

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 Chesterton Residential Historic District

other names/site number 127-108-08000

2. Location

street & number Roughly a two block area between Lincoln & W. Indiana Aves. N/A not for publication

city or town Chesterton N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Porter code 127 zip code 46304

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 36 CFR 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.)

James A. [Signature] 11/4/2009
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO 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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

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(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
21	7	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
21	7	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

20TH CENTURY REVIVAL: Colonial Revival

EARLY 20TH CENTURY MOVEMENTS: Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
CONCRETE

walls BRICK
WOOD: Weatherboard
WOOD: Shingle

roof SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

other SYNTHETICS: Fiberglass

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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, 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 significant within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1857-1928

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

DeMass, Nathan

Christianson, Henry

9. Major Bibliographical 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 if 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: _____

Chesterton Residential Historic District
Name of Property

Porter County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.71 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
---	---

4	9	5	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	0	6	2	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3

1	6
---	---

4	9	5	5	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	0	5	9	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2

1	6
---	---

4	9	5	6	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	0	6	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

1	6
---	---

4	9	5	3	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	0	5	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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 Kurt West Garner

organization _____ date November 21, 2008

street & number 308 South Michigan St. telephone 574-936-0613

city or town Plymouth state IN zip code 46563

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 List provided to IDNR-DHPA

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this 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 the 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

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

7. Narrative Description

The Chesterton Residential Historic District comprises the most intact historically and architecturally significant neighborhood of Chesterton. The district largely displays a period of increasing wealth in the community over the period of about five decades. The architectural richness of this period can be seen in the high styles of the homes constructed during this time.

The district lies just two blocks south of the railroad and one block west of the commercial historic district, mostly lining South Second Street, but also having some significant contributing properties on intersecting streets. The district lies mostly north to south along two blocks of South Second Street with alleys tying into the street mid block. West Morgan Avenue once ended at South Second Street, however in 1944 it was extended east to Calumet Road and the small frame house located on the lot was moved and attached to the rear of the house directly south at 227 South Second Street (photo 0016). The district is characterized by well maintained homes and landscaped yards, generous tree lawns separating concrete sidewalks from the asphalt streets, and many mature street trees, mostly maples (note street views in photos 0021-0023-S. Second Street & photo 0024-W. Indiana Avenue). The topography is relatively flat in either direction, although the finish grade of some homes is raised slightly from the grade of the sidewalk, most notably at 215 South Second Street (photo 0018).

All contributing resources within the district are private residences and/or garages with the exception of one public religious building, the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church (southeast corner of Lincoln Avenue and S. Second Street) constructed in 1881 in the Gothic Revival style, near the beginning of the period of significance for this district. Garages were included in the resource count due to many of their intact architectural attributes and their style and date of construction tying them to the principal residence on the property.

A listing of the resources found within the Chesterton Residential Historic District

303 West Indiana Avenue

Frank Johnson House; American Four-Square, 1922. Contributing (photo 0001)

The two-story frame house is arranged in a typical American Four-Square pattern, set on a brick foundation with a raised single story front porch with low brick walls and square brick columns at each corner. The house is covered in vinyl siding, but maintains its historic wood windows below storm windows applied to the outside. The roof is a low pyramidal roof covered in asphalt shingles with a hipped window dormer projecting on the front facade.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

The front facade is asymmetrically arranged on the first level with a grouping of three windows on the left, comprised of a large center window divided into a large bottom pane and five smaller panes at the top; the center window is flanked by narrower windows with two small panes at the top. The front entry door and a small window, set higher on the facade, is on the right side. The second level has two sets of paired 3/1 wood windows arranged symmetrically on the facade. The east facade, facing Third Street, has a two story projecting window bay on its left side with a 3/1 window in each of its three sides on the first level and second levels, the middle window on the second level being a short fixed window set up higher on the facade. The right side of the east facade has a single 3/1 wood window on the first level and another slightly smaller 3/1 wood window on the second level.

Garage; pyramidal roof, 1922. Contributing

A nearly square frame garage exists at the rear of the property, off the alley. The garage opening faces east toward Third Street. It has narrow horizontally installed beaded-board/car siding covering the structure with a low pyramidal roof and exposed rafter tails at the eaves. The garage door itself is not historic.

221 West Indiana Avenue

Letts/Johnston House; Queen Anne, Gable-front, c. 1870/1910. Contributing (photo 0002)

The two-story frame house is set on a molded concrete block foundation and is covered in vinyl siding. Windows appear to be 1/1 vinyl replacements with vinyl shutters. A single-story porch extends across the front of the house with historic classical wood columns set on a low red brick base. The porch roof is a hipped roof extending to just below the second story window.

The front facade of the first level has a historic wood door on its right side and a pair of windows in the center and a single narrow window on the left side. The second level of the front facade has a single window in the center. Above this center window is another window opening into the attic with a single fixed unit. At the top of the front gable is historic millwork in a sunburst pattern. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

Garage; gambrel roof, c. 1990. Non-Contributing

A pressed-wood sided garage with gambrel roof is constructed on the alley of this property. The door opening faces Third Street to the west.

215 West Indiana Avenue

John Murphy House; Gable-front, c. 1857/1890. Non-Contributing (photo 0003)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

The narrow single story gable-front house is set on a molded concrete block foundation with a later addition extending to the north forming an "ell" to the original structure. It is the oldest house in the district and was moved here in 1857. The house is covered in wide wood siding and has had the original window configuration/openings altered with replacement windows. The gable front has the front entry door on its left side and a single 1/1 wood window on the right side. A small porch is located off the front door with a gabled roof supported by wood posts.

Garage; Gable-front, c. 1915. Contributing

A small, frame gabled garage is located on the property at the alley. Its opening faces onto the alley. It has wood Dutch-lap siding with simple corner boards and casings framing the door opening. The garage roof is asphalt shingled and the door is fiberglass.

209 West Indiana Avenue

House; Gable-front, Queen Anne, c. 1905. Contributing (photo 0004)

The two story frame house rests on a molded concrete block foundation that extends off the front of the house to become the front porch. The house has narrow wood siding with wider corner and trim boards. Window openings appear to be in their historic configuration, but window units appear to be vinyl 1/1 replacements. Window hoods and casings have a simple configuration with projecting square blocks in the upper, outside corners. The front porch is concrete with low walls constructed of molded concrete block. The porch roof is supported by four square tapered wood columns; one at each outside corner and the other two flanking the steps to the porch, off-center to the right. The porch roof is nearly flat as it slopes gradually back to the facade. The high pitched roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

The first level of the front facade is asymmetrically arranged with the front door off-center to the right, aligning with the porch steps. A large picture window is located in the left half of the front facade. The second level of the front facade is symmetrical, with two sets of two 1/1 windows paired together. The window sills form a continuous water table line around the entire house and at the top of the window hoods another piece of wood trim creates another separation of wood trim on the facade. Within the gable end millwork in a quarter section sunburst pattern flank a projection of the front facade, slightly curving outward until it has a flat face again with gable roof extending beyond the cornice line to cover it. This segment creates a triangle, the face of which has scalloped wood shingles and in the center is an oculus window.

The west facade has a tall brick chimney, extending well above the eave line, at the corner where the main gabled structure of the house meets a transverse gable with single story window bay on its facade. The upper portion of this gable front is detailed similarly to the front facade, but narrower.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

A tall gabled dormer window is located toward the north end of the west facade and is covered in wood shingles.

Garage, c. 1990. Non-Contributing

A single story, low sloped utilitarian double loaded frame garage is located on the property at the alley, with doors opening onto the alley. It is covered with vinyl siding and asphalt shingle roofing.

203 West Indiana Avenue

Par Johnson House; American Four-Square, Free Classic, c. 1905.

Nathan DeMass, builder. Contributing (photo 0005, 0019)

The house appears to be based on the four-square configuration, but is a large interpretation of this configuration with certain Free Classic adaptations made by the builder. The two story frame house has a brick foundation that extends to become the low walls of a raised concrete porch. The porch extends across the front facade of the house and wraps around to the east side of the house nearly halfway along the face of the east facade. The porch roof appears nearly flat due to its low slope. The house is covered in narrow wood siding with wider corner and trim boards. The window opening configuration appears to be historic, with mostly 1/1 wood windows. A wide piece of wood trim with water table cap extends around the entire perimeter of the house, in line with the window sills of the second story. A wide frieze board is located just below the soffit on the face of the house. The low-sloped asphalt shingled hip roof is extended with deep eaves away from the facades. Short, hipped roof window dormers are located on each facade's roof slope except for the rear.

The first level of the front facade has a large 1/1 window in the east half (top sash being much narrower than bottom sash) and historic wood entry door in the west half. The second level of the front facade has a projecting three sided window bay extending to the eave line on the west half with a 1/1 window on each face, the center (front) face having a wider window than the angled faces. A single 1/1 window is located in the east half of the second level front facade. The front porch has five equally spaced classical columns set on brick piers slightly higher than the brick walls of the porch. A pair of these columns flank the steps aligned with the entry door.

The west facade is asymmetrically arranged with a single story three-sided window bay on the north half of the first level facade and single 1/1 window in the south half. The second level of the west facade has three windows, each a different size and none situated the same vertically. The east facade is also asymmetrical with a two-story, three-sided window bay on the south half of the facade. The center window of the bay has an art glass transom on the first level, and a short window

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

opening with art glass set high on the face of the second level bay's center face. The porch, wrapping from the front, is located on the north half with a single 1/1 window located in the north half on both the first and second levels. The porch, facing east, has three columns equally spaced and detailed like the front facade.

The rear (south) facade has a porch/balcony that extends across its entire face with classical columns on the first level and square posts on the second/balcony level. The square posts support an extension of the main roof to create the balcony roof. The south facade steps out by about three feet on its western half in which is located a single door and window on the first level and a door on the second level. The eastern half of the rear facade has a single 1/1 window on each level centered.

Leading down from the concrete steps to the front door is a generously wide sidewalk that ties into the sidewalk parallel with Indiana Avenue. The sidewalk from the house continues across the tree lawn to the street where it flares out and is terminated on each side by flanking, tapered concrete hitching posts with a steel ring on top.

Garage, pyramidal roof, c. 1910. Contributing (left side, photo 0019)

A large square, wood frame garage with low pyramidal roof is located at the rear of the property, along the alley, with the garage opening facing Second Street. The garage has narrow wood siding, simple trim boards and asphalt shingled roof. The garage door opening has historic wood garage doors in six vertical door leaves, each leaf being a horizontal four panel door with a six pane window in the top of each door.

210 West Morgan Avenue

House; Gable-front, c. 1880. Contributing (photo 0006)

The one and one-half story house with gable-front facing Morgan Avenue rests on a brick foundation, is covered with vinyl siding and has a asphalt shingle roof. A porch extends across the front of the house and rests on wood piers covered in lattice, has a wood deck and a hip roof supported by four equally spaced fiberglass columns. The porch ceiling is covered in car-siding. Windows appear to be mostly original wood 1/1 sash configuration with simple straight casings and sills, but with decorative wood window hoods that are scalloped on the bottom and have a raised star motif in each corner. A large brick chimney is located in the south half of the east facade.

The front facade has a centered entry door, aligned with the porch steps. A pair of windows is located east of the door and a single window is located west of the door. These windows do not have the decorative window hoods found on the rest of the house. A single window is located in the gable, and a vinyl attic vent is located above it.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

Garage, Gable-front, c. 1970. Non-Contributing

A frame garage with gable roof is located at the alley side of the property. The garage is covered with vinyl siding and has an asphalt shingled roof. The garage door is aluminum and faces east.

202 West Morgan Avenue

Harry Smith House; cruciform plan/cottage, c. 1890/c. 1920. Contributing (photo 0007)

The one and one-half story, frame house rests on a brick foundation, is covered in vinyl siding and has an asphalt shingle roof. Based on the window type and porch style, the house appears to have been remodeled about 1920. Windows are a combination of Craftsman style and simple single or four-pane configurations, all wood casings/sashes. The primary entrance of the house faces Morgan Avenue, however, a secondary entrance and screen porch faces Second Street. The basic 1 ½ story cruciform plan is compromised by a c. 1920 addition in the southeast inside corner, with a gabled roof facing Second Street. This appears to be an enclosed porch, surrounded by long, narrow Craftsman style windows on each of its three sides.

The front facade, facing Morgan Avenue, has a centrally located small porch with brick wing walls supporting a pair of classic wood columns, which in turn, support a small gabled porch roof. The face of the gabled porch roof has an open arch forming a barrel vault back to the face of the house. Much of the porch roof material is covered in aluminum. The entry door, again centered on the facade, is a non-historic aluminum door. West of the door is a short window bay, positioned high on the facade. It has three sides, the front face having a pair of Craftsman windows, and a matching single window is located on each of the other sides. No windows exist on the east side of the facade. The gable face has a strip of vinyl shingles interrupted by a fixed wood window, surrounded by an aluminum covered window surround.

The west facade's gable end has a single 2/2 wood window centered on the lower part of the facade and in the gable, a row of vinyl shingles interrupted by a single 4-pane wood window in its center. Above this window is located a triangular decorative wood window hood with intricate carvings indicating the house's earlier architectural style. The extension north of the gable end has two 1/1 windows; the extension south of the gable end has a large brick chimney centered on its facade with a pair of wood craftsman casement windows on each side of the chimney.

The east facade (facing Second Street) is dominated by the early addition to the cruciform plan. The original gable end has a single 1/1 wood window centered on the first level of the facade and a row of vinyl shingles interrupted by a single wood window with aluminum covered window hood in the gable (matching that of the Morgan Avenue facade). South of the gable-end is located the early

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

addition. North of the gable-end is located a secondary entry porch that is enclosed with screens and lattice work.

144 Lincoln Avenue

Samuel Harper House; Queen-Anne, 1893. Contributing (photo 0008)

The tall two story frame house rests on a brick foundation with a gable-front and porch addressing both the Lincoln Avenue and Second Street street-fronts. The house is covered in wood lap siding with a wide horizontal band of scalloped wood shingles slightly tapered out from the facades between the first and second levels. A cornice line extends across the bottom of the gables, at which the gable then projects out from the facade below. Scalloped wood shingles begin at this cornice line and taper upward and inward to the original plane of the facade. Another wide trim board with square motifs is located above these shingles, above which the gable face projects again to the face of the fascia, with scalloped shingles located on this area again. Both the Morgan and Second Street gable-ends are detailed in this manner. The house has an asphalt shingled roof, simple straight window casings and 1/1 vinyl replacement windows.

The Lincoln Avenue (south) facade has the primary entrance on the east half of the facade, set back from the gable-end. A porch extends out from the entrance door and across two-thirds of the front gabled facade. The porch face and deck are wood, with three large square wood columns with paneled faces supporting the roof. A wood balustrade is located between the west and center column, and wood steps located between the center and east columns, the steps being aligned with the door. The porch roof is a shed roof, except for a gable face over the entry steps. This gable also has scalloped shingles on its face. The gable front, located west of the entry door, has its corners cut with angled faces in which a single window is located. The center of the gable front has a single window. The second level of the Lincoln Avenue front facade has only a single window, located in the center of the gable front.

The Second Street (west) facade is simpler. The gable front is centered between a one and one-half story extension off the rear (north side) of the house and the side of the gable front facing south. The Second Street gable front also has its corners cut with angled sides in which are located a door facing northwest and a window facing southwest. A single window is located in the center of the gable front, first level facade. The second level of the gable front also has its corners cut with angled sides, in which are located a single window. A single window is also located in the center of the second level facade of the gable front. A section of wall angled out from the cut corners acts as a bracket to support the face of the gable above the second level line. South of the gable front, no window openings exist on the side of the gable front facing Lincoln. North of the gable front is located a porch projecting out from the face of the house and extending nearly the entire distance of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

the extension off the rear of the house. The porch has square, paneled columns at each corner and half-columns or newel posts flanking a center set of steps. Between the columns and newel posts, and the columns and facade is a wood-sided half wall. The porch roof has a low pitched gabled roof facing Second Street; within the gabled end are scalloped shingles. Two windows are located on the west facade of the extension off the rear of the house; the porch extends to cover them.

Garage; pyramidal roof, c. 1910. Contributing (photo 0020)

A small wood frame garage exists at the rear of the property, on the alley line. The garage has its original wood siding and a high-pitched pyramidal roof covered in asphalt shingles. The garage opening faces Second Street and has two sets of doors separated by a center post. The south set has one leaf covered in wood siding and the other leaf with a window opening in the top and beaded board siding in the bottom panel with wood x-bracing. The north set of doors have each of their leaves covered in wood siding.

201 Lincoln Avenue

Steven Yanetovich House; Bungalow, c. 1925. Demolished, 2009 (photo 0010)

The one and one-half story brownish brick bungalow has a front facing gable end toward Lincoln Avenue (north) with an enclosed front porch across the eastern two-thirds of the front gable. The windows are historic wood windows in a 3/1 sash configuration set on brick rowlock sills. The roof has asphalt shingles, the soffit and fascia are covered in aluminum.

The front facade is dominated by the front porch. The porch is an extension of the house using the same brick to form corner piers and the low walls of the porch. The porch has a gabled roof, set slightly under the house roof, with brick in the gabled end above the porch entry/window openings. The porch has a series of three windows joined together on its north end of the front facade, followed by the entry door (right of center) and another window to the door's right. Simple concrete steps lead up to the front door. The wood door has two panels in its lower half and a 3 pane window in its upper half. Brackets at the top of the gable, under the peak, and at each eave corner exist but are covered in aluminum. The west third of the front facade has a pair of windows joined together in its center, right of the porch extension. Centered in the gable of the front facade are located two smaller windows, also a 3/1 configuration, joined together. Brackets are also located in the peak and each corner of the eaves on the front gable.

The Second Street facade (east facade) is the side of the gabled front, interrupted in its center by a gable front, extending out slightly from the main facade. This projection is flanked by pairs of windows to each side. The projecting gable has a pair of windows centered on its first level portion of its facade, and a single, small window centered in its gable face. This projecting gable is not as

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 9

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

high as the front gable, therefore falls below the ridge line of the main house. It also has brackets covered in aluminum at its peak and eave corners.

135 Lincoln Avenue

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church; Gothic Revival, 1881.

Henry Christianson, builder. Contributing (photo 0009)

The tall, narrow orange brick church building faces Lincoln Avenue on its north facade where its entry was historically located. The Second Street facade is the side of the building with a later two story addition with entrance constructed to its rear (south) facade. The verticality of its tall window openings, front bell tower and spire dominate the corner of Lincoln and Second Streets. The high pitched roof and spire are covered in asphalt shingles, the fascia and eaves are covered in aluminum.

The front facade is symmetrical and is dominated by the bell tower/spire and a 1962 addition at its street level. The street level addition projects out from the historic entrance, covering the entrance and creating a new entrance to the east side of the building. The addition is constructed of orange brick with a gable centered on the building's original entrance. The addition has a center opening divided into multiple windows set in aluminum frames, set on a smooth limestone base.

The front facade of the historic building rises above the addition, the ridge of which ties in just below a large ocular window in the face of the bell tower. The bell tower/former entrance projects out from the main building approximately five feet and as it continues vertically, extends through the roof of the main building, forming a square in plan. The corners of the bell tower have brick piers extending up the entire height of the tower. To each side of the tower a single stained glass window exists, with a gothic brick arch projecting slightly from the wall face. These windows are much shorter than the remaining stained glass windows on the east and west sides of the building. The outside corners of the main building are terminated by tall, narrow brick buttresses that step in twice as they continue up the facade. The tops of the buttressing walls are covered by a smooth limestone cap. Brick dentilated corbelling follows the eave line up the face of the gable to where it is broken by the bell tower extending up. At about the point where the ridge of the main building ties into the bell tower, the bottom of a pair of wood louvered openings begin. These louvers are located on all four faces of the tower; they are separated by a projecting brick pilaster extending down from the brick arches above the openings. Brick dentilated corbelling follows each of the four gable faces of the bell tower and located at the very peak of the gable the corbelling forms a simple cross. The bottom of the cross rests on another, very small ocular opening framed by two brick rowlock courses flush with the facade. A hexagonal spire extends high above the brick bell tower and is topped by a metal cross.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 10

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

The east and west facades are mirror images, except where a later addition partially obscures the east facade (as seen in photo 009). The west facade (Second Street facade) is separated by the tall, narrow brick buttresses into five bays. Within each bay is located a 1/1 window opening into a lower basement level. The lower level window openings are topped with projecting brick window hoods in a segmented arch. Above these, at the main sanctuary level are located tall gothic pointed window openings with stained glass windows divided into two sashes and a third transom sash. The second and third windows from the north also have an awning style window located between the top and bottom sashes. These window openings have a projecting brick hood in a gothic arch and a smooth-face limestone sill. At the tops of each of these bays is brick corbelling matching the front facade. The corbelling extends out to be flush with the brick piers separating the bays. Above the dentilated corbelling continues six rows of horizontal corbelling to meet the eaves.

The east facade is a mirror image with the exception of an original chimney between the second and third bay from the south that was cut off just above the roof line and another chimney between the first and second bay from the north that is intact and extends in height nearly to the main building's ridge line. A single story, 1962 addition with a flat roof ties into the addition on the front of the building and extends along the east facade to the 1953 addition on the rear of the building (as seen on the left side of photo 009). This rear addition is two stories in height, uses a similar red/orange brick and has a flat roof. The addition projects slightly on its west side, but does not cover any of the original building's west facade. The addition covers wraps around the south facade to the east, covering the first bay of the east facade. It has simple rectangular openings with 1/1 wood windows.

324 South Second Street

Martin Young House; Italianate, 1878. Thomas Miles, builder. Contributing, but not counted. (photo 0011) Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 2007.

The two story brick house is essentially an Italianate cube with wing on its north side. The house has a masonry foundation covered in a cementuous slurry terminated with a tall water table. Window openings have smooth limestone sills and a variation of two limestone window hoods, one simple low-rise arch top terminating in projecting shelf-brackets, the other being a low-rise arch top with keystone and terminating in corbelled brackets. Windows are mostly 2/2 wood windows with transoms with storm units applied outside. A decorative wood cornice with paired wood brackets extends around the eave line of the house, with added dentil trim at the top of the cornice line on the wing addition. The roof on the two story cube is a low pyramidal roof and a low hipped roof on the wing; all covered in asphalt shingles.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 11

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

The front (Second Street) facade is asymmetrically arranged with the entry door being located on the north half of the cube's first level facade and a single story three sided window bay constructed in brick on the south side of the first level facade. The entry door is a single wood door with transom above. The window bay is constructed of brick with a single arched top window on each side. The window bay has a nearly flat roof with the same cornice detailing as the main house, but with single brackets and dentil trim. The first level, front facade of the wing has a single entry door with arched transom furthest south on the facade, then two full sized windows to the north of the entry door. An open porch on masonry block, with square masonry columns starts at the outside edge of the window bay and wraps around the front facade to nearly the outside corner of the wing. The porch curves inward toward the wing, which is reflected in both the foundation and the roof. The porch deck is wood and its roof is essentially flat, tying in just below the cornice line of the wing. The cornice of the porch is detailed with simple dentil trim. The second level of the front facade is also asymmetrically arranged with a single window directly above the entry door and a pair of windows separated by limestone trim above the window bay.

The Lincoln Avenue (south) facade is solely the "cube" and it is symmetrically arranged with two window openings on the first level and two directly above them on the second level. A brick chimney is located just west of center of the facade, near the windows, and extends through the eave line. The rear (west) facade of the cube is symmetrically arranged with a row of three window openings evenly spaced on the first level and a row of three windows directly above them on the second level. A brick addition (c. 1980) off the west side of the wing has a bay window flanked by 1/1 rectangular widows.

Young Carriage House; Italianate, 1878. Contributing, but not counted.

A two story brick carriage house is located at the northwest corner of the property, along the alley with its gable facing east. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The carriage house main opening faces Second Street, but has been filled in with framing/siding and patio doors. The gable end, above the former carriage house doors, has a single 1/1 replacement window with a segmented brick arch, wood casings and limestone sill. The south facade has a series of three equally spaced 1/1 replacement windows with segmental brick arches and limestone sills. A decorative four-sided cupola is located at the center of the ridge. It has vertical wood siding covering its platform, with diamond shaped detailing on each side. Above the platform the cupola is essentially four sided with the corners each being cut away for a slight angled side. Each major side has a 4-pane wood window in it. The cupola is crowned with a tall pyramidal roof supported by small wood brackets at each corner, fastened to the cut away angled sides of the cupola.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

306 South Second Street

House; Queen Anne, Gabled-ell, c. 1895. Contributing (photo 0012)

The two story frame house has a concrete block foundation, is mostly covered with vinyl siding and has its historic wood windows with storm windows installed to the outside. Window casings are simple, straight cut trim boards and wood sills. The roof has a moderate pitch and is covered in asphalt shingles. The front facade has a porch extending nearly across the entire face of the ell to the gable front. The front entry door is located on the ell, near the corner with the gable front. A short stained glass window is located to the left of the door, set higher on the facade, and a 1/1 window is located left of this, all covered by the porch. The porch is wood framed, with wood deck and lattice skirt. It has three full turned columns set on a square base, and a half-column against the side of the gable front. The steps are located between the half column and the first full column, and are aligned with the entry door. A balustrade with turned balusters is located between the full columns, and from the corner column back to the face of the ell. Simple curved wood brackets return from the columns to the porch roof, which is a partial hip. A single, picture window is located on the first level of the gable front facade.

The second level, front facade has two 1/1 windows equally spaced on the ell face of the house and a single 1/1 window placed in the center of the gable front. A wood bracketed cornice separates the gable front facade with the gable above. Within this gable are located straight cut wood shingles that taper out to the edge of the bracket cornice. A row of scalloped shingles separates the shingles being tapered out to the cornice with those flush on the facade. A wide frieze board begins where the taper ends, followed by wood soffit and fascia. An extensive addition with garage extends off the rear of the home (west side).

302 South Second Street (photo 0013)

Oscar Peterson House; Queen-Anne, 1891. Nathan DeMass, builder. Contributing

The main volume of the house is essentially a two story cube with a hip roof, but with gabled bays projecting to the front/east (Second Street), north (Morgan Avenue) and south sides. The house rests on a brick foundation, is covered with wood lap siding and with decorative wood shingle detailing, and asphalt shingled roofing. The windows are primarily 1/1 historic wood windows with simple straight casings and trim. A screened porch wraps around the house across the front gabled bay to the Morgan Street side gabled bay. The porch is also on a brick foundation; it has square paneled columns, a low wood sided porch wall between the columns with screening above and a hip roof. A band of decorative wood shingles separates the first and second levels of the house. A small band of decorative shingles wraps the house, just below the eave line.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 13

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

The south half of the front facade has a historic two-pane over three panel wood entry door centered with the gabled bay above. The porch area in front of the entry door is not screened in. The steps to the porch are aligned with the entry door and are flanked with two square columns. Immediately to the right of the entry door, a screen door to the screened in portion of the porch exists. On the north half of the first level of the front facade is located a large picture window. The gabled bay is located in the south half of the second level of the front facade (over the entry door); it has a band of decorative wood shingles at its base, tapering out slightly from the base of the windows in the gabled bay. This gabled bay has three sides; the two outside walls are angled back to the main structure. A window is located in each of the sides with the center window being smaller than the flanking windows. A large window is centered on the face of north half of the second level front facade; this window has a decorative, but simple wood window hood. The top of the gabled bay has a curving taper outward from the tops of the windows to a thin cornice and flat roof over the bay. Above this roof, the gable projects out from the main hip roof and is supported at each corner by decorative wood brackets. The gable face is covered in decorative wood shingles. In the center of the gable is located a loosely interpreted Palladian window configuration with a small 1/1 wood window in the center with a divided eight pane grille in the upper portion of the upper sash. This window is flanked by another 1/1 window, slightly shorter than the center window, with the top sash having a quarter-round arched top with a four pane configuration following the arch. A hipped roof window dormer is located directly above the window in the north half of the second level front facade. It has a single fixed window in its face.

The Morgan Avenue (north) facade has a gabled bay in the west half of the facade with the screened porch wrapping around from the east to about the east edge of the gabled bay. A large brick chimney is located in about the center of the east half of the Morgan Street facade and extends well above the eave line. A single 1/1 window is located east of the chimney, on the second level of the facade; it has a decorative wood canopy with curved brackets and shingled top. The gabled bay is similar in detail to the front facade, but with three equally sized 1/1 windows with transoms on the first level and three equally sized 1/1 windows on the second level. A single, smaller 1/1 window is located in the gable face. Projecting from the rear of the house to the west, along the Morgan Street side, is an extension of the main house covered by a shed roof sloping off the main roof. This has two windows equally spaced on the main level and a single, smaller window in the half-story area under the slope of the roof. Extending from this, to the west, is a two bay single story garage added c. 1980. It also is covered in wood siding.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 14

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

307 South Second Street

Richard Anderson House; Free Classic, Gabled-Ell, 1888. Contributing (photo 0014)

The two story frame house is set on a brick foundation and has a porch that wraps across the face of the house to the south side where another short gable front extends off the main house. The house is covered in vinyl siding and has vinyl replacement windows. The porch has low brick walls, topped by a stone cap. The porch walls are interrupted by brick piers extending above the wall cap, supporting simple Doric wood columns. The porch roof is a hipped roof. An entry door is located on the north side of the front (west) facade and a large picture window is located on the south side of the front facade. The porch extends east to another door on the west side of the gable fronting south. The gable front has two equally spaced windows in the second level of the front facade. The porch and main roof are covered in asphalt shingles.

Garage; pyramidal-roof, c. 1910. Contributing

A small, square frame garage is at the southeast corner of the property on the alley side. It has vinyl siding and asphalt shingles on its low pitched pyramidal roof. The garage has exposed rafter tails and historic wood windows and doors.

301 South Second Street

Henry Christianson House; T-plan/Italianate, c. 1880/c. 1910.

Henry Christianson, builder. Contributing (photo 0015)

The house is two stories, all brick, in a T-plan with a later single story porch added about 1910 wrapping around the front facade, back to the "T" extensions on either side to the north and south. The house has a combination of historic wood 1/1 brick arched top windows and fixed rectangular windows with limestone lintels. All windows have limestone sills. All roofing material is asphalt shingles and newer aluminum fascia. The porch has a concrete floor, low brick walls divided by brick piers on which four equally spaced classical wood columns are located across the front and one back on each side. The porch walls and piers have stone caps. The porch ceiling is beaded-board finish. The porch steps are located in the southern-most bay between columns; they have flanking brick walls with short piers terminating the bottom of the steps.

The first level of the front/west (Second Street) facade has a rectangular opening with a large picture window with transom in the center of the forward projecting center leg of the T-plan. On the second level of this leg are located three brick arched top windows, one located directly in the center with one immediately to its right and the third centered in the northern third of this facade. Immediately above this, in the gable/attic is located a Palladian window with brick arching above. The window is divided into squares, divided by triangles, above rectangles. The entry door (first level) and single rectangular window (second level) is located in the center of the west facade of the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 15

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

leg of the house projecting south. A doorway also exists in the center of the west facade of the leg of the house projecting north. The second level facade of this leg has a window in an angled wall facing northwest where the corner of that north facade has been cut away on each side.

The north and south facades are similarly detailed with the projecting leg of the house. The south leg has a large rectangular picture window on the first level and two brick arched window openings centered on the second level, with the Palladian window in the gable face. The north leg has a large rectangular picture window on the first level and two shorter brick arched top windows on the second level. The second level has angled walls where the outside corners were cut away. An brick arched window, matching the shorter windows on the main face, is located in each of the angled walls. A Palladian window is also located in the gable face and on this leg's ridge is located a square brick chimney with a corbelled top.

227 South Second Street

House; Gable-front, c. 1880. Contributing (photo 0016)

The two story house is a simple gable-front frame house on molded concrete block foundation. It is covered in masonite shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof. Window openings have 1/1 replacement windows surrounded by simple straight stock casings and sills. The front facade is symmetrically arranged with the entry door in the center flanked by windows. The second level front facade has a single window centered in the gable. An open porch with four equally spaced turned wood columns and wood balustrade is located across the front facade. The porch floor is concrete with concrete steps centered with the door and has a hipped roof.

Garage; Gable-front, c. 1910. Contributing

A wood frame garage is located at the northeast corner of the property with its gable facing Second Street. The garage is covered in Dutch-lap wood siding and has an asphalt shingled roof. The garage door opening faces Second Street and is slightly off-center to the north. Small wood brackets are located at the eaves. The garage also has exposed rafter tails and simple straight cut wood corner and trim boards.

221 South Second Street

Roy Hubbard House; Colonial Revival, 1908.

Joseph Ameling, builder. Contributing (photo 0017)

The main volume of the two story frame house is a cube with a high pyramidal roof. A single story porch with shed roof is located on the front (Second Street) facade and a three sided bay projects from the east half of the south facade (Morgan Street). The house rests on a molded concrete block foundation, is covered in vinyl siding, but retains some historic trim and its historic 1/1 wood

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 16

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

windows with wood sills. The roof has a slight taper out to the eaves and is covered in asphalt shingles.

The front facade has porch across its entire face constructed of a concrete floor and short frame walls supporting classical wood columns. The porch steps out slightly on its north half where the entry steps are located. Flanking this entry is a grouping of three columns on each side. This same grouping pattern is located on the south corner of the porch. The porch columns support a shed roof with a pediment over the entry steps. A series of modillions support the soffit of the porch. The first level of the front facade has the entry door aligned with the steps; the door is a solid wood door with historic wood screen door. A large picture window is centered on the remaining face of the first level facade. The second level of the front facade has two equally spaced 1/1 windows. A large gabled dormer rises out of the front facade's roof in which is located three smaller 1/1 windows grouped together on a single sill. Above these is located an eave/soffit line supported by wood brackets; this forms a separation for the gable face in which is located a circular vinyl attic vent.

The Morgan Avenue (south) facade has a projecting bay from foundation to roof line on its east half. The bay has three sides in which are located a single 1/1 window, except for the first level center face which has a short, but wide piece of diamond leaded-glass art glass window set higher on the facade. The roof of the bay is hipped, rather than gabled, back to the main roof line-segmented into five roof planes. The west half of the south facade has a single 1/1 window on each the first and second levels. A small extension with screened porch facing south is located off the east (rear) of the house.

215 South Second Street

Charles & Oral Haslett Smith House; Colonial Revival, 1928. Contributing (photo 0018)

This house is the youngest contributing primary building in the district. The two story frame house is a rectangular box with its gabled ends facing north and south, or parallel with Second Street to which its front facade faces. The house has brick foundation with wide wood lap siding and an asphalt shingled roof and aluminum fascia. The windows are rectangular 9 & 6/1 wood windows with leaded glass in the upper sashes, set in simple straight wood casings and sills. Wood shutters are applied to the outside of most window casings. A well detailed wood frame screened porch is located off the south side of the house framed with classical square columns in groupings of three on its outside corners, supporting a flat roof with a classically inspired, balustrade around the perimeter of the roof in a classical fretwork motif.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 17

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

The front facade is symmetrically arranged with the entry door centered on the facade. A brick stoop with concrete cap has concrete steps leading to it, in front of the entry door. Engaged Tuscan columns flank the entry door. These support a broken pediment/gabled entry roof. The door is a six panel wood door with the top two panels having windows. A blind fanlight consisting of a sunburst pattern in wood, crowns the top of the door opening. Combinations of three grouped windows, the center window being slightly larger than the outside two, flank each side of the entry door. The second level of the front facade has three equally spaced windows across its face. The side facades are mostly symmetrically arranged with two fixed quarter round windows in each of the gables.

Garage; 2005. Non-Contributing

A single story frame garage with gable roof, running parallel with the main house, is located at the northeast corner of the property. It is covered in wide wood siding with an asphalt shingled roof and aluminum fascia. The garage has two auto bay doors facing Second Street, with a single door at the south end of the west facade. Auto doors are wood paneled, the single door is aluminum. Two quarter round windows are also located in each of the gables, salvaged from the former Thomas/Haslett House.

NA Parking Lot (seen in left side of photo 0021)

This is the former location of the Thomas/Haslett House, another large home constructed during the period of significance, but since removed for the construction of a bank and later library parking lot.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 18

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

8. Statement of Significance

The Chesterton Residential Historic District is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C; the district's architecture embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. The property qualifies under the Areas of Significance for Architecture. While several of the homes were constructed by the most affluent of the community, there are also examples of more modest, middle class family homes constructed during the same period. The district includes examples of the community's finest Italianate, Queen Anne, Bungalow, Four-Square, and Colonial Revival homes. Other houses represent popular Northern Indiana vernacular types such as Gable-Front, Gabled-Ell or T-Plan. The district's period of significance begins with the earliest house and ends with the last house built, in 1928.

Settlement history of Chesterton

Because of the close ties between the first settlers of Chesterton, the town's leading entrepreneurs and the history of the Chesterton Residential Historic District, some background information is necessary on the development of the community. Chesterton is the largest community of Westchester Township in Porter County, Indiana. The earliest Euro-American settler to the area was noted fur trader, Joseph Bailly, who arrived in 1822. He built a trading post and home northwest of present day Chesterton on the Calumet River.¹ The next permanent Euro-American settlers of the area were the Morgan and Thomas families, who would become intertwined with the fabric of Chesterton.

Arriving in 1833 from Ohio, the Morgan and Thomas families were represented by three Morgan brothers: Jesse, William and Isaac and by William Thomas and their respective families. Jesse Morgan purchased property on present day Porter Avenue (running one block south of the south boundary of the Chesterton Residential Historic District). He constructed a log building, calling it the Stagecoach Inn. He was also the first postmaster in the vicinity of present day Chesterton, as well as providing the location for the first school in the area. His daughter was the first Euro-American child born in Porter County, in 1834.² William Thomas Sr. constructed an inn near the corner of Porter Avenue and Calumet Road in 1833 as an overnight stop between Valparaiso and Michigan City. This intersection is located one block south and one block east of the south boundary of the Chesterton Residential Historic District. William Thomas, Jr. owned a farm that stretched from this location north to present Broadway Street, along the Calumet Road and west to

¹ Drury, pg. 329

² Smith, pg. 169

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 19

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

present day Fifth Street. He constructed a mill north of his farm and the tiny community was first known as Thomas Mill. It was later changed to Coffee Creek, the name of Morgan's post office, in about 1840, and then changed again to Calumet in 1849. But due to confusion with the existing town of Calumet, Illinois, it changed its name again to Chesterton in the early 1850's, deriving its name from Westchester Township. The name became permanent in 1869.³ Once the Lake Shore and Michigan Railroad came through the township in 1852, the town moved north toward the railroad. William Thomas Jr. platted his farm to create the present, original plat of Chesterton of which the Chesterton Residential Historic District fully lies within.⁴

Of particular note to the settlement history of Chesterton is the influx of Swedish immigrants to the area which saw its earliest concentration in the early 1850's. Their primary trade was cutting timber for the new railroad and local markets.⁵ Swedish immigrants built some of the most outstanding homes in the Chesterton Residential Historic District including Par Johnson (203 W. Indiana Ave.-photo 0005), Oscar Peterson (302 S. Second St.-photo 0013), Richard Anderson (307 S. Second St.-photo 0014), and Henry Christianson (301 S. Second St.-photo 0015). The construction of the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church (photo 0009) was also carried out by Swedish immigrants.

Commercial & Industrial development history of Chesterton

The historic commercial district lines Calumet Road, one block east of the east boundary of the Chesterton Residential Historic District, and continues west along Broadway Avenue, a block north of the district. The railroad, at the north end of the commercial district, provided the biggest financial boon to the town beginning in 1852. The Chesterton Tribune began in 1884 and touted the town as a thriving community ready for investment and development. The Thomas and Morgan families continued their involvement with the development of the community. William Thomas, Jr. built a general store at the corner of Broadway and Calumet.⁶ George Morgan, the son of settler Jesse Morgan, was a partner in the establishment of the Chesterton Bank in 1890. George Morgan's grandson Milan was a builder and town engineer for Chesterton.⁷ Several of Chesterton's leading businessmen constructed homes in the district. Frank Johnson & brother, John, owned a large grocery and general merchandise store; Frank constructed his home at 303 W. Indiana Avenue (photo 0001). Harry Smith, the proprietor of the Smith General Store at the corner of Broadway

³ Dietz, pg. 14

⁴ Smith, pg. 169

⁵ Dietz, pg. 14

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Morgan, Section I, Introduction

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 20

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

and Calumet, also constructed a home in the district at 202 W. Morgan Avenue (photo 0007). Charles Smith, a Chesterton men's clothing merchant, built his home at 215 S. Second Street (photo 0017).

Regarding industrial development, possibly the most important early industry of Chesterton was the Hillstrom Organ Company, founded in 1869 by Swedish immigrant, C. O. Hillstrom and relocating to Chesterton in 1880. The plant reached its operating peak in 1892, employing 125 men; it closed in 1920 with the popularity of pianos taking the place of organs.⁸ Chesterton resident Samuel Harper and his brothers purchased the Hillstrom Organ Company in 1893. Harper built the fine Queen Anne styled home at 144 Lincoln Avenue (photo 0008) in the same year. Several cooperages were located in town, with local coopers also living in the district including John Murphy, an Irish immigrant, who purchased a house from his employer, Mr. Hopkins, and moved it to 215 W. Indiana Avenue (photo 0003) in 1857.⁹

About the time of industrial decline in Chesterton, during the 1910's, another industry began to develop that would forever change the face of northwest Indiana. In 1930, National Steel Corporation announced its plans for a new steel mill northwest of Chesterton and the resurgence of Chesterton as a prosperous economic area began.¹⁰

Other development supporting the residential district

Development once part of the original plat, located either in or immediately adjacent to the Chesterton Residential Historic District, that supported community life of the developing neighborhood included the Thomas School, originally known as the Chesterton schoolhouse, located on the north side of Indiana Avenue, immediately opposite the properties within the historic district lining the 200 block of W. Indiana Avenue. The large brick schoolhouse was built in 1879, within a few years of other substantial building projects within the district. The schoolhouse is now gone; in its place is the Westchester Public Library.

Three religious structures were located in the originally platted neighborhood area. St. Patrick's Catholic Church, an impressive brick structure constructed in 1876, was located at the northwest corner of Third Street and W. Indiana Ave., directly across from the Chesterton Residential Historic District's western most property; it was recently razed. Built in very similar style, likely by the same

⁸ Dietz, pg. 14

⁹ Smith, notes

¹⁰ Dietz, pg. 15

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 21

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

brick mason, is the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church (photo 0009) two blocks south and one block east. The church is part of the Chesterton Residential Historic District, located on the southeast corner of S. Second St. and Lincoln Avenue. The church was constructed in 1881 by Swedes who withdrew from a church in Porter and formed in 1879 to establish a Swedish Lutheran congregation in Chesterton. Henry Christianson was contracted to brick the building along with mason, Richard Anderson, both of Swedish descent. Both Christianson and Anderson were charter members of the church and constructed homes just north of the church, within the Chesterton Residential Historic District. Services were held in Swedish until about 1905.¹¹ Another church located directly one block west of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran but outside the district is St. John's Church; a simple frame building constructed about 1885.

Architecture

The Chesterton Residential Historic District derives its importance from the exemplary forms of architecture found in this neighborhood. The superb craftsmanship and high attention to detail found on many of the contributing resources, along with their intact architectural integrity, showcase the best of architectural styles during the stated period of significance.

Architectural Forms

Vernacular forms found in the district vary; some have details inspired by popular architectural styles applied to them. The primary form is the gable-front, which indicates a one, one and one-half, or two story home with a gabled roof having its gabled-end fronting the street. These are found both highly detailed as in the house at 209 W. Indiana Avenue (photo 0004) or very simple as in the house found at 227 S. Second Street (photo 0006). One form of the gable front found appears to have an appearance of the shot-gun shack, but has had an addition to its east side; it is found at 215 W. Indiana Avenue. The John Murphy House (photo 0003) is a narrow gable-front structure constructed about 1850, with an entry door to one side and window to the other. The house was moved to this location from another location within Chesterton in 1857.

The other popular form found is the American Four Square. The four-square plan approach was popular at the turn of the century due to its relative ease of construction and room arrangement. It is most identified by its two story box massing, low-sloped hip or pyramidal roof and roof dormers.

¹¹ Smith, notes

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 22

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

It runs parallel to the bungalow style and many characteristics can be found in both, such as the brick porch piers and 3/1 windows found in the style's simplest interpretation at 303 W. Indiana Avenue (photo 0001) compared to the same features found in the bungalow at 201 Lincoln Avenue (photo 0010). Architectural classifications of Free Classic and Colonial Revival can be applied to the basic four-square plan as is evident at 203 W. Indiana Avenue (photo 0005) and 221 S. Second Street (photo 0017), respectively. Other architectural forms include the cruciform plan at 202 W. Morgan Avenue (photo 0007), Gabled-ell at 306 S. Second Street (photo 0012), and a T-plan found at 301 S. Second Street (photo 0015). In that builders often planned for garages that sympathized with residences of the era, garages can be classified as "vernacular". Many utilitarian garages constructed in the automobile era feature pyramidal roofs. The finest examples of this are located at the rear property line of 203 W. Indiana Avenue (left, photo 0019) and 144 Lincoln Avenue (photo 0020).

The three sided angled window bay seems to have been a popular architectural feature requested of owners building homes in the district. Either single or two story window bays or gabled bays exist on eight houses in the district ranging from its earliest single story construction at the Young House (324 S. Second Street, photo 0011) in the Italianate style, to its nearly identical application on the side of the Queen Anne at 209 W. Indiana Avenue (photo 0004). The gabled window bay appears in the two Queen Anne homes at 144 Lincoln Avenue & 302 S. Second Street (photos 0008 & 0013), the Italianate home at 301 S. Second Street (photo 0015) and the Colonial Revival home at 221 S. Second Street (photo 0017). The window bay also appears in nearly identical form on both the side of the American Four-Square at 303 W. Indiana Avenue (photo 0001) and on the east side of the Free Classic house at 203 W. Indiana Avenue (right side, photo 0019). The latter also has a projecting second story three sided window bay over the front entry.

Architectural Styles

Styles of the houses range from the earliest period found, the Italianate, to the latest period found, Colonial Revival. While these two book-end periods are represented in the district, the most dominant style is Queen Anne. A few of these houses are transitional in their style/period, but can be generally classified as Queen Anne.

The Gothic Revival style has already been mentioned as a style applied to the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church (photo 0009). This style is most identifiable on the church building by its pointed, Gothic arches, but also in the sheer verticality of the structure and the buttressing of the brick piers. The Italianate style is seen in its purest form in the Young House (photo 0011), 324 S. Second St., at the northwest corner of Lincoln Ave. and Second St. Supporting this property's Italianate style is

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 23

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

the carriage house constructed at the rear of the property. The only other Italianate styled house is located at 301 S. Second St. (photo 0015). Both of these homes were constructed in brick with brick or limestone arched window hoods and limestone sills. The Young House has a wide cornice at the soffit line with paneled designs between pairs of decorative wood brackets, a detail indicative of the Italianate style. The cupola on the Young carriage house also is detailed in the Italianate style with its wood trimmed platform and bracketed roof.

The Queen Anne style is found applied to six houses: 209 & 221 W. Indiana Avenue, 144 Lincoln Avenue, 202 W. Morgan Avenue and 302 & 306 S. Second Street. Of highest Queen Anne style are the houses at 144 Lincoln Avenue (photo 0008) and 302 S. Second Street (0013). In both of these structures we find a similar asymmetrical design with projecting gabled bays, cut-away corners, wrap-around porches and probably most characteristic of the Queen Anne, decorative wood shingles in bands or gable infill on the houses. While the Lincoln Avenue home displays many of these architectural features, the Second Street home has had a paint scheme applied that better highlights the details. The house at 209 W. Indiana Avenue (photo 0004) has some similar details to the Second Street house, including decorative wood shingles in the projecting gables and the tapered appearance of the gable versus the tapered appearance of the gabled bay on the Second Street house. But the house at 209 W. Indiana does appear to be a style more in transition, or a later period of Queen Anne. There are three other houses that have hints of the Queen Anne style evident though now mostly covered. 221 W. Indiana (0002) was listed as "Queen Anne" in the Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The house has been recently covered with vinyl siding, hiding much of the architectural styling; however the historic wood door and sunburst gable millwork are evident of the Queen Anne. The cottage at 202 W. Morgan Avenue (photo 0007) has detailing in its gables including window hoods and placement that lean toward the Queen Anne. And finally, the house at 306 S. Second Street (photo 0012) has intact front porch detailing including turned posts, brackets and balustrade, and decorative wood shingles in its gable face that are all indicators of the Queen Anne style.

Other turn of the century styles represented in the district are Free Classic, found applied to 203 West Indiana Avenue (photo 0005) and 307 Second Street (photo 0014), particularly in their wrap-around porches with classic columns; and Bungalow, applied to 201 Lincoln Avenue (photo 0010). The Bungalow represents one of the later constructed homes in the district and has its characteristic porch with brick piers, 3/1 windows and large brackets at the gable ends. The Craftsman style is evident in a renovation to the cottage at 202 West Morgan Street (photo 0007), where window openings were changed on the first level and porch constructed using Craftsman styled eight paned sashes.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 24

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

The style representing the end of the period of significance is the Colonial Revival style and it is found in neighboring houses at 221 & 215 S. Second St.. 221 S. Second St. (photo 0017) represents the Colonial Revival style as it was just emerging on the American scene while 215 S. Second Street (photo 0018) represents the style while it was at its height. Both appear very different from each other in terms of their forms, but have some key details in common, indicative of the style. Both have a pedimented entry supported by Doric columns. Both have simple, clean lines with limited detail. While the earlier house at 221 S. Second Street can be seen as a style in transition from the Queen Anne or Free Classic, the house at 215 S. Second Street is the Colonial Revival style in its purest form.

Mentionable Builders

At least two builders should be mentioned in conjunction with the Chesterton Residential Historic District. The first is Nathan DeMass, who constructed the Par Johnson Home at 203 W. Indiana Avenue (photo 0005) and the Oscar Peterson House at 302 S. Second Street (photo 0013). Both structures, the first being a fine example of the Free Classic style and the second being an outstanding example of the Queen Anne style, have an impressive level of detail according to the period and style in which they were constructed. DeMass came to Chesterton shortly after his service in the Civil War.

The second is Henry Christianson, of Swedish descent, who received the contract to build the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church (photo 0009) and also constructed his own home at 301 S. Second Street (photo 0015). The church being constructed in the Gothic Revival style, with impressive emphasis on the verticality of the church in both its narrowness versus height and its tall, thin masonry openings. Christianson was described as a master bricklayer who moved to Chesterton in 1876.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9-10 Page 25

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

“A Biographical History of Porter County”, unpublished manuscript, American Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Porter County, Indiana. Collection of Westchester Public Library, Chesterton, IN, 1976. Includes essays by Terry Dietz and Oral Smith.

Drury, John. Porter County. Chicago: Inland Photo Co., 1956.

Weston A. Goodspeed and Charles Blanchard, editors. Counties of Porter and Lake, Indiana. Chicago: F. A. Batty Co., 1882.

Morgan, George Jr. A Photo Genealogy of the Descendants of G. C. Morgan. Ft. Collins, CO: no publisher, 1993.

Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps of Chesterton, Indiana. 1893, 1899, 1905, 1912, 1922, 1935.

Smith, Oral. “My Home Town: A History of Chesterton, Indiana,” unpublished manuscript/notes, collection of Westchester Public Library, Chesterton, IN, 1979.

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the west property line of 303 West Indiana Avenue with West Indiana Avenue, follow a line south to the south property line of 303 West Indiana Avenue (north edge of alley), turn east and continue a line east along the north edge of the alley across South Third Street and continue east to an intersection of the alley with the west property line of 210 West Morgan Avenue. Turn south and follow the west property line of 210 West Morgan Avenue south to its intersection with the north side of West Morgan Avenue. Turn south and follow a line east to a point of intersection of a continuation of the west property line of 302 South Second Street. Turn south and follow a line south at the west property line of 302, 306 and 324 South Second Street to the north side of Lincoln Avenue. Turn east and follow the north curb of Lincoln Avenue east to

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

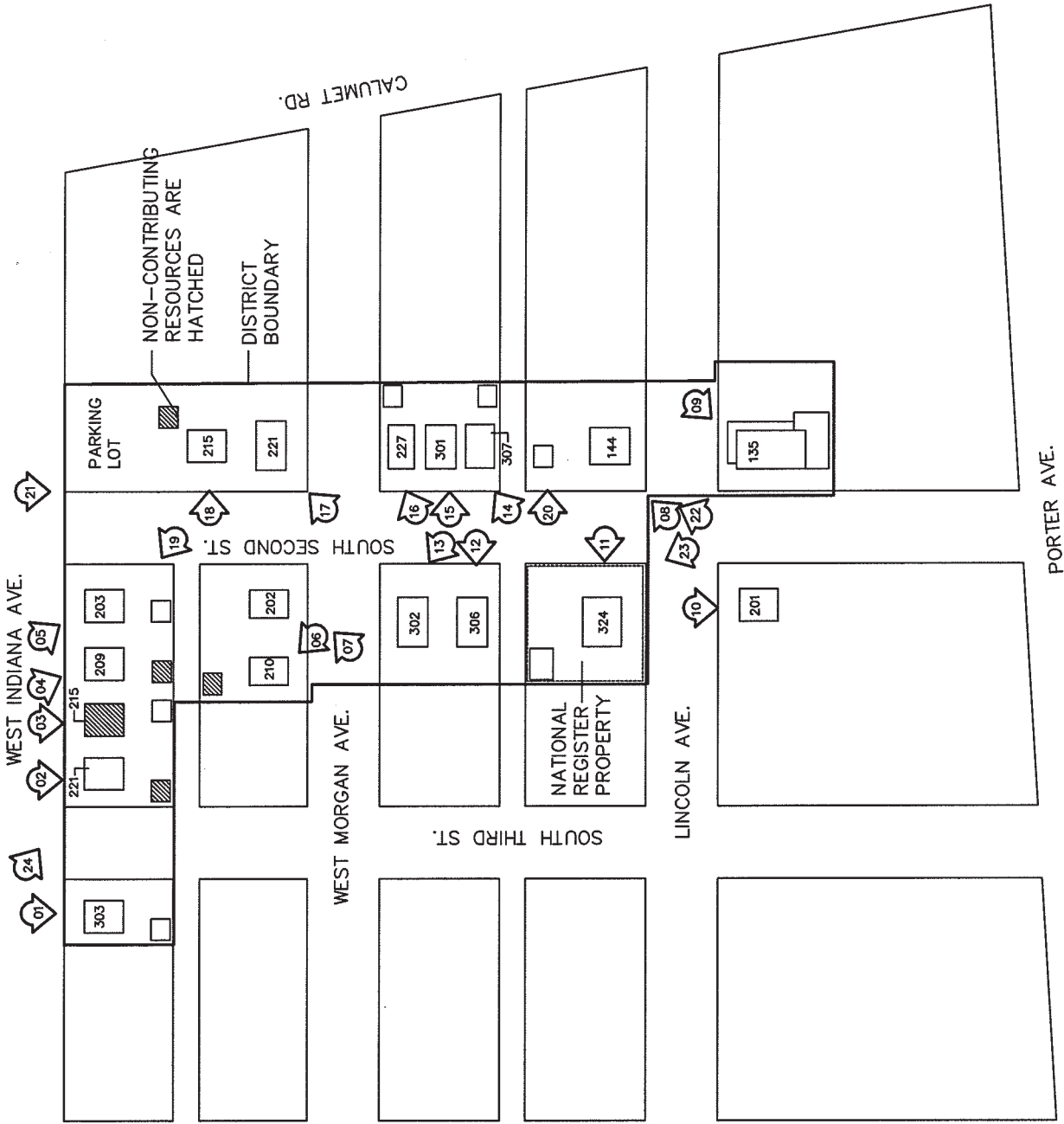
Section number 10 Page 26

Chesterton Residential Historic District, Porter County, IN

the east curb of South Second Street (the northeast corner of Lincoln and Second). Turn south and follow the east curb line of South Second Street south, to the south property line of 135 Lincoln Avenue. Turn east along the south property line of 135 Lincoln to the east property line of 135 Lincoln Avenue. Turn north and follow a line north at the east property line of 135 Lincoln Avenue to the south edge of Lincoln Avenue. Turn west and follow a line with the south edge of Lincoln Avenue to a point of intersection with a continuation of the east property line of 144 Lincoln Avenue. Crossing Lincoln Avenue, continue a line north with the east property line of 144 Lincoln Avenue; continuing north, crossing West Morgan Avenue to the south edge of West Indiana Avenue. Turn west and continue a line west, following the south curb line of West Indiana Avenue to the point of beginning, the intersection of the west property line of 301 West Indiana Avenue with the south edge of West Indiana Avenue.

Boundary Justification

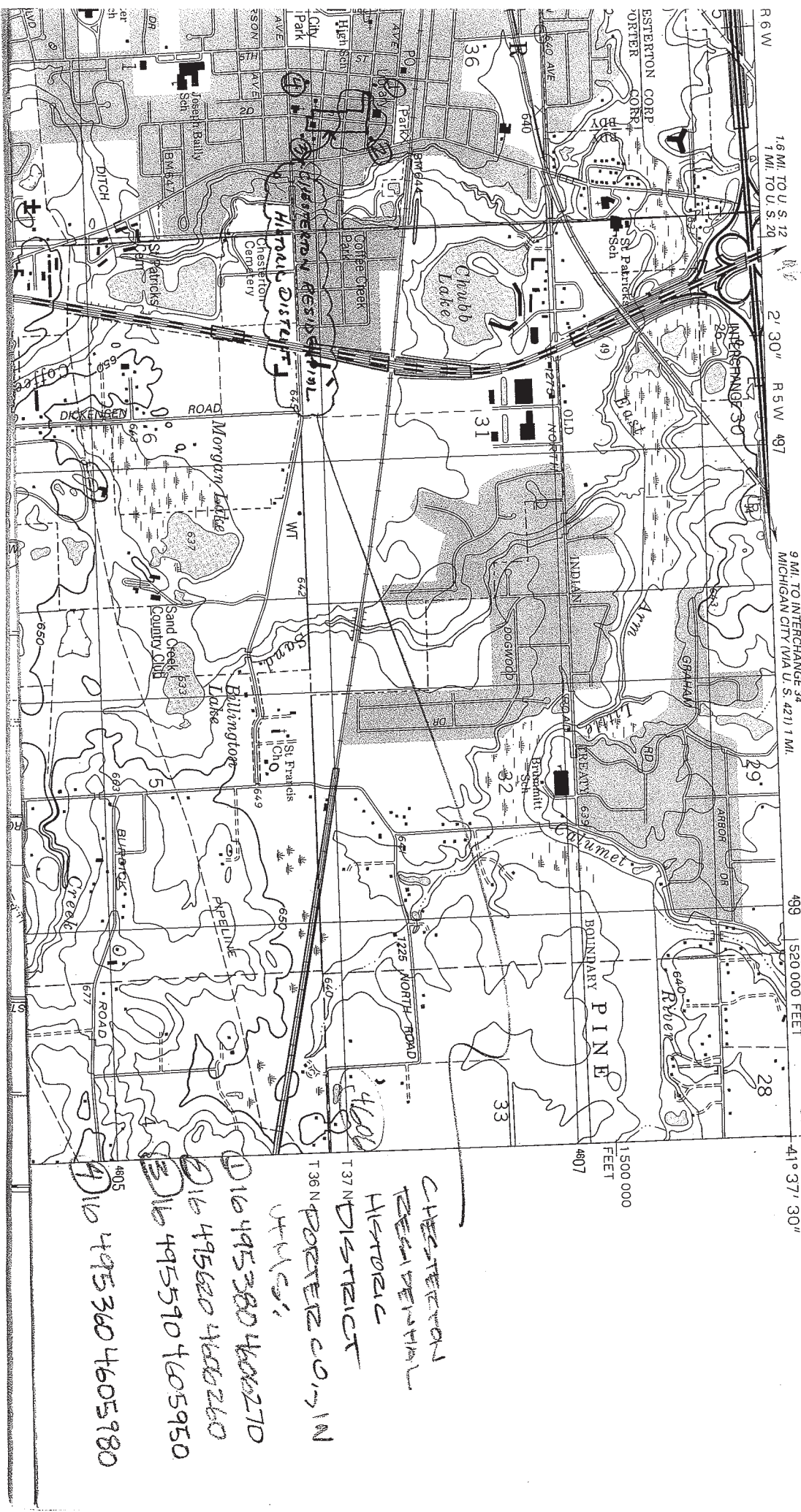
The boundary is justified because within this boundary lie the most significant concentration of historically representative and intact residential architecture of Chesterton for the stated period of significance. The contributing resources within the district well represent the architecture of the historic residential styles during the period, and collectively offer justification of the significance of the area as a unified district. One resource, 201 Lincoln, was removed from boundary due to its demolition during the review process.



CHESTERTON RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
 22 Contributing resources, 5 non-contributing resources
 The two buildings at 324 Second Street are included but not in the resource count
 National Register of Historic Places sketch map
 Approx. 4.71 acres
 Town of Chesterton, Porter County, IN



 = Photographs



CHESTERTON QUADRANGLE
 INDIANA-PORTER CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

2697 III NW
 (MICHIGAN CITY
 WEST)

CHESTERTON
 RESERVOIR
 HISTORIC
 T 37 N DISTRICT
 T 36 N PORTER CO., IN
 W.M.S.
 ① 16 495 380 460270
 ② 16 495 620 460260
 ③ 16 495 590 4605950
 ④ 16 495 360 4605980