#4: Benton County Courthouse (316 Van Buren Street)

After Benton County organized in 1835, legislators appointed three commissioners to select the county seat and they were instructed to locate the county seat at a site as near the center of the county and the Osage River as could be found. After strong competition from vying communities, the commissioners selected the Warsaw site. Robert Wyatt laid out the town in November, 1837.

Benton County's first courthouse was located at the corner of Washington and Van Buren Streets. A temporary log building was built in the 1830's and used until 1842 when a second building was erected. It was sold in 1881 and torn down.

The present Benton County courthouse was built in 1886, at a cost of $9.089. Bricks were made at a kiln located near the former Missouri Pacific yards in Warsaw where many young men had their first "paid" job.

Imagine this – you are standing in the courthouse lawn in April of 1861. Around you gathers an enthusiastic crowd of citizens, laughing and talking about how they'll "whip the Yanks." Missouri had been admitted to the Confederacy. Warsaw Confederates marched to Cole Camp for a bloody battle against Union troops. Some believed it was staged, as a diversionary tactic to allow Governor Jackson and other state officials to slip south from Boonville.

While visiting this location, be sure and pay your respect to the fallen veterans at the Benton County Veteran's Memorial.

Marker Text: In memory of Benton County veterans who gave their lives in preserving freedom so that all of us can live free of tyranny. Let us not forget these brave individuals who died so that we can truly call our nation the home of the brave and the land of the free.

Date of dedication: 31 May, 1993 and placed by the Citizens of Benton County