

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 Oakdale Historic District  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number see continuation sheet N/A  not for publication  
city or town Fort Wayne N/A  vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Allen code 003 zip code 46807

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]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/8/00  
Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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	
334	15	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
38	0	objects
372	15	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)

Colonial Revival

Craftsman

OTHER: American Foursquare

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STUCCO

WOOD: Shingle

**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)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1910-1950

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Strauss, Alvin M.

Larrimore, Lloyd

**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:

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**      Approx. 47 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1    

1	6
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6	5	4	8	7	0
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4	5	4	6	1	0	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

3    

1	6
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6	5	6	4	1	0
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4	5	4	5	7	5	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

2    

1	6
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6	5	6	3	8	0
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4	5	4	6	2	0	0
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4    

1	6
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6	5	4	8	8	0
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4	5	4	5	7	3	0
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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    Laura Thayer, Historic Planner, Storrow Partnership Inc.

organization    City of Fort Wayne      date    04/19/00

street & number    212 West 10th Street, Studio A440      telephone    317-639-3460

city or town    Indianapolis      state    Indiana      zip code    46202

**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    various

street & number    \_\_\_\_\_      telephone    \_\_\_\_\_

city or town    \_\_\_\_\_      state    \_\_\_\_\_      zip code    \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section No. 2

Page 1

Oakdale Historic District

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Roughly bounded by Broadway on west; Darrow Ave. on north; Webster St. on east, and Rudisill Blvd. on south.

The Oakdale Historic District is located in Fort Wayne, a city of approximately 200,000 people in northeastern Indiana. The district is located about 3 miles southwest of downtown Fort Wayne. To the north and east of the historic district are residential areas developed a few years earlier than the Oakdale neighborhood. To the south – across Rudisill Boulevard which is a main artery with commercial and institutional as well as houses – are neighborhoods that were developed a few years later. To the west of the district is Broadway, a major thoroughfare along the St. Mary's River, with extensive commercial development.

The Oakdale Historic District is composed of several residential additions that were platted between 1900 and 1925. The section of Oakdale Drive west of Beaver Avenue consists of several small additions that were platted starting about 1900 and represent the oldest part of the district. To the east, the section of Oakdale Drive between Beaver and Indiana avenues was platted as the Oakdale Addition in 1913 by the City and Suburban Building Company. The next section to the east, Oakdale Drive between Indiana and South Wayne avenues and Shady Court, was platted as the Oakdale Terrace Addition in 1917 by the City and Suburban Building Company. The Oakwood Addition, platted by the City and Suburban Building Company, consisted of Oakdale Drive between South Wayne and Fairfield avenues. The Shelbourne Place Addition, platted in 1925 by the Illsley Place Company, consisted of the section of Oakdale Drive between Fairfield and Hoagland avenues. Arcadia and Englewood Courts were platted in 1912 and 1914, respectively, by real estate developers Hilgeman and Schaaf.

Most of these plats were based on rectangular outlots of roughly the same size. Because the district consists of several additions developed by different companies, there is not a consistent grid pattern. The north-south avenues, Beaver, Indiana, South Wayne, Fairfield, and Hoagland, are main thoroughfares, but generally speaking, the east-west streets are one block long. The exception is Oakdale Drive, which extends on a straight line from Broadway to Hoagland Avenue. In parts of the district, there are alleys, such as the one south of Arcadia Court (photo 9) for access to garages. In other parts of the district, driveways from the street supercede the need for alleys (photos 25 and 37). Generally, the terrain of the district is level.

There are a total of 334 contributing buildings in the district, all houses. There are 15 noncontributing buildings. These are all houses that were constructed after the period of significance or have been altered to the degree that they no longer contribute to the character of the district. The resource count also includes 38 contributing objects, 22 of which are entry markers, and 16 of which are streetlamps. There are many garages that date from the period of significance that match the houses with which they are associated in materials and/or style. These were not included in the resource count.

Nearly ninety percent of the houses in the district were constructed between 1915 and 1930. The Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles dominate, but the American Foursquare type and Tudor Revival style are also fairly well represented. (See Section 8 for a discussion of architecture in the historic district.)

There is a great deal of continuity among the houses in terms of setback, style, scale, size, detailing, and other character-defining features. Houses are generally two or two-and-a-half stories in height, although there are a few one-story houses, including the Heinsick House at 417 Englewood Court and most of the houses on Shady Court (photo 38). Exterior siding in most cases is clapboard or brick. There is one concrete block house (910 Oakdale Drive) and several houses where stucco comprises at least part of the exterior siding, such as the Harper House at 306 Arcadia Court (photo 8), and the Miller House at 727 Oakdale Drive.

Roofs are either gabled, hipped, jerkin-head, or gambrel. Most houses have one-story front porches or porticoes. Other features such as windows, doors, dormers, bays, and chimneys are similar in scale and arrangement. Consistency among the houses in regards to these features creates a pleasing rhythm along the district's streets (photos 18, 20 and 29). Several of the houses that face Rudisill Boulevard are larger and more elaborate, such as the Apfelbaum House at 450 W. Rudisill (photo 36), and the Mariotte House at 918 W. Rudisill Boulevard (left in photo 34).

There are concrete sidewalks on both sides of the district's streets, which are generally 50 to 60 feet wide. At over 100 feet wide, Rudisill Boulevard is the exception. The streets are lined with large trees, many of which predate the developments (photo 21). Some of the original streetlamps, with concrete standards and round globes, remain (photo 6). In several areas they have been replaced with black, metal, "Colonial" lamps (photo 18).

Most of the houses originally had garages, as the automobile had become a middle class fixture by the time the neighborhood was developed. Most of these are fairly simple frame structures (photo 9), but several are designed to match the house architecturally, such as the garage for the Foellinger House at 3721 Indiana Avenue (photo 37), and the garage for the Dulin House at 426 Arcadia Drive.

A large number of the houses in the district display a feature that was common in early 20th century houses, the sunroom, an extension of one end of the house that had large expanses of glass. This can be seen in houses of various styles: the Prairie style Apfelbaum House at 450 W. Rudisill Boulevard (photo 36), the Craftsman style Rossiter House at 724 Oakdale Drive, the Tudor Revival style Noble House at 1024 Rudisill Boulevard (photo 33), and the Colonial Revival style Gould House at 454 Arcadia Court (photo 1). Another popular early 20th century house feature seen frequently in the district is the sleeping porch, a well ventilated second story room, positioned above the sunroom or above a porte cochere. Sleeping porches are seen on the Colonial Revival style Thieme House at 415 Oakdale Drive, the Craftsman style Lohman House at 604 Oakdale Drive, and the house at 512 W. Rudisill Boulevard (right in photo 35).

The Oakdale Historic District has a high degree of integrity and is unusually intact considering the size of the district. Of 349 houses, only 15 do not contribute to the character of the district, either because they were built after the period of significance, or have been altered extensively. For example, the house at 805 Oakdale Drive falls within the period of significance, but has been altered to the extent that it no longer contributes to the character of the district. Houses at 926 and 1016 W. Rudisill Boulevard were built after the period of significance.

Alterations that have occurred in individual houses are usually minimal. The most significant changes are the addition of synthetic siding on some houses, such as those shown in photos 14 and 38; and a few front porch enclosures (photo 28).

Following are brief descriptions of representative houses.

Emma Moellering House, 502 Oakdale Drive, Tudor Revival, c.1927 (right in photo 24). Moellering was the widow of William H.F. Moellering. She moved to this house after his death. The Moellering House is a two-and-a-half story residence with a hipped roof. The house is faced in brick with stone trim. Part of the second level has stucco and half-timbering. Windows are multi-light casement. The main entry is in a one-and-a-half story projecting gabled section and has a balconet above.

Ernest and Emma Gerke House, 516 Oakdale Drive, Colonial Revival, 1920 (second from right in photo 24). Ernest was a salesman for J. Goehring. The Gerke House is a two-and-a-half story, double-pile brick structure. It has a side gable roof with cornice returns. Fan lights flank exterior end chimneys. The main façade is three bays wide. The entry is in the center with a one-story gable roofed portico. Windows are double-hung with multi-light upper sash.

Verne Van Duyn and Helen Mitchell House, 616 Oakdale Drive, Prairie style, c.1925 (left in photo 22). Verne moved to Fort Wayne soon after 1921. He was in the real estate and insurance business, and a member of several social and professional organizations. The Mitchell House is a Prairie style house based on the American Foursquare type. It is a two-and-a-half story structure with brick facing, a hipped roof, and a three-bay façade. There is a one-story sunroom on the west side of the house. The front slope of the roof has a hipped roof dormer. A hipped roof door hood supported by brackets is over the main entry. Windows are double-hung with multi-light upper sash.

John C. and Elizabeth Hoffman House, 620 Oakdale Drive, Colonial Revival, c.1919 (first on left in photo 21). John was a partner in the firm of Vesey, Shoaff and Hoffman, and served as deputy prosecuting attorney in 1916. He held



memberships in several civic, social, and professional organizations. The Hoffman House is a two-and-a-half story, double-pile, wood frame house. It has a side gable roof with cornice returns. The main façade is three bay wide. There is a gable roof portico at the main entry, which is in the center of the principal façade. Windows are double-hung with multi-light upper sash. The house has aluminum siding.

Harold H. and May Tracht House, 710 Oakdale Drive, Colonial Revival, c.1920 (far right in photo 20). The house was built for Harold and May Tracht. Harold was owner and proprietor of H.H. Tracht Billiards. The Tracht House is a Colonial Revival style residence with Craftsman influences. Two-and-a-half stories in height, it has a side-gable roof with cornice returns. The main façade is three bays wide with the entry in the center. There are two shed-roof dormers on the ends of the front slope of the roof, and an eyebrow dormer in the center. Windows are double-hung with multi-light upper sash. There is a sunroom on the east end of the house. A small portico at the main entry has a flat roof and extended rafters ends that relate to extended rafter ends on the sunroom. The house has clapboard siding.

Albert and Katherine Blombach House, 716 Oakdale Drive, Dutch Colonial Revival, 1925 (second from right in photo 20). The house was built for Albert H. and Katherine A. Blombach. Albert was a plaster contractor. He died in 1975. The Blombach House is a one-and-a-half story house with a side-gambrel roof. There is a wide dormer that extends the width of the front slope of the roof and contains three bays of windows. The wood, one-story front porch is the width of the house and is classical in design. Windows are double-hung with multi-light upper sash. The front door is on the east end of the main façade and has sidelights.

Alfred and Hulda Ulmer House, 720 Oakdale Drive, Craftsman, c.1918 (third from right in photo 20). Arthur was an Electrical Engineer at General Electric. The Ulmer House is a two-and-a-half story residence with a side gable roof and gable roof dormers on the front slope. There are vergeboards along the gable edges. The house has clapboard siding on the lower part, and stucco above wood banding that extends around the house at the level of the bottom of second story windows. The banding is echoed in window surrounds. There is a one-story gable-roofed portico at the main entry, which is located in the center of the principal façade. Windows are grouped and double-hung with multi-light upper sash.

Dr. Dudley and Mary Ann Rossiter House, 724 Oakdale Drive, Craftsman, c.1920 (fourth from right in photo 20). The house was built for Dudley and Mary Ann

Rossiter. Dudley was a physician. The Rossiter House is a two-and-a-half story, wood frame house with clapboard siding. The roof is hipped and has an eyebrow dormer on the front slope. Windows are single or grouped, and are double-hung with multi-light upper sash. There is a sunroom on the east end of the house. The main entry is on the west end of the principal façade. This entry has a round-arched opening with a rounded door hood.

Dr. Herbert and Olive Senseny House, 810 Oakdale Drive, Craftsman, c.1920 (second from left in photo 18). Herbert graduated from Johns Hopkins in 1910 and moved to Fort Wayne in 1912 to join the staff of Methodist Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital. He was active in a number of professional and social organizations, as well as several civic groups. The Senseny House is a two-and-a-half story brick house with a three-bay façade and side gable roof. The second story is stuccoed and there are wood shingles in the gables. There is a gable-roof dormer on the front slope. A gable-roof portico at the main entry has side slopes that extend to the ends of the façade. There are brackets under the soffits. Windows are double-hung with multi-light sash.

Walter E. and Juanina Thornton House, 601 Oakdale Drive, Colonial Revival, c.1925 (photo 23). Walter Thornton moved to Fort Wayne in 1921 to take the position of assistant Medical Director for Lincoln Life. He was named Medical Director in 1923. He was involved in various professional and social organizations. The Thornton House is a two-and-a-half story, double-pile brick residence. The house faces Arlington Avenue, although it has an Oakdale Drive address. It has a side-gable roof with cornice returns. The main façade is three bays wide. Three gable-roof dormers on the front slope of the roof have windows with round-arch openings. Other windows in the house have flat-arch openings. Windows are double-hung with multi-light sash. Exterior end chimneys are flanked by attic fanlights. The main entry is framed by a classical portico. There is a sunroom on the north side of the house.

Dr. Elmer and Helen Singer House, 825 Oakdale Drive, Craftsman, c.1918 (photo 17). The house was built for Elmer and Helen Singer. Elmer was a physician. The Singer House is a two-and-a-half story dwelling with brick facing. The roof is a low-slope hip roof with wide overhangs. A hip roof dormer is located on the front slope. The main façade is three bays wide with the entry in the center. The segmental arched opening contains a paneled wood door with a transom and sidelights. There is a barrel-roof portico at this entry. Windows are grouped and are double-hung with multi-light upper sash. Decorative features include exposed rafters under the soffit.

Carl and Louise Koerber House, 3706 Fairfield Avenue, Craftsman, c.1915 (center of photo 39). Carl was in the plumbing business. The Koerber House is a two-and-a-half story residence with brick facing. It has a side gable roof with pantile roofing. The main façade is two bays wide, with the main entry in the north bay. At this entry is a one-story brick-piered portico with a balcony above. First floor openings are round-arched. Upper story openings are flat-arched. Windows are grouped. Second story windows are double hung with Prairie style upper sash.

Diedrich Henry Brandt, Jr. and Grace Brandt House, 3710 Fairfield Avenue, Craftsman, c.1915 (left in photo 39). Diedrich Brandt owned a grocery store in Fort Wayne from 1897 to 1952. He served in the Indiana House of Representatives in 1919. He and Grace moved into this house in 1922. The Brandt House is a one-and-a-half story, wood-frame house with a front gable roof. The main façade is two bays wide. The entry is in the north bay and there is a bay window in the south bay. There is a one-story portico at the entry with two groups of three columns that sit atop a low wall. There are sunburst motives in the gables.

Frederick and Mabel Rapp House, 3814 Fairfield Avenue, Craftsman, c.1915 (second from right in photo 40). Frederick Rapp was an Electrical Engineer at General Electric. The Rapp House is a one-and-a-half story house that is essentially a Bungalow with an incised front porch and two large front gable roof dormers on front slope of the roof. The porch is brick with stone trim. Windows are grouped, double-hung, and have multi-light upper sash. There are sunburst motives in the gables.

Harry and Myrtle Collier House, 3824 Fairfield Avenue, Dutch Colonial Revival, c.1912 (far left in photo 40). Harry was the Business Manager for the Fort Wayne public schools. The Collier House is a two-and-a-half story residence. It has a side gable roof with an intersecting front gambrel. The house has clapboard siding with shingle siding in the gables. The main façade is two bays wide. The entry is in the north bay. Windows are double hung with multi-light upper sash. The one-story front porch with square wood posts has a roof balustrade.

Charles Phelps House, 1130 Oakdale Drive, Craftsman, c.1920 (left in photo 14). Charles was a salesman for the Fort Wayne Paper Box Company. The Phelps House is a Craftsman style house based on a gable-front form. It is two-and-a-half stories high and has a two bay façade. Narrow vinyl siding has been installed over the original clapboards. There is a plain vergeboard along the

gable edge, and brackets under the soffit. The brick and wood porch extends the width of the façade. Windows are double-hung with multi-light upper sash.

W.K. Noble, Jr. and Laura Noble House, 1024 W. Rudisill Boulevard, Tudor Revival, c.1923 (photo 33). W.K. was proprietor of Noble Machine Company. A.M. Strauss was the architect for the Noble House, a two-and-a-half story dwelling with a multi-gable roof. (See Section 8 for information on Strauss.) The house is faced in brick, and has half timbering with brick laid in a herringbone pattern in the gable. The roof is covered with ceramic tile. The main entrance is near the west end of the principal façade and has a Tudor-arched opening. Windows are grouped with diamond-paned casement sash. There is a sunroom at the west end of the house, and a garage that matches the house in style at the rear.

Dr. Lyman K. and Marian Gould House, 454 Arcadia Court, Colonial Revival, c.1927 (photo 1). Dr. Lyman Gould was a physician. He and his wife lived at 615 Oakdale before building this house. The Gould House is a two-and-a-half story brick residence. It has a three-bay main façade. A classical, enclosed, wood, one-story portico extends from the center bay and houses the entry, a paneled wood, transomed door in a round arched opening. A one-story sunroom on the west end of the house has a decorative wood railing around the roof. Windows are double-hung with multi-light sash.

Guy Mahurin House, 451 Arcadia Court, Craftsman, c.1915 (left in photo 2). The house was built around 1915 a few years after the addition was platted. It was probably designed by Guy Mahurin for his own family. Mahurin was one of the city's leading architects of the early 20th century. (see Section 8 for more information on Mahurin). The Mahurin House is a two-and-a-half story wood frame residence with a side gable roof with wide eaves. There is clapboard siding on the lower part of the house, and stucco above a wood band that extends around the house at the line of the second story window sills. The entry is on the west end of the main façade and has a one-story, gable roof portico. There is a wide, stuccoed, gable roof dormer on the front slope of the roof. A one-story porch is situated on the east side of the house. Windows are double hung with multi-light upper sash. The gables have vergeboards. An exterior chimney on the east end extends through the overhang of the roof.

William S. and Edith Mossman House, 450 Oakdale Drive, Tudor Revival, 1928 (photo 25). The house was designed for the Mossmans by local architect Lloyd Larimore (see Section 8 for more information on Larimore). Mossman was treasurer at Mossman-Yarnelle Corporation, a large, wholesale hardware business. The Mossmans lived here until their deaths in the early 1980s.

William's father B. Paul Mossman was one of the officers of Illsley Place Company, developers of Shelbourne Place Addition, where this house is located. Edith Mossman was a local civic leader who was active on the board of the YWCA. William served in Quest Club. The Mossman House was designated a Local Historic Preservation District in 1998. The Mossman House is a two-and-a-half story brick home with an irregular plan. It has a steep hipped roof and multiple cross gables. The roof is covered in slates. There are two projecting gables on the principal façade. One of these is centrally located and contains the Tudor-arched entrance. A jettied second floor section has stucco and half-timbering decoration. Decorative brick patterns are created in the gables. Windows are steel casement sash with multi-light, square panes, except for a balconet window above the entry, which has diamond-shaped panes. A massive brick chimney on the east side of the house features decorative corbeled brick and terra cotta chimney pots. The house's garage is located to the rear and matches the house in design.

George and Muriel Fishing House, 455 Englewood Court, Dutch Colonial Revival, c.1925 (right in photo 31). George was secretary-treasurer with Fitch, Fishing and Lumbard Insurance Agency. He was active in community organizations, and was for a time president and director of the Park Improvement Company. The Fishing House is a two-and-a-half story wood frame dwelling with a front gambrel roof. Siding is clapboard. The entry is on the west end of the main façade and consists of a flat-arched opening with sidelights and transom. Windows are flat-arched except for the attic window, which is round arched. Windows are double-hung with multi-light sash. A gabled, bracketed door hood is above the entry door. There are wide dormers on the side, lower slopes of the roof.

Moses and Hanna Apfelbaum House, 450 W. Rudisill Boulevard, Prairie, c.1918 (photo 36). A.M Strauss was the architect for the house (see Section 8 for more information on Strauss). Moses Apfelbaum was associated with Kraus and Apfelbaum grain dealers. The Apfelbaum House is a large, two-and-a-half story residence faced in brick and accented with stone banding. The house has a hipped roof with wide overhangs. The main entry is on the west end of the principal façade. Above this entry is a round-arched door hood. The façade steps back on the west side. There is a one-story porch at the corner of the stepped-back section. Windows are grouped, and have double hung sash with vertical divisions in the upper sash. On the front slope of the roof, above the main part of the principal facade is a dormer with a round arch in the center. The garage is located at the rear of the property to the east. It is similar in design to the house, although the door has been updated.

Architect/Builder

Mahurin, Guy  
Mahurin & Mahurin  
Ninde, Joel

Statement of Significance

The Oakdale Historic District is significant under Criterion C, as a cohesive and intact group of early 20th century houses. It is also an important representation of the rapid growth of residential neighborhoods on the south side of Fort Wayne between about 1915 and 1930.

*History*

Fort Wayne was designated the Allen County seat and platted in 1824. The Wabash and Erie Canal, completed in 1843, and railroads, the first of which reached the city in the 1850s, made Fort Wayne a transportation and industrial center. During the early 20th century, the city was one of the three largest in Indiana. Unprecedented growth was experienced in Fort Wayne during the period between 1900 and 1930. By 1929, there were 300 factories and roughly 1,500 wholesale and retail establishments. The city was a leader in Indiana in city planning, setting standards in utilities, park development, street paving, and railroad overpasses. Fort Wayne radiated outward from the confluence of the St. Joseph, St. Mary's, and Maumee rivers.

Development in an area which would be incorporated as the town of South Wayne in 1889 began in the last half of the 19th century. South Wayne, immediately south of Fort Wayne proper, was bounded by Creighton Avenue, Hoagland Avenue, Rudisill Boulevard, and the St. Mary's River. Roughly one-sixth of this area was the 80-acre tract that comprised the Allen County Farm between 1848 and 1853. After this institution was relocated, the acreage was divided into 16 outlots and sold. This land was located in the central part of the South Wayne area.

The area defined as the Oakdale Historic District is largely located in the south part of the South Wayne area. In the southeast part of South Wayne, 68 acres of the former William Ewing farm were partitioned as 16 outlots in 1863. Dr. Lewis Thompson owned much of the land in the southwest part. After his death in 1866, Augustus Beaver, a lumber dealer, began buying that land for the timber. In 1873, he built a country house for his family on part of the land. This house is extant and located in the Oakdale Historic District at 1224 Oakdale Drive (photo 12). By the time Beaver moved from Oakdale Drive in 1903, much of his holdings had been sold and platted. Beaver Avenue was named for Augustus Beaver and his brother Daniel.

As the land in the South Wayne area was platted, cleared of most of its trees, and swamplands drained, it became more attractive for development. Perhaps the most important 19th century

business in South Wayne was the Packard organ and piano factory. Isaac Packard's Chicago factory was destroyed in the 1871 fire. Packard moved to Fort Wayne and rebuilt on Fairfield Avenue south of what is now Packard Avenue. In 1886, the Jenney Electric Company moved to a location just north of South Wayne. This company, which later became General Electric, was one of the largest employers in the city.

The combination of Packard and Jenney Electric encouraged residential development, which originated in the north and east parts and moved to the south and west. Broadway (an early road from Fort Wayne to Bluffton), Hoagland Avenue, and Fairfield Avenue were main arteries through South Wayne. The increased population in South Wayne led to an interest in incorporating the area. The City of Fort Wayne tried to stop the incorporation by annexing the area. A lengthy court battle ensued, but finally, the State Supreme Court ruled in favor of South Wayne. After a few years' delay, the town was incorporated in 1889. The U.S. Census recorded South Wayne's population as 1,107 in 1890. Part of the Oakdale Historic District – the block of Oakdale Drive bounded by Indiana Avenue on the west and South Wayne Avenue on the east – was one of many additions to South Wayne, in 1890. This was Oliver S. Hanna's addition.

The City of Fort Wayne continued its efforts to annex the area, and finally succeeded in 1894. Fort Wayne streetcar lines and utilities were then extended south through South Wayne, and a new school was built. The availability of city services made the area even more attractive, as did the establishment of two important institutions and a major city park. Lutheran Hospital was built on Fairfield and Wildwood avenues, to the north of the district, in the first decade of the 20th century. About the same time, Fort Wayne Bible College was built, to the south of the district, on Rudisill Boulevard. In 1912, David and Samuel Foster donated land for Foster Park, just southwest of the proposed historic district. David had been named one of the city's first park commissioners in 1905. He later built a home near Foster Park at 902 West Rudisill Boulevard (right in photo 34).

During the 19th century, Fort Wayne had been a compact city. The fashionable residential areas, working class neighborhoods, and industrial areas were still located adjacent to the city's downtown. An increase in the urban population changed Indiana cities in the early 20th century. The number of people in Fort Wayne grew from 45,115 in 1900 to 114, 946 in 1930. This increased population, as well as improved transportation, were among factors that led to suburban development. South Wayne had been a sparsely settled, largely rural region. As the population of Fort Wayne burgeoned and demand for housing escalated, developers saw opportunity there. Hilgeman and Schaaf was one of the many firms that bought up South Wayne outlots and platted them as smaller city lots. Two of the firm's developments, both included in the Oakdale Historic District, were Arcadia Court, platted in 1912 (photo 16), and Englewood Court (photo 19), platted in 1914.

The additions that comprise the Oakdale Historic District were developed during a period of civic awakening in Fort Wayne. The city's Commercial Club had enlisted Charles Mulford Robinson to draft a city plan. Robinson was an early city planner from upstate New York who was inspired by the City Beautiful movement. He wrote several influential books on urban improvement, as well as a number of plans for cities.

Robinson's plan for the city of Fort Wayne was published in 1909. In it, Robinson discussed methods of city beautification, including districting (zoning) for commercial, industrial, and residential areas. He recommended matching up streets in new areas with the existing street patterns, an element of planning that had been lacking in many Fort Wayne additions. Robinson's plan included an emphasis on parks, and encouraged the retention of trees in new developments.

Robinson's plan may have influenced the developments that comprise the proposed historic district. For example, when O.S. Hanna's addition to South Wayne was platted from a Ewing outlot in 1890, it consisted of two rows of lots that faced Dayton Street to the north and Burnett Avenue to the south. In 1916, the Board of Public Works opened a street of 50 feet in width between Dayton and Burnett. This new segment of Oakdale Drive connected to the previously opened sections of Oakdale Drive to the west and east, and reoriented the lots of Hanna's addition to face each other. Sanborn Maps and plat records reveal that other streets in the proposed district were opened or vacated over a period of a few years as new plats were made and connected in a logical way to earlier plats. The retention of many old trees as the additions of the proposed historic district were being developed may also have been due to Robinson's influence.

Deed restrictions in some of the additions of the proposed district reveal efforts on the part of the developers to maintain a high quality neighborhood. For example, purchasers of lots in the Oakdale Terrace addition (1917 replat of Hanna's addition) had to agree to the following conditions:

1. no intoxicating liquors shall be sold
2. no structure built nearer than 35 feet to the front line of any lot except open porches so built as to not obstruct the view
3. no residence costing less than \$3,500; not more than one dwelling unit upon any two lots
4. plan of lawn, terrace, shade-trees, etc. set out in plat, shall be established and maintained as therein
5. if any owner violates these conditions, title would revert to City and Suburban Building Company

The Shelbourne Place addition of 1925 (Oakdale Drive between Fairfield and Hoagland) was also platted with restrictions. Most of these appear to have been drafted with intent to create an aesthetically pleasing environment with open space and no commercial intrusions. Some appear to have been written to exclude certain racial groups and economic classes.



1. 4' utility easement on rear of lot
2. lot may be used for residential purposes only; no more than one house with garage on a lot
3. no part of structure, exclusive of open porches that do not obstruct view, shall be placed nearer to the front line of the lot than the building on the plat
4. a free and open space must be maintained between the side lines of the lot and the structure of the main buildings equal to 10 percent of the width of the lot
5. no fences or hedges may be built or grown in front of the building lines
6. any residence must cost at least \$9,000
7. the front of the lot must be graded in accordance with a grade established by Illsley Places company
8. no billboards or advertising may be erected on the lot
9. the real estate can not be sold to or occupied by any person of the Mongolian or Ethiopian race
10. plat provides that restrictions shall exist for a period of 20 years, and that thereafter the restrictions may be annulled or amended by an order of a property court on petition of a majority of owners of lots in the addition

Many of the physical design elements of the district are similar to what some planners are attempting to recreate today in Neo-Traditional town planning. Sensitivity to height/set-back ratio, lot size, landscaping, neighborhood delineation, and protection of viewsheds are among features found in the Oakdale Historic District that have been found to result in comfortable, enduring neighborhoods.

Residents of the district could generally be considered as middle to upper-middle class. At least some biographical information was found for historic owners of over 25 percent of the houses in the proposed district. Among professions represented by the men living in the district were lawyers, doctors, salesmen, electrical engineers, a mechanical engineer, executives of large companies, bankers, a principal of a high school, and architects. Many of those living in the district were owners of Fort Wayne businesses including a wholesale hardware company, a drugstore, automobile dealerships, a printing plant, lumber yards, a billiard parlor, a meat market, a flower shop, a trucking company, bakeries, a grain dealership, a jewelry store, a wallpaper store, a furniture store, grocery stores, a chain of automobile service stations, and a plumbing shop. There were also several building contractors.

Among the most noteworthy residents were Oscar and Esther Foellinger, who lived in the historic district at 3721 Indiana Avenue (photo 37) from 1914 to 1927. Oscar worked for several local newspapers before he bought the News-Sentinel in 1920. He ran the newspaper until his death in 1936. The Foellingers were among Fort Wayne's leading citizens. They made a lasting impact on the city with the establishment of the Foellinger Foundation.

Among leading Fort Wayne companies that employed a number of the men living in the district were General Electric; International Harvester, which started construction on its Fort Wayne

plant in 1922; and Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, which built its new world headquarters in Fort Wayne in 1923. There were several men who served as state representatives and at least one county commissioner.

The residents of the district appeared to be very involved in professional, community, and social organizations. Among the most popular of these were the Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Fort Wayne Country Club, Masonic Lodge, Elks Club, Knights of Pythias, Rotary, Izaak Walton League, Community Chest, Red Cross, Exchange Club, Fort Wayne Automobile Club, and University Club. People living in the district were generally members of Protestant or Catholic Congregations if they were members of a church.

It was more difficult to find information about women living in the district. Many were briefly mentioned in biographical sketches of their husbands. Some of these women were described as community volunteers.

#### *Architecture*

The historic district is primarily significant for its early 20th century residential architecture. The houses of the district were constructed between 1873 and c.1950. The 1873 date represents the Beaver House, the oldest house. The Beaver House originally faced west towards the St. Mary's River, and was part of a larger piece of property that contained several outbuildings. When Oakdale Drive was extended on the south side of the house in the second decade of the 20th century, the house was remodeled in the Craftsman style. As part of the remodeling, the main entry was moved to the south side of the house to face the new street. The c.1950 date allows the period of significance to include several Colonial Revival style houses that are in keeping with the district architecturally and appear to date from the late 1940s or about 1950.

Though the period of significance extends from 1873 to c.1950, the vast majority of the houses date from a 15-year period during which Fort Wayne was growing rapidly. Of 210 houses for which dates of construction were known or estimated, 183, or roughly 87 percent, were built between 1915 and 1930.

There is a great deal of continuity among the houses of the district. Of the 210 houses for which styles or types were identified, 40 percent were Craftsman, 30 percent were Colonial Revival or Dutch Colonial Revival, 14 percent were American Foursquare, 7 percent were Tudor Revival and 4 percent were Prairie. (Five percent of the houses were other styles and types.) These are all architectural styles that were popular in the early part of the 20th century. Designs for these types of houses were commonly selected from pattern books, and were also available from mail-order companies such as Sears, Roebuck. Eight of the houses in the district are known to have been designed by architects. The houses in the district are rarely grand, but rather are typical examples of middle to upper middle class architectural tastes.

The most frequently seen style in the Oakdale Historic District is the Craftsman style, which was popular in Fort Wayne from about 1905 to about 1935. Craftsman architecture began as a reaction to the excesses of the Victorian era. Tenets of the style were simple design, honesty in construction, and fine craftsmanship. In New York, Gustav Stickely promoted these ideas in his publication, *The Craftsman*, starting in 1903. The architects most responsible for developing the style were Henry and Charles Greene, who practiced in California. The best-known example of their work is the Gamble House (1908) in Pasadena. Craftsman houses reflected a number of influences including the Shingle style, the Swiss Chalet style, Japanese architecture, and the early houses of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Elements of the Craftsman style included wide, open eaves; exposed structural elements such as rafters, roof beams, vergeboards, and knee braces; and square or battered porch piers. Siding was brick, stone, stucco, clapboard, wood shingles, or often a combination of two types of siding. Windows were often grouped and had multi-light upper sash. Entry doors usually were paneled wood with lights in the upper part of the door. The interior of a Craftsman house usually featured a prominent hearth, and natural wood for moldings, built-in cabinets, and bookshelves.

A variation of the Craftsman style is seen in the simpler Bungalow, a mass-produced house type of the early 20th century. Small houses, usually one-and-a-half stories in height, Bungalows fulfilled a need for affordable dwellings at a time when urban populations were growing rapidly. Bungalows were frequently built in quantity by developers, often with the same floor plan, but with variations on the outside to distinguish them from their neighbors. Common subtypes of Bungalows include front-gabled, side-gabled, and hipped-roof.

The Craftsman houses of the historic district date from about 1910 to 1930. Among examples of the style are the Harper House at 306 Arcadia Court, built c.1920 (right in photo 8), the Ebert House at 310 Arcadia Court, built c.1916 (left in photo 8), the Singer House at 825 Oakdale Drive, built c.1918 (photo 17), and the Mahurin House at 451 Arcadia Court, c.1915 (left in photo 2). In the block of Oakdale Drive between Indiana and South Wayne avenues, 14 of the 24 houses may be categorized as Craftsman (photo 20).

The similar Craftsman Bungalow is less common in the Oakdale neighborhood. One of the finest examples is the Foellinger House at 3721 Indiana Avenue, built 1914 (photo 37). Other examples are the house at 3717 Shady Court, built c.1918 (center of photo 38), the Brandt House at 3710 Fairfield Avenue, built c.1915 (left in photo 39), and the Miller House at 345 Arcadia Court, built c.1918.

The Colonial Revival style has experienced an on-going popularity in Fort Wayne starting in about 1890. The U.S. Centennial of 1876 kindled an interest in English and Dutch Colonial houses of the Atlantic seaboard. Initially, architects combined features of Colonial types, and often exaggerated proportions. By the first decade of the 20th century, the trend was towards

more accurate reproduction of the early houses. The economic Depression of the 1930s and World War II dictated simplification of the style, though it has continued to be popular in various forms to the present day.

The early 20th century version of the style typically has a symmetrical façade, central entry with a portico, and double-hung windows with multi-light sash. Also typical is classical ornamentation such as pilasters, columns, pediments, fanlights, sidelights, molded cornices, and dentils or modillions.

Colonial Revival houses in the Oakdale Historic District date from c.1912 to c.1950. Houses of the style in the district are faced in brick or have clapboard siding. Most are two- or two-and-a-half stories in height and have side-gable roofs, although some have front-gable or hipped roofs. Typically, for the side-gable examples, windows are double-hung with multi-light upper sash and a single light on the lower sash. Dormer windows and chimneys on both ends are also frequently seen. A common feature of houses of the Colonial Revival style is a one-story sunroom on one end. Among good examples of the style are the Thornton House at 601 Oakdale Drive, built c.1925 (photo 23), the Gould House at 454 Arcadia Court, built c.1925 (photo 1), and the Daniel House at 814 Oakdale Drive, built c.1925 (left in photo 18).

The Dutch Colonial Revival style is a variation of the Colonial Revival. The style isn't modeled on Colonial Dutch homes as the name suggests. Rather, it is similar to the Colonial Revival style, except for its defining characteristic, a gambrel roof, only one of the roof types seen in historic Colonial Dutch houses. Between 15 and 20 percent of all Colonial Revival houses in the Oakdale Historic District are of the Dutch Colonial variation. These houses were built between about 1912 and 1927. Unlike its parent style, Colonial Revival, the Dutch Colonial Revival did eventually fade from vogue, but enjoyed some visibility in Fort Wayne between about 1890 and 1940. Examples in the district include the Beaver House at 456 Englewood Court (center of photo 30) and the house at 455 Englewood Court (right in photo 31).

One of the most popular American house types of the 20th century, the American Foursquare, is fairly common in the Oakdale Historic District. The type began to appear around the turn of the 20th century and quickly became popular throughout the country. Like the Bungalow, it was a simple house that fulfilled the needs of the American family during a period of rapid urban growth. The Foursquare is a vernacular type, rather than a style, because it is characterized chiefly by a simple, consistent form with little ornamentation. The typical Foursquare is a two-story cube with a hipped roof and a one-story porch the width of the main façade. Siding is usually clapboards, but there are examples of Foursquare houses faced in brick or other materials. The main façade is usually two bays wide. There is frequently a dormer window on the front slope of the roof. Windows are double-hung. American Foursquare houses are sometimes embellished with ornamentation that identifies them with a particular style. The most common of these are the Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Prairie styles.

In Fort Wayne, American Foursquare houses were popular between 1900 and 1935. In the Oakdale Historic District, they date from 1915 to 1925. Of the 210 houses in the district for which styles or types were identified, there are 28 examples of American Foursquare houses, and another 13 examples of houses that are Foursquare in form, but have been categorized as Colonial Revival, Craftsman, or Prairie, because of their architectural detailing. American Foursquare houses are seen throughout the historic district, including on the north side of Oakdale Drive west of Beaver Avenue (two houses in center of photo 13), the north side of Oakdale Drive west of Indiana Avenue (second and third from right in photo 16), and the south side of Arcadia Court west of Webster Street (second, third, and fourth from left in photo 7). The Coil House at 455 Arcadia Court, built c.1920 (right in photo 7), is an example of a Colonial Revival style house that is essentially American Foursquare in form.

Less common styles seen in the Oakdale Historic District include Tudor Revival and Prairie. Tudor Revival houses are based on a variety of Medieval English house types. They may exhibit decorative half-timbering with brick or stucco infill, brickwork laid in a herringbone pattern, and stone accents and trim. In form, they generally have at least one prominent gable, and frequently several gables of varying sizes. Plans and roof forms are usually complex. Windows are most likely to be grouped with multi-light casement sash of square or diamond panes. Among the few examples of the style in the historic district are several outstanding examples. The Mossman House at 450 Oakdale Drive, built in 1928 (photo 25), the Moellering House at 502 Oakdale Drive, built c.1927 (right in photo 24), and the Noble House at 1024 W. Rudisill Boulevard, built c.1923 (photo 33), are among these. The Miller House at 727 Oakdale Drive, built c.1918, with stuccoed exterior and half-timbering in the gables, is a simpler, but charming, example of Tudor Revival architecture.

Several houses are unique or rare examples in the district of 20th century house styles. Among those worth mentioning are the Prairie style Apfelbaum House at 450 W. Rudisill Boulevard, built c.1918 (photo 36); and the Mission Revival style Phillips House at 525 W. Rudisill Boulevard, built c.1920 (left in photo 35). It should also be pointed out that there are several examples of the gable-front house type, though these have generally been categorized under the styles that they best represent. The gable-front was an enduring American house form that originated in the early 19th century and continued in popularity well into the 20th century. Typically a wood-frame house of two stories and a front-gable roof (hence the name), it was usually adorned with decorative elements that associated with a particular style. In the Oakdale Historic District, the styles seen on gable-front houses are the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. Several examples of the gable-front type may be seen on the north side of Arcadia Court west of Webster Street (photo 5), and on the north side of Illsley Drive west of Indiana Avenue (photo 29).

Most of the properties in the historic district include garages that appear to be contemporary with the house. These are generally simple in design as the garages shown in photo 9 along the alley south of Arcadia Court. Several garages are distinctive. These are usually those

associated with more elaborate houses. Examples include garages for the Apfelbaum House at 450 W. Rudisill Boulevard (photo 36), the Mossman House at 450 Oakdale Drive (photo 25), and the Foellinger House at 3721 Indiana Avenue (photo 37).

Among features that enhance character of the Oakdale Historic District are the entrance markers at many of the corners. These define several of the additions that make up the district:

- Oakdale Addition (Oakdale Drive between Beaver and Indiana avenues; photos 15 and 16)
- Oakdale Terrace Addition (Oakdale Drive between Indiana and South Wayne avenues; photos 17 and 20)
- Oakwood Addition (Oakdale Drive between South Wayne and Fairfield avenues; photos 21 and left in photo 24)
- Shelbourne Place Addition (Oakdale Drive between Fairfield and Hoagland avenues; (right in photo 24)
- Arcadia Court Addition (Arcadia Court between Fairfield Avenue and Webster Street (photos 1 and 4)

The entrance markers are stone, except those for the Shelbourne Place addition, which are brick. Several of the markers support lights with round frosted glass globes on wrought iron bases (photos 15, 16, 17, and 20). Lights on other markers are missing.

Other resources include streetlamps of a particular style. These have concrete standards, which were fabricated by the Fort Wayne Cement Stone Company, and round glass globes. A smaller number of contributing streetlamps have cast iron standards and round glass globes. Streetlamps can be seen in photos 3 and 6, and are indicated on the historic district sketch map with an "x."

Landscaped medians and trees also contribute to the district's character. There is a median that extends the width of the block of Arcadia Court between Hoagland Avenue and Webster Street (photo 6), and an entrance median at the west end of Englewood Court (photo 30). Mature trees line the streets of the district, and many appear to date from before the development (photos 3, 15 and 21).

As mentioned above, some of the houses in the historic district were designed by local architects, including Lloyd W. Larimore (c.1893-1959), Alvin M. Strauss (1895-1958), Guy M. Mahurin (1877-1941), and Joel Roberts Ninde (1874-1916).

Larimore worked in the offices of John F. Wing, and Mahurin and Mahurin before starting his own practice in Fort Wayne and Marion, Indiana. He was briefly – from about 1929 to 1931 – in partnership with Simpson Parkinson. His Fort Wayne commissions included Birkmeier and Sons Monument Company (1929) and Grace Reformed Church (1927). In the Oakdale Historic District, he designed the Mossman House at 450 Oakdale Drive (1928; photo 25) and his own

house at 3715 Shady Court (c.1920). With Parkinson, he designed the Murphy House at 422 Oakdale Drive (1930).

Strauss started his practice in Fort Wayne in 1918 and progressed to become one of the state's leading architects. In Fort Wayne, his works include the Embassy Theatre (1928), the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum (1951), St. Vincent Villa (c.1925-1932; listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994), and the Lincoln Bank Tower (1930). In the historic district, he designed the Noble House at 1024 W. Rudisill Boulevard (photo 33), and the Apfelbaum House at 450 W. Rudisill Boulevard (photo 36).

Guy Mahurin was a nephew of Marshall S. Mahurin. The two architects worked as Mahurin and Mahurin from 1907 to 1918, when Guy left to work for the U.S. Housing Corporation in Washington, D.C. He later returned to Fort Wayne and opened his own practice. His local commissions included Forest Park School (1925), the Chamber of Commerce (1928), and the Federal Building (1931). In the Oakdale Historic District, he designed the Foster House at 902 W. Rudisill Boulevard (1919).

Ninde was one of the few female architects of her time. She had designed and built over 300 houses, focusing on the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. She specialized in features that appealed to housewives. With her husband Lee J. Ninde she owned the Wildwood Builders Company, a real estate development company, and Wildwood Magazine, a national journal of architecture, planning, and interior design that was published from 1913 to 1917. Ninde worked with a partner, Grace Crosby, with whom she designed and built numerous houses in the South Wayne area. Her own house, completed in 1910, is located at 902 Wildwood Avenue in the South Wayne Historic District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992). Ninde designed the Blossom House at 444 Arcadia Court (c.1915) in the Oakdale Historic District.

There are several early 20th century neighborhoods on Fort Wayne's south side that were developed about the same time as the Oakdale neighborhood. Some of these were identified as potential historic districts in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory.

- The South Wayne Historic District, which is located a few blocks to the north of Oakdale and has a period of significance of 1893 to c.1940, was listed on the National Register in 1992. The South Wayne Historic District is smaller and slightly earlier, but similar to the Oakdale neighborhood in character.
- The West Rudisill-Illsley neighborhood, identified as a potential historic district, is immediately to the southwest of the Oakdale Historic District. The West Rudisill-Illsley neighborhood was a separate development that was marketed to the upper middle and upper economic classes. The houses are generally grander, and are situated on large, landscaped lots.

South of Rudisill Boulevard are two neighborhoods that were developed around the same time as Oakdale and have been identified as potential historic districts. These are:

- Harrison Hill, an integrated development with broad, curving streets that was developed between about 1915 and 1935; and
- South Wood Park, a wooded, hilly area that was developed in six sections between about 1918 and 1940.

The Oakdale Historic District is a stable area that includes many long-time residents, as well as young families who have demonstrated a commitment to the preservation of their neighborhood. The Oakdale Neighborhood Association and the City of Fort Wayne are seeking National Register status for the district as part of this effort.



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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of Rudisill Boulevard and Beaver Avenue; thence east along the north side of Rudisill Boulevard to the west side of Indiana Avenue; thence north along the west side of Indiana Avenue to the south side of the first east-west alley north of Rudisill Boulevard; thence east across Indiana Avenue, continuing along the north boundary of Ewing Outlot 14, across South Wayne Avenue to the east side of South Wayne Avenue; thence south along the east side of South Wayne Avenue to the northeast corner of Rudisill Boulevard; thence east along the north side of Rudisill Boulevard, across Fairfield Avenue, continuing east along the north side of Rudisill Boulevard to a point 100 feet east of the northeast corner of Fairfield Avenue and Rudisill Boulevard; thence north to the north side of the French Avenue; thence east along the north side of French Avenue to the west side of Hoagland Avenue; thence north along the west side of Hoagland Avenue to a point on the alignment of the north side of Oakdale Drive as it occurs east of Hoagland Avenue; thence east along said alignment, across Hoagland Avenue, continuing along the north side of Oakdale Drive to a point 100 feet east of the northeast corner of Hoagland Avenue and Oakdale Drive; thence north to the north side of the first east-west alley north of Oakdale Drive; thence east along the north side of said alley to a point 100 feet west of the west side of Webster Street; thence south to the north side of Oakdale Drive; thence east along the north side of Oakdale Drive to the east side of Webster Street; thence south along the east side of Webster Street to the northeast corner of Webster Street and Oakdale Drive; thence east along the north side of Oakdale Drive to the west side of the first north-south alley east of Webster Street; thence north along the west side of said alley to the south side of Darrow Avenue; thence west along the south side of Darrow Avenue, across Webster Street, across Hoagland Avenue, to the west side of Hoagland Avenue; thence north along the west side of Hoagland Avenue to the northeast corner of Lot 11 of the Arcadia Court Addition; thence west along the north boundary of Lots 10 through 1 of said addition to the east side of Fairfield Avenue; thence south along the east side of Fairfield Avenue to a point on the alignment of the south side of Dayton Avenue; thence west across Fairfield Avenue, continuing along the south side of Dayton Avenue, across South Wayne Avenue, across Indiana Avenue, across Beaver Avenue, to the west side of Beaver Avenue; thence north along the west side of Beaver Avenue to the south side of the first east-west alley north of Oakdale Drive; thence west along the south side of said alley to the east side of the first north-south alley east of Broadway; thence south along the east side of said alley, across Oakdale Drive, continuing along the east side of said alley to the north side of the first east-west alley south of Oakdale Drive; thence east along the north side of said alley to the east side of Beaver Avenue; thence south along the east side of Beaver Avenue, across Illsley Drive, continuing along the east side of Beaver Avenue to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

Surveyed for the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory in 1996 were two separate but adjacent historic districts: the Oakdale Potential Historic District, and the Arcadia-Englewood Potential Historic District. Staff of the State Historic Preservation Office later worked with Historic Preservation Planners with the City of Fort Wayne to combine the two districts, which were developed around the same time, and were similar in regards to architectural style and street character. The combined district was expanded to include adjacent areas that were related in history and character.

To the west of the district boundary, Broadway is a major commercial thoroughfare. To the south, Rudisill Boulevard is a main artery along which are several large institutions in addition to residences. To the north and east, there is a clear change of character. These areas are residential, but generally appear to have been developed earlier, and generally have less continuity and integrity than the Oakdale Historic District.