

FINAL

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 Johnson's Creamery
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 400 West Seventh Street N/A not for publication
city or town Bloomington N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Monroe code 105 zip code 47404

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 36CFR 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.)

Richard R. K... ..

11-10-95

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 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:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property _____

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)

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

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object
- landscape

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry: Manufacturing Facility

Commerce/Trade: Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

No. Style _____

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

other _____

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.

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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 # _____

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance
1914 - 1951

Significant Dates

1914
1921
1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Monroe County Public Library Indiana Room

Johnson's Creamery
Name of Property

Monroe County, In
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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| 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

3

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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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 Cynthia Brubaker
organization Preservation Development, Inc. date 06/15/95
street & number 400 West 7th Street, Suite 110 telephone (812) 336 - 2065
city or town Bloomington state Indiana zip code 47404

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 8th St. Development Corp.
street & number 400 West 7th Street, P.O. Box 221 telephone (812) 335 - 2058
city or town Bloomington state Indiana zip code 47404

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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Section number 7 Page 1 Johnson's Creamery, Bloomington, Monroe Co., IN

Johnson's Creamery is a rambling conglomeration of added components that form a unique complex with a functional architectural style. The 35,000 square foot complex is surrounded by other former industrial and commercial buildings, railroad tracks, surface parking lots and a church. Its larger context is the historic industrial corridor of Bloomington's near west side, which forms the eastern section of the proposed West Side National Register Historic District.

The original Johnson's Creamery building, built in late 1913 or 1914, was a two-story red brick building, rectangular in plan, at the southeast part of the current structure. The original building opens onto a loading dock at the southeast corner facing the railroad tracks and has a parapeted asphalt roof with a shallow slope towards the rear. The limestone capped parapet steps down as the roof slopes to the rear. Subsequent additions were added over the years up to 1951 that were all built of red brick masonry walls and parapeted, low-pitch asphalt roofs. No part of the Creamery was present on the August 1913 Sanborn insurance map. The 1927 Sanborn insurance map, a 1949 aerial photograph, former owners and employees and physical evidence provided guidance in dating the components.

A small two-story component, identified by its first floor interior vaulted ceiling and angled exterior that conforms to the railroad tracks, was probably added to the original building early. A painted sign and infilled window openings on interior masonry walls on the east and north sides of the building confirm that they were once exterior walls. A boiler and coal room, probably built as a separate structure at or near the time of the original building, was later linked to the original building with the construction of a mechanical, engine and tank storage room. The boiler room is two stories high with a single interior volume to accommodate large boilers. The boiler room roof is parapeted, slopes to the rear and supports a rectangular light monitor on top. The limestone capped parapet steps down towards the rear as does the original 1914 building in front. The connecting mechanical room is one story high with a continuous north-south clerestory that divides the roof with a shallow slope to the east and west. The boilers were vented to a tall red brick masonry smokestack. The current 178 foot smokestack replaced an earlier one in 1949.

A large two-story component was added in 1921 to the west of the original 1914 building. This addition is very similar to the original 1914 building with the same parapeted roof details and forms a continuous masonry front facade. According to a photograph printed in a 1938 25th anniversary bulletin, windows across the entire front facade were wood frame, one-over-one, double-hung windows with limestone lintels and sills. Windows on the second floor of the original 1914 building were smaller six-light, wood frame sash with limestone lintels and sills. "Johnson Creamery Co." was painted across the parapet of the front covering both the original 1914 building and the 1921 addition. Other signage was painted on the second floor at the southeast corner of the original 1914 building.

Sometime after 1914, a freestanding, one-story garage was constructed on the alley west of the complex. The garage was later linked to the complex with the 1927 construction of an ice house. The ice house is three stories high and was originally a single volume inside for stacking ice. Its low-pitched gable roof slopes to the north and south with stepped parapet end gables and limestone capstones. The pilastered brick facade is symmetrically adorned with simple brickwork, small limestone blocks and limestone banding.

In 1951, a two-story addition replaced a freestanding house on the alley in front of the freestanding garage described above. The 1951 addition connected to and provided a second story over the freestanding garage. The 1951 addition also included: a one-story enclosed loading bay on the west facade of the 1921 addition,

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with a concrete block west wall; a second story connecting passage to the 1921 addition across the front of the ice house; and a covered loading area on the ground floor in front of the ice house. The loading area sloped to below the first floor grade so that trucks could back up and load from a dock at the rear. The loading area was covered with a steel bar joist roof structure with wood decking and asphalt roofing.

Two freestanding buildings were also found on the property at the beginning of the project. These included a large concrete block garage built in 1949 and a small concrete block storage building built around the time of the 1951 addition.

The following list chronologically specifies each of the components described above for reference throughout the remainder of the application:

1. original 1914 building
2. vaulted space (between 1914 and 1927)
3. boiler room (between 1914 and 1927)
4. mechanical room (between 1914 and 1927)
5. 1921 addition
6. freestanding garage (between 1914 and 1921)
7. ice house (1927)
8. smokestack (1949)
9. concrete block garage (1949)
10. 1951 addition
11. small concrete block building (1951).

The Creamery survived continuous upgrades in plant operations, a fact well reflected in the more advanced building technologies found in its later additions. The 1914 portion was framed within its brick walls with timber posts, beams, joist work, and floors. In the 1921 addition and the ice house the interior structural components were steel columns, web and bar joists, and concrete floors, and by 1951 the new office addition was a block structure with brick veneer and aluminum windows.

Due to the changing nature of the Johnson's Creamery business, many changes were made to the complex over the years, both inside and outside. Window and door openings were added, infilled or moved. Window sash and doors were replaced. Vents, tanks and other equipment were added, especially at the rear of the building. Loading docks were added at the front of the building. Innumerable changes were made to the inside of the complex as dairying and refrigeration processes changed and developed and as Johnson's management made decisions on the operation of the business. Large rooms were divided into smaller work or refrigeration areas, floor levels were altered to accommodate new equipment and the need to drain liquids and walls were tiled to provide an easily cleaned surface. Interior partition walls were built of a variety of materials including:

- plaster and tile over brick and plaster and tile over concrete block in the 1914 and 1921 sections of the building
- cork, adhered and coated with an asbestos adhesive, over concrete block or brick in the ice house and former freestanding garage area that was converted to refrigeration areas
- concrete parged concrete block or brick in the 1951 addition and former freestanding garage area
- sheet metal and asbestos board panels over cork or concrete parged block or brick in the former freestanding garage area
- drywall and plaster over wood frame and parged or painted concrete block in the 1951 addition.

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After creamery operations ceased at the complex in 1987, large areas of interior and exterior walls and the roof were broken out to remove and salvage large steel tanks that were built into their locations. A temporary pyramidal roof structure was built at the southwest corner of the 1921 addition to cover a hole created for a crane to remove the large tanks. Finally, the building was subject to vandalism and graffiti during its six year period of standing empty without maintenance. The current owner is completing a historic rehabilitation that began in January 1994. The building is now known as the Johnson's Creamery Business Center and houses professional offices.

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Section number 8 Page 4 Johnson's Creamery, Bloomington, Monroe Co., IN

Summary

The Johnson's Creamery building is significant for its association with early twentieth century industry in Bloomington as the structure, from 1914 to 1987, in which dairy products and ice were produced and sold and from which they were distributed door to door. The Creamery is one of very few intact industrial buildings in Bloomington, Indiana, located one block north and two blocks west of the courthouse square within Bloomington's near west side industrial corridor. First constructed in 1914, the red brick building grew to the large complex of various additions that stands today through a series of major building stages up to 1951. The complex took shape according to the developing nature of the creamery business and the constraints of its site: railroad tracks to the east, and the city's street grid to the south, west and north. The current rehabilitation has restored a level of integrity augmenting its significance as one of very few intact examples in Bloomington of a functional, industrial architectural style. The most unique identifying features of this two and three-story unpainted red brick factory building are the three-story ice house and the 178 foot tall brick smokestack with white glazed bricks that vertically spell "Johnson's" and serves as a long-standing Bloomington landmark.

History and Context

Johnson's Creamery can be evaluated in the historic context of business and industry in Bloomington between 1914 and 1951. The limestone industry provided the major source of income for Monroe County from the 1890's until World War II. Bloomington's economy was further diversified with several small industries, the Showers Brothers Company Furniture Factory, numerous commercial establishments and Indiana University. The Showers Brothers Company reached its zenith of operation in the 1920's when it produced 60% of the furniture built in this country, greatly expanded its facilities and employed more than 2000 people.

Other Bloomington industries, including Johnson's Creamery, experienced similar prosperity. They were: the Nurre Mirror Plate Glass Company, which furnished all the mirrors used in the Showers Brothers Company's furniture; the Bloomington Basket Company, which produced fruit and vegetable baskets; the Cantol Wax Company, which produced wax cleaning and lubricating products (building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, April 24, 1990); the Field Glove Company, which produced mittens and gloves; and the Seward and Company foundry and machine works. Johnson's Creamery, which produced milk, cream, ice cream, butter, cottage cheese, chocolate milk, buttermilk, orange drink and ice, can be evaluated within the context of Bloomington's industries. The Creamery, the Cantol Wax building and the Showers complex are the only intact structures from among this list of industries. The Creamery can also be evaluated within the context of creameries in Indiana.

History of Johnson's Creamery

Ward W. and Ellis W. Johnson founded the Johnson Creamery Company in 1913. The two brothers first operated a dairy on South Washington Street in 1912, where the company continued to maintain stables for delivery wagons and horses after moving to the West 7th Street address and until at least 1938. The new plant was completed in 1914 and was ideally located in downtown Bloomington's industrial corridor next to the Illinois Central railroad tracks and other industrial and commercial establishments.

Rapidly outgrowing its original 1914 plant, the factory appended major additions in 1921, 1927, and again in 1951. Large boilers were necessary for the production of power to operate the plant and required tall

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smokestacks for venting. These needs shaped the addition of mechanical spaces onto the original 1914 building. Subsequent additions and interior alterations also reflected the needs of the dairying process.

The Creamery processed dairy products from local milk suppliers and delivered its produce to the surrounding community in horse drawn wagons as late as 1939 before fully switching to motorized transport. Cutting and storing blocks of ice was a necessary sub-process to the creamery business before the advance of refrigeration technology in the late 1930's and 1940's. For this reason, the construction of the large three-story high ice house was important to the expansion of the business in the 1920's. "Today's Milk Today," the Johnson's slogan in the 1930's, told customers that the company knew the importance of moving the milk from the cow to the customer quickly. In 1938, Johnson's employed 70 people who produced and delivered properly pasteurized milk and dairy products including: coffee and whipping cream; "made-to-measure" ice cream; "Shady Brook" butter; cottage cheese; chocolate milk; "Creamo" (cultured creamed buttermilk); Johnson's Orange drink; and distilled water ice. The company also operated a retail department that sold the dairy products as well as, ice, in a small house north of the plant that was replaced with the 1951 addition. The 1951 addition retained a retail area with an ice cream counter. Most of Johnson's products were however, sold through home delivery with only 15% of its products sold to stores in the 1930's.

The number of licensed dairy plants in Indiana grew throughout the 1920's and 1930's from 234 in 1924 to over 400 throughout most of the 1940's. Most were family owned and operated with a limited geographical scope due to the constraints of refrigeration technology. As that technology advanced, the number of licensed dairy plants in Indiana declined to 224 in 1956 and has continued to decline with consolidation and competition from large supermarkets to a mere 48 in 1982. Chains such as Kroger in the Midwest and Safeway in the East, maintain their own dairies and use milk as a loss leader sales item. The increased shelf life of milk to three weeks has also contributed to the rise of large centralized dairies located closer to the milk supply, which is north of Indianapolis for the State of Indiana.

Johnson's Creamery fell victim to this trend when it vacated the building in 1987 and sold out to a larger dairy, Maplehurst, in Indianapolis a few years later. The complex remains however, as a clear example of this once important aspect of the Bloomington and Monroe County economy. The Creamery kept eighty area farmers in business from whom they bought the raw milk and employed as many as 100 people in the 1950's. It was noted as one of the larger dairies and the largest ice-manufacturer in southern Indiana. It was also known as one of the more desirable and steadfast employers in the area and as a reliable source of good quality products.

The Johnson's Creamery building is eligible for listing on the National Register under criterion A for its association with industry in Bloomington and the dairy business in Indiana. Among the historic Bloomington industries listed above, Johnson's Creamery was one of only a few, the limestone industry and Indiana University, to survive past the 1950's. A household name for 75 years, Johnson's, still holds significance for the Bloomington community in the symbol of the Creamery building and smokestack.

Architecture

Structures associated with historic industrial uses in Bloomington that were identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: City of Bloomington, Interim Report include: the Coca-Cola Bottling Company

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Building (ca. 1930; 153-055-80113; rated "notable") at 318 South Washington Street; the Bloomington Wholesale Foods Warehouse (1920; 153-055-80068; rated "contributing") at 300 West 7th Street; the Cantol Wax Company Building (ca. 1905; 153-055-80043; rated "contributing;" listed on the National Register, April 24, 1990) at 211 North Washington Street; and the Showers Brothers Furniture Company Building [sic] (1909 - 1924; 153-055-80064; rated "outstanding").

In addition, several structures associated with historic industrial and commercial uses in Bloomington have been identified as contributing to the proposed West Side Historic District. These include the Johnson's Creamery building itself, the I. Fell Building, at 201 South Rogers Street, the Bloomington Garage building at 316 West 6th Street, the Curry Buick building at 218 West 7th Street and the Bloomington Frosted Foods building at 213 South Rogers Street. The current rehabilitation of the Johnson's Creamery building has restored sufficient integrity that it can be considered individually eligible for the National Register as well as, contributing to the proposed West Side Historic District.

The Johnson's Creamery building is eligible for listing on the National Register under criterion C for its characteristics that reflect an industrial architectural style. Brick masonry, stepped parapets, wood windows on older buildings and aluminum and steel sash on newer buildings and additions and functional unadorned facades with minimal architectural detail are characteristics of this industrial architectural style shared by the Creamery and the other buildings listed above. Among these buildings, only the Showers building was listed as "outstanding," and is considered eligible for listing on the National Register as part of a complex of Showers related buildings. Only the Cantol Wax building is listed individually on the National Register. The Creamery, in its newly rehabilitated state, now displays a comparable level of integrity with these two buildings and persuasively portrays the industrial heritage of Bloomington.

The Creamery building is also eligible for listing on the National Register under criterion C for its characteristics that reflect the creamery business and distinguish it as such. Built during the height of industrial success in the 1920's in Bloomington, the 1921 addition and the 1927 ice house both reflect a style that was practical, industrial and functional for the processing of milk and the storage of ice. The ice house also presented a more stylish facade with decorative architectural details built into the brick and limestone masonry. Although the simple rhythm of the street facade partially disguises the building's true purpose, other features reveal it, such as the ice house that rises from the middle of the complex and the landmark smokestack that rises from behind it. These exterior features and other interior features clearly indicate factory functions. Long, open rooms for processing operations, arch-vault ceilings for ice loads, tall mechanical spaces for compressors and boilers, and a continuous rhythm of large double hung windows, roof monitors and clerestories for natural light all speak the language of technological space. Similarly, interior wall finishes of painted plaster and glazed concrete block, and quarry tile over concrete floors reflect the sanitary surroundings necessary for dairy production.

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Bibliography

Huffman, Dick. Former owner, Johnson's Creamery. Interviews.

Johnson Creamery Company brochure, "A Quarter Century —of Progress and Service," 1938.

Martin, Bob. Former plant manager, Johnson's Creamery. Interviews.

Orelup, Margaret. Johnson Creamery, Historic Preservation Certification Application, Part 1 - Evaluation of Significance. April 1987.

Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1913, 1927, 1947.

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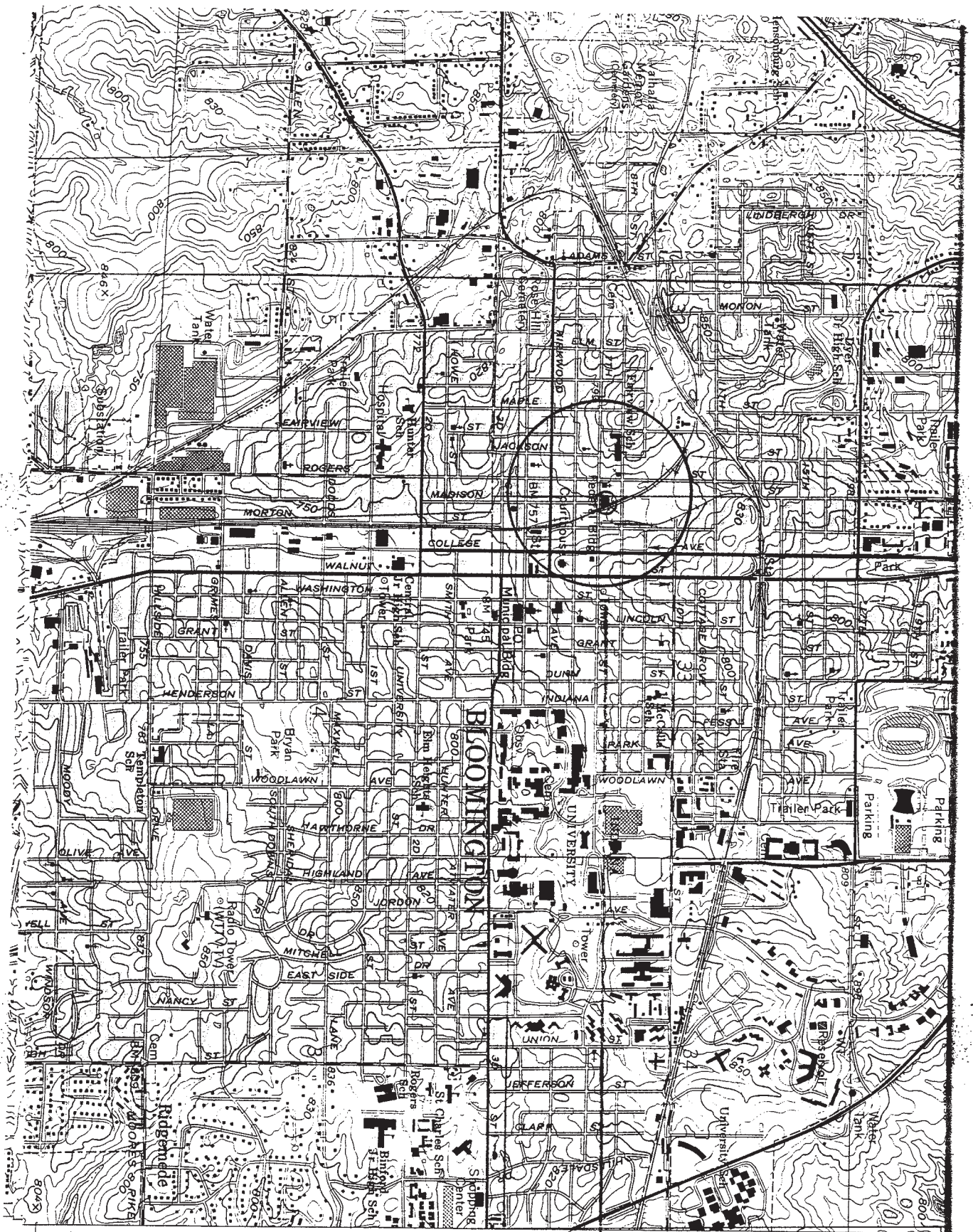
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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the east curbline of the alley between North Rogers Street and the CSX railroad and the north curbline of West 7th Street, proceed east along the north curbline of West 7th Street to the CSX railroad right-of-way. Then proceed northwest along the west boundary of the CSX railroad right-of-way to the south curbline of West 8th Street. Then proceed west along the south curbline of West 8th Street to the east curbline of the alley between North Rogers Street and the CSX railroad. Then proceed south to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The described boundary includes the property historically associated with and owned by the Johnson's Creamery. The boundaries are slightly larger than the private property boundary to compensate for an encroachment of the building into the public right-of-way.



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T. 9 N.

T. 8 N.

10'

UNIONVILLE 7 MI.
 BELMONT 9 MI.
 COLUMBUS 34 MI.

JOHNSON'S CREAMERY
 MONROE CO, IN
 ZONE 16
 E 539980
 N 4335400