

FINAL

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 The 1855 Richmond Gas Company Building

and/or common Gas Company Building

2. Location

street & number 100 East Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Richmond ___ vicinity of congressional district 10

state Indiana code 013 county Wayne code 177

3. Classification

Category ___ district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) ___ structure ___ site ___ object	Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public ___ private ___ both Public Acquisition ___ in process ___ being considered	Status ___ occupied ___ unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress Accessible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted ___ yes: unrestricted ___ no	Present Use ___ agriculture ___ commercial ___ educational ___ entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government ___ industrial ___ military	___ museum ___ park ___ private residence ___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation ___ other:
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4. Owner of Property

name Park and Recreation Board, City of Richmond, Indiana

street & number 50 North 5th Street

city, town Richmond ___ vicinity of state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wayne County Recorder's Office, Wayne County Administration Bldg.

street & number 401 East Main Street

city, town Richmond ___ vicinity of state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town ___ vicinity of 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

Situated at the west end of the Main Street Bridge on a bluff overlooking the Whitewater River, The Richmond Gas Company building is a two-story early Victorian "L" shaped commercial building with the west wing end having an angled wall. Built in 1855, by Charles Collier, the structure is of load bearing brick construction. The building's gabled roof is supported by steel trusses and load bearing walls. Roofing material is copper. The major change to the exterior is the inclusion of an overhead garage door and the closing of several windows on the south elevation. An unusual corbelled brick cornice and gable parapet are distinctive features of the structure. Four round windows on the south elevation are surrounded with corbelled brick trim, and the arched windows on the rest of the building have corbelled brick lintels. Two chimneys project above the roof line on the end wall of the south wing.

Fenestration for the building is typically three foot by seven foot doublehung wood sash with stone or brick sills and arched brick lintels. Interior walls are stud, lath and plaster construction and much of the original trim remains intact, even though the building has been remodeled periodically. Flooring material is poured concrete and tongue and groove hardwood.

Use of the Richmond Gas Building as a service and maintenance center was discontinued in 1977. The building has remained in relatively good condition. The Richmond Park Department has served and stabilized the building, and later additions to the building could be removed without damage to the fabric of the original section. There is a one-story storage building in the courtyard of the "L" in good condition.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1855

Builder/Architect

Charles Collier

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Richmond Gas Company Building, built in 1855, is significant for its architecture and the excellence of its craftsmanship and detailing, being a fine example of an early Victorian industrial structure. The Gas Company Building is located on an eastern bluff overlooking the Whitewater River in close proximity to the Starr Piano Company and the Johnson Street Electric Station, and is also significant for its historic associations with the early industrial development of the City of Richmond.

The Richmond Gas Company was incorporated in 1854. The Gas Company Building was completed in 1855 by Charles Collier. Distinctive features of this structure are an unusual corbelled brick cornice and gable. Four round windows in the south wall of the west wing are surrounded with corbelled brick trim and the arched windows throughout the building have corbelled brick lintels.

The Richmond Gas Company was the first utility in Richmond. Robert Morrison, John T. Plum and Benjamin Starr, all familiar names to local historians, were the first share holders. Artificial gas was manufactured from coal with coke as by-product. Gas lines were laid and gas was supplied to several city streets in 1856. The manufacture of artificial gas was discontinued in 1941, when the system converted to natural gas. The Gas Company Building was used as a service and maintenance center until replaced by a new plant in 1977.

The City of Richmond purchased the building in 1978, utilizing federal grant funds, for its architectural and historic interest. The Richmond Park Department has secured and stabilized the building while adapted uses are being sought.

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FOTICBS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

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Item number

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Major Bibliographic References (continued)

The Gorge of The East Fork of the Whitewater River, unpublished paper, Robert Huff, 1979, SPUR files.

Three Forks, Society for the Preservation and Use Resources, Richmond, 1968.

Whitewater Valley Study, City Planning Associates, Inc., Mishawaka, 1971.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1874 Atlas, Wayne County, Griffing, Stevenson & Co. Philadelphia.
History of Transportation, Luther M. Feegan, 1953, (Reprint of Palladium-Item articles)
History of Wayne County, 1872, Andrew Young, Robert Clarke & Co. 1872.
Whitewater Valley, City Planning Associates, 1971.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.87 acres

Quadrangle name Richmond, Ind.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	7	9	7	5	0	4	4	1	0	7	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is rectangular in shape measuring 220 feet by 370 feet, bounded on the north by Johnson Street, on the east by the C & O Railroad tracks, on the south by the Main St. Bridge, and on the west by City property adjacent to the Whitewater River.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel S. Dooley, Asst. Planning Director

organization Richmond City Planning Dept.

date 6-6-80

street & number 50 North 5th Street

telephone 1/317/966-5561

city or town Richmond

state Indiana 47374

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

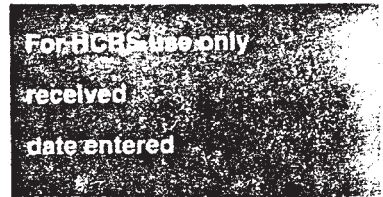
James M. Ridenour

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5-4-81

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