

5-24-73

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

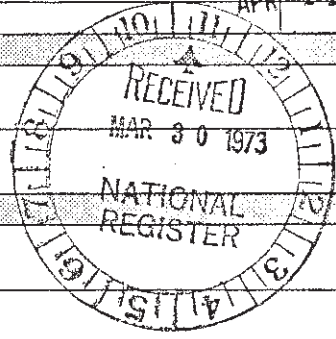
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Indiana
COUNTY:	Vigo
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	APR 11 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:	Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Sage-Robinson-Nagel House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:				1411 South Sixth Street			
CITY OR TOWN:				Terre Haute			
STATE	INDIANA	CODE	18	COUNTY:	VIGO	CODE	167

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	Vigo County Historical Society, Inc.		
STREET AND NUMBER:	1411 South Sixth Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	Terre Haute	STATE:	Indiana
		CODE	18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:	Vigo County Court House		
STREET AND NUMBER:	Third and Wabash Ave.		
CITY OR TOWN:	Terre Haute	STATE:	Indiana
		CODE	18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	Open Space Place and Park and Recreation Plan				
DATE OF SURVEY:	1971-1972	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	Area Planning Dept. + Housing & Urban Development Office				
STREET AND NUMBER:	120 So. 7th St.; Indiana Office; also in Washington, D.C.				
CITY OR TOWN:	Terre Haute	STATE:	Indiana		
		CODE	18		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: INDIANA

COUNTY: VIGO

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1973

DATE: APR 11 1973

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Title of property has been traced to 1825. Wm. H. Sage, prominent baker and confectioner, purchased property in 1864 and built two-story brick home before 1868 (when listed in City Directory for first time). Original house was L-shaped facing east, containing 3 rooms upstairs, 3 rooms downstairs. The bay-window is an important Italianate feature. The angle of the low-pitched hip roof is only about 30 degrees, and there are no gables. The projecting cornice is typically Italianate. The eaves project 3 ft. from wall and are supported by heavy double brackets composed of 2 modillions meeting at right angles. Between bracket pairs, rectangular attic windows + molding stress horizontality. The simple Palladian window are definitely Italian.

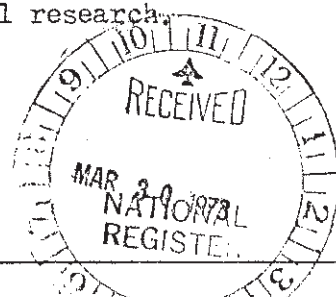
In 1875 Henry H. Robinson, prominent dry-goods merchant, purchased the house and began making changes. From early photos we know he added a cast-iron crown to the flat roof with the date "1875" wrought in a circle. He also had built the large two-story middle section annexation extending 20 ft. to the rear or west of original structure, and 10 ft. in width. A third one-story portion was built on at the rear sometime later-before 1905 when house was purchased by Clemens Nagel, meat packer. The Nagel family occupied the house until 1958 when it became present Museum, owned by Historical Society.

The large brick mansion presently contains 15 room, 2 baths, and large hallways on 3 floors, and is best described as Italianate. Wilbur D. Peat, in his Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, Indiana Historical Society (1962) pp. 120-21, considers the house so: "More closely related to the ideal Italian spirit are the residences of irregular masses, asymmetrical planning, and low-pitched roofs. At times they are L-shaped, having a projection toward the street, as represented by the Sage-Robinson-Nagel house at Terre Haute, now the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley."

The central doorway is surmounted by a semi-circular transom and door-head. This semi-circular motif is repeated in the bay window and their heads. All other windows have dripping window heads with an elegantly curved line on the upper edge-echoing the Palladian window head. The architect is unknown, but is thought to have designed both sections of the house. Duality is expressed, in paired brackets and double porch columns in the Sage house; singularity is expressed in the Robinson section with single brackets and single porch columns. The projecting cornice on the later section was reduced from 3 ft. to 2 ft., but the moldings and attic windows remain same.

Robinson added north entrance doors with their Bavarian red-glass panes. He was also responsible for two white carnival glass chandeliers and Quezal Tiffany tulip chandelier (gas lights originally) and marble mantels in each room. His additions were typically Victorian. Ceilings are 14 ft. in original section. The curving staircase is connected to left wall of front hall and originally had no other means of support coming up to 3rd floor attic on two levels. Four rooms have been restored as Victorian rooms, with plans for more such restoration. There are now 12 display rooms on 3 floors; basement level has been converted into meeting room and exhibit area. One room has been converted into reference library for historical research.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)\*

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1868

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Museum</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilbur D. Peat, in his book Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, Indiana Historical Society, 1962, lists the house in Plate No. 107 as the "Sage-Robinson-Nagel House, 1411 South Sixth St., Terre Haute, Vigo County. William H. Sage original owner, Henry Robinson and Clemens Nagel later owners, Vigo County Historical Society present owner, Italianate, 1868, with later additions. (Page 121)"

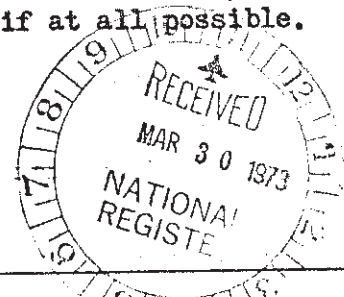
Terre Haute, meaning "high land" in French, was platted in 1816, the year Indiana became a state, and has celebrated its Sesquicentennial. From the beginning it has always been a river town, serving as a pork-packing center and trading center for the entire Wabash Valley. The first owner of the house, William H. Sage, was a prominent baker and confectioner; the second owner, Henry Robinson, was a prominent dry goods merchant and auctioneer; the third owner, Clemens Nagel, was a prominent meat packer; all contributing to the growth of Terre Haute and its history.

The Museum was placed in this historic mansion house to serve two purposes - to restore a Victorian home and preserve it in the community. ~~South Sixth Street of Terre Haute has been from its beginning a street of mansions of the prominent people of the city. So many of these fine old homes have been turned into apartment houses, business houses, nursing homes or other commercial use, thus altering their original lines, and refinements.~~

~~The Sage-Robinson-Nagel House has had no outside changes and retains all the architectural significance of its 1868 period. The grounds of the house consist of two large lots, very deep, which gives it the proper setting. Even the trees and other plantings lend significance to the century-old-plus restoration. The stone slab walk leading to the front entrance is original.~~

The former owners of the house lend significance-they were an early dry-goods merchant, an early confectioner-baker, and an early meat packer.

There are so few excellent examples of the ideal Italianate style of architecture, it was decided to keep this one intact if at all possible.



MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Peat's Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, Indlps.1962.

Art Work of Terre Haute, Ind., Chicago, Gravure Illustration Co., 1907  
9 parts, illus. Photo of "residence of C.W.Nagel" Vol.9,p.3

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 510.01 elevation U.S.G.S.

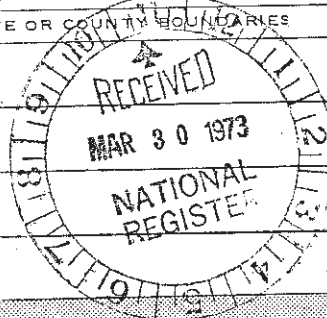
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39°	27'	10" N
NE	° ' "	° ' "		87°	24'	44" W
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
16/464720  
4366210  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: (Mrs.) Dorothy J. Clark, Executive Secretary

ORGANIZATION: Vigo County Historical Society, Inc. DATE: 4-6-1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 1411 South Sixth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Terre Haute STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

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  State  Local

Name: Joseph Cloud

Title: Indiana State Liaison Officer

Date: March 26, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Richard M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4.3.73



720 000  
FEET

BRAZIL 14 MI.

SWALLS 4.5 MI.  
PRAIRIE CITY 15 MI.

RILEY 8 MI.

27'30"

S.W. COR. 6TH + WASHINGTON  
**HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
OF THE  
WABASH VALLEY**

LAT. 39° 27' 10" N  
LONG. 87° 24' 44" W

UTM

16/404 720/  
4366 810

CD

SEELYVILLE