

Historical Marker - S190B - Eaton County / Eaton County Courthouse Square (Marker ID#:S190B)



Front - Title/Description

Eaton County

Eaton County was organized in 1837 and named for President Andrew Jackson's war secretary, John H. Eaton. Pioneers had come to Bellevue, the first county seat, in 1833. The county was settled chiefly by New Englanders who founded communities in Charlotte, Delta Mills, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Olivet, and Vermontville. In 1840 Charlotte became the county seat. Five years later a modest Greek Revival courthouse was erected on the courthouse square, the site of county government from 1845 to 1976. (That building is now located in Bennett Park.) A second courthouse was built here in 1883-85, and a third was erected north of the city in 1976. Eaton is the only county in Michigan with three extant county courthouses. Eaton County native Frank Fitzgerald, and former residents Austin Blair, Luren Dickinson, and John Swainson served as Michigan governors.

Back - Title/Description

Eaton County Courthouse Square

The Eaton County Courthouse Square is a rare Michigan example of an intact nineteenth-century government complex. The showpiece of the square, the stately Renaissance Revival courthouse built in 1883-85, was designed by D. W. Gibbs and Company of Toledo, Ohio. The interior features several elaborate marbled slate fireplaces, stained glass, and native butternut and walnut trim. A cast zinc statue of Justice crowns the building and towers above the city. On July 4, 1894, fire destroyed much of the courthouse. The structure was rebuilt almost exactly to the original plans. The 1873 Second Empire sheriff's residence, built with an attached jail, is one of only a few of its age remaining in the state. The courthouse square is listed in the National Register of Historic

Significant Date:

Statehood Era (1815-1860)

Registry Year: 1958 **Erected Date:** 1994

Marker Location

Address: 126 North Bostwick Street

City: Charlotte

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Eaton

Township: Carmel

Lat: 42.56407200 / **Long:** -84.83614600

Web URL: