

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

*FINAL*

# 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 18). 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 Welborn Historic District  
other names/site number 129-439-37000

### 2. Location (See continuation sheet)

street & number \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Mt. Vernon N/A not for publication  
state Indiana code IN county Posey N/A vicinity  
code 129 zip code 47620

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
154	10	buildings
0	0	sites
5	1	structures
0	0	objects
159	11	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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 of certifying official *Shirley R. Roberts*  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date 1-4-92

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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
RELIGION: Religious Structures  
GOVERNMENT: Post Office  
SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling  
RELIGION: Religious Structures  
GOVERNMENT: Post Office  
EDUCATION: School  
SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MID 19th CENTURY  
LATE VICTORIAN  
LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other SLATE, TILE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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  
COMMERCE  
INDUSTRY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
c. 1840-1942  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

City Directory of Mt. Vernon, Indiana. The Hoffman Directories, Quincy, IL 1922, 1925, 1927.

Fogus, Alice. Early Homes of Mt. Vernon. 1946, revised 1959, 1966. Unpublished paper in the files of the Posey County Historical Society.

Fogus Alice. Old Homes of Mt. Vernon. 1946, revised 1959, 1966. Unpublished paper in the files of the Posey County Historical Society.

History of Posey County. Goodspeed Publishing Co., Chicago. 1886.

Hovey, Alvin P. Historical Sketch of Posey, County, Indiana. July 4, 1876.

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:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: Indiana Inventory of Historic Sites & Struc.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property 51.32 acres (17.25 Square Blocks)

**UTM References**

A	1,6	4,2,1,1,6,0	4,1,9,9,0,2,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,6	4,2,1,7,2,0	4,1,9,8,3,4,0

B	1,6	4,2,1,5,0,0	4,1,9,9,1,3,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,6	4,2,1,4,0,0	4,1,9,8,2,5,0

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title M. Christine Babcock, CPA (See continuation sheet)

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 623 Mulberry telephone 812/838-3830

city or town Mt. Vernon state Indiana zip code 47620

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## Location

Roughly bounded by Second Street on the south, a alley between Walnut and Main streets on the west, Ninth Street on the north, and Locust Street on the east.

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The Welborn Historic District in Mt. Vernon, Indiana is a predominantly residential district immediately east of Mt. Vernon's downtown commercial area. The area was laid out in 1822 and 1826 by Jesse Welborn. The streets run north-south and east-west starting at Water Street, adjacent to the Ohio River. Due to the low percentage of contributing properties on the block between Water and Second Street, the district starts north of Second. Walnut Street, which is the westernmost street in the district, has no residences (only commercial) on the west side of the street from Water to Fifth Street. The northern edge is one and one-half blocks south of railroad tracks. Houses along Locust Street, the eastern edge of the district, are typically smaller than those on Walnut or Mulberry. Areas east and north of the district were developed primarily in the twentieth century and have suffered a higher percentage of loss of integrity.

Topographically, the district gently rises from the river to Fourth Street and then gently rolls downhill until Sixth Street, then back uphill all the way north. Most streets have a fairly consistent covering of mature shade trees set on ample sidewalk lawns or in front yards.

The district contains 154 contributing buildings and 10 non-contributing buildings. It has 5 contributing structures (cast iron fences at 400 Mulberry, 623 Mulberry, 203 E. Fourth, 430 Walnut, and 610 Walnut) and one non-contributing structure (a non-historic iron and brick fence in the 700 block of Mulberry). There are no sites or objects in the district. No properties have previously been listed in the National Register. As the district map indicates, non-contributing resources are located primarily along Mulberry but only represent 7% of total resources. Two non-contributing buildings are the result of loss of integrity to a historic building, and eight are modern buildings.

The district currently is not the site of major renovation/restoration activity, although various properties are being rehabilitated. For the most part properties are well maintained and there are no substantial areas of blight or decay.

As stated in the 1985 Posey County Interim Report of the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, "the neighborhood became

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a fashionable area in which many of Mt. Vernon's businessmen and merchants built their new homes. The district contains a wide variety of architectural styles."

Many of Mt. Vernon's best examples of mid-nineteenth century residential architecture can be found in the district. The Nelson House (Photos 62, 63) built about 1840, is a good example of a Federal I-House. The Greek Revival house at 400 Mulberry (Photos 54, 55) was built around 1850 and was home to Edward Sullivan, a prominent businessman and banker. The house at 502 Walnut Street (Photos 12, 13, 15), built in 1846, is also a significant example of Greek Revival architecture. One of the most prominent residential buildings in the district is the Governor Hovey House (Photos 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 59), built c.1847 and remodeled in 1871. This Italianate structure served as the residence of Governor Alvin P. Hovey from 1871 until his death in 1891.

One of the most striking houses in Mt. Vernon is the Italianate structure (Photos 59, 60, 61) built by Edward Sullivan in 1860. The house's cupola (one of its finest features) provides an excellent view of the Ohio river. Behind the house is a brick building which was once a private neighborhood school. Its initial purpose was to house a gas generator, and the school came to be called "Gas College." Caroline Parke, a well known writer, was raised in the house.

When the railroad connected Mt. Vernon to points outside Posey County in 1871, a variety of local industries began to develop. Machinery plants, mills and lumber yards prospered. Many of the businessmen associated with Mt. Vernon's commercial and industrial growth built houses in the district. Homes such as the Queen Anne Cottage C.P. Klein House (Photos 28, 29, 30) are representative of the houses built during the late nineteenth century .

Early twentieth century architecture is also well represented in the district. The Johnson-Rosenbaum House (Photos 19, 51, 52, 53) is a good example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. Built around 1905, this house hosted FDR during a 1920 campaign stop. Other twentieth century styles represented in this area are Colonial Revival (Photo 50), Free Classic (Photos 55, 56, 57, 58) and American Foursquare (Photos 17, 18, 20, 22, 51).

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While this district is predominantly residential, it also contains several prominent churches. One of these is St. Matthew's Catholic Church (Photos 3, 8, 11, 16), built in 1880. This fine Romanesque Revival building cost \$10,000 to build. The First Presbyterian Church (Photos 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 51), a Gothic Revival structure, was built in 1872. Trinity Evangelical Church (Photos 13, 14, 52, 72), built in 1883, is representative of the many German congregations in Mt. Vernon. This Gothic Revival building housed more than 700 people during the 1937 flood of the Ohio River. St. John's Episcopal Church (Photos 19, 48, 49), a frame structure, was built in 1892 in the Gothic Revival style.

The Welborn Historic District remains today as one of the finest neighborhoods in Mt. Vernon. Its tree-lined streets and gracious homes serve as a reminder of Mt. Vernon's long and varied history.

The following is a description of representative buildings and structures from throughout the district:

232 Walnut - James House Photos 1, 2

This two-story brick house, built c. 1852, has a hipped roof. The main portion of the house is roughly square in plan. A one-story porch with Doric columns runs the length of the main, Walnut Street facade. This facade is composed of four bays; the three to the right are spaced closer together. The left bay is set apart from the other grouping and the first floor window has been enlarged. All other windows are two-over-two light, double hung. The front door is flanked by side lights and surmounted by a transom. Simple stone sills and lintels are used. To the rear of this block is a wing of two stories with segmental arches over the windows, added c.1880. Door openings on the north elevation were added to accommodate the conversion of the building into apartments.

330 Walnut - Governor Hovey House Photos 3,4,5,6,10,59

This two-story brick structure, dating from c.1847, faces the courthouse square, traditionally the most important location in the county. It was originally a 3-bay Federal or Greek Revival House, but it was extensively remodeled in 1871. The primary facade is composed of three bays at its right portion, aligning horizontally and vertically. The entrance door is located at the lower left of this grouping. A small cast iron porch with



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railings at the first and second floor levels is located at the entrance. The windows of this portion are all two-over-two light double hung windows. Decorative segmentally arched lintels with hood mouldings accentuate all these door and window openings. The left (or north) portion of the front facade is composed of a two-story, three sided projecting bay with one window per side. These windows are narrower than the other window openings of this facade, and employ semicircular arches. These windows are one-over-one light. A large, projecting, denticulated and bracketed cornice lines the top of the structure. The roof above has a shallow pitch, appearing flat from below. A large brick two-story Classical Revival structure was added to the rear of the house for use as the Masonic Lodge. The house's cornice line was continued on the Fourth Street facade of the addition with a high parapet above. Casement windows are used, with a transom above each. A classical muntin pattern is employed. A classical pediment tops an entrance on the north facade.

203 E. Fourth - Phillips-Welborn House Photos 7,8,9,10

The Phillips-Welborn House is a brick I-House with a shallow hipped roof. It was built c.1847 with simple Greek Revival design elements. Rear additions, and the Italianate porch and decorative elements, were added c.1863. The facade is symmetrical, composed of five bays. At the center of the facade is the entrance, reached by a one-story porch with paired square columns and a bracketed cornice. A door at the second floor is located directly above the main entrance, opening onto the roof of the porch. The entrance door is flanked by side lights and surmounted by a transom. The first floor windows are double hung, nine-over-six lights; the second floor windows are double hung, six-over-six lights. The second floor window and door lintels are embellished with a projecting moulding. The cornice is composed of a repeating series of two primary brackets to five intermediate brackets. At the side elevations, a chimney is located at the center of each end of the primary portion of the house. The rear wing of the house is one-story. A short tower-like form ends this wing at the rear. A one-story porch on the Walnut Street elevation rests between the two-story front portion of the house and the rear wing. An ornamental cast iron fence lines the property at the Walnut Street edge.

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420 Walnut - St. Matthew's Church                      Photos 3,11,16

This large, brick church was built in 1880 in the Romanesque Revival style. It is a gable-roof building facing Walnut Street with the main entrance through the large central tower, located at the gabled end. At the opposite gabled end, the rear of the building is a projecting apse corresponding to the altar location inside. The facade is composed of a large double door entry at the centrally placed tower, with a smaller single door entry to either side in the main mass of the building. Above each single door is a round-arched stained glass window. A circular rose window of stained glass is located above the double door tower entry. Narrowly projecting brick pilasters accentuate the building's corners. A brick corbel table frieze lines the upper edge of the building. The square tower rises above the gable peak with paired louvered round-arched windows in each side. At the top of the brick tower is a circular clock with a face at each side of the tower. The steeple above was reconstructed during the 1980's, after structural damage to the original wooden steeple during a storm. The side elevations of the church contain six round arched stained glass windows to each side, at a regular spacing. Each window is divided by wooden tracery into two narrower round arched openings with a central circular opening at the top. Ornamental brickwork is similar to that of the main facade.

200 Block E. Fifth - Trinity Evangelical Church,      Photos 13,14,52,72

The church is a gabled brick building, built in 1883 in the Gothic Revival style. The facade is composed of a central projecting tower at the Fifth Street side of the gabled end with a stained glass lancet window to each side of the tower. Wall buttresses are located at corners and between fenestration. Stone is used as an accent material at the water table, at window and door openings, and at buttresses. The cornice is a large but simple cove. The tower begins at its base as a square plan, but above the gable is transformed into an octagonal plan. A stained glass lancet window is located above the entrance in the square section of tower; a louvered lancet opening with a louvered circular opening above is located in each of the sides of the octagonal section. The steeple at the top is a slim, eight sided vertical structure - one of the tallest structures in the town. It is covered with wooden shingles and a cross marks its termination.

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The side elevations are each composed of four stained glass lancet windows with a wall buttress between each. The roof is of slate. About 1970, a large addition was built on the east side of the church. It has a low, flat roof and brick walls. Due to its massing and simple design, the addition does not adversely affect the architectural integrity of the church.

502 Walnut

Photos 12,13,15

This two-story Greek Revival brick house with side gabled roof was built in 1846. The front elevation is symmetrical, with three bays. The door is centrally located and is surrounded by pilasters and an entablature. Windows are one-over-one, double hung with bracketed lintels. A cornice lines the top of the building, with cornice returns at the gable ends. A one story wing projects from the rear. Cornice brackets were added c.1870.

531 Walnut - Otto Klein House

Photos 17,18,20

A two-story brick house with a hipped roof, this American Foursquare was built c.1920. The front of the house features a one-story porch lining the entire facade. Three brick piers support a wooden cornice with paired brackets above each pier. A wood railing lines the edge of the porch roof above. The door is at the left of the facade, flanked by side lights. A single window opening divided into a tripartite scheme is located on the right of the facade. On the second floor, a three sided wooden bay projects above the door. Each window in the bay is a three-light wide by four-light high casement, with a three light transom window above each. A tripartite window is located in the brick wall to the right, identical to the corresponding first floor window. A bracketed cornice is located at the roof edge. The roof is capped by a gabled dormer with a pair of six-light windows.

120 E. Sixth - 1st Presbyterian Church Photos 17,18,20,21,22,51

This Gothic Revival brick church was built in 1872. It has a prominent gable roof with its gable facing Sixth Street. The asymmetrical main facade is composed of this gabled mass with a narrow tower-like form at the left corner and a taller and much more massive tower at the right corner. All window and door openings employ lancet arches. The gabled mass is divided into a tripartite scheme, the tallest and largest stained glass window at

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the center divided from the flanking stained glass windows by a wall buttress on each side; wall buttresses also mark the structure's corners. Within the gable is a louvered opening. Stone is used as an ornamental material, primarily on the buttresses. The bell tower is square in plan, divided into two levels. The lower level contains the two double door entrances, one at each of the two primary tower facades. The top of the door openings form large lancet arches filled with translucent glass. An intermediate cornice divides the lower portion of the tower from the upper one. The upper portion employs a single, louvered-lancet opening at each side. Above the tower's cornice rises the eight-sided steeple clad in wooden shingles. Each side elevation of the church is composed of four stained glass lancet windows, each divided by a wall buttress. The roof is clad with sheet metal roofing. The main church structure is connected to a smaller, one-story, brick structure at the rear, its gabled roof perpendicular to that of the church. Decorative brickwork in the gables mimics half-timbering. The windows appear to have been altered with the insertion of smaller double hung units at the lower portion of the openings; the upper portion of the openings have been bricked in.

## 715 Walnut Street - Presbyterian Manse Photos 23-26

This two-story, brick, 2/3 I-House was built c.1850. The facade is composed of three equally spaced bays. A one-story porch extends across the front and projects south from the house. The porch columns are square. Windows are two-over-two light, double hung windows. A one-story wing projects at the rear.

## 820 Walnut Street - C.P.Klein House Photos 28,29,30

This 1-1/2 story T-Plan Queen Anne Cottage was built c.1890. The facade is composed of a gabled central wing with a pair of one-over-one double hung windows on the first floor, and a single double hung window at the center of the gable on the second floor. Flanking gable wings are perpendicular to the central wing. An elaborate, one-story porch is located to the right. It features a circular projection at the southwest corner. It is supported by ornamental wood posts. The porch cornice is bracketed and ornamental woodwork lines the base of the cornice. A wood balustrade lines the base.

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## 832 Walnut - Shannon-Owen-Johnson House Photos 31,32,33

This is a two-story, wood frame, Colonial Revival house. It may have originally been a mid-nineteenth century I-House; if so, it was extensively remodeled c.1925. The facade is symmetrical with a two-story portico, its pediment supported by two Doric columns. At the center of the pediment is a circular window. The entrance door is located at the center of this elevation. It is composed of a single door flanked by side lights and surmounted by a fan light. On the second floor, the three bays are located above each of the first floor openings. All windows are one-over-one light, double-hung, and each has shutters, except for the central window. The central window is embellished with a balustraded balcony with supporting brackets below. At the top of the structure is a denticulated cornice with cornice returns on the portico and the gable ends. A simple gabled dormer is located above each of the two side bays. Each dormer has a louvered rectangular opening.

## 821 Mulberry - Evison House Photos 35,36

This is a two-story, wood frame gable-front house in the Greek Revival style, built c.1850. The front elevation is composed of three bays, with the door located at the left surrounded by side lights and a transom. Windows are double hung. A single window is located at the center of the gable. A one-story porch with wood posts and balustrade projects from the southeast corner. The roof is of low pitch with cornice returns. Artificial siding has been added to this house.

## 723 Mulberry Photos 38,39

This is a two-story, wood frame American Foursquare, built c.1915. The facade is symmetrical. The porch is a one-story shed roof structure lining the front elevation, supported by square columns. A pair of columns is located to each side of the central opening. The door is centrally located, with a single window to either side. The three bays of the second floor are equally spaced. The roof is supported by knee braces and capped by a single dormer. Artificial siding has been added to this house.

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702 Mulberry - James Blackburn House Photos 40,41,42,43

This is a two-story, wood frame American Foursquare house with a hipped roof, built c.1920. The facade is symmetrical, with a central one-story columned porch. The porch is supported by three Ionic columns at each side and roofed in a red terra cotta tile. The ground floor of this elevation is composed of a central entrance door, with single bays to each side. Above the porch is a three-sided oriel window. One bracket is located between each second floor window below the projecting roof eave, with pairs of brackets at the corners. A central gabled dormer is located at the center of each roof elevation. Each dormer has two brackets. The roof is surfaced with red terra cotta tiles.

A garage is located behind the house, facing East Seventh street. Its siding and roof (with knee braces) closely match the house.

615 Mulberry - Dr. H.H. Sugg House Photos 44,45,46,50

This is a two-story Queen Anne house built around 1910. It has concrete block walls with a hipped roof and projecting gables. The facade is composed of a centered gable projection at the roof, with an octagonal tower at the northeast corner. The gable has two surfaces and features a multi-light window. The tower is composed of one window per floor per side. Its roof rises in two tiers and is crowned with a ball-shaped finial. A one-story porch with wooden Doric columns, supported by a concrete railing, extends across the facade, curving at each end. The north and south elevations have projecting bays capped by projecting gables. The block-work is of two types: rough-faced and dressed. Rough-faced block is employed at the base of the structure (up to the water table), and also for embellishments above, such as quoins. Dressed block is employed elsewhere. Decorative wooden shingles cover the projecting gables.

600 Mulberry - St. John's Church Photos 19,38,49

This is a gable-front, wood frame structure, which was built in 1892 in the Gothic Revival style. The entrance is at center, with a single window to each side. A projecting, gabled porch is located at the entry. The porch features turned wooden posts, and the gable end is pierced with Christian symbols and a gothic-arched opening covered by a grill. At the gable peak of the building is a small rectangular stained glass window. A small,

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gabled wooden tower is capped by a cross and is located above the entrance on the roof. Side elevations employ three windows each. All windows are four-over-four light, double hung with decorative wood lancet blind arches above. The wood cladding of the structure is board and batten siding. Wood shingles are used in the gables. A sensitive addition has been made to the rear (or east) of the church.

531 Mulberry - Johnson-Rosenbaum House Photos 19,51,52,53

This is a large, two-story, wood frame Dutch Colonial Revival house built c.1905. The east elevation is composed of a gambrel-roof-end at the north, with the south dominated by a side-gambrel roof. A one-story porch lines this elevation. It is composed of paired Ionic columns supporting a pediment decorated with a cartouche. A stone balustrade originally lined the porch, however it was removed in the 1980s. The pediment of the porch is balanced against the gambrel-roof end structure. The first floor employs a semi-circular projection at the southeast corner. The north section, beneath the gambrel roof end, features splayed corners which differentiate this mass from the rest of the house. A single, double hung, one-over-one window is in each splayed face; a large fixed window with a stained-glass transom is centered in the front face of this mass. As a result of the splayed and curved edges, the entrance door is recessed from the main mass of the house. On the second floor, two one-over-one, double hung windows are equally spaced beneath the gambrel roof end. A flat panel links the windows above, framing a cartouche. The panel acts as a base for a wooden balustrade. On the south portion of the second floor, a double hung, one-over-one window projects into the roof. A panel embellished with a cartouche is located above this window also. The facade, rather than adhering to strict rules of order, enjoys a rich sense of play between contrasting roof elements as well as between void and solid. Elements of the facade are contrasted with each other to complement the whole. The Sixth Street side elevation employs another gambrel roof and a variety of windows. Artificial siding has been added to this house.

400 Mulberry - Sullivan-Mann-Keck House Photos 54,55

This two-story, Greek-Revival, brick structure has a hip roof and was built c.1850. The west facade is composed of three bays, with the entrance to the right (or south). The door is protected by a

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porch with cast iron columns, railing, and cresting. The door is flanked by side lights and surmounted by a transom. All windows are one-over-one double hung. The cornice around this two-story portion of the house is denticulated. To the rear (or east) of the two-story front portion of the house is a one-story brick wing with a gable roof and dormers on each side. To the north, a one-story porch with cast iron columns and railings lines the rear portion of the building. A brick outbuilding with a square plan and hip roof is located at the rear of this wing. An ornamental cast iron fence lines the property at its two street edges (Fourth Street and Mulberry Street.)

321 E. Fourth - John Forthoffer House      Photos 55,56,57,58

This is a large, two-story, frame Free Classic American Foursquare house which was built c.1905. It has a steeply pitched hipped roof with flared eaves. The facade is symmetrical with a full-width porch. Ionic columns set upon brick piers are employed as supporting structural elements. The most prominent feature of this structure is the massive gabled dormer at the center of the facade. It is set back from the facade with a balustrade as an intermediate form linking the lower mass with the upper dormer. A Palladian window is located in the center of the dormer. A central block projects slightly from the second floor, corresponding with the large dormer. Windows are one-over-one, double hung. The east and west elevations feature bay windows and central dormers. The east and west dormers are subordinate in size to the primary dormer.

228 E. Fourth - Sullivan-Parke House      Photos 59,60,61

The Sullivan-Parke House is an excellent example of an early Italianate house. Built in 1860 of brick, the house is composed of a two-story front block with one and two-story wings to the rear. It has a symmetrical facade with a shallow pitched roof which appears flat from below. The one-story full-width front porch is supported by square columns with chamfered corners; a bracketed cornice lines the roof of the porch. The central door with sidelights and a transom is flanked by floor length windows. On the second floor, two floor length windows correspond with the location of the central entrance below; the outside bays each have a standard window. The windows of this front block are double hung, with lintels capped by shallow pediments. Each sash is composed of a single large light of glass with a narrow band of



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stained glass lining its perimeter. Above the second floor is a projecting cornice composed of a series of pairs of prominent brackets, equally spaced, with intermediate brackets between. The main block of the house is topped by an octagonal cupola with a two-over-two, double hung window at each side. The rear wings step down in height from the main block, following the slope of the topography. The first wing, adjacent to the main block, is two-story, with six-over-six double hung windows. Its bracketed cornice is somewhat simpler than the cornice of the main block. The extension furthest to the south appears to have been built separately from the main house, employing a random fenestration pattern. It does, however, possess a bracketed cornice, although further simplified from the other cornices.

330 Mulberry - Turner Nelson House                      Photos 62,63

This two-story, brick, Federal I-House was built c.1840. The facade is symmetrical, with two bays to either side of the centrally located door. The entrance door has side lights, with an elliptical fan light. The narrow and delicate ornamentation which surrounds the entrance completes this typical Federal entrance treatment. The first floor windows are one-over-one double hung; however, a six-over-six light double hung window remains on the south end. The second floor doorway over the entrance door has been boarded up. This door once opened onto a two-story porch, which was removed in the 1980s. The second floor windows are two-over-two double hung. The house has a simple cornice with small cornice returns at the gable ends. On the roof, a gabled dormer window is located above each pair of windows below. A square plan windowless lantern is located at the center of the roof. Both the lantern's cornice and the dormers feature decorative brackets. Each gable end has a large brick chimney. The dormers and the lantern appear to have been added to the house c.1870.

308 Walnut - U. S. Post Office                      Photo 3, far right

The Mt. Vernon Post Office is a one-story, dressed, ashlar limestone structure. It was built in 1931 in the Classical Revival style. The building is rectangular in shape with a low, hipped roof. A central recessed entrance is flanked by three large steel casement windows on each side. All openings are flanked by pilasters, which support an entablature with a parapet above. The windows at the north and south ends of the facade

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disturb the rhythm of the other openings. They are offset toward the edges of the building and the entablature above each breaks to form a shallow pediment. The pilasters, entablature, and pediments combine to create the illusion of a pavillion at each end of the facade. The central portion of the parapet reads "United States Post Office." The lawn is surrounded by a short retaining wall.

219 E. Second

Photos 66,67,68

This simple 2/3 I-House was built c.1855 and it is one of the best examples of mid-nineteenth century housing in Mt. Vernon. Its low, hipped roof, and recessed entrance with transom and side lights, are decidedly in the Greek Revival manner; however, the house does have a simple bracketed cornice in the Italianate style.

This brick house has two stories and three equally spaced bays. The primary entrance is located on the left side of the facade, facing East Second Street. The windows of the facade are four-over-four double hung, and shuttered. The recessed entrance is flanked by side lights with five lights on each side; above is a one light transom. Stone sills and lintels are used for all facade openings. The rear portion of the house is one story, with a simple cornice. The remaining windows are segmentally arched with stone sills. At the rear of the house, there is a porch at the northeast corner. The lawn is surrounded by a short retaining wall.

331 E. Second - Thomas Hinch House

Photos 69,70,71

This side-gable, Greek Revival house was built c.1854 of brick. The front portion is two-story; the wings to the rear of the house are one-story. The facade is composed of three equally spaced bays with the entrance at the left. A gabled porch with aluminum columns has been added recently at the entry. The entrance features sidelights and a multi-light transom. Windows on the front elevation are double hung. The cornice has been clad with aluminum, yet the side gables retain the remnants of cornice returns. On the side elevation, facing Locust Street, first and second story windows align with each other, but not with the centrally located window in the gable. Numerous additions have been made to the rear, of both wood frame and brick.

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503 Locust

Photos 72,73,74

This is a one-and-a-half story, wood frame, Queen Anne Cottage built c.1900. Multiple gables project from its hip roof. A prominent one-story porch wraps around two sides of the front gabled projection. The southeast corner of the porch is semi-circular. The simple porch cornice is supported by square wood columns with decorative capitals topped by decorative brackets. A simple wood balustrade completes the porch. The porch is reached by a flight of steps located at the semi-circular corner. Windows are one-over-one double hung; fenestration is in a regular pattern. At the peak of the front gable decorative wooden shingles clad the surface.

621 Locust - Martin Smith House

Photos 76,77

This is a one-and-a-half story, wood frame Free Classic Cottage built c.1910. Multiple gables project from its hipped roof. The gables terminate with deep, horizontal eave overhangs. A one-story porch wraps around two sides of the front gable of the house. The southeast corner of the porch is semi-circular. The porch is composed of wooden Doric columns, a wooden balustrade, and a simple cornice; the prominent foundation is constructed of rusticated concrete block. The facade has a large double hung window on the first floor and a pair of double hung one-over-one windows on the second floor. The second floor is cantilevered over the porch on the south, allowing more porch floor-space for the entrance area. There is a one-story bay window on the south elevation. A short, stone retaining wall borders the edge of the lawn along Locust Street.

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The Welborn Historic District in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C. The district is significant under Criterion A because it contains the best residential evidence of Mt. Vernon's economic prosperity in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. That prosperity can be linked to several factors. Mt. Vernon's location on the Ohio River made it an important early shipping point. The city's designation as the Posey County seat in 1825 attracted professionals and merchants to Mt. Vernon. In the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century Mt. Vernon was the home of a large manufacturing firm and several grain mills. The district is also significant under Criterion C because its houses, five churches, and U.S. Post Office illustrate the progression of major architectural styles that occurred in American architecture in most of the nineteenth century and the first four decades of the twentieth century. As a whole, the district is the best collection of residential styles in the city, and it compares favorably with districts in other southwestern Indiana communities of comparable size.

Posey County was organized in 1814, two years before Indiana became a state. The county is located in extreme southwestern Indiana and is bounded by both the Ohio River and the Wabash River. Posey County was named for Thomas Posey, Revolutionary War General and Governor of the Indiana territory from 1813 until Indiana's statehood in 1816. Mt. Vernon was first known as McFaddin's Bluff, named for Andrew McFaddin who settled in the area around 1806. The site was a natural place for a settlement to develop due to its location on a high bluff over the Ohio River. Mt. Vernon was platted in 1816 and was named for the home of George Washington. The plat was laid out in a typical grid pattern with the major streets running north-south from the river. The first east-west street was Water Street with numbered streets to the north, beginning with Second Street. A single block, or "Shelbyville type," public square was included in the plan. The square is bounded by Walnut Street on the east, Main street on the west, Third Street on the south, and Fourth Street on the north. Mt. Vernon became the county seat in 1825, and since that time the county courthouse has stood in the public square. The present courthouse was built in 1876 and it, along with the public square, was listed in the National Register January 4, 1989.

In Mt. Vernon's earliest years settlement was concentrated on the riverfront area and near the intersection of Water and Main

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Streets. The 1886 History of Posey County stated, "(the) river brought in all supplies needed, and carried away all that could be spared." As early as 1820, traders were located in Mt. Vernon who bought corn and hogs and then shipped the products south on the river. By 1822, Mt. Vernon had grown sufficiently that Jesse Welborn platted a large addition to the original plat. This addition placed Mulberry Street to the east of Walnut Street and went as far north as Sixth Street. After Mt. Vernon became the Posey County seat, Welborn extended his addition even farther north to Eighth Street in 1826. Both of Jesse Welborn's additions continued the established grid pattern of streets.

As the county seat, and because of its location on the Ohio River, Mt. Vernon became prosperous in the mid-nineteenth century from the river trade and as a business and professional center for the county. A ferry, a horse mill, taverns, a cobbler, and a cooper were established at an early date. Merchants and grocers were early businessmen in Mt. Vernon. Lawyers were also prominent early members of the business community. By the 1840s, several lawyers had located in Mt. Vernon to serve the legal needs of Posey County. As river trade increased a number of firms were established to buy and ship grain and hogs. Other early products which were shipped from Mt. Vernon included fire wood for river vessels, barrels, and hoop-poles (a barrel component). In 1834, the North and McFaddin sawmill was established on the riverfront. North and McFaddin shipped walnut lumber on the river and later added a grain mill and distillery.

In about 1850 business leaders in Mt. Vernon joined with business leaders in New Harmony, located in northern Posey County, to build a plank toll road between the two towns. The road was completed in 1851, and served as an important stimulus to growth in Mt. Vernon. The city's population quickly increased by 50% and business and trade flourished. A number of the houses in the Welborn Historic District date from this boom period. Pork packers and other river traders prospered as it became easier for farmers to get their products to the river. Successful dry goods stores were operated by Lowery & James, Craig & McAllister, and Rosenbaum & Bro. Other businesses of the period included merchant-tailors, druggists, and the city's first bank. The city's growth in this boom period is reflected by a number of small additions to the city plat. Several additions were made to the east and north of the plat, many made by local merchants.

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These additions, which continued the established grid pattern, completed the plat for the area now designated as the Welborn Historic District.

The construction of a railroad line to Mt. Vernon, the Louisville and Nashville in 1871, provided a second stimulus for growth in the nineteenth century. During the 1870s and 1880s grain mills continued to be important industries near the river and there was an increase in business of all kinds. Mt. Vernon merchants specialized in dry goods, hardware, stoves and tinware, harnesses and saddlery, fruits and confections, and musical instruments and sewing machines. A livery, barbers, and a coal dealer were also located in the city.

Mt. Vernon's most significant industry of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries emerged from the post-railroad period. In 1873 John C. and Winfield Woody established a foundry in Mt. Vernon. In 1877 John A. Keck entered the business as a partner. By 1884 the Woody's had retired and John A. Keck formed a partnership with William Gonnerman and Henry Kuebler. The firm was renamed Keck, Gonnerman & Co. and began manufacturing engines, threshers, and portable saw mills. The following year Louis H. Keck, brother of John A. Keck, purchased Kuebler's interest in the firm. Keck, Gonnerman & Co. became a successful manufacturer of engines, farm implements, and machinery and was incorporated in 1901 as the Keck-Gonnerman Co., with John A. Keck, President, William Gonnerman, Vice-President, and Louis H. Keck, Secretary-Treasurer. Leffel's 1913 History of Posey County, Indiana stated that at that time the company employed over 200 men and distributed its products all over North America. Leffel went on to say that "many employees own their own homes." Keck-Gonnerman weathered the post-World War One farm recession of 1921, which ruined many small tractor and implement manufacturers, and by 1927 the company employed around 250 men. According to the 1927 City Directory of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, at that time the company manufactured tractors, traction engines, separators, clover, corn, and pea hullers, and coal mine machinery. Keck-Gonnerman continued its operations until 1955, closing its doors because the company failed to keep its products modern.

Grain milling was also an important industry in Mt. Vernon in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The Fuhrer-Ford mill was a large employer and was incorporated in 1904 as Fuhrer-

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Ford Milling. Other large mills included the Home Mill and Grain Co., incorporated 1900, and the Sunlight Milling Co., incorporated 1902. All three of these grain mills were major employers. Grain milling remains an important Mt. Vernon industry today.

Mt. Vernon's steady growth and general prosperity throughout much of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries generated a need for housing not only for wealthy traders, merchants, professionals, and industrialists, but for their hundreds of employees as well. The Welborn Historic District developed as a composite of stately homes for the city's wealthy residents, along with modest middle class homes and worker cottages. Many of Mt. Vernon's well-to-do residents built impressive homes in the Welborn district, both because land was available there for development and because most of the commercial and industrial development of the city occurred on the riverfront and on the west side of the town. The Welborn district was a relatively clean and quiet area, yet it was near the courthouse and the commercial areas of the city. Many modest homes were also built in the district for small business owners and industrial workers. The larger homes tend to be located on the major north-south thoroughfares of Walnut Street and Mulberry Street while the smaller homes were built primarily to the east on Locust Street and along the east-west cross streets.

Several houses in the district reflect Mt. Vernon's early prosperity as a river trading center. Perhaps the earliest house in the district is the residence of Turner Nelson, an early citizen of Mt. Vernon who served as the County Clerk from 1835 to 1867. Nelson also was the proprietor of the "Nelson House" hotel for a period in the 1840s and 1850s. Circa 1840, Nelson built the Federal I-house at 330 Mulberry Street (Photos 62 and 63). Except for the loss of the porch and the replacement of some windows, the house remains today much like Nelson built it. The small Federal 2/3 I-house at 715 Walnut Street was built c.1850 (Photos 24, 25, 26). Around 1869 the house was purchased by Robert Hunter, a retired merchant and farmer. Upon Hunter's death, the house was deeded to the local Presbyterian congregation and it has been known as the Presbyterian Manse since that time. The Federal-Greek Revival James House (Photos 1 and 2), built c.1852, was built by Lawrence James, son of Enoch R. James, a prominent mercantile owner. The house was owned for a short time by Enoch R. James, who in turn sold the house in 1855 to John Conyngton, a physician. Enoch James served on the Board of Directors of the Mt. Vernon-New Harmony Plank Road Company, which brought tremendous

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growth to Mt. Vernon. Enoch James, along with his sons Lawrence and Dewitt C., also established Mt. Vernon's first bank in 1856. The Evison House (Photos 35,36), built c.1850, is a Greek Revival gable front house at 821 Mulberry Street. The builder, James Evison, was a successful merchant tailor in Mt. Vernon from about 1840 to about 1873.

A group of houses along East Fourth Street are associated with two of Mt. Vernon's wealthiest mid-nineteenth century businessmen, Joseph Welborn and Edward T. Sullivan. The Phillips-Welborn House (Photos 7,8,9,10), at 203 East Fourth Street, was built c.1847 by David Phillips. It was later owned by Lawrence James. The house was originally a Greek Revival I-house, but Italianate details and porch were added later, probably by Joseph Welborn. Welborn purchased the house in 1863. He had a successful pork packing firm with William Lowry, along with other interests. Joseph Welborn also bought and sold real estate and was active in local politics. He served as county treasurer from 1861 to 1863, then served as President of the Mt. Vernon Banking Company from 1867 to 1876. In 1876 he became Posey County's state representative. The house was purchased in 1900 by William H. Fogas, a prominent Mt. Vernon druggist. Two houses, to the east of the Phillips-Welborn House, are associated with Edward T. Sullivan. The c.1850 Sullivan-Mann-Keck House (Photos 54,55), in the Greek Revival style, is located at 400 Mulberry Street. It is constructed of brick and features an iron porch and fence. The Sullivan-Parke House (Photos 59, 60, 61), in the Italianate style, was built in 1860 at 228 East Fourth street. This house is an excellent example of an early Italianate house, featuring a central entrance with full-width porch and an octagonal cupola. The two houses are located on opposite corners of the intersection of Mulberry and Fourth Streets, and represent well Mt. Vernon's economic prosperity in the mid-nineteenth century. Edward T. Sullivan was a long-time business associate of Joseph Welborn. He operated a dry goods store in Mt. Vernon in the 1860s under the name "E.T. Sullivan and J.T. Welborn." Sullivan became a partner with Welborn in the Mt. Vernon Banking Company when the bank was founded in 1867. Like Joseph Welborn, Edward T. Sullivan also served as a state representative from Posey County. The house at 400 Mulberry Street was purchased from Sullivan by John A. Mann. It was later owned by Oscar L. McCallister and Robert Keck. Both Mann and McCallister were successful Mt. Vernon merchants. The house at 228 East Fourth street was later owned by Charles Parke, a prominent banker.



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Perhaps the most significant resident of the Welborn District was Governor Alvin P. Hovey. Hovey became a successful attorney in Mt. Vernon in the 1840s. In 1850 he served as a delegate to the Indiana Constitutional Convention. He later became Posey County Circuit Court Judge and served on the Indiana Supreme Court. In 1856 Hovey was named the U.S. Attorney for the Indiana district. At the onset of the Civil War, Hovey became a Colonel in the Union army. By July, 1864, he had obtained the rank of Major General, and later that same year he was appointed Military Commander of Indiana.

Alvin P. Hovey was appointed Minister to Peru by President Andrew Johnson in 1865. Hovey served as the U. S. Ambassador to the South American nation from 1865 to 1870. He then returned to Mt. Vernon to practice law. In 1872 he refused his nomination for Governor of Indiana, however Hovey accepted the Republican nomination for U. S. Congress in 1886. He was elected, and he served in the U. S. Congress from 1886 to 1888. In Congress he worked for good pensions for Union veterans. Alvin P. Hovey was elected Governor of Indiana in 1888. He remained active in working for benefits for Union veterans. Hovey died while in office in 1891 at the age of 70.

The Governor Hovey House (Photos 4, 5, 6) is located within the Welborn District at 330 Walnut Street, facing the Posey County Courthouse. The house was built c.1847 by Richard Lamb Sullivan and was later owned by James F. Welborn. It was originally a fairly simple house in the Federal or Greek Revival style, and was probably quite similar to the house at 219 East Second Street (Photos 66, 67, 68). Alvin P. Hovey purchased the house in 1871 and had it extensively remodeled, probably by local builder Edward Brown. A large two-story addition was made on the north side of the house, including the large two-story bay window. The house was also updated with an Italianate facade. Members of the Hovey family lived in the house until 1921, when it was sold to the Beulah Lodge of Masons. The Lodge built a large Classical Revival addition to the rear (or east) of the Hovey house, visible in Photo 6 and in the center of Photo 59.

Several houses within the Welborn Historic District represent the district's continued status as a desirable neighborhood into the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The C. P. Klein House, a Queen Anne cottage at 820 Walnut Street (Photos 28, 29, 30), and the Otto Klein House, an American Foursquare at 531

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Walnut Street (Photos 17, 18, 20), were owned by a father and son who were both active businessmen in the community. The Free Classic American Foursquare house at 321 East Fourth Street (Photos 56, 57, 58) was built c.1905 by John Forthoffer, owner of a bottling works. It is an outstanding example, featuring classical details and a hipped roof with flared eaves. Charles Johnson, Sr., manager and Secretary-Treasurer of the Home Mill & Grain Company, built the unusual Dutch Colonial Revival house at 531 Mulberry (Photos 52, 53) around 1905. This house also features an abundance of classical details. Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Johnsons in this home while Roosevelt was running for the office of Vice President during the 1920 Presidential campaign. Professionals also continued to build within the district. Dr. H. H. Sugg, a physician, built his concrete block and stone Queen Anne house at 615 Mulberry Street (Photos 44, 45, 46) around 1910. A prominent attorney, James H. Blackburn, built a large American Foursquare house at 702 Mulberry Street around 1920 (Photos 40-43). The house features an elaborate tile roof and a matching garage.

Mt. Vernon's two most important industries in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries were grain milling and the Keck-Gonnerman Company. Louis H. Keck, Secretary-Treasurer of Keck-Gonnerman, built a large brick American Foursquare house at 730 Walnut Street c.1915. The scale of this house (one of the finest houses in the district) clearly shows the success and prosperity of the Keck-Gonnerman Company in the years before World War One. Louis Keck's son, Robert A. Keck, joined the family business in 1920. He served as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, and eventually retired as President. Robert A. Keck owned the Sullivan-Mann-Keck house, at 400 Mulberry Street (Photos 54, 55) from 1924 until his death in 1973. Mt. Vernon's grain milling industry was dominated by the Fuhrer family. The city's largest and most successful grain mill was Fuhrer-Ford Milling, established by William C. Fuhrer. Fuhrer's son, Eugene H. Fuhrer, and grandson, Malcolm Fuhrer, each played active roles in the company, and each was President of the company at the time of his death. Both were also involved in local banking and community affairs. The Eugene H. Fuhrer house, a simple cross plan structure, is located at 523 Walnut Street. The Malcolm Fuhrer house is located at 519 Walnut Street. This frame house was built c.1868, but it was extensively remodeled c.1930 by Malcolm Fuhrer. He added brick veneer and a Colonial Revival facade.

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Most of the remaining houses in the Welborn District are working-class cottages built by employees of Mt. Vernon's various merchants and industries, primarily Keck-Gonnerman and Fuhrer-Ford. Other houses within the district were built by small business owners and tradesmen. Two cottages on Locust Street are notable examples of working-class housing within the district. The Queen Anne cottage at 503 Locust Street (Photos 73,74) was owned by Louis Jarodzki, and later by John Hall. Both men were small business owners. The house at 621 Locust Street (Photos 76,77) was built by Martin Smith, a sign painter. It is a frame cottage with simple classical details. The most notable bungalow in the district is located at 215 East Sixth Street (Photo 19, left side). This house was built c.1920 by Thomas J. Phillips, a partner in the Phillips Bros. Mill and Lumber Company. It features a low roof and Craftsman architectural details.

In addition to being significant as evidence of Mt. Vernon's economic prosperity in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the Welborn Historic District is significant because its buildings are excellent examples of American architecture during the period of significance. Starting with the Federal style Turner Nelson House at 330 Mulberry Street (Photos 62,63), good examples of most major nineteenth and twentieth century styles are found. With its delicate and formal central entrance, which includes an elliptical fanlight, the Nelson House is a good example of the Federal style.

Several houses which have already been discussed are notable examples of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The Sullivan-Mann-Keck House (Photos 54,55) and the house at 219 East Second Street (Photos 66,67,68) are good examples of Greek Revival architecture. Both houses feature a three bay facade, a low, hipped roof, and a decorative cornice. Each house also has a Greek Revival entry with sidelights and a transom. The small, decorative cornice brackets on 219 East Second reflect the growing influence of Italianate architecture in the 1850s. The Sullivan-Parke House (Photos 59,60,61) illustrates well the early Italianate period. The formal symmetry and the entry with sidelights and a transom are remnants of Greek Revival architecture, yet the house has the typical Italianate elements of a heavy bracketed cornice and a bracketed porch supported by chamfered columns. The influence of the Octagon Mode, which was popular in the 1850s, is exhibited by the bracketed, octagonal

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cupola located at the center of the roof. The Governor Hovey House (Photos 4,5,6) is a notable example of a later Italianate house. The asymmetrical facade is dominated by a two-story bay window and a heavy, projecting, cornice. The cornice features modillions and dentils. Heavy stone hood molds, another typical Italianate feature, top the windows. A one-bay, two-level iron porch completes the facade.

One of the most commonly found styles in the district is Queen Anne. This style is usually characterized by its complex massing, which often includes multiple gables and other roof forms, towers, and projecting bays. Complex, wraparound porches and bay windows, along with stained glass, are other typically Queen Anne features. The complexity of Queen Anne architecture was normally accentuated by exuberant millwork and surface detail; such as gable spindlework, porch balustrades and grillwork, and fenestration framing. Wall surfaces often utilized a variety of materials and textures. The Dr. H. H. Sugg House (Photos 44,45,46), which was discussed previously, superbly illustrates many of these qualities. Its complex massing, roof forms, and tower make it an excellent example of the Queen Anne style.

Several houses in the Welborn Historic District are good examples of Queen Anne architecture. The St. Matthews Church Rectory (Photos 11,16), located adjacent to the church at 430 Walnut, was built c.1882. It is a brick, gabled-ell house with splayed corners on the front gable. Decorative spindlework is used at the splayed corners and along the porch frieze, with fishscale shingles in the gable ends. The windows have limestone sills and hood molds. The Templeton House, at 610 Walnut Street, and the house at 302 East Third Street are notable illustrations of the eclectic nature of Queen Anne architecture. Both houses have multiple roof gables, rectangular bay windows, and a variety of wall surface materials. The Templeton House features a wrap around porch with a semi-circular corner. The house at 302 East Third Street features a prominent square tower over the porch. The tower has a tall pyramidal roof. This house also has an unusual bay window arrangement on the facade. A rectangular first-story bay window serves as a base for a triangular bay window on the second-story. A number of the working-class houses in the district demonstrate how the Queen Anne taste for visual enrichment was adopted to more modest dwellings. The C. P. Klein House (Photos 28,29,30), which was previously described, has a distinctive semi-circular porch which is quite similar to the

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porch of the Templeton House. Notable examples of L-Plan Queen Anne Cottages are located at 314 East Third Street, and at both 810 and 811 Mulberry Street. The house at 810 Mulberry Street features a roofline which gracefully flares to cover the porch located in the space created by the side ell. A front bay window, covered by a shed roof, has splayed corners accented by decorative scrollwork. The porch has turned wooden posts with a spindlework frieze.

The United States Centennial in 1876 created interest in Colonial architectural styles. This new awareness eventually transformed Queen Anne architecture and created the Colonial Revival and Free Classic styles. Houses such as the Johnson-Rosenbaum House (Photos 51,52,53), fully described in Section 7, illustrate this new awareness. This Dutch Colonial Revival house is dominated by its massive gambrel roof and abundance of Colonial and Classical decorative detail, yet the house retains the massing and eclectic spirit of the Queen Anne style. Another house in the district, the Forthoffer House (Photos 56,57,58), illustrates the complete transformation to the Free Classic style. Previously described in greater depth, the Forthoffer House is basically a large American Foursquare with elaborate classical decorative elements. The facade is symmetrical in design, yet the side elevations have small bay windows. The Colonial Revival and Free Classic styles remained popular well into the twentieth century, as illustrated by the house at 603 Mulberry Street (Photo 50), built c.1920. This house is a side-gable type of Colonial Revival which was popular in the 1920s.

The twentieth century saw the emergence of many new housing forms and styles. The most common new forms were the American Foursquare and the Bungalow, with several new styles and revivals emerging. There are many good examples of early twentieth century housing within the Welborn Historic District. These houses are located within the district primarily on Mulberry and Locust Streets, and on the east-west streets, which developed later than other portions of the district. The most notable example of American Foursquare architecture, however, is located at 730 Walnut Street. The Louis H. Keck House was built c.1915, and it reflects several popular stylistic influences of the period. Elements of the Spanish Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival styles can be seen in the house. This large, three-bay brick house has a hipped roof with central dormers. The gabled dormer which faces Walnut Street has a Spanish-influenced, shaped

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parapet with a Palladian-like window arrangement. The parapet features elaborate coping and stone details. The house, porch, and porte cochere roofs have projecting cornices with modillions. The roofs of the porch and porte cochere are supported by large, square brick piers, decorated with Craftsman-influenced stone detailing. The porch covers the left side of the facade, with an open patio surrounded by a low brick wall on the right. Stone lintels and sills are used for the windows, and there is a stained-glass window to the right of the porch with a Craftsman-influenced design. Other notable examples of American Foursquare houses are the Blackburn House (Photos 40-43,) and the Otto Klein House (Photos 17,18), which were described earlier in Section 7. The St. Matthew's Convent, at 421 Mulberry Street, and the Trinity Evangelical Church parsonage, at 530 Walnut Street, are also good examples of American Foursquare architecture. Though there are several Bungalows present in the district, the best example is the Phillips House (Photo 19, left side). It is a single story house with a low, gable roof. It also has a massive brick chimney, exposed wood framing, and other Craftsman design details. A single small cottage, built c.1930 at 802 Walnut Street, represents the Tudor Revival style. Its windows, with multiple panes, and its door, topped by a Tudor arch, make it a good example of this romantic style popular chiefly from 1920 to 1940.

The Welborn Historic District's only historic commercial building is the Mt. Vernon Post Office. Described earlier in Section 7, this building is located on Walnut Street facing the courthouse square. This limestone structure is a good example of Classical Revival post office architecture of the 1930s. The Welborn District also contains five historic churches that illustrate nineteenth and early twentieth century ecclesiastical architecture. Three churches represent the Gothic Revival style. The earliest Gothic Revival church in the district is the brick First Presbyterian church (Photos 17,18,20,21,22,51), constructed in 1872 by local builder Edward Brown. Also Gothic Revival, and brick, is Trinity Evangelical Church (Photos 13,14,52,72). This 1883 structure was built by a largely German congregation, but it is now owned by the United Church of Christ congregation. St. John's Episcopal Church (Photos 19,48,49) is a simple frame structure in the Gothic Revival style, built in 1892. These three churches exhibit typical Gothic Revival design features such as Gothic arches. St. Matthew's Church (Photos 3,11,16) was built in 1880 by the Catholic congregation. It is a brick structure, built in the Romanesque Revival style. St. Matthew's is an excellent

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example of a small town Romanesque Revival church. The above churches were previously described in Section 7. The First Church of Christ, Scientist is a small, side-gabled frame structure built in 1921. This church, located at 312 Mulberry Street, is unusual for its Bungalow/Craftsman design influences. The entry is shielded by a small portico set on Doric columns. Shingles fill the gable end. The double doors at the entrance are flanked by a pair of Craftsman-influenced windows on each side. The church's other windows are three-over-one, double hung sash. The building is now owned by the Independent Pentecostal Assembly Church.

The Welborn Historic District remained one of Mt. Vernon's most desirable residential neighborhoods well into the middle of the twentieth century. Although notable houses were built in other parts of the city, this district contains Mt. Vernon's strongest concentration of large and small scale historic housing. Another residential historic district, College Avenue, was identified in Mt. Vernon by the 1985 Posey County Interim Report of the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The College Avenue district, however, is much smaller than the Welborn Historic District and does not have the broad range of historic architecture present in Welborn.

The Welborn Historic District also measures favorably when compared with identified historic residential districts in New Harmony, Poseyville, and Princeton. New Harmony is located in northern Posey county on the Wabash River and was founded in 1814 by the Rappites, a religious group which practiced communal living. In 1824, the Rappites sold the town to Robert Owen, a Scottish industrialist and social reformer. Owen wanted to establish a social community built on the ideals of quality education and improvement of the workingman's environment. His experiment lasted only two years, and Owen sold or leased much of the land and left for England. New Harmony developed throughout the nineteenth century, becoming an important commercial and cultural center for northern Posey County. New Harmony did not, however, reach the county-wide importance of Mt. Vernon. As the county seat, Mt. Vernon drew a larger number of doctors, attorneys, and other professionals. Because the Wabash River did not have the volume of traffic which was present on the Ohio River, river trade, commerce, and industry did not develop in New Harmony to the same degree as in Mt. Vernon. Although New Harmony retains an outstanding collection of early nineteenth century residential housing, its identified residential district does not

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have the size or the variety of styles of the Welborn Historic District. Welborn also compares favorably to an identified district in Poseyville, located in northeastern Posey County. Established in 1840, Poseyville developed slowly until a railroad arrived in 1882. Because the town's development is linked to rail transportation rather than river transportation, its historic residential areas date from a later period than Mt. Vernon's. Although the Poseyville district is larger than Welborn, it includes the town's commercial resources and it does not have an equal percentage of properties rated "outstanding" by the survey. Finally, the Welborn Historic District can be compared favorably to identified residential districts in Princeton, the county seat of Gibson County (to the north of Posey County). The South Princeton Historic District is the only district comparable to Welborn among Princeton's three residential districts, however it is much smaller and does not have the quality of resources present in the Welborn District.

In summary, Mt. Vernon's Welborn Historic District is locally significant as the residential evidence of the city's commercial and industrial prosperity from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. It also has significance for having the best collection of residential architectural style examples in Mt. Vernon, which is also one of the very best collections in southwestern Indiana.



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## Verbal Boundary Description

Begin at the northeast corner of Walnut and East Second Street. Proceed north along the eastern curb line of Walnut Street for three blocks to the northeast corner of Walnut and East Fifth. Cross Walnut Street and proceed west for one-half block to the first north-south alley west of Walnut Street. Turn right and proceed north along the east side of this alley for approximately five blocks until the alley curves east and intersects Walnut Street, then cross Walnut Street and continue one-half block east along the alley. Turn south at that point and proceed along the west side of the alley between Walnut and Mulberry, crossing East Ninth Street. Proceed east along the south curb line of East Ninth Street for two one-half blocks. At the rear (or eastern) property line of 830 Mulberry Street, turn south and proceed along the rear property lines of 830, 820, 810, and 804 Mulberry Street to East Eighth Street. Cross East Eighth Street, then proceed east along the southern curb line of East Eighth Street for one-half block to the southwest corner of the intersection of East Eighth and Locust. Proceed one block south along the west side of Locust Street to the southwest corner of the intersection of Locust and East Seventh Street. Cross Locust Street and proceed east along the south curb line of East Seventh Street one-half block to the alley between Locust Street and Canal Street. Turn south in the alley and proceed along the west side of this alley, crossing East Sixth Street. Continue to the terminus of this alley, midway between East Sixth and East Fifth. At this point continue in a straight line, crossing East Fifth Street, and meet the northeast corner of the property at 406 East Fifth Street. Proceed south along the eastern property lines of 406 East Fifth and 420 Locust Street.

At the southeast corner of the property at 420 Locust Street, turn west and proceed along the south property line of 420 Locust for one-half block to Locust Street. Cross Locust Street, then turn south along the west curb line of Locust and proceed for two and one-half blocks to the northwest corner of the intersection of Locust and East Second. Turn west and proceed two blocks (crossing Mulberry Street) to the point of origin at the northeast corner of the intersection of Walnut and East Second Street.

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Boundary Justification

The southern boundary of the Welborn Historic District lies one block north of the Ohio River. The northern boundary lies one and one-half blocks south of railroad tracks. The western boundary is primarily adjacent to the identified Downtown Mt. Vernon Historic District, and one-half block from a major highway. Areas to the east and north of the district were developed predominantly in the twentieth century. The residential areas adjacent to the Welborn Historic District on the north, northwest, east and south have a larger percentage of non-contributing properties. The identified Downtown Mt. Vernon Historic District, which borders Welborn on the west and southwest, is dominated by commercial structures and differs substantially in character from the Welborn Historic District.

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