

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Elmhurst

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Indiana S.R. 121

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Connersville

VICINITY OF

9th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Fayette

CODE

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Masonic

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Masonic Temple Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

Indiana S.R. 121

CITY, TOWN

Connersville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

401 Central

CITY, TOWN

Connersville

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey
Indiana Catalog

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wilbur D. Peat called Elmhurst the most imposing and stately of the Federal Mode in Indiana. The porch which was added later, is an example of the colonnade-entablature style of classic architecture. Although the two storied, flat-roofed porch became a popular feature in southern states during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, there were relatively few in this region. The doric columns have altered the style of the original central unit from Federal to Greek Revival.

The structure is brick with a five-bay main block and three-bay wings at the north and south ends. It is two stories with a two-story hexa-style portico on the east. It has a gable roof.

The central unit was erected in 1831 for Oliver H. Smith. This was a Federal structure consisting principally of four rooms with massive chimneys on the north and south ends. About 1850 Samuel Parker beautified the grounds and added cherry panels to the lower front rooms. In 1881 James N. Huston extensively remodeled the building, using the White House in Washington as a guide. At this time the massive porch columns and wings on north and south ends were added. Huston continued the paneling begun by Parker; he added oak panels in upper rooms and oak stairways. Huge fireplaces were installed in the lower and upper hallways; the fireplace in the lower hall is of red sandstone and polished granite. In 1901, Dr. Andrew H. Daum added an annex to the north wing; this consisted of 26 rooms which were used as a sanatorium.

After being used for some 20 years as a girls school and then standing idle for about another decade, the structure was acquired in 1940 by Warren Lodge #15, F. & A.M. The Lodge remodeled and restored Elmhurst's interior to its grandeur of the past.

3 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1831, 1850, 1881, 1901
1940 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Oliver Hampton Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Few buildings in the Midwest have as much heritage as Elmhurst. For over 140 years it has been the home of four significant political figures and a girls school of national stature.

Oliver Hampton Smith arrived as a young lawyer in Connersville seven years after it had been platted and recorded by John Conner in 1813. Smith served as a member of the state House of Representatives from 1822 to 1824, was appointed prosecuting attorney for the Third Judicial District in 1824, and served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1827 to 1829. On January 3, 1831, he purchased the 160 acre Elm Farm for \$9.00 per acre and built a four room house which became the nucleus of Elmhurst. Smith served in the United States Senate from 1837 to 1843 when he moved to Indianapolis to practice law. He was president of an Indiana railroad company at the time of his death in 1859.

Caleb Blood Smith arrived in Connersville after graduation from Miami University in 1827. He studied law with Oliver H. Smith, and in 1833, 1837, 1840, and 1841 he was a member of the Indiana House of Representatives, serving as speaker in 1836. He was a presidential elector from Indiana for the Whig ticket of Harrison and Tyler in 1840. In 1843 he purchased the old Elm Farm from his former mentor Oliver H. Smith. Following Congressional service from 1843 to 1849, he was appointed by President Zachary Taylor to be a member of a board to investigate claims of American citizens against Mexico. In 1851 he became President of the Cincinnati and Chicago Railroad Company and in 1856 was a presidential elector for the Republican ticket of Fremont and Dayton. As a member of the Indiana delegation to the Republican National Convention in Chicago in 1860, he was influential in the nomination of Abraham Lincoln. Smith served as President Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior from March 5, 1861, until January 1, 1863, when he resigned to become Judge of the U.S. District Court for Indiana. His term on the bench was cut short by his death on January 7, 1864.

Samuel Wilson Parker graduated from Miami University in 1828 and came to Connersville to open a private school while studying law under Oliver H. Smith. After a term as prosecuting attorney of Fayette County from 1836 to 1838, Parker sat in the state legislature as a Representative in 1839 and 1843 and a Senator from 1841 to 1843. In 1850 Parker acquired the old Elm Farm, beautified the grounds, and paneled the lower front rooms with solid cherry. He served in the Congress from 1851 to 1855 and spent the last four years of his life as President of the Whitewater Valley Canal Company and the Junction Railroad Company. He died February 1, 1859, and is buried on the grounds of Elmhurst.

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James Nelson Huston purchased the farm in 1881 and extensively remodeled the house along the lines of the White House in Washington. Massive porch columns and wings at both north and south ends of the original structure were added, and paneling started by Parker was continued at a cost of about \$44,000. Huston was political manager for Benjamin Harrison, and when Harrison became President, Huston became Treasurer of the United States. Harrison and his wife made frequent visits to Elmhurst, and an upstairs room was decorated and reserved for them.

In 1909 the Elmhurst School for Girls was established and for twenty years gave Midwestern girls educational opportunities equal to those in Eastern private schools. Utilizing the tillable land around Elmhurst, the school developed a combined agricultural-domestic science course which was unusual for a private girls school.

Several efforts to establish schools after 1929 failed and the building stood idle until 1940 when Warren Lodge #15, F. & A.M. purchased and restored it.

Elmhurst's architectural excellence adds to its strong historical associations. Each of the additions adds to the stature of the building without destroying its classical balance. Detail is used carefully to compliment its overall form. It represents the best in workmanship for several periods of construction during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

A well known landmark in Indiana, Elmhurst is architecturally important as well as having ties to several historic figures.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"See attached Continuation Sheet"

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>16</u>	<u>659120</u>	<u>4388280</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Henry H. Blommel

5/27/76

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Warren Lodge #15 F. & A.M.

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route #5

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Connersville

Indiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

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Major Bibliographical References

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Barrows, Frederick Irving. History of Fayette County, Indiana: Her People, Industries, and Institutions. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Company, Inc., 1917.

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Sesquicentennial Book Committee. The Book of the 150th Year of Connersville, Indiana. Shelbyville, Indiana: Tippecanoe Press, Inc., 1964.

Smith, Lowell J. "150 Years of Masonry in Connersville." 1971.

Peat, Wilbur D. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962.