

# Berne Clock Tower

*Berne, Indiana*

In July, 2010 the town of Berne, Indiana presented the opening of a new landmark, the Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower. The 160' tall clock tower, which is a near replica of the original Berne Clock Tower in Berne, Switzerland, provides a time-honoring tribute to the community's Swiss ancestors.

Integral to the success of the construction of the new clock tower was the use of architectural and structural precast concrete to serve as the structural foundation of the tower. The tower consists of a 75' tall precast structure, with a 30' x 30' footprint. There are 3 floors within the 75' tower, each provided as hollow core planks bearing on the exterior precast walls.

The first 20' of the structure is provided with ornate architectural precast concrete panels up to 12" thick, above that the precast panels are provided as 8" thick structural gray, faced with an EIFS system to obtain the final appearance. The tower is topped with an 85' tall prefabricated steel steeple.

The precast producers provided (40) precast wall panels and (37) hollow core planks for the entire structure. Erection was completed in 2 weeks in April, 2010.

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*“We had been struggling with different structural solutions over a three year period while the owner was in the fund raising process. Their budget kept going down as fund raising targets were growing more conservative. We considered reducing the overall scale of the project to save money, but the results were that the future use of the upper stories would never be possible with smaller floor plates and exiting requirements. The issues of durability, color-fastness and wind-loads of a 170 foot tall structure lead us to the conclusion that the core structure had to be pre-cast.*

*By starting at the first floor with integral color precast and structural panels above, not only did we meet budget, but delivered it on time and right on budget.*

*After the first week of total assembly, a tornado struck the area with accompanying high winds. No damage. The structure was a success.”*

Steve Alexander  
REES/Alexander

**Architect: REES/ Alexander**

**Engineer: Structural Design**

**Contractor: Limberlost Construction**