

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name French, Henry, House  
other names/site number Salmon-French House, 019-305-61069

### 2. Location

street & number 217 East High Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Jeffersonville N/A vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Clark code 019 zip code 47130

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date 5-4-89  
Signature of certifying official  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: I-house

Federal

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Henry French House (main block, ca. 1832; rear ell, ca. 1839) is a substantial, free-standing late-Federal brick dwelling situated on the northeastern half of a pair of relatively small, narrow urban lots roughly one mile upriver of downtown Jeffersonville. It rises two stories in height with a slightly raised basement on the principal elevation, adding a full basement story on the rear elevation as the site falls to the Ohio River nearby. (Site Plan and Photograph #1.).

The immediate surroundings are much as they have been for the last century and one-half; a mixture of resident and commercial uses, the latter dominated by the vast shipyards separating the French House from the nearby Ohio River. The High Street neighborhood is particularly attractive, with a handful of well-preserved 19th century houses nearby, including the robust Victorian Edmunds J. Howard House a couple blocks away.

The house faces northwest to High Street, just as the 90-foot wide road ends in a cul-de-sac just to its northeast. (The prevailing width of other streets in the area are closer to 60 feet). The two lots on which the house is situated (Numbers 59 and 60 in the Port Fulton plat) measure 50 by 200 feet each and presently run fully from High Street southeast to Utica Pike and the shipyards. (Historically, according to the plat, similarly sized lots--with improvements--were southeast of a 20 foot lane or alley bordering the French House which later became Utica Pike and an enlarged site for the shipyards, only after widening of the lane and demolition of the improvements.) About 35 feet separate the front of the house from High Street, and the sides of the house are set back from the sides of the lots only by two feet on one side and less than five on the other. (Site Plan.)

 See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Maritime History

Period of Significance

1832  
1836-1864

Significant Dates

1832  
1836  
c.1839

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Henry French House is significant for its association with Clark County's early architecture and urbanization and with one of the community's prominent early shipbuilders. It is a rare, late example of the I-style vernacular characteristic of the first quarter of the 19th century. It represents the period of Clark County's first wave of post-settlement growth, riding a tide of immigration which included a class of manufacturers and entrepreneurs drawn to the region's commercial promise.

The French family was one of the region's first and most prominent ship builders. This site is the only known property--residential or otherwise--with any associations with the family which still survives. All of the other French family houses and the family's substantial ship building assets have either vanished or have been totally altered.

Henry French (1812-1878) emigrated from Philadelphia, his birthplace, as a youth and made his way west with his family. He arrived in the Jeffersonville area and Clark County in about 1829 or 1830 after living with his family for awhile in Cincinnati. It is unclear just when the French family left the East, but like a lot of others in the Middle Atlantic, they may have been drawn west as part of the transmontane migration which accelerated during and immediately after 1812, the year of Henry's birth.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

BOOKS

Baird, Capt. Lewis C., History of Clark County, Indiana, Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen & Company, 1909

History of the Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties, 2 vol., Cleveland, L.A. Williams & Company, 1882.

CORRESPONDENCE

Interview of Eugene A. Stemler by Pamala and Greg Smith, May 1988.

Letter from Mrs. Dan (Louise Newkirk) Denman to Mrs. Virginia Knight Stemler, November 22, 1960. (Copy owned by Pamala and Greg Smith.)

[X] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
[ ] previously listed in the National Register
[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State historic preservation office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal agency
[ ] Local government
[ ] University
[ ] Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 16 611860 4237490
Zone Easting Northing
C

B Zone Easting Northing
D

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Lots 59 and 60 in Port Fulton Plat, now part of the town of Jeffersonville, Indiana.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Douglas L. Stern, Consultant
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city or town Louisville

date October 28, 1988
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