

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

1. Name

historic William Potter Residence

and/or common Potter House

2. Location

street & number 915 Columbia Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Tippecanoe code 157

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mental Health Association in Tippecanoe County

street & number 1114 State Street

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47905

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tippecanoe County Office Building

street & number 20 North 3rd Street

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Places  
title Lafayette, Indiana has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Lafayette Redevelopment Commission

city, town Lafayette state Indiana

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Potter House is a two-story Greek Revival building of brick construction. The building's massing consists of two rectangular, gabled blocks and a flat-roofed addition constructed to the rear in circa 1880. The front block of the building is made dominant by its greater height and pilastered corners. The north (main) elevation of this block consists of a pedimented gable over three bays defined by pilasters. The pediment contains a lunette glazed in a radial pattern. The main entrance, in the west bay, is defined by Doric columns and opposed pilasters. The original wood door, transom, sidelights and trim are retained, as well as all original cornice moldings and most window sash.

The interior plan with its wood trim, doors, and the main stair with elegant balustrade are retained.

Very few changes have occurred to the building. The grounds to the west of the building once consisted of an extensive and well-developed garden, and there is evidence of a porch and entrance on the west elevation of the rear gabled block that would have provided access to this area. A wood trim piece above the north entrance is missing and several windows on the west elevation do not have their original sash.

The William Potter Residence is located in a stable area of mixed land use immediately to the south and east of the central business district. Many of the surrounding buildings are of architectural and historic significance, including the Moses Fowler House, which is listed on the National Register. Most of these structures are in a good state of repair and have been converted from single-family residences to multi-family, commercial, or institutional occupancy. The south boundary of the property abuts the Norfolk and Western Railroad right-of-way. This line was originally the Wabash Railroad and is still in active use carrying an average of six to eight trains daily.

The original plan of the building is retained with only minor modifications. As reflected on the north elevation, the western one-third of the front block's floor area is devoted to a stair and hallways. Two large interconnecting rooms at both the first and second levels occupy the remaining floor area of this section of the building. The middle block consists of two large rooms of nearly equal size at the first level, a number of smaller rooms at the second level, and an enclosed stairway. This section of the building is accessible from the front block at the second level but is shut off by light wood frame construction in original doorways at the first level. The rear block, or addition, is composed of a series of small rooms and is accessible from the east entrance.

In addition to the original open stair of the front block, the original base and trim moldings around the doorways and windows are retained. Original paneling trims a beveled wall opening at the windows of the front and middle blocks, as well as the wall areas below the window sills. All fireplace mantels and related trim have been removed and the fireplaces closed off.

# 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** 1855 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance** ~~(in one paragraph)~~

The William Potter House is the only Greek Revival building listed in the top group of the Inventory of Historic Places, Lafayette, Indiana. That designation indicates that it would be the most significant local example of Greek Revival architecture. Because the overall integrity of the building is intact, it is readily recognizable as associated with the period of its construction, making it a primary focal point within the city and its neighborhood. The rear addition is, in itself, old and does not detract from the building's massing. Missing trim elements over the entrance on the north elevation and missing porch and entrance on the west elevation can be readily restored.

William Potter was one of Lafayette's early and most successful entrepreneurs. A contemporary of Moses Fowler and John Purdue, he was able to accumulate a fortune on shipping and other investments associated with the Wabash and Erie Canal and later with the railroads. This affluence was deemed to have been amply expressed in the scale, detail, and quality of materials and workmanship of the residence he had constructed at 915 Columbia Street.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory of Historic Places, Lafayette, Indiana, Lafayette Redevelopment Commission, Lafayette, Indiana, 1976, pp. 10-2.  
The Lafayette Preservation Notebook, Lafayette Redevelopment Commission, Lafayette, Indiana, 1978, pp. 8, 28.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.43

Quadrangle name Lafayette West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	6	5	0	9	7	1	0	4	4	7	3	9	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 17 and 18 and part of Lots 3 and 4 of the Taylor, Hanna, Harter & Stockwell Addition in the City of Lafayette, Indiana.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel J. Fogerty, Registered Architect

organization

date June, 1981

street & number 718 Owen Street

telephone 317/474-4617

city or town Lafayette

state Indiana 47905

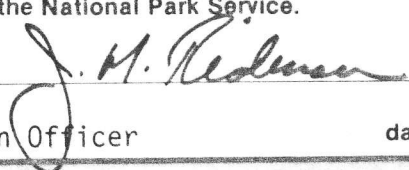
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 11-15-82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

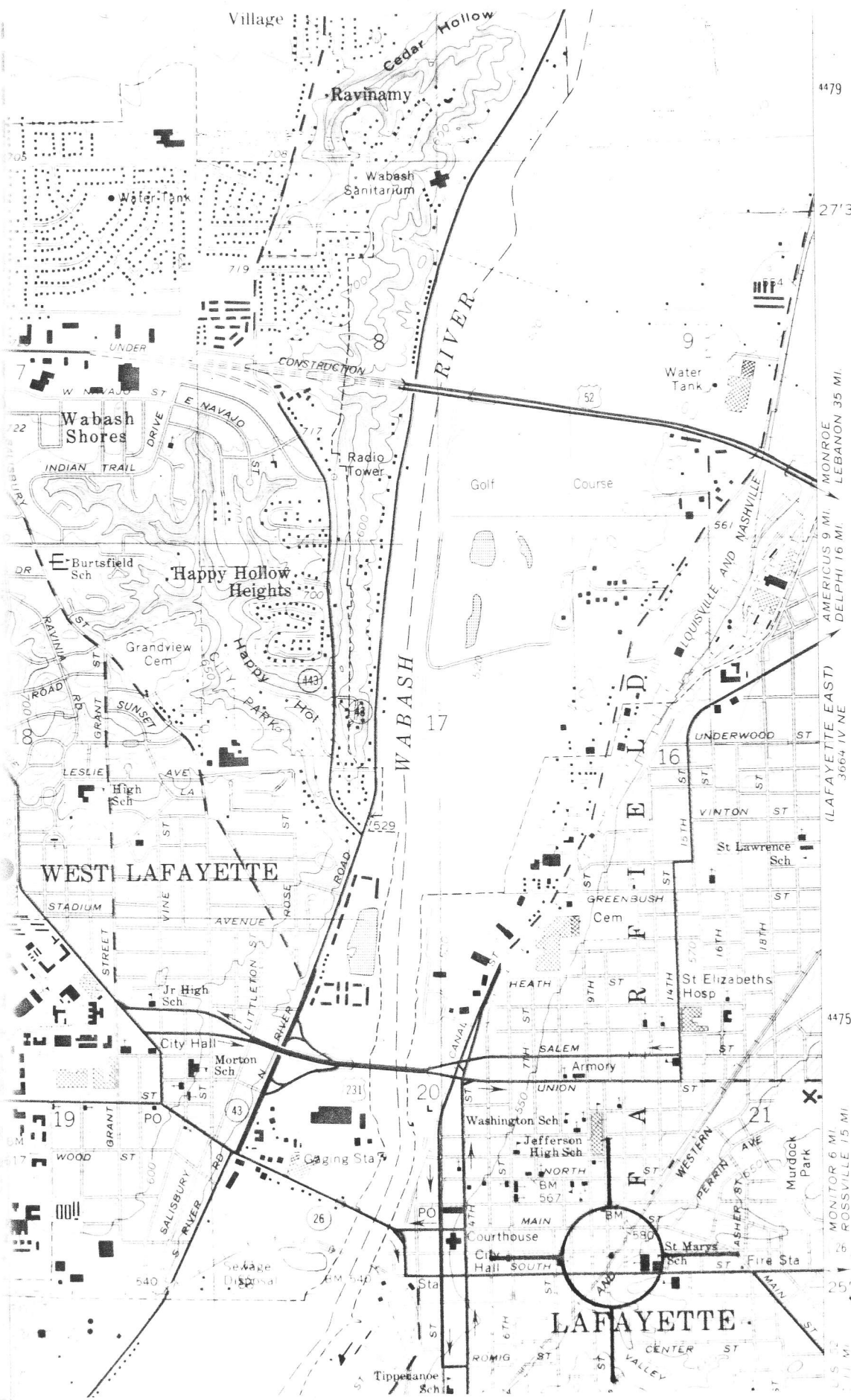
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



4479

27°30"

MONROE 9 MI.  
LEBANON 35 MI.  
AMERICUS 9 MI.  
DELPHI 16 MI.

(LAFAYETTE EAST)  
3664 IV NE

4475

MONITOR 6 MI.  
ROSSVILLE 15 MI.

WILLIAM POTTER RESIDENCE  
Lafayette, Indiana

UMT Reference:  
16/509710/4473940