

FILE COPY

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 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

and or common Old Wabash Residential District

2. Location

Bounded roughly by Main St. (south); Holliday St. (west);  
r-o-w of the Norfolk Southern RR & Union St. (north);  
and Wabash and Miami Sts. (east)

street & number

not for publication

city, town Wabash

vicinity of

state Indiana

code 018

county Wabash

code 169

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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 type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Noble Township Assessor's Office

street & number Wabash County Courthouse

city, town Wabash

state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July, 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Dept. of Natural Resources, Indianapolis

city, town The First Christian Church was listed on  
the National Register on June 23, 1983 state Indiana

## 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**

West Hill Street forms the one-half-mile-long spine of the Old Wabash Residential District. From east to west, the district extends approximately eight city blocks from Wabash Street, the traditional east/west dividing line of the city, to the east boundary of the large city park, the effective terminus of residential development. From north to south, the district extends from the rear lot lines of the north side of W. Maple Street down to the rear lot lines of the south side of W. Main Street.

The topography contributes greatly to the character of the historic district. The land rises from the southern boundary to the northern one along the general incline of the Wabash River Valley. The east/west streets extend along level terraces, while the north/south streets of the eastern part of the district run along sloping grades. The hill is steepest from the south boundary up to the railroad tracks. A bluff exists at the rear lot lines of the south side of Main Street. At the west end, there is an elevation change of at least 50 feet between Main Street and Market Street below. (The elevation change is less pronounced at the east end.) This natural bluff and the higher elevation of the land has created a separation between the residential area above and the commercial and industrial areas below. Many of the early homes enjoyed good vistas to the south across the river valley. On Main Street, there are examples of banked houses built into the slope of the hill. They appear to be one-story-tall from the street but are indeed two stories from the rear.

The gridiron pattern of the "Original Plat" of 1834 was followed in all successive plats in the district. So too was the generous lot size of 66 feet wide by 132 feet long (except for those lots necessarily affected by the curved line of the railroad tracks, which were even larger. The uniformity in lot size has resulted in a general homogeneity of development. In some instances, home builders combined lots, resulting in very large surrounding lawns (e.g., 208 and 313 W. Hill). Occasionally two houses are built on one lot (e.g., the 100 block of Main Street). But for the most part, the district's houses were built on equal sized parcels. There is no uniform setback distance, but the pattern established very early on of building close to the street, leaving the rear of the lot for stables and outbuildings on the alley line, was generally followed by all.

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 66

Quadrangle name Wabash, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A 

1	6	5	9	9	4	3	5	4	5	1	7	2	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

1	6	5	9	9	4	8	0	4	5	1	6	7	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

1	6	5	9	8	4	0	0	4	5	1	6	5	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

1	6	5	9	8	3	7	0	4	5	1	6	9	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ellen Gadski, Architectural Historian - See continuation sheet

organization Wabash Marketplace Inc. date March 31, 1987

street & number P.O. Box 432 telephone (219) 563-1102

city or town Wabash state Indiana

# 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. Riberson

title 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

## 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/
<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 checked="" 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)
<b>Specific dates</b>	c. 1840 - 1930	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Various	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Wabash Residential District is significant for the homes of the commercial, industrial and civic leaders of the community from the earliest period of settlement through 1930. In many cases, these houses represent the only tangible links to 19th-century businesses, industries or institutions whose buildings have been demolished over the years. Scattered throughout the district are the homes of Wabash's once-thriving Jewish population, which played a key role in the city's economic development. Architecturally significant buildings comprise a large percentage of the total number of homes. From the simplest Federal style structures built in the 1840s and 1850s during Wabash's early settlement through to Colonial Revival examples of the early 20th century, a great variety of architectural styles exists. Especially prominent among these styles is the Italianate, popular in the late 1870s.

### Early Settlement

The 1826 Treaty of Paradise Springs between the Miami and Potawatami Indians and the U. S. government opened settlement to the Wabash County area. By a special treaty in October 1826, the wife and children of Miami Chief "Charley" were granted a 640-acre section of land north of the Wabash River in Township 27.<sup>1</sup> The state's purchase of land for the Wabash and Erie Canal in 1832 and 1833 prompted the platting of "Wabashtown" in April 1834 by Colonel David Burr, a canal commissioner, and Hugh Hanna. The "original plat," as it is called today, divided the tract into 152 lots, 66 by 132 feet. The first sale of town lots took place just 24 hours after the bids had been let for construction of the canal in May 1834. Three years later, in 1837, 80 more lots were added to the north.<sup>2</sup> This plat then extended north from the canal to Maple Street, with Cass Street at its west edge and Allen Street at its east. The four-block-wide plat was bisected by Wabash Street, which has continued since this time to serve as the east/west demarcation of the city. In September 1836 the land of "Charley Reserve," to the west of the original plat, was sold by the chief's heirs to land speculators William G. Ewing, George W. Ewing, George B. Walker and William Edsall.<sup>3</sup> Thus, by the late 1830s, the land parceling, the arrival of the canal, and Wabash's selection as the county seat were all prime factors in encouraging development of a new town.

(See continuation sheet)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

The distribution of frame, brick and stone structures is fairly typical, with frame structures predominating. A large percentage of them have native limestone foundations. The houses range from one to two-and-a-half stories tall with two-story houses most common. The tallest homes are the Italianates of the late 1870s with their attenuated proportions. The largest and tallest building in the district is the high school.

Old trees, predominantly maples, add immeasurably to the district's sense of place and seasonal beauty. Without doubt many of them were planted by homeowners over a hundred years ago. Some immense trees completely overshadow the houses, dwarfing even the proportionately tall Italianates (See Photo 11).

Of the 209 primary buildings within the boundaries, 201 can be considered as contributing to the overall historic and architectural character of the district. This very high percentage of contributing buildings has been fieldchecked and verified against a Sanborn map surveyed in 1930, the end year of the district's period of significance. This process has also been followed in evaluating the 116 outbuildings, 82 of which can be considered as contributing. Thus the total count of all buildings within the district, primary and outbuildings, is 325, with 283 evaluated as contributing. The sketch map graphically identifies all 42 non-contributing buildings with shading. There are no structures, objects or sites among the historic resources.

There follows a description and integral brief history of 43 structures selected as "pivotal buildings" largely because of their architectural merit. The descriptions address scale, structure, plan, materials, design and stylistic features. The opening paragraph summarizes the history, focusing upon the original construction and the major owners and/or tenants. For the convenience of viewing the accompanying photographs while reading the descriptions, the buildings are listed numerically by map number. Starting at the south of the district, the numbers run from east to west (right to left) along the streets and progress northward.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

Doob-Wass House  
52 S. Miami Street

Photo 1

Harry O. Thompson (1860-1928), who was employed in the hardware business all his life, built this house on speculation in 1892. Three years later he sold it to Adolph Doob (1859-1934), an Austrian Jewish immigrant who was the proprietor of the New York Store on West Canal Street. Doob and his wife Jennie resided here until the early teens, when the house passed to William Wass (1857-1930), the superintendent of bridges and buildings for the Big Four Railroad for over 15 years. Following the death of Wass and his wife, their widowed daughter-in-law Hazel lived here until the late 1960s.

The two-and-a-half-story brick house is rectangular in plan, three bays wide on each side. The simple gable roof still retains its patterned slate. The simplicity and boxiness of the house's form is offset by the porch that wraps around the main (east) and south facades. Typical of Eastlake-style porches popular in Indiana circa 1890, this one features turned posts and a spindle-and-bead frieze. Along the eaves and the gable ends, carved brackets alternate with raised bullseyes. A two-story frame addition was made to the rear during the teens, probably during the Wass family's residency.

Jackson Family House  
178 W. Main Street

Photo 3

Mitchell Y. Jackson (b. 1817) and his wife Martha and Alexander E. Jackson (b. 1821) and his wife Prudence built this house in 1850. The two brothers, natives of Ohio, were both merchants who had come to Indiana in the 1840s. Little is known about them other than that Alexander Jackson built an ashery in Somerset in 1867. They sold the house in 1854, and the property changed hands numerous times during the 19th century. From 1888 until 1903, the wife and four children of William McClure (d. 1887) lived here.

This structure is typical of the small Federal style vernacular house built during Wabash's early settlement. The front brick portion on a fieldstone foundation is one story tall, rectangular in plan and one room deep, with the ridge of its low pitched gable roof parallel to the street. At the rear is an L-shaped frame section that may be original. The symmetrical facade is five bays wide with regularly spaced openings. Two doors, formerly with transoms, exist at the center bay and the bay to its immediate west. Plain lintels surmount the windows of two-over-two lights. The current porch with its latticework skirting was built in 1986 to the same approximate outline as an early 20th-century-porch. Originally there probably was no porch, since the earliest Sanborn maps indicate that the house was lacking such a feature.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 Old Wabash Residential Historic DistrictTalbert-Weesner House  
206 W. Main Street

Photo 4

This house has gone through a series of transformations by successive owners. In 1893 William O. Talbert and his wife Mary purchased the lot and made a major T-plan addition to the east of a long and narrow one-story house that existed on the site. Mr. Talbert (1857-1946) was involved in the trade of horses and had one of the largest buying and shipping businesses in Indiana. He exported thousands of horses to Europe before World War I. He was also president of the Citizens Savings and Trust Company in the late teens. In July 1902 the Talberts and Clarkson and Anna Weesner exchanged residences in a rather unusual property transaction; the Talberts then moved to 313 W. Hill Street and the Weesners moved to this address. Another substantial remodeling took place at this time, resulting in the house essentially as it is today. The Weesners lived here until Clarkson's death in 1924. (For biographical information, see 313 W. Hill Street.) It was while at this house that Weesner edited the two-volume History of Wabash County published in 1914; soon after, he suffered a paralyzing stroke and was bed-ridden here for the rest of his life.

Much of the irregularity of plan in this one-and-a-half-story house owes to its accretive building history. The west part of the house, which existed in the 1890s when the Talberts attached their new T-plan house, consisted of three separate one-story sections. The Weesners then added Neoclassical features popular in 1902 to the existing agglomeration. One feature certainly added at this time was the south elevation's porch with its foundation and piers of heavy, coursed limestone blocks, its colonettes, its dentilled frieze and its pedimented gable over the entry stairs. Apparently the entire foundation was reworked at this time, as was the majority of its windows. One of the most charming and individualistic features of this house is the arcaded belvedere with its octagonal roof that sits in the valley of the south and east roofs. In the 1920s the attached garage was added to the north end of the house.

John and Lucinda Sivey House  
306 W. Main Street

Photo 7

John Calhoun Sivey (1818-1887) and his wife Lucinda built this house in the late 1850s. Mr. Sivey, a native of Virginia, came to Wabash County in 1840 as one of its early pioneers. After a few years in business in Lagro, he began studying law and in August 1848, he was chosen clerk of Wabash Circuit Court, a position he held for 11 years. In addition to practicing law, he was a land agent who is best known today for giving his name to two real estate plats within the district: Sivey's First and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

Second Additions. In 1862 the Siveys sold their house to John B. Tyer (1827-1914), a native of Delaware, and his wife Sarah. Mr. Tyer, also an early settler in the county (1843), was known locally for his years as constable. In 1876 the Tyers sold the house to their daughter Mary, who married Edward B. Clark. From around 1900 on, the house was apparently rented to tenants as a two-family house. Michael Ridenour (1852-1933), a woodworker employed by the Wabash Cabinet Company, was one of the longest-term tenants, residing here from 1904 until his death.

A wall map of Wabash County published in 1861 by R. J. Skinner included an illustration of this house in its original splendor. Although the Gothic Revival cottage has suffered many unfortunate alterations, it is still interesting as a recognizable example of the style. The house follows the most common plan and form of Gothic Revival houses in Indiana. The main section is a one-and-a-half story rectangular block with a steeply-pitched gable roof. Over the central three bays of the main (south) facade, another broad and steeply-pitched gable projects at right angle from the main roof. The vertical board-and-batten siding on this house (recently exposed after years under asbestos siding) was not very commonly used in Indiana examples of the Gothic Revival. The somewhat crude proportions of the front gable were originally mitigated by carved bargeboards, an elaborate, jigsawed balustrade connecting the gable ends, and a lace-like gable screen below the peak. The four chamfered posts survive from the original two-level porch, but gone is all of its decorative trim. The doorway enframingent with its sidelights and transom is a very late carryover from the Greek Revival. All of the windows are original, including the six-over-six rectangular windows of the main facade, the segmental arched window/door in the gable, and the round arched windows at the east and west facades. Louvered shutters originally occurred at all windows; one set survives at the west elevation.

Thomas and Hannah Whiteside House  
490 W. Main Street

Photo 10

In 1881, within two years of their marriage, Thomas E. and Hannah Whiteside built a new home for themselves and resided here the rest of their lives. William Whiteside, Thomas' father, had settled in Wabash in 1849, opening a cabinetmaker's shop. In 10 years, he was operating the first furniture factory in northern Indiana. While young, Thomas Whiteside (b. 1843) learned the trades of cabinetmaking and finishing and practiced them until enlisting in the army in 1864. Following the Civil War, he was briefly engaged in the lumber business before trying a number of different business ventures. Coincident with his marriage, he became established in a dry goods firm, Whiteside & Goodlander, and remained in business with it over 30 years.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

The elaborate detailing of this late Italianate house is reflective of Thomas Whiteside's background in woodworking. The building has undergone very few alterations in its 100+-year history and retains many original features that often fall victim to home improvements and modernizations (e.g., the front doors with their intricately-carved geometric detail). The two-story frame house is basically rectangular in plan with projecting bays at its east and west sides. From the slate-covered, decked, hipped roof, a steeply pitched gable projects at the center of the main (south) facade. The effect of interrupting the cornice by this feature is perhaps the most distinctive part of the design. All of the rectangular, double-hung windows sport pent hoods above their surrounds, except for the square attic window under the gable. Two original matching porches--one at the north of the west side, the other wrapping around the front and half the east side--have open friezes, decoratively carved brackets, and squared posts. The most detailed trim occurs at the banded cornice with its lines of scallops and dentils and its large beaded brackets.

Matlock-Barnhart House  
510 W. Main Street

Photo 12

This house was built in 1866-67 by Joseph and Almira Matlock, who sold it in August 1867 to James and Martha Barnhart. Joseph H. Matlock (c. 1794-1879), an attorney, judge and early settler of the county, is best remembered locally as the donor of the land for Matlock Cemetery. The house was constructed during his term as the first mayor of Wabash; however, the first residents may have been the Barnharts. James H. Barnhart (1844-1913), a Civil War veteran, was proprietor of a drugstore on Canal Street. In 1872 the Barnharts sold the property to David and Lucinda Thompson, who in turn sold it to Levi and Elsie Patterson in 1891. In 1905 Bossler Walter (1849-1908), president of B. Walter & Company, a manufactory of mechanical table slides, purchased the property but never lived here. (He resided at 349 W. Hill.) The house was extensively rebuilt prior to the residency of Thomas Vaughn, president of the Wabash Cabinet Company, circa 1910. (See 373 W. Hill Street.) In 1922 widow Esther Walter sold the house to Charles Rish, then vice president of B. Walter, and his wife Lucinda. Later in his life, Rish (1872-1958) was president of the Wabash Beverage Company.

This one-and-a-half-story brick house is rectangular in plan with its long side and main entrance fronting Comstock Street. Jerkin-head roofs with cornice returns appear at the north and south elevations. A long brick porch, enclosed at its south end, extends across the entire east elevation. It was built as part of the extensive remodeling of the early 1900s, as was the large, gabled dormer cut into the east slope of the roof and the two smaller hipped dormers on the west. Following the Rish's purchase of the house, small frame additions were made at the northwest corner and a new roof was put on.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6 Old Wabash Residential Historic DistrictAlexander and Millicent Hill House  
593 W. Main Street

Photo 14

Architects Wing and Mahurin of Fort Wayne designed this home for Alexander and Millicent Hill in 1892. Construction was completed by the Hipskind Brothers, local contractors, the following year. Alexander W. Hill (1840-1895), a native of Connecticut, had come to Wabash in 1890 to take charge of the Diamond Match Company's paper mill as general superintendent. In 1893, the year the house was built, he and his brother James A. Hill of Chicago became majority stockholders and changed the company's name to the Wabash Paper Company. Following Alexander Hill's death, his widow and daughter Mary resided here until around 1910. In the late teens and early 20s, Louis L. Hyman, president of the Wabash Canning Company, resided here. Later Nelson G. Hunter (1847-1935), a prominent attorney, circuit court judge, and president of Wabash Loan & Trust Company, lived here with his wife Mary.

A rendering and floor plans of this house were published in the architects' 1896 promotional brochure as well as in an advertisement in the Fort Wayne business directory of 1894. These illustrations show that the house, which was called out as "elegant" in Hill's obituary, has suffered some changes to its original design. The basic form remains the same, namely a two-story frame structure, rectangular in plan, with a decked hipped roof. At the main (north) elevation, there is an off-center pavilion with pedimented gable and a porch with a central, semicircular projection. Now missing are the balustrades that occurred at the roof deck and above the porch, as well as the Palladian window at the second floor of the pavilion. Considering the date of construction, this house was progressive in its use of architectural features of the Colonial Revival style (e.g., modillioned cornice, dentil bands, Palladian window, pedimented gable).

David and Sadie Cohen House  
173 S. Thorne Street

Photo 15

David and Sadie Cohen built this house in 1909, the year they moved to Wabash from Detroit. The existence of a Jewish community here was no doubt a factor in their relocation. Mr. Cohen (1872-1949), a native of Syracuse, New York, opened a clothing store at 220 S. Wabash Street. He remained a retail merchant in the city until the early 1940s. The Cohens resided at 173 S. Thorne for 40 years.

The two-story frame house sits on a coursed limestone foundation at the edge of the bluff. Its lot was probably one of the last undeveloped building sites within the bounds of the district. The house is rectangular in plan with a crossed, flared gambrel roof. This particular variant of the Colonial Revival style was popular nationwide between 1900 and 1920 but

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

is unique in the district. The gambrel fronts are covered with green variegated shingles, while the first floor is sheathed in yellow clapboards. All trim and the classical window frames are painted white. The front porch with its three simple columns appears to be original, while the rear porch is a later addition. One of the most interesting features of the house is the one-story, semicircular bay at the north with its circular-patterned shingles, curved window, and bell-shaped roof.

David and Harriet Marks House  
170 S. Thorne Street

Photo 16

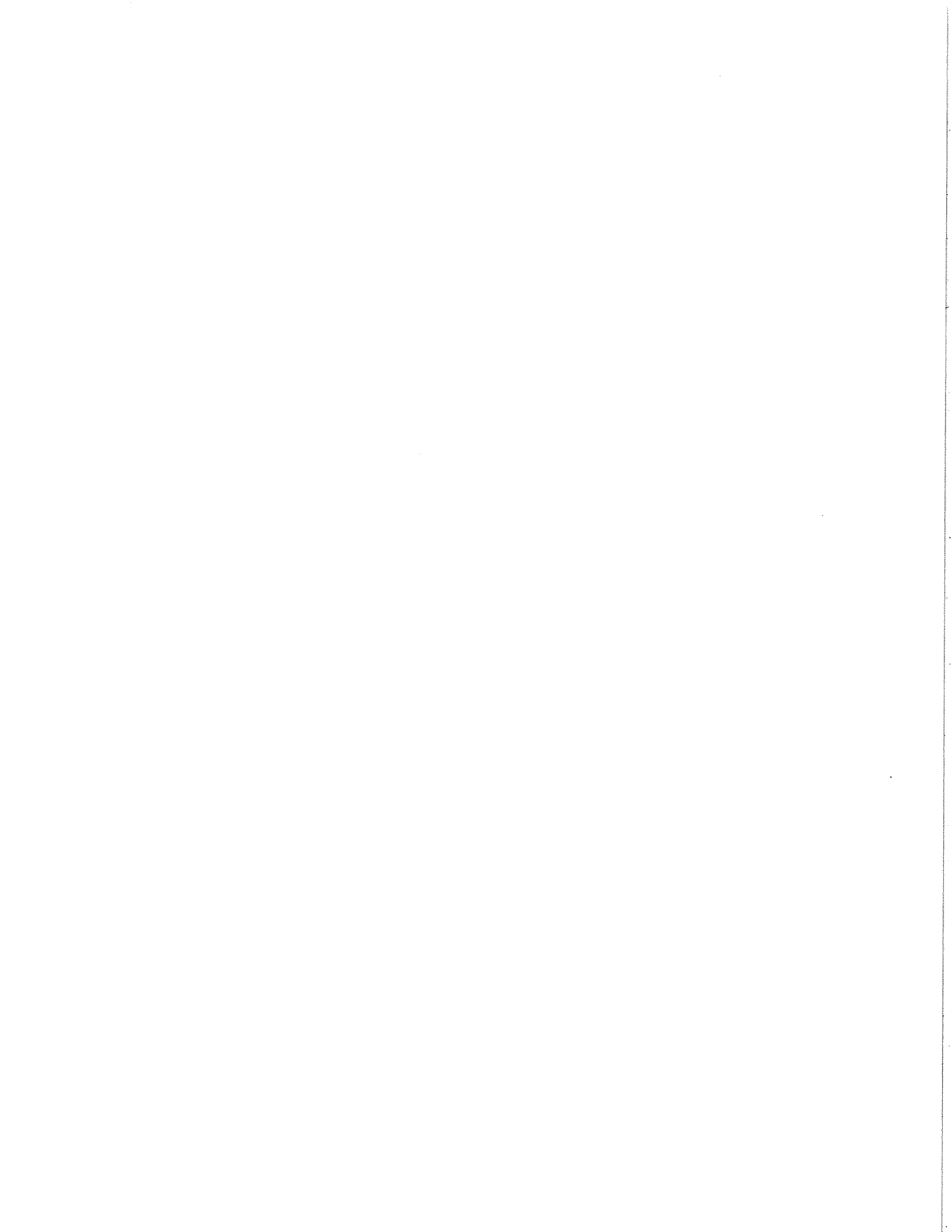
David and Hattie Marks were the first residents of this house, which appears to have been built in 1905 while the property was under the ownership of Alfred and Mary Powell, who lived at the southwest corner of Main and Thorne. The land belonged to the Conner family originally. David Marks (1850-1914), a native of Rochester, New York, came to Wabash in 1880 after his marriage to Harriet Hyman, daughter of one of the early Jewish settlers of Wabash. First in partnership in the Star Woolen Mills until its destruction by fire in 1898, he then became a "commercial traveler." In this capacity, President Wilson called him to be on the claims commission of the Isthmus of Panama in early 1914. He died in Panama several months later. Marks was active in Democratic politics and served as chair of the county's central committee and as city councilman. His wife sold the house to Fred Hipskind in 1919.

This large two-story frame house is of irregular plan with several projecting bays and diagonal corners. Cross gable roofs intersect with a taller pyramidal hipped roof, all covered in patterned slate. A large porch with a coursed, limestone block foundation wraps around the east and south elevations. At the southeast corner there is a semicircular belvedere with conical roof which looks out over the bluff. At the northeast corner, a gabled section projects over the entrance steps and the porch ceiling is arched from here to the door. The porch features paired Tuscan columns above the stone piers that rise into the spindle balustrade. While the house itself represents a carryover of 19th-century domestic architecture, the porch is one of its few stylistically up-to-date features.

Will and Carrie Urschel House  
661 W. Main Street

Photo 19

William H. Urschel and his wife Carrie built a new home for themselves in 1912. W. H. Urschel (1870-1970) was associated with the Wabash Cabinet Company for over 52 years. At the time his new home was built, he was secretary/treasurer of the firm; he later went on to become its president and general manager before the company was sold to General Electric in



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

1941. He was also treasurer of First Federal Savings and Loan for 50 years. Urschel resided here until 1969. The house's present owner, Linda Robertson, was made a Sagamore of the Wabash in 1986.

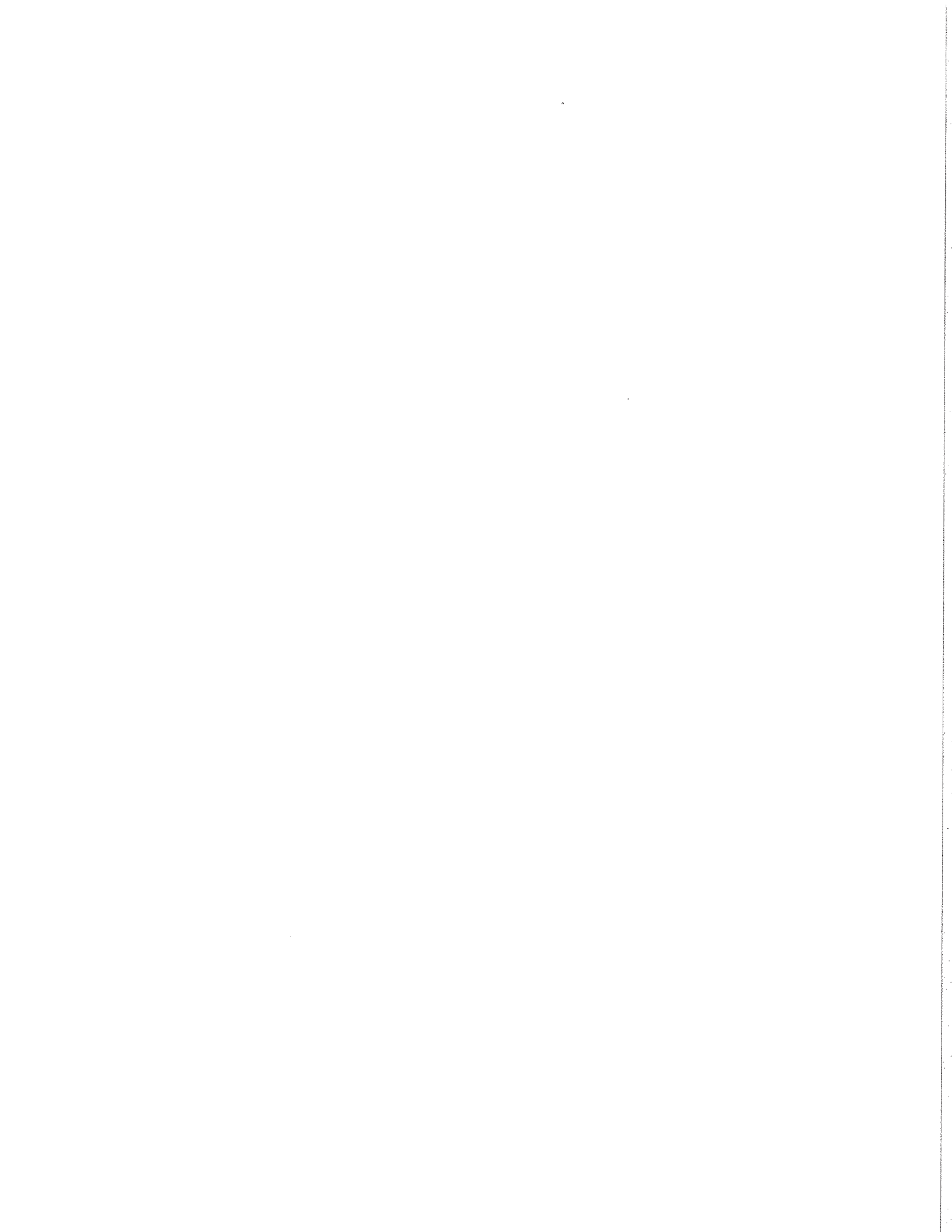
The house represents the most common vernacular form of the Prairie Style, popular in the Midwest before World War I. Square in plan except for the one-story wing to the east, it can also be considered a variant of the American Four-square. A one-story porch with widely spaced piers extends across the front. A pyramidal hipped roof with a central dormer and wide overhanging eaves covers the main, two-story block, while the east wing's low-pitched roof is concealed by a balustrade. The dressed stone sills, water table, second floor plaque, and geometric accents of the porch piers and chimneys contrast well with the variegated brown brick. The trellises of the side wing are one of the most distinctive features of the house. The iron fence that encloses the property remains from the imposing Italianate residence of the Conner family, which existed at the adjacent lot to the west until its demolition in the late 1920s. On the interior of the house, all of the quarter-sawn oak woodwork was personally selected by Mr. Urschel.

Bennett E. Davis House  
78 W. Hill Street

Photo 21

One of the oldest houses on Hill Street survives as the core of this residence. Bennett E. Davis built a small, simple, one-story brick house here on the lot he had purchased in May 1842. Mr. Davis (c. 1811-1895) came to Wabash in the late 1830s and for a number of years ran a small store next door. Because of his role as pioneer storekeeper, he was one of the best known of Wabash's early residents. In 1895 a young physician named Gilbert LaSalle (1870-1941) established his new practice in a small new building next door (70 W. Hill Street). For a period of 30 years, the property was then occupied by members of the medical profession.

Dr. Walter A. Domer (1872-1925) purchased the property around 1905, and soon thereafter, the small Federal style house was greatly enlarged and metamorphosed into its current form. Originally the ridge of the gabled roof was parallel to the street, as still can be discerned, especially at the two end chimneys. When Domer rebuilt the frame rear additions, putting on a brick veneer, he also added on a clapboarded half story and changed the roof orientation so that the ridge ran perpendicular to the street. The broad front gable extends over the full length of the original Federal house, as does the columned front porch built by 1910. (Originally there was a small front porch at the central bay leading to the front door.) At the same time, the doctor also built a link from the side of his residence to his office next door. Dr. Domer saw active service as a U. S. Army Major in France during World War I and was vice president of Farmers and Merchants National Bank at the time of his death.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9 Old Wabash Residential Historic DistrictFirst Christian Church  
110 W. Hill Street

Photo 22

Dr. James Ford, one of Wabash's most prominent early settlers, designed this church building for the First Christian congregation. An amateur architect who lived across the street at 177 W. Hill Street (Photo 27), Ford supervised its construction from excavation of foundations in April 1865 through to completion in January 1871. Dr. L. L. Carpenter served as the first minister of the congregation. Believed to be one of the oldest churches in Wabash County, the building has been in continuous use for over 115 years.

This brick church exhibits an eclectic blend of details from Gothic, Romanesque and Italianate styles executed in 80 varying forms of molded brick. Rectangular in plan, it is six bays long by three bays wide and is roofed by a simple gable. The sanctuary floor is located above a high raised basement. The main (south) elevation features a central pavilion containing the main entrance door within an arch of compound archivolt, and a square tower supporting an octagonal frame belfry with domical roof. Interesting design features include the polygonal, castellated corners, the corbelled cornice, the heavy, semicircular hood molds over the tall arched windows, and the circular window of the entry pavilion. An 1897 photo shows that the castellated corners formerly supported tall chimney pots, and the trim (such as the hood molds) was painted a dark color in contrast to the light color brick walls.

On the interior, to improve acoustics, the sanctuary's front and rear walls are curved in plan and there is a coved ceiling. The stained glass windows, the church's finest decorative feature, are original and have been recently reconditioned. The oak-and-walnut pews arranged in a curved plan were installed in 1890, at which time the gallery was also remodeled. Interior columns and pilasters are marbled plaster.

Two major additions have been made to the building. In the mid-1930s an addition was made to the north end to accommodate two classrooms, a kitchen, a large meeting hall and storage areas. A much larger addition, known as the Educational Building, was built in 1960-61 to the west of the church. Faced in yellow brick, this new section has determined the color of the old church.

Presbyterian Church  
123 W. Hill Street

Photo 23

During the early years of the ministry of Dr. Charles Little (who served the Presbyterian Church of Wabash for nearly 50 years until his death in 1921), plans were made for construction of a new church. In early 1880 the church building that had been constructed in the mid-1850s on the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

present site was demolished, and work on the new building commenced on May 16. Construction spanned a period of four years. In September 1881 the basement was completed and work was temporarily stalled for lack of funds. However, by the time the church was dedicated in January 1884, nearly the entire construction cost of approximately \$28,000 had been paid. In 1894 a 13-room brick parsonage was constructed on the lot immediately to the west. This building served a residential function until 1952, when it was remodeled as the Christian Education Building and office. This adaptive use was short-lived, however, as in 1960, the building was demolished to make way for a large, modern structure. Dedicated in September 1961, the new Christian Education Building is connected to the church by means of a covered walkway.

Although the church's sanctuary has undergone numerous changes, the exterior of the building is preserved largely as built. The brick structure exhibits many characteristics of the Gothic Revival style, though it is a vernacular rather than high-style interpretation. A broad gable roof extends over the nave, which is rectangular in plan. The structure is built upon a high foundation of coursed limestone blocks. Because the site slopes downward to the south, this foundation becomes the exposed walls of the basement at the rear of the building. It is curious that the pointed arch windows of the basement have surrounds of stone, while those of the main floor have plain brick ones. This probably reflects an in-construction economy measure. The east and west walls are articulated by stone-capped brick buttresses between the five window bays. At the northwest corner, a multistaged tower supports a belfry which rises to a steeple to a total of 90 feet high. In contrast to the tower, the main facade exhibits some unorthodox proportions. The main entrance is sheltered by a gabled roof projection over a four-center arch. Directly above this is a circular, stained glass rose window within an arched line of brick. Along the gable end runs corbelled, stepped brickwork and a paneled cornice. An 1897 photo shows that the brick trim was formerly in a darker, contrasting color and iron cresting ran along the ridge of a patterned slate roof.

Fred Grant, a Wabash builder who is credited with having been responsible for the brick and stonework, may have been the church's architect as well. In 1883 he submitted architectural plans for Wabash City Hall and was awarded the building contract.

Zeigler-Simon House  
142-44 W. Hill Street

Photo 24

Nelson and Anna Zeigler built this house circa 1880 and sold it to Samuel Simon in February 1887. Mr. Zeigler (1841-1896) was a dry goods merchant in Wabash and later Attica who had begun his business career in his father's roving commission business in Wabash, Indianapolis and



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

Brooklyn. Anna Zeigler was the librarian of the Round Table Literary Club's Library, which opened in the courthouse in 1890 as Wabash's first official library. When Sam Simon (1855-1917) and his wife Rosa purchased the house, he was in partnership in Simon Brothers clothing store, which continued in business until 1907. At that time, Simon went into partnership with his son-in-law Benjamin Cook, who had taken up residence at 142-44 W. Hill when it was converted to a two-family house.

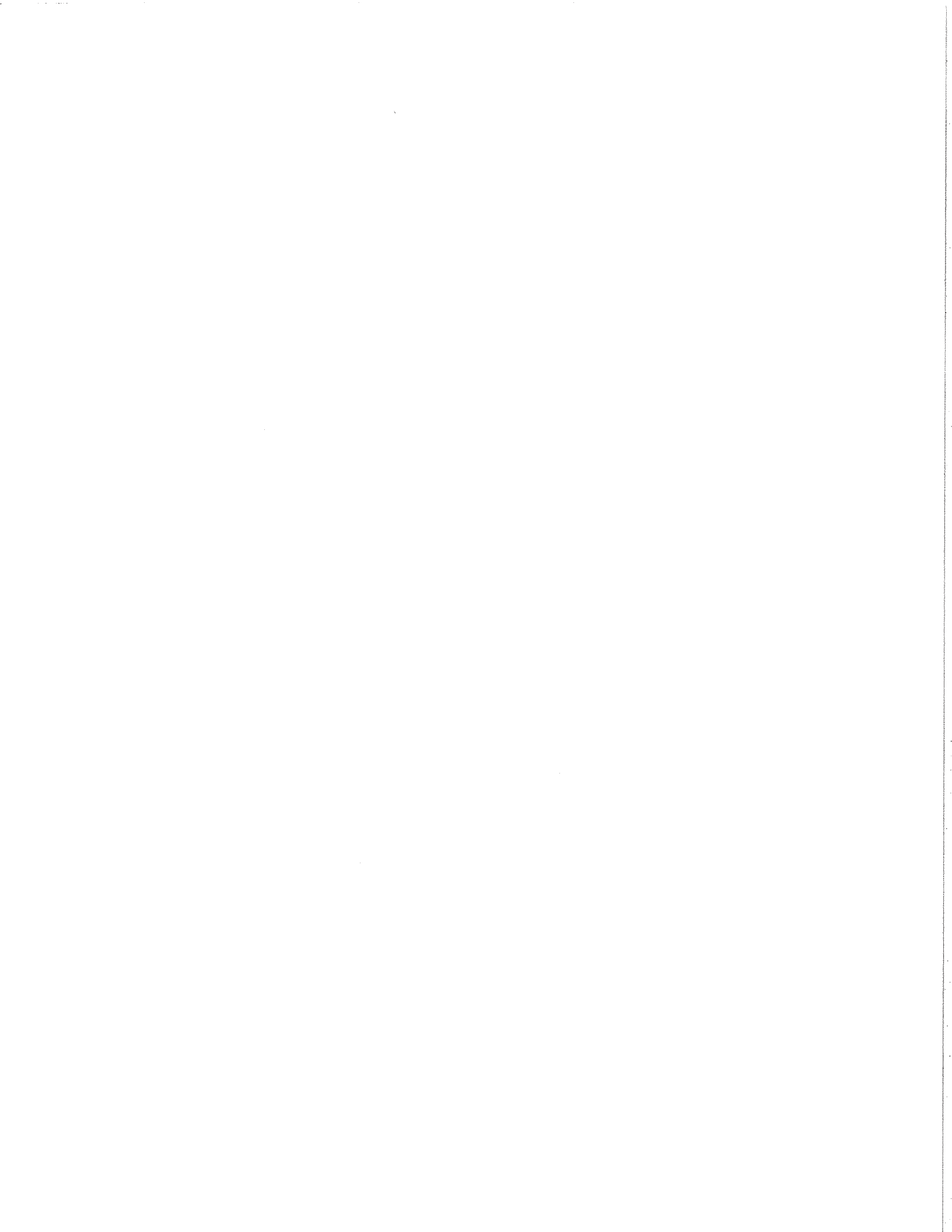
The prominent porch that wraps around the front of this house was built around 1900. Although well constructed with a coursed limestone foundation and piers, it tends to obscure the original character of the house. The concave-sided Mansard roof of this two-story frame residence is a hallmark of the Second Empire Style, which was not common in Wabash. One commercial building in this style (64 W. Canal Street) dates to the same time, rather late in the Second Empire's reign. Originally a smaller porch existed at the front elevation's L, between the south and east projecting bays. It appears that the entire house was re-sided, perhaps at the time the house was remodeled and divided into a two-family residence in 1909. Still later, composition shingles were added to the second floor.

Thurston-Wolf House  
156 W. Hill Street

Photo 25

It is believed that William K. Thurston (1834-1904), owner of a Wabash pharmacy, built this house in the 1860s. Benjamin and Julia Wolf then purchased it in 1879. The house has since come to be associated solely with the Wolf family, which has resided here ever since. Benjamin Wolf (1842-1912) was one of the foremost entrepreneurs of early Wabash and was long associated with the Beitman, Wolf and Company department store, founded in 1868 on W. Canal Street (within the Wabash Marketplace Historic District). At the age of 18, Wolf emigrated from the Rhineland of Germany and, like many of his Jewish compatriots, first earned his livelihood as a peddler. In 1863, a few years after his arrival in Wabash, he opened a butcher shop and was on his way to becoming one of the most successful businessmen in the city. In 1888 he took part in the organization of the Wabash National Bank, and in 1902 was one of the incorporators of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank. Wolf was also a leader of the Jewish community and was among the organizers of the Rodef Sholem congregation and its cemetery.

This two-story brick house has a typical Italianate plan with a three-sided bay projecting from the east extension. The paired brackets at the cornice, which support the overhanging eaves of the decked hipped roof, are the only remaining decorative features of the style. The stone window lintels are very plain and more characteristic of earlier buildings. The current semicircular front porch of classical derivation was designed by Donald Rinearson in 1948 during Harold Wolf's ownership of the house.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

Originally a porch that was rectangular in plan existed at the front door, and another side porch stood at the L on the east side. Around 1900 these were replaced by a wraparound porch, which in turn yielded to the present one.

Edward and Florence Bechtol House  
161 W. Hill Street

Photo 26

Construction of the foundation of a new house for Edward and Florence Bechtol was under way in November 1901 when the Sanborn map of that date was drawn. Prior to that time, a small, one-story frame structure, which served as the medical office of Dr. Ford, existed at the northeast corner of the lot. Edward Bechtol (1847-1927), a native of Wabash County, was a shoe merchant in Wabash for over 40 years. His business was located on W. Canal Street within the bounds of the Wabash Marketplace Historic District.

Typical of many houses built at the turn of the century, this large two-and-a-half story frame house blends stylistic elements of Victorian and Classical Revival styles. Its general massing, irregular plan, combined hipped and cross gabled, slate-covered roofs, and wall surfaces harken back to buildings popular in the mid 1880s. The residence's porches, however, express a restrained classical style with their Tuscan columns resting on panelled bases. The front doorway also uses a classical scheme with flanking, fluted pilasters. The curvilinear, wraparound porch on a coursed limestone foundation was a very popular feature to add to Wabash homes in the early 1900s. This one, which is original to the house, is a fine example to view since it is not hidden by the usual foundation plantings.

James and America Ford House  
177-79 W. Hill Street

Photo 27

Dr. James Ford (1812-1898) and his wife America (1819-1890) moved from Connersville to Wabash in January 1841. In June of that year, they purchased lots on Hill Street and were bound by the terms of the deed "to erect a house on the property, worth \$400, in one year." By the end of October, one room of a contemplated home was built and occupied "rough and tumble." It is possible that this single room forms a part of the present house; however, it is equally likely that the Fords waited some years to erect this large, two-story house at 177 W. Hill.

In 1835 Ford began his medical practice, which he continued for over 40 years in Wabash, becoming one of the most respected doctors of the region. He was one of the charter trustees of Northwest Christian (Butler) University and was on the board for 11 years until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted and served as a Regimental Surgeon. Ford was greatly interested in "sanitary topography" and wrote a scientific treatise

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 13 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

on selecting healthy sites upon which to build. Considered an amateur architect, Ford's role in the construction of Wabash Christian Church is discussed elsewhere in this section. Dr. Ford's descendants continued to live in this house into the 1970s. His eldest surviving daughter, Allena, her husband, Captain B. F. Williams (1830-1919, "father" of Memorial Hall), and their children formed the extended family here during the 19th century. The house then passed to Dr. Ford's grandson Frank Williams and to his great-granddaughter and her husband, Parker T. Spinney.

This two-story brick house, which was not painted until the 20th century, rests on a foundation of coursed, native stone. The plan is formed by three intersecting sections, each with a gabled roof. Originally the house probably retained more Greek Revival characteristics but was modified and updated numerous times. The most obvious alterations occur at the roofline with the distinctive, stepped brick cornice, paired brackets, and the matching roof deck, which used to support a widow's walk. Given the similarity of the cornice's arcade motif to that of the Christian Church (Photo 22), it is possible that these changes were made in the mid 1860s. Sanborn maps and old family photos reveal the former existence of a porch on the east side; a one-story, three-sided bay with balustrade at the projecting north elevation; and a front porch in the L-section at front which was replete with "gingerbread." There were also louvered shutters at all the windows. By 1901, the front bay was removed and the current, classically-derived front porch was added. Circa 1920, the house was divided into a two-family house. The west side sleeping porch probably dates from this time. A Greek Revival one-and-a-half-story stable (probably 1840s) stands on the back lot line but is in a poor state of preservation.

Wabash Carnegie Public Library  
188 W. Hill Street

Photo 28

Upon application by the Wabash Public Library Advisory Board, led by Warren Bigler and Mrs. C. E. Cowgill, Andrew Carnegie donated \$20,000 to the City of Wabash for the erection of a new library building. The City purchased a site from Jacob and Matilda Herff at the northeast corner of Hill and Cass, which was then cleared of their residence. Construction was begun on the new building late in 1901 and completed by April 1903. John Franklin Wing of the Fort Wayne firm of Wing and Mahurin was its architect, while J. H. Hipskind and Son of Wabash was its general contractor. The 5,000-square-foot building, which initially housed less than 5,000 books, was built at a cost of \$18,000. In 1970 construction was begun on a major addition to the east which nearly tripled the size of the building. The architectural firm of Pecsok, Jelliffe and Randall of Indianapolis designed this addition, which is basically sympathetic to the old building in its scale and materials. Wermuth Inc. of Fort Wayne completed the new structure in May 1972 at a cost of approximately \$350,000.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 14 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

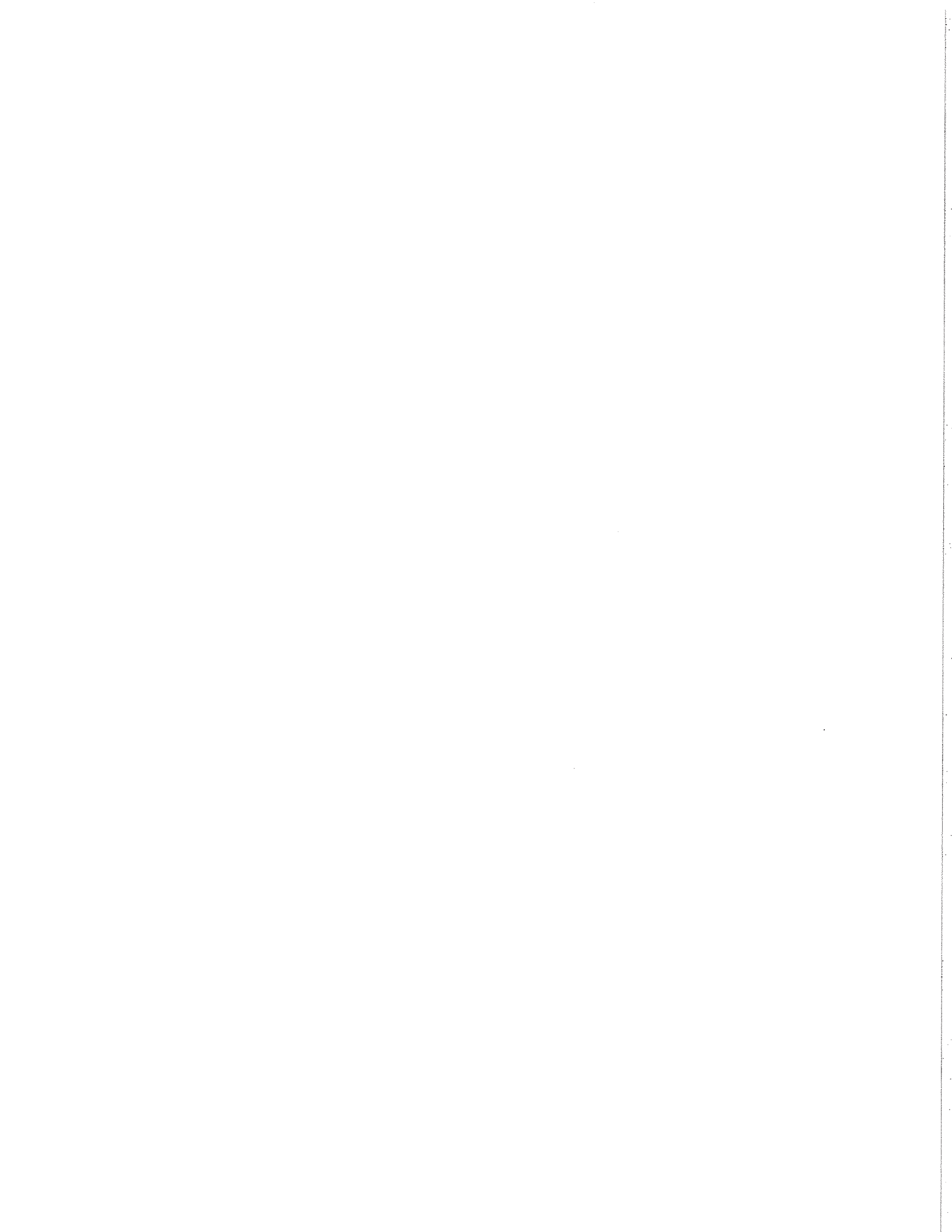
The original Neoclassical building is cruciform in plan with a copper dome rising at the juncture of the crossed gable roof. Constructed of brick and faced in Bedford limestone, it is one story tall on a high raised basement. The temple front south arm formerly marked the main entrance to the building; four Ionic columns support the entablature and pediment of this portico, from which a grand flight of steps led to Hill Street. The smooth-faced ashlar walls contain simple rectangular window openings. New single-pane tinted windows installed in the early 1970s tend to create a pronounced severity that was not evident in the original fenestration. The rustication of the raised basement and the corner pilasters gave a design theme to the new addition, which is faced in coursed, smooth limestone with pronounced horizontal joints. Decorative detailing of the exterior of the original building is very restrained, the acroteria of the south pediment and the consoles at the sides of the former main door being the only examples of applied ornament. On the interior, the main reading room is notable for its illuminated dome of colored wire glass and its 20-foot-tall columns.

Thomas and Mary McNamee House  
208 W. Hill Street

Photo 29

This home was built around 1870 by Thomas McNamee (1833-1916), a Wabash resident since childhood who was of Scotch-Irish descent. Members of his family continued to reside here into the 1940s. McNamee had entered business in the city in 1855 with a tin shop and stove store. His business soon expanded into hardware in partnership with George King, and by 1870 had prospered to the extent that it was possible to build a new house on the prime lot he had purchased in 1864. McNamee was one of the three founders of the Wabash County Bank in 1877 and was president of its successor institution, the Wabash National Bank, for nearly 20 years until his death. In civic affairs he served several terms as city and county councilman and was a member of the school board. According to the 1914 History of Wabash County, McNamee was "one of the most widely known men in the county." His residence reflected his stature and is also one of the most widely known of Wabash due to its publication in Wilbur Peat's seminal work Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century.

Peat classified the house as an example of the "composite mode" of Italianate houses with French towers and described it as "thick set and richly adorned." Except for the classically inspired porch with roof balustrade at the southeast corner (which had replaced the original, smaller Italianate porch here by 1901), the house has survived with relatively few major alterations. The basic plan of this two-story brick house would be symmetrical were it not for the projecting tower. The main entry located here appears even more "thickly set" or squat due to the masking of the original arched, double-leafed door and the loss of the balustrade of the porch roof. The richly molded window hoods add to the



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 15 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

heaviness in proportion. Originally this house was painted a soft gray color, but paint has been removed from the brick in recent years. Decorative iron cresting formerly occurred above the slate roof, including that of the truncated pyramidal tower. The McNamee House is claimed to have had "the first bathroom in Wabash," which would be consistent with its first owner's business interests.

Wabash High School  
209 W. Hill Street

Photo 30

In April 1894 the cornerstone was laid for the new high school that had been begun the previous summer. Owing to initial difficulty in selling bonds for the \$35,000 project, construction had been stalled at the foundation level in the fall of 1893. Construction was then completed in November 1894 by local contractors, the Hipskind Brothers. The school was initially designed to accommodate 350 students. In addition to classrooms, the first floor contained a reception area and large assembly hall and the second floor contained a library, principal's office, and meeting room for the Board of Education. Modern equipment included electrical lighting, the Smead system of steam heating and ventilating, and Smead's dry closets. The officers of the Board of Education who contributed so much to the planning of this progressive structure included J. H. Bruner, President; Warren Bigler, Treasurer, and M. S. Howe, Secretary. In 1926 a new high school was built and this building became the city's junior high school. A low, flat-roofed, one-story addition was made to the northeast corner for a gymnasium in 1954. (Although constructed of stone, this unfortunate addition is very detracting.) The building closed its doors to educational use in 1962. It has been vacant since 1982 and is now endangered.

Testifying to architects Wing and Mahurin's exceptional design for the new high school, a full plate rendering of the building was published in a March 1894 issue of the American Architect and Building News (which seldom reported on Indiana architecture). The two-story Romanesque Revival building is constructed of brick faced with oolitic limestone from Bedford, Indiana. Above the foundation of local limestone, there are alternating courses of dressed and rough Bedford stone. Its building footprint measures 116 by 65 and a central, arcaded tower with pyramidal roof rises 108 feet. A broad hipped roof extends over the main front block, while a gable covers the rear section. These roofs, as well as that of the rear, apse-like, one-story auditorium, are covered in slate. The symmetrical main (north) elevation features an arcaded entry loggia between two semicircular towers with conical roofs. In and above the capitals of the squat colonettes supporting the round arches at the entry, there are carved stone faces to greet and amuse the entering students. Winged gargoyles of unknown species project from the corners of the tower, while more carved faces of humans and animals occur on all four faces of the tower above its arcade. On the interior, woodwork is of quarter-sawn white oak. This

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 16 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

building represents one of the finest examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in the state and is notable for the quality of its varied stone detailing of medieval inspiration.

Thomas F. and Lucetta Payne House  
256 W. Hill Street

Photo 31

Thomas F. Payne (1826-1918) and his wife Lucetta moved into this house in December 1853, presumably at its completion. The couple had been married for about one year when construction was begun on their life-long home, which remained in the immediate family for over 100 years. Thomas Payne (a direct descendant of the Revolutionary War figure of the same name) settled in Wabash in August 1849 and immediately began a business in his trade as cabinetmaker. By the mid-1880s, the furniture factory he established, which was then the largest cabinet works within 100 miles of Wabash, employed more people than any other business in the city (with the possible exception of the School Furniture Company). Annual sales of T. F. Payne & Co. were then approximately \$50,000. The building erected in 1898 for the retail sale of the company's furniture stands today at 84 W. Market Street in the Wabash Marketplace Historic District.

The main block of this two-story brick house is five bays wide along Hill Street. The building extends to the north in a two-story T-plan section with a one-story extension. Originally incorporating some architectural elements of the Greek Revival style, such as the fanlight and sidelights of the central door and possibly a gabled roof on the main block, the simple house was apparently updated in the 1870s Italianate style with a new decked hipped roof and a new bracketed cornice. The existing front porch, which extends across the full width of the house, was constructed in the first decade of the 20th century. Prior to this, a small porch was located at the central bay. The one-story brick outbuilding on a rubble limestone foundation (located to the west of the house) probably coincides with the 1853 construction of the Payne residence.

Harmon and Carolyn Wolf House  
261 W. Hill Street

Photo 32

The builder and first residents of this house, presumed to have been built in the late 1890s, remain a mystery. Research into the property's title and a review of city directories have not yielded any information. The house has always been known as the Wolf House; however, Harmon and Carrie Wolf did not move here from their home on East Main Street until after 1904. The house has been associated with the Wolf family because of their long residency at this address through the mid-1940s. Harmon Wolf (b. 1845), a German Jew who emigrated to Wabash in 1866, was at one time



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 17 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

one of the largest importers of Belgian draft horses in the United States. His business was continued by his two sons, Louis (d. 1945) and Henry (1878-1959), who lived with their families at this address.

The Wolf House is a highly individualistic expression of the Romanesque Revival style. Its designer obviously took much inspiration from the high school next door, built of the same rock-faced, coursed limestone. In plan it is a simple rectangle with its short end parallel to the street. There are three projecting bays with sheetmetal ornamentation; the north and east ones are vaguely modeled on tourelles. From the decked hipped roof spring seven arched top dormers with decorative motifs that match those of the bays. The first floor windows and doors are surmounted by semicircular hoods with carved stone tympana. Second floor windows display dressed stone lintels of interesting form. The classically dentilled stringcourse between floors is quite an unusual foil to the stone facade. At the main (north) and side (east) entrances, there are stone porches. Altogether this house is one of the most intriguing high-style residences in Wabash. Unfortunately, its architect remains unknown.

Otto and Sadie Ebbinghouse House  
288 W. Hill Street

Photo 33

Ernest Otto Ebbinghouse (1873-1961) and his wife Sadie built this house circa 1918, four years after their marriage. Mr. Ebbinghouse was the eldest son of an early settler, August Ebbinghouse, a German immigrant who had come to Wabash on a canal boat in 1855. Otto was active in the insurance business in Wabash for over 50 years and was president of the Home Loan and Savings Association for 24 years. He lived in this house for 40 years.

The Ebbinghouse House may be the earliest example in Wabash of the Colonial Revival style house so popular across the country during the 1920s. The two-story frame building has an L plan and an original one-story porch along the full width of the west elevation. The front facade of the main rectangular block is perfectly symmetrical and contains characteristic fenestration of multipane glazing in the upper sash. The front entry porch features a roof in basket arch form supported by simple Tuscan columns. The front door is flanked by multipaned sidelights and is surmounted by a carved fan panel. The hipped roof's three-window dormer is curved, echoing the front porch. On the interior, the house features woodwork designed in the Colonial Revival style.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 18 Old Wabash Residential Historic DistrictAlbert and Eva Rohbock House  
291-93 W. Hill Street

Photo 34

In 1877 Albert I. Rohbock (1847-1916) opened his drugstore at the southwest corner of Canal and Wabash Streets. A native of Pittsburgh, he had been a student at the College of Pharmacy in Philadelphia. Based on the success of the business, he and his wife Eva built this house shortly thereafter. The Wabash Plain Dealer of October 1882 reported that the Rohbocks had recently made \$200 worth of improvements on their home on W. Hill Street. From 1890 to 1914, Mr. Rohbock worked for Meyer Brothers of St. Louis and traveled as a representative of the company. Following his death, his wife Eva continued living here through the 1920s.

Built at the end of the period of popularity of the Italianate style, this house follows a standard form and plan but has some unusual stylistic details. The frame structure is two stories tall with an original (though altered) one-story rear section. It has a decked, hipped roof with a gabled extension over the projecting bay at the east. Formerly a porch occurred at the north and northeast sides. Around 1910, the residence became a two-family house. It has been vinyl-sided, but, in an uncommon gesture, the zebra-striped brackets at the eaves have been retained as well as the molded panels below the front, first-floor windows.

Clarkson and Anna Weesner House  
313 W. Hill Street

Photo 35

Clarkson and Anna Weesner built this house in 1885, shortly after their purchase of two lots in the newly-platted "Sivey's Second Addition." Clarkson W. Weesner (1841-1924) was one of Wabash's most prominent citizens at that time. An attorney by profession, he had served as mayor of the city, county clerk, and deputy treasurer. A historian by avocation, Weesner is perhaps best remembered as the editor of the 1914 History of Wabash County. He was also president of the Old Settlers Association. William O. Talbert purchased the house in 1902 and lived here through the 1940s. (See 206 W. Main for biographical information.)

Identified in Peat's book on 19th-century houses as "an exceptionally attractive" example of the "Neo-Jacobean" frame residence, this house is a study in architectural variety. The main part of the two-and-a-half-story house is basically rectangular, which is masked by the myriad of projecting bays, porches, and diagonally cut corners. This is further accentuated at the roofline by the dormers, no two of which are alike; the combination of gabled, hipped, and jerkin-head roof forms; and the two tall, decoratively detailed brick chimneys. The building's wall surfaces are given similar complexity by the use of wave-patterned shingles between floors and by the banding and panelling of horizontal and vertical boards, an effect that was no doubt heightened by the original paint scheme. Perhaps the most unusual

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 19 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

feature of this house is the circular window, set into a latticework enframement of colored glass, at the diagonal bay at the northeast corner. A two-story carriagehouse, in the same distinctive style, sits at the southwest corner of the lot.

Perry and Mary Shank House  
339 W. Hill Street

Photo 36

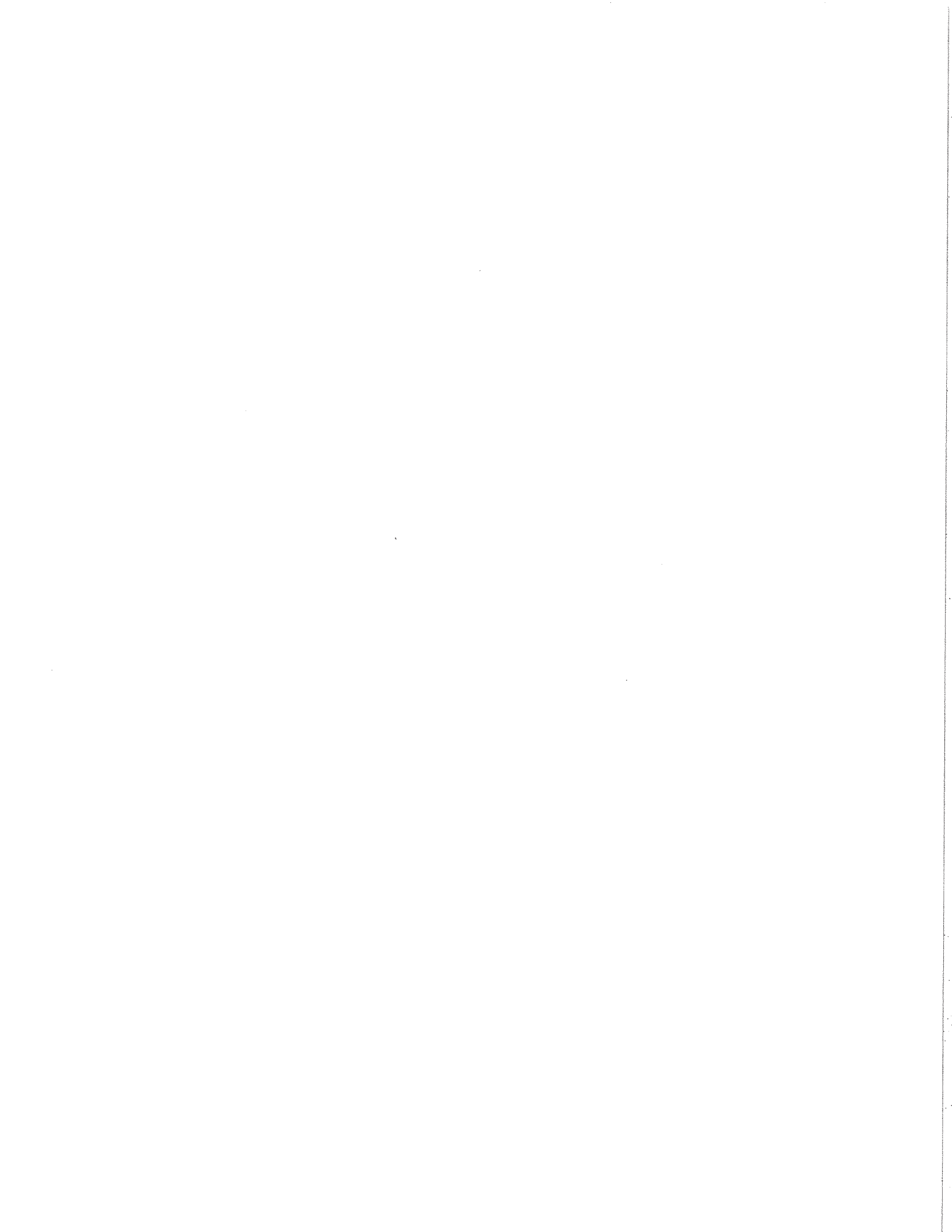
This house was built in the mid 1890s by Perry Shank and his wife Mary, the former widow of John Anderson. At the time the house was constructed, Perry Shank was a dealer in china, glass and tinware with a shop on S. Wabash Street. Members of the Anderson family who resided here in the 1890s included Mrs. Ellen Anderson and Miss Lida Anderson, a saleswoman in the Shank store. Dr. Amos L. Stephenson (1845-1937) and his second wife Blanche moved here upon their marriage in 1912. Stephenson practiced dentistry in Wabash for three decades following his service in the Civil War. His wife Blanche continued to reside here until 1940.

The two porches and entrances at the north and east sides make this two-story frame house appear to be a double; however, it was built as a single-family residence. The predominance and variety of the gable treatments in the overall design take inspiration from the Shingle Style. The gable ends of the roof feature an overhang with coursed shingles, a center section of panels and bullseyes, and a gable pent of fishscale shingles. The gable ends of the two projecting porches are treated differently, one in latticework, the other in vertical slats. The curved bay of the east elevation has an interesting siding of narrow, vertical flush boards, which contrasts well with the adjoining clapboarded walls with their banding and paneling. Once again, the original multicolored paint scheme would have accentuated the contrasting effect. A number of windows contain one large pane surrounded by small, square lights, a design characteristic of the Queen Anne style.

Charles and Frances Hutton House  
344 W. Hill Street

Photo 37

Charles and Frances Hutton built this house in 1875 and resided here for 25 years. Mr. Hutton, born in 1843 in Ohio, was a saddler by trade. In 1899 the house was sold to Howard M. Atkinson, president of the Wabash Manufacturing Company, and his wife Alice, who lived here until around 1910. They were followed by Charles Rish, vice president of B. Walter & Company, and his wife Lucinda (see 510 W. Main Street). Circa 1918 Edward Eikenberry, an attorney, and his wife Mary purchased the home. Mrs. Eikenberry continued to live here into the 1940s.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 20 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

This two-story Italianate frame house has a typical plan with a two-story projecting bay at its east elevation. The slate-covered roof consists of a series of decked hips. The porch of fluted columns replaced the porches at the same location that gave separate entrances to the two doors. On the second floor, the tall windows still retain their bracketed hoods, while, at the roofline, carved brackets support the overhanging eaves. At the attic frieze, eyebrow windows formerly alternated with panels of diagonal siding.

Frank and Henrietta DePuy House  
373 W. Hill Street

Photo 38

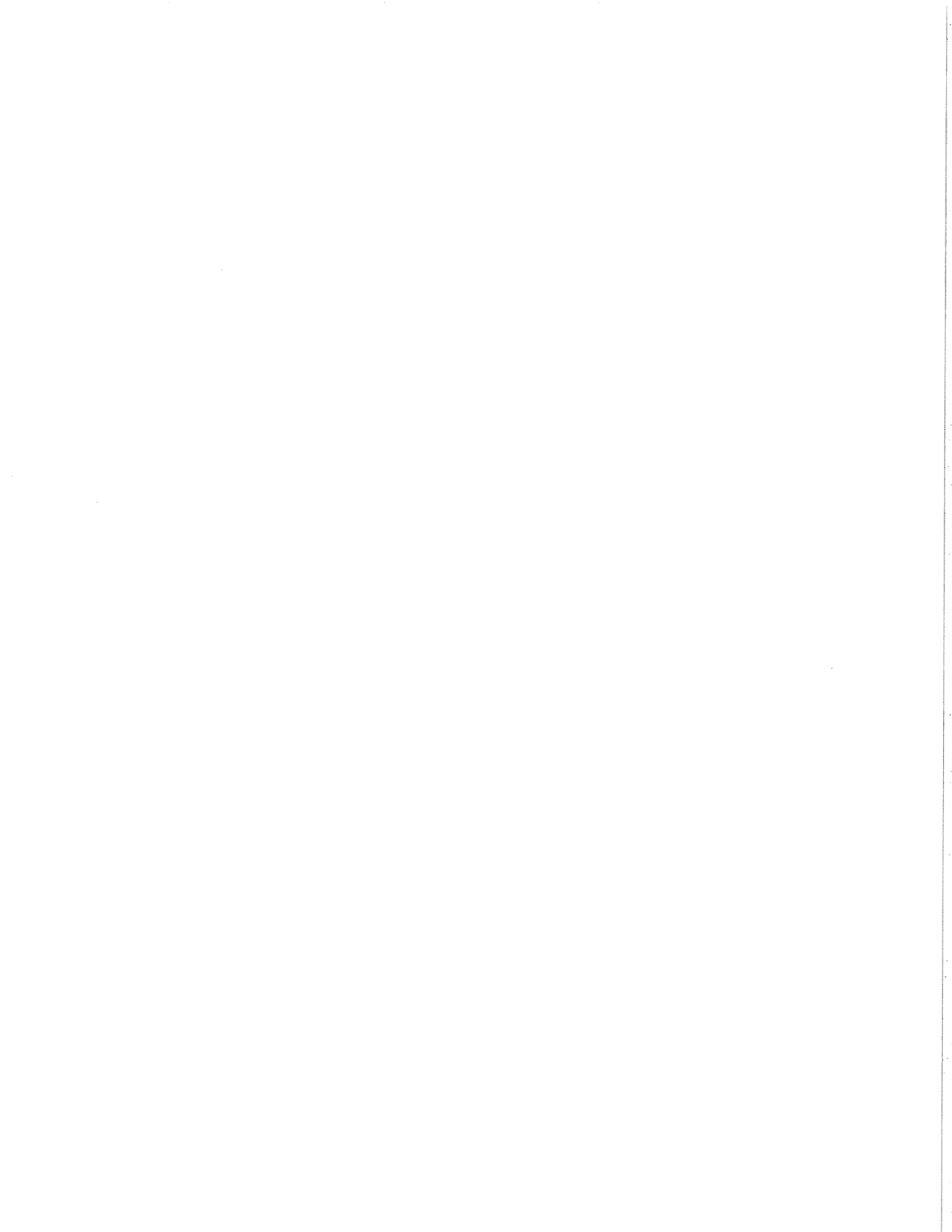
Frank and Henrietta DePuy built this residence soon after their marriage in 1899. DePuy was in partnership with his brother Romeo in a real estate firm for many years. Having moved to Wabash with his parents in 1864 (see 189 N. Miami), he was a resident of the city for the majority of his life. In the late teens, Thomas F. Vaughn (1852-1936), a native of Providence, Rhode Island, and president of the Wabash Cabinet Company for over 25 years, purchased the house. Following his death, his wife Henrietta continued living here through the late 30s. (See 510 W. Main Street.)

When this two-and-a-half-story house was completed in 1900, it dramatically broke with the tradition of the preceding decades for rambling, asymmetrical forms. In many ways, it was an early trendsetter although it defies stylistic label. Its plan is a simple rectangle to which front and side columned porches were added by 1910. Its low, flared hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves is somewhat characteristic of the Prairie style. Above a foundation of coursed limestone blocks and a dressed stone water table, the two stories rise uninterrupted in a buff color brick. The classical arched windows of the first floor, as well as the triple windows of the second floor, are deeply recessed from the wall plane.

Warren and Carrie Bigler House  
388 W. Hill Street

Photo 39

Warren Bigler (1851-1930) and his wife Carrie, both natives of Shelbyville, Indiana, built this house after a decade's residency in Wabash. Mr. Bigler was an attorney who specialized in property law and was associated with the Wabash Abstract and Loan Company for most of his life. For many years, he was president of the Plain Dealer newspaper. He was active in Republican politics, serving on the party's state central committee for 18 years, and was appointed State Auditor by Governor Hanly. Bigler was also active in civic affairs. He served on Wabash's school board for 18 years and was its president for 10 years, during which time



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 21 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

the Wabash High School (1894) was built. He was also a leading member of the library board and building committee of the Carnegie Library. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the board of trustees of the Indiana State School for the Deaf. Members of the Bigler family continued to reside in this house through 1966.

Although there is no specific documentation of the construction date of this house, judging from its plan and architectural features, it appears to have been built circa 1890. The two-and-a-half-story frame house exhibits a cross plan with the main rectangular, hipped roof section intersected by a cross-gabled extension. Porches extend back on either side of the house from the cross extension, and another porch extends across the full front. The most unusual feature of the plan is the three-story, conical-roofed, circular tower at the southwest corner. The asbestos siding and roof shingles and the new front porch supports tend to obscure the 1890s character of this residence. Still, there remain several very interesting architectural features such as the second-story porch on the west side and some unusual details, such as the diagonal corner braces and side porch brackets.

Hiram and Josephine Coate House  
464 W. Hill Street

Photo 40

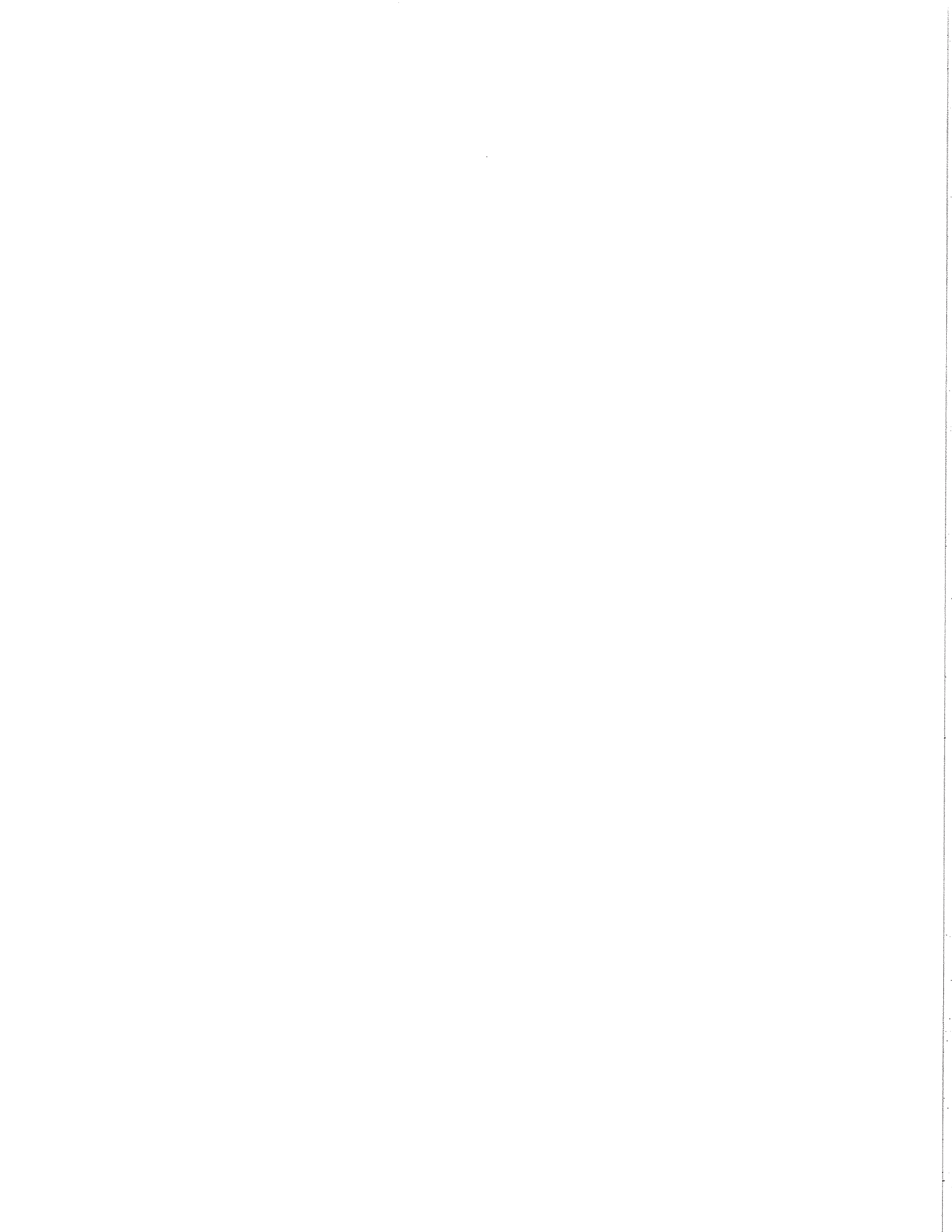
Hiram and Josephine Coate built this house in 1880, two years after their marriage, and resided here for the rest of their lives. Mr. Coate (1853-1933) was secretary/treasurer of the Wabash Bridge and Iron Works in the late 1890s. He was best known by the community as a partner for over 20 years in Coates Brothers grocery store on S. Wabash Street.

This two-story frame house of irregular plan has intersecting gabled roof sections at front and a tall hip at the rear, all covered in patterned slate. One of the most interesting features of the house is the bowed corner of the east extension, which is sided in vertical flushboards in contrast to the horizontal clapboarding on the rest of the house. The banding and paneling just beginning to become popular in 1880 was no doubt originally highlighted here by contrasting colors. The gable ends are recessed and covered with patterned shingles; at the main elevation, there is a carved sunburst pattern at the peak. The jigsawn skirting of the original porch is also a distinctive feature.

Daugherty Brothers Double  
559-61 W. Hill Street

Photo 42

The Daugherty brothers, Josiah D. (1827-1920) and David (1832-1890), built this double residence circa 1880 as a real estate development. From the late 1860s, the two men were partners in a livestock and meatpacking





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 22 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

business bearing their names. With the income from this successful business, they ventured into other investments in Wabash such as a drugstore in 1877 and several farms and town properties. The brothers at one time owned nearly half the bank stock of the First National Bank; Josiah D. was president of this bank from 1872 to 1910. In 1871 Josiah was also president of the Wabash School Furniture Company, and while touring the West that year, was among the second party of men to explore the Yellowstone area. Members of David's family resided in 559 in the early 20th century.

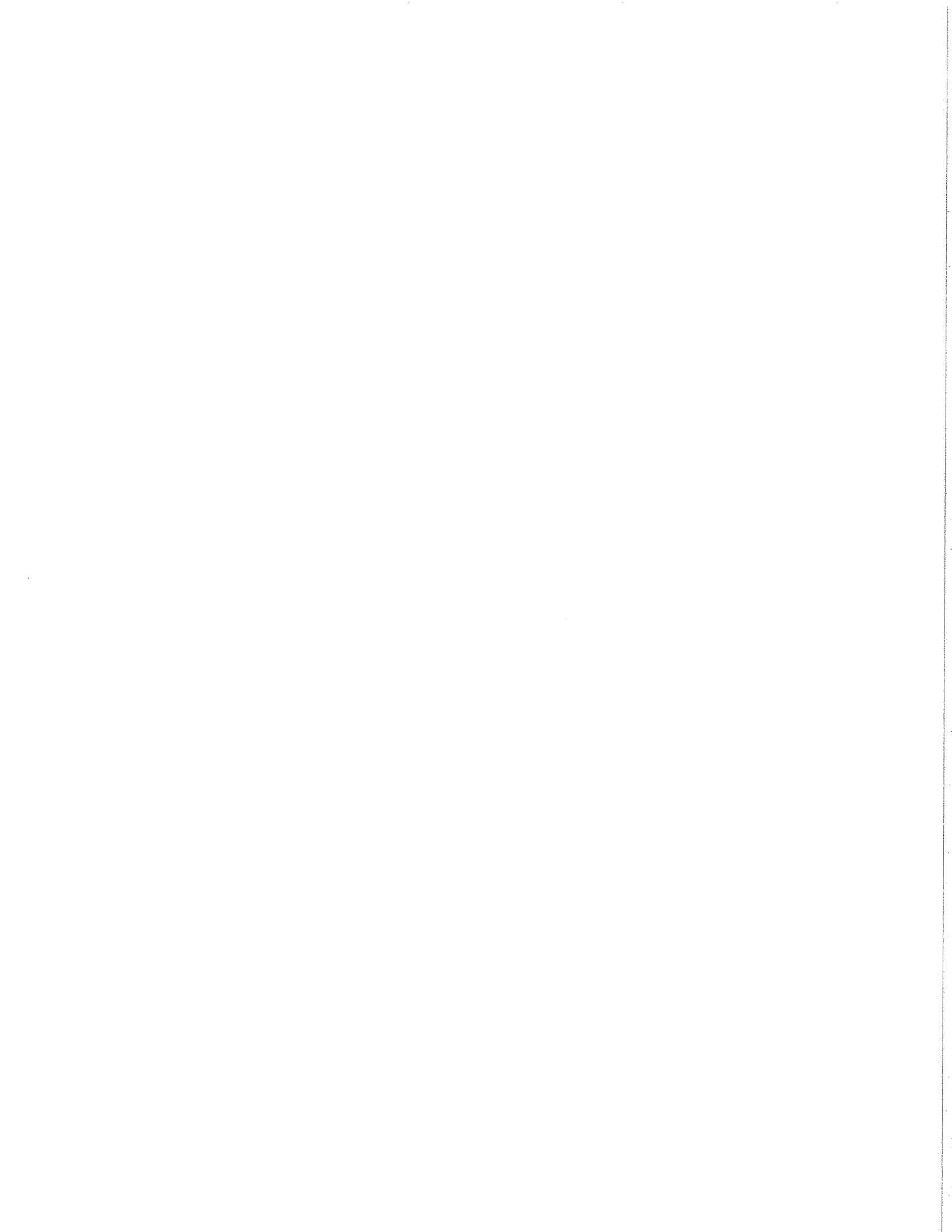
This interesting frame double is exactly symmetrical in all respects with a north/south party wall bisecting the structure into two equal units. Constructed on a T-plan, the front section consists of a two-story block with a tall hipped roof, while the rear is one-and-a-half stories tall. A long porch, with a gable over the entrance stairs, encircles all three sides of the front section. The main (north) elevation has a set of projecting, rectangular bays with gabled roofs. The varied surface treatment is especially rich at these bays, which contrast with the main clapboarded walls. The bays' gable ends are covered in houndstooth-pattern shingles, and their wall surfaces, between and above windows, are faced with square raised panels. The two-color patterned slate roofs are highlighted by castellated cresting on the ridges. At the first floor, narrow, vertical siding below the sill board runs beneath all the windows. The house is in an excellent state of preservation and exhibits high quality materials somewhat atypical of multifamily houses built for rental income.

William R. and Mildred Yarnelle House  
614 W. Hill Street

Photo 43

William R. Yarnelle (1852-1942) and his wife Mildred built this house circa 1900 on the site of an earlier residence. At the time, Mr. Yarnelle worked for Duck & Pressler, a lumber company and planing mill belonging to his in-laws. In 1904 he bought out their interests and established the Yarnelle Lumber and Coal Company, of which he was president for many years. He was also president of Nonotuck Oil and Gas Company of Wabash. The Yarnelle's son, James Kenneth (1891-1944), assumed his father's role in the company in the 1930s and resided with his family in the house. A veteran of World War I who served in France, Kenneth was very active in the American Legion and was district commander. He was also a director of the Home Loan & Savings Association. Descendants of the Yarnelle family still own the home.

The Yarnelle House is a stellar example of the high-style Colonial Revival house built at the turn of the century. Its construction date places it in the vanguard of such houses nationwide. Two and a half stories tall and basically square in plan, the frame structure has a slate-



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 23 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

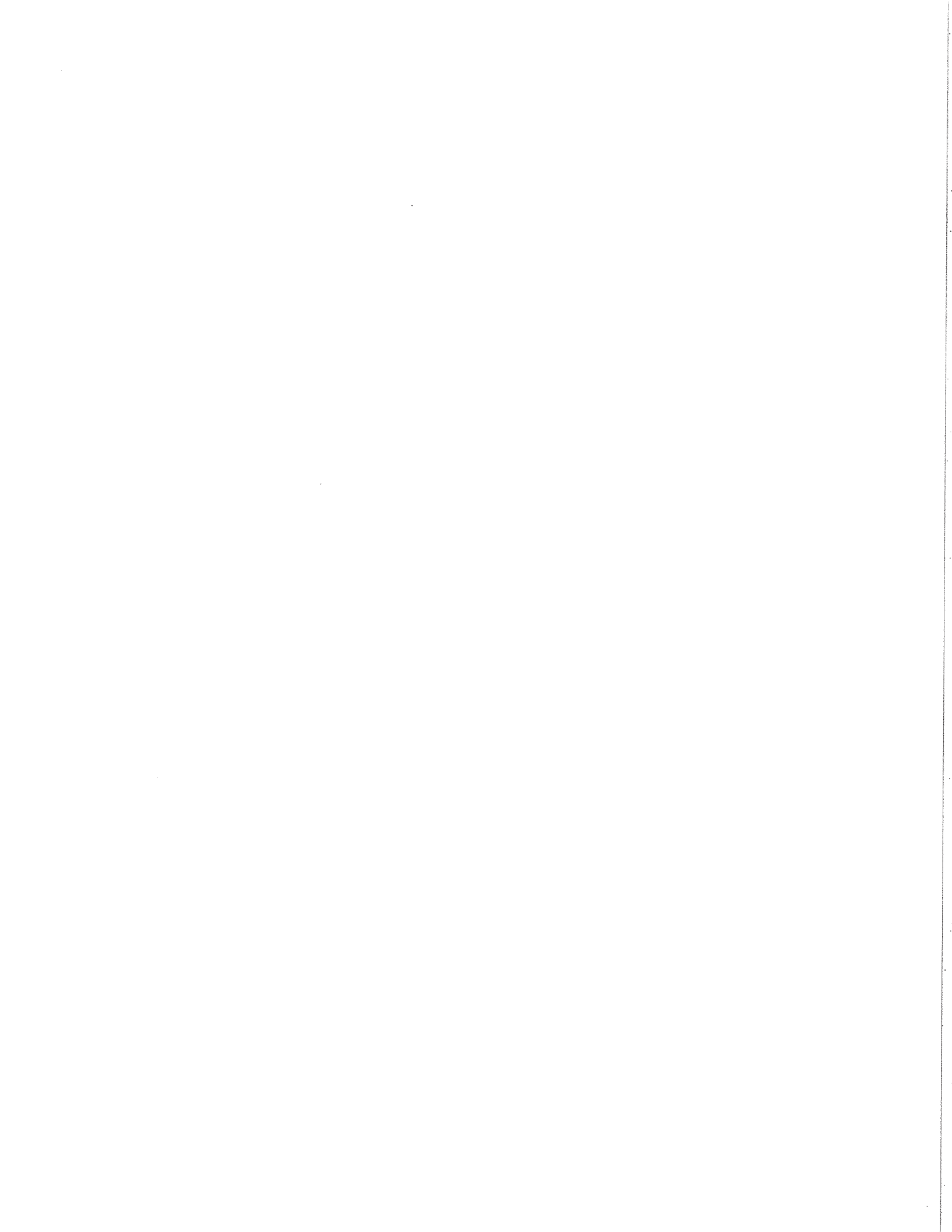
covered, decked hipped roof with eight dormers. At the west is an unusual projecting bay, and at the rear is a one-story enclosed porch. The symmetrical main (south) elevation is distinguished by a central, pedimented pavilion with a projecting porch supported by columns. The entrance features four slender engaged columns flanking the sidelights. At the second floor above the entry is a simulated Palladian window with a blind fanlight. Much of the design attention is focused at roof level, where the penchant for overscaled details in this variant of the Colonial Revival is most important. The dormer's swan's neck pediments are very large in proportion, as is the semi-elliptical fanlight of the pedimented gable. Classical modillions, dentils and two-story-tall corner pilasters do much to enhance the intended Georgian allusions.

Josiah and Minerva Daugherty House  
654 W. Hill Street

Photo 45

When Emma B. Lumaree sold this property to her daughter Minerva Daugherty in October 1869, the sizeable consideration of \$7,600 indicates that a house had been built here within the three years of her acquisition of the two lots in May 1866. It seems most probable that Josiah Daugherty and his wife built their house in the late 1860s with the financial backing of the Lumaree family, with whom they were business partners in a livestock and meatpacking concern. Josiah S. Daugherty (1827-1910) was called "one of the county's most enterprising, broad-minded men of affairs" and was president of the First National Bank for more than 35 years. (See also 559-61 W. Hill.) Following his death, his widow and their only surviving son, Carl (1874-1948), resided here 'til the late teens. In the late 1930s, John L. Ford (1897-1981) and his wife Kathryn acquired the house. He was secretary-treasurer of The Ford Meter Box Company at that time and later went on to become chairman of the board. Among his many civic interests, he was a director of the Indiana Historical Society.

The two-story-tall pedimented portico on the front of this house, which was added around 1940 to the central pavilion, disguises much of the 19th-century character of the residence. The original two-story brick building had a somewhat unusual cruciform plan said to be modelled after the country home of Thomas Daugherty (Josiah's father). Later several additions were made at the rear. Patterned slate covers the crossed gable roofs. The very tall proportions of the windows, especially those on the first floor, are quite typical of the late 1860s. A new doorway treatment, contemporary with the new portico, was fit into the original, recessed door opening. The cornice was bracketed and paneled originally, and three Italianate one-story porches occurred along the front (south) elevation.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 24 Old Wabash Residential Historic DistrictCharles and Alice Kohler House  
686 W. Hill Street

Photo 46

In 1889, shortly after moving to Wabash from Akron, Ohio, Charles F. Kohler and his wife Alice built their residence at 686 W. Hill Street. Mr. Kohler (1855-1925) had taken a position as a buyer "with the old strawboard factory" in 1888. At the turn of the century, he was a foreman of the Wabash Paper Company, a division of the United Paperboard Company located at Wabash's western edge. Alice Kohler (1859-1955) resided here for 66 years until her death.

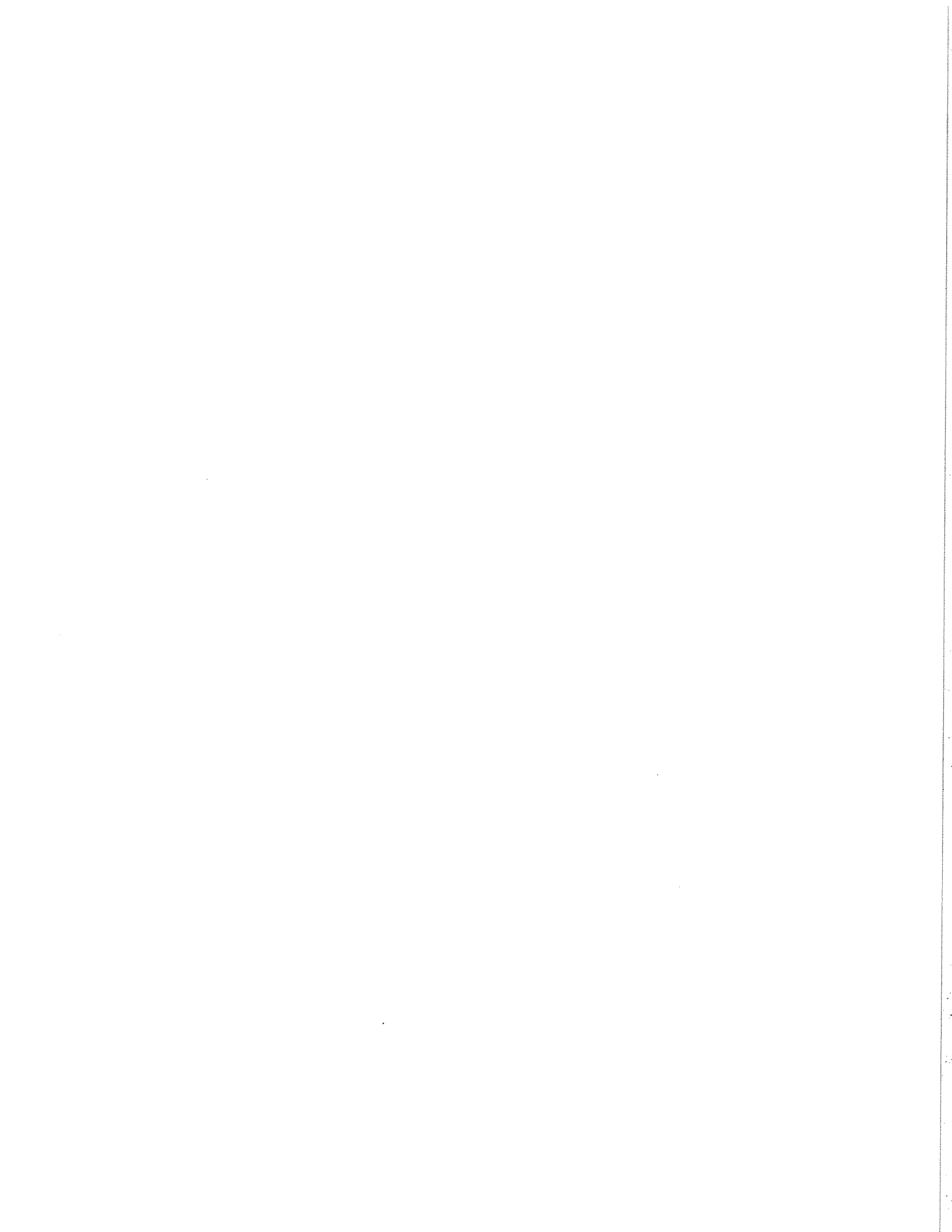
This two-story frame house is distinguished by jerkin-head roofs over the T-plan, front section of the building. A taller jerkin with dormers extends back over the rear section of the house. Both the open, wraparound porch at the front and the smaller back porch of the east elevation are in an excellent state of preservation. Inspired by the Eastlake style, these porches feature turned columns, curving brackets, and an open, lattice-like frieze with carved bullseyes. The original paint scheme undoubtedly enhanced these features. There may also have been more ornamentation at the eaves where new aluminum soffits now exist.

Joseph W. and Kate M. Busick House  
40 W. Sinclair Street

Photo 48

This house was constructed circa 1890 by Joseph W. Busick (1830-1897), one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of 19th-century Wabash. Beginning as a clerk in a dry goods store in Wabash in 1847, Busick was involved in a variety of his own businesses from the age of 22 on and amassed a fortune estimated at between \$200,000 and \$300,000 at the time of his death. He was president of the Wabash National Bank and its predecessor, the Wabash County Bank, for 20 years. In 1895 he was elected a county commissioner. This house symbolizes both his position in the community and his acumen as a businessman. The commercial building he constructed for his dry goods business in 1882 still stands at 20 E. Canal Street in the Wabash Marketplace Historic District. Following Busick's death in 1897, his widow Kate lived here until 1917.

This building's tall proportions, very irregular plan, asymmetrical massing, and great variety in architectural details combine to defy any single stylistic label other than "eclectic." The two-and-a-half-story structure is built of brick above a coursed limestone foundation. The water table, window sills, and incised window lintels are all of dressed stone. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the exterior is its roofline, which was formerly ornamented with iron cresting seen in an 1897 photo. The paneled cornice of the attic story features rectangular and arched windows and unusual wood brackets that support the roof overhang. The jerkin head roof over the two-story bay at the south and the stepped,



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 25 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

hexagonal tower roof over the bay of the east wall add great variety. The house has experienced only minor changes with the exception of the addition of a two-story, stuccoed brick addition at the northeast corner. Built between 1910 and 1920, this interesting addition originally functioned as a garage. In the late 1890s, a glass-roofed conservatory was located here.

Frank and Abbie Blount House  
44 W. Sinclair Street

Photo 49

Dr. and Mrs. Rufus Blount gave their son Frank this property on West Sinclair on the occasion of his marriage in 1883. Presumably the house was built soon thereafter. Frank Blount (1856-1928) joined the wholesale grocery firm of Kothe, Wells and Bauer in 1889 and was associated with this company as local manager for most of his life. His obituary referred to him as "one of Wabash's leading citizens." His father, Dr. Blount (1831-1922), practiced medicine in Wabash for 50 years. He resided here in the later years of his life.

The residence is a good example of the Stick Style, which was popular in Indiana in the 1880s but not prevalent in Wabash. What is remarkable about this house is that it is aluminum sided yet retains so much of the characteristic detail. The two-story frame building on a coursed limestone foundation has tall proportions, a very irregular plan, and complex roof forms. Intersecting hipped roofs cover the four main arms of the building. At second floor level, paired windows break through the hipped roof line under a gabled extension of the roof ridge. At the southwest L, a two-story tower, square in plan, rises to a tall pyramidal roof. Formerly a large porch wrapped around the south end of the house. A small shed roof porch now exists at the main entrance as well as a similar balcony at the west side of the tower. The banding and paneling, cornerboards, contrasting vertical siding above and below the windows, knee braces and brackets and other "stickwork" features were all maintained when the house was re-sided. It is possible that there were also diagonal braces applied to the original siding.

Calvin and Mary Cowgill House  
56 W. Sinclair Street

Photo 50

In October 1855 Calvin Cowgill purchased the property upon which this residence was built. Local tradition dates this house to the 1850s; however, another house predated this high-style Italianate structure, which was not built until after 1875. The 1850s house was located immediately to the west. Calvin Cowgill (1819-1903) maintained a law practice reported to be one of the most lucrative in 19th-century Wabash. In 1869 he organized the Cincinnati, Wabash & Michigan Railroad and was its first president. He

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 26 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

held numerous public offices, including two terms as State legislator, county treasurer from 1855-59, U.S. Congressman in 1870s, and a county judge in the 1890s. Following Calvin Cowgill's death in 1903, his eldest daughter, Caroline, and her husband, Harvey Woods, resided here, sharing the house with Walter and Edith (Woods) DeArmond through the 1930s.

The very tall proportions of this Italianate house are accentuated by an unusual attic structure that rises from the crest of the decked roof. Formerly multi-stage chimneys soared above this, adding to the sense of height. In plan, three large bays project at west, south and east from the basic rectangular two-story block. Original one-story sections extend to the rear. Like most Italianate houses of such large scale, this one is constructed of brick above a stone foundation. The most apparent alteration made to the house is the siding applied under the eaves, where originally there was an elaborate cornice with oval windows between massive brackets. On the east side at the rear, a smaller version of these brackets survive. In the 1890s a large porch wrapped around the southeast corner of the house; this was removed after 1930, when an attempt was made to restore the original pent roof over the main entrance. At the southwest corner, an original side porch with elaborate jigsaw work survives. Of special note are the large-scale hoods of the second-floor windows, made of sheetmetal with incised geometric patterns characteristic of the 1870s, as well as the special moldings along the sides of all windows, executed in a broken reel motif.

Harvey B. and Catherine Shively House  
88 W. Sinclair Street

Photo 51

The construction of this house circa 1890 coincided with the early years of Harvey B. Shively's career as judge of the Wabash Circuit Court. Shively (1844-1909) was a prominent attorney in Wabash for over 40 years and, as the size of his house attests, his practice was considered "more than ordinarily successful." In addition to his two terms on the Circuit Court bench, Shively was a member of the State Legislature in the 1880s and the president of Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Wabash from 1902 until his death. In 1897 he took on the role of real estate developer with construction of the Shively Block, 59-73 S. Wabash Street, where the law offices of Switzer & Shivley were located from 1903 on. This commercial building is now a part of the Wabash Marketplace Historic District. Members of the Shively family, including the judge's wife Catherine, continued to reside in this house until the 1920s. After nearly 100 years as a residence, the house has recently become the first "bed and breakfast" lodging in Wabash.

An exuberance in detailing, much of it drawn from the Eastlake Style, distinguishes Shively's residence. The two-story house of pressed brick is basically rectangular in plan with projecting brick bays at the west, south



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 27 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

and east sides and a shingle-clad tower, circular in plan, at the southwest corner. A large wraparound porch in an excellent state of preservation features turned spindlework, in both the frieze and the balusters, which is so characteristic of Eastlake porches in vogue in Indiana in the early 1890s. Interesting details include the carved bullseye panels of the gable over the main entrance; the decorative terra-cotta panels set into the chimney wall of the west elevation; the open brackets under the gable of the west bay; and the remaining metal cresting and finials along the roof ridges. The only significant changes made to the house have been the new porch at the northwest (where an Eastlake porch had existed); a frame second story added above the original one-story rear wing; and a new asphalt shingle roof replacing a roof presumably similar to the slate one of the tower.

Romeo and Alice DePuy House  
75 W. Maple Street

Photo 54

Constructed in 1899 or 1900, this house was the residence of Romeo L. DePuy (1849-1932) and his wife Alice for over 30 years. DePuy was a prominent businessman who was head of the real estate firm R.L. & F. DePuy, a partnership with his brother Frank. These brothers were the sons of Dr. John and Julia DePuy (see 189 N. Miami). In the early 1890s, Romeo was engaged in the retail coal trade in Indianapolis. While there he became involved in Democratic state politics and was a close friend of well-known politicians Tom Taggart and William English. In 1893 he was appointed chief of the eastern division of the U. S. Pension Bureau and lived in Washington, D.C. for four years. Upon his return to Wabash, he entered into real estate by managing his father's extensive property holdings.

The basically rectangular plan of the two-story DePuy House is camouflaged by projecting bays on all four sides and a very complex roof plan of seven gables at various heights. The brick structure is distinguished by contrasting stone window sills and the rock-faced lintels so popular in the late 1890s. No two gable ends are treated the same. The largest one of the main (north) elevation is the most elaborate; it features a blind balustrade, panels with sunburst carvings, a decorative brace supporting the jerkin-head, and a divided, semicircular window. Other gables feature patterned shingles, unusually shaped windows, and decorative carvings. Originally a large porch wrapped around the northwest corner.

Wilson-DePuy House  
189 N. Miami Street

Photo 55

When Dr. John H. DePuy (1820-1904) and his wife Julia moved to Wabash in the spring of 1864, they purchased a lot at the corner of Miami and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 28 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

Maple streets. Although this house has always been thought to have been built by the DePuys, a title search indicates that it was most likely built by John Wilson (1827-1874) and his wife Clara in the late 1850s. John Wilson was a carpenter who had moved to Wabash County in 1841 from Pennsylvania. Because of the DePuys' standing in the community and their 60-year residency here, the house has remained associated with them. After establishing his medical practice in the city, Dr. DePuy began the career of a gentleman farmer and began acquiring farmland in the county. At one time he had accumulated approximately 1,500 acres and did a large business in raising livestock. His real estate investments made him one of the wealthiest men in Wabash in the late 19th century.

The two-story brick house on a rubble limestone foundation consists of three intersecting sections under flared gable roofs. In the late 19th century, a one-story addition filled out the northeast corner; this was rebuilt as an open porch some time after 1930. Circa 1895, a new porch was built at the L of the Miami Street facade; this porch was in turn replaced by the current smaller entrance porch. At the south L, an attached garage was built after 1930 where another porch had existed in the 19th century. Originally the house was distinguished by very large windows of segmental arch form with stone lintels and sills. These have all been lowered with paneled infills and new French windows, and the uniform application of white paint masks the original trim. Despite the numerous changes, the house still retains some of its 1850s character through the basic expression of its interesting form.

Marland and Della Gardner House  
180 N. Miami Street

Photo 56

A small one-story house existed on this lot until 1903, when Marland and Della Gardner built their new residence. Mr. Gardner (1854-1925) was a founder of the Wabash Cabinet Company. When he and his wife moved to North Manchester around 1910, the house was sold to Dr. Burvia Houser (1866-1914), a physician and surgeon, and his wife Anna. In the late 1920s or early 1930s, Don M. Nixon and his wife Eugenia purchased the property. Mr. Nixon (1880-1934) was the founder of Nixon Newspapers, a chain that continues to publish six daily newspapers today, including the Wabash Plain Dealer. Eugenia Nixon (1896-1974), a concert pianist, continued to live here after her husband's death and assumed the presidency of the Nixon company. In 1942 she married Mark C. Honeywell (1874-1964), a founder of the Honeywell Corporation, and the couple moved to his home on N. Wabash Street. The house is now owned by newspaperman Joseph Nixon. Thus a series of Wabash's most prominent residents have lived here.

The simulated half-timbered and stucco wall surface of this large two-and-a-half-story house is the hallmark of the early Tudor Revival style. The steeply pitched cross gables of the roof are echoed in the one-story

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 29 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

gabled porches with open gable screens at the north and west sides. The large polygonal projecting bay of the west is distinguished by narrowly spaced half timbering at all levels, while this surface treatment occurs elsewhere only at the second floor and gable ends. Casement windows and the upper sash of the double-hung windows are divided into the small diamond quarrels reminiscent of medieval buildings. The current paint scheme of gray stucco and dark-green timbering does much to enhance the house, which must rank among the state's best examples of early Tudor Revival.

Lockhart-Markley House  
140 W. Maple Street

Photo 57

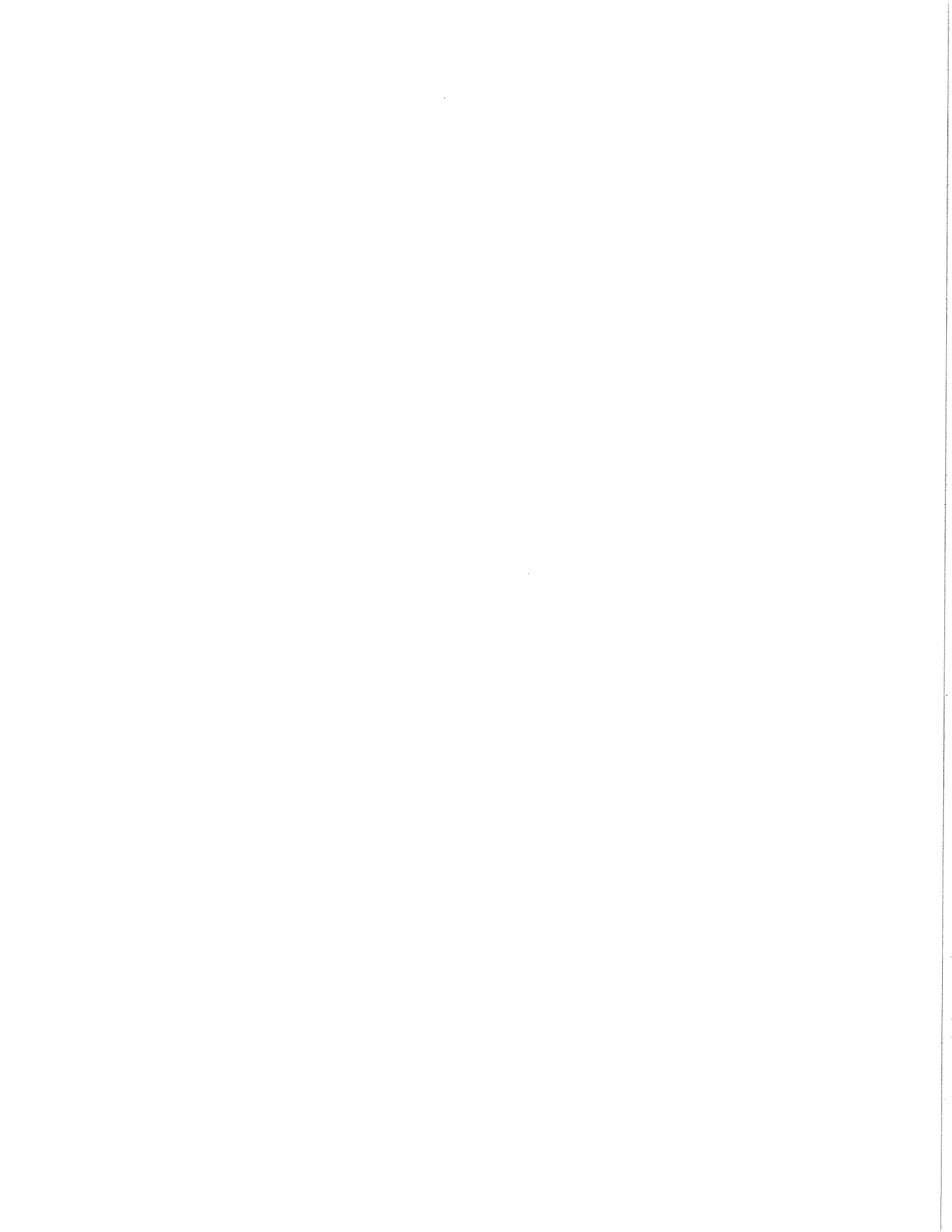
Although this type of house is more characteristic of the 1840s, title records indicate that it was probably built in the mid-1850s by Triplet Lockhart (b. 1795). Mr. Lockhart, a native of Kentucky and a veteran of the War of 1812, purchased the property in December 1853 from Hugh Hanna, who had platted the lots of the original "Wabashtown" in 1834. Aaron and Mary Markley in turn purchased the property from Lockhart in 1858. During the 19th century, the house had a series of short-term owners and/or residents, no one living here more than a dozen years. In the 20th century, its occupants were chiefly tradesmen and laborers. The house has been vacant for many years and is in danger of demolition in its present condemned state.

There are very few surviving examples in Indiana of the vernacular Greek Revival saltbox house. The front brick portion of the house is one-story tall, rectangular in plan, and was one room deep and probably two rooms wide, one to either side of the central entry. The low pitched gable roof, with its ridge parallel to the street, stretched back over a rear frame portion. The plain, boxed wood cornice extends back from the gable ends, accentuating the saltbox form. The main (south) facade is five bays wide with tall windows with simple stone lintels and sills. The front entry is embellished by a classical entablature enframing the recessed door with its narrow sidelights and transom. The existing porch is not original but appears to have been here since the early 1890s.

John and Sarah Summerland House  
174 W. Maple Street

Photo 59

John and Sarah Summerland built this house in 1891 or '92 as their Wabash residence while they also maintained a home on their farm north of town. John C. Summerland (1848-1918) had moved to Wabash County in 1866 and first owned a farm in the southern part of the county before moving to Kansas for a year. Upon his return, this house was constructed as an in-town residence for the family. Active in politics for many years,



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

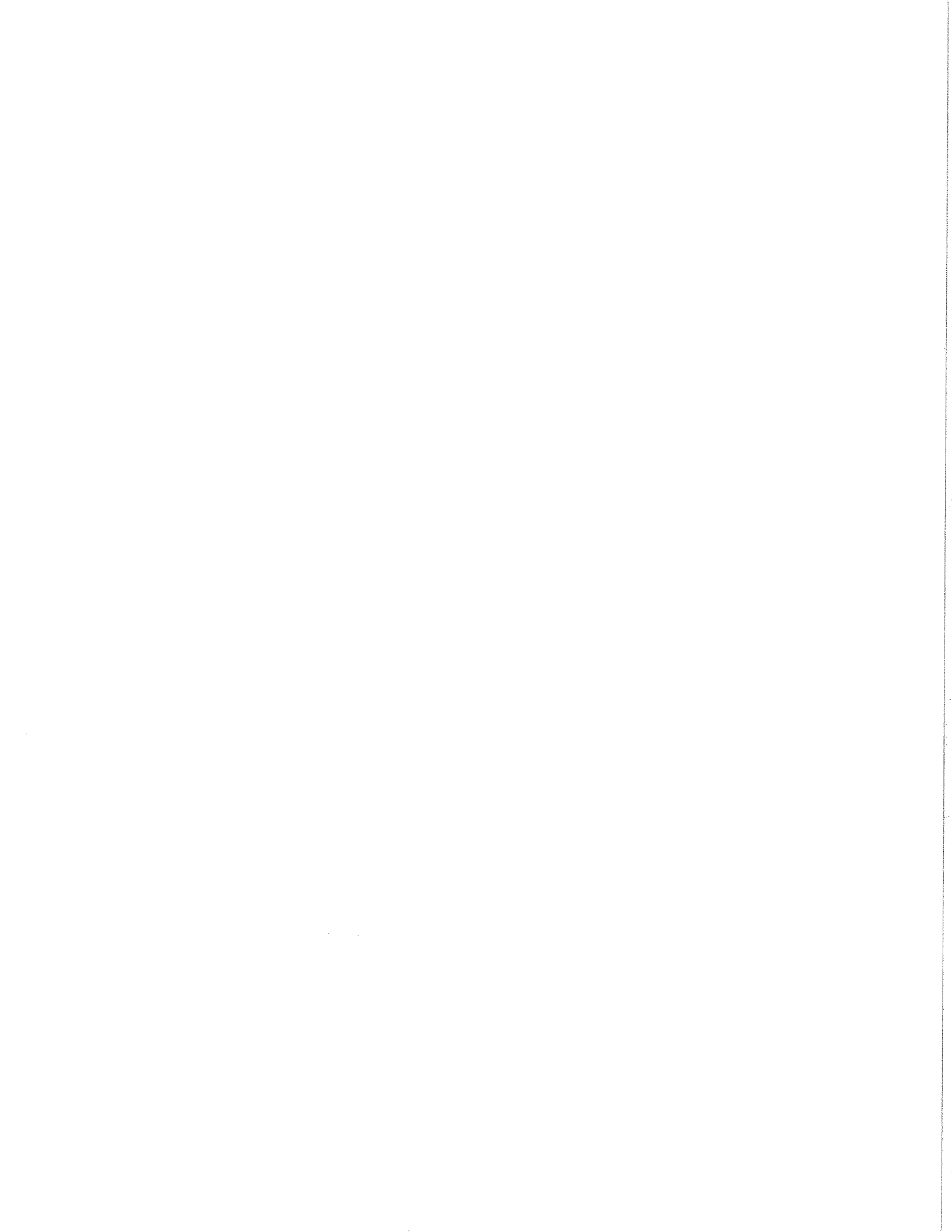
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 30 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

Summerland served two terms as county treasurer. Sarah Summerland taught in the public schools and published a book of poetry. In 1901 Reverend E. L. Seamans purchased the property and lived here briefly. The longest-term resident was James D. Beck, a grocer who lived here from the late teens until his death in 1953.

The two-story frame dwelling of irregular plan has a cross gable roof that was formerly slate-covered. At the rear, a large one-story section at the west is original to the house. In the gable ends, differently patterned shingles contrast with the narrow siding below. Somewhat atypical of the early 1890s are the surrounds of the multisized rectangular windows. The diagonally placed window of the projecting east bay, however, was very popular and common at the time. Formerly a large porch wrapped around the entire south half of the house. The current porch was built some time after 1930. The stable at the northern end of the lot is notable in the district as one of the most elaborate such outbuildings to survive from the 19th century. (See Photo 60.)

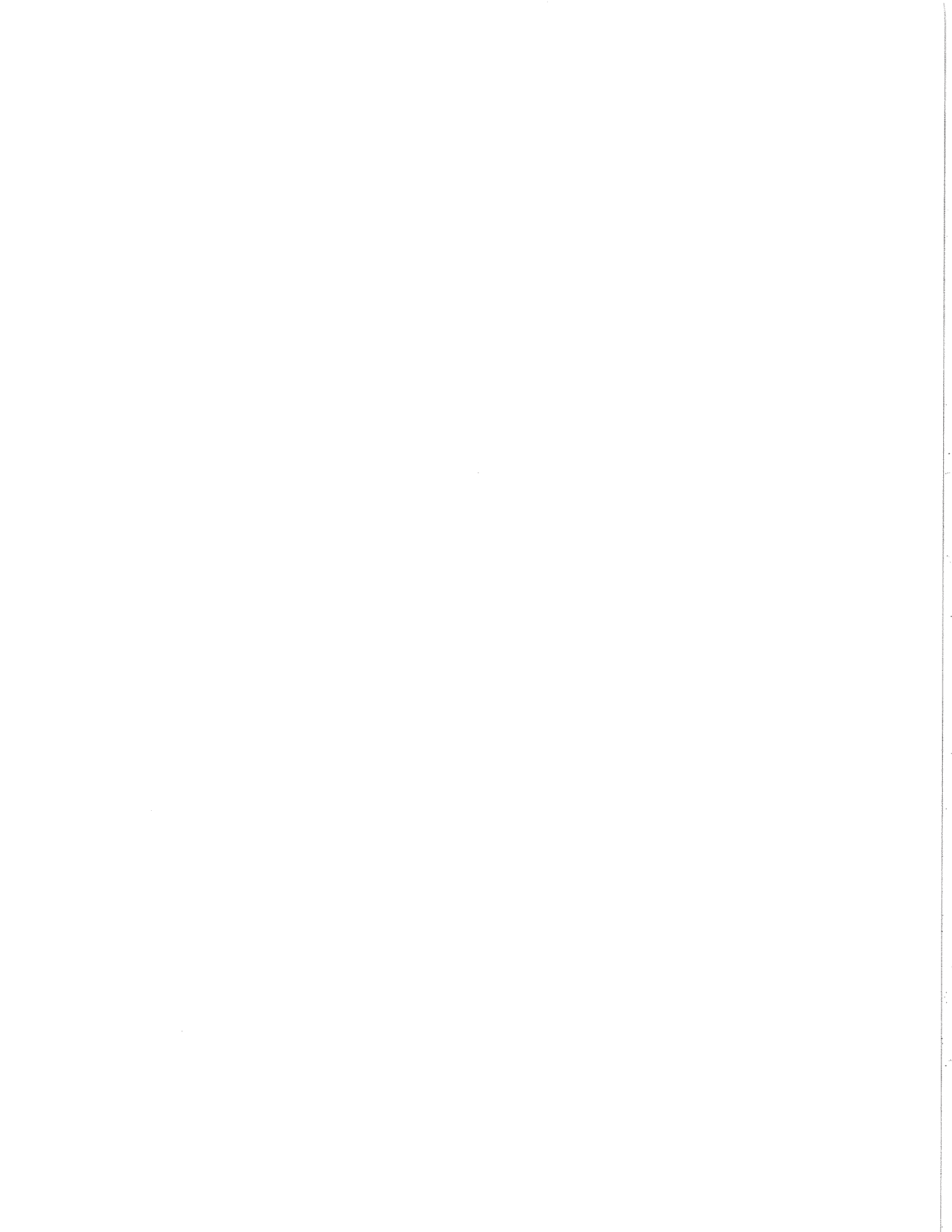


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

But seven years after Burr & Hanna's original plat, Wabash had made little progress. Dr. James Ford, who arrived in Wabash from Connersville in January 1841, estimated that the town had about 125 people (26 families) at the time.<sup>4</sup> Three-fourths of the town plat "stood in timber," few streets had been opened, and "nearly all (of the residents) lived in round-log cabins." The Miami Indians then lived on the south bank of the Wabash River, and few white people lived "in the reserve." Dr. Ford purchased lots at the southeast corner of Cass and Hill Streets and "was bound to erect a house on this property, worth \$400, in one year." The author of a treatise on "sanitary topography," Ford considered himself an expert on how to select a healthy building site. Believing that air laden with moisture carried disease, he advised his patients to move from land with poor drainage or where ground water was high or where fog settled. His decision to build up above the valley, on land with bedrock very close to the surface, undoubtedly influenced others to build their homes in this area.

By 1843, the Wabash and Erie Canal was completed to Lafayette and canal traffic began to pick up. With business commensurately stimulated, commercial buildings were constructed along Canal Street and gradually brick structures replaced the earliest log cabins. No log structures are known to survive in the district, though it is possible that there may be log walls incorporated within the older frame residences. There are certainly early brick houses that remain from the 1840s, some of which have been completely hidden within later expansions and modernizations. One such example is the Bennett E. Davis House, 78 W. Hill Street, Photo 21. Davis built his simple, one-story brick house on a lot he had purchased in May 1842. Next door to the east, he ran a small store and became well known as one of Wabash's earliest merchants.<sup>5</sup> In the early 20th century, the house was greatly enlarged by a top half-story and additions that obscure its early form.

The Jackson Family House, 178 W. Main Street, Photo 3, survives from this early pioneer period with much of its original character intact. The Jackson brothers, natives of Ohio, were merchants who had come to Indiana in the 1840s. They built this house in 1850. The front brick portion is one story tall, rectangular in plan, and one room deep with the ridge of its low gabled roof parallel to the street. A perusal of the earliest Sanborn maps available for Wabash indicates the outline of other similar structures that have since been demolished or altered beyond recognition. For example, immediately west of 178 W. Main Street--in fact, built only a few feet apart--was a house once very similar. The simple brick structure was remodelled between 1901 and 1910 and now exists as the hidden core of a large one-and-a-half story frame house.





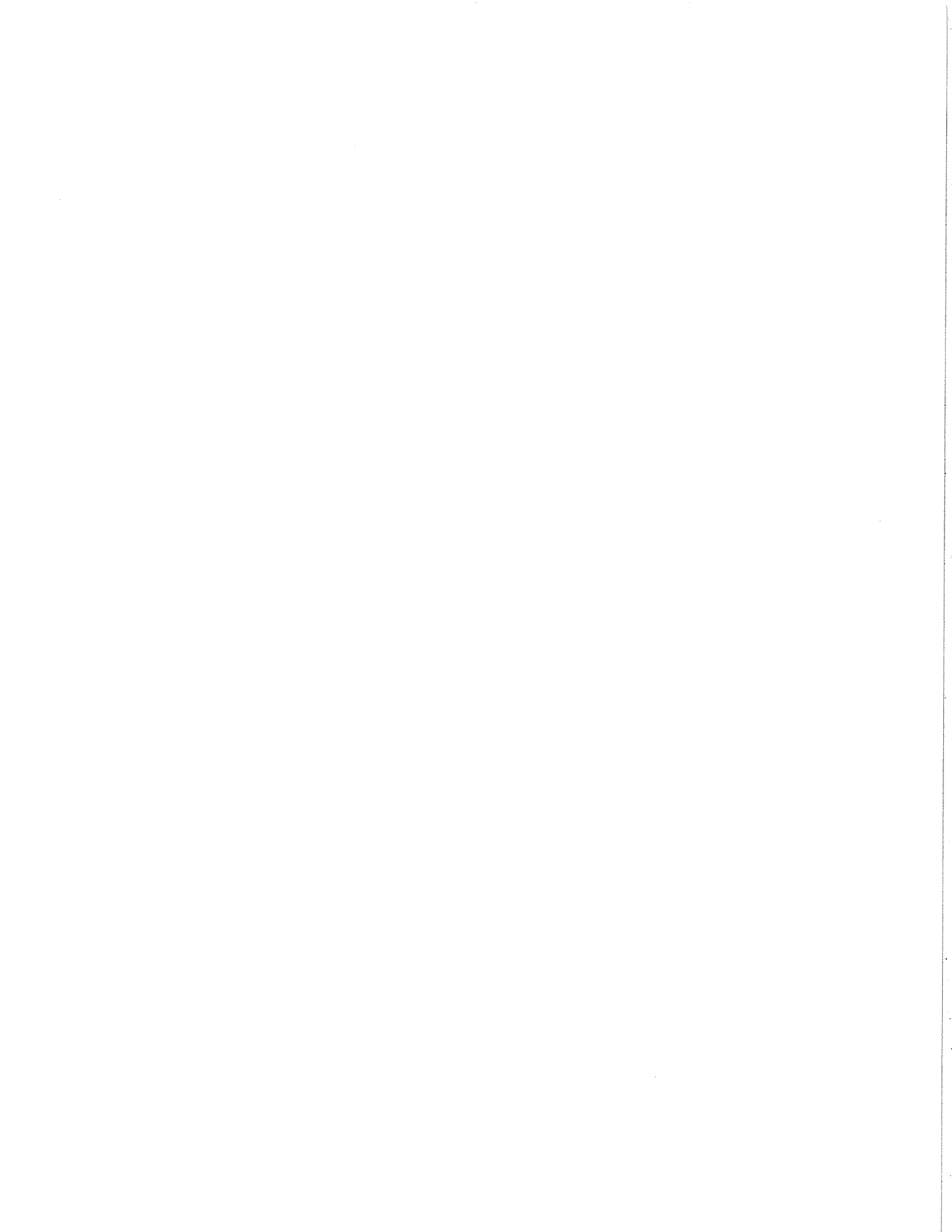
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

The Lockhart-Markley House, 140 W. Maple Street, Photo 57, is characteristic of the 1840s but apparently was not built until the mid-1850s. Triplet Lockhart, a native of Kentucky and veteran of the War of 1812, purchased the lot in December 1853 directly from Hugh Hanna, a partner in the original plat of 1834. This house is important as a surviving example of a vernacular Greek Revival saltbox house. Sanborn maps indicate that a similar house existed down the street at 106-08 W. Maple at the northwest corner of N. Maple Street. (This house was demolished some time after 1930.) By the time of the earliest Sanborn maps, many of the pioneer houses of Wabash, then approximately 50 years old, had been demolished to make way for larger, more elegant residences. Therefore, our knowledge of the location of all the earliest houses is far from complete.

Although it is much less detailed than the Sanborn maps with regard to building outlines, additions, construction materials, number of stories, etc., the map of Wabash included in Hosea Paul's 1875 Atlas of Wabash County gives a good indication of house locations and relative sizes.<sup>6</sup> This map documents several residential areas that were rebuilt after 1875, with large and stylish "second generation" homes replacing pioneer dwellings. The north side of Sinclair Street, between Wabash and Miami Streets, is one of the best examples of this phenomenon. The 1875 map shows five very small buildings, rectangular in plan. These were then demolished in the late 19th century to clear the way for the imposing and stylish homes of the Busicks, Blounts, Cowgills and Shivelys (Photos 48, 49, 50, and 51). No houses from the early settlement period remain on this block, having all disappeared by around 1890.

Two small one-story houses on the south side of Main Street between Miami and Cass Streets are interesting examples of early banked houses. From the street, there is little remarkable about the facades, since both structures have undergone many 20th-century alterations. (See Photo 2). However, both houses were built into the slope of the hill and the rear facades give more clues as to their early history. From the south, these houses appear to be two-story structures with a ground floor of rubble native limestone. Little is known about the history of these houses, but they probably date to the 1840s and 1850s. Their proximity to the prime commercial area of Main Street no doubt left this south side of Main Street as a less desirable location for large residences during the late 19th century; therefore, they were spared from demolition.

In the mid-1840s, Samuel Hanna had added two important plats to the original plat. The Western Addition, recorded in November 1845, extended



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

from Cass Street west to the diagonal line of Charley Run in the old reserve. The Northern Addition, recorded in June 1846, added 38 "inlots" immediately north of the original plat, with outlots north of Union. (These outlots were often purchased by early settlers for cow pastures.) Both plats continued the orthogonal grid, the same lot size, and the same widths for streets and alleys, giving a continuity to all of the platted land within the district in the 1840s. The land west of Charley Run in the district was not platted until October 1859 owing to litigation over ownership that dragged on in the courts for nearly a decade. To resolve the disputed undivided fractional interests among the parties, the court appointed Stearns Fisher, John Comstock and William Thorne to partition the land. Their plat of inlots, outlots, streets and alleys, recorded in October 1859, is known as Ewing and Hanna's Addition.<sup>8</sup> The commissioners immortalized themselves by giving their names to the three major north/south streets. Some of the outlots, equivalent to entire blocks, were later subdivided and platted into individual building lots, e.g., Sivey's Addition of 1862, George Ewing's Subdivision of 1863, and Bruner and Brown's Subdivision of 1865.<sup>9</sup> Sivey's Second Addition of the Western Addition of August 1883 was apparently the last one within the boundaries of this district, although half of the lots had been sold long before that date.<sup>10</sup> Without the legal problems preliminary to Ewing and Hanna's Addition, all of the land within the district would have been platted by about 1850.

The 1850s brought a new era in transportation to Wabash. Several plank roads were constructed, including the Wabash and Eel River Plank Road and the Wabash and Mount Vernon Plank Road which connected the incorporated city to areas north and south. In addition to these roads, stagecoach passenger and mail service ran to Cambridge City. The most important factor in the growth of Wabash in this decade was the routing of the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad (earlier known as the Lake Erie, Wabash & St. Louis Railroad) through the city. The tracks of this railroad, completed to the city in February 1855, were run through the platted and settled residential area on the near north side. Within most of the district, land for the right-of-way was taken from the lots on the south side of Sinclair Street, leaving the Hill Street lots largely as platted. The passenger and freight depots were sited near Huntington Street, east of Wabash Street. In the immediate area around the depots, freighthouses and industrial uses developed, detracting from the surrounding residential neighborhood. However, the tracks themselves did not prove to be a deterrent to constructing fine homes nearby. With the arrival of the first train in January 1856, the period of early settlement can be considered to have come to an end.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4 Old Wabash Residential Historic DistrictGrowth of Wabash and Its Commercial and Industrial Leadership

Between 1860 and 1880, the population of Wabash nearly tripled.<sup>11</sup> The post-Civil War period was generally a prosperous one in Indiana, and Wabash shared commensurately in this prosperity. In 1872 a second railroad came to town: the Cincinnati, Wabash and Michigan Railroad, later a part of the Big Four. Its shops were constructed just east of the commercial area, which was growing apace.

The 1875 map of the city in the Atlas of Wabash County shows the area within the district boundaries to have been very fully developed by this time. Nearly every lot has been improved with the exception of the western part of Main Street, where only four houses existed on the south side of the street between Comstock and Ewing Street (one block west of Holliday). This part of Main Street, comprised of Outlots 19 and 20, had not been subdivided into lots and was still held as single parcels. (Most of the other outlots of the 1859 Ewing and Hanna Subdivision had been platted in the early 1860s.) An 1879 photograph looking west from the tower of the newly completed courthouse confirms that the residential area was densely built-up at this time.<sup>12</sup> Indeed, the rows of frame outbuildings lined up along the alley between Main and Hill Streets give an appearance of greater density than exists at present.

Two articles published in the Wabash Plain Dealer in the early 1880s give a good indication of the amount of money being invested in construction at the time.<sup>13</sup> In September 1881, the newspaper reported that 67 new buildings had been erected that year at a cost of nearly \$90,000. Of these, 31 were new homes. The following October, an article entitled "1882 Witnesses A Grand Building Boom in Wabash" tallied \$117,000 in buildings and improvements, exactly half of which was for homes. The figure was cited as "speaking volumes for the prosperity of the city." The article noted that, in 1882, fewer of "the smaller class of dwellings" had been built owing to the high cost of lumber. Therefore, the figure represented "an unusual number of fine dwellings put up" which "added greatly to the appearance of the city." Of course many of the new homes were outside the boundaries of the district; indeed, the itemized listing indicates that sizeable sums were being expended to remodel, update or put additions on the houses on W. Hill Street.

By 1900 the population of Wabash was 8,613. A special Board of Trade edition of The Wabash Times in 1897 reported that growth was "considerably above normal since the discovery of natural gas" in the region.<sup>14</sup> The availability of this inexpensive and seemingly endless supply of fuel was a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

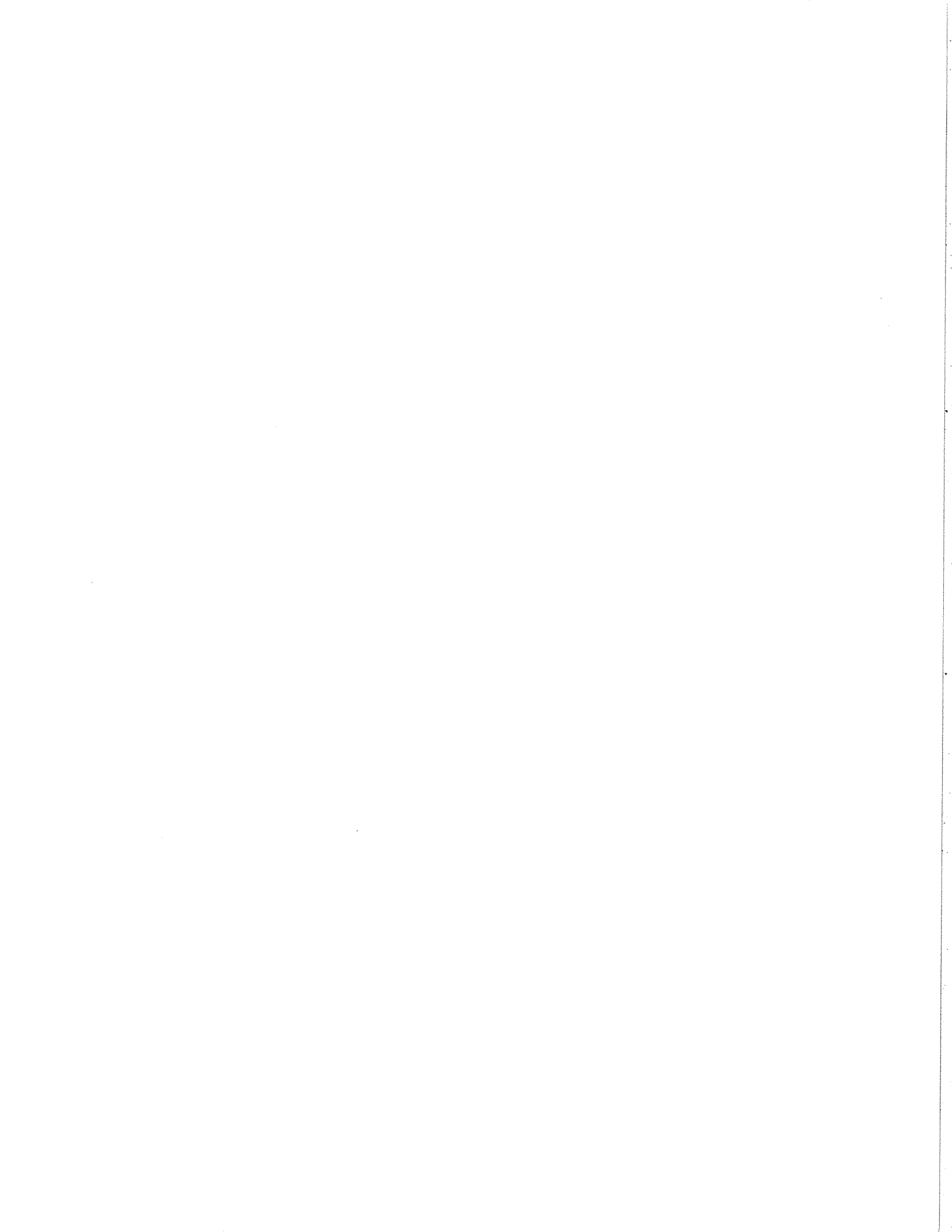
boon to Wabash businesses and industry. So too was the additional railroad traffic that passed through the city as a result of the sale of the defunct canal's right-of-way. The construction of numerous high quality commercial buildings at the turn of the century, many in the Romanesque Revival style, was reflective of Wabash's prosperity at the time.

When the Wabash Public Library Board was attempting to influence Andrew Carnegie's donation of a new library building to the city, a letter of application gave an appraisal of Wabash's attributes. An excerpt of this letter from February, 1901, follows:

The business buildings here compare favorably with those of any county town, while in private residences there are but few cities in Indiana that will bear favorable comparison with Wabash; the school buildings are superior to any Indiana city of its size. 15

Clearly Wabash was aware of the outstanding quality of its residential areas among other cities in the state at this time. Highest ranking among these areas was still the neighborhood comprised within the boundaries of the Old Wabash district. It had managed to retain its popularity for a half century for many diverse reasons. The area was conveniently located with regard to the business and industrial areas, yet the hill and bluff afforded a sense of separation. Streetcars did not come to Wabash until relatively late (1901), thereby discouraging the development of suburban residential neighborhoods in the outlying areas. A housing shortage actually existed in the early 20th century, which favored the retention of the older homes.

Within the Old Wabash area, there were also many amenities available to its residents. Churches within the boundaries included the Christian Church of 1865 (Photo 22) and the Presbyterian Church of 1880 (Photo 23), while nearby were St. Bernard's Catholic Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Rodef Sholem Temple. Also within the district were three important institutional buildings: the Wabash High School of 1894 (Photo 30), the Wabash Orphans' Home of 1890 (Photo 47), and the Wabash Carnegie Public Library of 1903 (Photo 28). The high school was the showcase of the community in the 1890s for its provision of superior educational facilities in a building of exceptional architectural significance. The Neoclassical library building was also a showcase and today remains one of the oldest Carnegie libraries in the state. The Orphans' Home building took on greater significance to the neighborhood when it became a hospital in 1903 and continued in this capacity (with interruptions) until 1921, when the new Wabash County Hospital was constructed. At the western edge of the



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

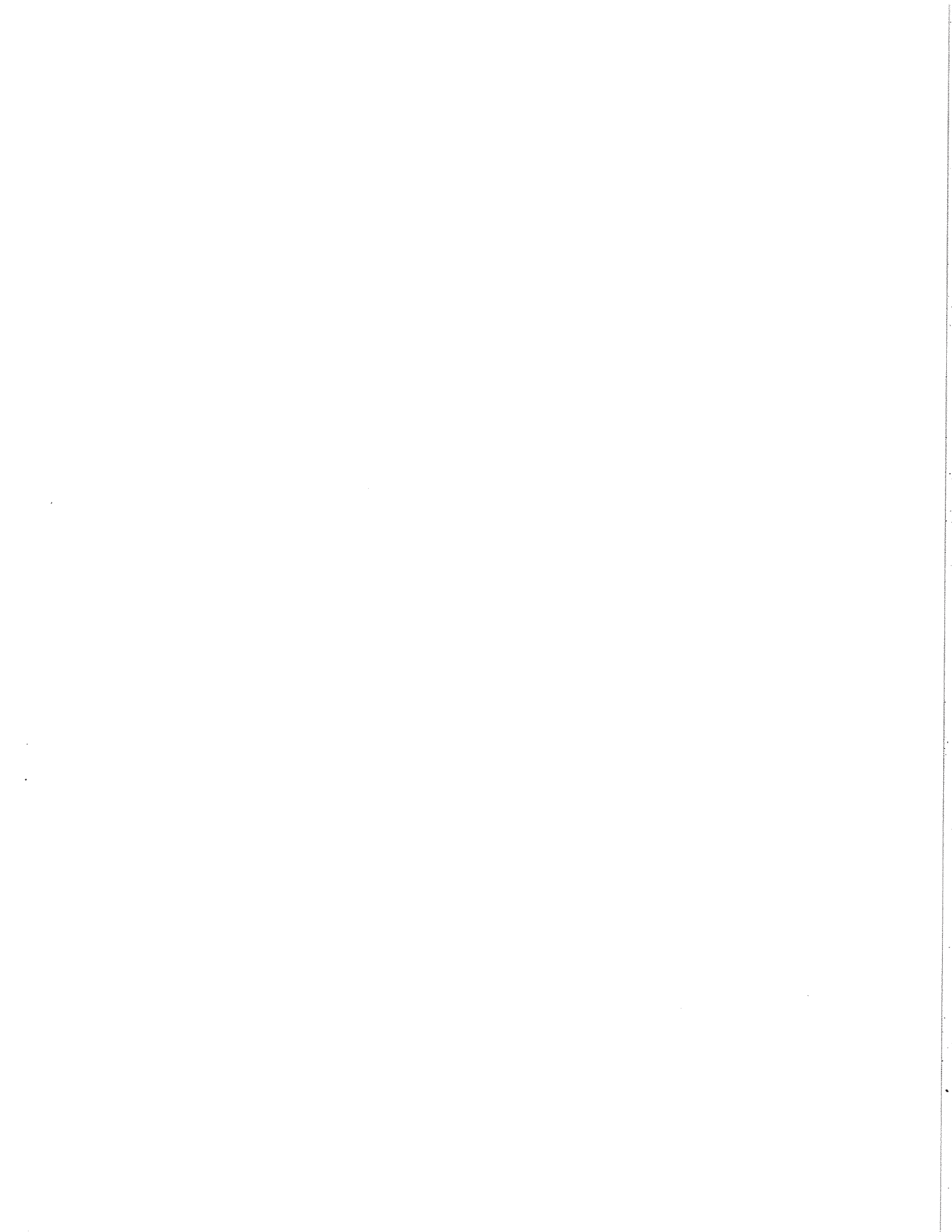
---

district, the 35-acre city park also once served as an amenity to the neighborhood. First set aside as an agricultural fairgrounds in 1860, this park once contained popular recreational facilities, such as a horse racetrack in its earlier years and a bicycle track in the late 1890s. Its fountains, flowerbeds, and natural environment once served as a popular destination for walks.

Because of all these factors that encouraged the popularity of this residential area, the commercial, industrial and civic leaders of the city located their homes here. Today, many of these houses represent the only tangible ties to 19th-century businesses, industries or institutions whose buildings have been demolished over the course of time. The era of popularity spanned the years from the earliest period of settlement to approximately 1930; therefore, several generations of Wabash citizens are represented in the "catalogue" that follows. It is also important to note that some houses remained in the same family for over 100 years; examples include the Wolf House, 156 W. Hill Street (Photo 25); the Ford House, 177-79 W. Hill Street (Photo 27), and the Payne House, 256 W. Hill Street (Photo 31). There are also numerous instances of couples who built new houses in the district and then remained here for the rest of their lives; examples include the Whiteside House, 490 W. Main (Photo 10), the Urschel House, 661 W. Main (Photo 19), the Kohler House, 686 W. Hill (Photo 46), and the Romeo and Alice DePuy House, 75 W. Maple (Photo 54).

Wabash's merchants found the area to be a particularly convenient place to live. Those of the earliest period of settlement maintained their stores nearby; for example, Bennett E. Davis' 1840s store was located immediately adjacent to his residence at 78 W. Hill Street (Photo 21). (See previous section.) Later the central business district developed in proximity to the canal, and the few commercial land uses in the district were phased out.

Among the 19th-century dry goods merchants who lived in the district were Joseph W. Busick, 40 W. Sinclair Street (Photo 48) and Thomas E. Whiteside, 490 W. Main Street (Photo 10). Busick was one of the wealthiest and most prominent men of his time in Wabash; he was president of the Wabash National Bank and its predecessor, the Wabash County Bank, for 20 years. In 1882 he constructed a fine commercial block at 20 E. Canal Street which still stands in the Wabash Marketplace Historic District. His circa 1890 home was built late in his life and was reflective of the success he had attained in local business. Thomas Whiteside, who built his home on W. Main in 1881, was a partner in the dry goods firm of Whiteside & Goodlander for over 30 years.





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

Several of the merchants who lived in the Old Wabash District were involved in retail clothing sales. Samuel Simon, who lived at 142-44 W. Hill Street (Photo 24), was in partnership in Simon Brothers clothing store from the 1880s until 1907. Adolph Doob, a resident of 52 S. Miami Street (Photo 1) and later in life at his daughter's house, 261 W. Hill Street (Photo 32), was the proprietor of the New York Store on W. Canal Street. David Cohen, who built 173 S. Thorne Street (Photo 15) in 1909, ran a clothing store at 220 S. Wabash Street. He remained a retail merchant in the city until the 1940s. Edward Bechtol, who built 161 W. Hill Street (Photo 26), was a shoe merchant in Wabash for over 40 years. His business was located on W. Canal Street within the bounds of the commercial historic district.

A number of grocers also resided in the district. Theodore Small, 326 W. Main Street, was involved in a family-run grocery at 102 W. Canal in the Wabash Marketplace Historic District, which remained in business until the 1940s. Hiram Coate, who built 464 W. Hill Street (Photo 40), was a partner for over 20 years in Coate Brothers grocery store on S. Wabash Street. He was also secretary/treasurer of the Wabash Bridge and Iron Works in the late 1890s. Frank Blount was associated with the Indianapolis Wholesale grocery firm of Kothe, Wells and Bauer (KoWeBa) as its local manager for most of his life. He resided at 44 W. Sinclair Street (Photo 49), which he built soon after his marriage in 1883.

Two men who had several professions but both ventured into real estate development in later life were Solomon Wilson and Jim Amoss. Wilson, who was proprietor of a meat market in the 1870s and was also a member of the board of the Wabash School Furniture Company, lived at 395 W. Hill Street in the late 1890s. Amoss, an attorney, apparently moved often and had several addresses in the district, including: 349 W. Hill Street, 306 W. Main Street (Photo 7), and 40 W. Sinclair Street (Photo 48).

In addition to bank president Joseph Busick, other men prominent in Wabash's financial institutions resided in the district. Thomas McNamee, who was in partnership in a hardware business, was one of the three founders of the Wabash County Bank in 1877. He was president of its successor institution, The Wabash National Bank, for nearly 20 years (from the time of Busick's death in 1897 til his own death in 1916). McNamee built the imposing Italianate home at 208 W. Hill Street (Photo 29) circa 1870. James McCrea, a dry goods merchant at 64 W. Canal Street in the 1880s and 1890s, was president of Citizens Bank. He lived at 408 W. Main Street, which was demolished within the past 20 years to make way for an apartment house. During the 20th century, Nelson G. Hunter, president of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

Wabash County Loan & Trust Company, lived at 593 W. Main Street (Photo 14). During Hunter's presidency, a new bank building was constructed in 1926 at the northwest corner of Wabash and Canal Streets, within the bounds of the Marketplace Historic District. For 24 years, Ernest Otto Ebbinghouse, who had been in the shoe business, was president of Home Loan and Savings Association of Wabash. He resided for 40 years at 288 W. Hill Street (Photo 33) in the house he built circa 1918.

The industrialists of Wabash are as well represented as residents of the district as are the commercial leaders. One of the earliest was Enoch Small, who resided at 263 W. Main Street (now demolished). His family operated The Upper Union Mills, the first roller mill in the county. The milling exchange for this flour mill was located at the northwest corner of Canal and Miami Streets, still standing in the commercial historic district.

The furniture industry was quite important to the development of Wabash in the late 19th century. In the early 1880s, two companies--T.F. Payne and Company and the Wabash School Furniture Company--were the two largest employers in the city.<sup>16</sup> Thomas Payne, who built 256 W. Hill Street (Photo 31), was the first cabinetmaker in Wabash. He began manufacturing furniture in 1849, the year he arrived, and about 1870 erected a factory that became the largest miscellaneous cabinet works within 100 miles of Wabash. The Wabash School Furniture Company, begun in 1872, sold its products nearly nationwide. In later years, church furniture became a specialty and hundreds of churches in the Midwest were furnished by this firm. Josiah S. Daugherty and John H. Bruner, each involved in independent industrial pursuits, served on the first board of directors. Daugherty, the company's president, built 654 W. Hill Street (Photo 45) in the late 1860s with the financial assistance of his in-laws, the Lumaree family, with whom he was in partnership in a livestock and meatpacking concern. (The 1875 map of Wabash in The Atlas of Wabash County illustrates the number of slaughterhouses then located on the river's north shoreline. Thousands of pounds of pork were packed and shipped in Wabash for Eastern markets in the 1870s.) Daugherty was also president of The First National Bank for more than 35 years. John Bruner, who resided at 242 W. Main Street, operated a factory producing spokes, hubs, and wagon parts that in the late 1860s was "the most extensive bending factory on the Wabash River."<sup>17</sup>

The Star Woolen Mill figured prominently in the industrial life of Wabash in the late 19th century. At one time, its sales averaged \$100,000 annually.<sup>18</sup> The mill had been established in 1863 on East Canal Street and

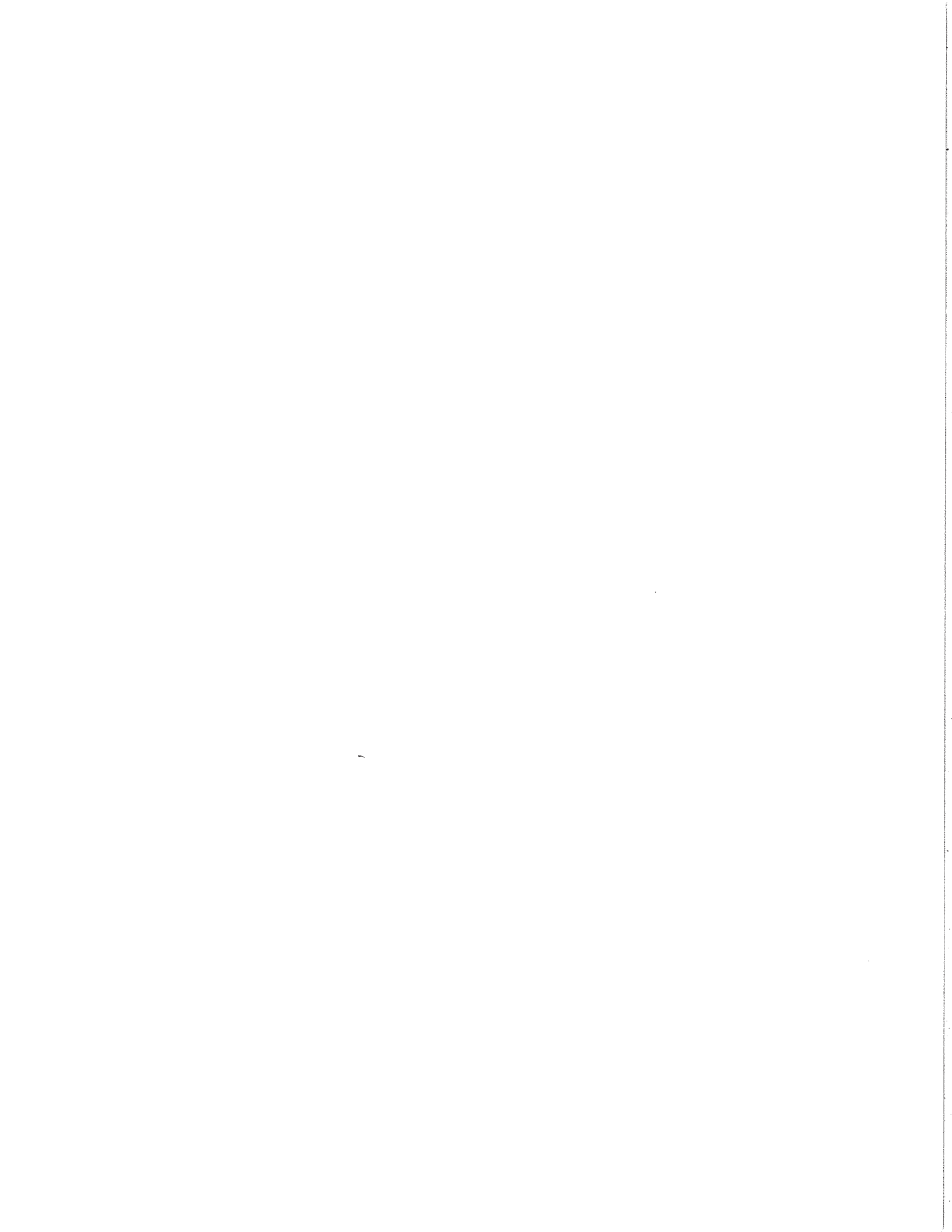
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

had various owners until reorganized as the Star in 1880 by Jacob Hyman and his son-in-law David Marks. Marks resided at 170 S. Thorne Street (Photo 16). The Star Woolen Mill was completely destroyed by fire in 1898. Another industry that was important to the city's economy was a paper mill variously known in its history as "the old strawboard factory," the Diamond Match Company's paper mill, the Wabash Paper Company, and the United Paperboard Company. Alexander W. Hill had come to Wabash from Connecticut in 1890 to take charge of the Diamond Match Company's mill as its general superintendent. He built the home at 593 W. Main Street (Photo 14) in 1893, the year that he and his brother James reorganized the company as the Wabash Paper Company. Charles Kohler was a foreman for this company. He had come to Wabash from Ohio in 1888 as a buyer for the strawboard factory, and shortly thereafter, he built 686 W. Hill Street (Photo 46).

Twentieth-century industries, many of which continue to the present day, are well represented by district homes. The Yarnelle Lumber Company, still active in Wabash today, has its roots in the Empire Planing and Saw Mill, established in the mid-1860s. Around 1875, it became the Duck & Pressler Mill, both a lumber company and producer of millwork of the "sash, blind and door" variety. In 1904 William R. Yarnelle bought out the interests of his in-laws, the Ducks, and established the Yarnelle Lumber & Coal Company. The Georgian Revival home he built at 614 W. Hill Street (Photo 43) is itself a statement on the high quality lumber products made by the company.

When the Wabash Cabinet Company was incorporated in 1900, Marland Gardner was its secretary/treasurer. This company continued the city's tradition in the manufacture of furniture. Around 1915, its annual production was valued at over a half million dollars.<sup>19</sup> Gardner built his Tudor Revival home at 180 N. Miami Street (Photo 56) in 1903. Other executives of the company resided within the bounds of the district, including Will Urschel, who built the house at 661 W. Main (Photo 19). Urschel was associated with the firm over 52 years, first holding office as secretary/treasurer, then becoming its president and general manager before the company was sold to General Electric in 1941. Thomas F. Vaughn, president of the company for over 25 years, resided in at least two homes in the district: 373 W. Hill Street (Photo 38) and 510 W. Main Street (Photo 12).

Another Wabash industry that continues to the present day is the production of sliding mechanisms for extendable tables. Bossler Walter, president of the manufacturing company founded in 1886 that still bears his name, lived at 349 W. Hill Street. Charles Rish, vice president of B.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

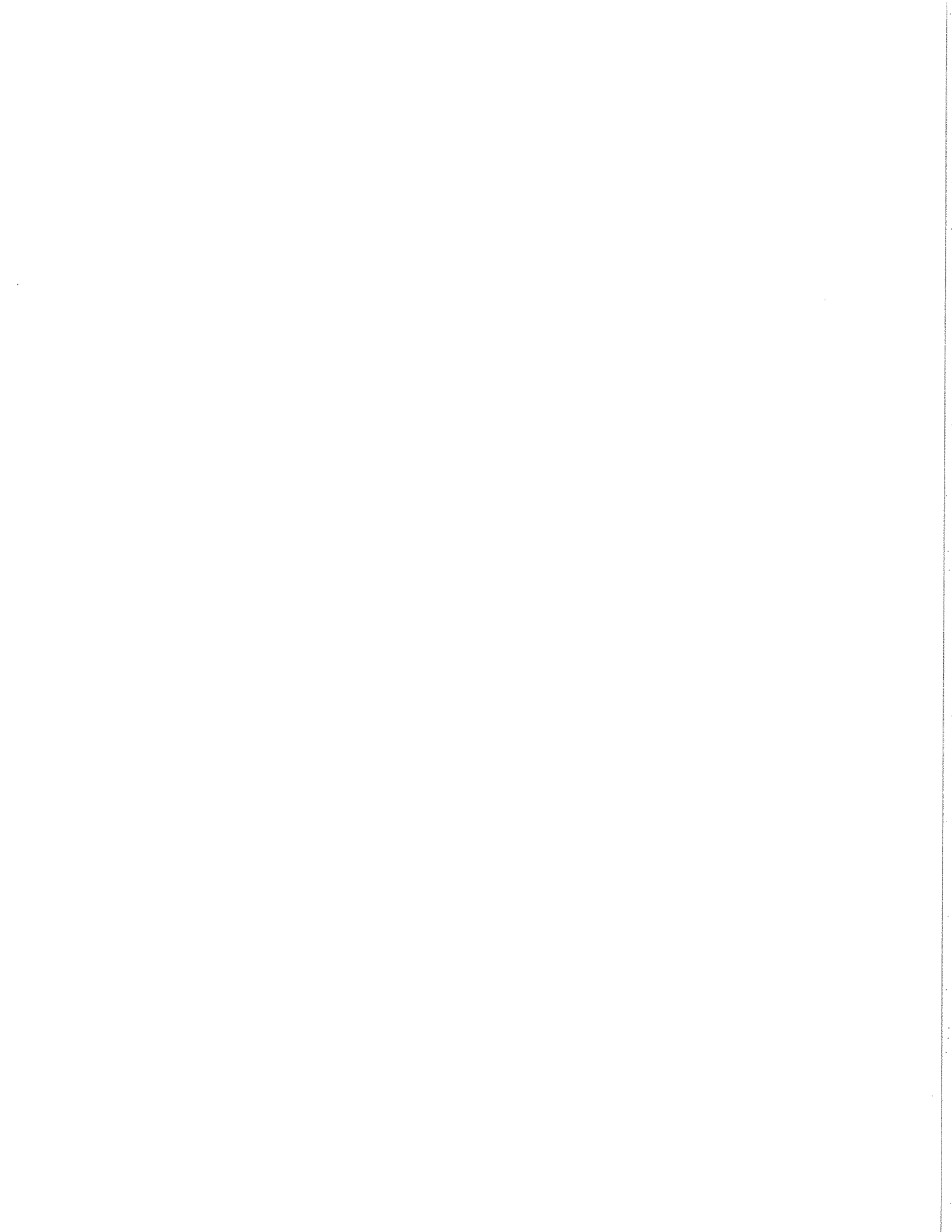
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

Walter and Company, resided at 510 W. Main Street (Photo 12) from 1922 til his death. Later in life, Rish was president of the Wabash Beverage Company.

Unquestionably the most successful firm in Wabash history was the Honeywell Company. Thanks to its chief product, the thermostat, Honeywell became an American household word. Its founder and president, Mark C. Honeywell, lived at 272 W. Main Street (Photo 5) from 1900, the year he began his heating and plumbing business, to around 1920, when he moved to his better-known house at 394 N. Wabash Street. During this period, Honeywell and his staff developed a number of advances in hot-water heating and invented several important devices such as a mercury standpipe heat generator. Following a merger in 1927, the firm became nationally famous. At the peak year of its local manufacturing (1960), the Honeywell Company employed 1,250 people in Wabash and occupied 184,700 square feet of space in five separate buildings.

In summary, from pioneer merchants to modern-era bankers, from the entrepreneurs of the early mills to the executives of 20th-century industries, the Old Wabash residential area retained its popularity for the city's commercial and industrial leaders. It is interesting that no apartment houses were built during the district's period of significance, despite some pressures from housing shortages that continued into the 1940s.<sup>20</sup> This would seem to underscore the sanctity of one and two-family homes that prevailed in the community. The population of Wabash remained fairly constant from 1900 to 1930, only incurring a net gain of 200 people.<sup>21</sup> This was also an important factor in the stability of the district, which did not experience the negative pressures of urbanization that many other older residential neighborhoods in Indiana did at this time.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

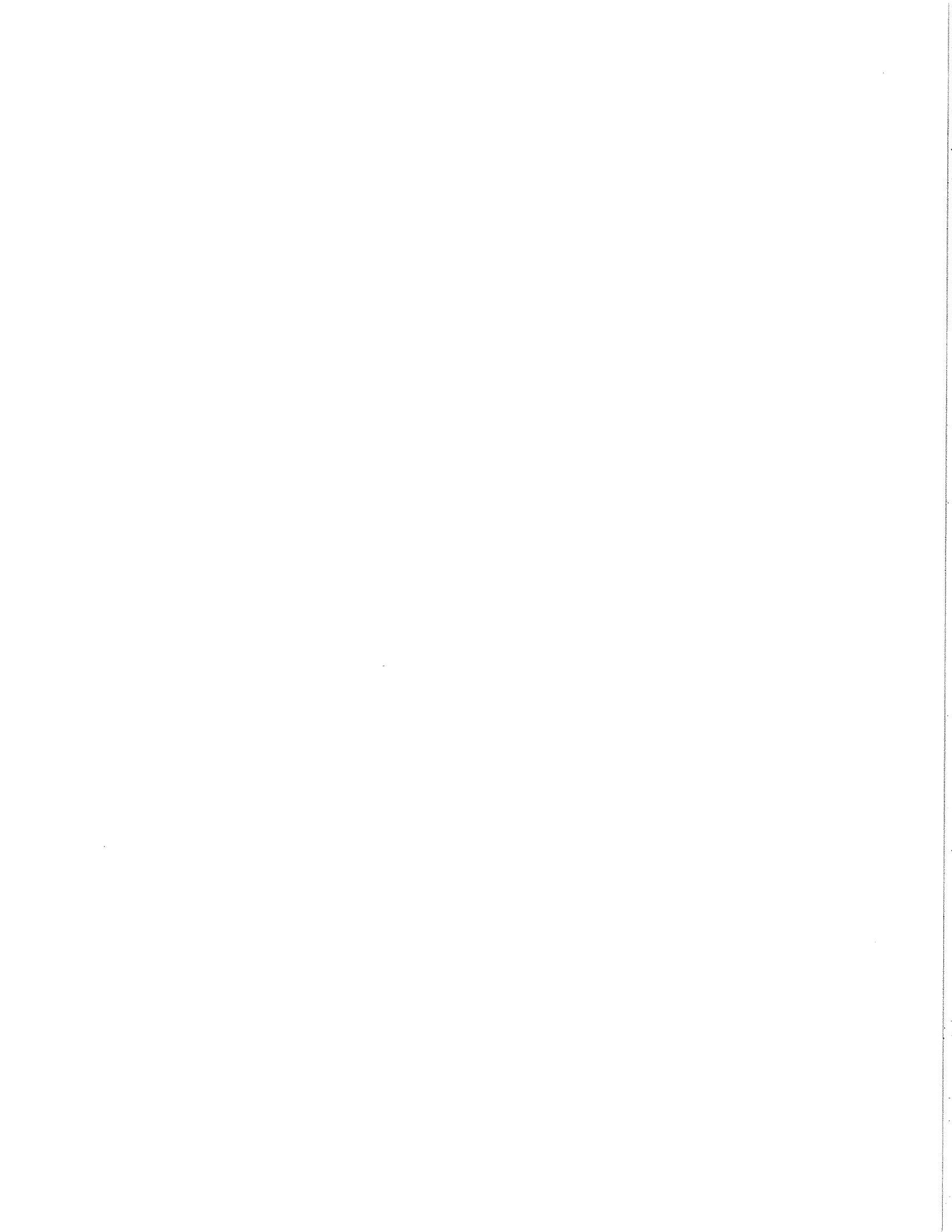
### Wabash's Jewish Population

In the late 19th century, approximately 100 Jewish families resided in Wabash. Their large contribution to the city's commercial development was singularly out of proportion to their relatively small number. Today only two Jewish families remain in Wabash, but the heritage of the preceding generations of Jews is still strong in the Old Wabash District, where many Jewish families chose to reside.

The majority of Jews emigrated directly from Germany to Wabash, which in itself is an interesting sociological phenomenon. Many were from the Rhineland, but the immigrants appear to have come from all parts of Germany.<sup>22</sup> As early as 1854, a Jewish cemetery was established in Wabash; today it remains the oldest of its kind in the state. By 1868 the population was large enough to form the Rodef Sholem congregation, which took over the cemetery and established its own private school. In 1877 the congregation's first rabbi was engaged, and in 1883, a church at Sinclair Street and Falls Avenue was purchased and remodeled as the Rodef Sholem Synagogue.<sup>23</sup>

The largest influx of Jewish families was associated with the employment opportunities offered by the Pioneer Hat Works, operated by Jewish immigrant Nathan Meyer (1846-1911). The factory began operation in 1891 and continued until 1912.<sup>24</sup> With its closing, many Jewish families left Wabash to work in other communities. Others were attracted to life in larger metropolitan areas, especially Chicago. By World War I, few families remained.

One of the earliest Jewish businesses to locate in Wabash was the dry goods store of brothers Michael and Leonard Hyman of Bavaria, which was established by Michael in 1846. This was taken over by Benjamin Wolf in 1865, who then formed a partnership with David Beitman in 1868.<sup>25</sup> The business eventually expanded into the locally well-known department store at 90 W. Canal Street in the Wabash Marketplace Historic District. Beitman, Wolf and Company was in operation for over 100 years until 1980. It may well have been the oldest and longest-run Jewish business in the state of Indiana. Many young Jewish immigrants to Wabash got their start in American life by clerking for Beitman, Wolf and Company. Benjamin Wolf resided at 156 W. Hill Street (Photo 25) from 1879 until his death, and his descendants still retain ownership of the house. From a humble start in business as a peddler upon his arrival in Wabash in 1863, Wolf became one of the city's most successful businessmen. He was instrumental in





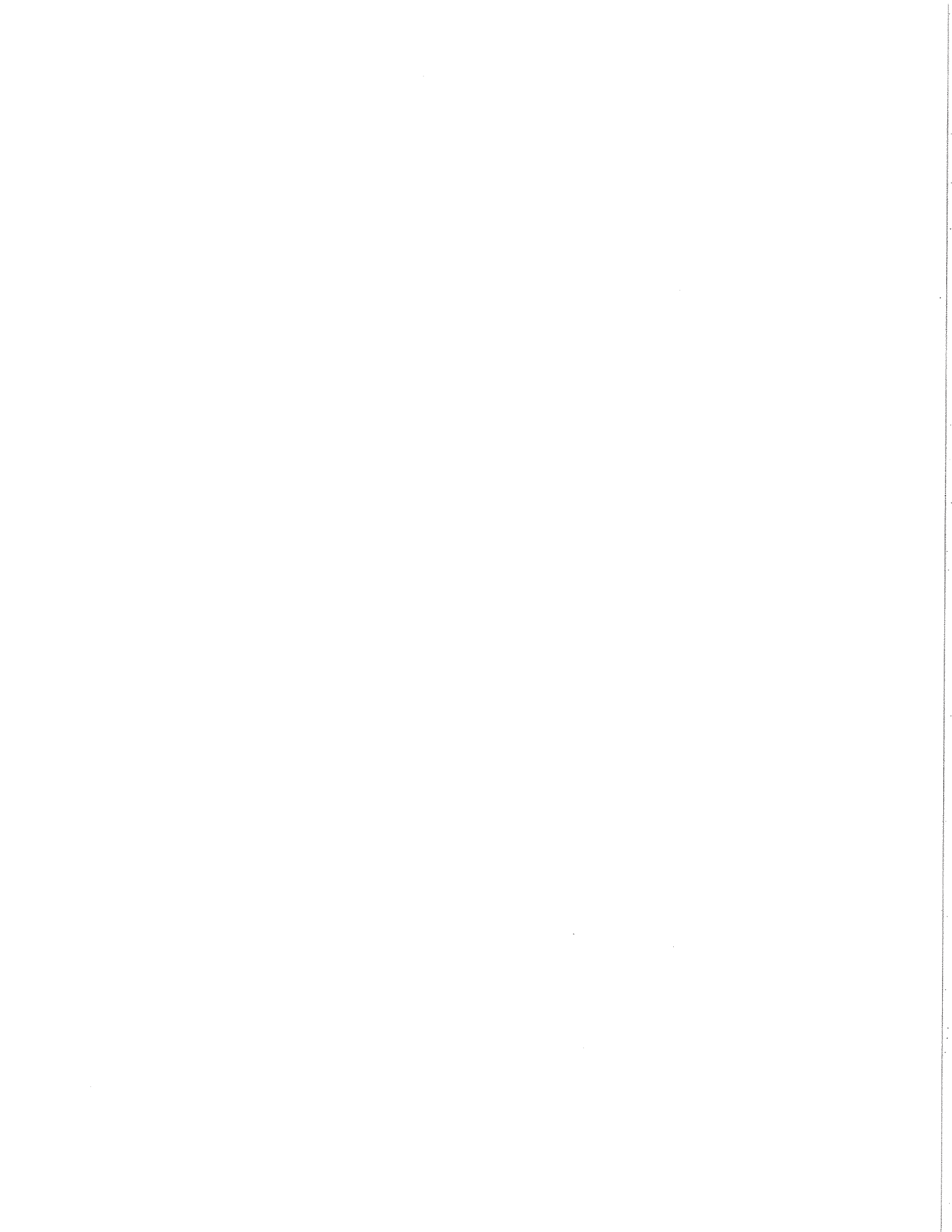
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

organizing the Wabash National Bank in 1888 and the Farmers and Merchants National Bank in 1902. Partner David Beitman and his wife Pauline lived next door at 170 W. Hill Street, which was demolished in the early 1970s for the new wing of the Carnegie Public Library.

Several of the Jewish merchants who lived in the district operated retail clothing stores and have been mentioned in the previous section. These include Samuel Simon, 142-44 W. Hill Street (Photo 24); Adolph Doob, 52 S. Miami (Photo 1); and David Cohen, 173 S. Thorne Street (Photo 15). Among the Jewish industrialists were Jacob Hyman, Jr. and David Marks, who reorganized the Star Woolen Mill in the early 1890s. Hyman's house, at the southwest corner of Main and Miami Streets, has been demolished. Marks, who was a city councilman active in Democratic politics as well as president of the Rodef Sholem congregation, lived at 170 S. Thorne Street (Photo 16).

One of the most interesting businesses associated with a Jewish resident of the district was the importation of Belgian draft horses. Harmon Wolf, who emigrated to Wabash in 1866, was at one time one of the largest importers of these animals to the United States. Wabash has since become well identified as the American headquarters of the Belgian Draft Horse Association. Wolf resided at 261 W. Hill Street (Photo 32). The business was continued by his two sons, Louis and Henry, who also lived with their families at this address.

Three brothers in the Simon family resided in the district, and their biography is fairly typical of the Jews who came to Wabash. From the small village of Waldulversheim Bleinpfalz in Hessen, the two elder brothers, Abe and Aaron, first emigrated to Indiana. In 1871 they were followed by Sam Simon, his four sisters, and his parents. Sam first took a position with Beitman, Wolf and Company as a bookkeeper. Later, with his brother Aaron, he formed a partnership and started a grocery store, which then evolved into the Simon Brothers clothing store. Following the dissolution of this partnership in 1907, he entered into a manufacturing venture in Richmond, then started the Simon Cigar Company, and also formed a partnership with his son-in-law, Benjamin Cook. From 1887 on, he and his wife Rosa resided at 142-44 W. Hill Street (Photo 24). Abe and Carrie Simon lived at the northeast corner of Miami and Maple Streets, and Aaron and Lena Simon lived at 122 W. Hill Street, which was demolished for the Educational Building of the Christian Church in the early 1960s. Sam Simon's obituary noted that at one time <sup>26</sup> eight children of the Simon family were married and had homes in Wabash. With Sam's death in 1917, only two families remained--Abe's and Aaron's. By this time, the "diaspora" of Wabash's Jewish population was well under way.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 13 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

The homes of the Jewish families were scattered throughout the district. There does not appear to have ever been any segregation of housing. One interesting small concentration of five Jewish houses in a row did exist on the north side of Hill Street between Cass and Miami Streets. All have been cited previously except for the home of Jacob and Matilda Herff at the northeast corner of Hill and Cass Streets. This house was sold to the City of Wabash at the time that a prominent site was sought for the new Carnegie Library in 1901. The only building on the north side of this block not owned by a Jewish family in the 1880s and 90s was the Christian Church.

Architectural Significance:

A large number of the homes in the Old Wabash district can be considered architecturally significant because of their excellent state of preservation. Among the 201 primary buildings that contribute to the historic character of the area (out of a total 209 primary buildings within the district's boundaries), there are outstanding representatives of architectural styles from the 1840s through the 1920s. Although there is no single predominating style and each decade in the period of significance is represented, there are a large number of Italianate style houses from the late 1870s.

The significant early houses of the pioneer period have been discussed in the preceding section entitled "Early Settlement." These include the small, one-story brick Federal style houses and a Greek Revival saltbox house. The examples are all scaled-down, vernacular renditions of styles that were popular decades earlier in areas of the country that had been settled earlier. Many more such houses once existed within the district but were torn down to make way for a second generation of homes in the late 19th century. Others have been remodeled beyond recognition.

There are interesting homes of the 1850s that represent a definite advance over the early pioneer structures yet do not belong to any well-recognized architectural style. The Wilson-DuPuy House at 189 N. Miami Street (Photo 55) and the Ford House at 177-79 W. Hill Street (Photo 27) are both substantial brick structures of interesting form. The houses are comprised of three interesting "blocks," two stories tall, with gabled roofs. The Payne House at 256 W. Hill Street (Photo 31), completed in 1853, is another substantial two-story brick house that follows a more traditional T-plan form. All three houses probably originally exhibited more Greek Revival architectural features but have been modified over the years.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 14 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

The most architecturally stylish home built in the district before the Civil War was the Sivey House at 306 W. Main Street (Photo 7). When built in the late 1850s, it may have been one of the finest examples of the Gothic Revival style in the state. The exuberance of its detailing, especially at the front gable of the main facade, set it apart from the more common, modest interpretations of the style. Although the house has suffered many unfortunate losses of its fabric, the recent removal of asbestos siding has exposed the original board-and-batten siding. There were other lesser examples of the Gothic Revival style in the district, but those that survive have all lost the characteristic bargeboards and jigsaw detailing. One cottage that, like the Sivey House, is still recognizable for its form is 674 W. Main Street (Photo 17), which retained its decorative trim until the 1960s.<sup>27</sup> Another similar example is 276 W. Hill Street, which exhibited interesting bargeboards along its front gable as late as 1970.<sup>28</sup>

The Italianate style made its first appearance in Wabash in the 1860s, flourished to its height in the late 1870s, and was still popular in the early 1880s. Through these three decades, the style necessarily went through many changes from its first tentative appearance to its late popularity in combination with other stylistic trends. The Thurston-Wolf House, 156 W. Hill Street (Photo 25), which is believed to date to the 1860s, was probably the first house in the district to employ the style. Breaking out of the rectangular box form of the first half of the 19th century, the brick house followed a typical Italianate plan with irregular massing in the form of a three-sided projecting bay. The low, decked, hipped roof and the paired brackets of the wide cornice were hallmarks of the style. However, the house's windows appear to be a conservative gesture, following the same rectangular form and proportions, with plain stone lintels, that had been used for decades. It was not until the 1870s that the round arched window forms and projecting hood moldings became widely accepted for residential buildings. The Thurston-Wolf House is therefore a good example of an early transitional Italianate.

Two very similar houses that represent the most typical Italianate residence built in the district are the Hutton House, 344 W. Hill Street (Photo 37) and 78 W. Maple Street. Both frame houses built circa 1875 follow the same basic plan with a three-bay wide front portion stepping back to a two-story projecting bay. They both have low, decked, hipped roofs, wide overhanging eaves supported by scrolled brackets, and rectangular attic windows alternating with panels between brackets at the cornice. As was most common for frame Italianate buildings, the windows take a rectangular form and are topped by pent hood moldings supported by

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 15 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

small ancons. These windows express the tall proportions typical of the style.

A variation on the Italianate style, which took place in the early 1870s in Wabash, incorporated French elements of the Second Empire style. Wilbur Peat, author of Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, referred to this as the "composite mode" and cited the McNamee House at 208 W. Hill Street (Photo 29) as a stellar example. The main reason for this classification is the incorporation of a prominent tower with mansard roof into the design of an Italianate house. Peat regarded houses like the McNamee House as belonging to a transitional style in movement from the Italianate into the "Franco-American," otherwise known as the Second Empire style. Because of the selection of the McNamee House as an illustration in his book, it has become widely known throughout the state as an example of Wabash's domestic architecture. The house's large-scale and richly ornamented window hoods also set it apart from the early Italianate houses in the city. Another Italianate house of the early 1870s that incorporates a French stylistic feature is 349 W. Hill Street with its mansard roof.

After 1875, several very large Italianate homes were built in the district, among them 561 W. Main Street and 516 W. Hill Street (Photo 41). The Cowgill House at 56 W. Sinclair Street (Photo 50) may be considered as the culmination of the style in the district. The house's very tall proportions were accentuated by an unusual attic structure that rises from the crest of the decked roof. Its ornamentation was especially rich and elaborate; its cornice, its window hoods and frames, and its porches were all highly developed.

In the early 1880s, the Italianate style was still very popular as is evidenced by 490 W. Main Street (Photo 10) and 291-93 W. Hill Street (Photo 34). Both of these late examples updated the style by the unorthodox incorporation of peaked gables at their rooflines (both over projecting side bays). Again, a transition was taking place between the dominant style of the 1870s and that to come in the 1880s and 1890s. There are numerous other examples of the Italianate style in the district that were not individually researched for date of construction; among them are 254 W. Main Street, 642 W. Main Street (Photo 17); and 26 W. Maple Street (Photo 53). There are also several examples of older homes that were remodeled and updated in the 1870s to incorporate Italianate features. The Payne House at 256 W. Hill Street (Photo 31) is one of the best examples of this, since a new decked, hipped roof and cornice were apparently built to replace the 1850s gabled roof. All in all, the predominance of the Italianate style in the Old Wabash Residential District is reflective of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 16 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

the city's great period of growth between the 1860s and 1880s.

During the 1880s and 1890s, a great many individual styles of American domestic architecture have been variously identified as Queen Anne, Neo-Jacobean, Eastlake, Shingle, Stick--all generally classified as late Victorian. Because of the lack of consensus among architectural historians in clearly identifying these overlapping styles, and because most of the district's houses during this period represent amalgamations freely drawn from the various currents in vogue, there is no attempt here to assign specific style labels. For the buildings of architectural significance cited for this period, the important elements shared by all have to do with irregularity in plan, asymmetrical massing, variety in wall surfaces, and eclectic decorative treatment. The buildings do not share the great commonality of the Italianate style in plan, massing, scale and architectural vocabulary. Rather there is a decided bent to break away from this formality in design to achieve an individual effect.

The 1885 Weesner House at 313 W. Hill Street (Photo 35) is the best example in the district to illustrate the architectural variety of the 1880s and 1890s. As the other house in the district chosen by Peat to be illustrated in his book, it is also a well-recognized example. Although the main part of the two-and-a-half-story house is basically rectangular, the myriad of projecting bays, porches, and diagonals at the corners all work to disguise this. The effect is further accentuated at the roofline by the combination of gabled, hipped and jerkin-head roof forms; the many dormers, no two of which are alike; and the tall, decoratively detailed brick chimneys. The building's wall surfaces are given similar complexity by the use of wave-patterned shingles between floors and by the banding and paneling of horizontal and vertical boards. As is true for most homes of this era, the original paint scheme of contrasting colors would have enhanced the overall effect.

Homes in the district that share many of the characteristics outlined for the Weesner House include the following. Built in the 1880s on West Hill Street were the Coate House at 464 (Photo 40) and the Daugherty Brothers Double at 559-61 (Photo 42), the latter building somewhat atypical of multifamily houses built for rental income. Constructed circa 1890 were the Shank House, 339 W. Hill Street (Photo 36); the Bigler House, 388 W. Hill Street (Photo 39); the Busick Home, 40 W. Sinclair Street (Photo 48); and the Shively House, 88 W. Sinclair Street (Photo 51). Among the latest examples is the DePuy House at 75 W. Maple Street (Photo 54), which was not built until 1899 or 1900. The Blount House at 44 W. Sinclair Street (Photo 49) must be cited as a good representative of the Stick Style, since its distinctive "stickwork" clearly places it under this style category. Built

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 17 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

in 1883, two decades after the style's appearance in the East, it is also a good example of the time-lag often involved in the popularity of styles in Indiana.

The most architecturally significant building in the Old Wabash district is the former Wabash High School, 209 W. Hill Street (Photo 30), completed in 1894. Designed by architects Wing and Mahurin of Fort Wayne, it is an outstanding representative of the Richardsonian Romanesque style and undoubtedly ranks among the finest examples in the state. Testifying to the exceptional design, a full plate rendering of the building was published in an issue of American Architect and Building News while the school was under construction. (Indiana buildings were rarely illustrated in this professional journal.) The publication influenced the design of other Romanesque Revival high schools in the state, notably the Greenfield High School, destroyed by fire in recent years. It also influenced the popularity of the Romanesque Revival among Wabash businessmen, who erected many examples of the style in the commercial district of the city in the late 1890s and early 1900s. One singularly distinctive house in the residential district that obviously took inspiration from the Wabash High School is the Wolf House (Photo 32), located at 261 W. Hill Street next door. Built of the same rock-faced, coursed limestone, the house and school share a high standard of stone craftsmanship. The Wolf House is a much more individualistic interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style, while the school is a "pure" example drawn closely from medieval models.

At the turn of the century, a turn away from the Victorian and a return to the classical took many architectural expressions. There are at least five important houses in the district that can be broadly characterized as being influenced by this trend. Each of the houses is quite different, yet they all represent variants of classically inspired styling. The first house to exhibit these characteristics was the Hill House, 593 W. Main Street (Photo 14), designed by architects Wing and Mahurin in 1892. This house was progressive in its use of architectural features of the Colonial Revival style such as its modillioned cornice, dentil bands, Palladian window, and pedimented gable. The Colonial Revival was only beginning to be used in residential design in the Midwest at this time. The Hill House may therefore be one of the earliest examples in Indiana.

In the year 1900, another house that can be termed classical in the broadest sense was built. The DePuy House at 373 W. Hill Street (Photo 38) broke even more dramatically with the tradition of the preceding decades of rambling, asymmetrical forms. Its plan is a simple rectangle. The overall

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 18 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

design is very restrained and understated. The arched windows of the first floor are the most prominent features of classical derivation. At about the same time, the Yarnelle House at 614 W. Hill Street (Photo 43) was built. This house is a stellar example of the high-style Colonial Revival house built from about 1900 on. Its construction date places it in the vanguard of such houses nationwide. The most interesting features of the house are those that harken back to Georgian models--for example, the overscaled swan's neck pediments of the dormers and the two-story-tall corner pilasters.

There are two later examples of the Colonial Revival style in the district. The Cohen House at 173 S. Thorne Street (Photo 15), with its crossed, flared gambrel roof, is a vernacular variant popular nationwide between 1900 and 1920. Its 1909 construction date makes it a fairly typical example. The Ebbinghouse House at 288 W. Hill Street (Photo 33) may be the earliest example in Wabash of the most common type of Colonial Revival house, which was especially popular throughout the country in the 1920s. Constructed circa 1918, the facade of the two-story frame house is perfectly symmetrical and exhibits such characteristic features as the multi-paned glazing in the upper sash of the windows and an arched entry porch supported by simple columns.

Rounding out the catalogue of architectural styles of the 20th century are two notable houses. The Gardner House at 180 N. Miami Street (Photo 56) exhibits the simulated half-timbered and stucco wall surface that is the hallmark of the early Tudor Revival style. Built in 1903, the residence is a beautifully designed rendition of this eclectic English style and undoubtedly ranks among the state's best examples of the early Tudor Revival. The Urschel House at 661 W. Main Street (Photo 19) was not a trendsetter in any way; it was well within the mainstream of American domestic architecture of its time (1912). However, it is the only example within the district of the most common vernacular form of the Prairie style, popular in the Midwest before World War I. It therefore adds to the architectural diversity present in the district.

Despite research undertaken to learn the names of architects who designed buildings in the district, there is very little known about those who played such an important role in creating this built environment. The two churches in the district are both attributed to amateur architects. Dr. James Ford, one of Wabash's most prominent early settlers, designed the First Christian Church (Photo 22) for his congregation in 1865. Ford, who had no training whatsoever in architecture and maintained a full-time medical practice, also supervised the six-year-long construction of the



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

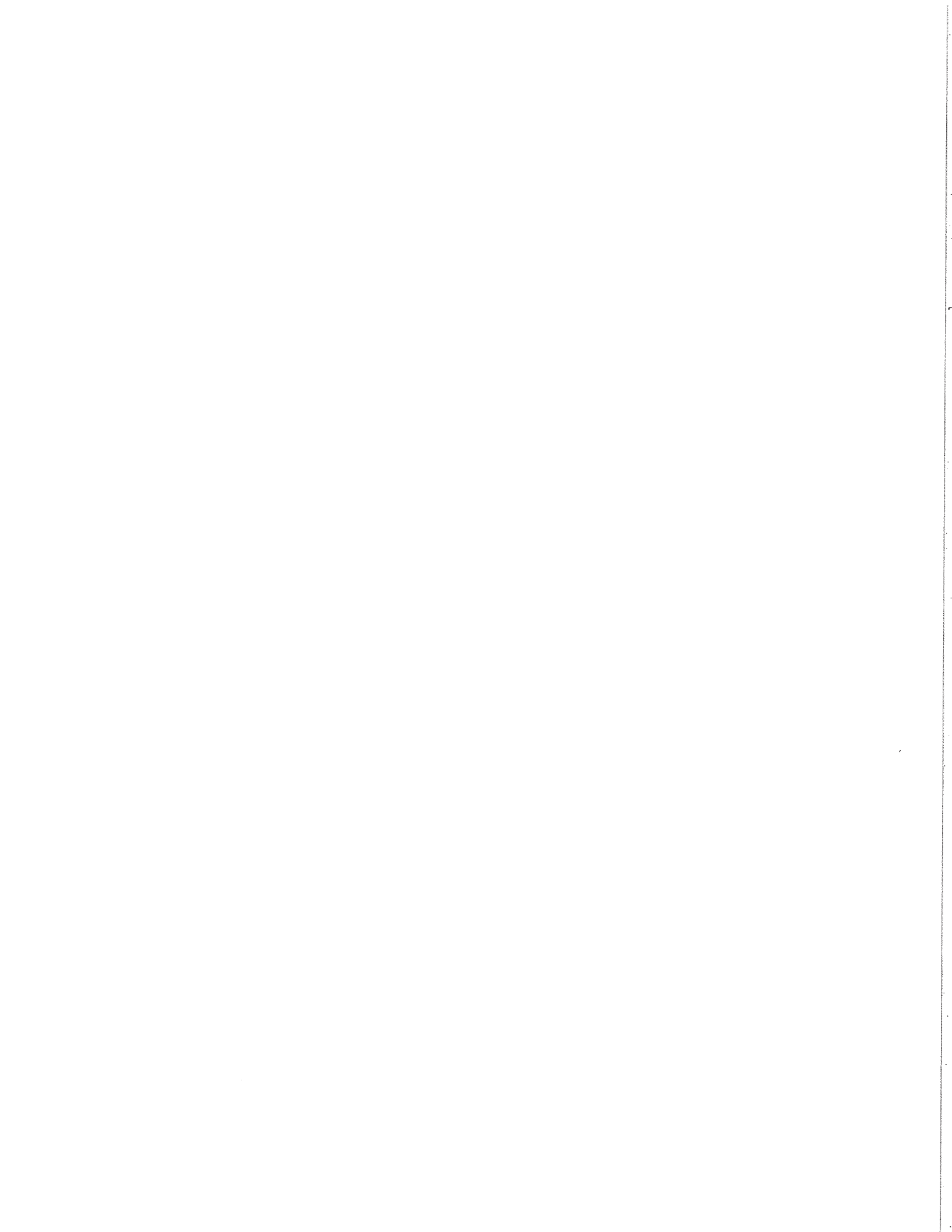
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 19 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

building. Frederick A. Grant, a Wabash builder who is credited in newspaper accounts with the brick and stone work for the Presbyterian Church (Photo 23), was probably the one who designed the building. It is known that Grant submitted architectural plans for Wabash City Hall in 1883 and subsequently was awarded the building contract. Therefore he probably often played this dual role of architect and builder.

Two of the institutional buildings in the district--the Carnegie Public Library (Photo 28) and the former Wabash High School (Photo 30)--were both designed by Wing and Mahurin of Fort Wayne. This architectural firm also designed the Hill House at 593 W. Main Street (Photo 14), which is the only residence in the district for which an architect is definitely known. The local contracting firm of the Hipskind Brothers, later J. H. Hipskind & Son, served as builders of all three of these buildings. Based on the information uncovered to date in the research of dates of construction and original owners, it is hoped that this nomination will serve as a catalyst for interested members of the community to delve deeper into Wabash's architectural history.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

Notes to Significance

1. The United States to the wife and children of "Charley," a Miami Chief, by third article of treaty of October 23, 1826, ratified January 23, 1827. See plat of part of Township 27 North, Range 6 East, in Wabash County, Record of Plats, p.13, Wabash County Recorders Office.
2. Plat Book: City of Wabash, pp.18-19. Wabash City Hall, Office of the Building Commissioner.
3. Warranty deed dated September 11, 1835, recorded October 27, 1836. Deed Record "A," p.7.
4. James Ford, Genealogy of the Ford Family (Wabash: 1890), p.87. The subsequent information in this paragraph comes from this source.
5. Obituary of Bennett E. Davis, Wabash Plain Dealer, February 8, 1895.
6. Atlas of Wabash County (Philadelphia: Hosea Paul, 1875), pp. 46-47.
7. Northern Addition, Plat Book, pp.20, 21 and 23; Western Addition, Plat Book, pp.32-35.
8. Ewing and Hanna's Addition, Plat Book, pp.34-35.
9. Sivey's Addition, Plat Book, pp.58-59; G.W. Ewing's Subdivision of Outlot 18, Plat Book, pp.54-55; Bruner and Brown's Subdivision, Plat Book, pp
10. Sivey's Second Addition, Plat Book, pp.118-120.
11. U.S. Census records. In 1860, the population of the City of Wabash was 1,520, while in 1880, it was 3,800.
12. Photograph in black notebook "Residential: I" from the collections of the Wabash County Museum.
13. Wabash Plain Dealer, September 19, 1881, and October 13, 1882, p.6.
14. The Wabash Times, Board of Trade edition, 1897. Copy at Wabash County Museum. The paper reported that the population was "nearly 11,000," which was in fact an exaggeration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

15. Letter from Warren Bigler, Wabash Public Library Advisory Board, to Andrew Carnegie, February 23, 1901. From micro filmed records at the Wabash Carnegie Public Library.
16. Information on the furniture industry was found in: Thumbnail Sketches of Wabash (Wabash: 1955), pp.68-69; Wabash One Hundred Years Ago, typescript of the Wabash Plain Dealer of September 19, 1881, p.24.
17. Wabash Plain Dealer, January 23, 1867, as quoted in: Thumbnail Sketches, p.69.
18. Thumbnail Sketches, p.73.
19. History of Wabash County, ed. by Clarkson Weesner, 2 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1914) 2:475.
20. Wabash Plain Dealer, October 21, 1944, p.1. The obituary of James K. Yarnelle mentioned that he was preparing to erect homes in the Maplewood Addition as a means of alleviating the current housing shortage.
21. Population statistics for the City of Wabash from U.S. Census records.
 

1900	8,613
1910	8,687
1920	9,872
1930	8,840
1940	9,653
22. This information was primarily derived from reading newspaper obituaries of the Jewish immigrants, which almost always cited a place of birth.
23. T. B. Helm, History of Wabash County, Indiana (Chicago: Morris, 1884), p.224.
24. Biographical Memoirs of Wabash County (Bowen: 1901), pp.450-453.
25. Joseph Levine, "From Peddlers to Merchants" (Ft. Wayne, IN: Indiana Jewish Historical Society, 1979). p.6.
26. Obituary of Sam Simon, Wabash Plain Dealer, October 28, 1917.

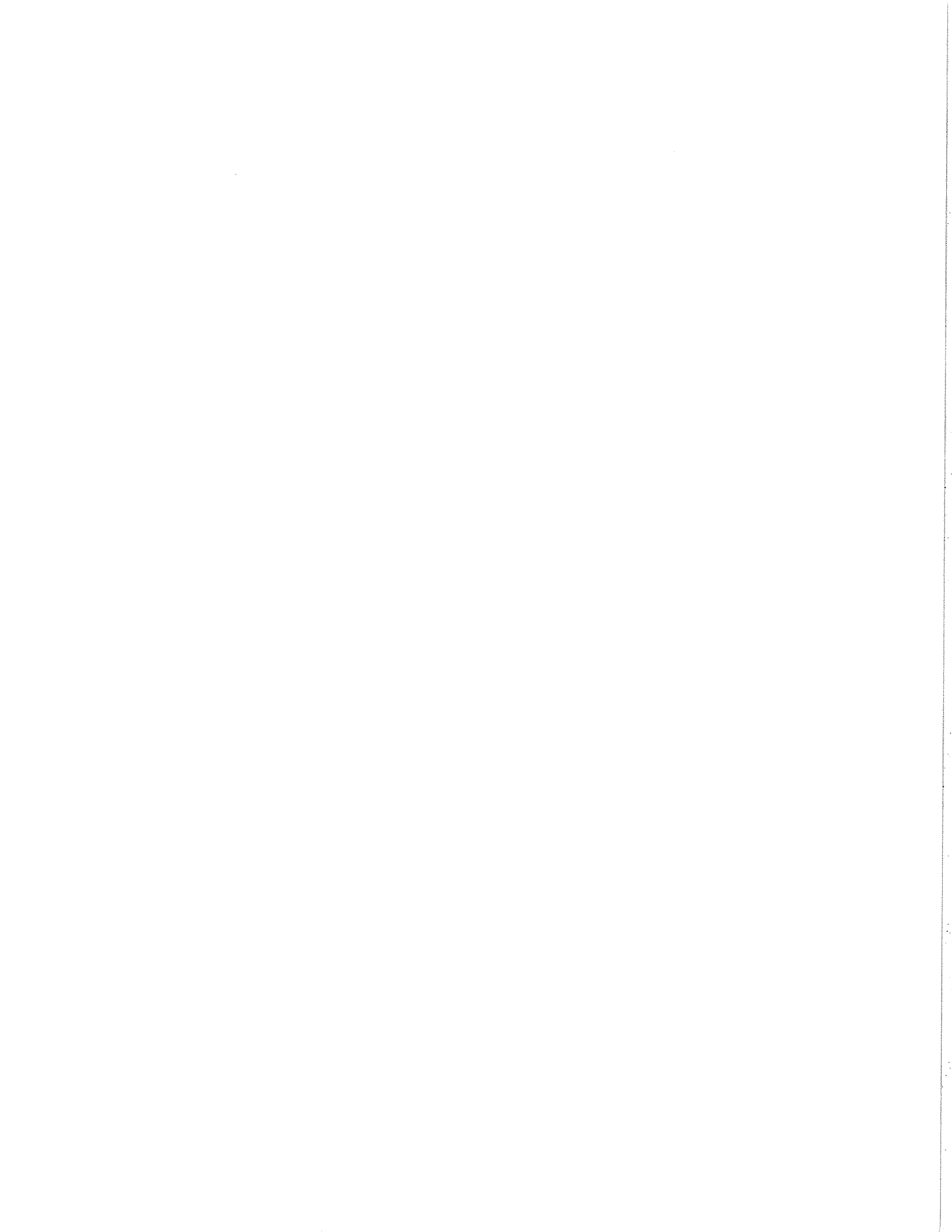
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 22 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

27. See the photo of 674 W. Main Street taken by Wilbur Peat in the 1960s. Indiana Historical Society, Peat Collection, Folder 10, W4.
28. See photo on page 11 of: "Nineteenth Century Houses in Wabash City and County" (Indianapolis: Indiana Junior Historical Society, 1970). Since many changes have been made to houses in the district since 1970, this small monograph is valuable as photo documentation of the existing conditions at that time. However, it must be noted that little or no research into the history of the homes was done, and construction dates and the names of original owners are largely guesses. Therefore, there are many inaccuracies and a great deal of misinformation. Apparently the Wabash County Interim Report published in 1982 by Historic Landmarks Foundation relied heavily on this source and therefore compounded the misinformation on numerous houses in the district.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Binnie, Doris R. Complete Name Index of the History of Wabash County, Indiana, By T. B. Helm (1884). Binnie, 1970.

Biographical Memoirs of Wabash County, Indiana. Bowen, 1901.

Butler, George W. The Manual of Wabash Containing Views of Public Buildings, Manufactories, Stores, Churches and Private Residences; a Description of Business Interests of the City; also a History of the Lives of Prominent Businessmen, Forming a Beautiful and Interesting Manual of the City. Butler, 1889.

Cemeteries of Noble Township, Wabash County, Indiana. Wabash Carnegie Public Library, 1979.

A Century of Light: Wabash, Indiana; History of a Centennial Celebration. City of Wabash, 1981.

Complete Name Index for the History of Wabash County, Indiana, by Clarkson W. Weesner (1914). Wabash Carnegie Public Library, 1975.

Cox, Sanford C. Recollections of the Early Settlement of the Wabash Valley. 1860, reprinted by Hoosier Heritage Press.

Dingley, George. Oral history interviews with various Wabash City/County citizens, numbering 102, transcribed and indexed. Wabash Carnegie Public Library. (manuscripts)

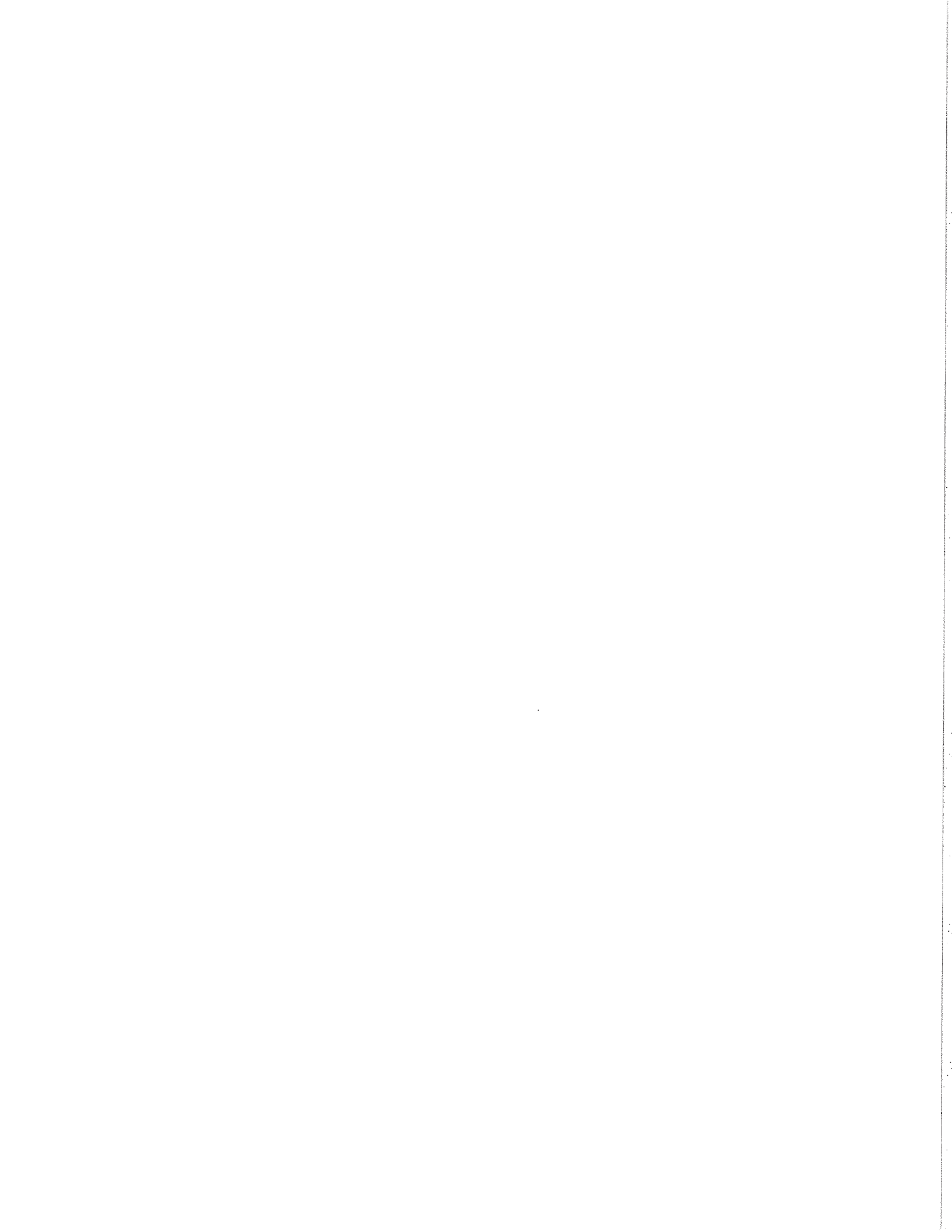
Dorrel, Ruth. Wabash County, Indiana, Index of Names of Persons and of Firms. 2 vols. Indiana Historical Society, 1983.

Ford, James. Genealogy of the Ford Family. Wabash, IN: 1890.

Fort Wayne Public Library. Abstracts from Jones Funeral Home Records, Wabash, Indiana 1906-1971, 2 vols.

Helm, T. B. History of Wabash County, Indiana. Chicago: Morris, 1884.

The Indiana Gazeteer or Topographical Dictionary of the State of Indiana... 1849, 1858-59, 1860, 1880, 1890.





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

Maps.

City of Wabash, Wabash Co., Ind." by H. J. Toudy & Co. Philadelphia, W. W. Richies, 1874.

"Map of the City of Wabash." J. W. Shea and H. Paul, 1888.

"Map of Wabash County, Indiana." Hamilton, Ohio: R. J. Skinner, 1861.

Marriage Records: Wabash County, Indiana, 1835-1957. Wabash Carnegie Public Library.

Memorial Record of Northeastern Indiana. Lewis, 1896.

National Register Nominations: Wabash Marketplace Historic District and First Christian Church.

"Nineteenth Century Houses in Wabash City and County." Indianapolis: Indiana Junior Historical Society, 1970.

Obituaries, Wabash County, Indiana, 1873-1899. Wabash Carnegie Public Library, 1984.

Obituaries, Wabash Plain Dealer, 1959-1970, 1979-1984. (clippings) Wabash Carnegie Public Library.

Paul, Hosea. Atlas of Wabash County, Indiana, from Actual Surveys by and under the Director of Hosea Paul. Philadelphia: Paul, 1875.

Peat, Wilbur D. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962.

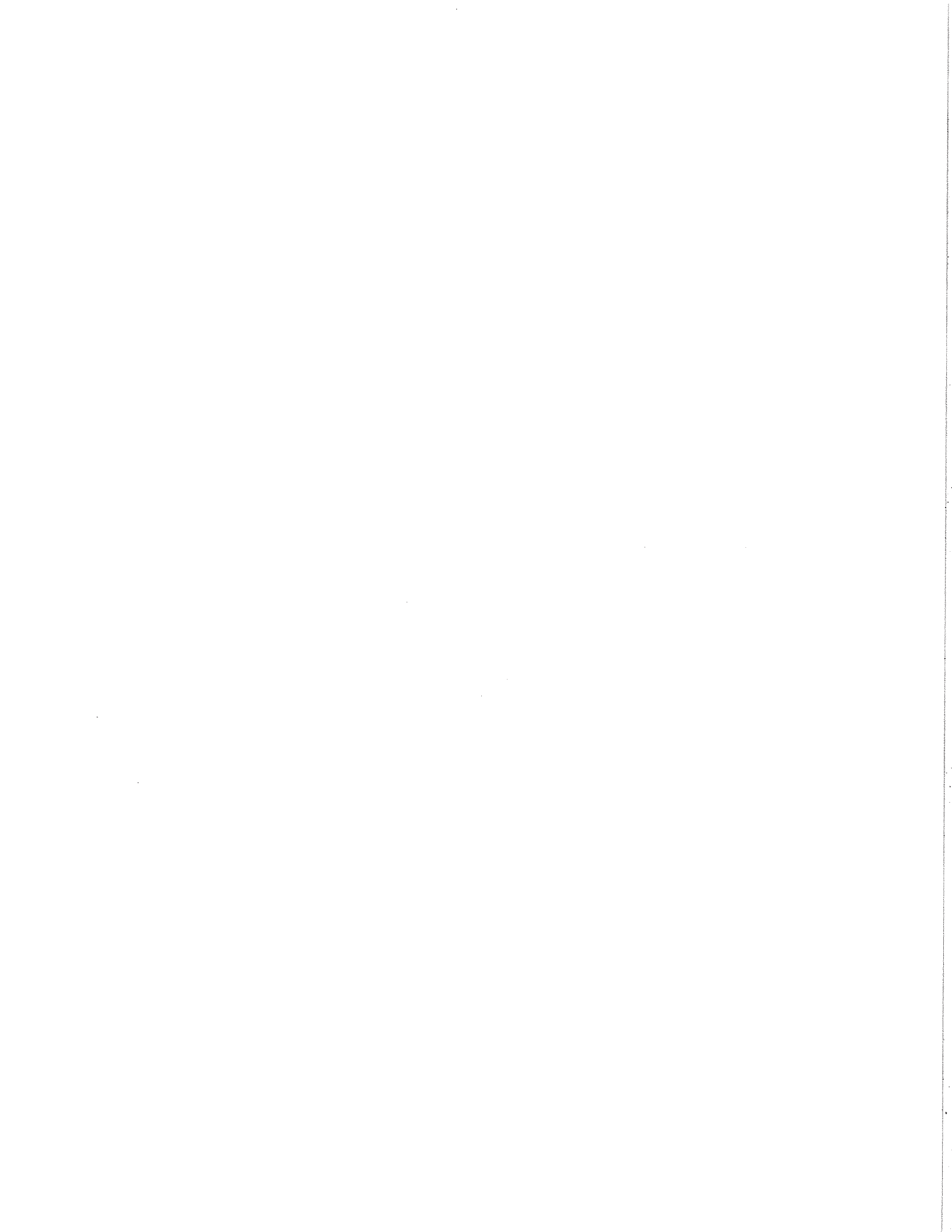
Plat Book: City of Wabash. Wabash City Hall, Office of the Building Commissioner.

Record of Interments, Falls Cemetery: Wabash Cemetery Society, Wabash, Indiana, 1838-1971, 3 vols.

Records Relating to Rodef Sholem Cemetery, comp. by Ronald Woodward. Wabash Public Library, 1977.

Robertson, Linda (ed.) Wabash County History, Bicentennial Edition--1976. Walsworth, 1976.

Rockwell, John R. Meet Mr. Wabash at the Mid-Century: A Sesquicentennial Publication. Rockwell, 1950.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

Sanborn Map Co. (Insurance Maps of) Wabash, Indiana...1887, 1893, 1896, 1901, 1910, 1920, 1931. Originals at Geography and Map Library Indiana University, Bloomington.

Thumbnail Sketches of Wabash for Diamond Jubilee. Wabash, 1955.

Ulery, Earleen. Years Ago...1876, 1923, 1942. Wabash Plain Dealer, 1976.

U. S. Census Records. Indiana State Library Data Center.

Wabash and Wabash County Centennial, 1835-1935.

Wabash City/County Directory. 1897-98, 1902, 1904, 1907, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1917-1918, 1924, 1937, 1940, 1945, 1948, 1953, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984. All at Wabash Carnegie Public Library.

Wabash County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1982.

Wabash County Museum Photo Collection.

The Wabash-Erie Canal 1832-1876. Wabash County Historical Society.

Wabash Junior High School History Club. Wabash 100 Years Ago, typescript of Wabash Plain Dealer of September 19, 1881, 1981.

Wabash Plain Dealer Bicentennial Edition 1976.

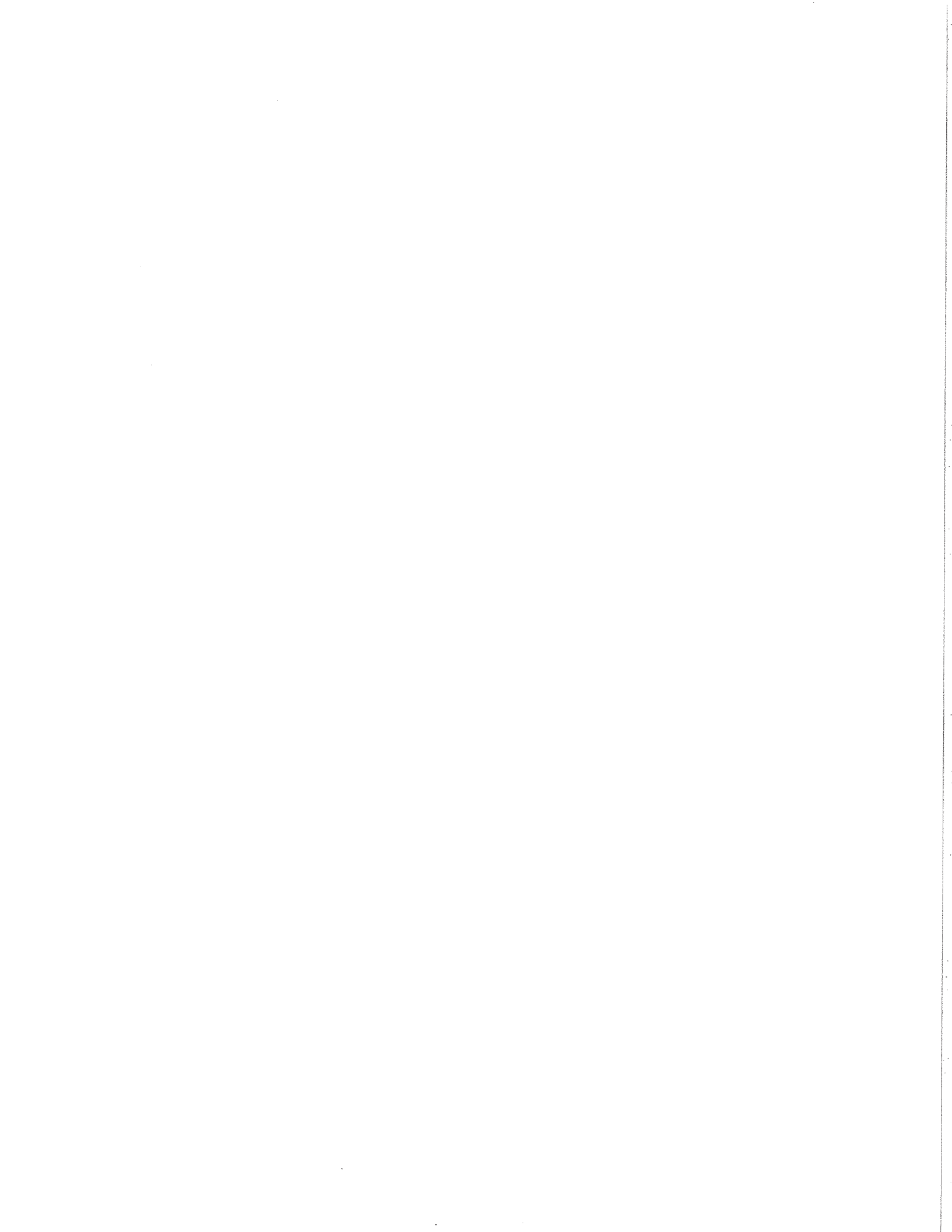
Weesner, Clarkson W. History of Wabash County, 2 vols. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1914.

Western Biographical Publishing Co. A Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana, 2 vols. 1880.

Winger, Otho. A Brief Centennial History of Wabash County 1835-1935. Winger, 1935.

Woodward, Ronald L. Biographical Memoirs of Wabash County, Indiana, Index. Part II. Wabash County, 1901. Wabash Carnegie Public Library, 1982.

Woodward, Ronald L. Early Newspaper Obituaries, Wabash, Indiana, 1848-1878. Wabash Carnegie Public Library, 1981.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

Boundary Description

Commencing at the northwest corner of the Wabash Post Office property at 110 South Miami Street, the boundary line proceeds south to the north side of an east/west City alley. The boundary then proceeds in a straight line west approximately three-and-one-half blocks to a point near the dead end of South Comstock Street where the boundary jogs slightly southwest to a point where it joins the crest of a natural bluff. Following the crest of the bluff west, the boundary of the district proceeds to a point that intersects with a north-south line that forms the east side of South Holliday Street.

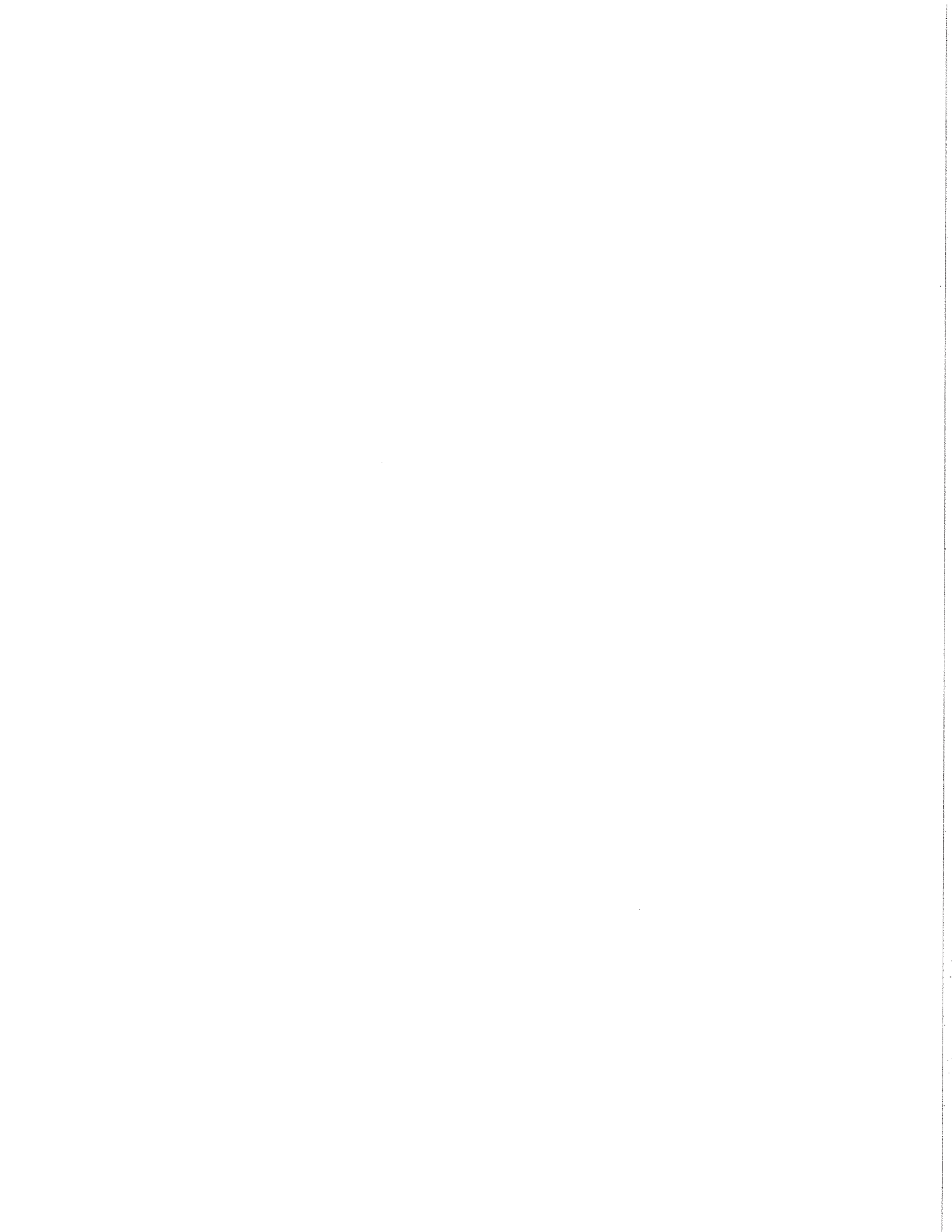
From that point, the boundary proceeds north along the east side of South Holliday Street to the north side of West Hill Street. The boundary then proceeds west on the north side of West Hill Street to a point that forms the western boundary of the Women's Clubhouse property at 770 W. Hill Street. At that point, the boundary proceeds north to the south line of the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way.

From that intersection, the boundary follows the railroad right-of-way east approximately six blocks to the east side of North Cass Street at the west property line of the Wabash Carnegie Public Library at 188 W. Hill Street.

The boundary line then proceeds north one-half block to the southeast intersection of North Cass Street and West Sinclair Street. At that point, the boundary follows the south side of West Sinclair Street east to the north-south City alley and proceeds north along that alley to the intersecting east-west alley. At that intersection, the boundary proceeds west to the western property line of the house at 167 W. Maple Street.

From there the boundary continues north along this line to the north side of West Maple Street and then west to a line that forms the western boundary of the house at 174 W. Maple Street. The boundary proceeds north to the south side of West Union Street and then continues east along the south side of Union Street almost two blocks to the east property line of 26 W. Maple Street. The line then proceeds across the street to the south side of West Maple Street then turns east to an intersection with the west side of North Wabash Street.

From that intersection, the line proceeds south to the north side of



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 2 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way and then west to an intersection with the first north-south City alley west of Wabash Street.

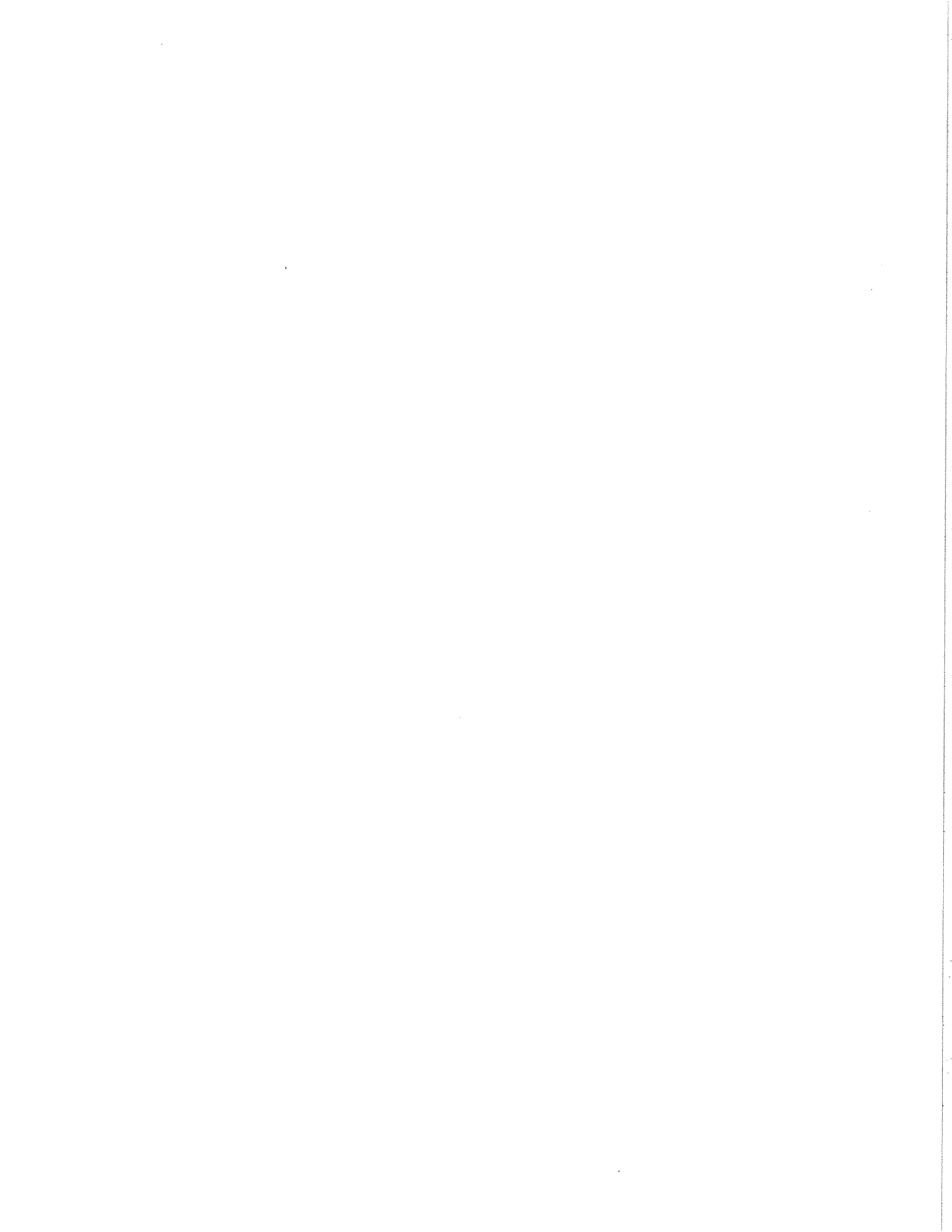
At that intersection, the boundary proceeds south to the south side of West Hill Street. The line turns west on West Hill Street to its intersection with the east side of South Miami Street. The boundary then proceeds south on the east side of South Miami Street to a point that intersects with the south side of West Main Street and proceeds west to the point of beginning.

Note that the boundaries of the southeast corner of the district on Hill, Miami and Main Streets were drawn so as to be contiguous with the boundaries of the Wabash Marketplace Historic District, designated in July, 1986.

Boundary Justification

West Hill Street contains a high percentage of architecturally significant buildings, owing to its long-term popularity among Wabash's wealthy citizens. Of the 43 pivotal buildings in Item 7, 24 are located on West Hill. West Main Street also contains a number of architecturally significant homes; however, over the years, many of its houses have undergone unsympathetic alterations (especially among the rental properties), demolition, or simply neglect. Two strong boundaries to the north and south of these two streets demarcate the district. To the north, the boundary line follows the right-of-way of the old Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad (today a part of the Norfolk Southern Railroad). Since 1855 railroad tracks have been in this location, forming a manmade boundary for the north side of Hill Street. On the south, the natural bluff has always been a topographical barrier. At the west end, there is an elevation change of approximately 50 feet between Main Street and Market Street below. At the east end, the difference in elevation is less, partially due to some grading that was done close to the central business district.

The east line of South Holliday Street and its continuation southward forms the western terminus on Main Street. West of 661 W. Main, there have been modern intrusions and the 19th-century houses have undergone unsympathetic alterations or have been re-sided (Photo 18). There are no architecturally significant buildings in the 700 block of West Main, nor on the south side of the 700 block of West Hill Street. The boundary line





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

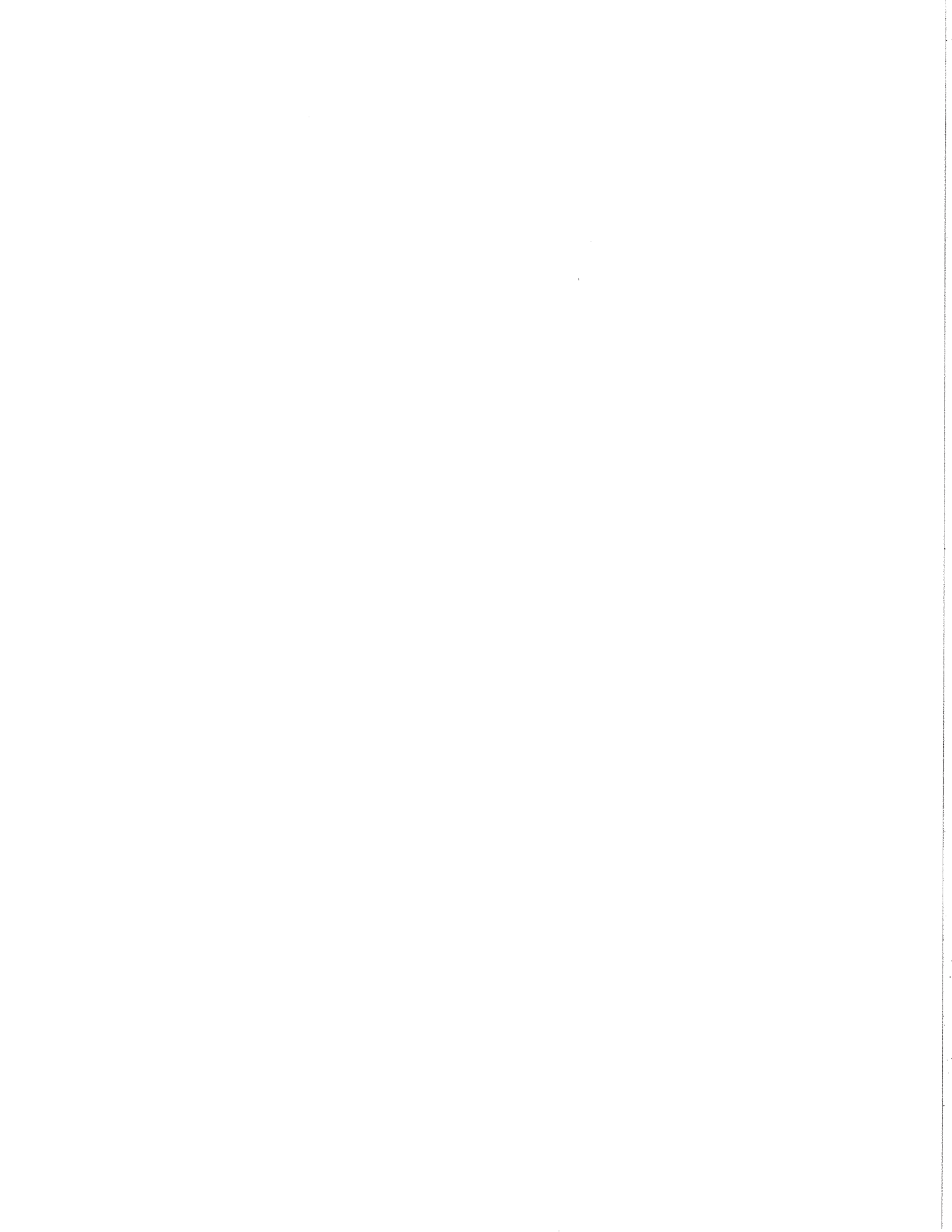
Section number 10 Page 3 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

jogs west on West Hill Street to include 770 W. Hill Street, originally the Wabash Orphans' Home completed in 1890 (Photo 47). It is situated on a five-acre site that originally contained three houses. The institutional use of this building has varied but has continued to the present; it has been a hospital, a clubhouse and is now the Wabash Senior Center.

To the west of the former Orphans' Home is a large city park that was first set aside as an agricultural fairgrounds in 1860. Although initially evaluated as part of the district, it has been omitted primarily because of its extensive acreage and its lack of significance from the standpoint of landscape architecture or planning. The structures scattered on the 35-acre site are not architecturally significant with the exception of the Lincoln Centennial Log Cabin. However, this cabin has been relocated here and therefore lacks the integrity of its original site. The partial remains of the old fairgrounds' racetrack purportedly survive, although there may be some confusion with the late 1890s bicycle track. Since the park has always been on the fringe of the district--indeed on the western city limits--and since it no longer serves as an important amenity to the residential area, it has been excluded from the district's boundaries.

The district extends north of the railroad tracks east of Cass Street for two important reasons: (1) there are many historically and architecturally significant homes on Sinclair and Maple Streets, including some truly outstanding stylistic examples, and (2) most of this area was part of the city's original plat, the oldest subdivision of lots. This contiguous area therefore historically belongs with "Old Wabash." The north side of West Maple Street was platted into the same sized lots as part of the Northern Addition of 1846. In this addition, the area north of Union Street was subdivided into large outlots, which is an indication that development of the residential area was not soon anticipated to proceed north of Maple Street. The west boundary of this part of the district jogs to avoid large parking lots surrounding St. Bernard's Church. In recent years four houses and several outbuildings have been demolished in this area to provide cleared land for parking.

As mentioned in Item 8, Wabash Street has always been the dividing line between the east and west parts of the city. Therefore, its western line was chosen as the easternmost boundary of the district. (A number of historically and architecturally significant buildings east of Wabash Street may some day come under consideration as a separate district.) The boundary jogs west in the first block of West Hill Street to circumvent two intrusions (40 W. Hill (Photo 20) and the corner gas station). The line then crosses West Hill Street and is contiguous with the northwest boundary



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

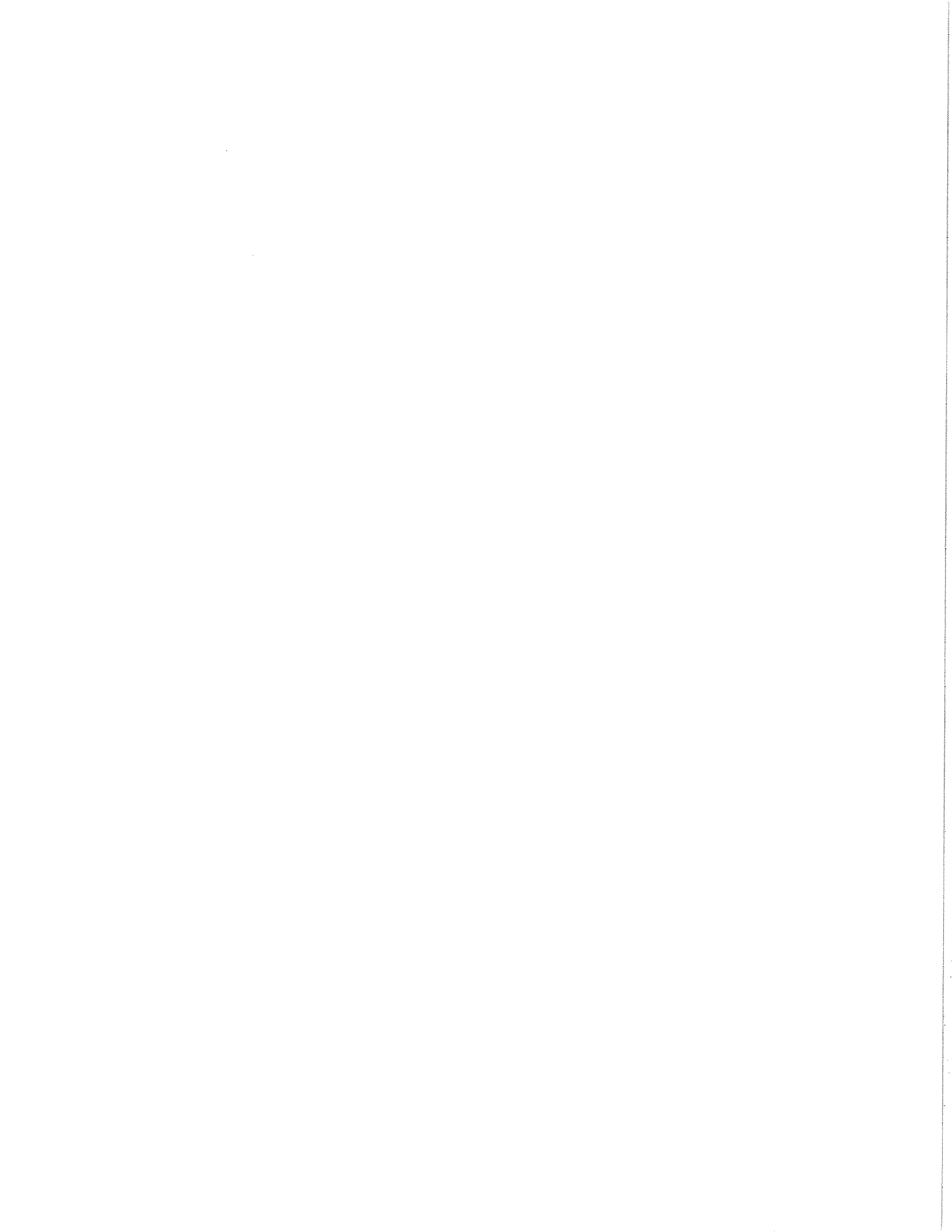
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 4 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

of the Wabash Marketplace Commercial District on Hill and South Miami Street. The building at the southwest corner of W. Main and S. Miami, around which the boundary line runs, is the U. S. Post Office, a pivotal building in the commercial district.

There is one additional alteration to the Old Wabash Residential District, as it was outlined in the 1982 county survey, that remains to be explained: Cass Street north of Maple Street has been omitted from this district. Although there are several architecturally and historically significant buildings along Cass between Maple and Stitt, it does not seem appropriate to add this northern linear extension to the Old Wabash district. First of all, as alluded to earlier, this northern area was first platted into large outlots and developed differently. Its physical characteristics are different in that the houses are set back much farther from the street behind retaining walls along the hill. It also does not seem logical to separate this street from its adjacent residential area, nor to cut it off at Stitt Street, a rather arbitrary northern terminus. There are approximately 20 buildings along Cass, as itemized in the county survey, that are excluded from the Old Wabash district. These should be considered during any future possible definition of a residential district north of Maple Street.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

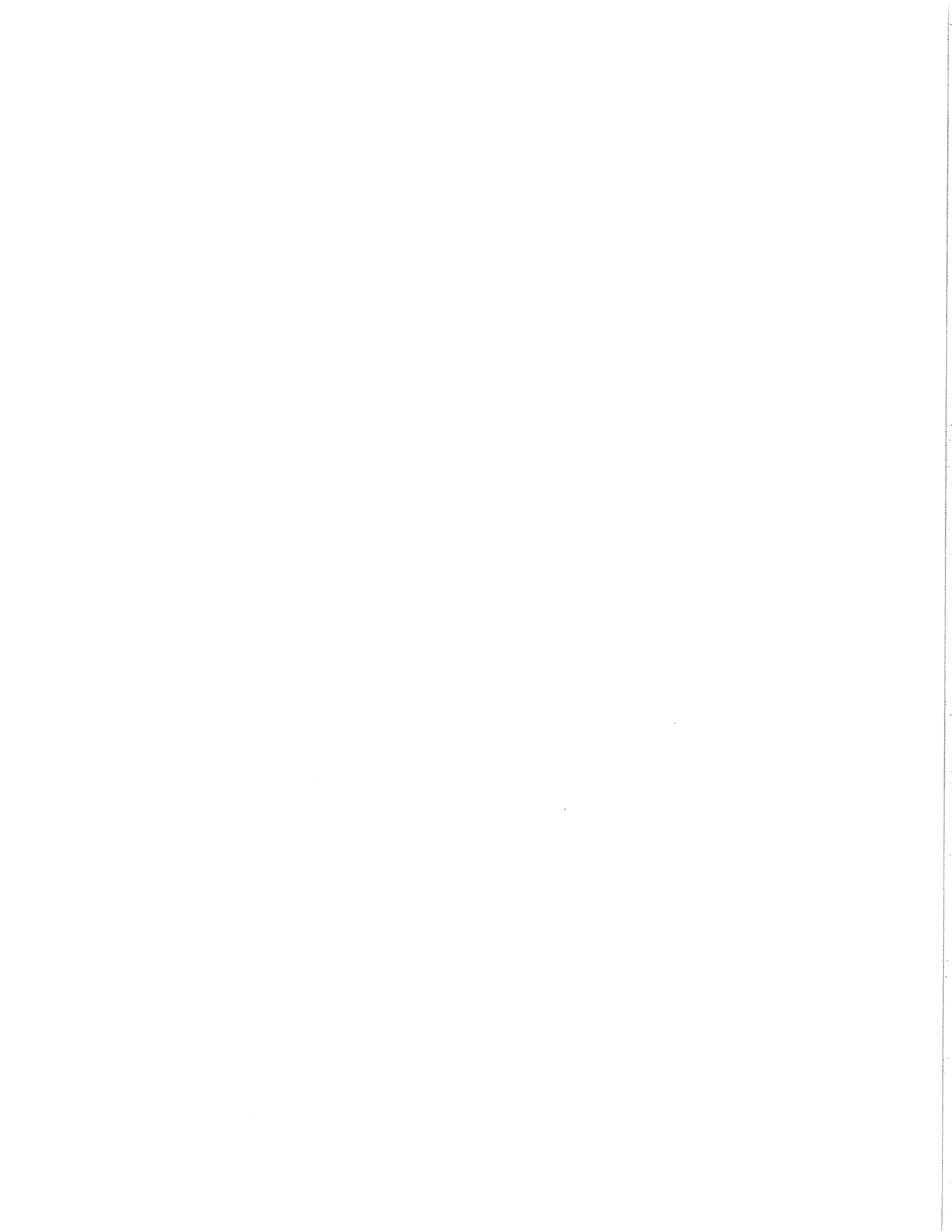
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

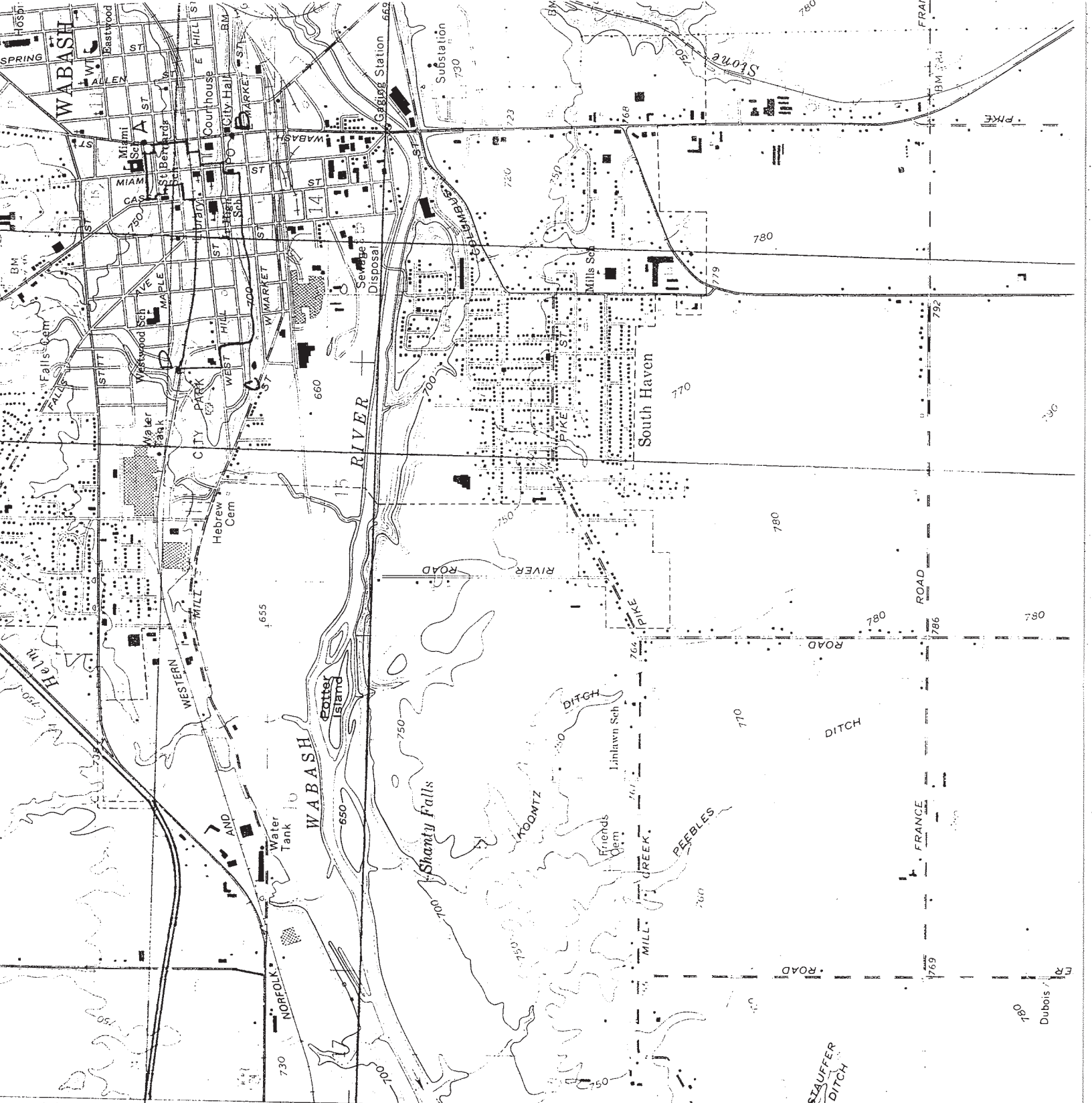
Section number 11 Page 1 Old Wabash Residential Historic District

---

Assistance Provided By:

Mary Toshach	Fieldwork and mapping
Linda Robertson	Administration, historic research, boundary description and typing
Gladys Harvey	Historic research
Don Knapp	Administration and photography
Pat Powell	Typing
Lynn Huber	Photography





**OLD WABASH RESIDENTIAL  
HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**UTM REFERENCES**

- A. 16 599 435 4517 25016
- B. 16 599 480 4516 730
- C. 16 599 400 4516 590
- D. 16 598 370 4516 940

4517

4515

4514

1:190,000  
FEET

4513

190  
Dubois

2