

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FINAL

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 Dr. George W. Thompson Residence

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 407 North Market Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Winamac N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Pulaski code 131

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 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John and Janet Simmermaker

street & number 407 North Market Street

city, town Winamac N/A vicinity of

state Indiana 46996

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Pulaski County Courthouse

city, town Winamac

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 N/A

city, town

state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
X excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site	N/A
good	ruins	X altered	moved	date
fair	unexposed			

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

Dr. George W. Thompson's Residence is located three blocks north of downtown Winamac on Market Street, which is the principal street of both the downtown and the neighborhood of large Nineteenth century residences directly adjacent. The Thompson Residence sits on the northwest corner of the intersection of Madison and Market Streets and has as its principal facade the east elevation (Photo 1).

The two story hip-roofed mass of the house is roughly square in plan, but is enriched on all sides by projecting bays. On the facade a conical-roofed octagonal turret on the northeast corner is balanced by a projecting end bay which has a large round-arched window on the first floor beneath two widely-spaced second floor windows; the front door is located in the alcove between the turret and the end bay and is sheltered by a projecting gabled porch. The porch has a square brick pier with an ogee capital under each of its front corners. Centered above the facade is a dormer whose gable is enframed by a balustrade in the form of a gallery of horseshoe arches which terminates on either end in a square die with incised ornament and a blunt cap. The two window panels of the dormer each have mullions which meet to form four lights around a central diamond.

The other principal elevation on the south has a central polygonal bay which is topped by an overhanging gable that is supported by long shaped modillions on either side (Photo 2). The brick tympanum of the gable has a large central oculus with four quadrant stones. The southeast face of the bay contains a door from the back parlor onto a one story alcove porch whose low hipped roof is supported by panelled wood piers.

The north elevation is dominated by a projecting flat-topped center section of two bays. The rear (west) elevation has a projecting one story wing whose side walls rise above its flat roof; the alcove beside this wing on the southwest corner of the house is filled by a hip-roofed one story porch which has stop-chamfered square posts (Photo 3).

Although the overall massiveness of the form and such features as the corner turret, the round arches of the front window and the blind arch beneath it, and the horseshoe arches of the front dormer derive from the Richardsonian Romanesque style, most of the decorative detailing of the house is in the Colonial Revival style. The stringcourses which band the piers of the front porch and articulate sill lines and the springline of the parlor window's arch suggest the type of horizontal banding common to Richardsonian designs, but the narrowness of the courses, and the use of an elongated keystone on the parlor window and quadrants on the gable oculus are classical in character. This effect is further enhanced by the use of Georgian jack arches over all the other windows, the projection of the course at the heads of the second floor windows to suggest the bottom of an entablature, the lack of corbelled smoke bells on the straight stacks of the chimneys, and the classical profiles of the shaped modillions under the south gable. While several features of the porches, such as the low pediment of the front porch, the panelled piers of the side porch, and the dentilled cornices of both porches derive from a classical vocabulary, the original porch railings with their straight square balusters and tapered, blunt-topped newels, provided a medieval character, as the tapered, stop-chamfered back porch posts still do (Photo 4).

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The overall plan of the house is typical of its era. On the first floor, an entrance hall contains the landing of the front stairway and opens into the adjacent front parlor, the back parlor, and a sitting room behind the hall via single doors; the southwest corner of the hall is a diagonal wall in order to accomplish the access to the latter two rooms. Across the back of the first floor, the dining room is behind the back parlor and a pantry, rear stairway, and kitchen are behind the hall. The parlors, dining room, and sitting room are interconnected by double openings which open into the back parlor and have pocket doors (Photo 5). Across the front of the second floor, the master bedroom is connected by a round-arched opening to a sitting room in the turret (Photo 6). The rest of the second floor consists of a central hall which connects the landings of the front and back stairways and is flanked on either side by bedrooms.

The mix of stylistic references seen on the exterior can be seen on the interior of the Thompson Residence as well.

In the entrance hall a platform stair lands to the right of the front door and has as its first landing a window seat in the octagonal turret. Although a Tuscan column on this landing receives the end of the colonial style gooseneck handrail, the stair balusters are straight round shafts with rope and spool turnings, and the column also serves as one end of a lacy sawn grillwork which forms a segmental arch across the ceiling of the hall and extends downward and outward to replace a railing at the foot of the stairs (Photo 7). Similarly, the square panelled newels of the second floor landing of this stair have architrave moldings capped by blunt finials which are carved with leaves in low relief (Photo 8).

Throughout the house the classical architrave caps of the casings are finished with leaf-carved ogee ends and are combined with the use of plinth blocks and high baseboards topped by quirked moldings. Center cove or beaded casings are variously used for the sides of openings. The double doorways in the back parlor are each enriched with a sawn grillwork in a different pattern, and a grillwork also is used across the front end of the upstairs hall, at the front stair landing.

The only mantelpiece, that of the back parlor, is enframed by fluted Ionic colonettes which stand on plinth blocks and support the architrave of the overmantel. The swelling front of the mantel is supported by a single shaped modillion, and the overmantel has a bevelled mirror. The gas-fired hearth is faced with mottled tiles and has a plain tile apron.

The six panel Georgian design of the first floor doors is broken by the inclusion of a seventh horizontal panel across the center of each door. Such a horizontal panel is also used for the five panel doors on the second floor.

All of the woodwork in the principal rooms on the first floor is glossy golden oak; the bedrooms and service areas have painted woodwork.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

The high degree of architectural integrity which the Thompson Residence possesses is enhanced by its decoration throughout with appropriate antique light fixtures and furniture. The painted ceilings in the parlors and dining rooms are later additions made by the second owners, the Reidelbachs, in the 1940's. The present owners have remodelled the kitchen and the upstairs bath.

The property also includes two original outbuildings. Directly behind the house is a square one story brick building which originally housed a gasoline-powered water pump (Photo 3). This pump house has an oculus placed high on its north and south walls beneath the broad eaves of its low pyramidal roof.

The brick carriage barn is located at the rear (northwest) corner of the property (Photo 9). The two story rectangular mass of the barn is topped by a steep hipped roof which is truncated by a hip-roofed rectangular cupola. The cupola has louvers on its ends and louvers flanked by panels of cut shingles on its sides; the cupola roof has a ribbed ridge cap with rampant curved finials. The barn's regular pattern of fenestration has original four-over-four double-hung sash set in openings topped by jack arches. A four panel passage door is located on the south end of the east wall, and large carriage doors with plain sliding panels are located on the west end of the south elevation and the north end of the east elevation. A third carriage door was originally aligned with the last-mentioned opening on the west elevation, but has since been closed with brick.

Taken together the three buildings which comprise the Thompson Residence provide an intact example of a comfortable upper middle class suburban residence of the turn of the century.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social
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
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** 1897 **Builder Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Dr. George W. Thompson's Residence is locally significant for both its architecture and its historical associations with one of Winamac's pioneer physicians.

Dr. George Warren Thompson was born near Royal Center in nearby Cass county in 1849; he came to Winamac in 1871 to join his older brother William Henry Thompson in the medical profession. After graduation from the Indiana Medical College at Indianapolis in 1873, Thompson returned to Winamac, where he and his brother had a joint practice for the rest of their lives. During the 1880's Dr. Thompson served three terms as county coroner and once also served concurrently as acting county sheriff. In 1922 he was the Democratic candidate for state senator from the local district. Dr. Thompson was a physician for the Pennsylvania and St. Louis Railroad for forty years, and in 1904 served as president of the American Association of Pennsylvania Railway Surgeons. He was also a president of the thirteenth district of the Indiana Medical Association. Perhaps one of the best indications of his prominence in the local community, however, was provided when his obituary noted that Dr. Thompson had delivered more than four thousand babies during his career.

Dr. Thompson built his home in 1897 and lived there until his death in 1926; he left the property to his only child, Laura Brown, who sold the property to L. A. Reidelbach, a prominent local attorney, in 1930. The Reidelbachs repaired damage done to the house during a four year period in which it had been rented to tenants by Mrs. Brown, and the property was occupied by the Reidelbachs for nearly forty years. In 1975 the present owners bought the property from the Reidelbach estate.

The Thompson Residence is also significant not only as one of the largest and most ornate residences ever built in Winamac, but also as an example of the blending of the two residential styles most popular at the turn of the century, the Richardsonian Romanesque and the Colonial Revival. The Richardsonian mode was admired for its combination of heavy massing with light foliated ornament; the Colonial Revival provided a classical vocabulary which carried distinctly American historical connotations in an era of rising American nationalism. Together the two styles could be used to create residences which had both the plan arrangement and irregular massing made familiar by earlier picturesque revivals and decoration which was also in keeping with American ambitions at the turn of the century. The result is the unique architectural expression of its age, and the Thompson Residence is a remarkably intact example of that time.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Winamac

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

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

The East half of the lot designated as the "Seminary Lot" on the Original Plat of the town of Winamac, 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 Craig Leonard, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization N/A

date March 1984

street & number 521 West Market Street

telephone (219)-824-4010

city or town Bluffton

state Indiana 46714

# 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

Deputy Director, Dept. of Natural Resources, for  
title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8-17-84

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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

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

BOOKS

\_\_\_\_\_, Counties of White and Pulaski, Indiana, Chicago, Illinois, F. A. Battey and Company, 1883.

NEWSPAPERS

Titled Articles

Mr. Gorrell, "Dr. George W. Thompson " (editorial), Pulaski County Democrat, September 30, 1926.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Elderly Doctor Called by Death," Pulaski County Democrat, September 30, 1926.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Pulaski County Pioneer Doctor Dies at Winamac," Pulaski County Republican, September 30, 1926.

Untitled Articles

\_\_\_\_\_, Dr. Thompson acquires site for new residence, Pulaski County Democrat, August 23, 1895.

\_\_\_\_\_, new Thompson residence described, Pulaski County Democrat, April 23, 1897.

\_\_\_\_\_, Dr. Thompson occupies new residence this week, Pulaski County Democrat, November 19, 1897.

George W. Thompson Residence  
Winamac, Indiana  
UTM Reference:  
16/533095/4544570

