

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Walnut Street Historic District

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by N. Chestnut, 7<sup>th</sup>, and N. Poplar Streets, but extending south on N. Walnut Street to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

City or town: Seymour State: IN County: Jackson

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_A \_\_\_B xC \_\_\_D

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

---

**Signature of commenting official:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Title :** \_\_\_\_\_ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ 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(s)
- District
- Site

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Structure

Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>65</u>	<u>11</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>65</u>	<u>11</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3

---

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Hotel

DOMESTIC: Multiple dwelling

RELIGION: Religious facility

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Multiple dwelling

RELIGION: Religious facility

COMMERCE/TRADE: Office building

FUNERARY: Mortuary

\_\_\_\_\_

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: ASPHALT

other: STUCCO

---

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

The Walnut Street Historic District is a neighborhood north of Seymour's historic downtown commercial district where many of the city's leading merchants, entrepreneurs, and professionals constructed large homes during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The district, with its mature trees and sidewalks, straddles North Walnut Street between Poplar and Chestnut Streets, and includes the city's finest examples of Queen Anne architecture as well as excellent examples of 20<sup>th</sup> century revival styles. Impressive examples of Classical Revival and Colonial Revival architecture are interspersed with Italianate, Craftsman, and Tudor Revival homes. Three large, historic churches are also located in the district.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

## Narrative Description

The Walnut Street Historic District is a long, narrow district that straddles North Walnut Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to about 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and extends to Chestnut Street on its east and Poplar Street on its west. This neighborhood became one of the most desirable places to live in the city during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. While some building lots are quite generous in size, most are fairly standard, rectangular city lots fronting with street with an alley behind. The district is characterized by its mostly large homes, sidewalks, and large mature street trees. The streets are paved and are wider in the south part of the district, and include in some areas historic stone curbs.

The large majority of buildings in the district are homes. Most of the residential development occurred between about 1880 and 1930. There are also three, large historic churches in the district that supported the population living in the neighborhood. These were constructed between 1882 and 1949, with modern additions in 1960-1962. There are a few late 20<sup>th</sup> century office buildings that are considered non-contributing. Other than those buildings that are non-contributing because they post-date the period of significance, there are only two buildings (residences) that are considered non-contributing because of alterations to their historic materials or configuration. These are located at 627 and 628 North Walnut Street. These are simple gabled-ell and gable-front homes that have new siding and windows with alterations to fenestration locations.

A complete list of the buildings follow:

### N. Chestnut Street, east side going north from 4<sup>th</sup> Street

404 N. Chestnut. Neo Classical, c. 1905. Contributing  
Right background of photo 0001

414 N. Chestnut. Central Christian Church, Classical. 1915/1960. Contributing  
Louis H. Osterhage, architect, Vincennes. William C. Ball & Sons, contractor, Brownstown.  
Photo 0001

The large, two-story brick building is on a raised basement and is essentially a large cube. The building's features are rather simply organized with a limestone belt course at the top of the raised basement and a tall metal entablature, painted white, at the top of the walls. The entablature does not carry across an east bay on the north and south facades. The building has art glass windows with stone sills. The windows on the front (west façade) of the building, wrapping around to a west bay on the north and south facades, have brick corbels that support the stone sills and the windows are trimmed with soldier courses.

The front (west) façade features a tall brick terrace, capped by stone, flanked by steps that descend to the sidewalk (the terrace wall was added c. 1960). Dominating the front façade is a two-story portico with a full pediment supported by four limestone Doric columns. The enclosed pediment features a blind roundel centered in the tympanum. The raised basement features a

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

metal door to each side of the portico. The stone belt course trims the doors by stepping up and over them. Bays that flank the portico are formed by the basement doors and art glass windows in the first and second stories. The wide, center bay with the portico features three pairs of aluminum entry doors with art glass transoms. The center entry has a surround topped by a segmented-arched pediment; the flanking doors have a tall entablature stepped in on the corners. Three wide art glass windows with brick sills on in the second story above the entries. Three historic globe lights light the center bay from the portico ceiling.

Each side façade features a wide center bay flanked by narrower bays. The west bays feature two windows on each story, including the basement. The east bays feature two windows in the basement and first story and one window in the second story. The center bays, which step out slightly, feature four windows in the first and second story. A small, c. 1990 one-story addition with a flat roof is centered on the north façade. The south façade features a large two-story addition constructed in 1960. It has a separate entrance to the front sidewalk in its north end. The addition features a limestone-clad frame with bays infilled with brick and rows of metal casement windows.

The Central Christian Church had met in a gable-front, frame building on the southeast corner of Poplar and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets prior to the construction of this building. The original, small Gothic Revival building is no longer extant. The congregation formed and had erected their first church by about 1885, but outgrew it, requiring the construction of this large building in 1915. The congregation moved to a new building on the west side of town, leaving this church by about 2000, however, the building is still being used as a church for the congregation of Seymour Harvest Church.

500 N. Chestnut. Office Building, c. 1970. Non-contributing

506 N. Chestnut. Beutelspacher Bungalow, c. 1925. Contributing  
Photo 0002

The one-story house has a wide front gable and its walls are covered with stucco. Wood brackets support the eaves over the gables and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The most dominant, and unusual feature of the house is the full-width porch that extends to the south to form a porte cochere. The porch is enclosed with a row of 1/1 wood windows except at its south end, which is open and has steps down to the porte cochere. A concrete cap is at the top of the porch wall (forming a sill for the windows). This trim is repeated about midway up the square corner columns. The top of the openings to the porch and porte cochere are shaped with rounded corners. The hipped roof of the porch has a shallow slope. A brick chimney is on the south façade of the house and it is flanked by Craftsman style windows.

The home was constructed for retired Owen Township farmer, Charles Beutelspacher and his wife, Leanah, in about 1925. Charles was born in Kentucky in 1857 to German immigrant parents. Leanah was born in Indiana in 1868. They had one child, Esta Anna (Parker) who died in 1919 at the age of 22 years. The Beutelspachers raised Esta's daughter, Blanche Parker, who lived with them during the 1920s-1930s. Charles died in 1939, after which time Leanah sold the

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

home and moved to Muncie, Indiana where she lived during the 1940s-1950s. They are buried next to their daughter in Riverview Cemetery, Seymour.

510 N. Chestnut. Craftsman, c. 1910. Contributing

514 N. Chestnut. Italianate/L-Plan, c. 1885. Contributing

518 N. Chestnut. L-Plan, c. 1885. Contributing

602 N. Chestnut. Former Gable-front/Colonial Revival, c. 1885/1920. Contributing

608 N. Chestnut. Queen Anne Cottage, c. 1895. Contributing

614 N. Chestnut. American Four Square, c. 1910. Contributing

616 N. Chestnut. Central-Passage, c. 1895. Contributing

622 N. Chestnut. L-Plan /Italianate Cottage, c. 1895. Contributing

626 N. Chestnut. L-Plan/Free Classic Cottage, c. 1900. Contributing

700 N. Chestnut. Queen Anne, c. 1895. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0003

710 N. Chestnut. Queen Anne, c. 1895. Contributing

N. Chestnut Street, going south from 8<sup>th</sup> Street, west side of street.

723 N. Chestnut. Italianate/Gable-front, c. 1890. Contributing

717 N. Chestnut. Italianate/L-plan, c. 1890. Contributing

713 N. Chestnut. Queen Anne/T-plan, c. 1890. Contributing  
Right side of photo 0004

711 N. Chestnut. American Four Square, c. 1920. Contributing  
Middle of photo 0004

705 N. Chestnut. George A. Clark House, Craftsman, c. 1923. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0004 (east façade) and photo 0005 (front façade)  
The two-story house has a brick foundation and its walls are covered with clapboards. The house features a variety of wood casement and fixed windows with multiple pane configurations and simple wood trim. Exposed rafter tails support wide-overhanging eaves for the gabled roof that is covered with asphalt shingles. While the house has a Chestnut Street address, its primary

Walnut Street Historic District

Name of Property

Jackson County, IN

County and State

entry and front façade faces 7<sup>th</sup> Street, giving the house a side-gabled appearance. The 7<sup>th</sup> Street façade has a simple formality. It is divided into three bays with a gabled porch and entry centered in the middle bay. A wood trim belt is at the top of the first story and forms a sill for the second story windows. The porch features a segmental-arched opening with stucco and half-timbering in the gable wall. The porch roof is supported by wide, square wood columns that rest on brick piers; large wood brackets support the eaves. The entry is composed of a wood door and side-lites with Craftsman windows. A short pair of casement windows is centered in the second story above the entry. The east bay steps out and features a row of three wood windows with transoms on the first and second stories. A narrow shed roof forms an awning above the first story row. The west bay features a row of three fixed windows with transoms on the first story and a row of three casement windows on the second story. The first story's row has a shed roof awning supported by wood brackets. A two-story gabled sunporch is on the west end of the house.

The east façade (facing Chestnut) features a full-width porch with a wall of open lattice-like brick work. The porch has wood square columns that support a shed roof. A Craftsman style wood door is centered in the first story and is flanked by wood windows. The second story features two pairs of wood casement windows. The attic's gable wall is covered with stucco and half-timbering. A pair of short casement windows divided into six panes is centered in the gable.

George A. Clark was no stranger to the Chestnut Street neighborhood. He lived in the 300 block of N. Chestnut during the 1900s. He married Josephine Lieninger in 1901 and began a wholesale grocery on South Chestnut Street in Seymour. The couple had three daughters and a servant living with them in 1910. They constructed this home by about 1923. Shortly after, Josephine died in November 24 at the home, leaving George a widower in the 1930 census. George became a real estate broker during the 1930s-1940s.

635 N. Chestnut. Charles W. Milhous House. Free Classic, c. 1898. Contributing  
Attributed to J. L. Nichols' "The Walls." Right side of photo 0006

The two-story house has a brick foundation and clapboard siding. A tall band board forms a belt course at the top of the first story walls and the bottom of the second story walls flare out above it. A tall frieze board is at the top of the second story walls and modillions support the roof's wide overhanging eaves which feature coffered soffits. The house has a steeply-pitched hipped roof, covered with asphalt shingles, with lower cross gables. A wide brick chimney is centered in the north-facing slope of the roof. The house has 1/1 wood windows and several three-sided bays with cutaway corners.

The front façade features a full-width wood porch with pairs of Tuscan columns on piers (tripled at corners). The piers have raised panels and a short balustrade of turned spindles is between the piers. The columns support a low-pitched hipped roof that features an enclosed cross-gable over the entry, centered on the front, and an enclosed gable in its north end (facing north). The gables have walls covered with wood lattice, and are supported by modillions. The first story wall has a wood entry door with a full window, north of center, and a wide 1/1 window centered in its south half. A three-sided bay with cutaway corners and a 1/1 in each wall is north of the entry. This bay also has a polygonal element under the north-facing porch gable on the north elevation. The

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

second story wall has a 1/1 window centered in its north half. A bay with two 1/1 windows juts out on the south half. The bay has an enclosed cross gable with an oval attic window with diamond-shaped mullion.

The north façade (facing 7<sup>th</sup> Street) also has an interesting asymmetrical arrangement with a two-story three-sided bay with cutaway corners in its west half. The bay features 1/1 windows in each wall of each story. The bay has an enclosed cross gable with a multi-paned attic window. A small square window is east of center on the façade, above which is a three-sided oriel bay with cutaway corners. The bay is supported by large wood brackets and its walls are flared at the bottom. It has a window with diamond-shaped panes in each wall and a tall-hipped roof. The bay is at a mid-level point at a stairway landing.

Charles W. Milhaus was born in 1858 in Indiana. He married Rose McClure in Scott County, Indiana in 1884. They had four children living with them in the home in 1900 and 1910. A sister-in-law, Laura McClure, also lived with the family. Charles was a druggist in Seymour who owned his own store. However, by 1920, he and his wife, and oldest son, Frank, moved to California to become orange farmers in the La Habra area. The couple farmed through the 1940s.

631 N. Chestnut. Queen Anne, c. 1890. Contributing  
Middle of photo 0006

This house shares many design elements with 635 N. Chestnut, but is one bay wider.

625 N. Chestnut. Dr. W. M. Casey House. Italianate/Queen Anne, c. 1885. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0006

The two-story house has a brick foundation and clapboards over its walls. The tall, 1/1 wood windows have simple entablature hoods. The top of the walls features a paneled frieze and simple sawn brackets that support the eaves and enclosed gutters. The top of the roof has a flat portion. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The front façade has a full-width wood porch that wraps around to the south side of the house. It has Tuscan columns, a plain entablature, and simple modillions that support its hipped roof. The balustrade is of turned spindles. The entry to the porch is in the south half of the porch and features a pair of columns that support a slightly-projecting enclosed, gabled pediment. The front entry is on the south side of the façade and features a wood door with a full window and transom. A three-sided bay with cutaway corners and a wide center wall is centered in the first story north of the entry. It has a 1/1 window in each of its walls. The second story features two 1/1 windows in its north half and a pair of short 1/1 windows in its south half.

A two-story, three-sided bay is in the west half of the south façade. It has windows in each of its walls on both stories. It also terminates the west end of the wrap-around porch. A two-story gabled addition is on the back of the house. The house was likely constructed in the Italianate style as a simple cube, and then went through a remodeling campaign that added the wrap around porch, front three-sided bay, and back addition in the Queen Anne style.

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

The house was constructed for Dr. William M. Casey in about 1885. Casey was born in Ohio in 1848 and attended the Cincinnati Medical College in 1878, after which time he moved to Seymour to practice medicine. He died on February 27, 1923. His wife's name was Eunice and they had four children: Louise, Thomas, John, and Lois. A servant, Hattie Charles, lived with the family in 1900.

621 N. Chestnut. Queen Anne, c. 1890. Contributing  
Right side of photo 0007

615 N. Chestnut. H. C. Whitmer House. Queen Anne, c. 1885/1900. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0007. Similar to J. L. Nichols' "The Fee"  
The two-story house has clapboard siding and 1/1 wood windows with simple trim boards. The tall hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The front façade features a full-width wood wraparound porch (to the north façade) and a second story circular turret on its northeast corner. The porch features wood Doric columns on paneled piers and a balustrade of turned spindles. The porch roof is hipped and features a stepped-out mansard-like section over the entry steps on the north half of the façade. The porch and roof curve with the turret to the north façade. The three-part entry is composed of fluted pilasters, side-lites with a panel in the bottom, and a wide wood door with a window and panels in the bottom. A transom is above the door. A large, fixed window is centered in the first story south of the entry.

The second story features a pair of 1/1 windows in its south half and a large 1/1 window in its north half. The turret features patterned wood shingles and three curved 1/1 wood windows. Four tall bands of wood and two rows of dentils top the second story of the turret. The turret's roof has flared eaves and is covered with wood shakes. A metal ball finial is atop the roof. A gable is centered in the roof over the pair of windows on the second story. The gable has flared eaves and a pent roof that encloses the bottom of the gable. The gable wall has patterned shingles and a full-round arched attic window with wood keystone.

The house was constructed for Harry Clinton and Ida Whitmore in about 1885. Harold C. Whitmore was born in Ohio in 1863. In Seymour, Whitmore was involved in medicine manufacturing. Ida (Parks) was also born in Ohio, in 1865, and they had a son named Emerald. H. C. died in 1905 and is buried in Riverview Cemetery in Seymour. Ida continued to live in the home through the 1920s. She died in 1950.

611 N. Chestnut. Queen Anne/Gable-front, c. 1890. Contributing

601 N. Chestnut. Italianate, c. 1885. Contributing  
Foreground of photo 0008

515 N. Chestnut. George H. Vehslage House, Queen Anne, 1894. Contributing  
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.  
Photo 0009

The two-and-a-half story house features a rusticated limestone foundation and brick walls. Smooth limestone belt courses are located at the top of the foundation wall and at the bottom and

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

tops of windows on the first and second stories, forming sill course and header courses. The house has 1/1 wood windows with modern storm windows. The stone window sills and lintels project slightly from the belt course and feature a slight chamfered top edge on the sills and bottom edge on the lintels. A metal cornice with rows of brackets is at the top of the second story. The steeply-pitched hipped roof is covered with fish scale patterned slate and features lower cross gables on the front and side facades. The cross gables are enclosed at the bottom by a pent roof and feature a bracket cornice that follows the rake. Small 1/1 attic windows are centered in the slate-covered gable walls. Finials crown the front of each ridge. The house features an impressive wrap-around porch on its front and north (6<sup>th</sup> Street) facades and a similar porch on its south and west facades. The wood porch has intricately carved and turned spindlework and frieze panels for both its balustrade and trim at the top of its walls between its large turned wood posts. The porch has a mansard roof, covered with slate, with a metal cornice with rows of small brackets at its eaves.

The front façade's south half steps out and forms a two-story gabled bay with a large wood entry door and small window in its first story. The door is in the north half and aligns with a slightly-projecting bay with steps in the porch's front wall. The second story features a wide 1/1 window in the gabled bay. Wide 1/1 windows are north of center on the front façade's first and second story. The most prominent feature of the house is a five-sided, two-story turret on the northeast corner of the house. It features narrow 1/1 windows in three of its five walls in each story. The porch's front wall curves with the turret. The turret has a very steeply-pitched hipped roof that is covered with diamond-shaped patterned slate and features a tall finial. The north façade (facing 7<sup>th</sup> Street) features a two-story, three-sided bay with cutaway corners centered in the wall. It has 1/1 windows in each wall, in each story, except for a wood door with transom on the first story to provide access to the wraparound porch. The cross gable with attic window that crowns this bay features trim at the top of the cutaway corners that support the continuation of the cornice at the top of the second story, which also encloses the bottom of the attic gable. A pair of 1/1 windows is centered in the first and second story west of the three-sided bay.

George Henry Vehslage had this impressive home built in 1895-1896 for him and his wife, Marie (Kremhagen), after retiring from farming in the Brownstown area of Jackson County. Vehslage was born in Hanover, Germany in 1839 and immigrated to the United States in 1860 with his parents. He married Marie in Ohio in 1888. They had one child, George Jr. and three servants living with them in 1900. The Vehslages continued to own their farm ground, but rented it out. George died in 1925 and was buried at Riverview Cemetery, Seymour.

515 N. Chestnut (back). Contemporary Tudor Revival, c. 1975. Non-contributing.

419 N. Chestnut. Meedy S. Blish House, Neo Classical, 1899-1901. Contributing  
Photo 0010

The large two-story house has a formal appearance and is set back on a large lawn and a perimeter, historic cast iron fence. The main portion of its front facade symmetrically arranged with a tall, two-story pedimented portico. The house has a brick foundation and clapboard siding. Wide, fluted corner pilasters support a tall entablature complete with architrave and rows

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

of dentils below the cornice. The low-pitched hipped roof is covered with scallop-patterned slate and has a flat portion at its top.

The front façade is dominated by the two-story portico that is supported by four two-story, fluted Ionic columns on its front wall and fluted pilasters at its back wall. The enclosed pediment of the portico features rows of dentils and a large half-round fan window centered in the typanum. The window has a tall wood keystone. The entry, centered with the portico, features a wood door and side-lites and a wide, semi-elliptical fan transom window. The entry surround features narrow Ionic pilasters and a large scroll-keystone is at the top of the fan-lite transom. The side-lites and door feature panels at the bottom. Palladian windows flank the portico on the first story. The middle part of the window features a 1/1 rectangular window with full-round arch transom. It is flanked by narrow fixed sashes divided into 10 panes. A carved corbel-like keystone is atop the arch of the transom. The Palladian window's surround features paneled pilasters that support an entablature. The second story features a row of three 16/1 windows centered in the back wall of the portico. Flanking the portico on the second story are 16/1 windows. A one-story extension with a low-pitched hipped roof extends off the south end of the house. It features a bay of three multi-paned windows with panels at the bottom and a wide, fan window tops the bay. A second story sleeping porch enclosed with multi-paned windows rises above the one-story portion.

The north façade features a porte-cochere east of center. Its hipped roof is supported by a row of four fluted Ionic columns on its front and two fluted Doric pilasters at its back wall. The columns and pilasters support a tall entablature. The entry matches the front, but with Doric pilasters and no keystone on the fan-lite transom. A tall Palladian window rises above the porte cochere in the second story. It features recessed paneled pilasters that support a tall entablature broken by the arch of the middle sash. A corbel-like keystone is at the top of the arch. Two 16/1 windows are in the first and second story west of the porte cochere, and one 16/1 window is in the first and second story east of the porte-cochere.

Meedy S. Blish was the son of John and Sarah Shields, whose father was Meedy Shields. John was born in Vermont and after coming to Indiana, became the civil engineer for the Jeffersonville, Madison, & Indianapolis Railroad. John Blish founded the family's wealth through the establishment of the Old Reliable Flouring Mill and engagement with the First National Bank of Seymour during the mid-1800s. His two sons, Meedy and Tipton, took over the family's affairs and operation of Blish Milling Company by the 1890s. Meedy S. Blish constructed this home, which was the first in Seymour to have electricity, between 1899 and 1901. Meedy S. married Isabelle Everingham and they had two sons, John and Meedy White Shields Blish. The household included two servants in 1910. After his divorce, Meedy W. S. Blish lived at the home with his widowed mother until his death in 1956. Isabelle Blish died in 1961 at the age of 90 years. The Blish family is buried at Riverview Cemetery. The Blish House was purchased and restored by Victor Burkholder and converted into a funeral home in 1963.

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

409 N. Chestnut. Tipton Blish House/Chestnut Motor Inn, c. 1895/1955. Contributing

This property counts as two contributing resources: an earlier, c. 1890 two-story brick house with c. 1960 addition, and a separate, L-shaped motel building, c. 1960. The motel includes 32 units.

N. Walnut Street, going north from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, west side of street

301 N. Walnut. First Presbyterian Church, Late Gothic Revival, 1882. Addition, 1962.

National Register of Historic Places, listed 1991.

Right background of photo 0011, photo 0012

The brick and stone church is a T-plan with a front-facing gable with southeast corner entry/bell tower. The church has a rusticated limestone base and smooth-faced limestone quoins on its corners. The steeply-pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has decorative vergeboards. The tops of the gables are enclosed with wood and form recessed panels with trefoil-like tops. The front façade features the entry tower on its south end and large front-facing gable. The gabled section features a large three-part art glass window. A wide Gothic-arched middle section is flanked by tall, narrow windows separated by narrow pilasters of brick. The Gothic arched window is composed of a wide section flanked by tall, narrow sections which are topped by a tall Gothic arch transom. The transom is divided with wood mullions in a quatrefoil pattern with small roundels in each lower corner. The three-part art glass window has a stone sill, lintel over the flanking windows, and arch with keystone over the transom. The south façade (facing 3<sup>rd</sup> Street) has an identical gabled section. A narrow section with a shed roof is between the south-facing gabled section and tower; it has a pair of art glass windows with a stone sill and lintel.

The tower has a raised entrance with concrete steps to its front wall. The entry is composed of a pair of modern wood doors with art glass. A Gothic arch transom with modern art glass is part of the entry. The arch is limestone and features a keystone. The tower's south-facing first story wall has a tall art glass window with stone sill and lintel. A stone shield carved with the name and construction date of the church is centered in the tower's front wall, high above the entry. At the top of the brick portion of the tower are pairs of 1/1 wood windows in the east (front) and south walls. They have stone sills and lintels; the lintels are carved with slight Gothic arches over each window. A metal cornice with rows of brackets tops the brick portion of the tower, above which rises the belfry. This portion's walls are covered with cementitious shingles. A tall rectangular opening is in the belfry's four walls at the top of the tower. A wood cornice board is just below the eave of the tall steeply roof which is covered with asphalt shingles. A metal finial tops the steeple.

In 1962, an addition was made to the north end of the building. It has a flat-roofed portion immediately adjacent to the original part, followed by a front-gabled section, then extending north with a side-gabled section. It is also composed of brick with stone trim. The gable's trim and window configuration is similar to the original building's but includes a full-round arched center window. A pair of wood entry doors flanked by side-lites is in the flat-roofed section. The long side-gabled section features seven bays of casement windows in the basement and first

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

story; the bays feature stone panels between the basement and first story windows and stone panels above the first story windows that extend to the underside of the eave.

The Presbyterian congregation traces their roots in Seymour to 1855 when the founder of Seymour, M. W. Shields advertised a free lot and \$100 for any congregation that would form in the city. These advertisements ran in the Cincinnati and Louisville newspapers. A Presbyterian congregation, then of just seven members, formed on April 29<sup>th</sup> of the same year and a frame building was constructed by September at the corner of Chestnut and Second Streets. The congregation sold the lot and relocated to this location using the proceeds of the sale, and donations to construct the brick building in 1882. It is one of the oldest religious buildings in the city and belongs to the oldest, organized congregation. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

315 N. Walnut. American Four Square, c. 1918. Contributing

317 N. Walnut. Queen Anne, c. 1895. Contributing

321 N. Walnut. Office Building, c. 1980. Non-contributing

325 N. Walnut. Office Building, c. 1980. Non-contributing

405 N. Walnut. Colonial Revival, c. 1890. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0013

413 N. Walnut. Italianate/Gable-front addition, c. 1875/1890. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0013

419 N. Walnut. Dr. Graessle House, Greek Revival/I-House c. 1874/1912. Contributing  
Photo 0014

The two-story, side-gabled house is set back from the sidewalk with a nicely-landscaped lawn and perimeter wood picket fence with brick piers. The house has a symmetrical front façade with a two-story pedimented portico. The walls are covered with stucco and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Scroll brackets support the eaves. The wood portico features a pair of two-story fluted Ionic columns and pilasters on the front and back walls. The pediment features a plaster wall and sawn scroll brackets that support the cornice. The deeply-recessed entry features a wide wood door divided into multiple panels and multi-paned side-lites. Thin Ionic pilasters form the entry surround and support the fan-lite wood transom. A second story wood balcony is part of the portico. It features a simple wood picket balustrade and an entry composed of a pair of doors, side-lites, and transom all divided into multiple panes. Two 12/12 wood windows in each story flank the portico. The second story windows have flower boxes formed into the plaster walls and all windows have fixed shutters.

A one-story sunporch is on the south end of the house. It is enclosed with windows and doors with transoms divided into multiple panes. A second story porch with wood balustrade is atop the sunporch. A narrow one-story extension is on the north end of the house; it has a 12/12

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

window in its east wall. A tall chimney is located on the north gabled end of the house; one is also located at the ridge just south of the portico.

The house, over its early life, had many owners who were usually of some means. Originally, the house was built in 1874 in the unincorporated village of Rockford, north of Seymour, in Redding Township. It was relocated to Seymour, but faced 5<sup>th</sup> Street until it was turned and remodeled about 1912, at which time stucco was applied and the Ionic columns were added. For a brief time, the home was occupied by Dr. Scott C. and Helen (Moore) Applewhite. Scott Applewhite was born in Brownstown, Indiana, went on to medical school, passed entry in the Naval Academy, then returned to practice in Seymour by about 1905 through 1912 when they relocated to San Antonio, Texas. He was a physician in World War I. In the 1910s through 1920, the house was owned by William C. and Lucy (Blish Shields) Humbert. Lucy was the daughter of John and Sarah Blish. William and Lucy were married in 1888, in Indiana, though William was from New York and retained a house in Brooklyn where he was a financier and broker during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The couple lived briefly in Berlin, Germany (1909). Upon returning to the United States, Lucy became a patient in the River Crest Sanitarium in Queens in 1910, which explains William's position as married, but living without his wife in Brooklyn at the same time. After Lucy's death in 1927, William returned permanently to New York. Interestingly, both the Applewhites and Humberts retained the same house servant, Louise Ahlbrand, during their time living in the home.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the home was owned by Alonzo (Lon) C. and Nannie Griffitts. Lon was the president of Southern Indiana Telephone and & Telephone Company. He was born in Tennessee and had moved to Seymour from Louisville, Kentucky about 1915. He purchased the home in about 1921. Dr. Harold P. Graessle purchased the home during the 1930s. Graessle married Luella Toms and lived with Elizabeth Toms, his mother-in-law, at 600 Second Street in 1920. Harold was born in Indiana in about 1894 and became a surgeon at the Seymour Clinic. He died in 1977 and is buried in Seymour with his wife who preceded him in death in 1974.

603 N. Walnut. American Four Square, c. 1910. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0015

607 N. Walnut. Queen Anne Cottage, c. 1890. Contributing  
Second from left side of photo 0015

613 N. Walnut. Queen Anne, c. 1890. Contributing  
Photo 0016

619 N. Walnut. American Four Square, c. 1900. Contributing

623 N. Walnut. Colonial Revival, c. 1905. Contributing

627 N. Walnut. Gabled-ell, c. 1900. Non-contributing  
The house has been substantially altered with new brick veneer, new windows, and a change in fenestration proportion from the original. These changes render the house non-contributing.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

633 N. Walnut. Craftsman, c. 1900. Contributing  
Second from right side of photo 0017

637 N. Walnut. Free Classic, c. 1905. Contributing  
Photo 0017

N. Walnut Street, going south from W. 7th Street, east side

636 N. Walnut. American Small House, c. 1950. Contributing

632 N. Walnut. Center-Passage/Craftsman, c. 1880/c. 1905. Contributing

628 N. Walnut. Gable-front, c. 1900. Non-contributing  
The house has new vinyl siding and a modern (c. 1970) porch and a change in some window configurations with newer windows. These changes render the house non-contributing.

624 N. Walnut. Apartment building, contemporary, c. 1970. Non-contributing

620 N. Walnut. Apartment building, contemporary, c. 1965. Non-contributing

614 N. Walnut. Apartment building, contemporary, c. 1965. Non-contributing

608 N. Walnut. Gable-front, c. 1890. Contributing

606 N. Walnut. American Four Square, c. 1918. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0018

602 N. Walnut. Dr. Charles Gillespie House, Spanish Revival, c. 1927. Contributing  
Photo 0018

The house is C-shaped with a courtyard terrace that faces 6<sup>th</sup> Street (south). A low wall, also covered with stucco, encloses the lot. The middle part of the C is two-stories while the top and bottom legs of the C are one-story. The walls are covered with stucco. The one-story sections have gabled roofs that are covered with asphalt shingles and the two-story section, which features a stepped parapet, has a flat roof. The house features metal casement windows with wood storm windows. The front façade features a gabled section in its north half and a side-gabled section in its south half. A tall window is in the north half of the gabled section and a porch with a flat roof is in the south half. The stucco-covered porch features arched openings on three sides and a wood door with a window divided into multiple panes of glass in its back wall. The side-gabled section of the front façade features a wide window that has an awning covered with Spanish tiles supported by carved wood brackets.

The south (6<sup>th</sup> Street) façade has two one-story gabled sections that flank the courtyard terrace and the two-story section beyond. The west gabled section features two windows that are

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

shielded by a wide awning covered with Spanish tiles supported by carved wood brackets. A small oculus attic window is in the gable. The east gabled section features one window with a narrower awning that matches the others. Both gabled sections have windows that open into the courtyard terrace. The south-facing wall of the two-story section, which faces the courtyard terrace, features a wood door with a window divided into multiple panes in the west half of its first story and a pair of casement windows in its east half. The door and windows are covered by an awning, but the awning is covered with asphalt shingles. The second story features a narrow metal balcony with a tall window centered in the story. It is flanked by wide windows. The parapet is stepped with a gabled section in the center.

The home was constructed for Dr. Charles E. Gillespie and his wife Ruth in about 1927. Gillespie had previously lived further south on Walnut Street during the 1910s-20s. He married Ruth Davis in 1923; the couple were Quakers. A daughter, Janet, and a house servant lived with the family in 1930, followed by a son born in 1931 named Charles. Charles died at the age of 15. Gillespie was an ear, eye and throat physician. Dr. Gillespie was born in 1877 and died in 1957. He is buried at Riverview Cemetery, Seymour. Ruth continued to live in the home into the 1960s before relocating to California to live with her daughter, where she died in 1981.

518 N. Walnut. James F. Tunley House, Dutch Colonial Revival, c. 1910. Contributing Photo 0019

The two-and-a-half story side-gabled house features a rock-face cast concrete block foundation and clapboard siding. Most of the home's windows are 1/1 with label hoods and simple trim. The home's gambrel roof is covered with faux shakes (fiberglass). The front façade features a full-width incised porch with four large Doric columns supporting the second story. The wood entry door and side-lites have bottom panels and are in the south end of the façade. Two 1/1 windows are north of the entry. Two dormers with enclosed gables are on the front of the house; they feature 9/1 wood windows and tall cornice trim. Each side gable features an asymmetrical arrangement of windows on the first and second stories, but both feature a pair of small, square, wood attic windows divided into nine panes.

The house was constructed for James F. and Harriet (Nevins) Tunley in about 1910. The Tunleys were living nearby on West Fifth Street in 1910, but appear to have moved here shortly after. It was constructed by 1913, and the couple was living here during the 1920s through 1930s. James was born in 1878 in Illinois and became a commercial salesman for a drapery company. They had one daughter, Evelyn, born in 1915. It seems that the couple sold their home, or possibly lost it during the Great Depression, because James was without work in 1930 and by 1943, the couple lived south of town. James was working again by that time. James died in 1945 and was buried at Riverview Cemetery, Seymour.

504 N. Walnut. Redeemer Lutheran Church, Modern, 1949/2016. Contributing

Arthur R. Arend, architect, Cincinnati, Ohio

Photo 0020 and right background of photo 0021 (tower)

The gable-front church building has a long nave of brick with stone trim, a one-story semicircular entry foyer of limestone on the front, and a tall, square brick bell tower with entry near the back (east end) of the nave. The front façade has a wide set of steps that lead to the one-

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

story semicircular entry. The entry has four aluminum doors with transoms in its center, facing west, flanked by five tall art glass windows that radiate around the semicircular wall. An aluminum entry door with transom is in the semicircular foyer against the nave. The art glass windows are divided by stone piers. The windows are composed of large chunks of colored glass in the foyer, as well as in the nave, and have stylized patterns of angels and crosses and other religious imagery. The foyer's roof is flat and features a tall, triple band of aluminum fascia. The nave's front gable has a wide bay of limestone panels, stacked vertically, flanking a large art glass window with a large limestone cross in its center. The stack of panels is framed by vertical, rounded pilasters of limestone. The cross has metalwork forming stylized radiating beams from the center of the cross. A narrow band of carved limestone forms a cornice at the top of the gable and continues onto the eaves of the building's sides. The gable roof is covered with metal.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Street (south) façade is visually important due to the side view of the nave and bell tower. The nave features six bays of art glass windows trimmed in limestone with limestone panels above (from the window to the top of the wall) and below (from the window to the foundation which is also limestone). The westernmost art glass window is about half the height of the others and does not have a panel between it and the foundation; it does have a panel above it and the window is trimmed with stone. The tower is particularly striking, given its height and the architect's modern interpretation of a bell tower. It is similar to Eliel Saarinen's First Christian Church tower (1942) in Columbus, Indiana, a mere 18 miles away. The square brick tower is attached to the side of the nave and features a pair of aluminum entry doors with transom, trimmed in stone, facing west. A rectangular window is in the tower's south wall on the first story, and identical windows are just above this window and the entry. These windows are metal and trimmed with limestone. There are no other features until the top of the tower which has two vertical rows of six square windows trimmed with stone. One row is centered on the tower, and the other is to its north. This is repeated on the south-facing wall, but the second row of windows is to the west of center. The tower's flat roof has a thin band of limestone coping at the parapet. A tall, thin aluminum cross is to the south of the rows of windows on the front wall. It extends down the side of the wall and is held in place by two aluminum bands, but then rises high above the tower roof. A large, contemporary two-story brick and glass addition was placed on the north side of the church in 2016. It is a substantial remodeling of the early one-story educational wing. Originally, the one-story wing was brick with vertical stone banding similar to the pilasters flanking the cross on the front.

Redeemer Lutheran is a relatively young congregation. On September 3, 1946, about 30 members met to discuss the organization of a congregation in the north part of Seymour. Their parent congregation, Immanuel Lutheran, allowed 150 of its members to join and combined, the new congregation purchased a large, two-story house on the northeast corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets. Sunday services were held on the first floor and the first pastor's family, Pastor Russell Prohl, lived on the second floor. The first service was held on January 1, 1947. Within three years, the congregation razed the house and constructed the existing church building.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

420 N. Walnut. Bollinger House, Italianate, 1879/1890. Contributing  
Photo 0021

The two-story L-shaped brick house has 1/1 wood windows with stone sills and segmental arched hoods. The hoods, which are also above entries, are carved with a pinwheel design on the corbels that flank windows and support the hood; a carving is also in the face of the arched hood. The low-pitched hipped roof has wide-overhanging eaves supported by tall scroll brackets between which is a paneled frieze. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The front façade has the forward projecting leg of the L on its north half. It features a three-sided bay with cutaway corner on the first story; each wall has a narrow 1/1 window and the bay's roof has a bracketed cornice and flat roof. The second story of the projecting leg features a pair of narrow windows centered in the wall. The façade south of the projecting section features a porch with concrete floor and five wood posts that support a flat roof. The roof has a cornice with pairs of brackets. The back wall of the porch features a wood door with a full window and transom in its north end and a 1/1 window in its south end. A door with full window and transom is in the south-facing wall of the projecting section of the façade. The second story features two 1/1 windows above the porch and one 1/1 window that faces south, over the porch, in the projecting section of the façade. The north façade is dominated by the central two-story block of the house. It has a wood entry door in its east end sheltered by a shed roof supported by massive scroll brackets. Two 1/1 windows are west of the entry. The second story has three 1/1 windows.

The house belonged to the Bollinger family for several decades in the late 1800s into the 1930s. In the early 1900s through early 1920s, the Alexander & Anna Bollinger family lived in the home. Alexander was born in 1855, in Indiana, but his parents were from Switzerland and settled in Clark County. He and a brother came to Seymour by 1870 and worked as clerks in a hotel at the age of 15 and 21. He was a salesman at the family wholesale grocery. For unexplained reasons, the 1900 census identifies Anna as the head of the household and widowed. Anna died by 1920, but Alexander continued to live in the house with his widowed niece, Eunice Bollinger. Alexander died in 1930. The house had sold to Elmer C. and Edna Bollinger by 1925. Elmer's occupation is listed as real estate broker in the 1930 census. One source states that the house was built for Elmer C. Bollinger in 1879, however, no brick residences appear on the 1887 Sanborn map for Seymour, and Elmer would have been just a few years old. Elmer and Alexander appear to have been brothers and sons to Conrad, a native of Switzerland.

414 N. Walnut. Colonial Revival, c. 1910. Contributing  
Photo 0022

The two-and-a-half story house sits well back from the sidewalk with a deep lawn and iron fence that encloses the lot. The house has clapboard siding and its side-gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The front façade is dominated by a two-story porch with flat roof supported by square columns. The raised porch floor is brick and is enclosed with a simple wood balustrade. Wide brick steps are centered on the porch and lead to the entry composed of a door, covered with wood shutters, and side-lites. The entry surround is composed of fluted Doric pilasters that support a tall entablature. Flanking the entry are wide 12/12 wood windows with label hoods.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Three wide 12/12 wood windows are in the second story. The front façade features three dormers with enclosed gables and 12/12 windows. Two-story extensions are on the north and south ends of the house. The first story features a 9/9 and 12/12 window in the north and south extensions, respectively. The second stories are sleeping rooms enclosed with rows of casement windows divided into multiple panes. The extensions have very low-pitched hipped roofs.

The house appears to have been constructed about 1910 for Jean & Maude DeGennes. Jean was born in France about 1894 and Maude was born in New Jersey about 1884. They had one child, Jean, who was born in 1920. Also in the household was a private family cook, Raymond Demageux of France. Their stay in Seymour was short-lived, and no indication of their occupation is made in the 1920 census. By 1930, the house had become home to the John C. Groub family that included John's wife, Millison (Miles). John was the son of Theodore and Louella (Clark) Groub and joined his father as proprietors of a wholesale grocery in Seymour. This became the John C. Groub Company during the mid-1900s. John and his wife first lived two blocks north of this residence on Walnut Street. John died in 1948 and is buried at Riverview Cemetery, Seymour. Millison died a year prior. The couple lived in the home until the time of their deaths.

404 N. Walnut. Dr. Millard Gerrish House, Queen Anne, c. 1895. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0023

402 N. Walnut. Dr. Henry Kyle House, Italianate, c. 1880. Contributing  
Right side of photo 0023

N. Poplar Street, going north from 4<sup>th</sup> Street, east side of street

322 N. Poplar. T-plan, c. 1895. Contributing

618 N. Poplar. Ranch House, c. 1955. Contributing  
Photo 0024

The one-story house has a wainscot of rusticated limestone ashlar capped by a smooth stone belt course on its front façade. The ashlar extends to the roof on the north corner and covers the full garage wall which projects forward on the south end of the façade. Vertical wood planks cover the wall above the wainscot. The house has wide 1/1 wood windows; the limestone belt course forms a sill course for the windows. The low-pitched cross-hipped roof has wide overhanging eaves and is covered with asphalt shingles.

From south-to-north, the front façade is arranged with the projecting garage bay which features a one-stall bay with an eight-panel overhead door with two windows. Two 1/1 windows are north of the garage. An entry stoop, fronted by a short section of ashlar wall, is south of center on the façade. The entry is recessed and features a wide wood door and side-lite to its south. The door has a small window in its top. A pair of 1/1 windows is north of the entry. These are followed by an opening composed of glass blocks with a small, clear pane near its top. North of the glass block window is another pair of 1/1 windows.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

The house was built about 1955 as a parsonage for the First United Methodist Church of Seymour. By 1957, it was the residence of Reverend Emery Parks and his wife, Ruth. Reverend Parks was the pastor, while Ruth was a teacher with the public schools. In 1960, Reverend Charles Walls lived at the parsonage.

628 N. Poplar. T. Harlan & Helen Montgomery House, Dutch Colonial Revival, 1922-1929. Contributing. Listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. Wilson B. Parker, architect.

636 N. Poplar. Thomas Groub-Whitcomb House, Tudor Revival, 1915-17. Contributing Also known as the Governor Edgar Whitcomb House. Frank Hunter, architect. Photo 0025

The two-and-a-half story, side-gabled house sits on a hill and has a wide, rambling appearance from north to south. It has a wainscot of dark brown brick and its walls are covered with stucco. The house has a variety of window styles, mostly historic wood casements divided into multiple panes, with modern storm windows. The jerkinhead roof is covered with clay tiles. The front façade features an entry south of center composed of a wide wood door with a window in its top. Narrow windows divided into four panes flank the entry door; these are not categorically sidelites, since they do not abut the door. An arched porch hood, with an arched ceiling, is above the entry and is supported by large wood brackets. South of the entry is a row of three wide multi-paned windows with transoms. North of the entry is a wide chimney, also with brick wainscot and stucco, flanked by pairs of multi-paned windows with transoms.

The second story features a projecting gabled section that jetties out and is supported by large wood corbels. It has a row of three multi-paned windows and wood shutters. North of the gabled section and generally above the entry are two windows. The south window is shorter than the north window, which also features wood shutters. The chimney features a narrow gabled roof section at the top of the first floor, but the shaft continues up and through the eave as it tapers inward. The tall chimney is capped with stone. One window is south of the chimney and a pair of windows is north of the chimney on the second story. These windows also have wood shutters. Two eyebrow dormers with shed roofs flank the chimney in the attic. The dormer walls are covered with stucco and they feature a rectangular window divided into multiple panes. A two-story screened porch and a one-story sunporch extend from the south and north ends of the house, respectively. These have wood pergolas supported by round columns covered in stucco that project out (to the west) and wrap around the front façade slightly.

The north façade features the sunporch, enclosed with French doors and transoms at its west end. A second porch with a wood entry door and two small rectangular windows is in the east end. These windows wrap around to the east side of the house. The north-facing gable features two multi-paned windows with wood shutters in the second story and a smaller window with wood shutters in the attic. Of note is the home's architect, Frank Baldwin Hunter, of Indianapolis. Hunter was well-known for his residential design in the city, particularly in the Meridian Street corridor, where his stucco-clad homes were popular trademarks of his work.

Walnut Street Historic District

Name of Property

Jackson County, IN

County and State

The house was constructed for the Thomas Clark Groub family between 1915 and 1917.

Thomas was the third generation to operate the Groub family wholesale grocery in Seymour. His father was Theodore Groub and grandfather was John Groub. He partnered with his brother, John C. Groub in the early 1900s. Thomas married Margaret Thompson in 1913 and had two children. In 1920, their household included Samuel and Fannie Carruthers, a chauffeur and cook. The Groubs lived in the home until about 1956. Margaret died in 1968; Thomas died in 1973 while still engaged in the family grocery business. They are buried in Riverview Cemetery, Seymour.

The house was listed as vacant in 1957, however, by 1959, it had become home to Edgar and Patricia Whitcomb. Edgar was born in 1917 to John and Louise Whitcomb, residents of Spencer, Indiana. Edgar Whitcomb attended Indiana University in 1939, then joined the Army Air Corps during World War II. He returned to finish his law degree and began his practice in Seymour. He served in the Indiana State Senate for three years, then was elected Secretary of State. He was elected governor in 1968 and served until 1973. Later in life, Whitcomb relocated to Rome, Indiana, where he died in 2016.

### W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

300 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Theodore Groub House, Queen Anne, c. 1892. Contributing  
George F. Barber, architect design number 027. Photo 0011

The two-and-a-half story house has a rusticated limestone foundation and its walls are covered with stucco. The house has 1/1 wood windows with simple trim boards. The steeply-pitched hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles in a slate pattern. Two facades are prominent: the south (front/2<sup>nd</sup> Street) and the east (Walnut Street).

The front façade features an incised porch in its east half; the front wall of the porch extends to the south and wraps around the east façade's south half. The porch features pairs of wood Doric columns and a simple balustrade. A modern handicap ramp with the same balustrade is along the east side of the porch. The entry steps are in the east end of the front façade. A low-sloped pediment projects out over the steps and is supported by Doric columns. A wood entry door is in the west end of the porch's back wall. The southeast corner of the porch's back wall is chamfered and a large fixed window is in the diagonal wall. A 1/1 window is in the west wall of the porch. The west end of the front façade's first story has a wide brick chimney that extends to the west corner of the front wall. The chimney has a tall, stepped limestone base and a full-round arched window with a limestone surround in its east half. The surround has stylized pilasters and arch with keystone. The chimney's west corner features a canted, stepped brick buttress with limestone caps. The chimney rises up to form a limestone-capped reverse ogee on its east end (on the second story) and a recessed quarter-round panel of unglazed tile in its west half. A sleeping porch enclosed with rows of 1/1 windows is on the southeast corner of the front façade; it is partially covered with a shed roof at its east end. At the top of the second story, the chimney features a limestone volute with stepped trim as it rises to the west. An unglazed tile in a recessed panel is west of the stepped trim. As it rises above the roof line, the top of the chimney divides into four brick flues with heavy corbelling near the top. The front façade

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

features a wide jerkinhead gable. The gable wall is covered with patterned shingles. A row of three 1/1 attic windows is centered in the gable. Scallop trim is on the gable fascia.

The Walnut Street façade features the wraparound porch from the front. It extends to a projecting gabled section near the center of the façade. The first story features one small fixed window east of the gabled section. The gabled section's first story features a three-sided bay with cutaway corners and a hipped roof flanked by narrow 1/1 windows. The bay has a 1/1 window in each of its walls. The façade north of the gabled section features a grouping of three 1/1 windows; the flanking windows being much narrower than the middle one. The Walnut Street façade's second story features a pair of 1/1 windows in the projecting gabled section and in the wall north of the gabled section. The gable wall has patterned shingles and a pair of narrow 1/1 attic windows with a decorative wood triangular panel above. The second story south of the gabled section features two 1/1 windows (part of the sleeping porch) in its south end and a 1/1 window in its north end. Situated prominently between these is a three-sided bay with cutaway corners and a 1/1 window in its front wall. The bay rises above the second story to form an octagonal tower with a cornice and flared roof section at the top of the second story. The tower's walls are covered with patterned shingles and wood oculus windows are in the wider, cardinal directional-facing walls. The tower's eaves are metal and flare out with pressed metalwork trim above the eave flare and below it. The tower's tall dome has a ribbed appearance and is crowned with decorative ironwork. A one-and-a-half story gabled addition is on the north end of the house; it features two 1/1 windows facing Walnut Street.

Theodore Groub was born about 1859 in Rockford to John and Elizabeth Groub. The father was from Switzerland and had settled in Seymour by 1870 where he had started a grocery. This early family were neighbors to John Blish, another prominent family of Seymour in 1870. Theodore was likely the individual who had the home constructed for his family, which included his wife, Louella (Clark), and sons John Caspar and Thomas. In 1900, they had a servant named Maggie Browning living with them. Theodore was the second generation to operate the Groub grocery in Seymour and his son, John, was already working as a clerk in 1900. The Groubs lived in the house through the 1940s and 1950s. Theodore died in 1945 and Louella died in 1952; they are buried at Riverview Cemetery, Seymour.

West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (no resources)

West 4<sup>th</sup> Street

315 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Queen Anne/duplex, c. 1905. Contributing

317/319 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Craftsman/duplex, c. 1920. Contributing

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property  
West 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

200 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Apartments. Contemporary, c. 1970. Non-contributing

204 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Apartments. Contemporary, c. 1970. Non-contributing

West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, going west, north side

314 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Queen Anne, c. 1890. Contributing

316 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Queen Anne, c. 1890. Contributing

322 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Queen Anne, c. 1890. Contributing

West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, going east, north side

314 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. American Foursquare/Free Classic, c. 1905. Contributing  
Left side of photo 0026

308 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. American Foursquare/Free Classic, c. 1905. Contributing  
Right side of photo 0026

302 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Tudor Revival, c. 1920. Contributing  
The house appears to be the “Glen Falls” model of Sears catalog homes.

218 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. William P. Masters House, Queen Anne//T-plan, c. 1887. Contributing  
Photo 0027

The tall two-and-a-half story T-plan house features clapboard siding and steeply-pitched gabled roofs covered with asphalt shingles simulated to look like patterned slate. The tall 1/1 wood windows have simple entablature hoods. The roof has exposed, carved rafter tails that support an internal gutter in the eaves. Carved vergeboards are on the gables. The house has a number of unusual bays, cutaway corners, and trim features.

The front façade features a full-width porch that wraps around the east side of the house. Pairs of fluted Doric columns with egg-and-dart trim above the capitals rest on paneled, stone piers. These support a tall entablature, which features a fluted frieze, and the roof. The entry to the porch faces southeast and has an enclosed gable supported by two pairs of fluted Doric columns on paneled, stone piers. The gable’s wall features a carved sunburst panel atop a framed surround for the house number. A balustrade of thin, turned spindles extends to the west and north from the entry piers. The first story features a wide window centered in the front leg of the T and wood entry doors in the east-facing wall of the front leg and one in the south-facing wall of the east leg of the T. The second story features a cutaway in its southeast corner. The cutaway corner wall features a 1/1 window. The remaining second story façade features a wide,

Walnut Street Historic District

Name of Property

Jackson County, IN

County and State

but shallow, three-sided bay with cutaway corners. The bay projects out over the porch roof and has carved panels at the bottom of its walls. The bay's front wall features a square art glass window with a carved wood panel below it. Flanking it in the other walls are 1/1 windows. The bay's windows feature carved moldings over the top that drip down each side terminated with raised, circular trim. The front gable projects outward to cover the bay below. It has a semicircular window with shingles that radiate out from it covering the wall. A carved frieze band is near the top of the gable; a carved sunburst panel is atop the frieze.

The west façade includes some prominent, interesting features. A three-sided bay with cutaway corners in on the first story of the front leg of the T. It has a 1/1 in each wall and a large gabled roof with carved rafter tails and vergeboards. The gable wall is covered with patterned shingles and a small, carved panel is in the center. Sawtooth trim is along the rake boards. A 1/1 window is north of the gable in the second story. The west-facing leg of the T features a tall, oriel bay over its first and second stories. The semicircular bay is covered with patterned shingles and a large, semicircular art glass window. The bottom of the bay has a stepped conical support and the top of the bay features a frieze band of raised swag and garland, topped by rows of dentils, and a conical roof. A metal finial is at the top of the roof against the second story wall. A small 1/1 window is north of the bay and a 1/1 attic window is centered in the gable. The gable is covered with patterned shingles and sawtooth rake boards. Carved braces support the bottom corner of the eaves. A one-and-a-half story gabled extension is on the back of the house and generally comports to the details of the front part of the house.

William P. Masters lived in the home by 1900 with his wife, Emma, and their son, William G. Masters. Masters had been involved in retail grocery, marrying into that business, and drug manufacturing. By 1920 and into the 1930s, Masters changed professions and was a road contractor. Masters was born in 1862 in Indianapolis to parents who were born in Ireland and Scotland. He married Emma Groub (daughter of John and Elizabeth Groub) in 1887. The Masters moved out of their home and to North Chestnut Street during the early 1940s. William died in 1944 and Emma died in 1945; they are buried at Riverview Cemetery, Seymour.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

## 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.

### Criteria Considerations

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

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

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

**Period of Significance**

C. 1874-1962

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

**Significant Dates**

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

**Significant Person (last name, first name)**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name)**

Hunter, Frank

Barber, George F.

Parker, Wilson B.

Osterhage, Louis H.

William C. Ball & Sons

Arend, Arthur R.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

### **Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the approximate construction date of the district's oldest building, located at 419 N. Walnut, c. 1874 (photo 0014). While the primary development of residential architecture ended by about 1930, the period of significance is extended to 1962 to include the construction of Redeemer Lutheran Church (photo 0020, 1949) and modern additions to Central Christian Church (1960) and First Presbyterian Church (1962). These large churches demonstrate the role their importance continued to play in supporting the upper/upper-middle class population of the district.

### **Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Walnut Street Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places using criterion C under architecture as the area of significance. The district, which was the home to the city's leading businessmen, includes the city's finest large-scale examples of Queen Anne architecture as well as excellent examples of 20<sup>th</sup> century revival styles. Classical Revival and Colonial Revival architecture are interspersed with large examples of Italianate, Craftsman, and Tudor Revival homes. Indianapolis architects Frank Hunter and Wilson Parker designed large houses in the district. George Barber, a Tennessee architect with a nation-wide mail-order design bureau, provided plans for one house. Additionally, Bloomington architect J. L. Nichols may have designed two houses in the district in the 1890s, while another house on 7<sup>th</sup> St. may be a Sears mail-order house from the 1920s. Regardless of attribution, the district's houses are good examples of the mainstream design preferences of the community.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### ARCHITECTURE

The Walnut Street Historic District's architecture exemplifies much of what was taking place in communities across the United States whose upper and upper middle class populations were benefitting from a growing economy, in both an industrial and retail base, by the late 1800s and into the early 1900s. Exuberance in form and features of high style Queen Anne and Classical

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Revival architecture is seen in the district. Several other popular styles round out the period of strong residential growth enjoyed along Chestnut, Walnut and Poplar Streets north of Seymour's commercial district. A few smaller examples of these styles exist in the district and are identified as cottages in this document. They include one-story Italianate, Queen Anne, Free Classic, and Craftsman dwellings. Most of these cottages are seen on the right side of photo 0003 and the right side of photo 0004.

Architectural styles waning in popularity during the 1870s include the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles. It is not surprising the district boasts of only one example of each, however, neither follow the typical trends of residential development. The Dr. Graessle House (419 North Walnut, photo 0014) is the oldest building in the district, built as an I-House in the Greek Revival style, but relocated to Seymour during the 1870s. The formality of the façade, with regular, symmetrical bays and formal central entry help identify as both Greek Revival and an I-House, popular in the United States during the 1830s-1880s. An expansive remodeling in c. 1912 included stucco application to the walls, and installation of the massive Ionic columns. The house, with its classical porch and deep front yard, has an impressive presence on Walnut Street. The First Presbyterian Church at 301 North Walnut (photo 0012), was constructed in 1882 in the Gothic Revival style. While the style's popularity diminished by the 1870s, particularly as replaced by the Italianate style, church architecture continued in the formal features of Gothic architecture, like steeply-pitched roofs and Gothic arched windows. The style's popularity resulted in several reformations including Late Gothic and Collegiate Gothic, both of which remained popular into the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. First Presbyterian Church, individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a wonderful example of the style with some carpenter-applied details to vergeboards and enclosed gable trim. The church has stone quoins on its corners and large, Gothic arched windows of art glass in quatrefoil patterns. Despite the bell/entry tower's partially enclosed belfry, the height of its roof and spire are outstanding features of the Gothic style.

Not surprisingly, as the district developed during the 1870s-1890s, the Italianate style emerged in house design. The district boasts several examples of the style, an equal representation to other popular styles that would come later in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Italianate style was popular between 1850 and 1880, particularly in Midwestern towns where the expansion of railroads brought wealth to communities and created a building boom during the period. The style traces its roots to England as part of the Picturesque Movement; the movement rejected formal classical ideas of art and architecture that were popular for 200 years. The Picturesque Movement emphasized rambling informal Italian farmhouses, but as the style entered the United States it was often modified and embellished into a truly Americanized style. The first Italianate house was constructed in the United States in the late 1830s. The style was popularized by house pattern books by Andrew Jackson Downing during the middle part of the 1800s, but its popularity began to wane as it began to be replaced by the Queen Anne Style in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The two best examples of the Italianate style are at opposite ends of the 400 block (east side) of Walnut Street (photos 0021, 0023, respectively). The Bollinger House (1879/c. 1890) at 420 N. Walnut and a house (c. 1890) at 402 N. Walnut are brick examples of the style with bracketed cornices, carved window hoods, and built in an ell-plan with a front porch to the south side of the projecting front portion of the house. Both examples have three-

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

sided bays with cutaway corners; the Bollinger House has the more traditional low-pitched hipped roof while the house at 402 Walnut features gables with jerkinhead roofs. While one source places the date of construction of the Bollinger House at 1879, Sanborn maps from 1887 indicate that that were only three frame dwellings on the block and no brick structures.

If the district is characterized by any one style, it certainly would be the Queen Anne style. The district has more than twenty examples of the style with a handful of Free Classic interpretations, which has many similar features of the style. The Queen Anne style was popular between 1880 and 1910; it was named and popularized by a group of 19<sup>th</sup> century English architects led by Richard Norman Shaw. The historical precedents used had little to do with the Renaissance style popular during Queen Anne's reign; rather they borrowed from late medieval examples of the preceding Elizabethan and Jacobean eras. Spindlework popularly used with the style and free classic subtypes are American interpretations and became the most dominant form of the style in the United States. Changes in taste and a rise in popularity of Colonial Revival led builders to simplify the Queen Anne style after the turn of the century.

The district's examples of Queen Anne architecture date from c. 1885 to c. 1900. There are five notable examples of the style. The Whitmer House at 615 N. Chestnut (c. 1885, left side of photo 0007) is the simplest example of these, but it has common features of the style that include an asymmetrical front façade, a rounded corner tower on the second story, and a lower cross gable with patterned shingles. The Vehsledge House at 515 N. Chestnut (photo 0009) is a large brick example of the style built in 1895-96. Its porch of detailed spindle work and carved friezes is accentuated by the patterned slate shingle work of the cross gables and roof. An octagonal turret rises out of the northeast corner of the house and features a tall, hipped roof capped by a large finial. The Groub House (c. 1892, photo 0011) is located at 300 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The house is from George F. Barber's architectural pattern book (No. 27). It continues the Queen Anne theme of patterned shingles in the gable walls of its tall attic story. Its most prominent features include a wonderfully-designed brick chimney (the remaining house is covered with stucco) that features stone trim of volutes and a massive arched window surround as its serpentine top tapers in toward the west corner of the front façade. The other impressive feature is its octagonal turret rising from the second story. It has oculus windows, patterned shingles, and fanciful ironwork on its ribbed/domed roof. One Queen Anne example at 613 North Walnut features a porch with round gazebo structure (photo 0016). The last Queen Anne example to note is the Masters House located at 218 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1887 (photo 0027). The house retains its wood clapboards and extensive number of carved panels, patterned shingles, and carved vergeboards. The house has several bays with cutaway corners and a semicircular, tall oriel bay on its west façade.

The Millhouse House, c. 1898, at 635 N. Chestnut (right side of photo 0006) should be mentioned as an example of Free Classic architecture, which began to take prominence over the Queen Anne style by the late 1890s. The style was more reserved in its use of ornamentation, though several features had been used with great regularity in the Queen Anne style including basic porch treatments. The Millhouse House features a full-width front porch with pairs of Doric columns and balustrades of turned spindles. A three-sided oriel bay on the north façade features diamond-patterned window panes and an oval attic window in the front façade includes a diamond-shaped pane and exaggerated keys in its surround. Like the Groub House, the

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Millhouse House may well be a pattern book house. It strongly resembles a design from J. L. Nichols' Album of Artistic Dwellings called "The Walls." Based in nearby Bloomington, Nichols had an architecture office and mail-order house plan service. The adjacent house, 631 N. Chestnut, has some traits of "The Walls" design as well. The Whitmer House at 615 N. Chestnut appears to be another Nichols design, "The Fee."

The district has an unusually-large number of Neo Classical, or Classical Revival style examples of residential architecture. Oftentimes, the style found its largest use in commercial and civic design. With the exception of Central Christian Church (photo 0001), the remaining five examples are residential in nature. This style emerged at the turn of the new century and continued into the 1930's in American cities. Several events and trends fed the movement toward Classicism. Planners of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 embraced classicism for most of the fair's major buildings. The Federal government adopted classicism for its expanding number of courthouses and post offices, beginning in the 1890's. While Americans had often chosen variants of classical-inspired architecture for civic projects, the new classicism was usually grander in scale. For the new classicism, architects often used detail that was "archaeologically" correct, meaning they most-closely followed precedents of ancient Greece that were being discovered in greater regularity in the 1800s. The style coincided with America's political and economic rise, as well as the coming of age of American cities. By the late 1910's and into the 1920's, as a robust American economy permitted, the style was being executed with greater attention to classical styling. However, in residential design, the popularity was more-or-less short-lived. Its popularity fell off by the 1920s. The district's best examples include Central Christian Church (1915, 414 N. Chestnut, photo 0001) and the Meedy Blish House across the street at 419 N. Chestnut (1899-1901, photo 0010). Central Christian Church typifies church construction using the style, with a raised base and large, two-story pedimented portico which is reminiscent of a Greek temple. The Meedy Blish House is truly an impressive example of residential Classical architecture. The house features a two-story pedimented portico with fluted Ionic columns and a fan-lite window in the tympanum. The house also features fluted pilasters on its corners that visually supports a tall entablature with rows of dentils. Palladian windows flank the entry and rise above a side entry that includes a porte cochere.

The district also has some large examples of Colonial Revival architecture, with a total of six examples, two of those being Dutch Colonial Revival. One of the finest examples is located at 414 N. Walnut Street (c. 1910, photo 0022). The two-story, side-gabled house features a raised, full-width, two-story porch with square columns. Gabled dormers in the attic, and the simple symmetry of the façade are common features in Colonial precedents. The Dutch Colonial example at 518 N. Walnut (photo 0019) also features gabled dormers on the front slope of its tall gambrel roof with side gables. The house's most prominent feature is its full-width incised front porch with Doric columns. The Colonial Revival style gained popularity after the Bicentennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 where it was heralded as an expression of the American identity. Planners of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago also called for pavilions that emulated American colonial architecture. The style became increasingly popular in the early 1900's and remained a desired style through the first half of the twentieth century. This early 20<sup>th</sup> century revival of the style borrowed directly from Colonial America's buildings in form and ornamentation.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

While there are only two examples of historic Tudor Revival architecture in the district, one is a large and impressive example, and was the home to former Indiana Governor Whitcomb. The Groub-Whitcomb House (1915-1917, photo 0025) is located at 636 N. Poplar Street. The house is a large two-and-a-half story example of Tudor Revival architecture with stucco walls and multi-paned casement windows. The jettied cross gable, jerkinhead side gable, and asymmetrical massing are Tudor Revival, while the wood pergola on massive round, stucco-covered columns are Craftsman features of the house. Indianapolis architect Frank Hunter, designer of the Groub-Whitcomb House, was as prolific as he was talented. He planned hundreds of houses in Indianapolis in the c.1910 – c. 1930 time period. Many of them featured stucco exteriors. Larger numbers of Tudor Revival architecture are elsewhere in Seymour; possibly due to the period the district developed, it had not become as in-fashion as other styles. This is also true of the large number of small, Spanish Revival homes in Seymour. Only one example is located in the district. It is located at 602 N. Walnut and was built c. 1927 (photo 0018). The stucco-covered house features a courtyard terrace that faces south and a two-story portion that overlooks it. The home's front porch has a flat roof with shaped, arched openings and the house has multi-paned casement windows. Both the Tudor Revival and Spanish Revival styles were popular in the United States during the early 1910s through the 1930s.

Another style that has a subtle presence in the district is representative of the trend in residential design away from American or European precedents during the early 1900s. Craftsman/Bungalow architecture broke from revival styles. The Craftsman style was inspired in part by the work of brothers Charles and Henry Greene in California. Their work spanned from 1893 to 1914; in 1903 they began applying Arts & Crafts details to simple bungalows that quickly became popularized by several home magazines of the period, including Gustav Stickley's The Craftsman. The term bungalow originated in India where it referred to a low house surrounded by porches. The American form of the bungalow was publicized in California. The Craftsman style spread quickly through the country as an acceptable and desirable style for the growing middle class in quickly developing suburbs. These homes were further popularized in pattern books and other home magazines, as well as in local newspapers. The bungalow form and Craftsman style were popular from about 1905-1935. There are several examples of the Craftsman style, and one is better classified simply as a Bungalow. The best example of Craftsman architecture is located at 705 N. Chestnut (c. 1925, photo 0005). It is a large, two-story house with clapboards and half-timbering and stucco in its gables. Its most prominent features are its gabled porch roof with arched ceiling, supported by massive wood brackets. Scroll brackets also support awnings over first story windows and gable overhangs. The only example of a Bungalow in the district is located at 506 N. Chestnut, built c. 1925 (photo 0002). The one-story house features a full-width front porch, mostly enclosed with windows as a sunporch, which extends to the south and becomes a porte cochere. The gable-front house itself is fairly basic, however, the porch and its extension is unusual.

The Four Square type was also popular in Seymour during the Craftsman era. Two stories tall, rectangular in plan, and typically crowned with a hipped roof, most builders incorporated Craftsman-styled porches into their facades. Another popular element was a Japanesque "kick" or flare to the roofline. The district has several good examples. Photo 0015, the 600 block of N.

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN

Name of Property

County and State

Walnut, shows two examples; the house in the foreground has the distinctive flared roofline. The builder of the house at 404 N. Chestnut (far right in photo 0001) used the Four Square format, however, he incorporated Free Classic elements such as the Tuscan-columned porch and offset two-story bay window. Others, such as 606 N. Walnut, are straight-forward example of the once-popular type. Four Squares, though decidedly simpler than the district's 19<sup>th</sup> century housing, continued to meet the desire for larger houses in the area into the 1920s.

As styles evolved in the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, people's tastes changed to more horizontal lines in their residential architecture. Modern architecture and Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style, no doubt had influence on the popularity of the Ranch House. One example of this is located in the district, on a large ample lot at 618 Poplar Street (photo 0024). The house, c. 1955, was built largely of rusticated Indiana limestone and features a low-pitched hipped roof. While dissimilar in massing from earlier houses, 618 Poplar is similar in degree of finish and square footage to the district's older housing. Modern architecture rounds out the period of significance, though the most impressive example in the district was built in 1949, prior to the Ranch house. Redeemer Lutheran Church at 504 N. Walnut (photo 0020) was constructed in 1949 in the traditional church architecture form of gable-front building and bell tower, but the architect's interpretation created stylized art glass windows, tall vertical bays, and a flat-roofed, semicircular foyer. The building's bell tower, a tall, square shaft of brick with rows of square windows at the top, is reminiscent of Saarinen's First Christian Church in nearby Columbus, Indiana (1942). Both the Central Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church, constructed in Classical and Gothic styles, turned to Modern architecture when they created classroom additions in 1960 and 1962, respectively. While Central Christian Church used a stone-framed bay of brick infill and ribbon windows in its education wing (right side of photo 0001), First Presbyterian attempted to blend its addition with the historic building. This was done by creating a gable-front to the addition that features historic Gothic arched art glass windows, matching brick, and vertical bays with limestone panels (right side of photo 0012).

---

### **Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

The City of Seymour traces its founding to Meedy Shields, who laid out a plat in 1852 of 100 lots southeast of the Walnut Street Historic District. Shields took advantage of the important rail line stretching between Jeffersonville, Madison, and Indianapolis, aligning the plat with the railroad company's tracks. Then in 1854, Shields convinced another railroad, the Ohio & Mississippi, to intersect the existing track by agreeing to prepare the railroad bed, and name the town in honor of the railroad company's civil engineer, Charles Seymour. This proved important as it connected the town with Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, and Indianapolis for trade.

The town's population nearly doubled between 1860 and 1864 as industry and business boomed and other towns in the region lost out to the transportation trade Seymour enjoyed. The Ohio & Mississippi Railroad set up a rail shop in Seymour in the 1870s. By the 1880s, Seymour was home to a wool mill, flour mill, planing mills, lumber mill, furniture factory, cooperages, wagon makers, and various small workshops. The city outpaced even the county's seat of government

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

in nearby Brownstown, particularly during Seymour's heyday growth of the 1890s-1930. This period of growth in its commerce and industry is directly reflected in the elaborate homes built in the Walnut Street district during the same period. Names like Shields, Blish, Groub, Masters, and Bollinger found in the district's history reflect this prosperity. Physicians and attorneys of the city enjoyed the same prosperity and collocated in the district, also building elaborate homes.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bondenhamer, David & Barrows, Robert. The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994. Contributing author: Paul Diebold, pg. 723 regarding Frank Hunter.

*Caron's Seymour City Directory*: 1922-24, 1925-26, 1927-28, 1931, 1940, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1960. Louisville (1922-1931) and Cincinnati (1940-1960): Caron City Directory Company.

Historic Sites and Structures Survey: Jackson County. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1988.

History of Jackson County, Indiana. Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1886.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses Second Edition. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Seymour, IN: 1887, 1892, 1996, 1901, 1907, 1913

United States Federal Census for Jackson County: 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

---

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government

Walnut Street Historic District

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 071-581-32001-0059, 071-581-34067-34069, 071-581-34073-074

---

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 28 acres

Use the UTM system

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 596011	Northing: 4313525
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 595659	Northing: 4313417
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 595891	Northing: 4312757
4. Zone: 16	Easting : 596254	Northing: 4312872

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the northwest corner of North Walnut Street and West Second Street, face southwest and follow the north side of West Second Street to the east side of the alley between Walnut and Poplar Streets. Turn northwest and follow the west side of the alley to the southeast corner of the property located at 322 North Poplar Street. Turn southwest and follow the south property line of 322 North Poplar to the east side of Poplar Street. Turn northwest and follow the east side of Poplar Street to the south side of West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, then turn northeast and follow the south side of West 4<sup>th</sup> Street to the east side of the alley between Poplar and Walnut Streets. Face northwest and follow the east side of the alley to the south side of West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, then turn northeast and follow the south side of 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the east side of North Walnut Street. Turn

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

northwest and follow the east side of North Walnut Street to the north side of West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Then turn southwest and follow the north side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the east side of North Poplar Street. Turn north and follow the east side of Poplar Street, extending across 7<sup>th</sup> Street and following the west property line of 314 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the property's northwest corner. Then turn east and follow the north property lines of 314, 308, 302, and 218 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, crossing Walnut Street, to the west property boundaries of those in the seven hundred block fronting North Chestnut Street.

Turn northwest and follow the west property lines to the northwest corner of 723 North Chestnut Street, then turn northeast and follow the north property line of 723 North Chestnut Street to the west side of North Chestnut Street. Then turn southeast and follow the west side of Chestnut Street to a line extended southwest from the north property line of 710 North Chestnut Street. Turn northeast and follow that line to the northeast property corner of 710 North Chestnut, then turn southeast and follow the east property lines of those properties front North Chestnut Street on its east side, crossing 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets to the west side of the alley between Chestnut Street and Indianapolis Avenue. Continue in a southeasterly line with the west side of the alley to the north side of West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, then turn southwest and continue in a line with the north side of West 4<sup>th</sup> Street to the west side of North Walnut Street. Turn southeast and follow the west side of North Walnut Street to the north side of West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, or the place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries follow a development pattern of large, commodious homes constructed by Seymour's middle and upper class residents during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, north of the city's historic business district. The scale of homes and period of construction changes dramatically to the west and north, and is mostly bordered by commercial development to the east and south, especially where the boundary abuts the Seymour Commercial Historic District at Chestnut and Third Streets. In specific cases where a boundary follows a property line and excludes part of a block, massing and integrity were key factors in that decision. For example, the west side of the 600 block of Poplar Street includes houses of lesser scale, with more alterations than the east side of Poplar. Similarly, houses north of the boundary along Chestnut are smaller in scale.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kurt West Garner  
organization: Indiana Landmarks/PIP  
street & number: 12954 6<sup>th</sup> Road  
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563  
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com  
telephone: 574-936-0613  
date: August 1, 2018

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

---

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast on Chestnut Street toward Central Christian Church

1 of 27.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at 506 North Chestnut Street

2 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast on Chestnut Street from just north of 7<sup>th</sup> Street

3 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at the 700 block of North Chestnut Street

4 of 27.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north at 705 North Chestnut Street

5 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest along the 600 block of North Chestnut Street

6 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest along the 600 block of North Chestnut Street

7 of 27.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest on North Chestnut Street from 6<sup>th</sup> Street

8 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west at 515 North Chestnut Street

9 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at 419 North Chestnut Street

10 of 27.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at 300 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

11 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at First Presbyterian Church

12 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at 405 and 413 North Walnut Street

13 of 27.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking west at 419 North Walnut Street

14 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at North Walnut Street from 6<sup>th</sup> Street

15 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at 613 North Walnut Street

16 of 27.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest on North Walnut Street from 7<sup>th</sup> Street

17 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at 602 North Walnut Street

18 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at 518 North Walnut Street

19 of 27.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at Redeemer Lutheran Church from 5<sup>th</sup> Street

20 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at 420 North Walnut Street

21 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at 414 North Walnut Street

22 of 27.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at 400 North Walnut Street from 4<sup>th</sup> Street

23 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at 618 North Poplar Street

24 of 27.

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east at 636 North Poplar Street

25 of 27.

Walnut Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, IN  
County and State

Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at 308 and 314 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street

26 of 27.

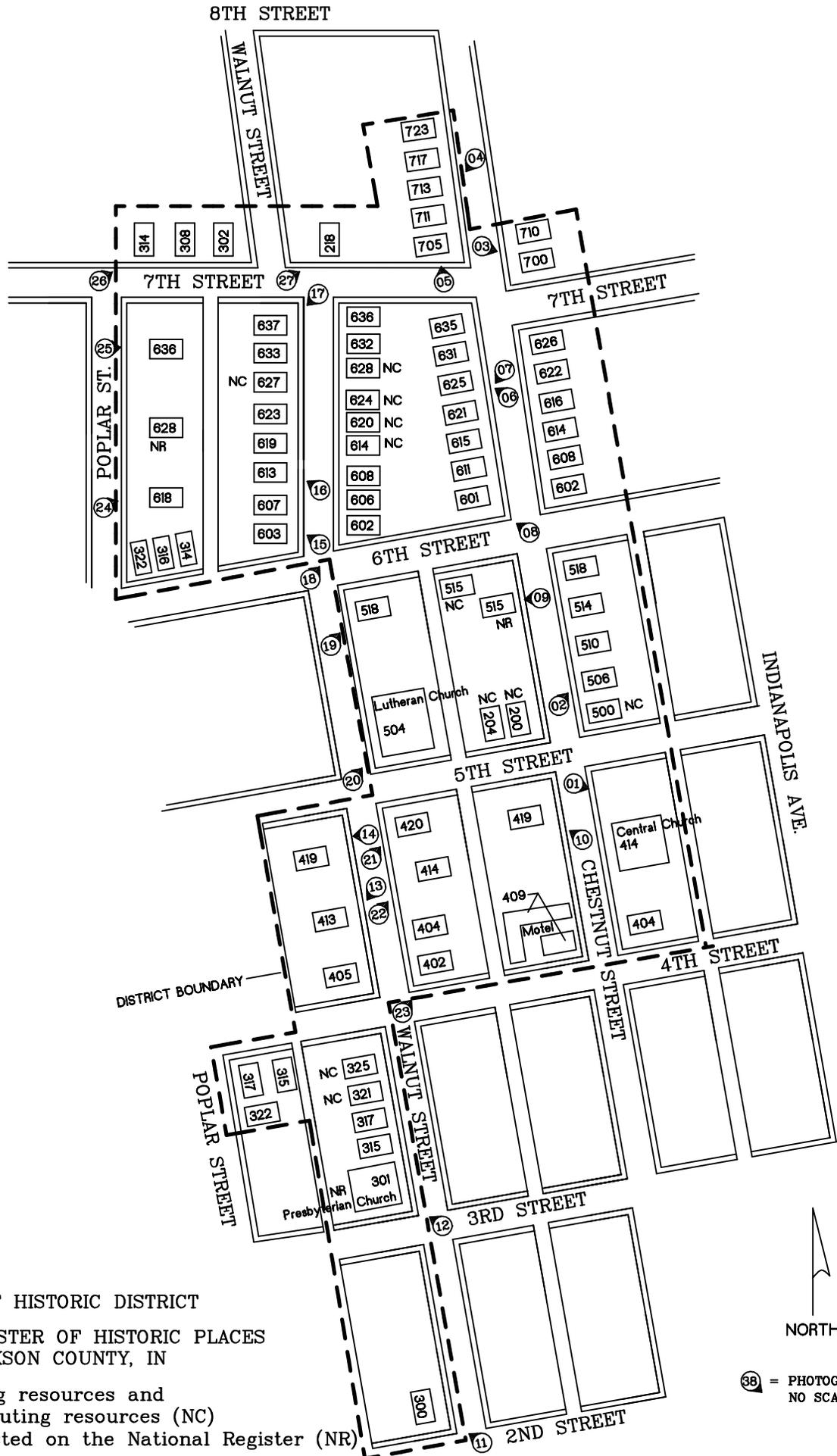
Name of Property: Walnut Street Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Seymour  
County: Jackson State: Indiana  
Photographer: Kurt West Garner  
Date Photographed: June 7, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northeast at 218 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street

27 of 27.

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



WALNUT STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 SEYMOUR, JACKSON COUNTY, IN

65 contributing resources and  
 11 non-contributing resources (NC)  
 3 resources listed on the National Register (NR)

38 = PHOTOGRAPHS  
 NO SCALE



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0001



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0003



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0006



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0010



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0013



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0014



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0017



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0020



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0023



Walnut Street Historic District, Jackson County, IN photo #0025