FILE COPY

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 Nurses' Sunken Garden &	Convalescent Park	
other names/site number N/A		
2. Location		
city or town Indianapolis	Rotary Building, West Drive, and Union N/ county Marion code 097	A not for publication I/A vicinity zip code 46202
state indiana odde iiv	Goding Marion Gode (197	2ip code 46202
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
request for determination of eligibility meets the doci Historic Places and meets the procedural and profession	Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this in no numeritation standards for registering properties in the National I nal requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the ria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nuation sheet for additional comments.) 3-5-86 Date	Register of
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Indiana Department of Natural Re State or Federal agency and bureau	sources	
In my opinion, the property meets does not mee comments.)	et the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet fo	or additional
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:)		

Nurses' Sunken Garden & Cons Name of Property			Marion IN ounty and State		
5. Classification				, und Olate	
Ownership of Property Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Nu (Do	mber of Res	sources within Prope	erty
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6. Function or Use					
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ANDSCAPE:	Garden	LANDSC		Garden	
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7. Description					
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Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

	irses' Sunken Garden & Convalescent Park me of Property
0	Statement of Significance

Marion	IN
County and	State

8. Stat	ement of Significance	
	able National Register Criteria in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property nal Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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.	Period of Significance 1930-1947
_ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
-		Significant Dates
	a Considerations in all the boxes that apply.)	1930
•	Property is:	1934
		1947
A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
B	removed from its original location.	N/A
c	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
_ _D	a cemetery.	
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	N/A
= [a commemorative property. less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	
G	within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder
	•	Gallagher, Percival
		Olmsted Brothers
Narrat	ive Statement of Significance	THIS CASE OF THE PARTY OF THE P
	the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Mai	or Bibliographic References	
	graphy	
(Cite the	books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on us documentation on file (NPS):	one or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data:
	liminary determination of individual listing (36 R 67) has been requested	State Historic Preservation Office
	viously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
	viously determined eligible by the National gister	Federal agency
des	ignated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
rec	orded by Historic American Buildings Survey	University
— # rec	orded by Historic American Engineering	⊠ Other
	cord #	Name of repository:
		Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site,
		Brookline MA

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11.	Form	Prepared By		
	_ /L:A1 _	Anna Haava	r Henderson, Associate	Desfaces
nan	ne/title	Allie Hoove	Henderson, Associate	e Professor
orga	nizatio	n Ball State	University	date <u>5-20-96</u>
stre	et & nur	nber Depart	ment of Landscape Arc	chitecture, AB 231 telephone 317/285-1971
city	or town	Muncie		state IN zip code 47306
Ado	litional	Documentation	n	
Subn	nit the fol	owing items with the	e completed form:	
Cor	itinuati	on Sheets		
Ma	ps A I	ISGS man (7.5	or 15 minute series) indica	cating the property's location.
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na	ame]	The Trustees o	f Indiana University	
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c	ity or to	wn <u>Bloomi</u> i	ngton	state IN zip code 47405
Pa	perwork	Reduction Act Sta	tement: This information is being	ing collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate

Nurses' Sunken Garden & Convalescent Park

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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	•	Marion	County,	Indiana		

7. Narrative Description

I. Setting and Location

The Ball Nurses' Sunken Garden and Convalescent Park, Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana is a designed landscape located on the north-south axis of two campus buildings, Ball Nurses' Residence (1928 with additions 1945, 1957) and Rotary Building (1931). The garden and park are the off-street, pedestrian open space between these two buildings to the north and south, and, between the Union Building (1952 with addition, 1958) and Riley Hospital Complex, parking lots, and garage to the east. This grouping of campus buildings and interior open space are located north of Michigan Street, south of North Drive, east of Union Drive, and, west of West Drive.

The Garden and Park were designed in 1929-1934 by Percival Gallagher, principal landscape architect, Olmsted Brothers, Brookline, Massachusetts. The designed landscape is an extant portion of a campus master plan prepared by Mr. Gallagher for the Indiana University Medical Center Campus, February 15, 1930. The open space is divided into three major areas, or outdoor rooms: first, the formal Nurses' Residence lawn and Nurses' Sunken Garden; second, the informal pastoral Convalescent Park; and, third, the elliptical turf panel or forecourt for the Rotary Convalescent Hospital. To the east of the Rotary Building is the half-circular drop-off area for patients and visitors. The Nurses' Sunken Garden, a three-part quadrangular design, Convalescent Park, and elliptical turf garden were designed and built between 1930 and 1940. The open space is owned by the Trustees of Indiana University.

II. Historic Designed Landscape Features

The Nurses' Sunken Garden

The garden and park were designed as linked open space; the garden, for the Riley Hospital nurses, and, the park, for passive use by patients and their families as well as hospital staff. As part of Mr. Gallagher's overall master plan for the campus, the design for the Nurses' Garden and Convalescent Park repeats the theme of the interdependence of buildings and open space. The open space between two prominent buildings is clear, coherent, and positive, and, provides both a Nurses' Garden in the Neoclassical style and, a pastoral, passive park originally conceived with curvilinear paths. The open space connects the Nurses' Residence and Rotary Hospital on a single, north-south sight line.

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The views were deliberately designed to permit patients and nurses to leave the world of sickness and death and to experience the renewal of "nature" in the green pastoral park, and the beauty of seasonal change in the Nurses' Garden. The single most important viewshed in the campus plan was that from the Nurses' Residence porches to the Rotary Hospital, carried by both beautiful and pastoral designed open spaces.

The Nurses' Sunken Garden was designed in a formal, geometrical style creating an outdoor room having three compartments: a central square garden featuring a central circular pool and divided into four planted quadrants and flanked by two quadrangular turf panels outlined in their interiors with strolling paths. The size of the overall garden as designed was 120'X265', including perimeter walks. The designer's intent was to provide a beautiful, romantic garden room for the nurses of Riley Hospital, a humanitarian respite from their work caring for the sick. The scale of the garden and its location north of the Ball Residence and its outdoor porches reflect the designer's attempts to provide an exterior lawn and garden as carefully scaled outdoor rooms, the antidote to the residential building mass. Further, the designer intended to tie the Nurses' Residence lobby space to that of the Rotary Building on a central, north-south sight line running through the center of the square, sunken garden. This design is in the Neoclassical style in a period in which landscape architects used ideas from the Renaissance in England and Italy.

In the Sunken Garden, the pedestrian is invited into a square garden having a deliberate grade change with pathways which do not permit one to walk directly on the cross axes of the garden. Emphasis is placed on walking in circular fashion around the garden, rather than directly through it on the axes. Thus, the designer permits the pedestrian opportunities for viewing the bedded quadrants and for relaxation and contemplation.

The specified plant materials were elaborate, including a palette which would provide year-round bloom in a fragrant, nostalgic women's garden. The sentimental plant list included glossy buckthorn, flowering dogwood, jetbead, box barberry, flowering cherry, and sweet mockorange. Also included were many Asian flowering trees and shrubs, reflecting Mr. Gallagher's interest in exotic and unusual plant materials such as Japanese flowering quince and crab.

At the north edge of the garden, a pergola was designed to provide an overhead plane to enclose and frame the view from the Nurses' central lobby to the Rotary Hospital and, to provide an architectural garden element for shade and for visual effect. The outdoor "wall" served to reduce the impression of overwhelming scale of the Nurses' Residence and, to clearly separate the Nurses' Garden and, the

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public, pastoral Convalescent Park. Two schemes were drawn for the pergola: one, in Mediterranean style; the other, in Tudor style. No evidence has been found that the pergola was ever built. In addition, Mr. Gallagher wanted to tightly enclose the garden with a brick wall. However, he determined that the unstable fill would not support the weight of the wall and eliminated this feature.

The Convalescent Park, Elliptical Turf Garden, and Patient Drop-Off, Rotary Hospital

The pastoral park (350'X620') was designed as the public open space for patients and staff to be used for passive recreation, strolling, and contemplation. The overall design intent was to transform a bleak, treeless dead space into a garden for enjoyment of nature. The planting plan included such major trees as American elm, Siberian elm, red oak, and sugar maple, providing shade, seasonal color, and variety of textures. Strolling paths in a serpentine pattern led pedestrians from the Nurses' Residence through the green park to the Rotary Hospital's outdoor forecourt, an elliptical turf garden, 90'X190'. To the east of the turf garden was the half-circular vehicular drop-off drive for the convenience of Rotary Hospital patients and visitors.

III. Description of Existing Conditions of Contributing Resources

Topography

Problems caused by placing large new buildings on unstable fill have plagued the campus since the 1950's. The former floodplain, used by the campus for fifty years as a "dump", has taken its toll on the campus environment: buildings settled, retaining walls and paths have failed. Adequate subsurface preparations were not undertaken prior to and during construction of the Nurses' Garden. Mr. Gallagher's grading plan alone could not provide an engineering solution to correct the problems caused by severe soil instability.

Natural Systems

The Nurses' Garden and Convalescent Park are thoroughly man-made environments. The 19th century manipulation of the course of Fall Creek, construction of levees along the White River, and the filling in of the Fall Creek floodplain permanently destroyed the native riparian ecosystem.

Spatial Organization, Views, Vistas, and Viewsheds

The dominant view linking the Nurses' Residence and the Rotary Building is intact today. The

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spatial organization of the open space is present, linking the two buildings with a pastoral park and rectangular, sunken garden. While the Union Building intrudes into the Garden and Park, the overall designed spatial relationships of the three major components of the design have not been destroyed. The landscape composition is held together by a strong visual axis even though the pedestrian circulation system does not follow the axis. The highly structured character of the landscape has helped preserve its overall compositional integrity.

Vegetation

Only a few mature shade trees have survived since the Convalescent Park was planted in the decade between 1930 and 1940. New construction, neglect, and lack of maintenance have eliminated all of the planting recommended by Mr. Gallagher in the Nurses' Garden. The "choice" and "very choice" iris grown in the campus nursery as well as the handsome rose beds are also gone. Only the tall, ragged yew hedging remains on the eastern edge of the sunken square and, around the perimeter of the east turf panel.

Circulation

The only paths which are still recognizable are segments of the Gallagher plan connecting Ball Residence and the Rotary Building. The placement of the Union Building immediately west of the Convalescent Park permanently altered the serpentine circulation of the Park. Pedestrian paths in and surrounding the Nurses' Garden (brick set in sand) are in derelict condition. Since the paths were set in unstable fill, heaving is evident, particularly on the path immediately north of the Sunken Garden.

Water Features

The central pool of the Nurses' Sunken Garden is intact, but is crumbling and needs repair. The hydraulic system of the water feature will need to be inspected and rehabilitated.

Landscape Structures

Even though the Garden's pergola appears in campus master plans of the 1940's and 1950's, no photographic or written evidence showing this architectural garden wall has yet been found.

Site Furnishings and Objects

Mr. Davidson's bronze "Eve" is intact as the Nurses' Garden centerpiece, but needs cleaning. Four concrete benches featuring scroll bas-relief marine life are still placed in the Garden. These benches may have been made by campus grounds keepers in the 1940's and one intact prototype remains.

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Percival Gallagher did not prepare plans for any of the Garden and Park's furnishings. There are a wide variety of styles and periods of lighting fixtures and trash receptacles evident throughout the Garden and Park. All conflict with the styles of design of the landscape.

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8. Statement of Significance

Nurses' Sunken Garden and Convalescent Park is an outstanding accomplishment of early 20th Century Neoclassical garden design grafted onto a prototypical pastoral park. The design for the Indianapolis campus open space by Percival Gallagher is one of two projects by Olmsted Brothers implemented in Indianapolis between 1920 and 1937. The third Olmsted Brothers' project in the City is the master plan for Indiana Central University (today, the University of Indianapolis), a project that was not planned by Gallagher and was never implemented by the University. The Garden and Park at Indiana University Medical Center is the work of a master landscape architect, a principal in the premier landscape architecture firm in the nation. At the time the project was implemented, the Olmsted Brothers firm was at its zenith. Between 1857 and 1950, the firm produced plans for more than 5800 projects in every state in the nation and seven foreign countries.

The design of the Nurses' Garden testified to Percival Gallagher's thorough understanding of Renaissance design principles. The garden is organized first by a central axis and then, by a principal cross-axis; it is then subdivided into a central square flanked by two symmetrical terraces. The same approach can be seen in such European Renaissance precedents as the Italian garden at Montacute (1580) near Yeovil, Somersetshire, a sunken green garden organized as a square composition on cross-axes. What is unique about Gallagher's application of these design principles is that he chose to use them not in a residential context—as in Mrs. Landon's Formal Rose Garden at "Oldfields"—but in the context of a public university campus setting. He believed that the nurses needed their own romantic, special garden where they could feel as if they were "at home" in a residential setting. Similarly, he believed that patients, families, and staff should be able to enjoy the restorative power of nature in the adjacent green park. He successfully knitted together two compatible styles of design for two compatible user groups, placing the informal open space between two geometrical garden spaces.

Percival Gallagher's reputation as a master plantsman and master planner rests on his long career (1894-1904; 1906-1934) in the Olmsted office. For over three decades, Gallagher designed residences, cemeteries, park systems, and campuses for the firm. Among his most important projects were the restoration of Olmsted, Sr.'s plan for the U.S. Capitol Grounds, the John Aldred Estate, "Ormston" in Lattingtown, New York, and campus plans for Swarthmore, Bryn Mawr, Phillips Andover Academy, Vassar, Duke University, and Indiana University at Bloomington.

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Historical Development of the Designed Landscape

The Nurses' Garden and Convalescent Park were developed in the former floodplain of the White River at the mouth of Fall Creek. In 1821, some one thousand settlers claimed this area because of its proximity to the "Donation Land", the four square mile area set aside by the Federal Government to establish Indianapolis as a Capitol City for the State of Indiana. Several hundred of these early settlers later died from the plague. In 1855, the City Council purchased the former "plague burying ground" to build the first City Hospital since the area was already so "unhealthful".

Between 1859 and 1866, the City Hospital was only partially complete and was used by a group of "friendless women" and by the Government as a Civil War Hospital and soldiers' home. In 1866, the Hospital was given back to the City and was opened for first patients. In 1875, Indiana University recognized the need for a medical school and arranged for an affiliation with Indiana Medical College in Indianapolis. In 1887, the State's first Nurses Training School was established in the City Hospital and Mrs. Peter Bryce came to be known as "Mother Bryce", leader of public health nursing in Indianapolis. The new medical school became the Medical Department of Indiana University. Between 1903 and 1908, the Trustees of Indiana University founded a School of Medicine and merged Indianapolis Medical College with Indiana University. The Indianapolis campus became the primary training facility in the State for doctors and nurses. The nurses were housed in rented homes near the Hospital and, in two stucco structures on campus, 1923-1924.

In 1874, Fall Creek was rerouted to empty into the White River, making it possible for the River's broad flood plain to be developed. Following the flood of 1913, the Works Progress Administration built levees along the White River, filling in the former floodplain of Fall Creek. The area was used as a dump between 1910 and 1948. The period 1914-1934 was an era of construction of major campus buildings: Long Hospital (1914), Medical School Building (1919), James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Hospital for Children (1924), Coleman Hospital (1927), Ball Nurses' Residence (1928), and Rotary Convalescent Hospital (1934). Riley Hospital was built as a teaching hospital for children on the grounds of the Medical Center under the direction of Indiana University as a memorial to Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley who died on July 12, 1916.

In 1925, Indiana University received a gift of \$500,000 from George and Frank Ball of Muncie for the construction of a home for the nurses of Riley Memorial Hospital. The University hired Indianapolis architect Robert Frost Daggett to design the building to house 165 nurses and to provide facilities for offices, classrooms, laboratories, gymnasium, and reception room. The Ball Brothers' gift was the largest single contribution ever made to a State institution. The Ball Nurses' Residence

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was dedicated in 1928 with 2,000 in attendance. In 1929, the University hired Olmsted Brothers, Brookline, Massachusetts, landscape architects, to design a master plan for the emerging campus and, to draw up plans for the grounds of the Nurses' Residence. Percival Gallagher was the Principal-in-Charge (1929-1934) of the development of plans for the campus and for the Nurses' Sunken Garden and Convalescent Park on the north-south axis of the Nurses' Residence and Rotary Convalescent Hospital.

Grading and "beautification" of the grounds around the Ball Nurses' Residence and other areas of campus were begun in 1930 with additional funding from George Ball. Extensive improvements to the campus grounds were made between 1934 and 1937, including filling and grading and planting of trees and shrubs. The Olmsted Brothers plans were implemented by Mr. Arthur, Campus Engineer, with work by the Public Works Administration, University, and Riley Memorial Association. In 1947, the Nurses' Alumnae Association donated the sculpture "Eve" by Indianapolis sculptor Robert Davidson as the centerpiece of the Nurses' Sunken Garden central pool. The sculpture was made while the artist studied in Germany and was placed in the Indiana Building at the Chicago World's Fair of 1933.

The Garden and Park were used as the designer had intended. Annual graduation pictures demonstrate that the Nurses used the garden as a stage. Annual May Day kite flying contests for Riley children were held in the Park. Gatherings on the lawn were held for sick children and nurses; even Roy Rogers and "Trigger" made an appearance. Today, the Park is still used for passive recreation and circulation; the Garden's Residence Hall lawn for picnicking, reading, and meditating when the weather permits.

Due to the phenomenal growth of the campus since World War II, much of the Gallagher Master Plan of 1930 is unrecognizable. Additions to existing buildings, new buildings and parking lots now fill in the former floodplain area between the Convalescent Park and the White River. Everincreasing needs for parking have prompted the widening of entrance drives and conversion of building lawns to parking lots. The north-south interior West Drive connecting circulation to Riley and Coleman Hospitals and the Nurses' Residence was widened and cut through to connect 10th Street and Michigan Street in 1994. The eastern portion of the front lawn of the Nurses' Residence was also converted to a parking lot.

The siting of the Union Building immediately west of Convalescent Park in 1952 permanently altered the west turf panel of the Nurses' Garden and the serpentine circulation pattern of

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Convalescent Park. Moreover, Convalescent Park lost part of its original area on its western edge due to encroachment of the Union Building and its 1958 addition, and the new walks associated with the new building. The Union Building was constructed to serve as a community center for University students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests.

With the addition of two annexes to Ball Nurses' Residence (1945 and 1957), the dorm capacity was increased from 165 to 300. As a result of construction of these annexes and the Union Building (1952 and 1958), fill was placed on top of the Garden's west turf panel. Additionally, the pedestrian circulation pattern in a north-south direction between the Nurses' Residence and Rotary Hospital were altered in the 1950's to an east-west orientation. Paths were changed to accommodate pedestrian flow from the Union to destinations to the east and west.

The Nurses' Sunken Garden is currently in a ruined state. Due to neglect, lack of maintenance, and abuse, the Garden has recently been roped off for use as a staging area for construction of a new parking garage and through-street on West Drive (1994). Brick paths and steps have crumbled and heaved on unstable fill, making them unsafe. The north brick path has failed. The Garden's circular pool is no longer in working order and is badly deteriorated. Davidson's "Eve" is in need of cleaning. Weeds and debris litter the Garden; the west edge of yew hedging has died. The east edge and hedge around the east turf panel need maintenance.

The Convalescent Park still has some of its mature trees and offers the feeling of being in a green park. The structure and paths of the Rotary Building's Elliptical Garden remain intact. However, the Garden's plant material are gone. The Rotary Building's half-circular drop-off area remains intact. It is the intent of Indiana University to maintain the garden and park as open green space and to restore what remains of this landscape. The IUPUI chancellor's office has identified the rehabilitation of what remains of the garden and park as a campus priority. That plan has received the support of the IU Board of Trustees. Both the IU Foundation and the Riley Foundation have made commitments of support for the project.

The structure of two-thirds of the Nurses' Garden, the entire Elliptical Garden, and the half-circular drop-off at the Rotary Building remain today intact. The overall spatial organization of the designed landscape permits the composition to be clearly legible. With the exception of the loss of the Garden's west turf panel, the three major sections of the Garden and Park are still visible. Views from the Nurses' Residence porches to the entrance of Rotary Hospital are still in the intended sequence. The designed landscape is also used for its intended functions: passive recreation and circulation.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Archival sources include:

Olmsted firm plans and plant lists, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, National Park Service, Brookline, Massachusetts

Campus master plans, 1917-1968, Indiana University Archives, Bryan Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Historic campus photographs, Lilly Archives, IUPUI, Indianapolis, Indiana

Secondary sources for the campus include:

Myers, Burton D. <u>History of Indiana University</u>, <u>Volume II: 1902-1937</u>, Bloomington: Indiana University, 1952.

Rice, Thurman B. "History of the Medical Campus", <u>Monthly Bulletin Indiana State Board of Health</u>, January, 1947-December, 1948.

Additional secondary sources include:

Newton, Norman T. <u>Design on the Land</u>. Cambridge: The Belnap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971.

Pregill, Philip, and Nancy Volkman. <u>Landscapes in History: Design and Planning in the Western Tradition</u>. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1993.

Tishler, William H., ed. <u>American Landscape Architecture</u>. Washington: The Preservation Press, 1989

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		_		Marion	County.	Indiana	1		

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached map for boundaries (scale: 1"= 100'): Existing sidewalks define the site. To the north, the boundary is defined by the northern edge of the Elliptical Turf Garden in front of Rotary Hospital. To the south, the boundary is defined by the east-west sidewalk north of the Ball Residence lawn. To the east, the boundary is defined by the west edge of West Drive right-of-way. To the west, the boundary is defined by the western edge of the north-south sidewalk bordering the Union Building.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include those major portions of the Gallagher plan for the Nurses' Sunken Garden and Convalescent Park which exist today: two-thirds of the Garden, a major portion of the Park, the Elliptical Turf Garden, and, the half-circular Rotary Building drive.

