

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 Singer Manufacturing/South Bend Lathe Co. Historic District  
other names/site number 141-597-29360

2. Location

street & number Madison St. between N. Niles Av. and the E. bank of the St. Joseph River N/A  not for publication  
city or town South Bend N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county St. Joseph code 141 zip code 46617

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.)

[Signature] 10/5/10  
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)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

East Bank Multiple Property Listing

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUST/PROC/EXTR: Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Health Care: Hospital

Health Care: Clinic

Health Care: Medical Business/Office

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

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...
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1868-1947

Significant Dates

1868

1870

1885-1891

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

South Bend/St. Joseph County Historic Preservation

Singer Manufacturing/South Bend Lathe  
Name of Property

St. Joseph IN  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 12.5 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	562870	4614680	3	16	562680	4614360
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	562870	4614370	4	16	562680	4614670

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 Camille B. Fife, President  
organization The Westerly Group, Inc. date 06/30/97  
street & number 556 W. 1175 N. Rd. telephone (812) 696-2415  
city or town Farmersburg state IN zip code 47850

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Singer Mftg/South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

### 7. Description

**Summary:** This compact district encompasses the property historically associated with the Singer Manufacturing Company and its successors. The district includes brick buildings of industrial character, one modern brick building, and a brick street. The buildings retain their integrity, having been sensitively adapted to other uses. At the present time, there is no manufacturing activity in the complex.

**Description:** The buildings in the Singer Manufacturing/South Bend Lathe Co. Historic District are, in general, aligned in a north-south direction parallel to N. Niles Street. They are sturdy brick structures, two and three stories high, of local brick. The earliest of these, known as the Singer Mfg. Co., building, follows this configuration, with an addition to the west, forming a "T"-plan. A similar connecting brick building, running in an east-west direction was attached to the main building on N. Niles. An 1885 Sanborn map depicts the complete site, which once was covered with temporary frame sheds for lumber storage, laid out in a regular, north/south grid. At the north end of the site, these structures were built in an east-west direction, parallel to E. Madison Street. The only exception to this grid plan, were three frame buildings, which were located along the east bank of the East Race, and which followed its general northwest-southeast direction. These buildings were used for storage and to generate power from the race through a dam which was located slightly north of the iron bridge, built over the race at E. Madison Street. Today, all of the temporary and frame buildings are gone, having been replaced with sturdier brick and stone buildings, most dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The East Race has been reconstructed in recent times, as a park. The dam and bridge on E. Madison have been removed.

The Singer Manufacturing/South Bend Lathe Co. Historic District is located in a flat area adjacent to the St. Joseph River and the northern terminus of the east race. The land is elevated above the river bed to a considerable degree. The southern boundary of the district is E. Madison Street, a brick-paved east/west street which has retained its original alignment. At the west end of the street, it turns slightly northwest, following the former alignment of Hydraulic Street, which once ran parallel to the east race.

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

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Singer Mftg/South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

**List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources**  
(Contributing = C,; Non-contributing =N/C)

**E. Madison Street (North Side)**

1. 403 E. Madison Street, Singer Manufacturing Company, 1868, (C) 19th Century Functional  
A three story building (plus basement), of irregular plan. The walls are of brick, with corbelling at the roof line. The brick is laid in a common bond, with headers every fifth course. The window openings are segmental arches, with rows of radiating voussoirs at their heads. The windows have flat heads, double hung, and 12/over/12 lights (all are replacements, similar to the originals.) The building parapet has been capped with a modern material (vinyl or aluminum) and a sign has been affixed to the south end at the roof line. The roof is flat. A Sanborn Insurance map of 1885 documents the building width and length, as well as the size of the wing to the west. The building shown at this time has been retained, although a machine shop, kilns, coal storage structures and other buildings, which were once located to the east of the building, have been lost. In their place, a smaller addition has been placed on this side, replicating the materials and fenestration of the balance of the building. This was completed c. 1973, by a later owner. Nonetheless, this building retains an acceptable degree of integrity in its massing, the shape and placing of the fenestration and its location. The contemporary building which is located to the south of it is not directly connected to the older structure. There is a covered walkway between them and a contemporary "link" on the ground floor.
2. 405 E. Madison St., Madison Center, c. 1980, (N/C) Modern  
This three story brick building has a central glass tower at the main entrance, elliptical arched windows on the ground floor, a covered walkway with similar openings and corbelling at the parapet.
3. 425 E. Madison St., Singer Mfg. Co./ South Bend Lathe, c. 1870-75, c. 1885-91, 1893, 1940, 1942, 1946-47; (C) 19th/20th Century Functional  
This complex of buildings is all interconnected to form a generally rectangular composition, with the long sides of the buildings parallel to Niles Avenue which borders the site on the east. The complex was originally part of the Singer Manufacturing Company plant and is

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Singer Mftg/South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

related to the previously discussed building, located at 403 E. Madison. Four of the elements of the present structure can be dated to the early phase of the development of the complex -- three to 1870 and one to c. 1875.

The building/s are all three story, except the front section, facing on E. Madison, which has four stories. The original masonry walls, of brick, with a common bond, remain in all of the buildings. On the oldest sections, the parapet has brick corbelling to represent a dentilled or bracketed cornice. The fenestration on the oldest buildings consists of regularly spaced, segmental arched window openings, with stone sills. The metal casement windows have 16 lights, in rows of four, the upper and lower rows being fixed and the center two forming a single moveable casement for ventilation. Original door openings were slightly smaller than the oversize windows, with a high transom with four fixed lights and a segmental arched opening with radiating voussoirs at the head.

The center front section of the building, facing E. Madison was constructed in 1942 and became the principal entry for the complex. It is a four story, brick and limestone construction building, with a projecting, one story, front entrance of limestone with a metal canopy. This entry has a double leaf glass door with a multi-paned transom and two, narrow, multi-paned sidelights flanking. The upper stories of this section are of brick, divided into three bays, by two brick pilasters running the height of the building. There is a stone coping at the roof line. The windows are three-light (two upper vertical lights and a single light below) grouped singly (one on each floor) on the left and right bays and in threes in the center bay. There is a post-1947 brick stair tower at approximately mid-length on the Niles Avenue facade and a concrete ramp with a metal railing. Remnants of the painted signage for the South Bend Lathe Works can be seen on the North facade.

On the north end of the west wing of the building complex, is a section built in 1947, three stories, of tan brick, with fenestration similar to the other structures, except that the windows are larger, with flat heads. Replacement windows have been sensitively installed, with 16-light sash.

On the west facade of the building there are various stair towers and

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4 Singer Mftg/South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

other protrusions, as well as additions on the roof, for utility handling.

4. 529 N. Niles Avenue, Singer Mfg. Co., Employees Club Room/Supply Building, 1893, (C) 19th Century Functional

This small building is of light brick construction, with an extremely low gable roof. The building is two stories, with windows of varying sizes and lengths, all of which have a segmental arch opening with voussoirs at their heads. A door on the north facade and a replacement window on the east facade have modern, semi-circular canopy awnings.

5. E. Madison Street between N. Niles and the East Race, Brick Street, c. 1900, (C), No Style  
Hard, red brick pavers were laid diagonally along the roadbed in this section of the East Bank area. The continuous roadbed is unbroken, although modern concrete curbs have been installed. The brick is in good shape.



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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Singer Mftg/South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

The Singer Mfg./South Bend Lathe Co. Historic District is significant under Criteria A, because of its association with the industrial life of the East Race. This complex represents one of the earliest extant sites of its type. The Singer Manufacturing Company and its successors had an important impact on the related commercial and residential development of the area.

### **Industrial Era Development in the East Bank, South Bend, Indiana, 1867 - 1947**

The City of South Bend, founded in the early part of the nineteenth century in an area explored by eighteenth century French traders, gained fame in the late nineteenth and throughout much of the twentieth century for its industrial development. Probably the best known of its factories was the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Company, who produced first wagons, and then the well-known automobile until the 1960s. Other companies with national reputations included the Oliver Chilled Plow Works, Singer Manufacturing and the South Bend Lathe Company. For a city of its size, South Bend's manufactories were notable. The genesis of this industrial development was, naturally, its location on the St. Joseph River and the available water power it promised.

The East Bank paralleled the rest of South Bend's development, but was separate from the central business and industrial sector on the west side of the St. Joseph River. In 1837, the town of Lowell was platted on the East Side of the river, opposite downtown South Bend. However, by the 1860s Lowell had been incorporated into the City of South Bend. The St. Joseph River, which provided an incentive for economic development, also served to divide the two parts of the city. Individuals and businesses thought of themselves in relation to the central city or to Lowell/East Bank; Those who clustered around the East Race, dealt with different entrepreneurs than those located on the west side of the river.

In the early years, inadequate ferry crossings made transportation between the two sides of the river extremely difficult. By the late 1880s this was improved by the construction of sturdy iron bridges at several points, including a railroad crossing, but these too had their limitations. Fully dependable communications and transportation links finally integrated east and west banks in the first part of the twentieth century, when wider,

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

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6 Singer Mftg/South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

well-built concrete bridges with space for trolleys as well as automobiles, were in place. Nonetheless, political, economic and social differences distinguished the East Bank area -- some are still valid today. The East Race itself, for example, continues to be a prominent feature of the landscape, now used for recreational rather than economic purposes while the west race no longer exists. Most of the East Bank, after the town of Lowell was incorporated into the City of South Bend, was a unique political entity, the original Fourth Ward - as such it contained its own subunits and local leaders.

Finally, because of the great western bend of the river which occurs just north of downtown South Bend, initial ties with the developing campus of Notre Dame in the north were much closer on the East Bank (in terms of both direct property ownership and residents). Residents of the East Bank could travel via land to and from the campus, while those on the west bank were required to cross the river, either at one of the southern bridges, or in the north, across Michigan Street/Leeper Bridge (the present route). Some of the property in the northern section of the East Bank was originally developed by Notre Dame and many residents had strong social and cultural ties to the institution.

Industries located on the East Bank, such as the Singer Manufacturing Company, attracted workers who made their homes in the area. Encouraged by the presence of the priests at Notre Dame as well as by the Catholic churches and schools which they founded, many Irish and other ethnic families sought to live and work in the sector. As the population grew, ancillary commercial services, along with public utilities and amenities followed suit. The East Bank Industrial Era was an important factor in local development until after World War II.  
(See Section E. Statement of Historic Context, E. Bank Multiple Property Listing)

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 7

Singer Mftg/South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

## 9. Bibliography

(See Multiple Property Listing for general Bibliography)

### Other Sources

Folder: South Bend Lathe, in the archives of the South Bend and St. Joseph County Historic Preservation Commission

Sanborn Insurance Maps for the City of South Bend: On microfilm in the collection of the South Bend Public Library.

Survey Forms, City of South Bend Historic Sites and Structures Inventory.

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

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 8

Singer Mrtg /South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

### 10. Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the juncture of the east bank of the St. Joseph River and the northern property line of 403 E. Madison continue east, following the north property lines of 425 E. Madison and 529 N. Niles Avenue to the west side of N. Niles Avenue, then turn south to the southwest corner of Niles and Madison Street and turn west to the boundary of the park alongside the East Race, follow this park north to the east banks of the St. Joseph River and then follow the river bank north to the place of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district have been drawn to encompass all of the original land utilized by the Singer Manufacturing Company for its plant on E. Madison Street.

### 11. Contemporary and historic photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs, unless otherwise noted.

2. St. Joseph County, Indiana
3. Camille Fife, The Westerly Group, Inc.
4. May-June, 1997
5. 556 W. 1175 N. Rd., Farmersburg, IN 47850

1. 425 E. Madison Street
6. View looking north from the parking lot on the south side of East Madison Street toward the south facade of the building.
7. Photo No. 1 of 14

1. Brick Street, E. Madison between N. Niles and the East Race.
6. View looking west along the alignment of E. Madison, showing the diagonally laid brick pavers which made up the street. The municipality has painted modern striping on the surface.
7. Photo No. 2 of 14

1. 425 E. Madison Street.

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

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

Singer Mrtg /South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

6. View looking north/northwest from the east side of N. Niles Avenue toward the south facade of the South Bend Lathe building, with the latest entry and building visible.
7. Photo No. 3 of 14
1. 425 E. Madison Street
6. View looking north/northwest from a point slightly north of the previous photo, on N. Niles Avenue, showing the length of the buildings which front on N. Niles Avenue.
7. Photo No. 4 of 14
1. 425 E. Madison Street
6. View looking south/southwest from N. Niles Avenue. A close-up view of the brick, fenestration and top of the building, this is a later building which does not have corbelling at the roof line.
7. Photo No. 5 of 14
1. 425 E. Madison Street
6. View looking west toward the upper portion of the wall of the north section of the building fronting on N. Niles Avenue. The brick corbelling at the cornice and two of the windows are shown.
7. Photo No. 6 of 14
1. 425 E. Madison Street
6. View looking south from N. Niles Avenue toward the rear or north elevation of the building and showing the Niles Avenue facade.
7. Photo No. 7 of 14
1. 425 E. Madison Street, west wing.
6. View looking west toward the adaptively reused portion of the building, including rooms used for a conference center, hotel and restaurant.
7. Photo No. 8 of 14
1. 529 N. Niles Avenue
6. View looking north/northwest toward this small brick building showing the variety of window sizes and the roof configuration.
7. Photo No. 9 of 14
1. 425 E. Madison Street
6. View looking south toward the center of the building complex at this

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

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10

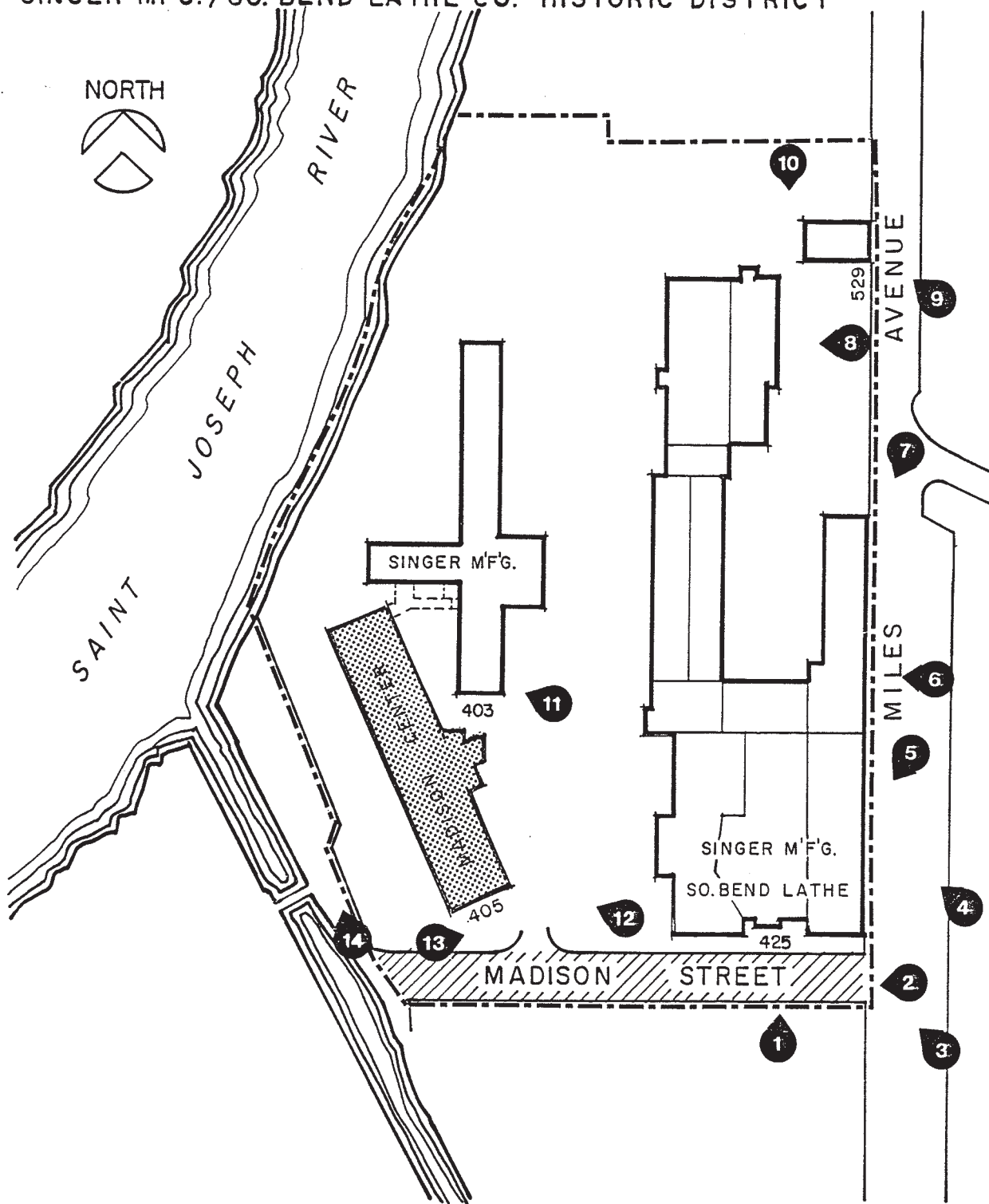
Singer Mrtg /South Bend Lathe Co.  
Historic District  
St. Joseph County, Indiana

---

address, with the newest building to the right and the small, separate building at 529 N. Niles Avenue to the left.

7. Photo No. 10 of 14
  
1. 403 E. Madison Street
6. View looking northwest toward the former Singer Manufacturing Company, an early building in the complex, showing the fenestration, and a modern sign.
7. Photo No. 11 of 14.
  
1. 405 E. Madison Street
6. View looking northwest toward the front facade of a modern building constructed at the site, with modern detailing and materials, but sensitive to the massing of the original structures.
7. Photo No. 12 of 14.
  
1. 425 E. Madison Street
6. View looking east along E. Madison, showing the brick street, new period lighting fixtures, street trees, and the west facade of the Singer/South Bend Lathe Building at 425 E. Madison Street.
7. Photo No. 13 of 14
  
1. East Race Park
6. View looking northwest, at a portion of the newly created East Race Park, just outside of the boundary of the Singer Mfg./South Bend Lathe Co. Historic District.
7. Photo No. 14 of 14

SINGER MFG./SO. BEND LATHE CO. HISTORIC DISTRICT



EAST BANK MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING, SOUTH BEND, IN

Prepared by:  
 THE WESTERLY GROUP INC.  
 JUNE, 1997

NON-CONTRIBUTING

