

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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  
and/or common West Fifth Avenue Apartments Historic District

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet N/A not for publication  
city, town Gary N/A vicinity of  
state Indiana code 018 county Lake code 089

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Public Housing

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners -- see continuation sheet  
street & number  
city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lake County Recorder's Office  
street & number 2293 North Main Street  
city, town Crown Point state Indiana 46307

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

name N/A has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no  
state \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records N/A  
city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Reference maps and Photos Nos. 1-16

## 7A. BOULEVARD SETTING AND GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

(See also Item 8 Significance)

Fifth Avenue, a six lane boulevard (traffic running one way east), was planned as the principal cross-axis for the original core area of the City of Gary. This core area, immediately south of the massive Gary steel works, is roughly bounded by the Grand Calumet River on the north and by the Wabash Railroad tracks on the south, east, and west. Eventually dubbed "Northside," this core was owned and developed by the Gary Land Company, a subsidiary of U.S. Steel.

Along with the principal north/south axis, Broadway Avenue, Fifth Avenue dominates the urban grid and acts as a line of orientation to all other points in the city. These two streets were the first to be laid out in 1906 when the city and the mills were started from scratch on the empty sand dunes. The intersection of Fifth and Broadway may be considered the heart of the city. Commercial activities are centered on Broadway, the north end of which is the "gateway" into the steel mills. Commercial and institutional activities may also be found on Fifth Avenue from the west 1200 block to the eastern edge of the "Northside" area.

Residential areas generally spread to the east and west of Broadway. The Gary Land Company developed the area east of Broadway as a neighborhood for foremen and skilled workers. The area west of Broadway was zoned as a neighborhood initially reserved for plant managers and other prosperous, middle class citizens of the boom town. The streets west of the 1100 block (Fillmore) were laid out c. 1921, and development of substantial apartment buildings rapidly followed, due to the intense housing demand generated by the doubling of the city's population from 55,400 in 1920 to 100,700 in 1930.

## 7B. ORIGINAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

Because the area of the proposed district was built up in such a relatively short period of time, approximately from 1922 to 1928, the "heyday" of the district would seem to be the time of its creation. Physical conditions would have been quite similar to those of today, except the trees and grass would have been newly planted and there would have been fewer empty lots and no vacant or deteriorated structures.

## 7C. DISTRICT SPATIAL/ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The district is comprised of a relatively dense group of "period" brick apartment buildings which are mostly four stories high and hold a standard setback from the avenue. The regular, tight spacing of the structures near the center of the district (approximately between Arthur and Grant Streets) becomes looser as one moves towards the east and west ends of the district, due to the occasional presence of vacant lots and non-period structures.

CONTINUATION SHEET -- National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form  
 West Fifth Avenue Apartments Historic District  
 Gary, Lake County, Indiana

ITEM No. 4 -- Owner of Property (All  
 addresses are W. 5th Ave.)

Leoleane Turner Powers  
 2000 W. Fifth  
 Gary, Indiana 46404  
 2000; 2224; 1934

Luther C. and Eunice Gary  
 1514 W. Fifth  
 Gary, Indiana 46402  
 1514; 1508

Richard Gordon Hatcher and  
 Ruthellyn Hatcher  
 1900 W. Fifth  
 Gary, Indiana 46404  
 2200-2208; 1926; 1900; 1601

Joe L. White  
 1501-1511 W. Fifth  
 Gary, Indiana 46402  
 1501, 1511

Open Door Church of God  
 2134 W. Fifth  
 Gary, Indiana 46404  
 2134

Gary National Bank as  
 Trustee of Trust #P-5108  
 8585 Broadway  
 Merrillville, Indiana 46410  
 1342

Richard W. Blank, General Partner  
 Fifth Avenue Apartments  
 126 E. Fifth  
 Michigan City, Indiana 46360  
 2200-2208; 2100; 2030; 1812; 1806; 1800;  
 1706; 1705-33; 1700; 1630; 1600; 1348; 1130

Summers Associates  
 P.O. Box 483-  
 Opa Locka, Florida 33054  
 1335

Edward V. Warner  
 127 S. 9th  
 Chesterton, Indiana 46304  
 2012-2024

Odell Daniels  
 636 Lincoln  
 Gary, Indiana 46402  
 1330; 1324

Richard W. Blank, Gerald P. Gulling,  
 Richard L. Farmer, Wendell Campbell;  
 George W. Seanor, General Partners  
 Gary NSA III  
 P. O. Box 8580  
 Canton, Ohio 44711  
 2010; 1826-42; 1730; 1720; 1532-34;  
 1300; 1200; 1221-29

FDB Corporation  
 8015 Chapel Drive  
 Merrillville, Indiana 46410  
 1317-31

Lamar and Mable Myrick  
 8512 Locust  
 Gary, Indiana 46403  
 1310

Methodist Hospital of Gary, Inc.  
 1600 W. Sixth  
 Gary, Indiana 46404  
 1619; 1614; 1612

Magrames, Bessie and Others  
 510 Buchanan  
 Gary, Indiana 46402  
 1301

Efthalia Novak, George Novak and Gus Novak  
 1612 W. Fifth  
 Gary, Indiana 46404  
 1610

Jackson Lillie  
 1210 W. Fifth  
 Gary, Indiana 46402  
 1210

Terrance L. Hardin  
 3626 Washington Street  
 Gary, Indiana 46408  
 1545-47

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Gary, Indiana

## 2. Location - continued

The district includes the northside of West Fifth Avenue, from Taft to the alley between Pierce and Fillmore and the southside of West Fifth Avenue from Garfield to Pierce.

The district includes the following fifty buildings (all addresses are at West Fifth Avenue):

2224	1600
2200-2208	1545-47
2134	1532-34
2100	1514
2030	1511
2010	1508
2000	1501
1934	1348
1926	1342
1900	1335
1826-42	1317-31
1812	1330
1806	1324
1800	1310
1705-33	1301
1730	1300
1720	1230
1706	1221-29
1700	1220
1630	1214
1619	1210
1614	1201
1612	1200
1610	1130
1601	1120

CONTINUATION SHEET -- National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form  
West Fifth Avenue Apartments Historic District  
Gary, Lake County, Indiana

ITEM No. 4 -- Owner of Property (All  
addresses are W.5th Ave.)

Mario Olivieri and Louisa Olivieri  
1220 W. Fifth  
1224 W. Fifth  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
1230

Teresa Olivieri  
1214 W. Fifth  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
1230

Housing Authority of the City of Gary  
578 Broadway  
2nd Floor Genesis Tower  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
1220

Thomas Gullett and Leora Gullett  
452 Pierce Street  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
1214

Fire Department  
City of Gary  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
1201

Marion Rose Daniels  
444 Fillmore Street  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
1120

Bernice Simpson, Thurman and Dorothy Frasier  
1515 W. Fifth Avenue  
Gary, Indiana  
1515



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

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W. 5th Ave. Apartments  
Historic District

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The overall consistency and quality of the architecture of these period buildings combines with the massing to create an appropriate urban scale for the wide boulevard. This fabric, or wall of similar buildings, opens discretely at the 1400 block (between Lincoln and Johnson Streets) for a pair of modest park/meadow spaces on either side of the boulevard. West of these parks one finds more large trees shading the street than to the east, although most trees are overgrown and much of the lawns and grounds have not been well maintained.

The architectural consistency within the district is due to the limited palette of materials and range of architectural styles. The most common brick color group is dark (56% of all district structures), split almost evenly between brown and dark red. The next most common brick color group is light, (36% of all district structures), again, split almost evenly between tan and cream. The most common architectural style features Colonial Revival motifs, some, of course, more elaborate than others. In addition, the Second Renaissance Revival, Spanish Renaissance Revival and Late Gothic Revival styling of several other structures raises the total number of Revival Style structures to almost half of all district structures. So-called "Commercial" Style (i.e., more plain or non-revival) period structures comprise about one-third of all district structures. Thus, Revival and Commercial Style structures represent almost 80% of district structures.

**7D. BOUNDARY CONDITIONS**

The boundaries of the district occur where the above-described, relatively consistent pattern of period brick apartment structures changes. The east of the district is created by a significant increase in open area (parking lots and vacant land) and by a shift from apartment structures to commercial structures (the extension of the business district centered at Broadway Avenue). The west end of the district is created by the large open space of the school athletic fields (which are not landscaped) and by an abrupt shift from apartment structures to single family dwellings. The north and south boundaries, following the alleys which separate the blocks flanking Fifth Avenue from the blocks facing the side streets, are created by the abrupt shift from apartment structures to single family dwellings.

**7E. NUMBER AND CONDITION OF DISTRICT STRUCTURES**

There are 50 total structures in the district. There are eight intruding structures in the district.

--Continued

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Gary, Indiana

## 7E. NUMBER AND CONDITION OF DISTRICT STRUCTURES - continued

Conditions are as follows:

vacant/poor	2
fair	7
altered (fair to good)	4
altered (recently renovated - good)	2
recently renovated (good)	12
good	14
*rehabilitation in progress	8

\*(These rehabilitations follow the Secretary of the Interior's standards.)

## 7F. INTRUDING STRUCTURES

(Note - all addresses are for West Fifth Avenue.)

2224 - 5 story apartment structure, built 1961  
2134 - 2 story institutional structure, built 1960's  
2000 - 5 story apartment structure, built 1961  
1934 - 5 story apartment structure, built 1961 (Photo No. 45)  
1926 - 2 story bungalow, built 1940's  
1614 - 2 story structure, built 1950's  
1619 - 1 story clinic, built 1980  
1348 - 2 story bungalow, built 1924  
1310 - 1 story gas station/auto repair, (Photo No. 46)

## 7G. PIVOTAL AND TYPICAL STRUCTURES

The following structures exemplify the integrity of association, setting, design, materials and workmanship found in the proposed district. All structures were originally designed as apartments and continue to serve this function. (As noted one is vacant and several are in the process of rehabilitation.) Many of the buildings employ trim of a special cast concrete with a fine dark aggregate which resembles the appearance of stone. Research has been unable to uncover the names of any specific architects or designers associated with these buildings, though it seems probable several structures may have been developed by the same parties. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the map key number and description number referenced on photo labels.

(1.) 2200-08 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 1, 17)

This four story structure was built in 1927 of cream brick and white terra cotta in Late Gothic Revival Style. The lovely building anchors a corner near the west end of the district and is one of the eight largest and eight most

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Gary, Indiana

## 7G. PIVOTAL AND TYPICAL STRUCTURES

- (1.) 2200-08 West Fifth Avenue - continued  
articulated structures in the district. Terra cotta panels feature delicate tracery reliefs and finials crown the parapet. A narrow courtyard facing West Fifth Avenue is placed off center. Entrance doors have elaborate terra cotta surrounds. Octagonal bays project along West Fifth Avenue.
- (2.) 2100 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 1, 18)  
The four story structure was built in 1928 of tan and brown brick with cast concrete trim generally in the Colonial Revival Style. Brick spandrels feature a diagonal bond pattern. Two square projecting bays along West Fifth Avenue frame the pedimented entrance. The building anchors one corner of an intersection. Form and articulation of this building are similar to those at 2030 and 1700 West Fifth Avenue.
- (3.) 2030 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 1, 19)  
The four story structure was built in 1928 of red brick with cast concrete trim in the Colonial Revival Style. The brick base features deep reveals for a rusticated effect. Two square projecting bays along West Fifth Avenue frame the pedimented entrance. The building anchors one corner of an intersection. Form and articulation of this building are similar to those at 2100 and identical to those at 1700 West Fifth Avenue.
- (4.) 2010 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 32)  
The four story structure was built in 1928 of tan brick with cast concrete trim in Second Renaissance Revival Style. The building anchors one corner of an intersection. This building may have been modeled nominally after the Villard Houses (New York; 1885; McKim, Mead & White architects) which initiated the Second Renaissance Revival according to the historian Marcus Whiffen. (American Architecture Since 1780, 1969). Here, the "U-shaped" form of the model is suggested by the central recess of the facade, which creates two wing-like bays. The first floor is treated as a rusticated base with dressed stone (tooled joints) and a continuous crown mold. The parapet cornice mold features dentils. Additional continuous molded stringcourses run above the fourth floor windows and at the fourth floor window sills. Quoins articulate the corners of the "wings" (bays). The arch motif is carried



## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Gary, Indiana

## 7G. PIVOTAL AND TYPICAL STRUCTURES

(4.) 2010 West Fifth Avenue - continued

in the center recess as part of the trim framing the stair-hall windows. However, unlike the Villard Houses, the windows are grouped in twos or threes and have only a molded lintel instead of a full surround. A balustrade finishes the wall above the entry. This structure will soon be rehabilitated.

(5.) 1900 West Fifth Avenue - MAHENCIA APARTMENTS  
(Reference Photo No. 20)

The four story structure was built in the mid to late 1920's (exact date unknown) of red brick with stone trim in Spanish Renaissance Revival Style. This structure anchors a corner of an intersection and is one of the eight largest and eight most articulated structures in the district. The massing is enlivened by large square projecting bays at the corners, which are set off from the central block by a recessed wall. One of the recessed walls continues above the roof to become a picturesque tower element. Stone accents include a dressed stone base, central panels at the corner bays, two-story arch above the central entrance and a molded continuous stringcourse at the fourth floor window sills. Sloping clay tile roofs, simple metal false balcony railings and steel casement windows are the finishing touches on this outstanding structure.

(6.) 1826-42 West Fifth Avenue - SILER APARTMENTS  
(Reference Photo Nos. 5, 6, 7, 33-35)

The four story structure was built in 1927 of cream brick and cast concrete trim in Late Gothic Revival Style. This structure is one of the eight largest and eight most highly articulated structures in the district. The projecting octagonal bays along West Fifth Avenue create a strongly undulating facade. A continuous molded stringcourse above the first floor windows creates a base. Windows at the second, third and fourth floors are vertically separated by spandrels with a simple tracery relief to create vertically expressive bands grouped in pairs. Above the fourth floor windows, another continuous molded stringcourse wraps the undulating facades. On the faces of these bays the stringcourse springs into an ogee-arched gable panel with simple tracery relief. On the south elevation, the one story entry vestibules, which project from between the paired bays, are finished to resemble dressed stone, with the parapet rising to a semi-circular gable above the doorway. The entry on the west follows a similar treatment. This structure will soon be rehabilitated.

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

## WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Gary, Indiana

## 7G. PIVOTAL AND TYPICAL STRUCTURES

- (7.) 1812 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 5, 21)  
The four story structure was built in the mid to late 1920's (exact date unknown) of dark red brick with delicate white terra cotta trim. Two square projecting bays flank the central entrance. Decorative terra cotta shields crown the parapet at these bays.
- (8.) 1800 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 5, 6, 7, 22)  
The four story structure was built in 1927 of cream brick with bluish-gray cast concrete trim in Second Renaissance Revival Style. Two projecting octagonal bays flank the central entrance. This is one of the eight most articulated structures in the district and is identical in form and vocabulary with the building immediately to the east (1730), which is described in detail below.
- (9.) 1730 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 6, 7, 36-38)  
The four story structure was built in 1927 of cream brick and greenish-gray cast concrete trim in a composite Revival Style. This is one of the eight most articulated structures in the district and is identical in form and vocabulary with the building immediately to the west (1800). Two projecting octagonal bays flank the central entry. The corners of the projecting bays are trimmed with spiral collonettes which spring from the continuous molded stringcourse at the level of the second floor window sills. The windows on the southern face of the bays are framed by a three story high surround (double crossette) with dentils on the sill trim at third and fourth levels. This surround is crowned by a curved broken pediment with dentils and a crop finial. The two stairhall windows between the bays (above the entrance) are also enclosed with a surround (double crossette) but the pediment is semielliptical with palmette bud, dentils and an urn finial. Above the pediment is a garland festoon. The one story vestibule projects slightly beyond the bays. The door surround (complex semielliptical architrave) and parapet gable are completed respectively with a palmette crest and an urn finial. Windows at the ground floor also have surrounds (crossette). The top of the building is finished with a notched parapet that rises to a small pediment with palmette crest on the projecting bays. Additional ornament includes small square insert panels with rosette boss. This structure will soon be rehabilitated.

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Gary, Indiana

## 7G. PIVOTAL AND TYPICAL STRUCTURES - continued

(10.) 1720 West Fifth Avenue

(Reference Photo Nos. 6, 7, 39, 40)

The four story structure was built in 1927 of tan brick with cast concrete trim in Spanish Renaissance Revival Style. A one story arcade extends from one corner of the "L" shaped building to create a unique, cloister-like courtyard. Arched screen walls stand on the north and west edges of the courtyard, about four feet from the building's courtyard elevations. Clay tile at the arcade roof and overhanging "eyebrow" roofs complete the romantic palette. This structure, one of the eight largest and eight most articulated structures in the district, is experienced as the highlight within the densest group of period structures, which is approximately in the center of the district.

Decorative detailing is lavished on the south elevation nearest to the street. The facade up to the second floor window sills is finished as dressed stone, capped with a projecting crown mold. The entry is recessed within a foliated surround. The windows of the other two grand bays are crowned by a complex curved architrave with a foliated panel. From the base of the first floor, four "giant" pilasters rise the remaining three stories to frame the three grand bays, forming a focal piece of nearly square proportions (i.e. three units high by three units wide). These pilasters have rather simple bases, but are edged with spiral collonettes and crowned by composite order capitals surmounted by rearing lions modeled in three-quarter round. The grand bays are each vertically divided by a rosette-bossed mullion. The six pairs of spandrel panels have foliated trim at the upper and lower edges framing a square piece adorned with a festooned cartouche. The grand bays are climaxed by large fan-shaped blind grilles, whose radiating members resemble balusters. A simply scroll-etched cap quietly finishes the parapet wall which stretches between the clay tile eyebrow roofs at the corners. The windows of the end bays are softly treated with a flat, foliated lintel matching the spandrel trim with which they align. Rehabilitation of this structure is in progress.

(11.) 1706 West Fifth Avenue

(Reference Photo Nos. 6, 23)

The four story structure was constructed in the mid to late 1920's (exact date unknown) of tan/brown brick with stone or cast concrete trim. Recent renovation has altered the entrance. The building is unusual because the window treatment is different at each floor, as if the structure were built or designed by four different

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Gary, Indiana

## 7G. PIVOTAL AND TYPICAL STRUCTURES

- (11.) 1706 West Fifth Avenue - continued  
parties or as if someone were experimenting with a design vocabulary (as William LeBaron Jenney did with the bay windows on the Manhattan Building in Chicago.)
- (12.) 1700 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 6, 24)  
The four story structure was constructed in the mid to late 1920's of dark red brick with stone or cast concrete trim in Colonial Revival Style. Two square projecting bays flank the pedimented entrance. This structure anchors a corner of an intersection and is identical in form and articulation to the building at 2030 West Fifth Avenue.
- (13.) 1705-33 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 7, 25)  
The four story structure was built in 1925 of orange brick and elaborate white terra cotta trim.  
This is the largest structure in the district and anchors a whole block on the south side of West Fifth Avenue. This is also one of the eight most articulated structures in the district. There is a large centrally located courtyard facing West Fifth Avenue. Projecting bays and recesses above entrances create a sculptural facade. Terra cotta ornamentation is concentrated at the entrances and at fourth floor windows and parapet wall.
- (14.) 1600 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 8, 9, 26)  
The four story structure was built in 1927 of brown brick with cast concrete trim  
Quoins strongly articulate the corners of the building. A single square bay projects along West Fifth Avenue. The building anchors the corner of an intersection.
- (15.) 1601 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 9, 27)  
The four story structure was built in 1926 of tan brick with cast concrete trim in Second Renaissance Revival vocabulary. The building anchors the corner of an intersection and two projecting square bays are created by the recess above the central entrance.

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Gary, Indiana

## 7G. PIVOTAL AND TYPICAL STRUCTURES

(16.) 1532-34 West Fifth Avenue - MARY APARTMENTS

(Reference Photo Nos. 8, 9, 41-43)

The four story structure was built in 1926 of tan brick with cream-colored terra cotta trim in Second Renaissance Revival Style.

This is the second largest structure in the district and one of the eight most articulated. Squared and angled projections and recesses create a symmetrical undulating wall along the boulevard, with the two major entries flanking the central bay. It dominates one corner of an intersection anchored by three other period structures.

The rich decorative features of this building may be derived from Second Renaissance Revival or Neo-Adamesque vocabularies. Three molded stringcourses visually divide the building into four horizontal bands: base, "piano nobile", upper floors and parapet. These are balanced by the vertical emphasis of the projecting bays, entry pieces and featured window groupings. The corner projecting bays (south elevation) have an elaborate terra cotta surround for the second and third floor windows which incorporate fluting, scrolls, garland festoons and coat-of arms. The parapet wall at these bays and above the major entries steps up to frame a wreath and garland terra cotta panel. The recessed wall above the entries is framed by fluted terra cotta pilasters and accented by terra cotta medallions set in the brick panels between the windows. The ground floor entry vestibules then project from the building, with doorway set into a rosette-bossed, molded terra cotta surround with carved entablature and pediment. The featured window groupings (south elevation center, and three groups each on east and west elevations) have a complete rosette-bossed, molded terra cotta surround for windows at the second ("piano nobile"), third and fourth levels, with terra cotta medallions set in the brick panel between the third and fourth floor windows. The parapet wall above these window groups incorporates a blind terra cotta balustrade. Rehabilitation of this structure is in progress.

(17.) 1545-47 West Fifth Avenue

(Reference Photo No. 28)

The four story structure was built in 1924 of tan brick with cast concrete trim in Second Renaissance Revival Style. This elegantly proportioned and detailed structure anchors the corner of an intersection.

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Gary, Indiana

## 7G. PIVOTAL AND TYPICAL STRUCTURES

- (18.) 1501 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 12, 29)  
The four story structure was built in 1922 of brown brick with simple stone trim in the "Commercial" Style. Five boldly projecting square bays march along the avenue facade. The structure is currently vacant and boarded up. It anchors a corner adjacent to the open space of "Lincoln" Park.
- (19.) 1300 West Fifth Avenue - MARTHA APARTMENTS  
(Reference Photo Nos. 15, 16, 30)  
The three story structure was built in 1922 of reddish brown brick with simple stone trim in the "Commercial" Style. Eyebrow roofs are finished with metal tiles, probably an early application of this alternative to clay tile. (Innovative uses of steel abound in this town dominated by the steel mills.) Original storefronts have been altered in the past. Rehabilitation of this structure is in progress.
- (20.) 1221-29 West Fifth Avenue  
(Reference Photo Nos. 10, 14, 16, 31)  
This four story structure was built in 1925 of brown brick with simple stone trim in Second Renaissance Revival Style. The rusticated base, pedimented doorways and lack of set back give this structure the character of an urban "palazzo" block. This building is one of the eight largest in the district and anchors the corner of an intersection. The original cornice material was lost some time ago. Rehabilitation of the structure is in progress.
- (21.) 1200 West Fifth Avenue - MIRIAM APARTMENTS  
(Reference Photo Nos. 13, 15, 44)  
This four story structure was built in 1924 of reddish brown brick with simple stone trim in the "Commercial" Style, though the entrance is treated with Renaissance Revival-type entablature on brackets. Projecting square bays flank the entrance. The structure anchors the corner of an intersection near the east end of the district and rehabilitation is currently in progress.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 20.5

Quadrangle name Gary

Quadrangle scale 1:24000  
7.5 Min. Series

UTM References

A 

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

B 

1	6	4	7	0	7	2	0	4	6	0	5	4	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 

1	6	4	7	0	7	2	0	4	6	0	5	3	5	0

D 

1	6	4	6	9	5	7	0	4	6	0	5	3	6	0

E 


F 


G 


H 


Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Leslie A. Capek, Architect

organization James E. Childs & Associates, Inc.

date 10-24-83

street & number 521 W. Colfax Avenue

telephone 219/288-2052

city or town South Bend

state Indiana 46601

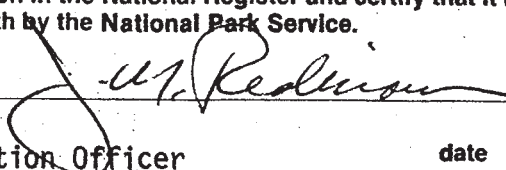
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 4-13-84

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

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1920s

Builder/Architect

Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The proposed West Fifth Avenue Apartments Historic District developed as a unique entity in the City of Gary because of the special purpose the area served during the city's greatest period of growth. The concentration of 1920s apartment structures on West Fifth Avenue comprises a significant historic district due to the large size of the district, its overall spatial consistency, the number, density and architectural quality of contributing structures, and the associations with the specific time (i.e., the booming '20s), the specific place (i.e., the "grand boulevard"), and the specific program (i.e., the creation of a "gold coast" for steel plant managers).

The West Fifth Avenue Apartments Historic District and its 41 contributing buildings mark a period of unprecedented growth in a city which, as a whole, was calculatedly developed from scratch in very short order to support the new steel mills, shrewdly located in 1906 on the empty sand dunes on the southern shore of Lake Michigan, to optimize access between sources of raw materials and points of product distribution. The brief period in which these apartment buildings were constructed, from 1922 to 1928, illustrates the great demand for housing, which the buildings were intended to serve, generated by the doubling of the city's population from 55,400 in 1920 to 100,700 in 1930. Though this was a time of general national industrial expansion, the so-called "miracle city" also blossomed in specific response to an FTC decision. "Abolition of the 'Pittsburgh Plus' pricing system at the orders of the Federal Trade Commission contributed to plant expansion in Gary and to the high rate of production in the local mills from 1924 to 1929." (James B. Lane, City of the Century: A History of Gary, Indiana).

The district conveys the spirit of the 1920s through the concentration of Revival Style and Commercial Style structures. The feeling of optimism and expansion characteristic of the 20s was accentuated under the unique "boom" conditions found in Gary, as explained above. The many richly decorated apartment structures in the proposed district seem almost boastful and swaggering along the pretentiously wide avenue, reflecting the aspirations of the district's middle-class residents, flush with new money. The contributing structures are also architecturally significant as a group in that they catalog the broad range of styles popular with commercial builders of the 1920s. The detailing of these structures, though of varying elaboration, seems to have been executed with a consistently good level of workmanship. The dominance of brick as a major material and the frequent use of special cast concrete for decorative trim also contributes to the cohesiveness of the district.

The district and its structures are also the prime extant illustration of the simple pragmatic plan by which the Gary Land Company (a subsidiary of U.S. Steel) platted and zoned their portion of the town, which became the core of the city. The handsome apartment blocks, of urban scale befitting the grant boulevard planned as the city's major east/west access, reflect the fact that

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

## WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Gary, Indiana

## 8. Significance - continued

the residential areas west of the commercial area (centered on Broadway) were reserved for steel plant managers and other middle-class citizens. The continuity of masonry materials, general and massing setbacks illustrates the firm control exercised by the Gary Land Company to ensure visual harmony and order. (See also the discussion under Item 7A - Boulevard Setting and General Development.)

The district is large (over eleven city blocks in length), relatively intact and clearly set off from the surrounding urban context; a set of conditions found nowhere else in the city for structures of a constant period and type. The concentration of ornamented apartment structures of the Twenties is clearly distinguished from the surrounding neighborhoods, which in this case present a homogeneous fabric of single family dwellings. Between the east end of the district and the commercial axis of Broadway Avenue, one finds parking lots, vacant land and commercial or institutional structures. Scattered vacant lots occur only towards the east and west ends of the district and are generally much narrower than one-half block in size. Also, of the eight intruding structures, three are very small (two story houses) and three are low key modern apartment structures which generally hold setback and roof lines in common with the historic structures. Some of the period structures towards the east end of the district have experienced alterations, but these do not seem to compromise their contribution to the district.

What may give this district a significance beyond the local or regional context is the densest grouping of period structures, which is located nearly in the center of the district. (Reference Photo Nos. 5, 6, 7, 20-25, 33-40).

Ten period structures (from 1900 West Fifth Avenue to 1630 West Fifth Avenue), including four of the eight most richly detailed and two of the eight largest, stretch for over 900 ft. along the north side of the avenue, spanning the intersections at Arthur Street and Hayes Street. This row of buildings has no intruding structures and only one minor vacant lot. Near the center of this special group is 1720 West Fifth Avenue, with its rare cloister-like courtyard, arcade and Spanish Renaissance Revival detailing. Across the street stands the mammoth 1705-33 West Fifth Avenue, the largest structure in the district and richly detailed in white terra cotta. As one moves out from this central, intense grouping to the east, one finds every intersection anchored on at least three and in some cases four corners with period structures. Towards the west end, the intersections are anchored at at least two corners.

Currently, eight structures are being rehabilitated according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. In the recent past, fourteen other structures have also been rehabilitated.

## CONTINUATION SHEET - NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Gary, Indiana

## 9. Major Biographical References -continued

Cannon, Thomas H. History of the Lake and Calumet Region of Indiana, 1927.

Drury, John. This is Lake County, Indiana, 1956.

Lane, James B. City of the Century: A History of Gary Indiana, (Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press), 1978.

Gary Post Tribune Newspaper, Jubilee Editions, 1956.

Gary City Directories, 1920-1930.

## 10. Geographical Data - continued

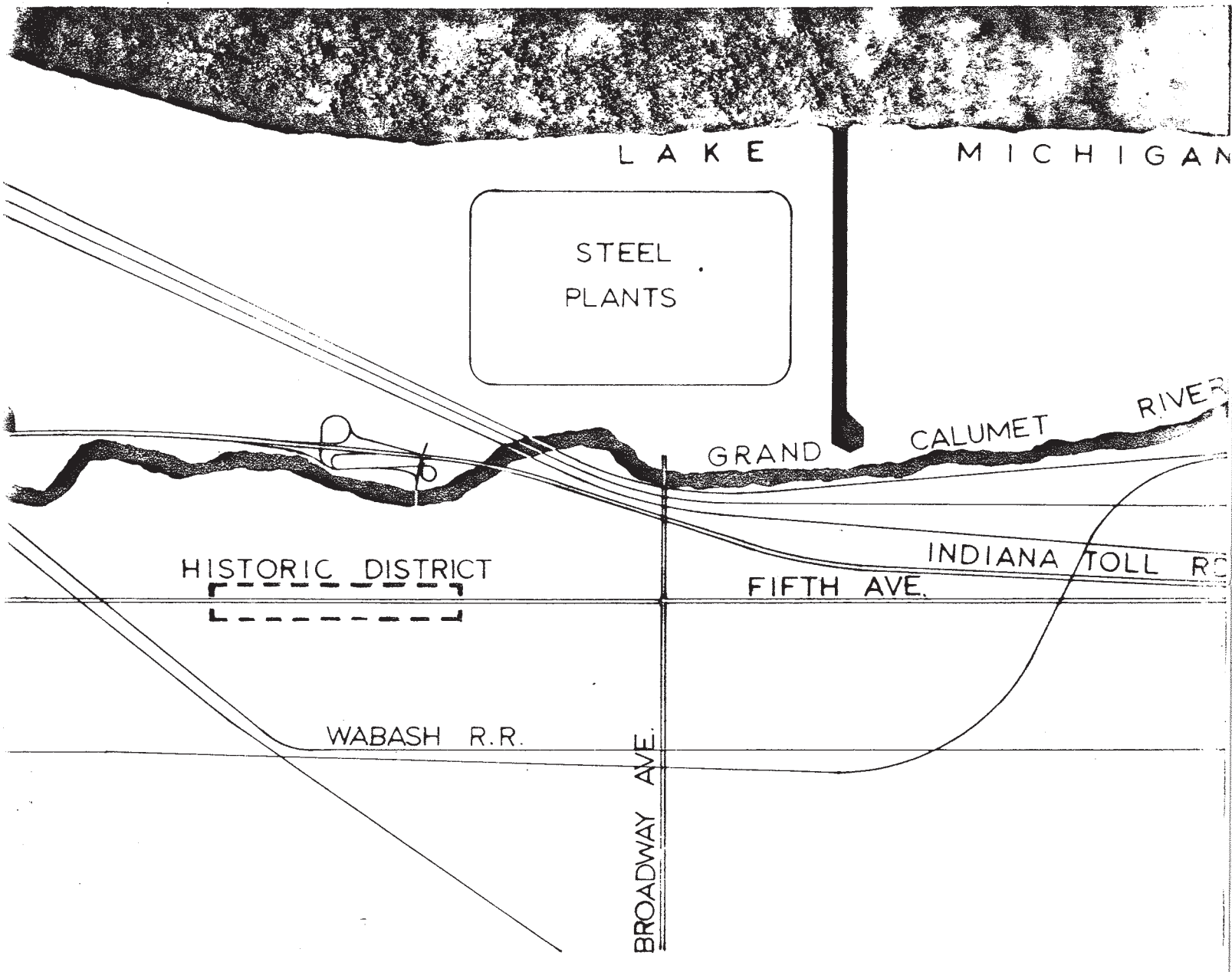
Verbal boundary description:

P.O.B.-North edge of West Fifth Avenue R.O.W. at east edge of Taft Street R.O.W.; continuing east along north edge of West Fifth Avenue R.O.W. to east edge of Garfield Street R.O.W.; continuing south along east edge of Garfield Street R.O.W. to north edge of alley R.O.W. (one block south of West Fifth Avenue); continuing east along north edge of alley R.O.W. (including alley jog south around Lincoln Park) to west edge of Pierce Street R.O.W.; continuing north along west edge of Pierce Street R.O.W. to north edge of West Fifth Avenue R.O.W.; continuing east along north edge of West Fifth Avenue R.O.W. to west edge of alley R.O.W. (between Pierce and Fillmore Streets); continuing north along west edge of alley R.O.W. to south edge of alley R.O.W. (one block north of West Fifth Avenue); continuing west along south edge of alley R.O.W. (including alley jog around Johnson Park) to east edge of Taft Street R.O.W.; continuing south along east edge of Taft Street R.O.W. to P.O.B.

Verbal boundary justification:

Please reference Item 7D - Boundary Conditions.





**WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

GARY,

INDIANA



SCALE: 1" = 1/2 MILE 0 1/4 1/2 1

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CONTINUATION SHEET -  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

WEST FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENTS  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

