

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FINAL - No Sig.  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

BEDFORD, WILLIAM, SR., HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

838 Washington Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Vanderburgh

CODE

163

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Joseph R. &amp; Shirley W. Duncan

STREET &amp; NUMBER

838 Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Indiana**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Vanderburgh County Recorder

STREET &amp; NUMBER

City-County Administration Building, Room 231

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

STATE  
Indiana**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Reflections Upon a Century of Architecture

DATE

1977

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Willard Library

21 First Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Evansville

STATE  
Indiana

# 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

The William Bedford, Sr., House faces south on Washington Avenue, a tree-lined residential street. It is set back on the lot which carries through the entire depth of the block, so that the rear of the house is easily visible from Blackford Avenue. A dependency is adjacent to the house on the east side; a connected garage, probably of a later date, is entered from Blackford Avenue.

The house is basically rectangular in plan with a small projecting one-story bay on the west side and a two-story polygonal bay on the rear (north). It is a two-story structure of red brick bearing walls laid in common bond. The three-bay facade has a one-story open porch extending across the entire front, with four white columns on brick piers and a central double entrance (probably a later addition). A projecting clapboarded bay, also possibly a later addition, is centered over the porch on the second story. Front windows are broad with stone sills and lintels, doublehung with single lights. Rear windows are narrow with stone sills and flat arches, and are doublehung with six lights over six.

The roof is gabled, of medium pitch, with a steep gable on the central front bay, and conical roof over the rear bay. The present roofing material is asbestos shingling although, considering the trade of the owner and other houses of the period, it was probably originally slate. Compound chimneys are of brick with corbeled caps. The central chimney has two flues; two interior chimneys on either side have three flues each.

The dependency is also of brick construction. One end of the gabled roof is parapeted with raking bond coursing along the roof line. It has a single end chimney.

It is apparent that the house was altered at some time, but the dates and nature of the alterations are not known. Architects Wood and McKennon were hired in 1877 to design improvements to the house, but their plans do not appear to have been carried out. A fire in 1879 did some damage to the "cornice" and roof, according to a newspaper account.

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

SPECIFIC DATES      1873-74                              BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown, probably Bedford family

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Bedford House stems from its design--unusual in this area--and its owner and probable builder, William Bedford, Sr.

The Bedfords came to Evansville in 1853 from Ramsey, Huntingdonshire, England. William, Sr., was a bricklayer, plasterer, slater and stonecutter. Together with William, Jr., also a bricklayer, he began contracting in 1856. Over the course of several years they worked on many prominent local buildings together and separately, including the old U.S. Post Office and Custom House, the Grein Building, the Viele house, the Carpenter Street School, the St. George Hotel, and the Baptist church at Cherry and Third. Bedford Avenue was named after them.

In 1873 the senior Bedford purchased land on Washington Avenue, then east of the corporation line, and the house was completed by 1874. The English influence is quite evident, particularly in the rear, and seems closer in origin to the architecture of Virginia than that of the Midwest. Another Bedford home at 20 E. Chandler Avenue (now demolished) may also have been built by its owner. Its compound chimneys and flat brick arches closely resembled those of the house on Washington Avenue, suggesting the same English derivation for both houses.

In 1879 William Bedford, Sr., constructed a racetrack, which no longer exists, across Washington Avenue from his house. The horse races held there were well publicized.

In 1887, William, Jr. was a co-founder of the firm that since 1901 has been known as Bedford-Nugent.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reflections Upon a Century<sup>of</sup> Architecture, Evansville Junior League, 1977.  
 Who's Who and Why, Richard W. Remy, The Legeman Printing Company, Evansville, 1907.  
 Griffing's Atlas of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, originally published by D. J. Lake and Company, Philadelphia, 1880. Reproduced by Unigraphic, Inc. Evansville, 1975.  
 The Evansville City Directory.  
 The Evansville Daily Journal.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY           .63 acres            
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	4 5 1 6 1 0	4 2 0 1 7 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on the North line of Washington Avenue at a point Four hundred twenty-seven (427) feet East of the Southwest corner of said Block and running thence North Two hundred seventy-five (275) feet to the South line of Blackford Avenue, thence One hundred (100) feet East, thence South Two hundred seventy-five (275) feet to the North line of Washington Avenue, thence West along the North line of Washington Avenue One hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning.

## 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

Jeffrey L. Marston, Director

ORGANIZATION

Dept. of Metropolitan Development

DATE

August 12, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

City-County Administration Building, Room 308

TELEPHONE

(812) 426-5580

CITY OR TOWN

Evansville

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

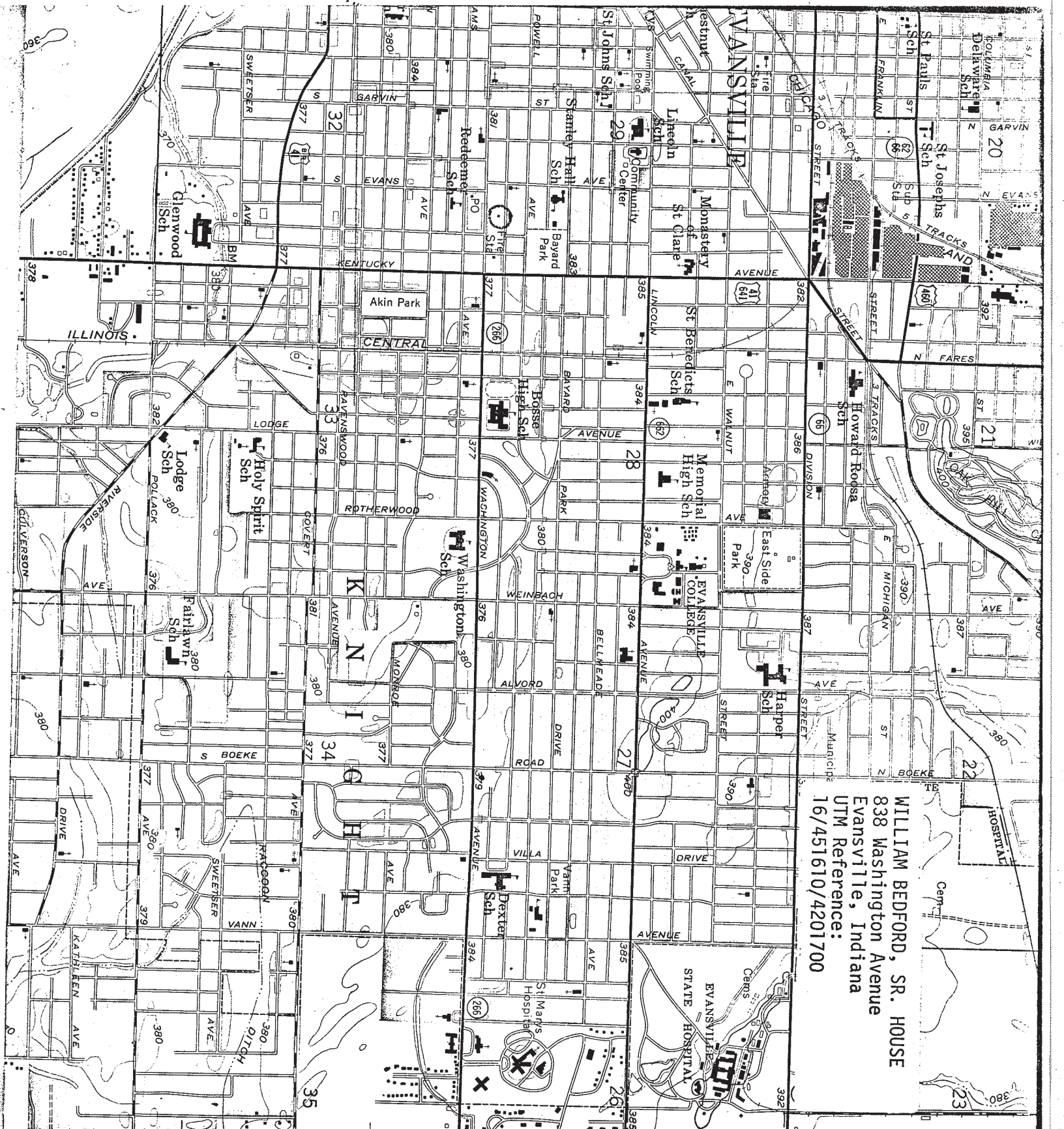
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



WILLIAM BEDFORD, SR. HOUSE  
 838 Washington Avenue  
 Evansville, Indiana  
 UTM Reference:  
 16/451610/4201700

NEWBURGH 5.7 MI  
 8 MI. TO IND. 66  
 1.6 MI. TO IND. 662  
 57°30"  
 4201  
 4203  
 5.9 MI. TO IND 261  
 ROCKPORT 21 MI.  
 4204  
 STEVEN BOON