

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 Walker Field Shelterhouse

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ 141-598-41154

2. Location

street & number 1305 Ewing Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  not for publication

city or town South Bend \_\_\_\_\_ N/A  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county St. Joseph code 141 zip code 46613

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4.26.06.  
Date

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

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

Walker Field Shelterhouse  
Name of Property

St. Joseph 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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

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

New Deal Work Relief Projects in St. Joseph County, IN

0

### 6. Function or Use

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

RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

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

RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

### 7. Description

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

19th & 20th c. AMER.: Bungalow/Craftsma

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls STONE: Fieldstone  
WOOD: Weatherboard  
roof ASPHALT  
other STONE

### 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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1938-1955

Significant Dates

1938

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Goffeney, Otto Julius

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):

- Criteria for bibliography including preliminary determination, National Register status, and survey recordings.

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data including State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, and Other.

Name of repository:

Walker Field Shelterhouse  
Name of Property

St. Joseph IN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than 1 acre

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

1 

16	560830	4611020
Zone	Easting	Northing

3 

Zone	Easting	Northing

2 

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 Glory-June Greiff  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 08-20-2005  
street & number 1753 South Talbott telephone 317/637-6163  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

### 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 South Bend Parks & Recreation, Phil St. Clair, Superintendent  
street & number 321 East Walter Street telephone 574/299-4765  
city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46614

**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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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Walker Field lies on the southwest side of South Bend, the seat of St. Joseph County. Directly north of and contiguous with Rum Village Park, the recreational area is on the north side of Ewing Street between Walnut and Webster streets, taking up a large city block with only a few scattered trees. The recreational area contains playing fields and playground equipment, allowing Rum Village Park to remain a heavily wooded "natural" area used for hiking and picnicking. The playing fields have been largely reconfigured or relocated, thus only the shelterhouse itself is being nominated

The shelterhouse (photos 1, 2, 3) stands at the south end of Walker Field. The building is T-shaped and oriented east-west with the main elevation facing Ewing Avenue. A gabled roof section contains restrooms and storage spaces on either side of the main shelter space while a pair of hipped roof arcades extend from the north side of the building and enclose a space for a wading pool. The shelterhouse is constructed of split-rock masonry inside and out, using the fieldstone that is abundant in the county. The stones, mostly granite, are close-fitted with narrow mortar joints and the concrete trim is formed to strongly resemble limestone. The building's foundation is concrete and its roof is covered in asphalt shingles. An inscribed limestone tablet on the east side of the building identifies it as a product of the Federal Works Progress Administration (photo 4). A stone chimney (see photos 1, 3), capped with concrete, is near the east end of the gabled roof section.

The shelterhouse's main elevation is characterized by a small, central gable and three wide, segmental arches surmounted by stepped concrete voussoirs. Rectangular openings with louvered infill flank the arches. These openings are defined by slender sills, random ashlar jambs, and heavy, keystone lintels.

The east and west elevations have similar, louvered openings centrally located in the fieldstone masonry. The gable ends are sheathed in clapboard with small, rectangular vents near the peak.

The north elevation is dominated by the arcaded arms that define the east and west sides of the wading pool area. The north ends of these arms are buttressed by fieldstone walls capped with curved segments of concrete trim. A centrally located section of wall, similarly capped with curved segments of trim, contains a blank tablet in its center facing the pool. There is no indication that there was ever any inscription in this space, although it does contain a geometric pattern. A concrete-capped bench is set beneath the tablet design. Opposite (the north wall of the shelter space), a pair of segmental arches like those on the main elevation give access to and from the shelter space.

The pool area itself is roofless; its east and west walls are each topped with short sections of hipped roof supported by knee braces (photos 5, 6). The wading pool, which has not been used for many years, is surrounded by a low concrete wall with an opening on the south end (photos 6, 7, 8). At one time fountains in the pool continually sprayed water upwards and aerated it. The

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pool is less than two feet deep. At present it is filled with a substantial layer of silt in which weeds are growing. The area around the pool is paved with brick laid in a diagonal pattern.

The building has been the target of vandalism over the last decade or so, and the restrooms are unlocked only when scheduled events, such as ball games, take place. To the north of each restroom is a locked storage room (see photo 9). Plain metal doors, possibly original, provide access to each space. A monumental fireplace with a segmental arched opening is located between these doors on the east side of the interior. A bronze plaque appears above the opening listing the city and park officials at the time of construction, and centered in the chimney above that, is a blank circular concrete inset. Curved concrete shoulders tie the fireplace design to the motifs on the north wall of the pool area. The interior floor is brick, laid in a diagonal pattern with a semi-circular design immediately in front of the fireplace. In the center of the interior on the north wall between the arches leading to the wading pool area is a concrete concession counter (photo 10) with access at its west end.



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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Walker Field Shelterhouse falls into the category of "Projects Related to Parks and Recreation", a property type identified in the multiple property listing document "New Deal Work Projects in St. Joseph County". The shelterhouse meets the registration requirements established in that document and, as such, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance to local recreation and social history. It is also eligible under Criterion C because the building is representative of the quality and style of architecture constructed under the WPA in St. Joseph County. In addition to having local significance, the building meets the standards of integrity set forth in the multiple property listing document. The shelterhouse is in its original location and retains its original setting. The design and materials remain intact and the resource is representative of, and associated with typical WPA workmanship, specifically, the stone construction.

Rum Village Park was a forested area at the southwest edge of South Bend that had been set aside for a "natural Indiana landscape" park. Relief workers in 1933 built a system of roadways through the park, which was meant to be kept for picnicking, hiking, and similar pursuits. In 1937 the idea of placing a modern circular swimming pool surrounded by a sand beach--a design that had been installed in other Indiana cities (e.g., Madison) using WPA labor--at Rum Village was forwarded, but the notion died. The following spring the South Bend City Council authorized the board of park commissioners to purchase one city block immediately north of the park, approximately 4.2 acres, across Ewing Avenue for a playground and playing fields. The land cost \$7500, to be paid over five years, interest-free. Since no down payment for the land was required, the full appropriation of \$10,000 could be used for equipment and materials. WPA would provide the labor.

The focal point of Walker Field would be the multiple-purpose shelter house that served the several types of playing fields. The configurations, locations, and purposes of the various playing fields have changed somewhat over time, but the shelterhouse, even though much vandalized, is still used on occasion. Its wading pool, certainly the most beautiful of its type in the county, is not. Wading pools were particularly favored in New Deal park and playground development. They provided a means of getting cool and splashing about in fun, and were vastly less expensive than swimming pools. Several wading pools, most of which were far more modest, were constructed in South Bend and Mishawaka, but all closed in the 1950s because of polio fears. Many of these were later torn out, such as the one in Leeper Park in South Bend. Happily, Walker Field's wading pool has survived, albeit in need of restoration.

Architect Otto Julius (O.J.) Goffeney (1887-1941) designed the attractive but functional building to house restrooms, storage rooms, and a concession stand, with a large wading pool off the rear (north) in an open air space defined by two arcades and low end walls. The use of fieldstone so typical of northern Indiana WPA projects was dictated as much by necessity as design; fieldstone was a readily available local material and its use, along with concrete rather limestone, kept the costs down.

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That Goffeney, who partnered with South Bend architects William Fett and Clarence Pearson, in the firm of Fett, Pearson, & Goffeney, was hired to design a WPA project does not necessarily indicate a reversal in fortunes. Highly skilled and professional people that were needed for a given project were hired from normal ranks, if none were to be found on relief. The firm designed a variety of buildings in the South Bend area, including several filling stations (none are known to survive), and took on numerous remodeling projects, such as adding a mezzanine to the city's premier department store, Robertson's, in 1930. In about that same year, Goffeney is believed to have designed the French Eclectic home at 414 North Ironwood which he owned until 1933. His health began to deteriorate in the 1930s, however, and he died of his heart ailment in May 1941.



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Walker Field Shelterhouse

St. Joseph County, Indiana

Indiana Construction Recorder, numerous issues.

Obituary of Otto Julius Goffeney, South Bend Tribune, 5 May 1941, p. 1, col. 7.

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Walker Field Shelterhouse

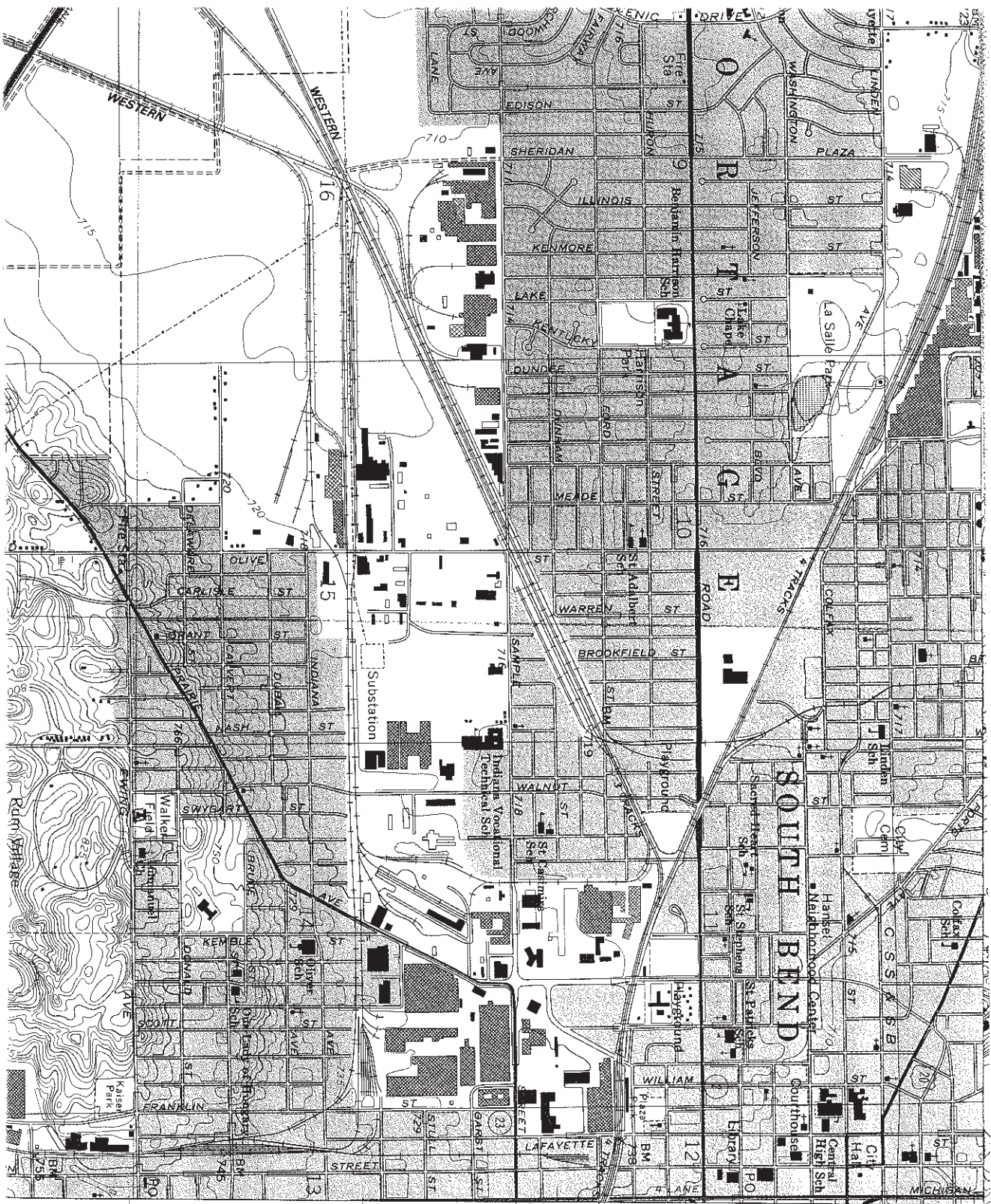
St. Joseph County, Indiana

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Starting from the north curb of Ewing Street at a point three feet west of the west elevation of the building, proceed due north 148 feet, east 76 feet, south 148 feet, and west 76 feet to the point of origin.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary surrounds the building at a distance of three feet on the west, north, and east, and includes its frontage to the curb.



EDWARDSBURG, MICH. 14 MI. 4613 40' 33' 4614 ELKHART 15 MI.

4611  
 WALKER FIELD  
 SULLY ROAD  
 ST. JOSEPH CO. IN  
 16 500830 4611020