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

Owen County is located in West Central Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: Putnam to the north, Morgan to the northeast, Monroe to the east and southeast, Greene to the south and southwest, and Clay to the west. U.S. Highway 231 and State Highways 46 and 43 cross the county. Elevation is 550-850 feet. The county’s landscape varies from nearly level (along the White River southeast, Lick and Fish Creeks south, and Mill Creeks north), to very steep slopes (central and southeast), to moderate and steep slopes (east and west). The landscape features hickory and oak trees. Most of the county pertains to the Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain land resource area, except for the southeastern region which is part of the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys land resource area.

Owen county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 17°/37° in January and 61°/86° in July. Annual precipitation is about 44 and snowfall about 15-30 inches.

Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 15-20 through most of the county. The last freeze usually occurs earliest in the far southeastern corner (April 20-25) and a few days later (April 25-30) in the rest of the county. The growing season lasts about 168-178 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in livestock, soybeans, and corn for grain. Less than half of the land is in farms and less than half of that is in cash crops. Additional important crops include hay and winter wheat. Sweet corn is a primary vegetable crop. Livestock include cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Main natural resources include crushed stone and forestland. Water resources include the White River, various lake/reservoirs (Barnes, Cataract, Cotton’s Little Pine, Greybrook and Locust Lakes and the Miller Pond); and several streams (Mill, Rattlesnake, Fish, Lick and Raccoon Creeks).

Communities include the towns of Spencer, which is the county seat, and Gosport.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Owen 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):