

**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 Fountain Park Chautauqua

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 6244 West County Road 1600S N/A  not for publication

city or town Remington  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Jasper code 073 zip code 47977

**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 of certifying official/Title

Date

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

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

Fountain Park Chautauqua  
Name of Property

Jasper IN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
56	22	buildings
0	0	sites
0	2	structures
3	0	objects
59	24	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**  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Camp

RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

DOMESTIC: Hotel

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

LANDSCAPE: Street Furniture/Object

RELIGION: Religious Facility

DOMESTIC: Camp

RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

DOMESTIC: Hotel

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

LANDSCAPE: Street Furniture/Object

RECREATION/CULTURE: Auditorium

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: resort cottage

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

METAL: Aluminum

roof ASPHALT

other BRICK

SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- SOCIAL HISTORY \_\_\_\_\_
- ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_
- EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_
- ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION \_\_\_\_\_
- COMMUNITY PLANNING & \_\_\_\_\_
- RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1895-1951  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1895 \_\_\_\_\_  
1909 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Indiana State Library; Union Planters Bank, Remington, IN

Fountain Park Chautauqua  
Name of Property

Jasper IN  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 17.3 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

16	486510	4514150
Zone	Easting	Northing

3 

16	486220	4513910
Zone	Easting	Northing

2 

16	486510	4513910
Zone	Easting	Northing

4 

16	486220	4514150
Zone	Easting	Northing

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 Amy Walker, Dana Groves, Historic Landmarks Foundation; Karen Stanley (Rensselaer)  
organization Historic Landmarks FOundation of Indiana date 02-26-2001  
street & number 520 East Colfax Avenue telephone (219) 232-4534  
city or town South Bend state Indiana zip code 46617

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

##### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

##### Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

##### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

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

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

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

United States Department of the Interior  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Fountain Park Chautauqua Jasper County, Indiana

Narrative Description

The Fountain Park Chautauqua is located just north of Remington, Indiana, in a predominantly agricultural area of Jasper County. However, the 17.3 acres of Fountain Park Chautauqua are heavily wooded with oak, hickory, walnut and wild cherry trees and run along Carpenter Creek.<sup>1</sup> Fountain Park contains mostly small camp cottages with a few larger buildings for educational, recreational, and residential purposes. The main entrance is situated on the north side of the circular drive, which encloses most of the camp. There is also a path that surrounds the thirty-six lot campground to the east. Six cottages and a few outbuildings, including two of the early privies, remain outside the loop created by the road.

At the center of the camp is a fountain and gazebo, thus the name "Fountain Park". Radiating around the interior circle created by the cottages are the Tabernacle, Recreation Building, Food and Candy Stands, the Art Colony and museum, and the Well House and Brick Shelter. The Brick Shelter is an original feature of Fountain Park. Interspersed among the buildings are shuffleboard/bowling lanes, a basketball court, a playground, a series of benches/swings, and a variety of flower planters, two stone ones date back to 1932 when there was a beautification program for the Park.<sup>2</sup> The only public structure not located within the circle of the other public buildings is the hotel which is on the west side of the grounds but within the confines of the road and in line with the cottages.

The design of the grounds themselves contributes strongly to the integrity of the district, and they are counted as a contributing site. The meandering perimeter road and the choice of the Fountain Park Company to site cottages along the perimeter road has shaped and created a distinct space. A number of trees were evidently planted to shade individual cottages, especially Catalpa trees. Catalpas were a popular street tree in the 1800 and 1900s; their broad leaves provide good shade and their flowers give a pleasant sweet scent in early summer. Two individual boulder stone planters are distinct enough to count as contributing objects. All the other contributing items are buildings.

Fountain Park Chautauqua was founded in 1895 by Robert Parker and by 1898 the first permanent cottage was built. By 1917 there were forty-eight cottages located there.<sup>3</sup> The fact that Fountain Park began constructing permanent shelters so quickly after its founding sets this chautauqua apart from others that relied primarily on tents when camp was in session.

The cottages were built on small lots and placed very close together (photo 10). The standard style of cottage construction was: one and a half stories high with a gable front and a one story open front porch (photo 13). The front façade usually contained a door and a window on the main floor and a single window centered in the gable above. Because of the small lots, the cottages were usually twice as deep as they were wide. Cottage number 32 is a good example of this style in its pure form (photo 32). As is typical with cottage architecture, there is very little decoration for these houses although a couple of them do have Gothic Revival traits on their facades: bargeboard trim, window hoods and arched windows. The cottages were also built for use during the camp meetings, which were held in the summer. Because of this limited use, very few of the cottages have fireplaces or chimneys. However, there are a few at Fountain Park that do (photo 15).

Over time variations of the cottage style have developed. Most have enclosed the front porch to provide additional living space and some have grown to two stories (photos 8, 11). If the lots were wide or deep enough, the excess land was used to construct kitchens, bathrooms, or extra bedrooms although most of the additions kept with the appropriate scale. A few cottages were designed so that the gabled ends are now on the sides. Most of the newer construction has been confined to the south end of the camp on the far side of the road, although a few have permeated the main circle. Despite the fact that not all of the cottages are officially viewed as "contributing", these variations are important in the history of Fountain Park Chautauqua because they show the evolution of the

<sup>1</sup> Wooden, Helen O'Riley. *Fountain Park Chautauqua: Oldest in Midwest* p.1

<sup>2</sup> Walker, Amy. Series of interviews with Karen Stanley July 6, 2000 Interview.

<sup>3</sup> Plat Map of Fountain Park, 1917.



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Fountain Park Chautauqua Jasper County, Indiana

### Narrative Description (continued)

camp's 105 year existence as families grew and as technological advances were made with the addition of electricity and indoor plumbing.

Fountain Park Chautauqua includes a total of 60 contributing resources and 24 non-contributing resources. The cottages at Fountain Park were only intended for seasonal use. Owners have sided cottages in modern materials, enlarged porches, built kitchen additions or made other alterations to them. Determination of contributing status for the cottages and buildings was based on the following criteria: apparent age of construction (prior to 1950), and at least one of the following characteristics: retention of original massing, original exterior wall or walls exposed to view despite siding or porch additions; or a combination of these. In many cases, vinyl or aluminum sided cottages have original front walls with wood siding exposed under the porch roof. Even though the porches on these cottages were in some cases enlarged or rebuilt, so long as the original massing of the cottage was evident, they were given contributing status.

Non-contributing buildings on the grounds are not out of scale with the historic structures. More recent cottages may have a lower roof pitch, or may be constructed of concrete block. One structure has a different form, that of an A-frame design, yet, it is compatible in scale to its neighbors. More importantly, all of the non-contributing cottages are sited on lots intended for dwellings, so that they have setbacks, alignments, and orientation similar to the historic ones. The tabernacle (building C) is a good example of how later buildings can be non-historic while still maintaining tradition. In 1895, the association built a wooden rectangular tabernacle on this exact location. In 1960, they demolished the old tabernacle and built the current one. The current tabernacle, however, is wooden-sided, gable-roofed building of roughly the same dimensions as its predecessor.

### **Descriptions:**

The Brick Shelter This is an open air structure on a concrete foundation that was built in the early years of Fountain Park although no exact date is known. There are four brick piers that support the exposed king post trusses of the gable roof. Originally there was a water tank/pump here but it was moved to the north and then the area was used for socializing (photo 20).

The Hotel This building was constructed in 1898 and is situated on the northwest side of the camp. It originally had 36 rooms, although 5 were lost to accommodate indoor bathrooms, and a 130-seat dining room.<sup>4</sup> The Hotel, like the cottages, is of a very simple style. It is L-shaped with seven bays on the south and east facades. One bay marks a doorway with a transom light above and the other six bays are four over four windows. There is a hipped roof, with two large dormers at the ends of the east-west section, that covers the two story open porches that surround the building. Support posts run the entire two stories and the second level has simple square balusters with a handrail. The porch on the main floor was enclosed on the northeast corner to allow extra space in the dining room. There is an exterior stairway at the southwest corner of the porch that has the same square post railing as the porch upstairs (photos 1-5).

The Tabernacle Although this is not the original structure it remains in the same location within the circle of cottages as the one built before 1895.<sup>5</sup> It is a rectangular shaped building with vertical wood siding and a gable roof. The sides can be removed to allow for better ventilation. Large red, white, and blue awnings can be extended from the sides to provide additional shelter for extra participants. There are a few remaining portions of wall that have large openings that are protected by boards which can be raised to

<sup>4</sup> Stanley, Karen. "The History of the Fountain Park Hotel" p.1

<sup>5</sup> Wooden, p.1

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Fountain Park Chautauqua Jasper County, Indiana

"open up" the tabernacle.<sup>6</sup> The entryway is along the west façade and opens onto a central aisle that terminates at the stage, which was retained from the original Tabernacle. There are theater style seats that can hold 232 audience members. The ceiling structure is a series of open bowstring steel trusses and these, along with the underside of the roof, have been painted white. There are modern ceiling fans and lights suspended from the trusses (photos 16-19). The tabernacle was built in 1960 to replace the 1895 structure, and although it fits the district functionally, it is a non-contributing resource due to its age.

Entry Gate This structure was built in 1960.<sup>7</sup> It is a small rectangular shed with an exterior of limestone on the bottom and vertical wood siding on the top. A shallow pitched, hipped roof with deep overhang covers the building. There is a door on the south side and a series of fenestrations on the other three sides. The north side has two smaller openings for ventilation and both the east and west sides have larger ones for handling admissions activities. The gates to either side of the driveways have matching limestone piers with wood railings (photo 24). The entry gate is a non-contributing resource because it lacks the age to be a contributing resource.

Fountain The fountain located near the center of the camp is not original. However, throughout history of Fountain Park, there has been at least one fountain on the grounds, so it possesses symbolic significance. It appears that other fountains were located in the proximity of the current fountain. An Indiana State Historical Marker is located next to the fountain commemorating the site (photo 22).

Cottage 2 is one of the most intact dwellings on the grounds (photos 8 and 9). Likely built around 1900, this cottage is one of very few at Fountain Park to have a hip roof configuration rather than the typical gable front design. Like many cottages here, this one has footings rather than a true foundation. The flared, concave hip roof spans both the main house and the front porch. The walls are covered in wood ornamental drop siding and most windows are one-over-one wooden sash. Exterior windows have operational solid board shutters. The owner of this cottage screened in the porch at some point (perhaps in the 1940s, judging from the materials).

Cottages 15, 16 and 17 are typical homes for the district (photo 10). Number 15 and 17 are wood sided, gable fronted, and extend shotgun-like back several rooms deep. Later owners modified front porches on both homes, extending them and screening them in. The center cottage in photo 10 is a hip roofed cottage, with a shed extension for the porch.

Cottage 46 is a gable-front vernacular style with gothic revival elements shown in the 2<sup>nd</sup> story window (photo 31). The house is sided with wood, clapboard siding and features a one-story shed roof addition on the side. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor windows have been dramatically altered on the front façade. The gothic arch window in the gable front is a character-defining feature of the house.

Cottages 64, 65, 66 (photo 36). Cottages 64 and 65 are contributing structures and are similar in their 1 1/2 story gable front design. Both have enclosed porches. Cottage 66 is a non-contributing resource which is a one-story, gable front with a very low pitch with no front porch.

Cottages 69, 70, 71 are all contributing structures and have similar features (photo 38). The three cottages are gable-front and vernacular in style. All three cottages have enclosed front porches. Cottages 69 and 71 have slightly pitched shed roof additions and cottage 70, being taller than the other two, has a more pronounced pitch on the front addition. The cottages feature double-hung windows, cottage 70 having a paired, double-hung sash window in the gable front of the 2<sup>nd</sup> story.

<sup>6</sup> Davies, Sandra. National Register Nomination for Lancaster Methodist Episcopal Camp Ground Historic District, 1987.

<sup>7</sup> Nelson, p.71

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**Fountain Park Chautauqua Jasper County, Indiana**

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Long time owners at Fountain Park have speculated that some residents moved discarded nearby far buildings on to the site and then remodeled them into resort cottages. The typology and form of cottage 20 seems to lend some credence to these oral traditions. It is the only side-gabled home on the grounds, and seems to resemble a classic double-pen house more than a resort cottage. Nonetheless, number 20 is sheathed in wood drop siding like many other cottages on the grounds. Also, like a number of other Fountain Park homes, it has narrow four-over-four wooden windows. Under the shed roofed porch with wood knee walls, the front wall of the house has the classic window -door-door-window configuration. The roof is ribbed sheet metal.



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Fountain Park Chautauqua Jasper County, Indiana

The Fountain Park Chautauqua, founded in 1895, is located a mile north of Remington in Jasper County, Indiana. The land was purchased in 1893 by Remington Bank president, Robert Parker, who envisioned an annual assembly to be held for people to discuss various topics, including religion, science, and literature. Fountain Park is unique in that it has permanent dwellings and has continued in operation since its inception. Fountain Park is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. While the main focus and significance of the Chautauqua was placed on religion, it also provided education on other subjects such as science, technology, literature and the arts. The Chautauqua was also a source of entertainment for many through musical acts, plays and speakers. Recreational activities were also a part of Fountain Park. Boating, swimming, shuffleboard, and athletic contests added to the enjoyment of the attendees. The Chautauqua is significant in our nation's social history as a movement to provide cultural and educational enrichment to the people. The movement which began in 1874, spurred a tremendous popularity of the Chautauqua throughout the country. At the height of the movement, historians estimate that Chautauquas may have involved as many as 30 million people in 12,000 communities in a given summer. Fountain Park is also eligible under Criterion C for its architecture and community planning and development. Because Fountain Park's significance is not solely religious, but extends to many areas of importance, it meets Criterion Consideration A.

(Edited from Sharon Nelson's "Highlights of 100 Years of Fountain Park" unless otherwise noted)

The Chautauqua movement began in 1874 in Chautauqua, New York, as a training camp for Sunday school teachers. The idea was that of a Methodist minister and Sunday School Superintendent, John H. Vincent and Lewis Miller respectively. The two men co-founded the Chautauqua Lake Sunday School Assembly Program. This program was aimed at religious education, but expanded to include music, art, and secular education. The first chautauqua was so successful that the idea spread quickly throughout America. Independent Chautauquas, modeled after the "Mother Chautauqua" in New York, sprang up all over the country. The Chautauqua movement hit its peak about 1924-1925. From the 1880's to the Great Depression, Chautauqua was the window to cultural and educational enrichment for thousands of isolated towns from New England to the Rocky Mountains.

Only a few Chautauquas built permanent structures as Fountain Park did. Robert Parker, president of the Bank of Remington, purchased 70 acres of land in 1893, which would later house the fairgrounds and Fountain Park, and "saw its natural beauty as an ideal place for an annual, out-of-doors assembly to be held for the people of Northwestern Indiana to meet to discuss religious, scientific and literary subjects."

By the start of the first session in 1895, Mr. Parker had a tabernacle and restaurant built. The original tabernacle was in the same location as the present structure. The restaurant was small and was located on the northwest side of the tabernacle and has since been torn down. The Assembly as it was called, lasted ten days at a cost of \$1.00 a person. The Fountain Park Company was organized in 1897 with Robert Parker as president. At this time a constitution and by-laws were adopted. By 1898, a 36-room hotel had been built as well as a dam over Carpenter Creek, which formed a small lake for boating and swimming. The dam was later destroyed because it was viewed as an obstruction of water flow to Remington and other areas downstream.<sup>3</sup> Between the close of the fourth session and the opening of the fifth session, the first permanent cottage was built by the Sherman White family of Brook and the George Ball family of Kentland. As the number of cottages was growing rapidly, the cottage owners expressed the wish that all tents and cottages be placed on the outer side of the grounds and that the grove be preserved intact.

Fountain Park was becoming a popular destination with amenities which included telephone service, mail pick up and delivery, grocery service, mineral water from natural springs, tenting privileges, a hotel and restaurant. Its location, just one mile from Remington, a

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**Fountain Park Chautauqua Jasper County, Indiana**

stop on the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad line, was 42 miles west of Logansport and 100 miles southeast of Chicago. With its location and setting, Fountain Park came to be noticed as a popular resort for people in the western and northern part of the state. Hacks operated from Remington on a schedule bringing people to and from the Assembly. Hacks were drawn by a team of horses and had a long seat on either side and often had canvas shades which would protect the passengers from sun and rain. In 1901, the Pennsylvania Railroad offered special excursion rates for people to attend the Assembly. Hopes of the organizers were that Fountain Park would be recognized as a health resort because of its mineral springs and that it would be attended by people from surrounding cities wanting to get away for the summer to a healthy place.

By the turn of the century, it was noted that Fountain Park was the only Assembly in northwestern Indiana in a stretch of territory containing no large cities. Its people were beginning to realize that the assembly brought into their midst advantages which could be secured in no other way. Nationally known Temperance speakers, evangelists, politicians, poets and musicians performed at the Assembly, including ex-U.S. Senator John Ingalls, Billy Sunday, William Jennings Bryan (on four different occasions), Paul Harvey, Governor Robert M. LaFollette, World War I hero Pat O'Brien, and Mrs. Billy Sunday, the widow of the late Billy Sunday also delivered a short address. William Jennings Bryan and Pat O'Brien had the highest attendance ratings in Fountain Park's history. An address by one Senator described Fountain Park by saying, "Under the shadow of the trees, in this happy little grove, in that rude structure (tabernacle) where nothing has been done for show during these past scores of years has been gathered annually the very best and brightest men and women the world has known, and their sweetest and brightest thoughts have been expressed for us who come to listen and to learn. Here was freedom; rest for the weary; pictures of a bright future; reminiscent of joys of the past. I don't believe there ever was another thirty acres in the world where so many great and good men and women met and gave free expressions to so many great and good thoughts in the same length of time. Religion, history, romance, right living, higher aims, education, music, good fellowship; everything except the sordid aim to accumulate money, here at its highest and best."<sup>8</sup>

Until 1902, the Assembly was operated as a Christian Church project. That year steps were taken to incorporate with a capital stock of \$24,000. In 1904, a Certificate of Incorporation had been signed with the Secretary of State and Fountain Park Company had capital stock of \$30,000, which made it a joint stock company. The Fountain Park Company then leased the 30 acres from Robert Parker and his wife for the fee of \$50 per year over the next 25 years.

Many changes and improvements to Fountain Park came about in the early 1900's. In 1907, automobiles were first admitted to the grounds. The original driveway used for hacks delivering patrons to the Park was on the east side of the property where the fairgrounds were (currently Meadow North subdivision). Due to the steady and rapid increase of automobiles, in 1912 the gate on the west side of Park was opened for the use of autos only with hacks still utilizing the east gate. Eventually both of these gates were closed and the current gate at the north end of Fountain Park became the only way to enter or exit the grounds.<sup>9</sup>

On January 8, 1908, the founder, Robert Parker resigned. In May 1909 Christian and Margaret Hensler purchased the property and leased a approximately 30 acres of it for the use of Fountain Park. Later there was a lawsuit between the Hensler heirs and Fountain Park Company over the use of the land and the 30 acres was divided further into the present size of 17.3 acres. The Women's Improvement Association was organized to help in beautifying and improving the grounds and buildings in 1911. The following year, an electric light system was installed.

Unlike other Chautauquas, Fountain Park managed to stay open during the Depression and throughout both World Wars, because the residents made an extra effort to do so. As part of a fuel saving plan for the country due to World War I, all lights were turned off shortly after the evening programs of 1918. The Great Depression was the cause of the 1933 session being moved forward one week. Many Chautauquas did not even open and those Chautauquas still in operation had to move their dates to coincide with a time when the entertainers were in their area, or pay a premium to get them. An emergency meeting was held May 9, 1942, to decide if Fountain Park should go on that year. In spite of World War conditions, it was "almost unanimous that the Assembly must carry on as usual

<sup>8</sup> Walker, August 4, 2000 Interview.

<sup>9</sup> Wooden, page 8.

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**Fountain Park Chautauqua Jasper County, Indiana**

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with perhaps a more or less limited program.” Rationing put into effect due to World War II continued to hold down attendance in 1943.

Between 1956-1961 major changes occurred on the grounds: the old food stand was replaced, a new tabernacle was constructed, a new entrance gate was built on the north side of the park, a new fountain was designed, and a new recreation hall was constructed.

Other organizations have utilized Fountain Park over the years. Fowler Methodist Church continues to hold their family camp there. Different children’s groups, like the Boy and Girl Scouts and area schools, have used the grounds in the past for day camps and other events. Other organizations have retreats and additional activities there.

In 1989 a consultant from the Purdue Forestry Department made a survey of the Park trees. Among the recommendations was a very aggressive tree planting program. It was recommended that twenty-five or more new trees be planted per year in order to maintain the present setting.

Despite the fact that almost half of the buildings on the grounds of Fountain Park are non-contributing architecturally, they do add to the overall character of the Chautauqua camp. The newer cottages help to complete the ring of residences that encloses the park and provide a sense of seclusion. It is a physical manifestation of the symbolic division from the outside world that represents Chautauqua life. The non-contributing public buildings, like the cottages, help to illustrate the typical growth patterns that a functioning Chautauqua goes through. These buildings are still utilized in the everyday activities of the camp and are, therefore, important to accurately representing Fountain Park.

The Fountain Park Chautauqua continues to offer religious and educational programs as well as family entertainment and recreational activities. Church services are still an important part of Chautauqua. Other activities include art classes at the Art Colony, musical acts, talent shows, quilt shows, story-tellers, and magicians, among many others. The park has a refreshment stand, bowling, shuffleboard, a play area, recreation building, gazebo, a 500-seat tabernacle, 70 permanent cottages, trailer and camping facilities, and a 33 room hotel with dining room. An Indiana State Historical Marker is placed where the fountain once stood to commemorate the significance of Fountain Park.

**Historic Context**

At one time there was an estimated 85 Chautauquas in Indiana. Of these, only six continue the Chautauqua tradition including the cities of Columbus, Jeffersonville, Madison, Merom, Remington, and Rome City. Many of these Chautauquas are weekend festivals which include art competitions, music, crafts, and historical re-enactments.<sup>10</sup> Fountain Park Chautauqua continues in the tradition of a three-week event which includes Sunday School, church services as well as family-oriented entertainment including singing groups and bands, speakers, art classes, talent shows and other recreational activities. Fountain Park is also unique compared to other Chautauquas in that it has permanent structures that were built specifically for the Chautauqua events, including a tabernacle, recreational building, hotel and seventy cottages. Other Chautauquas still in operation include the Chautauqua Institution in New York, Bay View, Michigan, and Lakeside, Ohio.

<sup>10</sup> Kandur-Smith, pages 36-41.



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### Verbal Boundary Description

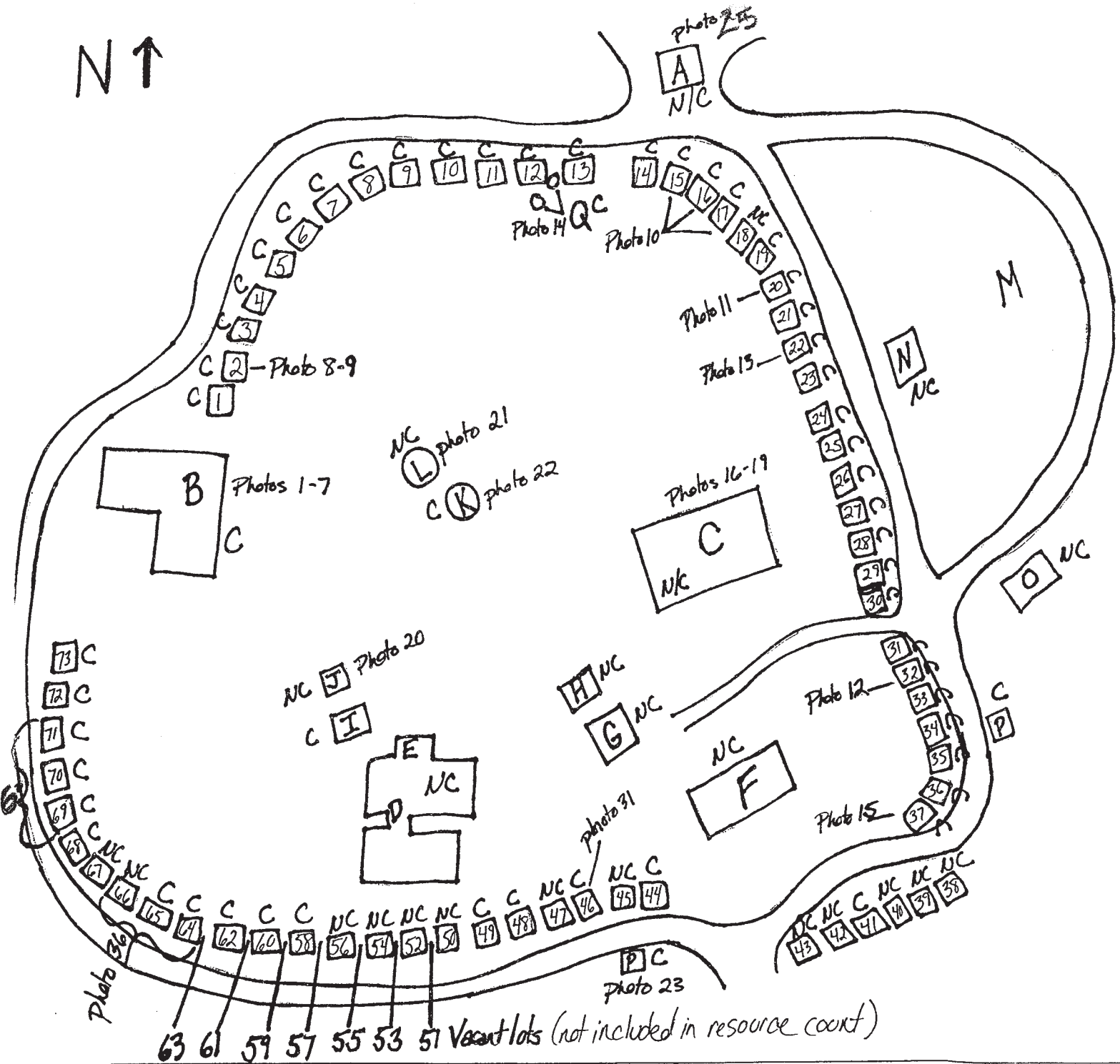
(Taken from the November 9, 1954 lease of Fountain Park land; Filed in Jasper County, Indiana Recorder's Office)

Part of the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 24, Township 27 North, Range 7 West, Jasper County, Indiana, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at an iron bar at the Northwest corner of the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of said Section 24, thence running South 1322 ½ feet to an iron bar; thence East 414 feet to and iron bar; thence North 444 feet to an iron bar; thence North 82 degrees 04 minutes East 462.61 feet to a pipe; thence North 823.2 feet to a railroad spike; thence West 870.64 feet to the place of beginning, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THAT PART THEREOF heretofore conveyed to the Town of Remington, Indiana, in the Southwest corner thereof.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the 17.3 acres that remain of the original 70 acres purchased by Robert Parker in 1893. The fairgrounds and additional acreage has been excluded because it has been developed as a residential neighborhood.

N ↑



63 61 59 57 55 53 51 Vacant lots (not included in resource count)

- A Main Gate
- B Hotel
- C Tabernacle
- D Art Studio
- E Museum
- F Recreation Building
- G Food Stand
- H Candy Stand
- I Brick Shelter
- J Well House
- K Fountain
- L Gazebo
- M Campground (not in count)
- N Restrooms
- O Maintenance Bldg.
- P Privies (2)
- Q Stone Planters (2)

**Contributing Buildings:** B, I, P(2), 1 - 17, 19 - 37, 41, 44, 46  
 48, 49, 58, 60, 62, 64, 65, 68 - 73

**Contributing Objects:** K, Q(2)

**Non-Contributing Bldgs.:** A, C, (DE), F, G, H, N, O, 18, 38-40,  
 42, 43, 45, 47, 50, 52, 54, 56, 66, 67

**Non-Contributing Structures:** J, L

**Total Contributing Resources: 59**  
**Total Non-Contributing Resources: 24**

**Ratings: C = Contributing**  
**NC = Non-Contributing**

MAP EDGES = BOUNDARY