

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

FINAL

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Burris House and Potawatomi Spring

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Towpath Road

CITY, TOWN

Lockport

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

STATE

Indiana

VICINITY OF

CODE
018

COUNTY

Carroll

CODE

015

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ralph and Addie Burris

STREET & NUMBER

516 Baronne Street

CITY, TOWN

Lebanon

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Delphi

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Burris House and Potawatomi Spring are situated on either side of the Towpath Road in Lockport, Indiana. The Towpath Road follows the line of the Wabash and Erie Canal.

The Burris House is a two story simple frame structure of clapboard construction. Constructed sometime between 1837 and 1840, the structure originally served as an inn, post office, and merchandise warehouse. The hand-hewed limestone foundation is a full story on the north end where the building is cut into the canal lock embankment. The building is thirty-one feet wide, forty-five feet long, and twenty-eight and one-half feet high.

The north elevation features three bays with a double-door center entry. The two north windows have six lights while the other windows are double hung with six lights above and six below. The north doors are original, and one still has the mail deposit slot which was used in the nineteenth century.

The side elevations have three bays below and two above. The two upper and lower bays toward the south are twelve light, double-hung windows. The other bay on the side is an entrance. The south elevation has three bays below and two above. The middle entrance bay is set off center.

The medium gable roof features a pediment with a returned frieze. One brick chimney is located at the south end and another is located in the interior of the roof. A cement block chimney has been added to the exterior of the south end.

On the interior the massive wood beams attest to the buildings solid construction. The inn has fourteen rooms and a wine cellar.

Originally right-angled brackets held the inn's sign on the canal side (north) of the building.

Screen doors have been added on the north and south entrance. A cement block chimney was constructed in the twentieth century. The major alteration of the exterior occurred in 1954 when shingle siding was installed over the original clapboards to protect them. At this time the right-angled brackets for the inn sign were removed.

Across the Towpath Road northwest of the inn is Potawatomi Spring. This is a natural spring located half way up the steep bluff in Lockport. Now the spring is three feet in diameter and approximately four feet deep. Logs and brush cover the spring. In the early nineteenth century when Indians and early settlers used the spring, it was somewhat larger.

8 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1838-1840, 1838

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the nineteenth century, the Wabash and Erie Canal was a physical and historical link between the Burris House and Pottawattomi Spring.

The Carroll County area was a wilderness when New York opened the Erie Canal to freight and passenger traffic in 1825. The canal's initial success touched off a canal building craze in other states. Indiana was among the states which became convinced that a network of watercourses would bring economic development and prosperity. A federal land grant in 1827 encouraged state thinking along these lines. The state accepted the grant, although it did not start work until five years later.

Construction of the canal proceeded slowly across the state in the 1830s. Long before the canal was opened in 1840 to Lockport, it had an important impact on the town. James Barnes settled in Carroll County in 1830 and established a small community which was named Barnesville. When two locks were proposed and constructed at Barnesville, the Barnes family officially platted the town in 1836 as Lockport.

The Barnes family was involved in commerce from their arrival in the area. Using a barter system, they collected local products such as furs, hides, nuts, ginseng, and meats and transported the produce by wagons and ox teams to Cincinnati where they exchanged it for merchandise. In the early 1830's they expanded their commercial operations by constructing a saw mill and later a gristmill.

To take advantage of anticipated travel and trade, James and William Barnes constructed an inn and merchandise warehouse in the late 1830's. The structure was constructed in the south bank of the south canal lock. The north entrance of the building was located on the canal bank so that travelers and freight would have ready access from the boats.

The inn and warehouse helped insure the Barnes family participation in the prosperity which the canal brought to Lockport. The inn served an important function in providing lodging for canal travelers. The canal brought settlers to the area who in turn brought more commercial activity. The house was one of two warehouses in Lockport. These depot facilities developed the town into becoming a trading center. Farmers brought grain from a forty mile radius, making the town the largest grain market between Fort Wayne and Lafayette.

The canal brought manufactured goods which farmers purchased with proceeds from their grain sales. Soon the town boasted of an apothecary; harness, cabinet, shoe, cooper, and blacksmith shops; and a wholesale liquor store. Business methods in the region changed from a barter to a money basis.

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A reflection of the important role of the Barnes family in the development of Lockport is the fact that the first post office established in the town in 1838 was located in their inn. James H. Barnes was the first postmaster until 1841 when his brother William took the position and served until 1846.

The railroad killed Lockport's hopes for continued growth and prosperity. The Wabash Railroad which initiated its operations in 1856 bypassed Lockport and cut off its economic base. The town entered a decline which worsened when the canal was finally abandoned in 1874. Today the businesses have left the town and only a few residents remain.

Pottawattomie Spring in the nineteenth century was located across the canal from the inn and warehouse building. The Wabash and Erie Canal's connection with the spring's historical significance is more indirect.

Although Indians and pioneers used the spring as a source of water, its major significance is based on an event in Indian-white relations. In the late 1820's President Andrew Jackson started a campaign to remove all Indian tribes to west of the Mississippi River. The Pottawattomie Indians in northern Indiana were among the tribes being pressured to give up their home land for western territory.

Settlers attracted by the canal construction added local pressure to federal efforts to remove the Pottawattomis. A treaty signed in 1837 required the tribe to give up their Indiana holdings in exchange for land in Kansas territory. Claiming that the agreement had been obtained through bribery, liquor, and threats, most of the Indians refused to move.

Acting on the orders of Governor David H. Wallace, General John Tipton gathered the Pottawattomies and started their deportation under the threat of force. On September 4, 1838, 1,500 Indians began the westward march, having had only four days to prepare for the journey. Almost immediately the young, old, and sick began to die from the grueling travel conditions.

The march followed the line of the Wabash and Erie Canal which was under construction at that time. Hot weather and dry, dusty roads added to the Indian's misery. As the procession passed through Lockport on the morning of September 11, 1838, the Indians were permitted to drink from the spring near the canal bed. This was one of the few comforts that they enjoyed during the journey.

Canal workers and townspeople drank from the spring. It was a source of water for Lockport as late as 1940. While different groups used the spring for over a hundred and fifty years, it has become known as Pottawattomie Spring from its role in the Pottawattomie removal.

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The inn and warehouse and spring passed through several owners in the late nineteenth century. In 1910 the present owners (the Burris family) acquired title to both sites. Although the inn has been vacant for many years, the Burris family proposes to restore it.

The Burris House and Pottawattomie Spring are important sites associated with the settlement and development of northern Indiana. The house is the last remaining canal inn and warehouse in the region. It serves as a reminder of the development which accompanied the canal transportation system. The Spring's association with the Indian removal was a result of the settlement encouraged by the canal.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

Ralph Burris

August 4, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

516 Baronne Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Labanon

STATE

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
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Major Bibliographical References

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Mayhill, Dora Thomas. Carroll County, Indiana: Postal History, Rural Settlements, Towns, Development of Modes of Travel, Townships. Knightstown, Indiana: Banner Publishing Co., 1954.

Helm, T.B. History of Carroll County, Indiana. Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1882.

Odell, John C. History of Carroll County, Indiana: Its People, Industries and Institutions. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1916.