

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 **Souder, Dr. Christopher, House**

other names/site number _____ 183-510-16028

2. Location

street & number **214 W. Main Street** _____ N/A not for publication

city or town **Larwill** _____ N/A vicinity

state **Indiana** _____ code **IN** _____ county **Whitley** _____ code **183** _____ zip code **46764**

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

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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

METAL

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1877-c.1910

Significant Dates

1877

c.1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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.)

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:

Souder, Dr. Christopher, House
Name of Property

Whitley IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

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

1

16	615130	4559220
Zone	Easting	Northing

2

Zone	Easting	Northing

3

Zone	Easting	Northing

4

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 Sue Becher Gilliam

organization _____ date 09-23-2004

street & number 10166 Lakewood Dr. telephone 317/ 873-3758

city or town Zionsville state IN zip code 46077

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Lore Wolfe

street & number 214 W. Main St. telephone 260/ 327-3326

city or town Larwill state IN zip code 46764

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
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

DR. CHRISTOPHER SOUDER HOUSE
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

Narrative Description

The Dr. Christopher Souder House is located in Richland Township, Whitley County, which is in the northeastern corner of Indiana. Richland was organized in 1838 prior to the formation of Whitley County. It was so named because of the fertile soil and huge stands of trees, which supported a bustling lumber trade. Today, Larwill is the only town within the township. It is located on the south side of US 30, a major highway that cuts through the center portion of the county. The Dr. Christopher Souder House, 214 West Main Street, was constructed on the south side of Main Street (SR 5) at the west end of the town of Larwill. It sits close to the road on $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of land. The other structure on the property is a modern garage that is not attached to the house and is considered noncontributing. A small dilapidated outbuilding, possibly a carriage house, was removed over forty years ago. The stately Italianate style house is of brick construction completed in 1877. Ornate exterior details remain as does the original footprint of the house. Typical of the Italianate style of architecture, the exterior window and door details are arched. That design detail continues throughout the interior with the use of arched and curved walls. The interior and the exterior retain a high degree of integrity making the Dr. Christopher Souder House architecturally significant and eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of property is a flat parcel of land slightly above grade from the road. A gravel driveway extends from the road past the west side of the house to the detached garage to the rear (Photograph 1). A few mature trees are in front and along side the house and shrubs and small trees line the perimeter of the property. The house is two stories tall, brick constructed in a symmetrical cross plan. The roof has modern asphalt shingles. A shallow hipped roof reaches out over wide-overhanging eaves and a deep paneled fascia board, which is articulated with large widely-spaced decorative single brackets. Between the heavy brackets, smaller and simpler modillions fill the space (Photograph 2). The elevation of the rear portion of the house, the location of the kitchen on the first floor and three rooms on the second is lower than the front of the house (Photograph 3). This step down in elevation is also evident in the simpler ornamentation on this rear portion of the house. Here, under the eaves, a smaller single bracket is located at the corners and one in the center of each of the three rear walls with dentils in between.

The front façade of the cross plan, which is a compound-plan house, is three-ranked with the entrance offset. The hipped-roof cross plan was not a principle subtype of the Italianate style.¹ According to *A Field Guide to American Houses*, the cross of the plan, which extended out past the main body of the

¹ *A Field Guide to American Houses*, p. 211.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

DR. CHRISTOPHER SOUDER HOUSE
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

house, was added to allow for additional light and ventilation into the rear of the building.² The cross of the plan was frequently the depth of a single window or door. On the Dr. Christopher Souder House, each end of the cross has a door on the first floor and a window on the second. Adding to the length of the cross are two, two story bays with windows (Photograph 4).

The windows of the front portion of the house are one-over-one wood windows--the original window units. These windows are topped with decorative pressed-metal hoods. The hoods are pedimented with segmental arches. In the center of each arch is a star in a keystone-type element. The lower rear portion of the house has the original two-over-two windows with simple stone lintels.

The decorative pressed-metal hood is also present over the double-entry doors, a frequently found embellishment on Italianate-style houses. The segmental arch of the hood frames a top light above the wood doors. Each door has a full arch window pane and a square panel trimmed in heavy molding (Photograph 5). The width of the solid masonry exterior wall at the door opening has allowed for a paneled treatment of the door jambs. Within the top light, the surface is paneled with molding. The vertical surface on either side of the double doors and the outer screen doors is detailed with a narrow full-arch panel and a rectangular panel below. The wood screen doors were recently installed and are sympathetic to the architectural style of the house. Single entry doors are also on either end of the full-width porch, entering into the cross of the plan. The single doors mimic the front double doors in that they also have the pressed-metal hood and large segmental arch top lights. Each wood door has two narrow full-arch window panes with paneling below. One additional door is located at the rear portion of the house. This door, a simpler version of the other doors, is to the kitchen and had been located at a side porch (Photograph 6). That porch no longer remains but ghost marks on the brick could be used to replace it.

The likely heavily ornamented porch posts and frieze typical of an Italianate-style porch no longer remain. The existing full-width front porch has a shallow pitched hipped roof with no ornamentation of the eave and fascia. The porch posts now consist of single short Doric columns on rough-faced concrete block pedestals. Supported by a concrete block foundation and concrete floor, the design of the porch suggests it was constructed c.1910.

² Ibid, p. 226.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

DR. CHRISTOPHER SOUDER HOUSE
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

The solid masonry house sits on a foundation of square-cut stone of varying hues. The low stone foundation is topped with a stone watertable. Access to the basement is from the kitchen. There is also a coal chute on the west side of the house and a bulkhead on the south.

The interior foyer of the Dr. Christopher Souder House is graceful in its detailing. Of particular note is the front stairs—a rounded style of staircase that curves up to the second story (Photograph 7). The balustrade makes a very tight curl as the stairs reverse themselves in direction. Here the quality of the craftsmanship is evident in the attention to detail as the ends of the stair treads are curved to follow the curve of the balustrade (Photograph 8). Curled-filigree decorative pieces applied to the ends of each step follow the line of the staircase. The newel post, which anchors the balustrade at the foot of the stairs, has deep profiles and consists of several shapes such as an octagonal base, conical midsection and an orbital top. The long narrow foyer ends at the rear wall of staircase, the floor is wood, the walls plaster and the door surrounds are heavy with multiple molding profiles. A chandelier hangs from an intricate plaster-molded rosette in front of the double doors.

Two doors exit off of the foyer. The first door enters into the front parlor which is to the east of the stairs. The ceiling heights in the parlor and the other two rooms that make up the public space of the house are 11 feet tall. In the parlor, the ceiling has crown molding and the walls have a picture rail. Wide wood molding surrounds the door and window frames, which has been painted. A small chandelier with plaster rosette is in the center of the room. The masonry wall at the doorway at the rear of the room is 16 1/2 inches in depth, as is the doorway at the rear of the foyer. The jambs of the doorways are trimmed with paneled wood. The next two rooms, which the two doorways lead to, are positioned within the cross of the house's plan. The room behind the front parlor is smaller than the adjacent room, the dining room. The ceiling is its original height, there is no crown molding but the room does have a picture rail. The wide wood trim has been painted green and a new wood floor has been added. Three long windows fill the bay that faces east and a single entry door leads to the porch (Photograph 9). A fireplace is on the rear wall. It appears to be of stone that is faux-painted a black color. The firebox is detailed with a full arch infilled with an intricate-patterned metal grate. A crest or shield element is affixed above the arch.

The other room within the cross, the dining room, is separated from the other by a large opening with two wood-paneled pocket doors. The rear door of the foyer leads to this room. This room also has a bay, but on the west side of the house. As with the other bay, the wall space between the bottom of the windows and the floor is paneled in wood. The wood trim in this room, other than the window sashes, remains faux-grained. Between the door to the foyer and the single entry door to the porch is a closet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

DR. CHRISTOPHER SOUDER HOUSE
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

beneath the stairs. A nearly identical fireplace is also in the dining room on the rear wall (Photograph 10).

Behind the dining room is the kitchen. New cabinets, counters and appliances have been installed while the original chair rail and wainscoting were retained. The remodeling was completed in a manner that compliments the architecture of the house. The enclosed back stairs is against the rear wall of the house. An alcove in the kitchen with window and half-arched ceiling under the stairway provides access to the basement stairs (Photograph 11).

The influence of arches and curves continues as the front stairs are ascended. The wall curves as the stairs turn to the second story. In the middle of the curved wall is a niche. The niche has an arched top and a radius to its depth (Photograph 12). The curved wall continues to the top of the stairs where it transitions into the west hallway wall with a tight radius. At the top of the stairs is a small sitting area. The two windows in the sitting area have built-in interior wood-paneled shutters. Also of note, the interior side of the upper window sashes has a segmental-arch in the wood frame while the exterior side of the sashes does not (Photograph 13). Plaster walls, original ceiling heights, wood floors, heavy wood moldings, and doors with transoms have been maintained throughout the second floor.

The east wall of the upstairs hall begins with an S-curve that leads to the doorway of the front bedroom (Photograph 14). The curves are also reflected on the interior wall surface of the bedroom. The hallway continues towards the back of the house. At the point where the hall passes through the brick load-bearing wall of the cross portion of the house, a full arch adorns the top of the opening. Behind the front bedroom and staircase are two bedrooms, which are across the hall from each other. The bedrooms are situated in the cross of the house. The bedroom on the east side has two curved walls flanking the door (Photograph 15). Faux-wood graining is particularly evident on the upstairs doors. The room on the west side also has a curved wall and a fireplace like the two downstairs.

Beyond the two bedrooms the hallway comes to a door with transom. This door leads to the rear portion of the house. Because its elevation is lower from the front of the house, there are two steps down at the doorway. Deep wood trim with paneled molding lines the doorway depth through the brick wall. Past the doorway, the hallway takes a jog. On the east side are two small rooms, one of which is used as the bathroom, and on the west is a larger room (Photograph 16). These upper story rooms may have been used by a servant or for Dr. Souder's medical practice. Light enters the end of the hallway and back staircase from a window on the rear wall. Again the hallway wall transitions to the interior staircase wall with a radius.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 & 8 Page 5

DR. CHRISTOPHER SOUDER HOUSE
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

The house's construction was completed in 1877 at the height of the Italianate style's popularity. An excellent example of that style, the Dr. Christopher Souder House is also significant because of its unaltered cross plan form. On the exterior, much of what makes an Italianate distinctive remains, only the front porch has been changed. A very high level of integrity also exists in the interior. Woodwork, ceiling heights, doors and windows, room sizes, fireplaces, curved and arched wall treatments--all are extant. The design, shape and materials of the house remain very intact.

Statement of Significance

National Register Criterion C is met because of the architectural significance of the Dr. Christopher Souder House in Larwill, a small town not far from the county seat. The house is very intact on the exterior and interior and the interesting design element of curves and arches in the treatment of wall surfaces makes it a complex example of the Italianate style. Two important dates mark the period of significance, the date of completion, 1877, and the date of the front porch's replacement, c.1910.

Italianate houses frequently used arches as an exterior design element but the Dr. Christopher Souder House has had those elements expressed on the interior as well. The application of arches, curved wall surfaces, wall edges with radiuses to the interior treatment and the installation of a rounded stairway with balustrade are important contributions to the architectural significance of the house. Those design elements, more labor intensive to execute than a flat wall treatment, raise the level of refinement of this small town doctor's house. Neither researchers nor owners have been able to locate a photograph of the original porch. Consequently, it is not possible to determine the degree of change in porch's appearance. However, the current porch, which was installed around 1910, is sufficiently compatible with the house's architecture to be included in the period of significance.

Richland Township historically has been a rural, agrarian area--Larwill its only community. A check of the *Whitley County Interim Report-Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory* reveals that there are only five Italianate style houses within the township that are outside Larwill's town limits. The architectural significance of all five was listed in the inventory at the lowest level, or contributing. There are four Italianate style residences in Larwill including the Dr. Christopher Souder House. It received an outstanding rating while the other three did not rate as highly. Italianate and Queen Anne style houses frequently were the style of choice for the more prominent persons in a community during the late nineteenth century. Of the historic residences in Larwill, the Dr. Christopher Souder House and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

DR. CHRISTOPHER SOUDER HOUSE
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

the Dr. John Firestone House are the only two grand houses in town. Unfortunately, the architectural integrity of the Dr. John Firestone House (Site #16029), which is a neighboring house, has been compromised with the removal of its original windows and complete remodel of the interior.

Richland Township was surveyed in 1834 as part of Huntington County. In 1838, Whitley County was created and the county boundary was drawn to include Richland Township. Larwill was the second town to be established in the township and was first known as Huntsville. In 1854, it was being platted at the corners of four farms as the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad began construction of its line through town. Two local engineers, William and Joseph Larwill, supervised the project from Columbia City to Warsaw in Kosciusko County. The town would honor the two men's contribution of promoting the town by renaming it after them in 1866. Close proximity to the county seat, Columbia City, and being located along the railroad line proved economically beneficial to Larwill. At the time, the Larwill area was wooded and it quickly became a trading center for lumber and grain.

The bustling activity in Larwill translated into the establishment of businesses along Center and Main streets. Families built homes around those businesses. The community of Larwill was growing, which attracted several doctors to reside there. Dr. John Firestone, a long time physician in the area, bought 114 acres in Richland Township in 1869. The northwest corner of his property was in Larwill along Main Street. He built a large Italianate Cube style house and barn on the south side of the street. In 1875 he sold a small parcel of land adjacent to his house to Dr. Christopher Souder, who had studied medicine under Dr. Firestone's tutelage.

Dr. Christopher Souder was born in 1842 and grew up in Richland Township. At age 19, he enlisted in Company E, Forty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry in 1861. He fought in the battles of Chickamauga, where he sustained wounds, and at Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing. After he returned from the war, he immersed himself in studies at various schools, graduating in 1870 from Cincinnati Medical College. Also in 1870, he married Sabina Trembley, who would die in 1888. Having studied medicine under Dr. Firestone since 1867, a friendly relationship developed between the two men. Presumably it is that relationship that leads Dr. Firestone to sell the parcel, just west of his house, to Dr. Souder. Like Dr. Firestone, Dr. Souder constructed a large brick home in the very fashionable Italianate style. In the Wednesday, August 2, 1876, issue of the *Columbia City Post*, a note is made of the house's progress in an occasional column of local items of interest. Mentioned along side the comings and goings of Larwill citizens is the statement, "Dr. Souder has finally got the foundation work of his new house

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 & 9 Page 7

DR. CHRISTOPHER SOUDER HOUSE
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

completed.”³ Construction of the house was finished in 1877. Besides his medical duties, he was elected county auditor in 1890. Dr. Souder continued to practice medicine until his retirement due to poor health. He died on December 15, 1899.

While Dr. Souder did have children, the house was foreclosed on and sold by the sheriff, E.L. Gallagher, to George Ream in 1903. The house and its property have been bought and sold several times over the years but is now owned by Lore Wolfe who is using great care in maintaining the architectural integrity of the Dr. Christopher Souder House. A modern detached garage has been added to the property.

Dr. Souder built a fine home for his family on the small parcel he purchased from Dr. Firestone. Location and setting of his property have not changed over the years. As well, little has changed to the architecture of the house. Key stylistic elements remain on the exterior such as the cross plan form of the house, window hoods, bracketed eaves and arched details on the doors. However, when it came to finishing the interior during construction, extra thought was put into the execution of its treatment. Dr. Souder had the builder include features that gave his home an additional flair. The application of curves and arches in the walls, windows and stairs sets the Dr. Christopher Souder House apart from the usual Italianate. With the high degree of architectural integrity, the Dr. Christopher Souder House maintains significant importance to history of Larwill.

Bibliography

Brown, E. W., Proprietor and Editor, *Columbia City Post*, Vol. 13, No. 5, Wednesday, August 2, 1876.

Deed of Transfer Books 1870-2002. Whitley County Courthouse, Auditor's Office.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. *Whitley County Interim Report*. May 2002.

The Plain Dealer, Wednesday, March 6, 2002.

³ Columbia City Post, p. 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 & 10 Page 8

DR. CHRISTOPHER SOUDER HOUSE
WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

Goodspeed, Weston A. and Blanchard, Charles, eds. *Counties of Whitley and Noble, Indiana*. Chicago: F.A. Battey & Co. Publishers, 1882.

Kaler, S.P. and Maring, R.H. *History of Whitley County, Indiana*. B.F. Bowen & Co., 1907.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guild to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 102 in Section 4, Township 31 North, Range 8 East (SM PT W2 E2 N2 NE4), Larwill, Whitley County

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Dr. Christopher Souder Home was determined to be the size of the legal description of the property. It is believed that the house requires the 0.75 acreage to maintain the integrity of the environment of its location.



Dr. Christopher
 Souder House
 LARWILL, WHITLEY
 COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
 T. 31 N. 16 E. 615130 41551220

T. 32 N.

COLUMBIA CITY 7 MI.
 FORT WAYNE 28 MI.

T. 31 N. 16 E. 615130 41551220

