

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 Dennis, David Worth, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 610 West Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Richmond N/A vicinity

state Indiana code _____ county Wayne code 177 zip code 47374

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] 1/21/01
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:	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: _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

Dennis, David Worth House
Name of Property

Wayne
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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne
19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
STONE: Limestone
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD: Weatherboard

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1895-1950

Significant Dates

1895

1904

1909

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Dennis, David Worth / Dennis, William Cullen

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hasecoaster, John A. (1909 addition)

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:

Family Records at 610 W. Main

Dennis, David Worth House
Name of Property

Wayne
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.8

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

16	578860	4410700
Zone	Easting	Northing

3

Zone	Easting	Northing

2

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4

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John P. Warner
organization Weitraut & Associates date 12/30/99
street & number 800 Sugarbush Ridge telephone 317-873-6692
city or town Zionsville state IN zip code 46077

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 Dennis Trust c/o William C. Dennis
street & number 7901 Lantern Road telephone 317-842-0880
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46256

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 **Description**

The Dennis Residence, known locally in the late nineteenth century, as "Woodlawn," is located at 610 West Main Street, Richmond, Indiana. The two-story, brick, Queen Anne-style house was built circa 1895 on a plot of land purchased by David Worth Dennis from Mrs. Naomi Harrison, "a widow," in 1892. Four generations of the Dennis Family have owned the property. The nominated site includes two buildings, the house and a detached garage, on 1.8 acres. Both buildings are contributing. The house was remodeled twice, the first time in 1903/1904 and the second time in 1909. The modifications are discussed in detail in conjunction with the façade of the house affected.

The house is placed on the lot with the primary façade facing Main Street and the other facades (wings) oriented in the other cardinal directions.

RESIDENCE

EXTERIOR:

The original house, prior to any modifications, was a typical example of the Queen-Anne brick residence of the period with its easily identified features like the pedimented, single-story, wrap porch, and the hipped roof with lower cross gables (photos 1 and 2). One source would sub-classify the house as "free classic." Unless otherwise noted all the window openings have limestone sills and lintels and the foundation is clad with limestone veneer.

The main (south) façade is comprised of two bays -- a two-story gabled wing and a two-story porch. The porch is the primary entrance to the interior and dominates the facade. Attached to the east end of the porch is a single-story porte-cochere. Prior to 1909, the front porch was a single-story, wooden wrap porch (photos 1 and 2). The original porch was simply designed with a square lattice skirt, three wooden steps, turned wooden posts and wooden balustrade, and a hipped roof with a small pediment over the steps. The only decorative detail on the original was a recessed panel infill in the tympanum.

The gabled bay of the front façade is relatively simple in style and form (photo 3). From a limestone-clad block foundation, the red-brick exterior walls rise to a wood framed pedimented gable end. Centered in the bay are window openings at the first and second floor level. The frames are wood. The first-floor window is fixed-sash, single glazed for approximately the lower two-thirds. The upper third, separated by a muntin, is clear leaded-glass with individual beveled panes. A decorative oval device, with floral detail extending from each end, fills the center of the upper portion. The second-floor

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windows are paired with a wooden mullion separating the frames. The windows are double-hung wooden sashes, glazed one over one. The cornice that forms the base of the pediment is accentuated with a modillion band. In the center of the gable end are small, paired, fixed sash windows recessed approximately 12 inches; the surrounding surface is clad with wooden shingle. The sill and lintel are wood. Above the window opening is a hemispherical device that imparts the visual image of a Palladian window. The windows in the gable end are single glazed with a course of smaller square panes (1x4) across the top of the sash (photos 1 and 3).

In 1909, David Worth Dennis contracted with a local builder named John T. Sheffer to build a new porch wing addition to the southeast corner of the house. The contract called for building and completing a front porch, porte-cochere, and solarium, and for adding a new door/doorway between the new wing and the original upstairs hallway. Included in the contract but not part of the new porch addition was the construction of a new vestibule (on the first floor) and extension of the first-floor bay on the east façade to the second-floor level. Part of the new vestibule project was inclusion of a lavatory to be "connected to hot rain water and cold city water" and the necessary waste drains to the sewer or cesspool in the yard.

A local architect, John A. Hasecoster, who was well known in the Richmond area for a number of local landmarks, drew the plans for this new classically inspired addition. He was considered by some as the premier architect in the Richmond area for almost 50 years. He was most active between 1872 to 1925 when he designed the Abram Gaar residence (1876), the John M. Westcott home (1880), the St. John Lutheran Church (1907), and the Wernle Children's Home buildings (1909) just to mention a few of his accomplishments.

The new wing extends forward (southward) of the original plane of the façade. Supported on a concrete foundation faced with limestone, the second story of the porch rests on two square brick columns that form the visual boundaries of the wing. Access to the concrete porch deck is provided by a set of steps; a temporary wooden ramp to accommodate a wheel chair is positioned on a second, east-facing set of steps under the overhang of the porte-cochere (photo 4). The first-floor and second-floor portions of the wing are separated physically and visually by a plain intermediate architrave capped with a dentil band and a projecting cornice. All three sides of the second floor solarium are constructed alike. The lower third of the exterior surface consists of a paneled wooden course and the upper two-thirds are windows. Wooden mullions that mirror those in the original second floor separate three windows. The windows are double-hung with single glazing in the lower sash and a checkerboard pattern (4x5) of smaller panes in the upper sash. A simple architrave with modillions, a projecting cornice, and a flat roof complete the wing (photos 3 and 4).

The west façade contains a gabled wing is very similar to that already described, a single story kitchen wing, and a wooden garage addition. The kitchen wing is original

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but the garage was added circa 1915 to house one of the family's early cars. The original façade had three bays; the two-story center, the west side of the front wing, and the kitchen wing. The fenestration for the center bay is similar to that already described with the following exceptions: the first floor windows and the windows in the gable end. The first-floor window consists of a large single framed unit flanked by standard size double-hung sash units with one over one glazing. Wooden mullions (photo 5) separate the center and flank units. The center unit has a fixed-sash, single-glazed lower pane and a single-glazed upper portion separated by a muntin. The small, fixed-sash paired windows in the gable end are not recessed as are those in the south façade and the surround includes a projecting drip cap. The west side of the front wing contains two windows of standard construction. The kitchen is a single-story, gable-end wing extending from the north façade. The exterior walls and other architectural elements are similar to the rest of the house. The west-facing window has a single-glazed, fixed-sash central pane flanked by smaller double-hung sashes, glazed one over one. The gable end has one small double-hung sash, glazed one over one. The door in the wing, that originally provided access to the outside, now opens into the attached wooden garage. The small garage (photos 6 and 7) is wood framed, with horizontal wooden siding exterior walls. Access to the interior is gained through wooden, double vehicular doors in the west end and a single personnel door in the east end.

The north façade consists of two bays: the wooden garage and the gable end of the kitchen wing on the right and the flush exterior wall of the northeast wing on the left (photo 7). The north façade is unremarkable except it is this façade that demonstrates some of the change-over-time that has occurred.

The east façade has experienced the most significant changes. This façade has three not so distinct bays: the center, two-story, gable-end bay; the right-most two-story hipped roof addition; and on the left, the porte-cochere (front-wing addition) (photos 2 and 7). In 1903/1904 the Dennis' embarked on a remodeling project that changed both the exterior and interior of the house. Evidence in family papers indicates the remodeling was conducted in two distinct phases. The first phase, completed by J. R. McDivitt who was paid off in June 1903, was the construction of the present brick exterior walls in the right bay. Other work under this contract included adding a new basement bulkhead, moving the attic stairs, adding a closet in the front bedchamber, and finishing work that included plastering and adding new registers for the heating system. This addition resulted in a new dining room on the first floor and a new bedroom on the second. In 1904, the professor contracted with N.E. Overman to prepare plans and specifications to accomplish what appears to be mostly interior work in the new addition. Overman's contributions included installing a skylight on the rear (north) sloping roof, changing the dining room doors to double acting, redoing the walls in the pantry and papering same, laying 100' of pine flooring, and other tasks to finish off the interior. The cost for this work was approximately \$2,500.

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Comparison of photographs 2 and 7 reveal the extent of McDivitt's work. The three-sided, one-story bay was extended to the second floor and a roof overhang was added. The original wooden rear porch was removed (photo 2); the new wing extended north from the old rear exterior wall. A portion of the original north wing (with the hipped roofline) (photo 7) was incorporated into the design of the addition. Overman's skylight was installed in the remnants of that roof. A new chimney was constructed to accommodate the fireplace in the new dining room. Visible in the left limit of photo 7 is a portion of a second-story, exterior walkway, with a wooden balustrade. The walkway provides access to the flat roof of the porte-cochere from the rear door of the solarium.

Irrespective of the changes made to the east façade, the house retains significant integrity. The center, three-sided bay contains three window openings on the first floor and two on the second. The north side of the center bay and its second floor window was lost in the addition (photo 7). Other windows in this bay are identical to those previously described. The first-floor, three-part window unit and second-floor windows in the right bay of this façade mirror those in the west wing in configuration and materials. The porte-cochere that appears in the south and east façade was included in the 1909 remodeling (photos 3 and 8). Simple in design but displaying the architectural details of classical styling, the porte-cochere blends well with the two-story porch. A foundation and waist-high wall of limestone anchors the two red-brick square supports for the flat roof. Classical wooden columns placed inboard of the brick supports add a classical touch to the overall structure. The plain architrave with dentil band and projecting cornice continues the details of the porch. A wooden balustrade with square wooden balusters defines the perimeter of the roof.

INTERIOR:

The interior of the Dennis residence remains unchanged from the era immediately following the remodeling projects of 1904/1909. Entry to the house is either through the main door on the front porch or through a secondary entrance (the old informal entrance) on the east side of the porch. The doors are original with a wood lower panel and a single glazed upper half. Upon entering the front door the front parlor is on the left. One of features of the room is a fireplace set in an angled interior wall. The fireplace has a tiled surround and hearth with a wooden mantelpiece. The top section of the mantelpiece contains a beveled glass mirror and a segmental arch cap. To the rear (north) of the formal parlor is rear parlor with a large fireplace and built in storage units along the north wall (photo 9). Originally, the fireplace hearth and surround were tiled but the tiles were replaced with marble elements. The mantelpiece and mirror are original. Full-height pocket doors may separate the two parlors.

With the exception of a modern lighting fixture, the dining room accoutrements are original (photo 10). A historic photograph belonging to the family shows Mrs. Emma Z. Dennis sitting at a table with the china cabinets and the bas relief above the fireplace

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as a background and demonstrates the level of integrity retained by the interior of the residence.

The second floor of the Dennis house possesses the same degree of integrity as the first floor. A stained glass window (photo 11) graces the wall at the intermediate landing. At the top of the stairs there are two bedrooms and a bath to the right, one bedroom straight ahead, and the solarium to the left. The fireplace in photograph 12 is in one of the original (pre-1904) bedrooms on the west side of the house. It shares a flue with one directly below it on an angled interior wall. Photograph 13 shows the one of the original bedrooms; the interior door connects the upstairs bathroom with the bedroom. Photograph 14 is an example of the door trim common throughout the house.

The 1904 addition provided space in the upstairs for a number of new spaces. The front bedroom (photo 15) is the room above the three-sided bay that was gained by extending the exterior walls upwards and enclosing one side of the bay. The closet appearing on the left edge of the photograph fills the space acquired by enclosing one surface of the bay. Photograph 16 is a leaded glass window in the south wall of the front bedroom dedicated to the memory of Mattie Curl Dennis, David Worth Dennis' first wife. Eventually the entire house was connected to city water but for a time a series of four cisterns in the attic supplied water for the house (photo 17).

STABLE/GARAGE

Around the beginning of the twentieth century the Dennis Family added a stable northeast of the house near the property line (photo 18). There is no documentary evidence to pinpoint the date of construction but it was probably built circa 1900. Several historic family photographs show Professor Dennis driving a horse and buggy in front of the house.

The original portion of the building, the two-story portion, is a simple gable-end wooden-frame structure erected on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are vertical board siding and the low-pitched roof is clad with composition shingle. An addition, probably built circa 1920, was constructed of the same materials. The vehicle doors in the original part are wooden, hinged, double swing with wood panels in the lower half and 2x3 glazing in the upper half. The garage door in the newer part is a rollup type with wooden frame and panels in a 4x5 pattern. The top horizontal row is glazed with single panes of glass. There is a plain, wood-paneled personnel door in the southeast corner of the building. A fixed sash window glazed 2x2 provides access for light into the interior.

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Section 8 Statement of Significance

Dennis Residence, Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana

The Dennis Residence is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant to our history. It is also eligible under Criterion C for its distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The direct association of early generations of the Dennis Family with Earlham College and therefore the Richmond area was significant to the region's past. The professorship of David Worth Dennis and his contributions to the education of hundreds of young men and women may be summed up in some of the tributes spoken at his memorial service in 1916. "He was most of all an inspirer of youth, that was his great task," stated the president of Earlham College. Former students, in a telegram to the college at the time of his death, may have described most accurately the relationship of Professor Dennis and his students in these few words, "We feel that we have lost our best and greatest teacher." His contributions to the college are recalled today in the local science hall and the Winona Lake educational facility.

William Cullen Dennis' contributions at a national level and locally continued the family's association with the significant history of the area. Well-respected and well-known in the field of international law, William served the United States government as a negotiator in much arbitration. As the president of Earlham College during the depression of the 1930s, William discharged his responsibilities to such a high degree that the college was in solid financial condition when he left the office in 1946. One source noted that in 1946, the institution was "ranked as one of the best private, church-related colleges in the nation."

A 1978 historic structures inventory in Richmond rated the house as "Significant." Based on the rapidly diminishing numbers of historic buildings experienced during the last 22 years, the home would probably be rated "Outstanding" under present criteria. Considering its age and long period of occupancy by the family, the house retains a remarkable degree of integrity not often discovered in a residence with this long history of daily usage.

Wayne County, the location of the city of Richmond, Indiana, was organized in 1810. Named for the Revolutionary War hero General Anthony Wayne, was formed from a portion of Dearborn County, one of the three counties in the Territory of Indiana. Centerville, east of Richmond, was the first county seat.

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The area's settlement predates Indiana statehood. Many of the first settlers in the county, and in Richmond, were members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) from Virginia and the Carolinas. Motivated by a combination of practicality and idealism many Quakers living in the southern states sought inexpensive, fertile land and relief from living in a portion of society that sanctioned the practice of slavery.

Since its official platting in 1816 by John Smith, one of the county's first settlers, Richmond was prominent in the economic and commercial growth of Wayne County. Town lots along Front and Pearl Streets south of Main made up the heart of the first settlement. In 1810, the same John Smith, had set up a board plank on two barrels and became the pioneer dry goods entrepreneur of the area. Two tanneries commenced operation in 1818, just two years after the first tavern appeared on Lot 6 of the original plat. Such enterprises as a brewery, a distillery, a woolen factory, and a paper mill were established and flourished during the next decade.

Rapid development of transportation assets determined the future of many early Indiana settlements. One of the first events that sparked economic growth in Richmond was the opening of the National Road, which is also Richmond's main east-west street, in 1828. By 1836, as many as 100 wagons per week were passing through Richmond carrying commercial goods and agricultural production in and out of Indiana.

Richmond continued to grow throughout the 1840s and 1850s, but prosperity was limited. The coming of major railroads that intersected in the city changed the economic complexion and transportation mix for the entire county. Lacking a major power-producing water source and with limited access to rail transportation, Centerville, the original county seat, lost its status of primary urban community to Richmond; the county seat moved to Richmond in 1872.

The first settlers brought with them their religious preferences and practices. The Society of Friends held their first meeting as early as 1807. Other denominations established their presence in the ensuing years. The Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, Catholic, A. M. E., and Episcopal churches had active congregations in the Richmond area by 1850. The Friends went a step farther than other religious affiliations and established Earlham College one mile west of the city in 1847. Situated on 160 acres, the co-educational institution offered a well-rounded education and spiritual guidance to its students. The history of Earlham College and the Dennis Family became intertwined in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends in 1821 was the first of many to come. By 1850, Richmond's annual Friends' meeting was the largest in the world. The presence of the Friends meeting house influenced the Orthodox body to locate "a boarding school "for the guarded religious education of the children of Friends" in Richmond. The decision to found the school was made in 1832 but funds were not available until 1847.

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A collegiate department was added to the school in 1859 and the institution became Earlham College. Enrollment was restricted to "Friends only" until 1865 when the first non-Quaker students were accepted. The first non-Quaker faculty member was hired in 1886.

The faculty of Earlham College in the last decades of the 19th century also included past graduates who returned to educate younger generations. David Worth Dennis, a graduate of the class of 1873, returned to Earlham in 1884 to become the professor of natural sciences. Born on a farm in Dalton Township, Wayne County, Indiana, in 1849, D. W. Dennis received his early education in local schools and eventually studied for a time in Europe. Married to Martha (Mattie) Curl in 1876, the couple had one son, William Cullen, who was born in 1878. Mattie C. Dennis, a native of Parke County, Indiana, established her own reputation as a teacher and as a participant in many social and literary organizations that fostered the arts. Mattie died in 1897 and David W. remarried in 1900 to Emma Zeller.

Professor Dennis authored a number of books dealing with the natural sciences; more specifically, about fossils in the Richmond area and was published in *Proceedings of Indiana Academy of Science*. D. W. Dennis taught at Earlham until his death in 1916. Known for his cheerful disposition and demanding ways, Professor Dennis instituted on campus "the first biological laboratory in Indiana and one of first in the U.S. to put microscopes in the hands of students" and he was instrumental in getting students into "hands on" scientific experiences. At the time of his death in 1916, David Worth Dennis was regarded by all who knew him, students and faculty alike, as a dedicated teacher and a generally good person. Testimony to this high regard are two Earlham College facilities that bear his name: The David Worth Dennis Biological Station on Winona Lake in Kosciusko County, Indiana, and the David Worth Dennis Science Hall on the Richmond campus.

The next generation of the Dennis Family was soon to make its mark on the world. William Cullen Dennis, the only child of Mattie and David, whose early education was home schooling by his parents, attended a number of European academies. William enrolled in Earlham College in 1892 as a 14-year old freshman. Upon graduation from Earlham he moved on to Harvard where, by the age of 19, he had acquired two advanced degrees. By the age of 22, William had successfully completed the degree work for his Doctor of Law, also from Harvard. William married Agnes Kirtland Barker in July 1909 and the couple had two children, a son David and a daughter Catherine.

Professionally, William became a recognized authority in the field of international law. He spent four years as an Assistant Solicitor in the U.S. Department of State and served the country for over 20 years as a U.S. representative and legal advisor in arbitration before different tribunals in Europe and South America. In between these

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periods of service in international courts, William taught at various universities such as the University of Illinois, Stanford, Columbia, and George Washington Universities. He served as a legal advisor to the Chinese government in Peking, China from 1917 to 1919. Well respected by members of the Society of Friends, Dr. Dennis served on boards of church-related schools.

In 1929, William's life took a change of course. Earlham College was in the market for a new head administrator and William was asked to take over the presidency of the college. After some serious thought he accepted the position. The economic depression of the 1930s was his first --- and the major --- challenge of his presidency. He successfully shepherded his institution through this crisis and Earlham College survived. By the time he left the presidency in 1946, Earlham College was once again on sound financial ground. His tenure as president was the second longest at the time. After he left Earlham College, William practiced law in Richmond with his son, David. William died in September 1962; his wife Agnes predeceased him by about five months.

David Worth Dennis, named for his grandfather, and his wife Tresa Marie headed the third generation of the Dennis family to call the residence home. David graduated from Earlham in 1933 with a liberal arts degree; he completed his work for his Baccalaureate of Law degree at Harvard in 1936. David practiced law for a number of years and then was appointed prosecuting attorney for the 17th Judicial District in Wayne County, Indiana. He served in the Judge Advocate General Corps from 1944-1947. He continued law practice with his father in Richmond for a number of years. Political life beckoned in the late 1940s. After serving as a state representative to the General Assembly and later was elected as a representative to the 91st and 92nd U. S. Congresses for the 10th Indiana District. A member of many professional organizations for much of his life, David Worth Dennis continued the family's tradition of service and the practice of law. He died in early 1999.

As the fourth generation of the Dennis Family, William C. and Martha Ellen, assume stewardship of the house at 610 West Main Street, the long history of the family's connection with this significant example of turn-of-the-century workmanship and stylistic detail continues. Not just a collection of brick, mortar, and stone, the residence symbolizes a period of time in Indiana history when the arts, science, and education were paramount in the lives of many Hoosiers and Earlham College offered the first step on a path to a life filled with possibility.

Section 9 Bibliography

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Section 10 Geographical Description

Boundary Description

From the start point at the intersection of West Main Street and 7th Street proceed north along 7th Street approximately 74 yards; turn east (toward 6th Street) and proceed along the rear property for a distance of approximately 129 yards; turn south (toward West Main) and proceed along the east property line for a distance of approximately 74 yards; turn west and proceed (parallel with West Main) for approximately 129 yards and close on the start point.

Boundary Justification

The boundary as described is the surveyed limit of the property.



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 UVA
 FOR VINTAGE, RICHMOND, VA
 OLD N. HALL ST.
 HOME
 LAYTON NORTH ST. ST. 1100

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 INTERSTATE 66