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.

. Name of Property	
historic name Sweet Gum Stable	
other names/site number Farmer's Feed and Supply	y 043-446-34251
2. Location	
street & number 627 West Main Street	N/A ☐ not for publication
city or town New Albany	
•	•
state <u>Indiana</u> code <u>IN</u> county	<u>Floyd</u> code <u>043</u> zip code <u>47150</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservatio request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requiren meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recom nationally statewide locally (See continuation she	standards for registering properties in the National Register of nents set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property mend that this property be considered significant
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the Nation comments:)	nal Register criteria.(
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
determined eligible for the National Register	
See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register	
removed from the National Register other, (explain:)	

Sweet Gum Stable Name of Property		Elo <u>yd</u> IN County and State			
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)		Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count Contributing Noncontributing			
private public-local	building district site	Contrib	2	0	buildings
public-State public-Federal	site structure		0	0	sites
	object		0	0	structures
			0	0	objects
			2	0	Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of con in the National	_	esources previous	sly listed
N/A			0		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions))	Current Funct (Enter categories fr		ns	
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIS'	T Animal Facility	COMMERCE	/TRADE:	Specialty St	ore
ENCE: COMMERCE/TRADE:	Specialty Store		*		
DOMESTIC:	Single Dwelling				
DOMESTIC:	Hotel				
	0				
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions		Materials (Enter categories	from instructi	ons)	
OTHER *	Transverse-frame	- foundation	STONE	: Limestone	
OTHER hall-and-parlor	- walls	METAI	: Steel		
		_	WOOD	: Weatherboard	
		roof	ASPHA	LT	
		other	BRICK		

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

	Gum Stable	Floyd IN County and State
	tement of Significance	County and State
Applio (Mark "	cable National Register Criteria x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property onal Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	COMMERCE	
	TRANSPORTATION	
	our history.	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
B.	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	ARCHITECTURE
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.	Period of Significance
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	1877-1945
O-:4	i- Compidentions	Significant Dates
	ia Considerations " in all the boxes that apply.)	1836
	Property is:	1877
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person
В	removed from its original location.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
_ c	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
D	a cemetery.	N/A
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.	Architect/Builder
	Within the past of years.	Unknown
Narra (Explain	tive Statement of Significance the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Maj	or Bibliographic References	
(Cite th	graphy e books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form o ous documentation on file (NPS):	n one or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data:
pre	liminary determination of individual listing (36 R 67) has been requested	State Historic Preservation Office
	viously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
	eviously determined eligible by the National	Federal agency
	gister signated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
rec	orded by Historic American Buildings Survey	☐ University
# red	orded by Historic American Engineering	Other Other
Re	cord #	Name of repository:
		New Albany Public Library

Sweet Gum Stable	Floyd IN County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property <1 UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 16 602370 4237340 Northing 2 Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	Zone Easting Northing See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) 11. Form Prepared By	
·	
organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana	
street & number 113 W. Chestnut Street	
•	state IN zip code 47130
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the particle of the parti	
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 Earl E. and Mary L. Stewart	
street & number 572 Spicewood Place	
city or town Clarksville	state <u>IN</u> zip code <u>47129</u>

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.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____7 Page ___1

Sweet Gum Stable Floyd, Indiana

Sweet Gum Stable is located on Main Street, a major thoroughfare in New Albany, west of the original downtown commercial center. It encompasses the entire 60' x 120' lot, and is attached to a small brick and frame house on the east (photo 2). The lot to the south of the stable has been fenced off and is used for tire storage. The disastrous flood of 1937 caused some damage to the structure: portions of the stone foundation were replaced with brick, the exterior was covered with metal corrugated siding. Despite the flood and some exterior alterations, the interior office, feed store, storage areas, and second floor sleeping rooms remain intact.

The original foundation, which is visible on the south and west facades, is rough cut limestone with 20"x30" window openings. Damage from the flood of 1937 required the replacement of portions of the stone foundation on the east and west facades with brick (photo 3). A 12' square section of the brick foundation on the northwest corner was later replaced with concrete block. Currently, the foundation on the west side of the structure is leaning severely. The original foundation has lost all of its mortar.

The stable measures 60 by 120 feet and is constructed of sweet gum and yellow poplar. It is a balloon frame structure with rough hewn yellow poplar posts and beams supporting the center of a massive plank floor (photo 8). The walls are comprised of 4"x5" posts on 8' centers. Horizontal braces are placed every 30". Sweet gum vertical siding of varying widths is attached to the bracing. Corrugated metal covers the sweet gum siding on all but the primary facade. Sliding plank "doors" create openings for ventilation and light in various sections of the walls. Most of these openings have been covered over by the corrugated metal siding.

As indicated on Sanborn Company fire insurance maps, the roof was originally wood shingle. Sometime after 1920 the shingles were replaced with rolled roofing. It is uncertain why or exactly when this was done. Fire insurance maps from 1940 indicate the membrane roof material. There are no intermediate maps that can pinpoint the date of replacement. The original machine cut rafters and rough cut purlins remain intact. No trace of the original wood shingles remain.

The main facade is sheathed in clapboard siding. The arrangement of the elevation consists of two sets of double doors on either side of an office and feed store (photo 1). The first floor contains two sets of 4/4 casement windows, a double hung 4/4 with an ogee curve crown, a single entrance door with a two light transom and two double door entrances with both solid and wood slat "screen" doors. All of these openings have severely slanted from the shifting of the foundation. An open shed porch of simple design serves as protection for the office and west double door entrances. Original double hung 4/4 windows on the half story and high in the gable are placed symmetrically in the facade and have simple ogee curve crowns and plain surrounds. The elevation is finished with a deep 12" eave with decorative crown moldings and 12" fascia board. The windows on the half

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Sweet Gum Stable Floyd, Indiana

story and high in the gable are double hung 4/4. All of the door and window openings on the first floor have severely slanted due to the leaning of the structure.

The west facade of the structure fronts West Seventh Street and serves as the loading area for the feed store (photo 3, 4). A loading dock is placed in the center of this long elevation and is protected by an open porch held aloft tenuously by a single 6 x 6 post. Small unglazed openings with plank sliding doors are scattered throughout the facade. Several areas of corrugated metal siding have been further patched with plain metal sheets. The top of the foundation has been replaced with brick all along the facade and concrete block in the northwest corner. A large "bump" is located in the center of the roof and is caused by the support beam of a manual elevator that was installed sometime in the 20th century. Windows in the ventilation cupola have been covered with particle board and metal sheathing.

The Riddle house (described in detail at the end of this narrative) is attached to the stable on the east facade (photo 2, 7). A makeshift connection between the two structures was made at some undetermined time. A large section of the east facade was "torn" out to gain access to the house through an existing door (photo 25). The doorway to the house leads directly into the parlor of the house and is incorporated into a stairwell to the basement (photo 26). The flimsy construction of the connection between the structures reveals that it was done well after the stable's construction.

The remainder of the facade can barely be seen through the trees and thicket that surrounds the southeast corner of the property (photo 5). The facade is comprised of the same materials as the west facade: corrugated metal over sweet gum siding with randomly scattered window openings. Unlike openings in the west facade, several of these openings are glazed with six or 4 light windows. Over half of the original foundation has been replaced with brick compared to a third on the west facade. This fact may support the notion that the foundation was replaced as a result of the 1937 flood (since the east is the up-river side which would have sustained more damage).

The south facade contains the only exterior access to the basement level (photo 6). Originally, the basement and part of the first floor were used to stable several hundred head of horses. A large opening measuring 9'x12' served as access for stables located in the basement. The only other access is by an interior trap door on the first floor (photo 23). The facade is sheathed in corrugated metal with the original board and batten siding underneath. This facade contains the same type of unglazed openings as the east and west facades. A deep 12" eave is also present; but without the decorative crown molding and fascia board used on the primary facade. (The decorative crown molding and fascia may be covered by corrugated metal). Mysteriously, all of the original foundation is present with the same window openings found on the east and west facades.

The interior of the first floor contains an office, feed store and large open storage space. The central 32' of the first floor is one story with the outside sections on either side being

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sweet Gum Stable Floyd, Indiana

Section number _____7 Page ____3

open above. Posts measuring 8×8 run through the center of the interior and support a series of beams running from front to back (photo 9). In 1886 the office and feed store were added to the interior between the two double door wagon entrances. The walls of the feed store are constructed with 2×4 's finished with varying widths of plain boards (photo 13, 14, 15). The walls of the office space stop short of the ceiling by approximately 2' and contain several windows of various sizes (photo 13). Two doors, one on the west and south of the office/store, provide access to the main floor space (photo 15).

Several feed storage bins line the double door entrance to the main floor (photo 12, 24). They are constructed of car siding and attached to the floor. The bins are still used today

for storage of clover, alfalfa, and other agricultural supplies.

A manual elevator was installed at an unknown date directly behind the office/store space. (photo 18, 19, 20) An 8'x7' platform transported materials to the second story of the structure. The installation of the elevator dissects one of the original sleeping rooms on the second floor and disrupts the roof support system. These are clear indications that it is not original. However, it is impossible to determine the exact date of its installation. The entire elevator is supported by two 6"x6" posts connected at the top with a round post that is 12" in diameter. (It is this round post that is causing the "bump" in the roof described in paragraph 6). The platform is constructed of 2"x6" boards with mortise and tenon joints reinforced with metal ties. Two 4"x4" posts create a channel for a metal counterweight.

The interior of the office and store is one open space with a line of posts through the center. The walls and ceiling of the feed store are finished with 6" and 8" ship-lapped boards; while the office has a lowered ceiling and is finished with particle board. Various types of shelving, most of which appear to be original to the 1886 interior addition, divide the feed store into narrow aisles (photo 16, 17). An "Equator" stove and corresponding brick flue is located near a support post in the center of the store.

The second floor is contained within a 32' wide central bay and is accessible only by ladder (photo 21). The front section still contains original partitioned sleeping rooms that were used by weary travelers. A central hallway provides access to the rooms (photo 22). Only three of the rooms remain intact with plaster and wallpaper finishes. Most of the plaster is cracked and is in need of repair. Remaining original stud walls indicate at least six sleeping rooms were on this floor. The remaining space is open with no original stud walls present (photo 21). It is unclear whether this open space was partitioned off as sleeping rooms or left open as it is today. Contemporary literature does not indicate how many sleeping rooms were in the stable. Currently the entire second floor is used for storage.

Immediately to the east and connected to the structure is a small two room brick and frame house (photo 2, 7). There are indications that its construction date may be as early as 1836. The deed abstract shows a rise in value from \$700 to \$3,420 indicating improvements on the property. Mr. Thomas Riddle, a steamboat captain from Pennsylvania, owned the lot and was listed "in residence". Mortgages taken out by Mr. Riddle in 1851 indicate the

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	7	Page	4
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Sweet Gum Stable Floyd, Indiana

further improvements of some sort on the property. (Possibly the construction of the frame addition to the brick cottage). The Riddle family continued to live in the same location until the 1880's. It is unclear whether the cottage that now stands on Main Street was the entire Riddle home or merely a portion (kitchen wing) of a larger house. There were 7 children in the family in 1850, which would have been nearly unbearable in the two room cottage.

The arrangement of rooms correspond to a typical hall and parlor plan; though the use of two distinctly different materials in the construction of the house is atypical of such a plan. The hall (original section of the house) contains a fireplace, built-in cupboard, and stairway to the attic on the west elevation. The north elevation contains the main entrance to the structure and a 6/6 double hung window. A section of the south wall has been replaced with concrete block (photo 28). The east elevation has a doorway in the center with two window openings to either side that have been boarded over (photo 29). This clearly indicates that the house was originally a one-room structure. The attic of the house is finished with car siding and encompasses the entire attic space (photo 30)

There is no way to be sure from the evidence that exists today when the two room cottage was built; though it is certain that it precedes the existing stable from its stylistic features and interior details. The original section of the Riddle house is constructed of brick in the common bond. The addition is frame with clapboard siding. Though the original roof has been replaced with tin, rough cut sheathing measuring 18"-36" in width are still present. All four double hung 6/6 windows are original and contain much of the original glass. The floors are comprised of 6" wide planks. The interior has plastered walls, simple federal style fireplace mantels and multi-panelled cupboards (photo 27).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

8	_ 5	Sweet Gum Stable
Section number	Page	

Section 8 - Statement of Significance

Sweet Gum Stable is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its past and continued association with the agricultural commerce of the river port of New Albany. Built in 1877, it served as a livery stable and hotel for the countrymen who brought their goods to market. In 1886, a feed store was incorporated into the stable. The building continued to be used as a livery stable/feed store until 1924. After a brief period as an auto storage facility, it was again used as a feed store and has served in this capacity continuously since 1931. With the exception of the addition of an open porch and minor siding alterations, the building's original interior and exterior have remained intact. The attached brick house is significant in the area of exploration/settlement as one of the few remaining buildings built during the area's settlement period (c.1813--c.1840). The attached house is also eligible under Criterion C as the only remaining example of an early brick single-pen dwelling, later made into a hall-and-parlor house by the addition of a frame parlor wing. Sweet Gum Stable was rated "outstanding" in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, New Albany Interim Report (September 1994).

Sweet Gum Stable is significant in the area of transportation for its role in the movement of local residents and transients from place to place, and in the movement of goods between the river and the region north of it. It is significant in the area of commerce both on a local scale as a feed store/horse rental facility and in the larger context of the development of New Albany as a major Ohio River commercial center during the 19th century.

The city of New Albany was founded in 1813 by Joel, Abner, and Nathaniel Scribner. Located two miles below the Falls of the Ohio, the city was an ideal transfer point for goods moving along the Ohio River. Steamboats had access to 28 other rivers from the Ohio. Cargo could be shipped to 15 states and 346 counties. New Albany thus became the commercial center for the entire region to the north of the Ohio River, and grew to be the largest city in Indiana by 1850 with a population of nearly 16,000. Since goods were shipped overland primarily by horse-drawn wagons, many livery stables, wagon yards, and hotels were constructed west of the steamboat landings (at the foot of State and Pearl Streets) to accommodate numerous travelers and traders. At the time the Sweet Gum Stable was built, there were only four other stables in town. The April 25, 1877 edition of the New Albany *Ledger-Standard* stated that the Sweet Gum was "one of the largest things down town," measuring 60 by 120 feet. The dedication party, where there was "not as much formality and style observed as there generally is," was held at the stable on the night of April 24. There was dancing on the main floor and everyone had "a bully time."

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number8	Page 6	Sweet Gum Stable
	. 490 ———	Floyd, Indiana

Livery stables served several functions in 19th and early 20th century society. They provided food and shelter for horses whose owners were in town temporarily; they rented horses and carriages to people who could not afford to maintain their own or did not have room on their city lot to keep them; they provided a change of horses for long-distance travelers and stagecoaches. Stables also bought and sold horses (and occasionally, oxen), acting as a market for livestock. New Albany city directories (1868-1913) show that the number of livery stables fluctuated from year to year, with the greatest number (11) occurring in 1913. Despite the increase in the number of stables in the early 20th century, Sweet Gum Stable remains the only extant building of its kind still in use in New Albany's town center.

The lot on which Sweet Gum Stable now sits was purchased in 1834 by Thomas Riddle for \$700. He built a brick single-pen house on the property in about 1836 and added a frame parlor section onto it around 1850. In 1865, his heirs sold a large portion of the lot to James Payton and William Robinson for the construction of a livery stable that adjoined the house. The stable building was destroyed in a fire in 1873, but the house escaped serious damage. Frank Howard then bought the property in 1877 and built Sweet Gum Stable. Howard sold the stable business to Isaac Friend in 1879. Friend, like many of the stable's owners, does not appear to have operated it himself, but probably leased it to the owner of the hotel next door. In 1886, Friend expanded the building with the construction of an office and feed store in the interior of the first floor. The ventilation cupola was probably added at this time, although it does not appear on the Sanborn maps until 1905.

City directories indicate that the Sweet Gum Stable was closely associated with the Payton House Hotel (later called the "West End Hotel") for much of its existence. An advertisement from 1880 states, "Payton House Hotel -- Wagon and Feed Stables Attached -- Special Attention to Feeding of Stock." An attached livery stable would have been attractive to the hotel's customers, who would have easy access to their own horses and wagons or ones available for rent. The stable's lower level was used for the stabling of horses, while the main floor was used for wagon storage and additional stables. The second, half-story was partitioned off for sleeping rooms to accommodate overflow from the hotel, or perhaps as cheaper lodging for poorer countrymen or servants.

Introduction of the automobile as an affordable means of transportation in the early 1920s caused the near extinction of livery stables in the city. Sweet Gum Stable was fortunate in that it could be adapted to motor-related functions. For about a year in 1923, the building housed the Elizabeth Bus Line station. In 1925, J.J. Lyons, the stable's owner (and proprietor of the West End Hotel), converted the large open space of the stable to an automobile storage facility. Not every home had its own garage, just as many earlier homes did not have stables or carriage

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8	Page	Sweet	Gum Stable
	90	Floyd.	Indiana

houses. In the early days of auto travel, many urban auto owners kept their cars in a storage facility and had them brought out only when necessary. Some merely stored their open cars during the winter. The stable performed much the same function for auto travelers as it had for those dependent on the horse.

Six years later, Lyons gave up the storage business and leased the building to Granville Anderson, who reopened it as the Stoy & Anderson Feed Store. Although the days of the great river port were gone, there was still a need for agricultural supplies. Located on the west end of the city along a main transportation route, the store was easily accessible to rural residents living along the river or in the hills along Corydon Pike. In 1947, the store was renamed Farmer's Feed and Supply Co. Today, under the ownership of Mr. & Mrs. Stewart, Farmer's Feed continues to provide New Albany residents with agricultural needs from salt blocks to hand-mixed fertilizer, as it has for over 60 years. The Stewarts plan to make some repairs on the building soon.

The small brick house attached to the stable is significant in the area of exploration/settlement as one of the approximately 22 homes in New Albany remaining from the settlement period of roughly 1813-1840. All but four of these houses are from the later half of the period, and almost all of them are substantially larger than this one. This building also has architectural significance as a good example of how a working-class, vernacular building was adapted to house a changing family.

When Captain Riddle bought his property in 1834, New Albany had been settled for only 21 years. It grew quickly, doubling its population between 1839 and 1850, then doubling it again just five years later. The town was considered to be more convenient for boat traffic than Louisville, just across the river, because it was navigable for more days of the year. Riddle, a steamboat captain, built his home near the landing. The small, single-pen house was built as a home for Riddle, his wife, and three children. The Riddles had four more children over the next ten years, and decided to enlarge their home to accommodate the growing family. They added a second room onto the existing structure, creating a hall-and-parlor arrangement. It is possible that the family did not have as much money at this time, as the new addition was built of wood instead of brick, and is lacking details such as the Federal fireplace and built-in cupboards that exist in the older part of the house. Riddle died of cholera in 1855, but his family lived in this house until the 1880s. Sometime after Charlotte Riddle sold the house in 1886, the owners of the stable made an entrance into the house directly from the stable. The continued use of the house as part of the stable probably ensured its survival.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 8 Sweet Gum Stable Floyd Indiana

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"8,000 Autos in Floyd County" New Albany Daily Ledger, May 3, 1941, p.1.

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Floyd County Deeds Book	A B H P V Y 12 17 18 19 20 22 30 31 31	p. 103, 115 p. 463, 464 p. 274 p. 211 p. 418 p. 57 p. 252 p. 505 p. 98 p. 222 p. 474 p. 289 p. 212 p. 424 p. 95	F G K Q X 10 15 18 19 20 20 23 34 31 34	p. 702 p. 229 p. 618 p. 311 p. 476 p. 101 p. 431 p. 27 p. 108 p. 5 p. 611 p. 634 p. 466 p. 93 p. 294
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

Sweet Gum Stable Floyd, Indiana

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot number two and a part of Lot number one in plat number 125 described as follows to-wit:

Beginning at the northeast corner of Lot number two at the southeast corner of Lower Seventh and Lower High Street; running thence eastwardly 88 feet along Lower High Street to a point; thence southwardly parallel with Lower Seventh Street to an alley, thence west along said alley 88 feet to Lower Seventh Street, thence northwardly along Lower Seventh Street to the place of beginning, said real estate fronting 88 feet on Lower High Street and extending back 120 feet to an alley in the rear of said lot.

Boundary Justification

This is the legal description.

