and Stained Glass by New York artist J. Scott Williams

MURALS:

- The Winning of the State (above Indiana Authors Room - Great Hall)
- The Building of the State (above Young Reader Center back door – Great Hall)
- Song of Labor (above Indiana Authors Room – History Reference Room)
- Song of Indian Land (above Manuscripts Reading Room Door)

STAINED GLASS:

- Central Panel – Indiana History (featuring Wm H. Harrison, Constitution Makers 1816, Gen. Anthony Wayne)

From Left to Right in Great Hall

- Oral Tradition, the Arab storyteller, teacher and historian
- Medieval scribe and illuminator
- Printing Press, Gutenberg, 1454
- Picture Writing, Algonquian Indian writing

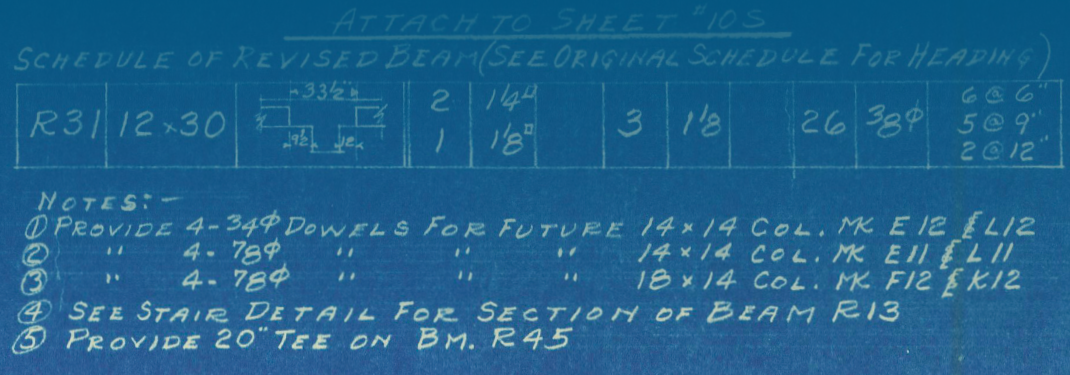
SYMBOLS:

Many symbols decorate the building including owls representing wisdom, corn representing the most common Indiana agriculture product, and the bronze coins on the floor of the Great Hall representing the coins of many nations at the time of construction.

MISC:

- At the top of the broad stairway leading up from the lobby is a foyer. Here are placed the original circulation desk and the public card catalogue.

- Seven stories of enclosed stacks:
  All of the inclosing walls throughout the seven stories are faced with ivory glazed blocks; the floors are of thin concrete slabs poured into metal pans supported on posts which also serve as the supports for the bookshelves.


ATTACH TO SHEET "10S"

SCHEDULE OF REVISED BEAM (SEE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE FOR HEADING)

R31	12×30	33½"	2 1	14" 18"	3	1⅛	26	38φ	6@6" 5@9" 2@12"

NOTES:-
1. PROVIDE 4-34φ DOWELS FOR FUTURE 14×14 COL. MK E12 & L12
2. " 4-78φ " " " 14×14 COL. MK E11 & L11
3. " 4-78φ " " " 18×14 COL. MK F12 & K12
4. SEE STAIR DETAIL FOR SECTION OF BEAM R13
5. PROVIDE 20" TEE ON BM. R45

ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION

The cornerstone for the Indiana State Library and Historical Building was laid October 19, 1932. At a cost of $982,119.87, the building was to provide a permanent home for the collections and personnel of the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Historical Bureau. Prior to the building's dedication on December 7, 1934, the collections were housed in the State House. Indianapolis architectural firm Pierre and Wright, provided the plans and vision for the construction of the Indiana State Library and Historical Building. The architects used labor and construction materials from Indiana when circumstances warranted.

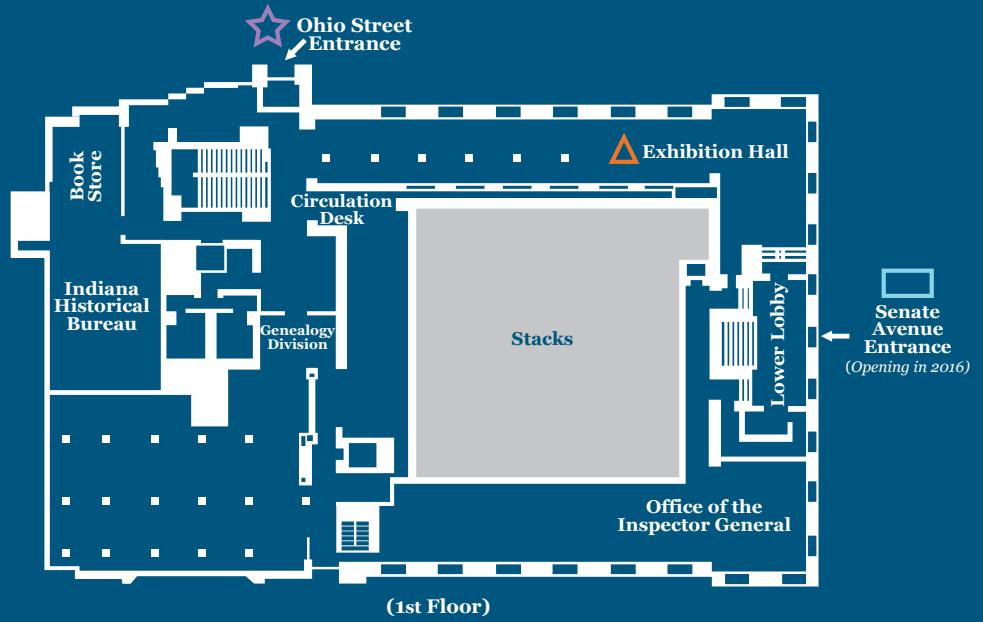
On October 22, 1976, Governor Otis R. Bowen led dedication ceremonies for a new addition to the Indiana State Library and Historical Building. This addition increased the size of the existing structure by 87,000 square feet at a cost of $4,985,072. The addition provided space for the expanding collections of the Indiana State Library, the Indiana Historical Bureau, the Indiana Historical Society, and the State Archives. The architectural firm of Burkart, Shropshire, Boots, Reid & Associates, Inc. designed the addition.

In 1999, Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf Architects of Indianapolis began the renovation of the Indiana State Library and Historical Building. The building had two main sections with different building styles, a stripped Neo-classical section from the 1930s and a Modern section from the 1970s. Neither style dominated. The vision behind this renovation was to allow each section to continue its own particular form of architectural expression.

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS OF THE EXTERIOR

The building's exterior is Indiana limestone. Above the ground-floor windows, facing Senate Avenue, there are various figures carved in stone. These figures include a Native American, a trapper, a priest, a pioneer, and a settler. Also depicted is a motion-picture camera representing invention, a designer with his instruments representing the arts, and an airplane representing transportation and science.

Across the top of the Senate Avenue side of the building, there are additional stone carvings. These slightly larger-than-life bas relief sculptures are the work of Leon Hermant of Chicago. The figures show the history and development of Indiana. Starting from the south end of the Senate Avenue side are the following figures: explorer (LaSalle at St. Joseph and Kankakee Rivers), soldier (Clark at Vincennes), pioneer, farmer, law maker, miner, builder, manufacturer, educator, and aspiring student. Perched above the doorway of the Senate Avenue entrance is a great owl holding an open book. This carving,



symbolizing wisdom, is another work of Hermant. The crown of the building contains stylized owls as well.

OHIO STREET ENTRANCE LOBBY

☆ The Ohio Street entrance is now the main entrance to the building with the circulation desk, staircase, and WiFi seating area. This section once served as a conference room and hallway for the auditorium before the renovations of 2000-2003. The two-story area was extended toward Ohio Street to create a spacious and inviting area.

EXHIBITION HALL NORTH

△ This area, immediately east of the main entrance was originally used to store books and manuscripts, also know as part of "the stacks", but was later altered to provide space for showcasing the Indiana State Library's vast collections and special exhibits.

SENATE AVENUE ENTRANCE FOYER

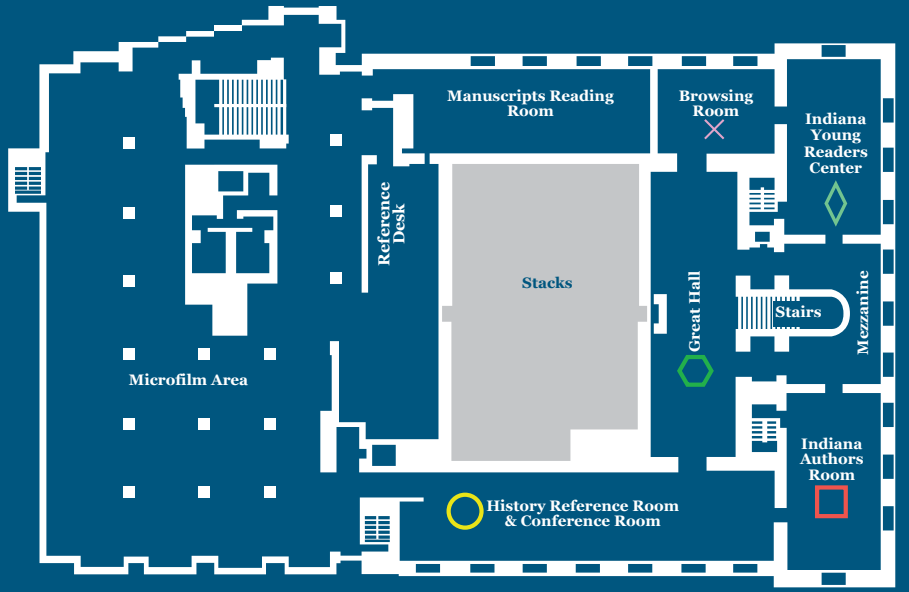
▭ The interior walls are Monte Cassino Sandstone from the St. Meinrad quarries in southern Indiana. These quarries were previously used only to provide stone for the buildings of St. Meinrad's Monastery and Academy. The Indiana State Library and Historical Building was the first public building to ever use these materials.

On the east wall of the foyer there are two carved inscriptions. North of the Senate Avenue door is the following inscription: "In memory of the pioneers of Indiana who in laying the foundations of a state amid primitive surroundings had the wisdom and the foresight to provide for the self-instruction of its citizens by establishing a state library."

South of the Senate Avenue door is the following inscription: The Indiana State Library was established by the General Assembly in 1825. The Public Library Commission established in 1899 was united with it in 1925. The Historical Bureau was organized in 1915 as the Indiana Historical Commission.

To the right and left of the main staircase, steps lead down to a lower level hallway heading toward the Inspector General's Office. As one descends the stairs, look up and to the right and left to see stone carvings that symbolize the four ages of the world: Stone Age (roaring lion), Iron Age (wolf on shield), Bronze Age (cannons crossed), and Golden Age (plow, bee hive, and fruit tree).

A marble grand staircase connects the first floor lobby and the Great Hall on the second floor. On either side at the upper end of the staircase are carvings in stone of



(2nd Floor)

two symbolic figures: the Reader and the Writer.

GREAT HALL

⬡ Historically the heart of the Indiana State Library and Historical Building, the Great Hall stands as the focal point of many of the building's architectural and artistic achievements. Note that there are two main sections to the Great Hall. The first is a large, rectangular room entered from the first floor foyer, the Browsing Room, and the History Reference Room. J. Scott Williams, an England born artist who resided in New York, designed the five stained glass windows on the Great Hall's west wall. The center window is made of German and English Antique glass. Antique, in this case, refers to a particular type of handmade glass that can be re-fired without losing its brilliance. The focus of the center window is on Indiana's history and the making of its constitution. It features Indiana's first governor, Jonathan Jennings with the new state's constitution. The remaining four windows represent the history of the transmission of knowledge from generation to generation. Facing the windows from left to right, they represent Oral Tradition, Medieval Scribe, the Printed Word, and Native American Picture Writing. This section of the Great Hall has other special architectural features as well. Bronze floor inserts represent coins of many countries. Golden chandeliers represent the importance of corn to Indiana. Along the west wall is the original loan desk and card catalog all made of Indiana Walnut. The second main section of the Great Hall consists of a U-shaped area surrounding the grand stairway. Williams designed the four murals and painted the

artwork in this section of the Great Hall as well. On the south wall is his mural, "The Winning of the State." This mural focuses on the Surrender of Fort Sackville, the Treaty of Greenville, and the 1810 non-violent confrontation between William Henry Harrison and the Native American leader Tecumseh. On the north wall is Williams' mural, "The Building of the State." The central panel of this mural depicts real men and symbolic figures in Indiana

history such as Governor Jennings, Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley and others. The left and right panels portray important Hoosier trades; mining and timber cutting on the left and farming, milling, and manufacturing on the right. Other architectural elements in this section include a continuation of the bronze inserts in the floor and cast plaster ceiling decoration that symbolizes the constellations and major stars.

INDIANA AUTHORS ROOM

□ Originally designed to hold the William Henry Smith Library of the Indiana Historical Society, the Indiana Author's Room houses novels by Indiana authors and serves as a popular spot for receptions and events. The walls are covered with walnut paneling and shelving ranging two stories high. A walnut staircase leads to a balcony overlooking the room. Large, brass chandeliers hang from a bronze plated ceiling accentuate the beauty of the room.

BROWSING ROOM

✕ As you enter the Browsing Room, you will notice the mural, "Song of the Indian Land," by J. Scott Williams is on the east wall. The pot in the center of the mural is based upon an artifact discovered during an archaeological dig in Indiana. The room is of Indiana walnut. The

ceiling decoration uses American printers' marks. Currently this room contains the Library's browsing collection of new titles and the Manuscripts Reading Room.

HISTORY REFERENCE ROOM

○ The History Reference Room is adorned by another mural by J.

Scott Williams entitled "Song of Labor." This mural and "Song of the Indian Land" in the Browsing Room shows rural Indiana in two different time periods. European printers' marks adorn the ceiling and Indiana walnut covers the walls.

YOUNG READER'S ROOM

◊ As a fully functioning library, the Indiana State Library is continuously expanding its services and resources. Another addition coming in 2016 is the Young Reader's Room. This room will feature a fun atmosphere for children of all ages and include selections from Indiana authors like Jim Davis, Norman Bridwell, John Green and many others. The Young Reader's Room will reside in the previous manuscripts room on the second floor of the original building.

CURRENT USE OF THE INDIANA STATE LIBRARY

The Indiana State Library is more than just a historic building; it is a fully-functional modern library. Since 1825, the Indiana State Library has served not only government officials, but has expanded to serve the needs of all residents of Indiana.

The Indiana State Library serves in a two-fold operation. The physical building of the Indiana State Library is open to the public to support and provide a variety of services including but not limited to; genealogy, Indiana history, preservation, rare books and manuscripts, reference and government services, Talking Books and Braille library, as well as the State Data Center. It also serves as a facility for meetings and special events available to state agencies and the community.

In addition, the Indiana State Library provides state-wide services to public libraries. The Professional Development Office (PDO) provides continuing education and support for all libraries, while the Library Development Office (LDO) administers federal grants, essential public library standards, and tracks a variety of statistics associated to 237 public libraries across Indiana in addition to coordinating the digitization of historic materials across the state.

Concurrently, the Indiana State Library supports education and research throughout the Hoosier state by providing online access to all Indiana residents to services such as INSPIRE.IN.GOV, Evergreen Indiana, IndianaMemory.org, and HoosierStateChronicles.org.

2016 BICENTENNIAL

Indiana's 2016 bicentennial celebration aims to honor our state's 200 years of history. In conjunction with the Indiana Statehouse and the Bicentennial Commission, the Indiana State Library will start construction on the Education Center to welcome guests entering from the Senate Street entrance and will be located in the Exhibition Hall. The Senate Street entrance will be open to the public once construction is completed on the Education Center.

Indiana State Library

in.gov/library

315 W Ohio St,
Indianapolis, 46204

Interested in a guided tour?

Call toll free
1-866-683-0008

Hours
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri
8am-4:30pm
Thurs 8am-7pm
Saturday 10am-4pm