

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Nappanee West Park and Pavilion

other names/site number Community Park of Nappanee, Nappanee Westside Park and Pavilion,  
Nappanee West Park Chautauqua Pavilion

### 2. Location

street & number Nappanee and Van Buren Streets N/A not for publication

city or town Nappanee N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Elkhart code 039 zip code 46550

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Patrick R. Rafter*

1-4-94

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nappanee Park Pavilion  
Name of Property

ELKHART, INDIANA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
3	2	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/auditorium  
RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation  
LANDSCAPE/park

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT  
RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation  
LANDSCAPE/park

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: pavilion  
LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN  
MOVEMENTS: craftsman

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls weatherboard  
roof ASPHALT  
other steel

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

PERFORMING ARTS

**Period of Significance**

1923-1943

**Significant Dates**

1923

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

builder unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

Name of repository:

Nappanee Public Library

Nappanee Park Pavilion  
Name of Property

Elkhart, Indiana  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.6

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6
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5	8	3	0	3	0
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4	5	8	8	7	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Trinkley, Nappanee Historic Preservation Commission Chair  
Cindy Brubaker, Mary Clark Harlan & Kim Dadlow  
organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date August 25, 1993  
street & number 520 East Colfax Avenue telephone (219) 232-4534  
city or town South Bend state Indiana zip code 46617

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Nappanee  
street & number P.O. Box 29, 300 West Lincoln Street telephone (219) 773-2122  
city or town Nappanee state Indiana zip code 46550

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Elkhart County, Indiana

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**Narrative Description**

The Nappanee West Park is a wooded parcel of land at the northern edge of the city, surrounded by single family homes and farmland. The park pavilion is sited near the center of the park and is a large rectangular wood frame structure on a concrete slab with wood weatherboard siding and a hipped roof (photos 1 and 2). The pavilion site is flat and grass-covered with mature deciduous trees surrounding it (photos 4 - 6). The park was historically a very active place for people of all ages. Clay tennis courts, shuffleboard, a croquet course, a may pole and two toboggan slides were once located in the park and a miniature golf course was adjacent to the park. The park also once had more aesthetic components in a rock garden and goldfish pond. With all of these facilities now gone, the park has a more restive, sylvan effect with its large open areas of grass interspersed with large trees. New playground equipment on the north side of the park now provides the dominant outdoor activity, while the pavilion still provides the dominant indoor activity.

The Nappanee West Park and Pavilion nomination includes the entire original boundaries of the park which includes a total of three (3) contributing and two (2) noncontributing resources. The pavilion is the one (1) contributing building. The park is the one (1) contributing site. Nappanee's second firebell from 1898 stands mounted on a metal truss at the east side of the pavilion (photo 5). The bell was installed in the park sometime in the 1930's and is counted as one (1) contributing object. There are two (2) noncontributing buildings that include one (1) log cabin reconstructed on the site in 1984 and one (1) large metal-sided garage building. Other park elements include some unused horseshoe pits, a baseball backstop, and playground equipment.

The pavilion rests on its original concrete slab and foundations. The overall dimensions of the original pavilion structure are sixty feet (60'-0") by one hundred eight feet and eight inches (108'-8"). The concrete slab extends out eight feet (8'-0") around the structure on three sides to form a walkway that is covered by the wide overhang of the roof. The roof overhang is supported by metal pipe columns (photo 3) and measures seventy-six feet (76'-0") by one hundred sixteen feet and eight inches (116'-8"). The northwest and northeast corners of the pavilion were extended to incorporate two small rooms each eight feet (8'-0") by twenty-two feet (22'-0") under the existing roof in 1962. These additions were built with like materials and do not significantly affect the integrity of the pavilion (photos 2 and 6).



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The pavilion is sided on all elevations with painted wood tongue and groove siding. Sometimes referred to as novelty or drop siding, the boards have chamfered top edges and are commonly used for recreational buildings of this period. Rectangular window and door openings with wood trim are numerous along the west, south and east elevations. The original wood shutters were hinged across the top, swung outward and upward and were secured in an open position for an "open air" effect. These shutters were removed, and replaced with wood frame, multi-pane, double-hung windows during a renovation in 1946 to use the pavilion as a school. Plywood panels were attached to the outside more recently to secure the building. The original double-leaf wood panel doors were replaced with contemporary solid-core painted wood doors. The wood roof rafters are exposed to the edge of the roof overhang and the massive hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two small dormers with wood siding and hipped roofs sit high up on the south and north slopes of the roof and a tall brick chimney projects out of the very top of the south slope of the roof.

The interior was originally designed as a permanent Chautauqua facility and as a community facility for reunions. The stage, located at the north end of the building, was fourteen feet (14') by twenty-four feet (24') with a semi-circular front edge (photos 7 and 8). Dressing rooms measuring twelve feet (12') by eighteen feet (18') were located at either end of the stage. Originally there were foot lights across the front part of the stage. The remaining area inside the pavilion was open and had a maximum capacity of 900 people. The inside of the exterior walls were unfinished so that the studs and exterior siding were exposed. The main architectural feature of note on the inside of the pavilion is the roof structural support system which consists of sixty foot long composite wood trusses located every fourteen feet (14') (photos 9 and 10). The trusses are constructed with wood member joints in compression with steel rod tension members. There is no cross bracing between the trusses.

In 1946, the pavilion was renovated for temporary use as a school. The double-hung windows and central heating were installed so that the building could be used year 'round. The chimney was installed in order to vent the furnace. Stud and drywall partition walls and dropped ceilings were added to form classrooms.

In 1958, the Park Pavilion became the home of the Nappanee Civic Theater. This group was able to take advantage of the building year 'round due to the 1946 renovation, but also made further changes. They enclosed the northwest and northeast corners of the

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roof overhang to add more area for dressing rooms in 1962. In 1965, the group also enlarged the stage area by four feet at the front and squared it off.

Currently, the exterior of the pavilion retains much of its integrity. The few alterations - - plywood panels over the windows and the 1962 extensions, both mentioned above - - do not have an adverse effect on the overall integrity of the building. The interior has suffered the effects of a small fire, which charred and weakened the wood composite trusses in the northwest area of the building. The partition walls and dropped ceilings of the 1946 alterations are in a varied state of disuse and partial demolition by the Parks Department and other users of the building. The building was condemned in 1992 due to the fire damage to the structural trusses and has not been in use since that time. The pavilion retains the integrity necessary to convey its historical and architectural significance and is currently undergoing the process of rehabilitation by the Nappanee Board of Parks and Recreation.

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**Statement of Significance**

The Nappanee West Park and Pavilion meet criterion A for their recreational and cultural value to the citizens of Nappanee, Indiana and the surrounding rural community. As the location for the annual Nappanee Chautauqua from 1923-1925 and the center for outdoor recreational activities and numerous civic club activities, the park and pavilion are significant for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. From their inception in 1923, the park and pavilion were home to many reunions, concerts and club activities. The park and pavilion clearly reflected the growing role of civic associations that were a vital part of life in rural American communities in the early to mid-20th century.

The park and pavilion are also significant under criterion C as one of the few permanent Chautauqua related facilities built in the state of Indiana.

Historical Background and Significance

The Chautauqua movement started in 1874 on the shores of Lake Chautauqua, New York by Dr. John Heyl Vincent, a Methodist minister (later Bishop), and Lewis Miller, an industrialist from Akron, Ohio as a 2-week assembly for Sunday School teachers. Due to the success of this first assembly, Vincent and Miller expanded the assembly to include music, lectures, and the arts. The summer sessions at Lake Chautauqua became established as an annual event whose immense success and popularity motivated communities throughout America to organize local Chautauqua assemblies.

To have Chautauqua principles inspire people all year long, Dr. Vincent started the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (CLSC), a four year home reading course. The local communities that formed the "daughter" Chautauquas often had CLSC programs in place, thus, creating a stronger tie between "mother" (Lake Chautauqua) and "daughter."

These independent Chautauquas became immensely popular in the United States. By 1900 upward of two hundred "daughter" or independent Chautauquas existed. Indiana was home to over ten independents, with Winona Lake (Kosciusko County) and Fountain Park (Jasper County) being the most successful. Many prominent Americans such as Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, the tenor Enrico Caruso, and the most popular of all, William Jennings Bryan lectured at the independent Chautauquas. By the early 1900's lecturers and entertainers were being booked by the hundreds for summer Chautauquas programs.



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At the height of the independent Chautauqua's popularity in the early 20th century, a new type of Chautauqua was taking form. The circuit Chautauqua, based on the same principles as the lyceum movement,<sup>1</sup> would reach millions of Americans by the 1920's. "Soon Chautauqua was moving out of the pavilions in quiet wooded glens into tents pitched on Main Street, in the City Park or on the school grounds."<sup>2</sup>

Keith Vawter, an operator of a lecture bureau in Des Moines, was the person most responsible for revolutionizing the circuit Chautauqua. He took Chautauqua "on the road." Vawter recognized that scheduling was the biggest problem involved in booking talent for the nation's independent Chautauqua assemblies. Many of the independents had assemblies lasting any where from 5 days to 6 weeks and most Chautauquas were located far from each other, making it difficult for the entertainers to get from one engagement to another. Vawter proposed standardizing the schedule so all programs would be of the same length so they could open one after another just one day apart. He also arranged the talent so that the opening act remained the opening act all season, the second-day act would remain the second-day act and so on for the same seven-day cycle. Thus all groups traveled the same routes and programming became simplified.

A typical seven-day circuit would have eight tents (one spare) and seven sets of performers in action in seven communities with each performer doing the same thing on the same day. The Chautauqua company handled advance arrangements, advertising and promotions. The company hired the work crews to set up and take down the tents. Help was also given to the local committees on ticket sales campaigns.

One of the most important duties of the circuit representative was to make sure a contract was signed for a program for the following year. The contract and the guarantee were key elements of circuit Chautauqua. The Chautauqua bureau provided a package program for a certain price. It was up to the local committee to sell enough tickets to make sure this

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<sup>1</sup>Lyceum was a 19th century American movement for popular instruction of adults by lectures on the arts, sciences, history and public affairs. It developed from lectures given in the early 19th century by Josiah Holbrook and became a powerful force in social and education reform. After the civil war the Chautauqua movement took its place. From: *The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia*, edited by Judith S. Levey and Agnes Greenhall, New York: Columbia University Press, 1983.

<sup>2</sup>Miles, Frank "Chautauqua in Indiana," Indiana Council for the Humanities, 1988.

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expense was met. If it was, the local Chautauqua organization made a profit. If it was not, the local businessmen who had signed as guarantors had to make up the difference.

The first circuit Chautauqua program came to Indiana in 1907 and the final one ended in 1932. Throughout its 25 year history in Indiana, circuit Chautauquas gave more than 6,000 performances in over 75 communities. According to Theodore Roosevelt, the circuit Chautauquas were "the most American thing in America." It is impossible to measure how many lives were touched by these traveling tent shows, but these summer assemblies brought music, religious and philosophical discussions, and literary readings to people who were relatively isolated from such cultural advantages.

Nappanee, Indiana in 1922 with a population of approximately 2,700 was a growing and thriving rural community. It had a weekly newspaper, the *Nappanee Advance-News*, the Coppes Hotel and other successful downtown businesses, an auditorium which hosted concerts, theater productions and moving pictures and a very popular semi-pro baseball team called the Nappanee Tigers. Every week the *Advance-News* reported how many cars and buggies were parked along Nappanee streets on Saturday night. On any given Saturday night up to 600 vehicles would be parked while its owners took advantage of all the amenities Nappanee had to offer.

The citizens of Nappanee were proud of their community. In 1924, they would be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the town. Plans were already underway for the celebration. It was during this time that a group of local citizens realized the need for a public park where children could play and families could come together. Spearheaded by the newly-formed Kiwanis Club, subscriptions were raised to purchase Frevert's Grove, located about six blocks from downtown. With enough money raised, the land was purchased in August, 1922. Immediately, plans were developed to construct a pavilion in the center of the park to host family reunions and more importantly, to have a permanent structure for the annual Nappanee Chautauqua.

A circuit Chautauqua first pitched its tent in Nappanee in August, 1914. The Redpath Lyceum Bureau, one of the largest booking agents in the midwest, provided educational entertainment for five days on North Main Street. The Redpath Bureau also brought concerts and lectures to the citizens of Nappanee during the winter months.

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The first Chautauqua was a financial success with 394 adult and 33 children season tickets sold. The Chautauqua came back to Nappanee, courtesy of the Redpath Bureau for the next two years. But the initial success could not be duplicated. Both of these Chautauquas ended in a financial deficit. For the war years, the Chautauqua tents were put in storage. Chautauqua came back to Nappanee in 1920 bringing, once again, band concerts, plays and lectures to this rural community. In the 1921 assembly "The Mikado" brought the largest crowds yet to the Nappanee Chautauqua. These five days of programs were the last provided by the Redpath Bureau. The 1922 Chautauqua tent was pitched in Frevert's grove, future home of the permanent Chautauqua building being planned for the 1923 Chautauqua. Entertainment was provided by Mutual-Morgan, a smaller booking agency than the Redpath Bureau.

By April, 1923 the Community Park Board was organized to oversee the construction plans at the park and also to secure additional funds to be used for building a community pavilion. According to the April 12, 1923 edition of the *Nappanee Advance-News*, the Park Board did not have enough funds to construct the pavilion that year but other improvements such as extending the city water pipes to the park and erecting public lavatories will be done. But within a matter of weeks the community banded together and raised enough funds to construct a community building. The May 31, 1923 edition of the *Advance-News* states that "...the building will be completed in time for the Chautauqua in July."

The Chautauqua opened on July 18, 1923 to a crowd of over 1,000 persons and the newspaper reported that this "...was a fitting dedication and showed the interest of the public in this new enterprise." Some of the entertainment at the Chautauqua included Cleaver's Operatic Quintet, Landis Intercollegiate Band, lectures by Prof. M.H. Jackson and Col. Lindsey Blayney, and a play entitled "It Pays to Advertise." Evelyn Lehman Culp, a long-time resident of Nappanee, recalls participating in junior Chautauqua events in the pavilion and hearing the story-telling lady, a regular feature of Chautauquas, tell a story about a little shepherd. The 1923 Chautauqua ended with a play entitled "Happiness." But things were not happy for the guarantors since the Chautauqua was not a financial success. They had to make up a \$250 deficit and it was uncertain whether the Chautauqua would be back the next year.

But circuit Chautauqua did come to Nappanee in 1924 and once again the park pavilion housed the week long event. The Chautauqua in July of 1924 included such diverse

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entertainment as the Croatian Tamburica Orchestra, lectures by Major Joe Hanley and Dr. Franklin Babb, The DeMarco Symphony Harp Ensemble and the Elias Day Players. Apparently, the Chautauqua did well that year. A contract was signed by 80 Nappanee businessmen to bring the Chautauqua back in 1925.

In June 1925 the Eiler-Willoughby Ladies Orchestra opened the assembly. Other highlights were a Wallace Bruce Amsbury lecture, and a play about the adult Lincoln, "The Great Commoner." For the guarantors, the Chautauqua was not a financial success, since they had to make up a \$400 deficit. The 1925 assembly was the last Chautauqua in Nappanee. The demise of the circuit Chautauquas were felt throughout the country. Nappanee would never again have such big time talent entertain the citizens of the community.

The West Park and Pavilion were not only used during Chautauqua time. Although the main purpose of its construction was to house the Chautauqua, its other uses were equally important to the recreational and social well-being of Nappanee citizens. On August 15, 1923 the new pavilion was formally dedicated. Downtown businesses were closed so its employees were able to attend the event. At the dedication the High School Band played, local vocalists gave solos and Rev. Herbert Smith, pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles, California delivered the keynote address. In the years to come, the park pavilion would play a vital role in the development and progression of many civic and social clubs important to Nappanee.

Soon after its construction, the park and pavilion began hosting family reunions. The pavilion's dressing rooms were equipped with kitchens, which had oil stoves, dishes and other kitchen utensils. Not only did local families use the facility but also families from surrounding communities who did not have a place for such gatherings. The pavilion became well-known as a spot for happy family gatherings. For many years, the *Nappanee Advance-News* would publish the scheduled reunions and many were scheduled with the Park Commission a couple of years in advance. There was hardly a weekend in the summer when one was not scheduled. Many reunions at the park had groups of 500 or more guests. Considering Nappanee's size at the time, a reunion of 500 represented nearly 20% of Nappanee's population. This established tradition would continue for many families for over seventy years.

Nappanee area churches have always made use of the pavilion and immediate park area for church services. In 1922, the Church of the Brethren began this association when its Sunday



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Butter, per lb.	30-40
Butterfat, at station	32
Individual shippers	38
Heavy beans, per lb.	16
Old roosters, per lb.	08
Beef Hides	03
Calf Skins	10
Corn, per bu.	90
Wheat, No. 1, per bu.	98
Wheat, No. 2, per bu.	96
Oats, per bu.	40

MANY REUNIONS LISTED

Nappanee Community Park Popular Place for Family Reunions.

Secretary C. W. Johnson of the Nappanee Community Park board, has bookings for eight family reunions at the park this summer. That the park is fast becoming a popular place for the holding of family reunions is shown by the fact that bookings have already been made for sixteen reunions in 1924. Bookings made to date are as follows:

- Sunday, July 1—Neher family
- Saturday, Aug. 18—Hepler family
- Sunday, Aug. 19—Stuckman family
- Sunday, Aug. 25—Warner family
- Wednesday, Sept. 5—Smucker family
- Sunday, Aug. 16—Miser family
- Tuesday, Aug. 25—Weber family
- Sunday, Sept. 2—Yager-Arch family

- 1924 Reunions:
- June 4—Burkholder reunion
  - June 14—Michael reunion
  - June 8—Peters reunion
  - June 10—Stahly reunion
  - June 11—Culp reunion
  - June 21—Moore reunion
  - June 5—Lamb reunion
  - June 12—Belle reunion
  - June 13—Brenneman reunion
  - June 22—Housouer reunion
  - June 15, Rensberger reunion
  - Sept. 7—Phillip Heckaman reunion
  - June 18—Miller reunion
  - June 1—Heckaman reunion
  - June 29—Lehr reunion
  - June 24—Freed reunion

The Antiseptic Orange.

The discovery of the antiseptic value of the orange was made soon after its introduction into England, for Cavendish says Cardinal Wolsey was wont to carry "a fair orange, filled with a sponge of vinegar against pestilence."

Mrs. Cloyd Brambaugh was in South Bend Thursday.

Mrs. Elizabeth Zook left Friday for Evanston, Ill., to visit relatives.

Miss Ruth Stevens is spending a few days with friends in South Bend.

Miss Lois Mitchell is spending the summer with her grandmother, Mrs. Ella Wolfe, at Syracuse.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gawthrop and family of Evart, Mich., were the guests of relatives here last week.

Mrs. W. J. Poe is making a two weeks' visit with relatives in central western Indiana.

Otis Gentzorn of Steger, Ill., is the guest of his mother, Mrs. Caroline Gentzorn.

Mrs. Fred Fenton went to Chicago Thursday of last week to join Mr. Fenton, who was in Chicago last week on business for the Coppes Bros. & Zook factory.

Miss Julia Welty went to Chicago Monday of last week, and will spend several months with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Easton Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ulory and daughters and Miss Eloise Ganger have returned home from a few weeks' visit with relatives in Columbia, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. John Stose and sons, Ralph of Nappanee, and Forrest of Goshen, and granddaughter, Wilma, motored to Spencerville and Van Wert, Ohio, to visit several days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rockstroh of South Bend, returned home after spending a week with Mrs. Rockstroh's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Frevert and family.

Miss Mabel Poe, vocational home economics teacher, of Plymouth, and Miss Thelma Poe, student at Winona Lake, spent the week end with their brother, Walter Poe, at the local greenhouse.

Marion Rarig, a former resident of Nappanee, but now of Adrian, Mich., spent last week with...



Hartley Manners' play, "HAPPINESS", stands almost unique among the successes of recent years in its treatment of a simple but delightful plot, carrying forward an idealism seldom found in even great masterpieces. The story briefly told is that of a dear little errand girl, "Jenny", who is full of enthusiasm and joy in her work, but is always "looking forward", and dreaming of her great ambition to become a famous dressmaker. With her sincerity and straightforward idealism, she not only fulfills her expectations but brings joy and courage in other lives and sheds much "Happiness" on her pathway through life.

The play ran for a year in New York with Laurette Taylor as "Jenny." It also had a long run in Chicago, but until Elias Day secured the Chautauqua rights from Mr. Manners, it had not been seen outside the great theatrical centers.

There are many delightful situations, much comedy and laughter; but the wonderful message of hope and cheer makes this splendid production a "wonderful sermon", as well as an entertainment "de luxe."

NAPPANEE CHAUTAUQUA, JULY 18-22, INCLUSIVE

Doing Her Best.

Perry was trying to tell me of some incident that happened yesterday and I could not quite get it and told her to talk plainly and she answered, "Why, mamma, I cannot explain it alcer."

Birds as Watchdogs.

The trumpeter crane of Venezuela, a long-legged, powerful bird, is trained by the natives to guard sheep. All day it keeps an eye on its charges, and at night brings them back safe to the fold.

Keeps Off Rust.

A few drops of linseed oil applied to a cloth to the outside of the gas stove or the inside of the oven will keep the stove from rusting and will make it easier to care for.

Famous Puritan Writer.

Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682) was a physician and writer of the Puritan age, noted for the stateliness and rhythm of his style. His leading work...



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Elkhart County, Indiana

*August 2, 1923.*

NAPPANEE, ELKHART COUNTY, INDIANA, THURSDAY

MANY FAMILY REUNIONS  
BOOKED FOR AUGUST

Nappanee Becoming Popular  
Place for These Happy  
Gatherings.

FAMILY REUNIONS.

The following family reunions will be held at Community park, Nappanee, during the month of August:

- Aug. 18—Hepler reunion.
- Aug. 19—Stuckman reunion.
- Aug. 5—Warner reunion.
- Aug. 16—Miner reunion.
- Aug. 25—Weber reunion.
- Aug. 23—Elery reunion.
- Aug. 12—Yeager and Ortiz reunion.
- Aug. 9—First Brethren Sunday school.
- Aug. 12—Biggs reunion.
- Aug. 22—Schmucker reunion.
- Aug. 30—Methodist Sunday school.
- Aug. 26—Wm. Cox reunion.

Invitations have been issued for

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

- J. W. Brown—DeLaval Separators.
- Stuckman & Stahly Garage.
- Joseph H. Grosh—Farming Implements.
- C. W. Johnson & Sons—Nyal Drug Store.
- Farmers & Traders Bank.
- First National Bank.
- Lehman Furniture Store.
- Wilson Grocery.
- Hartman Bros. Co.—Ready-to-Wear, Dry Goods, Groceries.
- Shively Brothers—Hardware.
- Dr. J. Burke, South Bend—Eye Specialist.
- Auditorium Theatre.
- George Wyman & Co., South Bend.
- Studebaker Corporation.
- Rapp Brothers Garage.
- Smith Motor Co.—Fords and Fordson Tractors.
- Blosser Shoe Store.
- The Hat Shop.
- Candy Land.
- Ringenberg-Lape Co.—Dry Goods and Ready-to-Wear.
- U. S. Tires—Frank Reed.
- Wm. E. Deisch—Machinist.
- Dunham & Love—Rexall Drug Store.

MARRIED ON WEDNESDAY

Bernard B. Maust and Mrs. Amanda

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- Mullett's Grocery.
- Hartman Bros. Co.—Ready-to-Wear; Dry Goods; Groceries.
- Shively Brothers—Hardware, Furniture and Harness.
- Dr. J. Burke, South Bend.
- Auditorium Theatre.
- Dunham & Love — Rexall Drug Store.

### FAMILY REUNIONS LISTED

The Nappanee Community park is fast becoming a popular place for the holding of family reunions. The conveniences of the new Community building, with two separate kitchens and the fine auditorium for the holding of meetings and the rendition of programs makes it one of the best places in Elkhart county for the holding of these pleasant gatherings. Secretary C. W. Johnson has bookings for nineteen reunions this year and twenty-five reunions for 1924, as follows:

1923 Reunions.

- Aug. 18, Hepler reunion; Aug. 19, Heckman reunion; Aug. 5, Warner reunion; Aug. 16, Miner reunion; Aug. 25, Weber reunion; Aug. 23, Yery reunion; Aug. 2, Overholser reunion; Aug. 12, Yeager and Ortiz reunion; Sept. 2, Heckaman reunion; Aug. 9, First Brethren—Sunday school; Aug. 18, Papp reunion; Sept. Phillip Heckaman reunion; Sept. Pippenger reunion; Sept. 3, Evangelical Sunday school; Sept. 3, Johnson reunion; Aug. 22, Schmucker reunion; July 29, Stull reunion; Aug. Methodist Sunday school; Aug. Wm. Cox reunion.

1924 Reunions.

- Aug. 25, Weber reunion; Aug. 23, Yery reunion; Aug. 2, Overholser reunion; Aug. 12, Yeager and Ortiz reunion; Sept. 2, Heckaman reunion; Aug. 9, First Brethren—Sunday school; Aug. 18, Papp reunion; Sept. Phillip Heckaman reunion; Sept. Pippenger reunion; Sept. 3, Evangelical Sunday school; Sept. 3, Johnson reunion; Aug. 22, Schmucker reunion; July 29, Stull reunion; Aug. Methodist Sunday school; Aug. Wm. Cox reunion.

1924 Reunions.

- June 4—Burkholder reunion; June —Michael reunion; June 8—Peters reunion; June 10—Stahly reunion; June 11—Culp reunion; June 21—Moore reunion; June 5—Lamb reunion; June 12—Blesle reunion; June —Brenneman reunion; June 22—Bousouer-reunion; June 15, Rensinger reunion; June 18—Miller reunion; June 1—Heckaman reunion; June 29—Lehr reunion; June —Fréed reunion; June 19, Walters reunion; June 28, Black reunion; June 7, Phillip Huff reunion; June Ringenberg-Burgener reunion; June 6, Wisler reunion; June 25, Pappes-Shafer-Culp reunion; July 6, Her reunion; July 20, Best reunion; Sept. 14, Phillip Heckaman reunion; Sept. 7, Longfield reunion.

#### NEW BUS LINE.

Thomas D. Lee of South Bend, has established a bus line from Bourbon, Nappanee, Wakarusa and South Bend, leaving Nappanee at 7:45 a. m. and 2:15 p. m. A complete time table may be found on page 7.

#### TONSILS REMOVED.

Other bunch of North Liberty, her tonsils removed by local doctors on Wednesday of last week.

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School class gave financial assistance towards the building fund. Sunday School classes, Sunday morning services and special celebrations have been held in the park for 70 years. In the summer of 1993, the Methodist Church and the First Mennonite Church held services in the park.

History after period of significance

Throughout the 1930's and 1940's, many community events, church-sponsored concerts, picnics and activities continued to take place in the pavilion along with many community-wide holiday celebrations. Fourth of July parades would end at West Park followed by a celebration at the pavilion. Some of the clubs and organizations that used the building on a regular basis were the Boy and Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, 4-H Clubs, Ladies Rural Club and the Kiwanis Club. School band concerts, Knights of Pythias and Republican Party meetings, literature discussions by ladies' groups and many musical programs were held in the pavilion over the years. The shuffle board and miniature golf courses in and next to the park were also very popular.

After World War II Nappanee, like every town in America, experienced a "Baby Boom." Because of this growth and the consolidation of two townships, Nappanee City Schools needed additional classroom space. The park pavilion was utilized for additional grades 1 - 6; and was known as Park School. The pavilion was completely weatherized; windows and a central heating system were installed. At the same time plans were underway for construction of a new elementary school. Park School held classes from 1947-1954.

The pavilion continued to be an integral part of recreational life for the citizens of Nappanee. Reunions continued to be held there and after the closing of Park school, the pavilion became home to a group of Nappanee thespians who called themselves, "Nappanee Civic Theatre." In 1958, the stage was set for live theater performances in the pavilion once again. This group of citizens, known as "the Pavilion Players," first produced "You Can't Take It With You," attended by four hundred people at the first performance. Nappanee Civic Theatre attained a non-profit status as well as, becoming a charter member of the Indiana Association of Civic Theatres. Many performances were given over the years from "the King and I" and "Fiddler on the Roof," to children's productions. The Nappanee Civic Theatre has staged over 1000 productions since its founding in 1958, proudly continues productions today and is hopeful to be performing in the pavilion again soon.



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Architectural Significance

The park and pavilion are significant for their embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of early twentieth century summertime recreational or Chautauqua facilities (photos 1 and 2). Original features of the pavilion that define this recreational style are: a large open floor plan; a wood frame structure; an exposed truss system; a large hipped roof mass; unfinished interior walls; a stage; window openings with operable wood panels to give an open-air feeling; and the park setting.

One of the most striking characteristics of the Nappanee Park Pavilion is its large roof mass that seems to dwarf the lower portion of the pavilion with its many window openings. One half of the original open seating area and the stage area are maintained in the pavilion. The wood frame structure remains and the truss system has been partially re-exposed and will remain so in the current rehabilitation effort. The large hipped roof mass remains. The interior of the outside walls was unfinished until the 1946 conversion. Before this time the wood studs and back side of the exterior wood siding were visible on the inside. The stage was enlarged in 1965, but the enlargement was done in a manner that preserved the original stage configuration. The window openings were covered by wood panel shutters hinged from the top on the outside so that they could be swung up and hung out of the way. Due to the great number of window openings and their large size, when the shutters were opened, there was an open-air feeling inside the pavilion. Although the panels were removed and double-hung windows installed in the 1946 conversion, the effect of multiple window openings is maintained. The park setting remains intact. There are no other known examples of this type of facility in Indiana built specifically to house Chautauqua activities. Furthermore, other examples of large pavilions built for a circuit Chautauqua facility elsewhere in the country share this type of construction.

The Nappanee Park and Pavilion can be compared to two other National Register listed circuit Chautauqua facilities that are located in park settings. These are the Waxahachie Chautauqua Building in Waxahachie, Ellis County, Texas and the Beatrice Chautauqua Pavilion in Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska. The former is a large wood frame structure built in 1902 and was one of the few remaining examples of a Chautauqua auditorium in Texas in 1973. The auditorium has an octagonal floor plan with an attached rectangular stage and a large hipped roof. The relationship of the large hipped roof to the smaller body and the great number of large window openings are characteristics found at the Nappanee pavilion (photos 1 and 2). The Beatrice pavilion is remarkably like the Nappanee pavilion in appearance. Built around 1916, the structure has a similar overall size, a large hipped

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roof that dwarfs the lower portion, but the pyramidal hip is broken along its length by a large center gabled section. Two small ventilation dormers rise above the center ridge of the roof (the Nappanee pavilion has ventilation dormers on the north and south slopes of the pyramidal hip). The major difference is that the Beatrice pavilion has no side walls and is completely open.

Two independent Chautauqua facilities constructed in park settings in Indiana have existed in Winona Lake, Kosciusko County and Fountain Park, Jasper County, Indiana. The former once contained a building type similar to the pavilion. The Billy Sunday Tabernacle in Winona Lake was constructed in 1921 and demolished in 1992 (see *Winona Lake Historic District* National Register of Historic Places Registration Form). Built with a wood frame structure, unfinished on the inside, and stucco facade, the Tabernacle was intended to accommodate a large number of people for summertime assemblies. The Tabernacle also had a large number of wood-shuttered windows which, when opened out, created an open-air feeling. Although constructed to house those who would hear the sermons of the famous American evangelist Billy Sunday, the Tabernacle was also used by the Winona Assembly and Summer School Association, who used the building for their Chautauqua, educational and Bible Conference activities.

The Fountain Park Chautauqua is located just north of Remington in Jasper County and continues to operate for two weeks each summer as it has since 1895. A wood frame rectangular tabernacle built in 1959 is located on the grounds. The structure is similar to the original configuration of the Nappanee pavilion in that both are wood frame with an open rectangular plan, open truss work, a stage with dressing rooms and restrooms and removable wood panels around the perimeter. The Fountain Park tabernacle has the same assembly function as the Nappanee pavilion, but remains limited to summertime use only. Although the tabernacle replaced an earlier structure, its later date of construction precludes any historic significance except for the association of type and style.

To further demonstrate the architectural significance and context of the Nappanee Park and Pavilion one can compare it to parks and pavilions built in Indiana before the turn of the century, other parks and pavilions built in Indiana between 1900 and 1933, and other parks and pavilions built after 1933.

Two parks with pavilions listed on the National Register in Indiana are the 1894 Collett Park Pavilion in Collett Park in Terre Haute, Vigo County and the 1899 Scott Street Pavilion in



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Columbian Park in Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. The former is similar to the Nappanee pavilion in that it has a rectangular plan, large hipped roof, colonnaded gallery around the perimeter, wood clapboard siding and a park setting. It differs from the Nappanee pavilion in that it is far more decorative with paired Tuscan columns on rock-faced concrete block pedestals and central arched portals on all four sides. The Collett Park Pavilion is also smaller and, although it was used for public meetings and as a polling place, it was not built as a Chautauqua facility nor as an assembly for entertainment and performances.

The Scott Street Pavilion is more similar in appearance to the Nappanee Park Pavilion with its rectangular plan, large hipped roof, colonnaded gallery around one half of the perimeter, wood clapboard siding, park setting and lack of decorative details. However, it does have simple wood capitals on its square wood columns, flat arches between the columns, three large arcaded attic dormers and a simple wood balustrade. Again, this pavilion is smaller and served park, recreational and social needs, but not as a Chautauqua facility nor as an assembly for entertainment and performances.

The recreation movement including the State Parks movement took off in the 1920's as a response to the growing urbanization of America and as part of a general interest in getting back to nature to enrich mind and body. Several examples of park structures built in Indiana between 1900 and 1933 are found in Indianapolis. These include the Rubush and Hunter designed Shelter House built between 1919 and 1922 in Garfield Park (098-296-26007), the Rubush and Hunter designed Rhodius Park Community Center built between 1922 and 1925 (098-296-2665), the Harrison and Turnock designed Brookside Park Community Building built in 1927 (098-295-0993) and the McGuire and Shook designed Christian Park Community House built in 1930 (098-295-2082). All of these structures are architect designed, with definable high style architectural styles and are built out of masonry: brick, stone and stucco. They are also mostly built for year 'round use and were not built to house Chautauqua events. The Nappanee Park Pavilion, although built during the same time, is a much more utilitarian structure and more reflective of the small rural community it served.

An example of a park pavilion built circa 1928 in a state park is found in Mound State Park near Anderson, Indiana. This pavilion has a T-shaped plan with a gabled roof, a heavy timber frame structure and wood clapboard siding. It is Craftsman influenced with its wide overhangs, open eaves, eight-pane double casement windows, triple casement window in the gable above the entrance and hipped roof entrance shelter over the double doors. The

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one-and-one-half story structure has brown stained siding and yellow painted trim and a foundation of rough cut limestone. This pavilion differs from the Nappanee Park Pavilion in its plan, overall shape, lack of window openings and its more pronounced Craftsman and park architectural style.

A structure built circa 1922 in Hudson Lake, although severely altered, can also be compared to the Nappanee Park Pavilion. The Hudson Lake Casino is a wood frame structure with a rectangular plan, shallow gable roof and windows all around its perimeter. The Casino was used as a dance hall and had small rooms for concessions at one end and lots of windows for viewing the lake to the west. The Casino fell out of use by the 1950's and was entirely covered with metal barn siding and used for storage by the 1960's.

The Hier Park Pavilion, built in 1928 in Huntington, is the most similar architecturally to the Nappanee Park Pavilion of the examples given from the 1920's. The Hier Park Pavilion does not have a hipped roof, but it does have a large roof mass composed of a barrel-vault roofed clerestory, which gives an unusual appearance. This pavilion has a rectangular plan and is nearly the exact size of the Nappanee Pavilion at 68' X 100'. The Hier Park Pavilion retains its many window openings around the perimeter. The original shutters are cut out of the beveled wood weatherboard siding and are hinged above on the outside to swing up and out of the way for the open-air effect. The original open seating area and stage area remain although the raised stage itself was recently removed. The wood frame structure, unfinished inside of the exterior walls and exposed truss system remain as well as the barrel-vault roofed clerestory roof mass. The park setting includes many structures used for the county fair.

The Hier Park Pavilion has many of the distinctive characteristics of early twentieth century summertime recreational or Chautauqua facilities described above. It retains many original elements with good integrity and may be individually eligible for the National Register. The Pavilion was constructed to house family reunions, political meetings, concerts, picnics and shelter from storms, but not Chautauqua programs. The Chautauqua purpose is a significant distinguishing factor for the Nappanee Park Pavilion.

The Great Depression was, of course, responsible for a country-wide lack of building and it was not until the New Deal projects of the Roosevelt administration that park and park structure building picked up again. Many of the park structures built in Indiana after 1933

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and before World War II were New Deal projects.<sup>3</sup> These structures were built of local or found materials, such as stone in many parts of the state, recycled brick in Michigan City and timber in state parks and southern parts of the state. Quite often, a rustic architectural style was adapted for these park buildings. The appearance, size and use of these New Deal park structures were very different from the Nappanee Park Pavilion and the other pavilions described above. The New Deal park structures did not combine the performance and gathering use found at the Nappanee Park Pavilion, nor did they need to be as large, but rather combined picnic shelters with concession stands or restrooms or served only as shelters.

The Nappanee Park Pavilion also has characteristics of the Craftsman style as promoted by Gustav Stickley in the early 20th century. These include a wide, open eave overhang, exposed roof rafters, wood clapboard siding, an open display of structural elements, an honesty of building materials and the general use of the structure and building materials as the building's main source of decoration. The pavilion does this with its exposed truss system on the inside, exposed roof rafter tails around the perimeter of the building and simple, unadorned, unpainted steel support columns around three sides of the building. The Craftsman style reached its peak of popularity in the 1920's, so it would be logical that the designers and builders of the pavilion were influenced by the popular Craftsman movement. The pavilion is a simple, honest structure with very little architectural decoration. Because of this, it is a prime example of the Craftsman style that Stickley endorsed. The pavilion can also be described as a good example of local or vernacular park architecture and certainly stands alone in this category of buildings built in the 1920's in Indiana.

Although there have been some alterations to the Nappanee West Park Pavilion, the exterior remains relatively unchanged. The park and pavilion both retain the integrity necessary to convey their historical and architectural significance. The pavilion has continued to function for its original assembly purpose over the years and the park has continued to serve its landscape and recreation function. Currently the Nappanee Park Board is undergoing the process of rehabilitation of the pavilion so that the historic function of the building will continue for many years to come.

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<sup>3</sup>For a historic context of New Deal park structures see the *Washington Park Historic District National Register Nomination* (Michigan City, Indiana) written by Glory June Greiff.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

In Elkhart County in the State of Indiana, to-wit: part of the north east quarter of section thirty-six (36), in township thirty-five (35) north, of range four (4) east, and more fully described as follows: commencing at a point where the extended east line of Nappanee Street crosses the north line of Van Buren Street in the town of Nappanee and running thence north forty-nine (49) rods; thence west twenty and one half (20 1/2) rods; thence south to a point four rods north of the extended north line of Van Buren Street; thence east to the extended west line of Nappanee Street if extended north; thence south on the extended west line of Nappanee Street to the north line of Van Buren Street; thence east to the place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the property are the original established boundaries of the Nappanee West Park.



NAPPANEE WEST  
PART AND PAVILION  
NAPPANEE,  
ELKHART COUNTY,  
INDIANK

UTM REFERENCES

A. 16 583030 4588730

B. 16 583140 4588730

C. 16 583140 4588500

D. 16 583030 4588500

