The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
3. Geographic and Historical Notes

Hamilton County is located in Central Indiana to the north of Indianapolis. It is bordered by the following counties: Delaware to the south/southeast, Madison to the south, Tipton to the north, Madison to the east, Hancock to the southeast, Marion to the south, Boone to the west, and Clinton to the northwest. U.S. Highway 31, Interstate Highway 69, and State Highway 38 cross the county. Elevation is 700-900 feet. The terrain is nearly level except in areas along waterways, where it is slightly sloping. The landscape features beech, birch, maple, oak, and hickory trees. The county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Hamilton county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 17°/35° in January and 61°/86° in July. Annual precipitation is about 37 and snowfall about 22 inches. Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 10-15. Dividing the county diagonally in half, the last freeze varies from April 15-30 in the southeastern portion and May 1-5 in the northwestern half. The growing season lasts about 158-173 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified with corn for grain, soybeans, and hogs/pigs. About three-fifths of the land is in farms and about four-fifths of that land is in cash crops. An additional crop is winter wheat. Pumpkins and sweet corn are vegetable crops. Livestock also includes cattle/calves. Natural resources include construction sand and gravel, petroleum, crushed stone, peat and forestland. Water resources include the West Fork of the White River, the Geist and Morse Reservoirs and Lake Clare.

Communities include the city of Noblesville (the county Seat) and the towns of Arcadia, Atlanta, Cicero, Fishers, Sheridan, and Westfield.
Hamilton County is not a tobacco-producing county, according to the Strategic Development Group’s “Alternative Agricultural Strategy” (Bloomington, March 15, 2001) report, which is part of Governor Joseph E. Kernan’s “Recipient Final Reports for Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture Grant Programs” (http://www.in.gov/oca/grants/valueadd/VAFinalReports.html):