UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CHECK ONE

X.ORIGINAL SITE
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. Exterior. The Scott Mansion is a 2 story brick hip roofed 8 void x 6 void regular cubical town house in the Italianate style with a cupola centered on the roof. The entry front is to the east facing 10th Street. It is marked by a 2 story jetty centered on the entry, containing a main doorway, originally a double leaf solid 4 paneled door with sidelights and a transom. It was surmounted by a hall window of unusual design with a curved stone lintel with applied ornamentation. The jetty is topped by a pediment. The main cornice of the mansion is bracketed, the brackets being of fine detail and small scale. The central jetty is flanked on either side by 1 story verandas extending the full length of the house. Each veranda is supported by 4 sided porch posts of an unusual pattern. Secondary entries are located on the north and south elevations. The north entry has a fine double leaf door. The south entry has an excellent small veranda supported by posts matching those of the front verandas. All exterior windows, with the exception of the two rear windows in the lower level of the kitchen wing, are replacements for 6 x 6 light sash. Original blinds with self closing hinges are attached to all window frames.

II. <u>Interior</u>. The main block of the Scott Mansion is cubical, consisting of four rooms to the floor, separated by a stair hall. The front suite of rooms is larger by 1/3 than the rear suite. The right hand room upon entering is the library. It contains a handsome walnut book case built in a chimney nook next to a marble fire-place of Grecian style. It has a central plaster medallion ornament in its ceiling of good Renaissance Revival design, from which a fine gas chandelier hangs. The parlour, to the left of the entry hall, has been altered by the removal of a fire-place and the extension of the doorway on the hall wall from 36 inches to 60 inches. It contains a fine plaster medallion on the ceiling and a chandelier taken from another home in the 1920's. The chandelier in the library formerly hung in this room.

The rear suite of rooms are less formal in character. The left hand room, originally used as a music room, is now a bedroom. The right hand room is the dining room. It has a built-in china cubboard which appears to be of grained walnut. The kitchen is attached to the rear of the main block and is of 2 stories. It has a zink lined sink and pump, which appear to be contemporary with the house. An early free-standing pie safe is also located in the kitchen.

The Scott Mansion has both a front and back stair system. The front stairs rise in the main entry hall, run to a landing, then return 180° to the upper hall. The newel post is a large fine Grecian-style post. The balusters have been turned to match the newel in profile. The upper bedrooms consist of two large bedrooms followed by two smaller bedrooms. The front large bedroom has a good central gas chandelier. The three remaining bedrooms are plainly appointed, although all four rooms have Grecian-style chimney pieces. The 2 bedrooms over the kitchen for hired help are plain.

III. Early Literary Description. The Scott Mansion was described by Frank MacNutt in Six Decades, an Autobiography (1924) as it was in his boyhood in the 1860's. Although the entire description is too lengthy for inclusion in this nomination, a few extracts are reproduced on the next page:

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Description (continued)

My Grandfather's house was typical of its period; built of brick, painted dark red, picked out with white tracings the windows furnished with dark green slatted blinds, it resembled a dozen others in the county. A central hall ran through the middle of the house from which the rooms opened to the right and left. The front entrance was approached by five granite steps leading to a shallow vestibule, flanked by covered verandas. Similar verandas were built on the north and south sides, and another, covered with lattice work, ran along the side of the kitchen wing at the back. It was two stories in height and was surmounted by a square cupola, which we called the "observatory", rising above the center of the roof.

The interior of my grandfather's house differed in no essential respect from others of its class. Certain features in their furnishings were common to all of them. Velvet carpets of rather gorgeous designs covered the floors of the best rooms; they were very expensive and lasted forever. French gilt clocks surmounted by figures, stood under bellshaped glass shades upon mantel pieces of white or variegated marble. Gilt-framed pier glasses were placed between windows, which were heavily draped with curtains, usually of brocatelle under which white lace hangings were visible. The furniture of rosewood or mahogany was in sets, each room being provided with six chairs, two arm chairs, a rocker and a sofa, while upon the marble center table there lay giled albums and decorative books that were not meant to be open, much less read... (F. MacNutt, supra 13-15)

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW __PREHISTORIC __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE X RELIGION __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION _LAW __1400-1499 SCIENCE __1500-1599 __AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS __LITERATURE __SCULPTURE _XARCHITECTURE __1600-1699 __EDUCATION __MILITARY X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __1700-1799 X.ART __ENGINEERING MUSIC __THEATER X 800-1899 X_COMMERCE _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT XPHILOSOPHY. __TRANSPORTATION __1900-__COMMUNICATIONS _INDUSTRY X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

I. Architectural Significance. The Scott Mansion is a quiet, restrained example of the best in Middle American mid-19th century urban architecture. It was designed as a detached single family town dwelling in its own garden and yard, most of which setting remains intact, except for such accessories as the grape arbour and hitching post. The cubical organization of the main block of the house is well adapted to the corner lot site of the structure. The exterior detailing is crisp, almost classical in feeling. The fenestration is more like the Greek Revival designs than Italianate designs. The cupola is a masterpiece of ornamental architecture. It completes the whole. The plans and specifications for the house are maintained by the Scott family. Unfortunately, due to a death in the family, these items of major significance were not available for examination.

The Scott Mansion interiors are also examples of restrained early Victorian design, possessing subtle grace and beauty, derived primarily from the excellent proportions of chimney piece, ceiling medallion and fenestration to the scale of each room. The original furnishings manufactured by Anton Egli for the house are intact. The Scott Mansion is a relatively unchanged town house of the 1850's, designed with grace and urbanity. It has few parallels in the Midwest.

II. <u>Historical Significance</u>. The Scott Mansion has been owned by the Scott family since 1858. It is therefore an unique social and historical illustration of the life history of three generations of upper middle class Americans. Additionally, Andrew F. Scott and Frank MacNutt were historical figures in their own right.

Andrew F. Scott was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, in 1811. He emigrated to Wayne County, Indiana, in 1838. He had been trained as a school teacher. Scott became a clerk for Daniel Reid, Registrar of the Land Office in Ft. Wayne in 1839. He moved to Centerville, Indiana, in 1841, having been made Deputy Sheriff. He spent 1843-47 in Cincinnati, then returned to Richmond and opened a general store. In 1851, he was elected County Clerk. He was re-elected in 1856. During the 1860's, Scott farmed and worked as a carpenter. In 1866, he joined James Forkner and Roswell Elmer in a wholesale grocery store. In 1872 he was elected first President of the Second National Bank of Richmond. Scott was Wayne County's most important Democratic political leader during the period 1850-1870. He was associated with James Elder, editor of the "Jeffersonian" who was attacked by Union thugs on the platform of the Richmond railroad station in 1863. Scott played a part in the rise of Oliver P. Morton; Morton was appointed Circuit Court Judge as a Democrat under Scott's leadership in 1851. Scott had sufficient influence as late as 1883 to secure a diplomatic post for his grandson. Andrew F. Scott was a dissenter in a Republican district at that time.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

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Significance (continued)

Andrew F. Scott and Martha Jane (McGlathery) Scott had four children; John, Letitia, Augustis and Mary. Letitia married Joseph MacNutt in 1859. She died in 1863, after giving birth to one sone, Frank. Frank MacNutt was raised by his grandparents in the family home. In his earliest years, he took an unusual interest in religion. At 6 he became enamoured of the Roman Catholic Church. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard. After closing out his undergraduate career at Harvard, he went to Mexico. During his Mexican stay in the 1870's, he was received into the Catholic Church, much against his grandparents' will. Andrew Scott secured his precocious grandson a diplomatic post as first secretary of the U. S. Legation in Constantinople in 1883. MacNutt was then assigned to the Legation at Madrid. Upon his release from diplomatic services in the Harrison regime, he went to Rome. He was admitted to the inner circle of the Papal Household and was utilized as a special envoy to Poland by Leo XIII during the pogroms of the late 1880's. MacNutt was made a Papal Chamberlain by Leo XIII, a post which he held through the reign of Pius X. He bought a schloss in the Austrian Tyrol which became his continental headquarters. During World War I, he served as unofficial diplomatic representative of small emerging nations in Berne. He died in 1927.

Augustus C. Scott, born August 4, 1843, married Rachel Brown on May 3, 1888. He had four children: Thomas, Andrew F. II, Martha, and Ruth. Andrew and Martha Scott survive, and maintain the family home. The Scott Mansion is an unique American home. Its principal value derives not from its architectural merit, which is considerable, but from the association the old home has with the Scott-MacNutt family for 116 years. It is a rare type of living document regarding American social 37 and cultural history. Frank MacNutt, a gifted and unusual man, represented to American Catholicism what G. C. Chesterton did to English Catholicism. He was at literary man. He wrote a classic history of the Spanish conquest of Mexico. His diplomatic position with the Papacy was unique. MacNutt's autobiography, edited by a Jesuit priest, was published as a Catholic Book of the Month Club selection in 1936. Andrew F. Scott was a significant Indiana banker and politician. His role in the formation of the political future of Oliver P. Morton has never been properly evaluated. In short, the Scott Mansion is an outstanding exemplar of mid 19th century upper middle class culture and has a firm connection with state, national and international history.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lewis, ed., <u>Biographical and Geneological History of Wayne</u>, <u>Union</u>, <u>Franklin and Fayette</u> Counties (1895); J. J. Donnelly, ed., <u>Papal Chamberlain</u> (1936); F. MacNutt, <u>Six Decades of My Life</u> (1927) A. Young, <u>History of Wayne County</u>, Indiana (1872); Wayne County Transfer Books (Richmond) 1854-1929.

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