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

Henry County is located in East Central Indiana. It is bordered by the following counties: Delaware to the north, Randolph to the northeast, Wayne to the east, Fayette to the southeast, Rush to the south, Hancock to the southwest, and Madison to the northeast. U.S. Highways 36 and 40 and Interstate Highway 70 cross the county. Elevation is 900-1,100 feet. The terrain is nearly level, except for slightly sloping topography along waterways and in the east. The landscape features maple, beech and birch trees. The county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Henry county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 16°/34° in January and 59°/86° in July. Annual precipitation is about 39 and snowfall about 23 inches. Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 10-15, except it is earlier in the far eastern sector (Oct 5-10). The last freeze occurs usually between April 25-30 in the western half, and May 1-5 in the eastern half of the county. The growing season lasts about 153-173 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly soybeans, corn for grain, and livestock. About three-fourths of the land is farmland and about four-fifths of that land is in cash crops. Additional crops are hay and winter wheat. Tomatoes are a primary vegetable. Popcorn is a special crops. Livestock include cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Main natural resources include construction sand, gravel, petroleum, and forestland. Water resources include the Flat Rock and Big Blue Rivers; Giboney Lake and Lake Haven; Summit Lake Reservoir, and Big Blue River Reservoirs Nos. 7A, 13, 14, and 15.

Communities include the city of New Castle (the county seat) and the towns of Bountsville, Cadiz, Dunrieth, Greensboro, Kennard, Knightstown, Lewisville, Middletown, Moooreland, Mount Summit, Shirley (which extends into Hancock County), Spiceland, Springport, Straughn, and Sulphur Springs.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Famous sons and daughters of Henry County include sculptor and painter Robert Indiana and Steve Alford. Born Robert Clark in New Castle in 1928, Robert gained fame for his LOVE sculptures and paintings and changed his name to Robert Indiana. He attended high school in Indianapolis, and his LOVE statue can be seen at the entrance of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Steve Alford attended New Castle High School and is mainly identified with New Castle, although he moved around Indiana and lived in several different cities. (Nelson Price, *Indiana Legends*, Carmel: Guild Press of Indiana, Inc., 1997, p. 214-215)

Henry 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](http://www.in.gov/oca/grants/valueadd/VAFinalReports.html)): 