

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Floral Hall

and/or common The Round House

075-521-30015

2. Location

street & number West Votaw and Morton Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Portland N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Jay code 075

3. Classification *Building is used as exhibition space for the Jay County Fair.

Table with 5 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use, and other classification options. Includes checkboxes for public/private ownership, occupied/unoccupied status, and various present uses like agriculture, educational, etc.

4. Owner of Property

name Jay County Commissioners (Long term lease to the Jay County Fair Board)

street & number Jay County Courthouse

city, town Portland N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47371

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Jay County Courthouse

city, town Portland state Indiana 47371

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		<u> </u> N/A <u> </u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Floral Hall, or "The Round House" as it is now known, is an unusual, eight-sided, fair exhibit building of vernacular construction located near the entrance of the Jay County Fairgrounds, northeast of the junction of Votaw and Morton Streets in Portland, Indiana. The building is a detached wooden building, 2½ stories in height and octagonal in plan with each side being roughly 33 feet in length. It is sheathed with vertical board wooden siding with chamfered battens and vertical corner boards.

The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is hipped in shape. At the junction of the eight roof planes is a small conical projection. This cone is topped with a large metal lightning rod. The projecting eaves of the roof are open with exposed rafter ends. Windows for the building are set in several dormers in the roof. Three small gable dormers are set just below the roof cone and are located on the west, south, and east roof planes. These dormers have open, projecting eaves with exposed rafters and are sided with clapboards. The glazing in these three dormers has been removed, and pressed fiberglass siding fills the openings. A projecting drip-cap tops the window surround. Larger gabled dormers, located on each of the building's eight roof planes, are placed midway between the eaves and the cone. These dormers have cornerboards, clapboarding, and projecting open eaves with exposed rafter ends. The large dormers have double-hung, six-over-six windows set in a simple surround with a drip-cap.

On each facade on the second level, there are two kick-out ventilation panels roughly the width of two of the siding boards. Wider kick-out panels, roughly eight boards wide, are located on the east and northeast facades adjoining the northeast corner of the building. Large, double-sized doors are located on the north, south, east, and west facades of the building. The south door is a modern, overhead garage-style door with two rows of rectangular windows, while the others are paired flush, hinged doors. The words, "Round House," are painted above the south and east doors. Linking the Round House to the Industry building to the north is a roofed breezeway, which is not a contributing element.

The interior of the building features an open central shaft that runs the height of the building. A second floor surrounding this shaft is reached by a wooden stairway in the southeast corner of the building. A second stairway, located in the northwest corner, has been removed, and the second floor, originally used as exhibit space, is now used for storage. The second level is supported by a double ring of square structural posts. Pine flooring, with boards roughly five inches in width, cover the second level floor, while the first floor is poured concrete. The lattice structure centered on the first level is not original.

Historic photographs reveal that the building originally had a very tall central, octagonal-shaped cupola with windows on each side. Sometime in the 1910s, this was removed and the present dormer windows were added. Other than the roof and dormer changes, the modern garage door on the south facade, and the removal of the northwest stairwell, the building is unaltered.

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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1891 Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance ~~(1891-1891)~~

Floral Hall, or the Round House, is significant primarily as one of only a few octagonal barn structures in Indiana. It is also significant as the only major structure on the Jay County Fairgrounds that remains from the 19th century.

Throughout its years of operation, the annual Jay County Fair has been a major social, cultural, and entertainment activity in the life of the Jay County community. Originally organized in December of 1871, the Agricultural, Horticultural, and Industrial Stock Company of Jay County held its first fair in September of 1872. The fair proved to be a popular success with the citizens of Jay County and was well attended each year. Profits generated each year were channeled into making improvements on the fairgrounds. A number of new buildings were built during the first two decades of the fair's existence.

Perhaps the most unusual of these new buildings was the octagon-shaped Floral Hall, or the "Round House", as it is now known, which opened in October, 1891. The Portland Commercial described it saying, "The new building is a model of tasty arrangements and could not have been built by anyone to be more suitable for the exhibits placed therein." The article goes on to describe the floral fountain in the central core and lists other items that were on display at that time, including stoves, bird cages, buggies, cutlery, horse shoes, flowers, dry goods, perfumes, clothing, sewing machines, paintings, furniture, musical instruments, eggs, watches, and clocks.

The Round House has, for over 90 years, been a visual focal point for the Jay County Fair, and has housed a tremendous diversity of items of local interest. It has played a prominent role in the agricultural and commercial development of Jay County by serving as a display area for the crafts, industry, and produce of the County. The building, occupying an important location at the entrance to the fairgrounds, is the first building that one sees upon entering the grounds. Most of the other 19th century fair buildings on the grounds have been replaced, as part of the efforts of the current fair board to improve the grounds.

Architecturally, the building is unique in its style. The use of the octagon design provides a large volume of space in a relatively small area, and its central open core provides excellent ventilation throughout the building.

The octagon style, first proposed by Orson Squire Fowler, flourished briefly in the 1850's, primarily in residential designs. It was later adopted for use in agricultural buildings, such as round or polygonal barns. In both applications, extant examples in the state are few in number. The use here of the octagon plan for a fair exhibit building is most unusual (although a larger and older octagonal fair exhibit building can be found on the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, in Dayton, Ohio).

A survey of round or polygonal structures conducted in 1969-70 of 56 Indiana counties reveals no other octagonal fair exhibit building in the counties surveyed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lewis Publishing Company, Biographical and Historical Record of Jay County. Chicago, 1887
 Thomas, Lucille, 104th Annual Jay County Fair Souvenir Book. Portland, 1976.
 Wohrl, Gene, Survey Done on Round Structures in Some Indiana Counties 1969-70 (unpublished manuscript available at Historic Landmarks Foundatin of Indiana Resource Center)
 The Portland Commercial, October 7, 1981

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Portland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

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 Mark A. Miles, Director

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date February 8, 1983

street & number P.O. Box 284 telephone 317/478-3172

city or town Cambridge City state Indiana 47327

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 James M. Redman date 7-21-83

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Floral

Item number 10

Page 1

Located approximately 500 feet north/northeast of the junction of Morton and Votaw Streets on the 40-acre fairgrounds which is in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 16, Township 23 of Range 14E. From the center point of the north facade, go north 5'10" to the place of beginning; thence west 53' to the east edge of the west drive; thence south along the west drive 110' to the main drive; thence northeast along the northwest edge of the main drive to a point 5'10" north of the north facade and 49' east of the beginning point; thence 49' west to the place of beginning.

Floral Hall
Portland, Indiana
UTM Reference: 16/672360/4478520

