NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

GORYDON

AND/O OR HISTORIC:

INDIANA'S FIRST STATE CAPITAL (or) HISTORIC GORYDON

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

GORYDON

STATE:

INDIANA

CODE:

18

COUNTY:

HARRISON

CODE:

06

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)

X District

☐ Site

☐ Object

☐ Building

☐ Structure

☐ Private

☐ Both

☐ Public

OWNERSHIP

Public Acquisition:

☐ In Process

☐ Being Considered

STATUS

X Occupied

☐ Unoccupied

☐ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

☐ Yes

X Restricted

☐ Unspecified

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural

☐ Government

☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Educational

☐ Military

☐ Entertainment

☐ Religious

☐ Museum

☐ Scientific

☐ Park

☐ Private Residence

☐ Transportation

☐ Other (Specify)

COMMENTS:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Varied Ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

GORYDON

STATE:

INDIANA

CODE:

18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Harrison County Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

Harrison County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Corydon

STATE:

Indiana

CODE:

18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal

☐ State

☐ County

☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

801 19th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE:

08
The county seat of Harrison County, Indiana, is laid out on a quarter section of land at the junction of Big Indian and Little Indian Creeks. Beautiful wooded hills surround the town. The business district clusters around the Public Square—many of the buildings in this area date back to the first half of the nineteenth century. Some seven or eight buildings of Federal style of architecture remain today that were standing when Corydon was the capital of Indiana from 1813-1825.

On Capitol Avenue, the main north and south street which extends through the entire length of Corydon, is situated the original Harrison County Courthouse. This limestone building was leased by the county to the State of Indiana and was used by the state as its capitol until its removal to Indianapolis in 1825. Across the street from the Old Capitol is an interesting three-story brick constructed in the 1830's by Dr. John Simons. On the southwest corner of Capitol and Chestnut streets is "The Kintner House", an ornate brick hotel constructed in the early 1870's. On North Capitol at Big Indian Creek is "Cedar Glen", a rambling brick residence constructed and inhabited by the Jacob Kintner family who were wealthy Virginians—since 1849 this house has been owned by the McGrain family. Morgan's Confederate Raiders passed north on Capitol Avenue on July 3, 1863 in their raid across southern Indiana.

The main east and west street through Corydon is Walnut. On this street near the center of town is the two story brick headquarters and residence of Governor William Hendricks. In the same block to the east and on a high elevation is the First State Office Building—a one story brick which housed the offices of the auditor and treasurer of Indiana.

At the west end of High Street near Big Indian Creek is a sandstone memorial constructed over the stump of the Constitution Elm. In the yard at this elm is the log Westfall House credited as being the oldest house of Corydon. This home was also the residence of Col. Lewis Jordan who commanded the Home Guards during the Battle of Corydon. The only other log house yet remaining in Corydon is the old Branthom home located on the west side of North Capitol between Walnut and High Streets.

On Oak Street, one block west of the Capitol is situated the two story brick residence of Col. Thomas Posey, son of Indiana's last territorial governor. Two-thirds of this building has been torn away; the remaining portion is the main part of the residence and is now a museum maintained by the Hoosier Elm Chapter DAR.

The remaining portions of Corydon contain more modern homes—many built in the latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Large shade trees line the narrow streets. Numerous homes of Corydon are furnished with furniture and antiques used in pioneer days.

Corydon is fifteen miles from the Ohio to the south, and a local line connects Corydon with the Southern Railroad seven miles to the north; thus Corydon has been slow to advance industrially. Much of the town remains unchanged except for the impact of several devastating fires.
The Town of Corydon was laid out in 1808 by Harvey Smith on
ground which had been entered from the U.S. Government by
Governor William Henry Harrison. Harrison named the village
Corydon for his favorite song. The same year, 1808, Harrison
County, the fourth county to be organized in Indiana Territory,
was formed and Corydon became the county seat.

Corydon became the Territorial Capital of Indiana, May 1813.
From 1813 to 1816, the Territorial Legislature convened in
Corydon. In June 1816, forty-three delegates from thirteen
counties of the territory convened at the village capital of
Corydon to draft Indiana's first constitution—the weather
being warm, some of the sessions were held outside under a
large elm tree. This tree has since been called "The Constitu-
tion Elm".

On December 11, 1816, when Indiana was admitted as a state,
Corydon became its first capital. The first sessions of the
state legislature and of the supreme court convened at Corydon.
The United States courts also met at Corydon during the ter-
ritorial stage and early statehood. All the first officers of
the new state resided in Corydon. The capital remained at
Corydon until 1825.

The State of Indiana never owned property in Corydon but
borrowed or rented quarters. The little limestone Harrison
County Courthouse was occupied as the Capitol. A small brick
structure which is in excellent repair today was rented as an
office for the state treasurer and auditor. The state's money
was kept in strong boxes in the cellar of this building. The
quarters occupied by Gov. William Hendricks' family and the room
from which he conducted the official state business is also
still in an excellent state of repair. The Col. Thomas Posey
home is standing--Thomas Posey was the son of the last terri-
torial governor, Thomas Posey. The younger Posey was U.S. Agent
for Military Pensions in Indiana and maintained the pension
agency in his home for some ten years after the capital was
removed from Corydon to Indianapolis.

In 1816 early newspapers of the state were established in
Corydon—these were the Indiana Herald and the Indiana Gazette.
About this same time a branch of the Bank of Vincennes, the
State Bank, was established in Corydon. A state law library
was started at Corydon and the State Library had its beginning
(see Continuation Sheet)
as a small lending library operated from the John T. Jamison Tavern. In 1817, eleven Master Masons representing the nine lodges in Indiana assembled in Corydon and called a meeting at Madison to organize a Grand Lodge. Dr. David C. Mitchell, a local physician, organized Indiana's first medical society in 1820 at Corydon and he became its first president. Of all the prominent political figures that visited the wilderness capital, the most talked about was that of President James Monroe and General Andrew Jackson's visit to Corydon in June 1819.

In July 1863, Corydon was in the path of Confederate General John H. Morgan's raiders. A battle took place on the south hill overlooking Corydon on July 9, 1863. Corydon was one of the few northern towns to be captured by the Confederates during the Civil War.

In pioneer days, there were numerous wilderness roads leading to Corydon from the Ohio River ferries some fifteen miles away. The main travelled road from Corydon to the northwest was the Governor's Trace which passed by Governor Harrison's Mill on Blue River and joined the Buffalo Trace near French Lick. Many of the early Indiana pioneers who came up from Kentucky passed through Corydon on their way to establish wilderness homes in central Indiana.

9. Major Bibliographic References (cont'd)

The Corydon Statehouse, A Hoosier Shrine, The Department of Conservation, State of Indiana, Publication #84, 1930
Long, Eleanor and Newell, Corydon---The Cradle of Our Commonwealth, a pageant written for Indiana's Sesquicentennial and presented at the Harrison County Fairgrounds at Corydon, June 1933
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Historical Souvenir for Clark, Crawford, Harrison, Floyd, Jefferson, Jennings, Scott, and Washington Counties, Indiana--Illustrated, Compiled and Published by John F. Eshman & Co., Chicago, 1889 (Reproduced by Unigraphic, Inc., Evansville, Ind. 1969)

Illustrated Atlas and History of Harrison County, Indiana Published by F. T. Billeit, Corydon, Ind. 1906

Historic Corydon, General Guide to Points of Interest, Published by The American Film Chapter D.I., Corydon, 1929

(As Continue on 2nd page)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>33° 12' 55&quot;</td>
<td>86° 07' 43&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>33° 12' 56&quot;</td>
<td>86° 07' 09&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>33° 12' 28&quot;</td>
<td>86° 07' 09&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>33° 12' 26&quot;</td>
<td>86° 07' 44&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 40.4 acres

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

Frederick Porter Griffin, Past-President

ORGANIZATION: Harrison County Historical Society

DATE: April 7, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 East Walnut St. -- Box 56

CITY OR TOWN: Corydon

STATE: Indiana

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [X] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name: [Signature]

Title: [Indiana State Liaison Officer]

Date: June 4, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date:

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: [Signature]
UTM Coordinates For Corydon Historic District (Original)

Northwest corner: 16 576400 4230290
Northeast corner: 16 576710 4230290
Southeast Corner: 16 576690 4229330
Southwest Corner: 16 576390 4229340