

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL

FOR N	SE ONLY
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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

Vernon Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Vernon is located on the forks of the Muscatatuck

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

River, one mile south of North VICINITY OF Vernon.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Jennings

CODE

079

## 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

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

multiple ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jennings County Recorders Office (in the courthouse)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Vernon

STATE

Indiana

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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 town of Vernon is unique in Indiana in its geographical, architectural, and historical continuity. Its geographic boundaries remain virtually unchanged since 1815 when its founder, Colonel John Vawter, a professional United States surveyor, platted the town. Only a very competent surveyor could have centered this town on a peninsula surrounded on three sides by the north and south forks of the Muscatatuck River with only a narrow opening at the northeast and now leading to the city of North Vernon.

Vawter donated and set lots aside for the first public playground in Indiana, called "The Commons", located at the southwest end of town. The Commons is still functional. He also donated lots in the center of town for the Courthouse. The present courthouse was built in 1859 and is the seat of Jennings County. This magnificent structure was built of local burnt brick, local quarried, sawn stone from Vinegar Mill, and roof of imported 40 lb. tern (English tin) which still is on it. The three-story Courthouse has remained virtually unchanged with a few minor interior alterations. In 1955 a jail and Sheriff's headquarters were built adjoining the Courthouse.

The only drastic change to the original Vawter town map was that Jackson Street became ~~State Highway 3~~ and 7 in 1937. Amazingly only one structure had to be moved. Zanas Kimberly built a wooden frame composite on the Jackson Street curve in 1824 (presently is known as "The Butternut Tree" house). This structure was moved north a few yards in 1937 when the State Highway was built.

The only other serious alteration to the continuity of Vernon was that a fire in 1859 destroyed the business buildings on Pike Street across from the Courthouse. Thus, the present eight buildings in the block were built in the 1870's, much later, than most of the historic structures of Vernon which were built in the 1830's and 1840's. These eight buildings are presently being used as a Post Office, County Extension Office, Zoning Office, grocery stores, and antique shops.

Not only has the scale and texture of Vernon remained unchanged but the richness and historic depth of its federal homes remain unspoiled by modern touches. One of the most charming streets in Vernon is Brown Street, six blocks of historic Hoosier heritage.

At the southern alpha of Brown Street is located the former home of John Vawter. This present home of Henry Poole contains within its outside walls the original two-story log cabin built by Vawter in 1815.

On Brown Street across from the Courthouse is a two-story wooden structure of unusual Greek Revival architecture. This present residence of Paul Dowell was built in 1880 and was once a wool carding mill.

On the corner of Brown and Pike Streets adjacent to the Courthouse is The North American House, an old tavern, inn, and stage coach stop on the pioneer Brownstown and Versailles Pike. This Connecticut federal style three-story building has had only one alteration: frame rooms were taken off the east side. Presently it is being used as a museum for "Our Heritage", a local historical society.

Across from the North American House are the "Rat Row" apartments built prior to 1849. These rectangular, Connecticut-type federal frames of white painted clapboard construction are representative of many wooden structures built in Vernon in the 1840's.

At the corner of Brown and Montgomery is one of Indiana's best examples of the federal architectural style. The homes of Dale Bentz, originally the home of Jacob Clinton (1834); Olin Armstrong, originally the home of Judge Hickman New (1832); Isabelle Dawson, originally the home of John Bassnett (1844); and Nolan Reese, originally the home of General Robert S. Foster (1840), are all in excellent condition.

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PAGE 2

Description Pg. 2 (continued)

Around the corner of Brown and Montgomery Streets is Arney's Garage. The Greek Revival architectural and the bell tower recall that this was once one of the first Christian churches built in Indiana (1838). Although the interior has been altered greatly, the only exterior change has been in the enlargement of the doorway. The church bell still remains in the tower.

As Brown Street intersects Highway 3 at its northern omega stands a simple one-story brick structure with only a small doorway in the center. It is the Methodist Church built in 1817.

Professional architects have identified the present Arthur Sears home as one of the most charming examples of Greek Revival architect in Indiana. This home was originally built in 1840, by Smith Vawter son of the founder of Vernon. The structure is located behind Vernon's only present industry - The Summer Furniture Company. The home is in excellent condition, and well-preserved by its owner, Arthur Sears. Its beauty is augmented by the original carriage house.

On the hill over-looking the courthouse on Washington Street are four more architectural styles. The Vernon Presbyterian Church, built in 1832, reveals an interesting Greek Revival style. The original building had front doors on each corner. Today, it has a large front door in the center. The interior was paneled and redecorated in 1967. No other changes have been made.

Down the street the Baptists built an unusual structure of Italianate (Tuscan) design. The original church was built in 1824 but was replaced in 1871 by the present brick structure, which has remained virtually unchanged. A new doorway cut in the southwest corner (1946) and the original plain green window glass was replaced in 1950.

On the corner of Washington and Montgomery is a large brick two-story structure in composite style with Gothic influence accented by a double, vertical porch and balcony. This structure is now an apartment house. The lot was given to Vernon in 1815 by John Vawter for use as the Vernon Seminary. First mentioned as a school in 1822, this building also was used in 1858 as the meeting place of the Clionian Club, which claimed to be the first women's club in the United States. (The first women's club with a written constitution was founded at New Harmony, Indiana in 1859.)

On the opposite corner of Washington and Montgomery Streets stood the first brick house in Vernon built in 1820 and used as a parsonage for the Presbyterian Church.

At the southeastern edge of town stands a stone structure, the "gateway" to Vernon-the first elevated railroad and underpass in the United States. This stone arch was at the end of the Madison & Indianapolis Railroad, which in 1832, extended from Madison to Vernon. Stone steps are still in place at the side of the arch. Many passengers used them in the 1830's on their way from the train to Branham's tavern, the North American House, and other commercial establishments on Pike Street.

The brick structure of federal style on Pike Street near the railroad arch was Branham's Tavern, built prior to 1839. In 1859 this structure was the site of a flour and woolen mill. Today the structure is in its original condition with the exception of a welding shop added on the east side (1972). The building is being used now as a warehouse and welding shop for the Vernon Summer Furniture Company.

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PAGE 3

Description Pg. 3 (continued)

Of historic importance are the brick "Row" houses of general federal style located on State Highway 3 across from the Courthouse. These flat-front white brick structures were built prior to 1840 and once included J. L. Stott's hotel. "The Sherman House".

Later these structures had tunnels built into them by Alan Stott, who was active in the fugitive slave on the "underground railroad" which ran from Madison to Vernon. Slaves were brought up from the Muscatatuck River located behind the Sherman House and were hidden in tunnels dug into the basements or under the floors in the structures. The "Row" houses are still the same except that the back sections have been remodeled and the smoke house in back is gone.

The home of Albert Edward Wiggam, a lecturer and writer, is a composite frame of white painted clapboard located on Brown Street and built in the 1840's. This house is not in the excellent condition of the surrounding federal homes but possesses historic importance.

In contrast, on the corner of Washington and Pike is a brick, federal structure unblemished by change since 1827. Today, it is owned by Chalmer Herr. It once was the residence of Phyllis Jackson, author of Victorian Cinderella and other books.

Traces of the Civil War still linger in the composite brick structure of the Vernon Normal School, built in 1860 on Perry Street across from the Courthouse. This was the headquarters for General Lew Wallace during Morgan's Raid in July of 1863.

The old Eberhart-Pabody home is located on a hill on the southern edge of Vernon near the Vernon Cemetery. This white frame structure of composite style is accented with wooden porch pillars in front. Here Henry Ward Beecher was a guest of Lucien Bingamin in 1845. A few years later another great preacher, Alexander Campbell, was also a guest there.

Across Highway 3 from the Courthouse a recent historic find was made. Mrs. Mary Hulse removed weather boarding and two coatings of asphalt siding and discovered a two-story log cabin. The log cabin is not restored in excellent condition inside and out. The cabin was built in 1819 by J.B. New and the lot was purchased from John Vawter, town founder.

At the southwestern edge of town on Washington Street near the north fork of the Muscatatuck River once stood an old tannery and a landing where flatboats were loaded after the dam at Tunnel Mill was built in 1825. Nothing remains today at these sites but the ruins of Tunnel Mill are quite visible.

Tunnel Mill was built in 1825 by Ebenzer Baldwin, south of Vernon directly across the Muscatatuck River from the Vernon Cemetery. Visible is the 150 feet long and 10 feet high tunnel which John Vawter blasted through soil and rock to the Muscatatuck River.

The foundation stones and the part of the chimney remain. Power for the wheel at the massive stone structure, 3½ stories high, was supplied by water from the Muscatatuck River flowing through the tunnel. Today the tunnel is dry and passable, attracting many students to its rich fossil content.

Wheat, corn and buckwheat were ground at the mill and shipped as far east as Pittsburgh and as far south as New Orleans. Later it became a paper mill. The stone foundation of a house on the hill west of the mill is also quite visible today.

This house, built in 1825, was a large double-log building with deep fireplaces at both ends. In the old brick ovens, bread, pies, and other foods were prepared for the farmers waiting their turn at Tunnel Mill, the biggest mill of its kind in southeastern Indiana in the 1830's.

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Description Pg. 4 (continued)

In 1907 high waters weakened the structure and the east end gave away. Today, besides the dry tunnel, only the Mill's foundation and chimney base stones remain. The dam stones are still visible at the bottom of the river. Two of General John Hunt --- Morgan's raiders being killed nearby and were buried there. The woods nearby were described in Jessaymn West's book and movie, Friendly Persuasion.

Vinegar Mill is located on the northern edge of the Vernon district in Muscatatuck Park. This mill was the site of Indiana's first saw for sawing stone. Cut stone from this mill was used to build the present Vernon Courthouse and also the present Indiana State House. All that remains of Vinegar Mill are a few foundation stones at Indianapolis (1878-1888.)

The town of Vernon has 46 brick structures, 53 frame structures, five tile structures, one stone structure, one log cabin; and four mobile homes. The majority of the structures were built before 1900 and many date back to the 1830's. The architectural styles of federal, composite, Greek Revival, and Italianate blend into a historic mosaic.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The quaint little town of Vernon nestled between the forks of the Muscatatuck River has been spared many of the changes made in other communities. The exterior appearance of the structures has had very little alteration from the time Vernon was just being settled in 1815. The people of Vernon are proud of their heritage, their homes, and their history and their exceptional memorial status.

Vernon was settled in 1815 by John Vawter, one year before Indiana became a State. John Vawter was a United States surveyor for a portion of the Northwest Territory. He contributed 77 lots and the Courthouse lot for the further development of Vernon. During Vawter's stay in Vernon he was Colonel of the Jennings County militia, a member of the State Legislature, pastor of the Vernon Baptist Church, and Editor and Publisher of Vernon's first newspaper, The Vernon Visitor.

Among the first settlers were Achilles Vawter, David McClure, and Joel Butler. Butler built the Vernon schoolhouse which served as a courtroom and church. Butler's son, Ovid, became the founder of Northwestern Christian University (now Butler University) at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Vernon is unique in that it has a special charter incorporating the town granted by the Indiana General Assembly in 1851. Elections are held every two years on the first Monday in March of the odd numbered year. Vernon also has a town marshal. No land can be annexed without approval of the State Legislature. Even though Vernon has a special charter, the town is still invested with all the powers and privileges pertaining to other corporate and political bodies in Indiana.

Vernon is a town of many first events. Vernon claims to have started America's first women's club in 1858, established the first Baptist Church in Jennings County, began one of the first Christian (Disciples of Christ) Churches in the state, held Indiana's first all-women jury trial on June 6, 1921, built the first elevated railroad in the United States, and had the first public playground in the Nation.

Vernon is also a town of homesteads. Several of the old homes are identified as the birthplaces of distinguished people. General Sandy Foster and Captain Wallace Foster, officers of the Civil War; John Goodnow, U.S. Minister to China, during the Boxer uprising. Lincoln Dixon, a member of the U.S. Congress; Alonzo Green Smith, former Indiana Attorney General; Sarah Bolton, pioneer poet; Albert Edward Wiggam and James Whitcomb Brougher, authors and graduates of Vernon High School; Shirley Dare, magazine writer; John C. New, U.S. Consul General to Great Britain and publisher of the Indianapolis Journal; Ovid Butler, founder of Butler University; Horatio Newcomb, Supreme Court Judge; Phyliss Jackson, author, and William Forsyth and Theodore Steele, famous Hoosier artists.

Famous people visited and lived in Vernon. Alexander Campbell, founder of the Christian Church and Bethany College, spoke at the Baptist Church. Henry Ward Beecher came to Vernon early in the Civil War and made a plea for Lincoln and the Union at the Courthouse. Lord Flanigan, English nobleman, was at one time a citizen of Vernon.

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Significance Pg. 2 (continued)

What is now Jordan's Funderal Home was the Vernon Normal School. A person could attend grade school for eight years and then take six weeks of training at the normal school to become eligible to teach school. The school was headquarters for General Lewis Wallace during Morgan's Raid in 1863. Wallace's troops were stationed in Muscatatuck County Park.

In July of 1863, John H. Morgan and 2,200 Confederate Cavalrymen crossed the Ohio River near Corydon and raided towns throughout Southern Indiana. Two of his objectives were to capture important railway centers in Vernon and North Vernon. As Morgan rode toward Vernon, bands of raiders roamed the countryside taking horses, saddles, guns, ammunition, food, and supplies.

Vernon had been notified of Morgan's coming. The County Militia and volunteers, totaling around 1,200, were positioned at various strategic points.

Hearing that some of Morgan's men were in the area, west of Tunnel Mill, militiamen went to the area and became engaged in a small skirmish. Two Confederates were killed. Morgan, believing Vernon was heavily guarded, retreated southward toward Dupont, Indiana.

Manufacturing played a large role in Vernon. In the 1830's the Hub and Spoke Company sent produce all over the nation. In 1826, there were a blacksmith, gunsmith, tanner and currier, hatter, saddler, brickmaker, tailor, millstone cutter, two bricklayers, two architects, and two shoemakers.

In Vernon there are many places of interest.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 Deputy, Malcolm. The Land of Winding Waters. Our Heritage Inc., 1963  
 Ewbank, Louis. Morgan's Raid in Indiana. 1955.  
 Fank, Arville L. The Morgan Raid in Indiana and Ohio.  
 Mentone, Ind.: Superior Printing Co., 1971.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 386

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	6209110	4314410	B	1,6	6209170	4314730
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	61196110	43147310	D	1,6	611951815	431641010
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northern boundary of Vernon Historic District begins at the northwest corner of the Vernon city limits on the bank of the North Fork of the Muscatatuck River and follows the shore line of the North Fork to the east and south to the junction with the South Fork of the Muscatatuck River. From the junction the boundary follows the western bank of the Muscatatuck River to the southeastern bend. The boundary crosses the river and follows the eastern edge of the tunnel south to the southern line of the Tunnel Mill ruins. The

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sharon Nelson, member of Jr. Historical Society

ORGANIZATION

Junior Historical Society

DATE

3/12/75

STREET & NUMBER

Jennings County High School, R. R. #4

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

North Vernon

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 Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 8, 1976

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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boundary follows the south, west, and north lines around the mill ruins to the western edge of the tunnel leading north to the north bank of the river. The boundary follows the north and east Muscatatuck River bank in a west and north and west direction to the creek emptying into the Muscatatuck River south and west of the Vinegar Mill site in Muscatatuck County Park. The boundary continues north up the creek to a point north of the Vinegar Mill site; from that point it follows a straight line to the northeast to join the northwest corner of the Vernon City limits.

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OF  
VERNON  
JENNINS  
SCALE  
200 FT. TO 1/4"  
LARGEST NUMBERS ARE  
OF 1851  
REAL VALUE



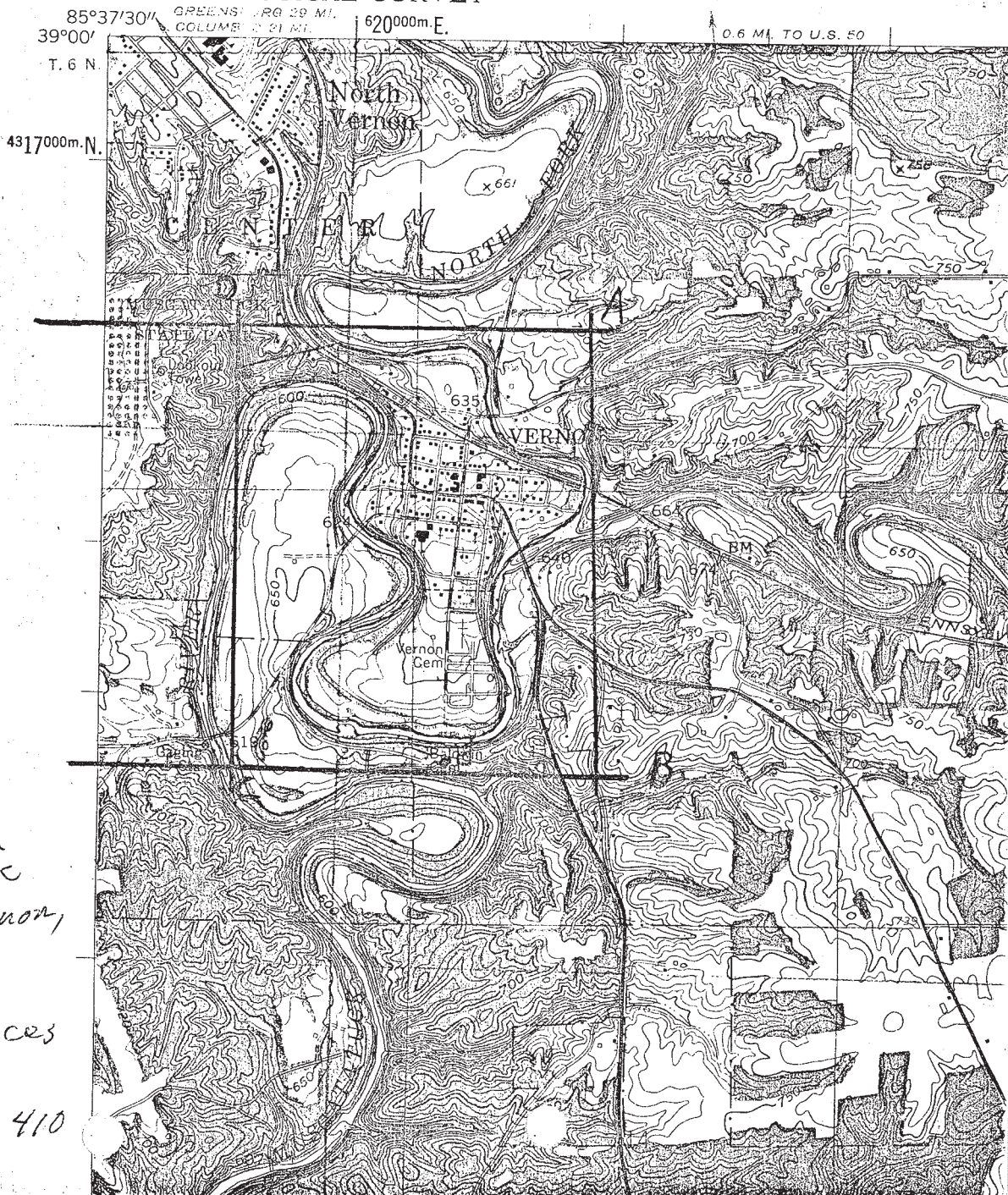
# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

## 1 NAME

(NORTH VERNON)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Vernon Historic  
District, Vernon,  
Indiana

UTM References

A  
14620910/4316 410

B

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Vernon Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Vernon

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Jennings

STATE

Indiana

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE Hand drawn from 1884 Atlas of Jennings County Map

SCALE 1" = 200'

DATE 3-12-75

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

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1. North American House. Built in 1838. Old Tavern, Inn and Stage Coach stop. Now Antique Shop and Museum.
2. Old Mill. Built prior to 1839 as a depot for original Madison & Indianapolis Railroad and Branaham Tavern. Converted to flour and woolen mill 1859.
3. Kenneth Arney Res. Home of J.F. New and built prior to the railroad.
4. Madison & Indianapolis Railroad 1837. Now Pennsylvania Railroad. Arch and elevated track was first in nation.
5. Albert Cardinal Res. Home of the Batchelor family built before 1840.
6. Mary Gallatin & Alma Mortensen Res. Built prior to the railroad and was an early day school house.
7. Norman Cartwright Res. Formerly the Maquire home built prior to 1850.
8. Tom Semon Res. Built prior to 1840. Location of A. Leavitt & Co., Hub & Spoke Manufacturer.
9. Brick Warehouse of Vernon Summer Furniture Co. Built by John Vawter in 1820, used as a pork-packing establishment and later became a warehouse for Tunnel Mill.
10. Fred Biehle Res. Home of Lord Flanigan, early day English nobleman, built prior to the railroad.
11. Arthur Sears Res. Home of Smith Vawter built prior to 1840.
12. Lawrence Paight Res. Home of Uriah Wagner built prior to 1846.
13. Old Buildings at rear of log comprised foundry and manufacturing establishment of J.H. Wagner, Co., manufacturers of farm implements prior to moving to Indianapolis in 1901.
14. Church of Christ. Built by Methodist Church, organized in 1817.
15. Nolan Reese Res. Home of Gen. Foster and his brothers who were officers in the Civil War. Built prior to 1840.
16. Lewis Cheesebrew Res. Home of Albert Edward Wiggam, noted lecturer and author.

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17. Olin Armstrong Res. Home of Hickman New. Built in 1832.
  18. Dale Bentz Res. Home of Jacob Clinton. Built in 1834.
  19. Isabelle Dawson Res. Home of John Bassnett built in 1844.
  20. Hattie Deversy Res. Home of John Morris and the Fredericks, built in 1860.
  21. Arney's Garage built in 1838 as a Christian Church. First in Indiana. Alexander Campbell spoke here in early days.
  22. Rat Row. An early day apartment house built prior to 1849.
  23. Business Buildings of Pike St., rebuilt of brick after great fire in 1959.
  24. Jennings County Courthouse built in 1859 of local burnt brick, local quarried sawn stone and an imported roof of 40 lb. tern, (English tin) which is still on it. Built by local contractor, Samuel Read, cost \$27,000. Third Courthouse in Vernon.
  25. Woodford Stearns Res. Reputed to have been built prior to 1825.
  26. Henry Poole Res. Present house encloses first log cabin built by John Vawter in 1815.
  27. Vernon Commons. Given to the citizens of Vernon and Jennings County as a Public Playground in 1817.
  28. Eldo Fawcett Res. Brick part built prior to 1830 as a tavern. In early days this was part of the business district.
  29. Paris Ford. Here the road to Paris and Madison crossed the Muscatatuck River.
  30. Jordan Funeral Home. Built prior to 1845. Formerly the Vernon Normal School. Was headquarters for General Lew Wallace during Morgan's Raid in July of 1863.
  31. The Row Houses. Mostly built prior to 1840 and occupied by J.L. Stott's hotel (Sherman House) which contained a station on the underground railroad and also other early day business establishments.
  32. This area contains several early day homes, old tannery site and a flatboat landing where flatboats were loaded after dam at Tunnel Mill was built in 1825. Before this time flatboats were loaded near the forks of the river at the east edge of Vernon.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

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33. Whitcomb Apartments. Formerly the Vernon Seminary, first mentioned as a school in 1822.
34. Vernon Presbyterian Church built in 1832. Instituted May 11, 1825.
35. Shaw Apartments. Formerly the Lattimore house. First brick house in Vernon - 1817. Home of several early day ministers of note.
36. Heilman House built prior to 1850. Formerly known as Burt home. Indian burial grounds nearby.
37. Vernon Baptist Church instituted in 1816. Present building was built in 1871.
38. Site of the Vernon Battle. Here in July 1863 the militia and inhabitants of Vernon held off Morgans Raiders during his raid through Indiana.
39. Vernon Cemetery. Started in 1816. Has two Revolutionary soldiers buried here as well as other early pioneers. Contains graves of Race Drivers - Wilbur Shaw and Pat O'Conner.
40. Rev. Daniel Simpson home. Also known as the Ezra Pabody and Everhart home. Here Henry Ward Beecher was a guest after speaking at the Vernon Court House in the 1860's.
41. Tony Schmdt Res. Also known as the Stafford and Hagin House. Built prior to 1850.
42. Residence of the late PHYLLIS JACKSON, noted author. Wrote "Victorian Cindrella" and other books. House built in 1827.
43. Tunnel Mill was built in 1825. The project was engineered by John Vawter. The old tunnel is rich in geological specimens. Two confederate soldiers with Morgan's army were killed here in 1863.
44. Vinegar Mill built in the 1840's. Mill had first saw for cutting stone in Indiana. Stone in Capitol building at Indianapolis and in Vernon Courthouse was from this mill.