

*FINAL*

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Military Park**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Camp Sullivan Park**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**bounded by West, New York & Blackford Sts. & Canal**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Indianapolis**

STATE <b>Indiana</b>	CODE <b>46204</b>	COUNTY: <b>Marion</b>	CODE <b>46204</b>
-------------------------	----------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
District <input type="checkbox"/>	Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes:		
Site <input type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>		
Object <input type="checkbox"/>		Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
No: <input type="checkbox"/>							
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)							
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>			
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____			
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____			
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
**State of Indiana**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State House**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Indianapolis</b>	STATE: <b>Indiana</b>	CODE <b>46204</b>
--------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**City-County Building**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Alabama & Washington St. 14 acres**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Indianapolis</b>	STATE: <b>Indiana</b>	CODE <b>46204</b>
--------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**General Land Office**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1821** Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Archives Division, Indiana State Library**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**140 N. Senate Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Indianapolis</b>	STATE: <b>Indiana</b>	CODE <b>46204</b>
--------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This tract of land was originally covered with giant hardwoods and was uncleared for some years. After the State Board of Agriculture used it for fair purposes many of the trees were cut.

The park became a popular place of recreation, probably earlier than any other park in Indianapolis. A street car line was constructed from the business district. A line also extended from the depot on southern Illinois Street north to Washington Street, thence west and north to the grounds. The line was completed in time for the 1863 State Fair.

Military occupancy resulted in packing of the soil as well as injury to the trees. By the end of the Civil War, the natural cover was described as in deplorable condition.

In 1866, George Merritt took steps to beautify the property. He obtained permission from state authorities to improve the park and raised a sum of money for this purpose. The City Council also made an appropriation and beautification was prosecuted under the direction of Mr. Merritt. He later became a member of the Board of Park Commissioner and served as custodian without compensation.

Military park has continued to serve as a recreation center, through the years. During the pre and post World War I period, it received much heavier use than at present. Its facilities included a pavilion and shelter house, swings, sand boxes, fountain, pioneer log cabin, and cannon ball relics of the Civil War.

Today the pavilion and shelter house remains. The fountain, located in the approximate center of the park, has been modernized and altered from its original design. Cannon balls and log cabin have been removed. Swings and minor playground equipment are on a small portion of the tract. Originally a circular drive was constructed inside the park. Grass now covers it, but the outline is still evident.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE				
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)				
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>	
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>		
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>		
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>		
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>		
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>		
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)				
<p>On January 27, 1827, an Act of Congress made a donation of four sections of land, surveyed in 1821, to the State of Indiana as a Seat of Government. Senate Journal 1835-1836 listed as unsold and unappropriated out-lot number 147, containing 27.04 acres. In the Indiana Constitution of 1851, Article 15, Miscellaneous, Section 9 is quoted "The following grounds owned by the State in Indianapolis, namely: The State House Square, the Governor's Circle, and so much of out-lot numbered one hundred and forty-seven, as lies north of the arm of the Central Canal shall not be sold or leased. Military Park, containing 14 acres, is the part that remained of out-lot 147.</p> <p>The first Indiana State Fair was held on this site, October 19-21, 1852. It was one of the first such fairs in the nation.</p> <p>With the coming of the Civil War, this ground was converted into a military camp by Governor Oliver P. Morton and named in honor of Jeremiah C. Sullivan, colonial of the 13th Indiana Volunteers, the first regiment to rally on the grounds: It was mustered into service on June 19, 1861.</p> <p>The 11th Regiment, under Gen. Law Wallace Author of Ben Hur, also used this site for some time. A great impetus was given recruiting in Indianapolis by the appearance of Law Wallace's Montgomery Guards, who were zouaves and drilled to the time of a drum corps. Several companies of Zouaves were organized soon afterwards in Indianapolis and a large number of them drilled at Camp Sullivan.</p> <p>The occupancy of the park by troops was interrupted for a short time in the fall of 1863, when it was again used for a State Fair in connection with a sanitary program.</p>				



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Senate Journal of Senate of the State Of Indiana 1835-36, Indianapolis, Indiana. p 376  
Sullivan, W. and Woodruff, W. 1836 Map of Indianapolis. Indiana State Library, 140 N. Senate Ave. Indianapolis, Ind.
2. Indiana Magazine of History, Indiana Historical Society Vol. 32 p 23, 1936.
3. Kettleborough, Charles. 1916 Constitution Making in Indiana 1780-1851. Vol. 1, p 367
4. Sulgrave, B.R. 1884 History of Indianapolis and Marion County. L. H. Everts and Co. Philadelphia, Pa. p 146
5. Terrell W.H.H.-Indiana in the War of the Rebellion, Indiana Historical Bureau

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER:	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 46' 17.5"	86° 10' 11"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39° 46' 17.5"	86° 10' 01"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	39° 46' 10 "	86° 10' 03"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	39° 46' 10 "	86° 10' 13"		° ' "	° ' "	

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

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Wm. B. Barnes, Director of Nature Preserves**

ORGANIZATION: **Department of Natural Resources State of Indiana**      DATE: **9/12/69**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Room 616, State Office Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Indianapolis**      STATE: **Indiana**      CODE: **46204**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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       State       Local

Name *William B. Barnes*

Title **Director, Department of Natural Resources**

Date **September 15, 1969**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS