

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Herriott House  
and/or common Brown-Ritchey House

2. Location

street & number 696 North Main Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Franklin N/A vicinity of congressional district  
state Indiana code 018 county Johnson code 081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Joan Ritchey Knox (Mrs. John Knox), gdn., & Margaret Ruth Ritchey  
street & number 3100 Backmeyer Road  
city, town Richmond N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47374

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnson County Courthouse  
street & number Main Street  
city, town Franklin state Indiana 46131

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records N/A  
city, town state

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date N/A

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

The Herriott House is a two-story structure located on a large corner lot in what is now a residential section of Franklin, Indiana. The structure is of simple Italianate design with a truncated hip roof and an atypical rectangular plan. The foundation and exterior walls are of brick, laid up in common bond. Originally, the house had four chimneys; only one of these remains, situated toward the north corner of the house.

The house was constructed with its main facade parallel to the Madison and Indianapolis Road (now Franklin's Main Street); therefore, the house faces northeast. This northeast facade is five bays wide and is symmetrical. The center bay on the ground floor contains the main entry door, surmounted by a rectangular transom and a brick, segmental arch. All other bays in this facade contain four-over-four double-hung windows with segmental arched tops and stone sills, except the window in the center bay on the second floor, which was converted to a door late in the 19th century to provide access to a porch-top deck. Unlike more elaborate Italianate houses, this structure has plain, projecting eaves with cornice fascia. A plain, narrow frieze beneath the eaves carries small, scrollcut brackets. The frieze and the brackets are partially obscured by the shadow of the roof overhang.

Sometime between 1876 and 1884, an elaborate wooden porch was added to the northeast facade. This porch stretches across the three middle bays and is supported by six turned wooden posts. Scrolled brackets at the top of these posts support a decorative saw-toothed frieze, surmounted by a box gutter. The roof of this porch also serves as a balcony; consequently, an elaborate railing with scroll-cut balusters runs around the perimeter of the porch roof. This porch was taken down in 1979 because it was deteriorating, but it was rebuilt in 1981, using as much of the original material as possible. Physical and photographic evidence was used to insure accuracy in this restoration.

All other facades of the house are similar to the northeast wall in their roof trim and window detail. Window spacing varies to accommodate the original chimney flues.

The floor plan of the house is that of a two-story, four pen structure with a central hallway. A stairway leads from the ground floor hallway to the second floor; this staircase is one of the more decorative features of the house, with turned balusters, ornamental brackets, and an elaborate newel post. Most of the staircase is walnut, as is much of the first floor woodwork. Floors throughout the first story are oak, while those on the second floor are poplar.

The Herriott House grounds, almost an acre in area, formerly contained several out-buildings, but none are still standing. Other structures on surrounding lots include the late 19th and early 20th century homes on Main Street and the more modern homes located to the north. The Herriott House is the only one of its age and style in the immediate area.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1860-1865      **Builder/Architect** Probably John Herriott

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Herriott House is significant as a well-preserved example of a mid-19th century, middle-class residence which has survived with almost no alterations. The house is notable as an atypical Italianate structure, with an unusual rectangular plan and simple cornice and window detailing. There are other Italianate structures in the city of Franklin, but they are of the more familiar type with irregular massing, ornate window treatment, and elaborate cornice and frieze detailing. The Herriott House would seem to be unique to the area in terms of its style and its state of preservation.

The house is also associated with one of the most prominent families in Franklin's early development. Samuel Herriott came to the area in 1820 and helped establish the town. His brother, John, came to the area in 1827 and, at one time, served as County Treasurer. In 1830 he and Samuel bought a large parcel of land that included the site of this house. The house, itself, is thought to have been built by John Herriott sometime between 1860 and 1865. The property remained in the Herriott family until 1884, when it was sold to Stephen Brown. Brown's descendants still own the property and recently rebuilt the front porch.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Banta, D.D.; McCaslin, W.M. History of Johnson County, Indiana. Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1888  
 Palmer, H.C. The First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, Indiana, 120 Years 1824-1944  
 Franklin, IN: First Presbyterian Church, 1946.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.86 acre

Quadrangle name Franklin, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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4	3	7	0	9	9	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** A part of the Northwest quarter of Section 14, Township 12 North, Range 4 East of the Second Principal Meridian in Johnson County, Indiana, described as follows: (See Continuation Sheet)

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Joan Ritchey Knox (Mrs. John J. Knox)		
organization	N/A	date	January 27, 1981
street & number	3100 Backmeyer Road	telephone	317/966-2103
city or town	Richmond	state	Indiana 47374

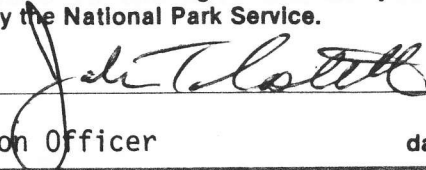
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6-8-82

**For NPS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet Herriott House

Item number 10

Page 1

Commencing at the most Northeasterly corner of Lot No. 1 in the Davis and Walters Addition to the City of Franklin, Indiana, as recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 8, of the records of the Recorder of Johnson County, Indiana; thence South 55° 12 minutes West on and along the Northerly line of said Lot No. 1 a distance of 2.87 feet; thence South 36° 09 minutes East on and along the East line of said Lot No. 1 a distance of 20.00 feet to the Place of Beginning of this described tract; thence North 55° 12 minutes East 209.00 feet to a point on the West line of North Main Street in the City of Franklin, Indiana; thence South 36° 09 minutes East on and along last said West line of North Main Street a distance of 171.00 feet to an iron pin; thence South 55° 12 minutes west 123.00 feet to an iron pin; thence South 36° 09 minutes East 18.00 feet to an iron pin; thence South 55° 12 minutes West 86.00 feet to an iron pin located on the East line of said Lot No. 1 in the Davis and Walters Addition; thence North 36° 09 minutes West on and along last said East line a distance of 189.00 feet to the Place of Beginning, Containing 0.86 Acre, more or less, subject to all legal rights-of-way and easements.

(T)

2 A 1000

to

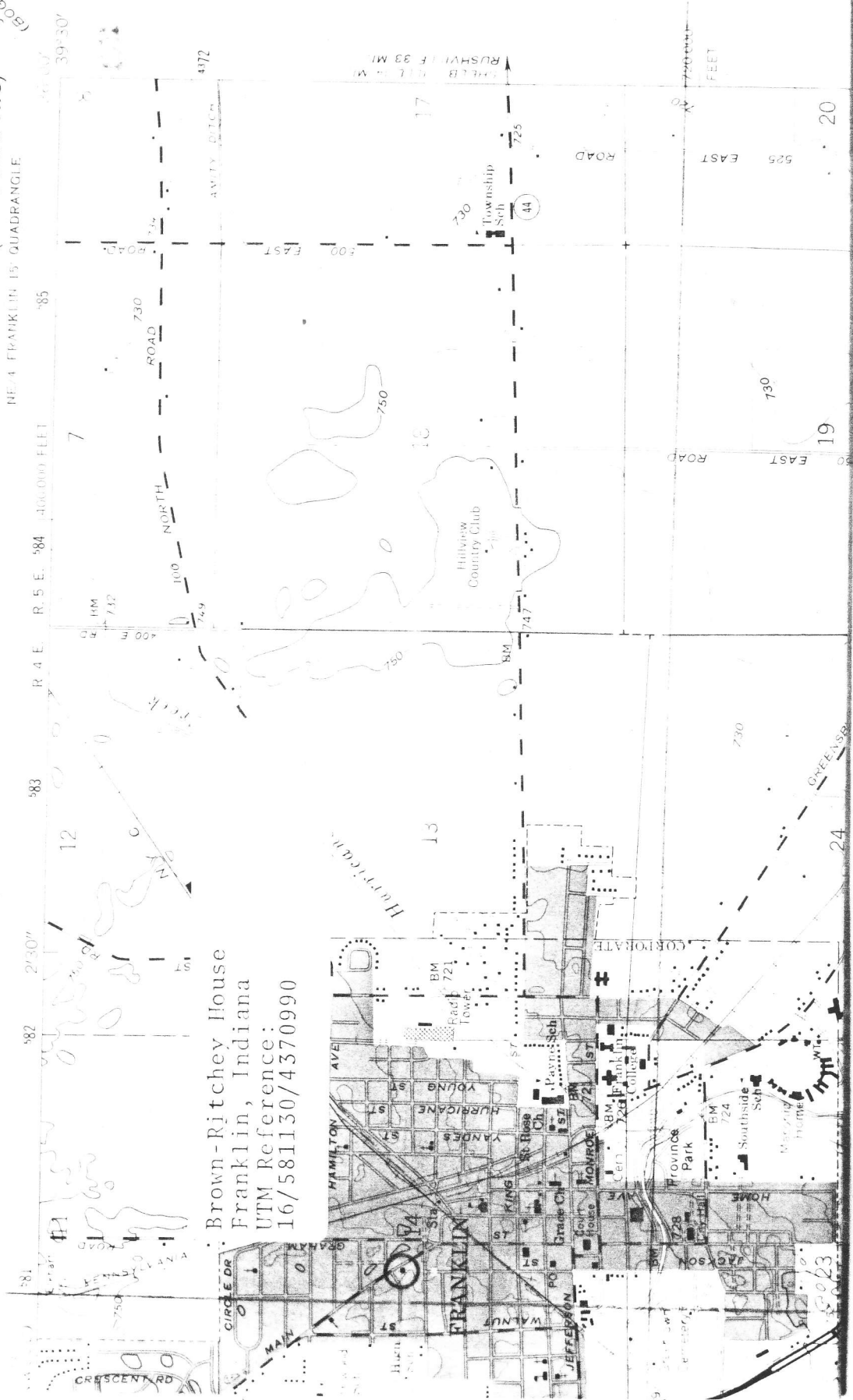
ALPUS

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FRANKLIN QUADRANGLE  
 INDIANA - JOHNSON CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 NE 4 FRANKLIN 15' QUADRANGLE

TT House  
 J. MAIN  
 LIN. IN 46131

Brown-Ritchey House  
 Franklin, Indiana  
 UTM Reference:  
 16/581130/4370990



3872 15' S (E666570M)

39°30'

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FEET

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