

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Votaw, Jonas, House
other names/site number Votaw-Jacqua House

2. Location

street & number 1525 South Meridian Street N/A not for publication
city or town Portland N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Jay code 075 zip code 47371

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

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

Votaw, Jonas, House
Name of Property

Jay IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object
- landscape

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSIST: Agricultural

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: EARTH

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other:

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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

1875-1909

1875

Significant Dates

1875

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mr. Alexander & Mr. Beals (carpenters)

Burke, Jacob (mason)

Burke, Perry (mason)

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:

Owner

Votaw, Jonas, House
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	671720	4475350	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

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 Dawn Hein, for
organization Ratio Architects, Inc date 05-15-2003
street & number 760 West 141st Street telephone 317/816-0069
city or town Carmel state IN zip code 46032

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 Barry Hudson
street & number P.O. Box 701 telephone
city or town Portland state IN zip code 47371

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

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

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Jonas Votaw House
name of property

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Narrative Description

Exterior

The Jonas Votaw House, situated on a small rise among 29 acres, faces west to Meridian Street in rural Portland, Indiana. Built in 1875, this Italianate residence is constructed of brick, fired on site, and of walnut and other native woods harvested from the farm. The front gabled Italianate was built in a cross plan. Its details include a large eave, moldillioned cornice, segmental arched window hoods and a pedimented entrance. Additions were built in 1925 and 1978. In 1925, a one-story sunroom was added to the south side. In 1978, a garage was added and connected to the house by a covered walkway. Also at this time, a screened porch was added to the south elevation and a second story was added to the one-story portion on the east elevation of the house. Evidence of a full width porch on the west and a smaller one on the south elevation can be seen on the building however, the date of removal is not known.

Originally, the house was located on 80 acres south of the town proper and east of Meridian Street. Currently, the house is part of a 29 acre holding, a portion of the original. The Little Salamonie River meanders through the southwest corner of the land. The property has many mature trees as well as a small pond, a formal garden and open fields. The painted wooden barn with a metal roof, also built in 1875, is located behind the house and is currently used for storage. According to a drawing created when the house was first built and published in the Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana in 1876, the immediate landscape may have contained large formal lawns, formal gardens, a small vineyard, orchards, and many mature trees (see photocopy submitted with nomination). The house has retained its context as part of a farm just outside of the town proper. The town of Portland's boundaries have not expanded greatly in the past 100 years, maintaining its small town appearance allowing the agriculture context surrounding it to remain.

The Votaw House is constructed of common bond, red brick with a plinth banded stone foundation. The majority of windows are wood, double hung with two-over-two divided light sashes including a plain stone sill and molded wood hoods. A brick chimney is centrally located in the cruciform plan. The cross-gabled roof has asphalt shingles.

The front or west facade has a front gabled roof with overhanging eaves and a cornice supported by simple modillion blocks. The cornice has short returns that are supported by longer, paired decorative wood brackets (Photo 7). The classically pedimented entrance is located in the first bay of the west facade. A paneled door is composed of solid wood paired leaves with a segmentally arched transom. The transom is framed by entablature posts, which in turn support the open, dentilated pediment. There are four, full sized, two-over-two windows with limestone sills on the facade and one shorter two-over-two window located above the door. The shorter window was incorporated when the front porch was removed and the new entrance details added, most likely in 1925 when the sunroom was built. (Photo 1 & 2)

South of the main block is a one-story brick addition built in 1925 as a sunroom with a flat roof and a modillioned entablature to match the original façade. A single large, two-over-two, segmental arch hooded window occupies most of the addition's west façade.

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The north and south elevations were originally symmetrical, matching major architectural details (Photo 3 & 6). Due to additions and alterations, the balance has been compromised. However, the decorative elements from the front facade do carry over including the window hoods and sills, cornice and brackets. In light of the changes, the north and south elevations will be described separately to avoid confusion.

The north elevation can be divided into four sections. The eastern most section is where the second story was added to the one-story building at the rear of the house. It is differentiated from the two-story portion of the house by the use of brick in a lighter red. It projects out about six feet on the north elevation from the original two-story building and has a lower roofline. Paired brackets bookend a modillion entablature that matches the one on the original building. There are two windows located on the second floor. These single, two-over-two, arched windows have a stone sill and a two-course arched brick header.

The next section is part of the original two-story house. The first and second story have a single arched, two-over-two window centered in the bay with the same two course arched brick header and stone sill. The first floor window has been shorted to allow for a new interior kitchen layout. A former exterior staircase on the north elevation leads to the basement and runs the length of the bay. It has since been enclosed. This glass enclosure now allows covered access to the basement via a door from the rear two-story addition.

The third section, the one bay cross wing, has a gabled roof, bracketed returns, and a modillion entablature. The windows on both floors of the cross wing are more distinguished than the other windows of the house. They are paired one-over-one, rounded arch windows with a molded hood and stone sill on each floor. A roundel is located in the overriding arch between the molded hood and the top of the paired window arches. Original descriptions of the house indicate that the roundel glass was originally red in color. It is currently clear.

Finally, the westernmost section continues with the same cornice and entablature as previously described. The north elevation has a single, segmental arch hooded window centered on the second floor. Originally, a one-story porch wrapped around the house from the north cross wing continuing along the front façade to the south cross wing. This may have been removed in 1925 when the conservatory was built.

The south elevation can also be divided into four sections. The westernmost section of the south elevation is where the conservatory was added in 1925 (Photo 5&6). The one-story conservatory has a flat roof and modillion entablature. It has two large, two-over-two, arched windows on its south face with stone sills. The second story of the original house has a single two-over-two window with segmental arched hood and stone sill.

The next section is the projecting cross wing, which is identical to the cross wing on the north elevation with the more decorative paired windows. The third section contains a one-story screened porch projecting from the south elevation approximately twenty feet with a flat roof and modillion entablature. A continuation of the wrap around porch was indicated in this location from the 1876 drawing. The screened porch, added in 1978, has three, screened, arched openings and a modillion entablature. A screen door is located on the east side of the enclosure. A brick patio with two stairs to grade level extends from the porch eastward past the rear, second story addition. A three-sided, one-story

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enclosure connects the kitchen, screened porch and the rear addition. Each face has an arched transom with paired, elongated rectangular windows below. The wood and glass enclosure has a flat roof and a modillion entablature, which meets up with the cornice of the screened porch. There are two, two-over-two windows visible above the one story porch located on the second story of the house delineated by a two-course brick header and stone sill. The first floor also had two windows that have been converted into doorways allowing access to the porch.

The last section of the south elevation is the rear two-story addition to the house. The original one-story building attached to the house was smaller than the its present size as can be seen in the original drawing. At one point, the servants quarters were converted into an attached garage as evidenced by the east façade. The original, exterior brick wall on the south elevation was retained and utilized to provide a hallway to the space. This elevation now has two, two-over-two windows on the second floor with a two-course brick header and stone sill. The first floor has a single door with a divided transom above leading into the hall.

The east elevation includes the 1978 second-story addition (Photo 4). It has a front gabled roofline with plain entablature and bracketed returns. A triple arched window with stone sill and two-row decorative brick header is centered on the second story elevation. The first story has two openings identical in size. The south opening is a people door with two, six pane divided sidelights over a bead board inset, arched divided transom light, and a two-course decorative brick header. The door leads from the house to the covered walkway. The wood arcade connects the house to the garage. The north opening includes a pair of oversized hinged doors with an arched divided transom and a two-course decorative brick header. Once open these doors would provide an opening wide enough for a car. Both doors have a nine-light divided window in the upper half and an inset of vertical bead board below.

A single window can be seen above the screen porch, on the second story of the original two-story house. The two-over-two arched window has a stone sill and two-course brick header. The gabled roof has a simple cornice and bracketed returns. The one-story screened porch attached to the south elevation is four bays wide with screened arched openings. A door is located in the third bay and leads out to the pie shaped brick terrace. Finally, the projecting wing is one bay wide and does not have any openings on this elevation.

Interior

The original first floor plan, arranged symmetrically in a cross, consisted of the foyer, formal parlor, sitting room or library, dining room and kitchen with a one-story servant's quarters behind the kitchen. In 1925, a conservatory was added to the south elevation and connected to the formal parlor and sitting room, where a portion of the original wrap around porch once stood. The second floor contained the family bedrooms. Two bathrooms were added to the second floor in 1925, one in the master bedroom at the top of the stairs and the other open to the hallway. In 1978, a second-story was added above the servant's quarters. This second floor addition of the house is connected to the original by a short hall and several stairs leading down into the new space.

One enters the Votaw House through the paired outer front doors and into a small vestibule flanked by a closet on either side. A single, glazed and paneled door with transom leads into the entry hall from the vestibule. A corner turn staircase is located to the left and the formal parlor to the right (Photos 8, 9). A dining room and a

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library/sitting room are situated in the cross wings with the kitchen behind them. The kitchen was remodeled in 1978 and original materials do not remain. An enclosed, screened porch was added off the south end of the kitchen extending toward the back of the house in 1978. Through a hallway created by the porch, access is now gained to what were once servant's quarters. This space is now used for storage and as a rec room. The current uses of the first floor rooms have changed slightly with the current owners. The current family uses the former dining room as the family room and the former sitting room as the dining room. The other uses remain the same. Although some room uses have changed, the plan itself remains intact.

It seems likely that the second floor originally had five bedrooms. The master bedroom in the front of the house, a bedroom in each cross wing and two in the rear. The second floor has seen more change than the first as it is now connected to the second floor addition. A hallway runs through a former rear bedroom reducing the bedroom's size and now connects into the second floor rear addition. Other changes include the addition of two bathrooms in 1925. The first is located in the master bedroom at the top of the stairs. It was fitted into a space most likely a former adjoining dressing room. The second was added in the rear of the original house in what was most likely the smaller of the two rear bedrooms. The plumbing fixtures from 1925 have not survived but have since been updated.

Important original interior architectural details include: the door and window surrounds; double leafed doors, plaster ceiling designs on the first and second floors, sections of original wood flooring, fireplaces, and the walnut staircase and newel post. The staircase detail sets the tone for the rest of the interior with its impressive newel post and applied floral designs on the side of each stair. According to the Indianapolis Star article from 1931, the walnut newel post was carved from a single piece of wood. The tapered newel post has an eight-sided base and mid-section topped by a turned cap. The walnut balusters are elaborately turned, designed to mimic the newel post (Photos 9, 10).

A portion of the original yellow pine floor still exists in the house at the top of the front staircase where the rectangular wooden pegs are visible. The wood door and window casings have a shouldered molding, some with one, two or three notches along the verticals depending on its location in the house. Each room has a slightly different trim detail. The window trim is curved to follow the outline of the arched top of the window. The interior door trim comes to a slight point in the center above the transom with two notches along the vertical, one at the top and one just above the baseboard. The front door surround is the most elaborate with three notches along the vertical and arched top with keystone. Other trim in the house includes an approximately 8 inch high baseboard and egg-and-dart ceiling molding in the sitting room/library (Photos 8, 13, 18).

The windows on both floors have the original interior wood louvered shutters and hardware in place. The paired set of shutters are arched to fit the window frame. The doors have working divided transom windows, some with a decorative leaded glass insert. Double leafed paneled doors are a common feature in the house (Photos 12, 17, 18).

The ceiling plasterwork continues the high level of decoration found throughout the residence. All of the ceilings are approximately 14'-0" in height. The ceiling in the formal parlor has a concentric circular molding centered in a

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large rectangle frame. The bedroom at the top of the staircase has an elaborate ceiling design as well. A delicate plaster, floral centerpiece is placed inside a square frame molding turned 45 degrees. A larger picture box with concave curved corners framing the entire ceiling plane (Photos 11, 16).

The two fireplaces, located in the dining room and the sitting room, share a common chimney (Photos 14, 15). The fireplace in the original dining room has a decoratively carved wood mantelpiece with a pedimented over-mantle and mirror and is still in working order. The other fireplace is less intricate with a brick opening and a simple wood mantle. The mantle has been painted to look like marble but this is not original. The kitchen was completely remodeled in 1978 and it was most likely at this time that the cooking hearth located here was removed along with the chimney.

A covered walkway runs from the house to the one-and-a-half story garage and is seven bays wide. The two-and-a-half car garage is an end gabled, vertical wood sided structure. The walkway leads to a door, identical in description to that of the door leading to the house. The two, wood garage doors have bead board fronts divided into four sections and arched, framed openings. The north and south facades are identical with two, arched windows on the first level divided into four lights by wood muntins. The second floor has a single, centered window, which is smaller in scale but of the same description. A horizontal wood band delineates the first and second floors. The asphalt, shingled roof has a decorative row of red rosettes centered in a band of fish scale shaped shingles on the east and west slopes. A decorative iron cresting tops the roofline (Photos 19 & 20).

Located behind the garage approximately 100 feet is the wood-constructed barn (Photos 21-25). The Prairie or Western style barn sits on a stone foundation with larger boulders supporting the east end. The building is built on a slope, which allows for a one-story and two-story section. A gabled, corrugated metal roof covers the vertical, wooden plank barn. The wood used to build the barn is walnut, hand hewn and harvested from the surrounding woods. Doors are located on the west, east and north elevations while four rectangular, single pane windows can be found on the east elevation. This one story section of the barn along the east side contains animal stalls. The south elevation has a small lean-to, which is open at each end, running the length of the barn. The barn interior reveals an exposed all wood construction consisting of heavy beam timbers which supports the large two-bay barn. The first bay contains a loft on the north end accessed by a wooden ladder while the second bay has a single step up to a large open space. The bays are divided by wooden support posts. The main two-story barn building is connected to the lean-to by a large framed opening. The one story animal stalls are separated from the main open threshing floor and accessed by a single door.

Both the exterior and interior features are highly detailed in the Italianate style typifying this time in Portland's history as a prosperous one. The Votaw House embodies the Italianate style and represents an important time in architectural history for this area. The architectural integrity is well preserved for both the exterior and interior features and details.

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Statement of Significance

The Jonas Votaw House is significant for its high style Italianate architecture in the small developing agricultural community of Portland, Indiana. Its architectural significance is demonstrated by its inclusion as an outstanding example of the Italianate style in the Jay County Interim Report. Cited as one of the most beautiful homes in Indiana in a feature article by The Indianapolis Star in 1931, the Votaw House was built in 1875 by masons Jacob and Perry Burke and carpenters Alexander and Beals. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Italianate style through its vertical emphasis, cross plan, bracketed cornice and molded window hoods. The Votaw House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as an outstanding example of Italianate style architecture in Jay County.

This house was built by Jonas Votaw in the year 1875 and remained in the Votaw family until 1909 when it was sold to Alonzo L. Jaqua. The house remained in the Jaqua family until 1985, when it was sold to Citizen's Bank. The Jaqua's were a prominent family in Portland involved in business, government and education. These endeavors included: the Citizens Bank established in 1875; The Hawkins House, a hotel built in 1883; as well as including the A.L. Jaqua & C. Hays Addition to Portland on September 7, 1876. Due to the Jaqua's long association with the house and the family's prominent position within the community, the house is also known as the Votaw-Jaqua House.

The house Votaw built in 1875 demonstrated his position and stature in Portland and Jay County's society. Jonas Votaw was a prominent citizen who held many influential offices and was an early landowner in the county. At the age of 23, he traveled to Richmond, Indiana from Ohio, where he heard about a government land office opening in Fort Wayne, thus beginning his venture into land speculation. This venture eventually brought Mr. Votaw to Jay County, Indiana, where he held many prestigious positions of influence both locally and nationally, which included educational, financial and political appointments. He moved to Portland in 1842.

Votaw, nominated by the Whig party in 1841, was elected as Jay County treasurer. He was reelected for three consecutive terms. A few years later in 1845, he was appointed as the treasurer of the Jay County library fund.¹ He resigned this post in 1853 when he was elected treasurer of the Cincinnati, Union & Fort Wayne Railroad, which dissolved without ever building tracks in 1863.² This railroad would have been extremely important to the land locked town of Portland as a connection to other cities and delivery of goods. In 1861, Jonas Votaw was appointed by Governor Oliver P. Morton as director of the Northern Indiana State Prison, located in Michigan City, Indiana. He also held the postmaster position at the last post office established in Jay County at College Corner in 1862.

¹ *Jay County Commissioners' Record*, (Volume A, December term, 1845), 386.

² *Biographical and Historical Record of Jay and Blackford Counties, Indiana*, (The Lewis Publishing Company, 1887), 299-300.

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Votaw held several nationally significant posts. One as a committee chairman appointed by the United States Congress. "Mr. Votaw was appointed chairman of a commission by a congress of the United States, said commission being to partition the Me-shin-go-me-sia Reservation in Grant and Wabash counties, Indiana, under Act of Congress of June 1, 1872."³ The second in 1884, when he was chosen as a delegate from the Eleventh Congressional District of Indiana to represent said district in the National Republican convention that convened in Chicago, June 3, 1884.⁴

By 1876, the northernmost east-west street in Portland was named after Votaw.⁵ This street runs along the southern boundary of the county's fairgrounds, located on land once owned by him. He also served as director and president of the county fair grounds for several years.⁶ Votaw continued to be a large landowner in Jay County as shown in a land atlas of Jay County, dated 1881, depicting his holdings at a total of 440 acres in the surrounding Portland area.⁷ Jonas married for a third time in 1875 and it was at this point in his life at the age of 62, that he built his Italianate style home as part of an 80 acre farm just south of Portland.

The Italianate style developed first in England as part of the Picturesque reaction to the more formal, classical architecture that had been popular up to that point. Its influence came from the rambling farmhouses and country villas of Italy. A modified indigenous version of the more classical forms found in Europe developed here in America.⁸ Emerging in the late 1830's and 40's and lasting into the early 1880's, the Italianate style combined various classical details into one form. It also has many different faces including the less formal Romanesque villa to high style Renaissance Revival townhouses and commercial buildings. However, these variations all share identifying features, which include: brackets; round-headed arches found on windows and doors; square towers; and wrap around, covered porches.⁹ The Italianate style is often included under the heading of "Victorian" in America and while related to Gothic Revival, the Italianate variant was immensely more popular and enduring especially in the Midwest, keeping closer ties to classical traditions.

Plan books and builder's guides as well as magazines popularized this style across the country, making it available to the masses. The most prominent pattern books were produced by Andrew Jackson Downing published in the 1840's and 50's. Both brick and wood were used as building materials and most details, such as brackets were added for visual acuity. Building materials were used to express mass and emphasize heaviness. The elevation emphasis is on the vertical and its plan view can be either symmetrical or asymmetrical in form although the asymmetrical is the most common. The adaptable design of the Italianate style contributed to its nationwide appeal.

3 *Biographical and Historical Record of Jay and Blackford Counties, Indiana*, (The Lewis Publishing Company, 1887), 301.

4 *Biographical and Historical Record of Jay and Blackford Counties, Indiana*, (The Lewis Publishing Company, 1887), 301.

5 *The New Sectional & Township Map of Indiana*, (Chicago: Baskin, Forster & Co., 1876), 21.

6 *Biographical and Historical Record of Jay and Blackford Counties, Indiana*, (The Lewis Publishing Company, 1887), 301.

7 *Historical Hand-Atlas of the World including Jay County*, (Chicago: HH Hardesty & Co. Publishers, 1881), 180.

8 Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 2000), 212.

9 Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture*, (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992), 189.

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The years between the founding of Portland in 1837 and the arrival of the railroad in 1871 were a period of sluggish growth in this isolated community. With the advent of the railroad, business and development grew at a steady pace in Portland. This residence, a later example of the Italianate style, was built during this economic boom. The greatest amount of Jay County's historic architecture dates from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when the county's economic growth was at its highest level. The Italianate style in Indiana was most popular in rural agricultural areas and small towns during the years between 1855-1885. Of the 82 outstanding residential survey listings in Jay County only 9 are Italianate. In Portland and Wayne Township, only three Italianate residences are labeled outstanding, of which the Jonas Votaw house is one.

The Votaw House demonstrates the elements of the Italianate style with its deep eaves, heavy bracket work, modillion entablature, hooded arched windows as well as tall, narrow window openings. The elongated cross plan of the Votaw house is more formal and balanced than asymmetrical, tending toward the classical. The two other outstanding examples of the Italianate style in Wayne Township are more asymmetrical in form, one of brick the other wood. The brick constructed Votaw House sits prominently on a small rise, overlooking the surrounding area emphasizing its prominence. Its interior details match that of the exterior in a high degree of finish and form. The curved walnut staircase and railing, ceiling medallions and plaster work, trim details, and double leafed doors with transoms show the design's attention to detail and emphasis on designing an integral Italianate country house.

The two other outstanding listings, located in the Fulton Historic District in Portland, were built in 1885, ten years after the Votaw House. This historic district was built up by some of the most prominent families in Portland, making these examples prime comparisons for the Votaw House. A few of the other outstanding examples listed in the interim report date to the same time period as the Votaw House but these exhibit a lesser degree of detail and a simpler overall form. A few of the outstanding listings were part of a farm context like the Votaw House, however, they too do not have the same level of detail. The two houses in the Fulton Historic District, one of brick located on East High Street, and the other of wood clapboard siding, located on East Main Street, are in a larger part more comparable. Unfortunately, since the survey conducted in 1985, the integrity of the house located on East Main Street has been severely compromised by several major changes to the front façade.

The brick house on East High Street has retained its integrity. It was also designed in a cross plan but somewhat less pronounced and with a more asymmetrical massing. The house has a two-story, three sided bay window projection on the front façade. The windows are one-over-one. The East High Street house has rectangular windows but includes a segmental brick arch with a keystone as a header. The Votaw House has a higher degree of detail with its two-over-two, rounded head windows with molded hoods. The Votaw House and the East High Street house share similar cornice and fascia board details however, the East High Street house employs a less stately design. The front door of the Votaw House is a heavily molded, paired ensemble with arched transom above. In comparison, the East High Street house has two simply designed, single doors, one on the projecting center section and another on the small cross wing, not a formally stated entrance like the Votaw House. The use of the cross plan for the Votaw House is a less commonly used design adding visual interest and a unique character. While the Votaw house has seen some additions and changes dating from 1925 and 1978, the house retains an overwhelming amount of its Italianate character and distinctive interior finish.

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Through his involvement in various political, educational and business endeavors, Jonas Votaw actively assisted in Jay County's development and growth. He held roles in local, state and national politics from postmaster to national congressional delegate. Jonas Votaw was a significant person in Indiana and Jay County's history and his residence in Portland was a symbol of his importance. A hand drawn depiction of the Votaw House was included in the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana* in 1876. In 1931, when the *Indianapolis Star* article was written, the Votaw House was still a prominent home in the local area, even admired and held in esteem as far as the state's capitol. The house has retained its architectural and contextual integrity and its is a well-developed and significant example of Italianate residential architecture in rural Indiana.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Votaw house is located in the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 28, Township 23 North, Range 14. The boundary contains approximately 2 acres. The line runs along the north edge of the driveway to five feet east of the barn. Continuing south to a line five feet south of the residence the boundary continues west to five feet west of the front facade closing to the intersection of the beginning line at the north edge of the driveway.

Boundary Justification

The described boundary for the Votaw House includes the house, garage and barn. This parcel is located within the currently owned 29 acres, which was part of the original 80 associated with the house.

16 G717AC 4/11/1950
JONAS VOTAW HOUSE
PORTLAND, INDIANA

