

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 3 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Oldenburg Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Bounded roughly by Sycamore Street, the Church land woods,
Indiana, Street and Water Streets, including the Gehring Farm N/A not for publication

city, town Oldenburg N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Franklin code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial ✓
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government ✓
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence ✓
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious ✓
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Brookville state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures
title Inventory: Franklin County

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Indiana State Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Oldenburg is situated in a small valley at the confluence of two creeks which form Harvey Branch. The countryside around Oldenburg is rolling, cleared farmland with sections of dense woods. The approaches to Oldenburg provide a dramatic old-world vista overlooking the skyline of spires (photos 1, 16, 23)

The Oldenburg Historic District is comprised of almost all the original town. The district is sub-divided by streets in a grid pattern. The highest concentration of structures is centered at the intersection of Pearl and Main Streets. Main Street runs east-west and is a portion of State Road 229. Vine Street is parallel to Main Street to the north and Water Street runs parallel and south of Main Street. Water Street follows East Harvey Branch for two blocks.

The district contains not only structures in streetscapes, but also two farmsteads, an open meadow, and a wooded grove.

Oldenburg is unique for its structures, construction, and integrity. What is most striking about this small town are the spires which dominate the skyline. Many of the buildings in the district are a part of the parish-convent-monastery complex.

The buildings of the district can be classified in the following categories: religious, domestic, commercial, industrial, and public. The district also contains sites and structures. The structures and sites generally possess high integrity. Of the 153 sites included in the district, only 37 (24%) are classified as non-contributing intrusions because they are less than 50 years old. However, several of the temporal intrusions (Nos. 48, 49, 50, 51, 39, and 7) contribute to the function of the convent and express the physical growth of that institution.

There are three construction types to which the contributing buildings belong: stone, brick and wood. The wood category is sub-divided further into log, balloon frame, and timber frame. The timber frame houses have wattle and daub, brick nogging, or no infill.

The majority of the contributing buildings in the district are constructed of brick. Almost all of these bricks were manufactured at the local Gehring brickyard. The stone buildings are made of locally quarried limestone. Quite a few of the wooden buildings have timber frames with mortise and tenon joints.

Another architectural feature common in Oldenburg is the elaborate decorative tinwork. It appears as cornices, oriels, window hoods, dormers, balconies, and as pseudo-rusticated stone.

Oldenburg's skyline is dominated by the three large spires of the church, convent, and convent chapel, the largest buildings in the town. Numerous other religious buildings also pierce the skyline with smaller spires.

The townscape is unified by common building materials, styles, and age. The majority of the buildings were built in the late 19th century. The streets are pleasantly lined with large shade trees. The open spaces which are part of the convent-monastery complex are landscaped with lawns, courtyards, groves, meadows and hedges, and are well maintained. The two town parks are located on the west side of Pearl Street. They are equipped with playgrounds and have ample shade from large broad-leaf trees.

A building inventory follows.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion ✓
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture ✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce ✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			
Specific dates	1837-present	Builder/Architect	Various	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Oldenburg is significant on the state level because of its uniqueness as a small German community that retains much of its ethnic flavor. Its picturesque location in a valley, its church spires, and half-timbered structures recall the villages of Europe in a way that is seldom seen in this part of the country. ✓

Oldenburg is located in Ray Township in Franklin County, Indiana. Franklin County, in the southeastern portion of the state, was one of the original counties when Indiana became the 19th state in 1816. The lands for the county were obtained from the Miami Indians under four different treaties. The Treaty of Greenville in 1794 opened up the eastern portion of the county for settlement and the final treaty was in 1818. The earliest settlers of the county came from the Carolinas, New York and New Jersey.

Oldenburg was settled by German Catholics who moved into the southern portion of the county in the early 1830's. The site had been purchased from the Federal Government in 1817 by William George, from Tazewell, Virginia. Ray Township was organized in 1828 and named after Governor James B. Ray, a resident of Franklin County. Two land speculators, John H. Ronnebaum and Henry Plaspohl, purchased 200 acres of land from George in 1837. These two emigres from Oldenburg, Germany, platted and named the town that same year. Ads for their town lots were posted in Cincinnati, the collecting-place for the waves of Germans arriving in the Midwest. The two speculators advertised the site's assets as being near the Whitewater Canal, a state highway, and a proposed railroad line. They promoted their new town by appealing to fellow Germans to settle there, thus making it a strong German settlement.

Neither Plaspohl nor Ronnebaum settled in Oldenburg. Being professional land speculators, they moved westward. There they founded the town of Teutopolis, in Effingham County, Illinois. In Teutopolis they repeated their Oldenburg success of platting a town and selling lots to German settlers.

The early buildings of Oldenburg were built along East Harvey Branch, as had been William George's first cabin near the corner of Water and Washington Streets. The George cabin was later occupied by Eberhard Waechter, who arrived in the town in 1837. He was a wheelwright and he manufactured grain cradles and spinning jennies. Waechter later demolished the George cabin and reused the logs in the construction of his timber framed cradle shop at the southwest corner of Water and Washington Streets (#107).²

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9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet #43

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 103

Quadrangle name Batesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,5,5</u>	<u>1,5,0</u>	<u>4,3</u>	<u>5,6</u>	<u>4,0,0</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

B	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,5,5</u>	<u>4,2,0</u>	<u>4,3</u>	<u>5,5</u>	<u>8,5,0</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

C	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,5,4</u>	<u>9,4,0</u>	<u>4,3</u>	<u>5,5</u>	<u>4,5,0</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

D	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,5,4</u>	<u>8,6,0</u>	<u>4,3</u>	<u>5,5</u>	<u>4,5,0</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

E	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,5,4</u>	<u>5,2,0</u>	<u>4,3</u>	<u>5,5</u>	<u>6,6,0</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

F	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,5,4</u>	<u>4,8,0</u>	<u>4,3</u>	<u>5,6</u>	<u>1,3,0</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

G	<u>1,6</u>	<u>6,5,4</u>	<u>7,6,0</u>	<u>4,3</u>	<u>5,6</u>	<u>3,9,0</u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Page 44

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William L. Selm

organization N/a date May 15, 1981

street & number 133 Peterborough St., #14 telephone 617/437-0767

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02215

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. M. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-21-83

For NPS use only

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

Janet Selores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 3/3/83

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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(There is no
page one or two)

- #1 First Corpus Christi Chapel is located north of the cemetery. This small brick chapel has a metal gable roof with a metal cross rising above the gable apex. Behind the double wooden doors is a simple altar. It was probably built before 1880.
- #2 Second Corpus Christi Chapel is located northeast of the town in a wooded grove. This small brick chapel is similar to #1 except that this chapel has a three-sided apse. It was probably built before 1880.
- #3 Holy Family Cemetery is perpendicular to the northern end of Pearl Street. The stones from the 19th century and early 20th century are inscribed in German. A few of the grave markers are ornate cast iron crosses.
- #4 Cemetery Chapel is located at the east end of the parish cemetery. It is constructed of bricks and is adorned with a corbel table and pilasters which separate the side walls into three bays. The windows and entrance all are round arched. The chapel has a gable roof with a smaller raised gable rising above the roofline at the apex. The windows have been boarded up because the chapel is not used. The entrance has wooden double doors with side lights. It was probably built circa 1880.
- #5
PHOTO # 28 Convent Cemetery is located directly east of the parish cemetery. The nuns are buried here under identical, simple white stone crosses--similar to military cemeteries. The stones were inscribed in German until April, 1923. Thereafter English has been used. The cemetery is landscaped and divided into quarters. In the center of the cemetery is a large stone crucifix. PHOTO # 28
- #6
PHOTO #6 Convent Cemetery Chapel is located at the east end of the Convent Cemetery. This cruciform-shaped chapel is constructed of stout stone walls with a random-coursed, rock-faced ashlar finish. The foundation is coursed ashlar and is capped with a water table. An enclosed stone porch on the south side accommodates the entrance portal with a fan window transom over the double wooden doors. The side entrances in the transepts have transoms and segmented arched openings. The windows are round arched with stained glass. The gable roof is clad with slate and the gutters are enclosed in the projecting cornice. Over the crossing rises an octagonal rood spire. The octagonal lantern is made of wood and the eight round arched openings are

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louvered. The spire is topped with a cross. The interior of the chapel is lined with the grave stones of the previous convent cemetery. The present cemetery was started in the 1890's. South of the chapel stands a memorial stone cross. The chapel was completed in 1900. It was designed by architect Oscar Bohlen and executed by Koepfle Brothers, stone contractors.

- #7 Fatima Shrine is located east of and overlooking Convent Cemetery Chapel. It was constructed in 1950. The Henry Wolfrum family donated the funds for its construction. The statues of the Virgin and the three young shepherds were carved in Ravaciona marble in Italy. The statues are surrounded by cedar shrubs. Non-contributing intrusion.

VINE STREET-NORTH SIDE

- #8 Oldenburg Lumber Company at the corner of Sycamore and Vine Streets currently occupies this two story brick building. The building was used as a sawmill and furniture factory. The building has segmented arched windows and a stone foundation. The gable end facing Vine St. has been covered with corrugated sheet metal and a shed dormer has been added to the roof. It was built circa 1885 as the George Holtel & Co. Saw and Planing Mill. It was steam engine powered and had a kiln.
- #9 Cape Cod Cottage. Circa 1945. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #10 Stone Cottage is constructed of coursed rubble stone and covered with stucco. The facade is divided into four bays, the front entrance being one of the openings. There is only a small square gable attic window on each side. A room has been added to the rear. A gable roofed portico has also been added.
- #11 Brockman House was built circa 1890 by Henry Brockman. This cross gable, two story frame carpenter builder house is clad with clapboards. The windows are framed and have small hoods. The porch has been enclosed and has been severely altered.
- #12 Kerker House is a stuccoed ranch style house built in the 1950's. Non-contributing intrusion.

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- #13 George Holtel House was built circa 1865. This one-and-a-half story brick house has a salt box roof and a front central gable with a segmented arched window below the gable. The sides and rear of the house remain unaltered. They have retained the segmented arched windows and box gutter cornices. The south side of the house, facing Vine St., retains the cornices, but the first floor windows have been changed in size and shape. A brick bowed bay porch has been added. The bay is topped by a metal railing.
- #14 George Holtel, Jr. house was built circa 1900 by Mr. Holtel. The house is of frame construction and is covered with clapboards. It has two stories and a cross gable roof. The gables have retained their decorative cut-out trim and the tall windows have simple frames and hoods. The porch has been enclosed and severely altered.
- #15 Modest little brick cottage has undergone a minimal amount of alteration. Built circa 1860, the cottage is situated at the northwest corner of Vine and Pearl Streets. It has a salt box roof with a modest molded cornice. It faces Vine St. with five bays, all of which have segmented arches. The transomed door is in the center of the facade. The original three bayed porch has turned posts, decorative trim, a flat roof, and a box gutter cornice. The rear of the cottage has a kitchen ell and the original decorative porch. The small front yard is separated from the sidewalk by an ornate cast iron fence.
- #16 Near the corner of Vine and Indiana Streets is this modest frame cottage. Probably built in the 1890's, this cottage has undergone some severe alterations. A neo-Gothic entry porch and a small picture window were added in the 1950's. It does retain its original raised seam tin roof. The cottage is clad with asbestos shingles.
- VINE STREET-SOUTH SIDE
- #17 This balloonframe house copies the form of the older ones. Despite the aluminum siding, the form of this one-and-a-half story house remains intact. The salt-box roof is covered by a raised seam tin roof. The house is situated at the southeast corner of Vine and Sycamore Streets. The main facade faces Vine St. The facade is divided into five bays. The upper story half-sized windows are tucked under the eaves. The transomed entrance is in the center of the facade

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- and it is enhanced by a gable overdoor with decorative cut-out brackets. The house rests upon a rubble stone foundation. Two of the first story windows of the facade have been removed, and the two bays have been consolidated by a Chicago style window. The house was probably built in the 1860's.
- #18 This one story frame cottage was built in the 1950's. It is clad with asbestos shingles. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #19 St. Joseph Woolen Mill is now used and occupied by the Oldenburg Garage. The mill is a two story brick structure and has been modified inside and out for its present use. The building was constructed in 1860 by J.H.Sellmeyer, who started the mill. The Building's original windows have segmented arches and six over six lights. The original windows are only on the second floor. The first floor has suffered the alterations of large garage doors and display windows. The roof of the building has a gently sloping gable. The building originally had three floors. A fire in the late nineteenth century destroyed the top floor. The woolen mill operated there until the 1890's.
- #20 The wood frame house is a modest clapboard carpenterbuilder product from circa 1900. The present porch has been added, but the remainder of the house has retained its integrity. It consists of one-and-a-half stories, a gable roof, shed additions, and framed windows with hoods.
- #21 This one story ranch style house is sided with aluminium. It was constructed in the late 1950's. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #22 This one story brick ranch house was constructed in the late 1950's. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #23 Peck House was built in 1979. It is a one-and-a-half story split level house. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #24 This house was converted into a bungalow in the 1920's. At that time it was enlarged and the dormer and porch were added. It has one-and-a-half stories. The original portions of the house have a timber frame and brick nogging walls. Built circa 1840.

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- #25 This story-and-a-half frame house was constructed in the 1950's. It has a large gable roof and a one story gabled wing. Non-contributing intrusion.

MAIN STREET-NORTH SIDE

- #26 Obermeyer's Service Station was built in the 1950's at the northeast corner of Main and Sycamore Streets. It is made of frame and concrete block construction and faced with bricks. Non-contributing intrusion.

- #27 Fischer Tavern was built by Ben "Pfannkuchen" Fischer circa 1850. The building consists of two separate portions. The tavern portion which meets the sidewalk is a one-and-a-half story gabled commercial building. The gable end faces Main Street. The Greek Revival facade is symmetrically divided into four bays. The two central bays are the transomed entrances, the flanking bays are the large windows. Above the openings is an entablature which runs across the facade. On it can be seen several sets of lettering. One set reveals that the building was once used as a store. Another ghost set of lettering is in German. Peter Pistner was once the propriety there of the Bauerstein Saloon, which advertised on a business card, "Choice Wines, Liquors, Cigars, Tobaccos...Pool and Billiards and Courteous Treatment to All." The facade has one upper story window. The commercial portion of the building has a timber frame with wattle and daub walls. The rear portion of the building is a two story balloon frame carpenter builder house which is perpendicular to the older commercial portion. It too has a gable roof and cut-out trim on the gable. It was used as the residence part of the building. The entire building has not been maintained for several decades and is very dilapidated.

- #28 This house with timber frame and brick nogging has undergone some alterations. The facade facing Main Street has four windows on the second floor. The door and two windows on the first floor, as well as the Ionic columned verandah, were added circa 1900. The windows have leaded transoms. The house was probably built circa 1850.

- #29 Burdick Building on the northwest corner of Main and St. Joseph Street was originally built by Henry Sellmeyer, who also built the St. Joseph Woolen Mill (#19).

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This commercial structure is occupied by a tavern and restaurant. The structure is made of bricks and has two stories. It is comprised of two equal-sized buildings which share a wall. Both portions have three bays with identical fenestration. The windows have stone sills and pressed metal window hoods. The differences in the two portions is most apparent in the cornice line. Both portions have ornate pressed tin cornices with consoles. The western portion has a more ornate cornice that is taller. It has ornate consoles topped with urn finials. Above the cornice in the center rises an ornamented parapet. This parapet rests on only one-third of the cornice top. It bears the name, "J.F. Burdick" in old German characters. The name is flanked by rosettes. Above the name are three acroteria.

The first floor of the eastern portion also has three bays. All three openings have pressed metal window hoods. The openings are a window, a single door with transom, and a double door with transom. The large entrance has the original ornate wooden paneled doors. The western portion of the building is unique in Oldenburg. It has the only cast-iron commercial front in town. The first floor facade has three bays, two large display windows, and transoms flanking the central entrance. The bays are divided by cast-iron fluted pilasters and topped by a cornice. The cast-iron facade was manufactured by George L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana. The entrance is recessed from the facade and has suffered from alterations of a modern single door and closed transom. The entire building rests on a stone foundation and abuts the sidewalk.

#30 This duplex house was built by Henry Sellmeyer, circa 1860. It is a plain two-and-a-half story brick building. The first and second stories are divided into four bays. The half story has two windows. They are tucked under the raking cornice of the gable. All of the openings have segmented arches. The two center openings are the duplex's front entrances. They have leaded transoms and leaded glazed doors. The building rests upon a stone foundation and water-table. All windows have stone sills. The facade meets the sidewalk.

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- #31 This two story house has been covered with white aluminum siding. It has an "L" shape, a gable roof, and an altered porch. Some openings have segmented arches. Like its neighbors, the facade meets the sidewalk. It is a residence, but it was originally a shoemaker's shop and later housed the telephone exchange, a tavern, and a bowling alley. The facade meets the sidewalk.
- #32 Brick cottage was built in 1950. A small yard separates the house from the sidewalk. The short retaining wall surrounding the lawn was made from stones salvaged from the previous building. This site was also the saddlery and harness shop. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #33 August A. Hackman house was built in 1897. The two-and-a-half story brick house is perpendicular to and abuts the Hackman store(#34). The house has a gable roof, stone foundation, and segmented arched openings. The roof has three gabled dormers, two of which face Main Street. The windows have classical details of pressed metal. The facade is divided into four bays. The first story has a semi-octagonal bay. Across the front of the facade is a large flat-roofed verandah. The porch has pillars of rough cast-concrete blocks and a concrete balustrade with classical balusters. Since the house sits upon a raised stone basement, the verandah is also almost street level and is approached from concrete steps on the west side. The original verandah was smaller and in the Eastlake style. The present verandah was added between 1899 and 1919.
- #34 Hackman Store is situated at the northwest corner of Main and Pearl Streets. It was erected in 1861-1862 by Anton Hackman as a commercial establishment. It continues its historic function as shop. Unaltered, this three story brick structure displays the finest and most elaborate work of the local master tin smith, Caspar Gaupel.

PHOTO #9,
#30

The main facade, which is the gabled end, faces Main Street and is divided into five bays. On the first floor, the bays provide three display windows and two glazed double-door entrances. All of the doors and windows have transoms. The bays

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of the first floor are separated by smooth rusticated piers which rest upon the stone foundation and water table. The rusticated piers are not made of stone, but are pressed metal, which gives the impression of stonework. Above the piers rests an entablature which consists of a plain frieze and a projecting cornice. This cornice separates the first floor from the second.

The second story is the exhibition of Gaupel's great craftsmanship. Projecting from the facade are three German Renaissance-inspired oriels. All three oriels are square in shape and accommodate three windows each. Each is supported by two voluted consoles. Fluted pilasters frame the windows and support the entablature above. The two outermost oriels have open-bed pediments with palmette acroterion. The central oriel is crowned by an ornate closed balustrade with a lyre motif. The remaining windows on the second and third floors all have identical open-bed pedimented hoods supported by pairs of consoles. The oculus window in the gable also has a pressed metal hood. The gable is adorned with a projecting raking cornice. At the apex and corners of the gable are palmette acroterion.

Aside from the facade, the remainder of the building is rather plain. The long sides of the building are divided into five bays. The first and third floor windows have flat-headed windows and the second floor has segmented arched windows. The tinwork was added in the 1880's or 1890's.

#35
PHOTO #30 The Farmers and Merchants Bank occupies a commercial structure at the northeast corner of Main and Pearl Streets. The facade of this two story building faces Main St. It is divided into six bays. The western half of the facade is different from the eastern. The western three bays are more widely spaced. Also, the first floor of the western portion is radically different. The first floor of the western portion is similar to the first floor facade of the Hackman Store (#34). The three bays are framed by pressed metal piers that imitate smooth rusticated stone and are topped by an entablature. The central bay serves as the entrance and is flanked by two large display windows. The eastern portion's first floor has an entrance and two windows.

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These windows and all six of the second story windows have pressed metal, open based pedimented hoods, and paired consoles. The entire facade is united under an ornate pressed metal entablature with dentils, cornice, consoles, acroterion, and a pediment with a sunburst motif in the tympanum. The building rests upon a stone foundation and water-table. It is in excellent condition and has remained unaltered since it was built circa 1855 by a Mister Scheper.

#36
PHOTO #30

Another commercial building which also housed the family of the merchant is this circa 1860 brick structure. It stands two-and-a-half stories high upon a stone foundation and water-table. The facade is divided into four bays. All openings have segmented arches. The first floor has both a double door entrance and a single entrance. Both entrances have transoms. Tucked under the gable's apex is a half-sized window. The gable has a projecting raking cornice with dentils and pediment returns. The only major alteration has been the removal of box gutter cornices. The building now serves as a duplex apartment house. It was the first home of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank (#35).

#37
PHOTO #3

The Convent Chapel was constructed in 1889-1901. It was designed by D.A. Bohlen and built by Koeple Brothers. The brick Victorian-Baroque church has changed very little since it was completed. The exception has been the addition of contemporary aluminum entrance doors in 1965. Also in that year, the interior walls were repainted. It serves as the chapel for the convent and the girls' academy.

The church has a cruciform plan with side aisles parallel to the nave. There are four clerestory and four aisle windows on each side. The building is built of bricks and has many limestone details. The details include a raised, rock-faced foundation, coping, string courses, arch voussiors, sills, buttress bases and caps, cornices, finials, and corbeling.

At the base of the facade are stone steps which lead up to the central entrance. The entrance is framed by two polished granite columns which support a large round stone arch. In the tympanum is a circle cartouche with the inscription, "D.O.M. A.D. 1889". Below the tympanum is a stone lintel

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with the inscription, "IN HON. B. MARIAE V. IMMACULATAE." On the next level is a niche framed by a Palladian motif. In the niche is a stone statue of the Virgin Mary. Above the niche is a rose window. Above the rose window, the square tower rises above the church's roofline. The tower is topped by an elongated dome which is topped by a domed lantern. The tower, nave, and aisles are supported by angle buttresses. All of the windows have round arches. A small arch projects from the transept ends. A large apse accommodates the chancel. The elaborate altars were sculpted from white Italian marble. The stained glass windows which depict saints and biblical scenes were manufactured in Germany. All statuary was imported from the famous art studio of Mayer, of Munich. PHOTO 3

#38
PHOTO #5

Convent of the Immaculate Conception was built for the Sisters of St. Francis between the years 1899 and 1901. Oscar Bohlen designed this large Victorian Romanesque structure and the contractor was Harig & Brueggeman. This handsome four-and-a-half story brick structure has changed very little, inside and out, since it was completed. Many additions in the rear have been made throughout the years.

The main portion of the building serves as the resident building of the convent and the academy. It faces Main Street. Three pavilions project from the facade. The two flanking pavilions have gables with brick corbeling. The large central pavilion is three bays wide and is topped by a square tower with a pyramidal spire. The central bay on the first floor has a domed stone porch. Three sides of the porch have a large, round-arched opening. The arches are supported by squat, paired, composite columns. At the top of the porch's dome is a stone statue of a guardian angel and a child. The statue's base is inscribed with, "Angelus Custos 1891-1901". Between the second and third floors is a stone tablet with the following inscription, "D·M·E·O SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS CONVENT. FOUNDED 1851, 1901 RECONSTRUCTED." In the central bay of the fourth floor is a round arched stone niche flanked by smaller round arched windows in a Palladian motif. The niche contains a large statue of St. Francis of Assisi.

The windows of the entire building follow a pattern.

The first and fourth story windows are round arched. The second and third story windows have segmented arches. The windows in the pavilions are paired.

Stone is used extensively throughout the building. It is used as a raised basement, water-table, cornices, string courses, window voussoirs, and sills. The complex gable roof is covered with gray slate. The many gabled dormer windows are faced with pressed metal aediculae. PHOTO 5.

#39 Scholasticate Building was built in 1959 to house Sister-students, foreign exchange sisters, teachers, and retired sisters. It is constructed of bricks and rests upon a smooth ashlar raised basement. Non-contributing intrusion.

#40 Infirmary was constructed in 1949. It was built on-to the rear (north) of the convent to accommodate infirm and retired sisters. Although it is a modern four story structure, it incorporates architectural features that contribute to the convent setting. Most notable is the open, round arch arcade that opens into an open court yard in the complex. The entrance faces the Vine Street driveway. The entrance is situated in the center of the projecting pavilion. Above the door is a round arch tympanum. The parapet is decorated with fluting.

#41 Carpenter Shop was constructed by the convent in 1895. Henry Buhre was the contractor. This handsome, utilitarian structure is embellished with many decorative features, and has not been altered. It is two-and-a-half stories tall and is constructed of brick. The long sides of the building are divided into four bays by brick pilaster strips and a corbel table. The gable ends are separated into three bays. All the windows have segmented arches. The gable roof is covered with gray slate. Along the eaves are box gutter cornices. Both sides of the roof have two gable dormers with the ubiquitous decorative pressed metal. The east gable end is topped by a cross. The carpenter shop continues its historic function.

#42 Power Plant is similar in construction to the carpenter shop. It was built in 1915 to supply the convent complex with heat and electricity. The contracting engineer was Henry P. Thompson & Co.

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of Cincinatti, Ohio. The plant has an interlocking radial brick chimney 125 feet high, designed by the Heine Chimney Co. of Chicago. Like the carpenter shop, the plant is made of bricks and embellished with pilaster strips and a corbel table. The windows are the large factory type with steel casements. The plant is one-and-a-half stories.

- #43 Garage is a one story brick structure with three garage door bays and a flat parapeted roof. It was constructed circa 1920.
- #44 Storage Bins were constructed circa 1930 to store the coal for the power plant. The silos have glazed tile walls and conical roofs.
- #45 Carpenter/Storage Building is a two story utilitarian brick structure. The simple building was constructed circa 1930 and is devoid of embellishments.
- #46 Convent Wall is made of brick with stone coping and pier capstones. It helps to ensure the privacy of the convent. Built circa 1900, it runs the length of two blocks on the east side of Pearl Street. It is unaltered. The iron gates which terminate Vine Street open into the convent grounds. A wall identical to this ran along Main Street in front of the convent. This was demolished in 1968.
- #47 Old Novitiate Building was constructed in 1930-1931 by the J.&.F. Harig Company. It was designed by Joseph G. Steinkamp & Bros. Built to contain classrooms, offices, and dormitories for the postulants and novices, it now is called Theresa Hall and is the home of the Sisters who teach at the local parish school.

The Old Novitiate is a three story brick Romanesque building. The facade faces the Vine Street driveway. The main entrance is in the center of the facade. The entrance is the most important architectural feature of the building. The glazed double doors have a stained glass fan light. The entrance is framed by an ornate Romanesque compounded archivolt. The moldings are arched with cable and chevron motifs. The windows of the first story are paired and have stone round arch surrounds. The stone tympanum above the window bears sculpted

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- religious and heraldic symbols. The windows of the second floor are flat headed, but the round arch is repeated in the third floor fenestration. Stone is used as a sill string course, foundation, steps, and coping. The roof is flat and the parapet is plain.
- #48 New Novitiate Building was completed in 1964. This modern three story building assumes the function of the Old Novitiate (#47). The windows of the three floors are linked by modern decorative spandrels. In the center of the facade is a stone entrance pavillion. The parapet is unadorned. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #49 Novitiate Chapel was also built in 1964. It is a brick structure with stone details. The coping, window molding, and foundation are made of smooth ashlar. The nave has four large segmented arched windows in each side. A large semi-circular apse projects from the chapel's west end. The roof is flat. An interesting feature is the open round arch brick arcade of five bays connecting the chapel to the Old Novitiate. The arcade is supported by stone columns. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #50 Academy Classroom and Gymnasium Building was constructed in 1967. It is a two story brick, modern building located near the northeast corner of Vine and Washington Streets. The facade is divided into nine bays. The central bay is the stone-faced entrance pavillion. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #51 Academy Auditorium was constructed in 1967. It is a modern, two story brick structure. The facade is tripartite, with the central portion being the entrance pavillion. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #52 Perpetual Adoration Chapel was constructed in 1920-1921. This two story brick chapel is situated directly north of the convent chapel (37). It has two stories, three bays, and a semi-octagonal apse on the west end. The bays are divided by pilaster strips and a corbel table. The windows are round arched and have stone voussoirs. A stone string course separates the floors.
- #53 Commercial Building is another example of the shop/residence building-type in the town. It was built

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circa 1870 and has changed very little. The building is situated at the northeast corner of Main and Washington Streets. The facade, which faces Main Street, is divided into four bays and the building rests on a stone foundation and water-table. The first floor has large display windows and an entrance with transom and side lights. One of the bays has been bricked up. Serving as a lintel for the openings is a stone entablature which runs across the facade. The second floor has four square windows with stone lintels and sills, which are identical to the windows on the west side facade. The two street facades are capped with a pressed metal entablature. It includes a paneled frieze, consoles, and a projecting cornice. The facades meet the sidewalks. The post office occupies the first floor.

#54 This commercial building abuts the building (#53) on the west side. It was built circa 1860. The gable end faces the street. The building rests on a raised stone foundation. This two-and-a-half story building is divided into three bays. The first floor has been extensively altered. The windows and the central entrance have been altered in shape and size. The stone steps which lead to the front entrance remain. Below the steps is the entrance to the basement. Between the first and second story is a plain wooden frieze. On the second story are three segmented arched windows with stone sills. In the attic, underneath the gable, are two quarter-round windows. The returns and the box gutter have been removed. The facade meets the sidewalk.

#55 Joseph Brink House was built by Brink circa 1870. This long and narrow brick house faces Main Street. The facade is divided into three bays. The house has two stories and it rests on a brick raised basement. The entrance is the central bay with a transom and sidelights. All of the openings have segmented arches. The porch is supported by pseudo wrought iron posts and balustrade. These replaced the original porch in 1980. The gable line is enhanced by a decorative bargeboard. A frame, clapboard addition connects the brick house to the summer kitchen. The base of the porch meets the sidewalk meets the brick sidewalk.

#56 Joseph Brink Cottage was built in 1847 by Brink.

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The cottage has one-and-a-half stories, is covered with clapboards, and has five bays. In the rear is a lean-to addition. This residence is one of the few in town with a front lawn. It has a timber frame with brick nogging walls. The verandah was added after 1919.

#57 John D. Gehring Cottage was built circa 1840. This one-and-a-half story cottage is clad with aluminum siding. The roof line has been altered, and a shed dormer has been added. The rear lean-to has been incorporated under the new roof. All of the openings have been altered. Despite its new appearance, the front portion retains its timber frame with wattle and daub walls.

#58 John Gehring Bungalow was built in the 1920's. It is a frame, one-and-a-half story residence resting on a concrete foundation. It has a large gable roof which slopes over the facade to form a verandah with wooden half-posts and a concrete balustrade.

#59 Michael Stockinger Cottage was probably built circa 1870 by Stockinger. This one-and-a-half story balloon frame cottage has a lean-to addition in the rear. It has suffered from alteration, including aluminum siding and a steel post front porch. The cottage has a small front yard.

#60 This house has been covered with stucco. The one-and-a-half story structure is located at the northwest corner of Main and Indiana Streets. The facade is divided into four bays. The upper story windows are quarter sized and are tucked under the eaves. The present flat-roofed verandah was probably added in the 1910's. The house was built circa 1840. There is a frame lean-to in the rear. Between the house and the sidewalk is a small front yard.

MAIN STREET-SOUTH SIDE

#61 Der Kleinstadt Laden was constructed in the early 1970's. It is a large gable-roofed utilitarian structure with brick faced walls. This grocery store is situated at the southeast corner of Main and Sycamore Streets. A paved parking lot occupies the space between the store and the sidewalk. Non-contributing intrusion.

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#62 This Bungalow was built in the 1920's. Typical of the genre, it has one-and-a-half stories, a large central gable dormer, front verandah supported by battered brick piers, and is clad with clapboards.

#63 This stone house is in the Federal style. The house, circa 1850, is made of coursed rubble stone. The facade facing Main Street is divided into five bays. The first story openings have segmented arches. The second story windows have square stone lintels. A string course separates the two stories. The entrance occupies the central bay of the first floor. The door is framed with a transom and side lights. In the gable are a pair of small, square attic windows.

On the east side of the house is a small commercial addition. It is made of glazed brown bricks and has a window and a recessed entrance with a transomed door. The house is largely unaltered. The facade meets the sidewalk.

#64 Livery Barn was constructed circa 1900. It has a timber frame and is covered with vertical rough board siding. It rests upon a poured cement foundation. Now it is a garage and storage building.

#65 Gaupel-Schmidt Tin Shop was built circa 1870. This two story balloon frame building is covered with vinyl siding and is used as a residence. It has a recessed verandah which is supported by brick piers. The front door is flanked by side lights. Projecting from the center of the facade's second story is a semi-octagonal oriel with three windows. The oriel is flanked by two windows. The facade is terminated by a projecting cornice.

The building was a tin shop until the 1920's. It was built by Caspar Gaupel, the town's master tin-smith. Gaupel and his son-in-law George Schmidt were responsible for the ornate tinwork around town. Until the mid-1970's the second story was adorned with an ornate pressed metal facade. The windows had elaborate window hoods and aprons. The cornice was supported by an entablature complete with dentils and modillions. The building served as a shop and residence. The facade meets the sidewalk.

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- #66 Burgmeister House, circa 1880, is an unusual frame building that possesses Italianate features. It has two stories and a flat roof. The house has an "L" plan. It rests upon a stone foundation and is clad with aluminum siding. The house has been remodeled and several windows have lost their original shapes. One window was removed. The front verandah does remain with its flat roof, turned posts and open fretwork. It was used originally as a shop/residence, and had a blacksmith shop. There is no front yard.
- #67 Ben Dahmus House was built circa 1860. This two story brick house has five bays. The central bay is the transomed entrance. Across the facade is a circa 1910 Doric columned verandah. The first story openings are flat headed while the second story has segmented arched windows. In the rear is an Ionic columned verandah. The house also exhibits Gaupel's tinwork. The front eaves have a pressed metal cornice and dentils. On the west side is a second story pressed metal oriel. The semi-octagonal oriel has a cornice frieze with festoons and three hooded windows. The house has changed minimally. Ben Dahmus was a wooden-shoemaker. His small shop stood west of the house until after 1892. The house has no front yard.
- #68 PHOTO #11 Peine Carriage House was built in 1890. The Peine family were church decorators and used the carriage house as their business headquarters. This Renaissance-inspired building is made of bricks and stands two stories high. The gable end faces Main Street. The large first floor carriage entrance is flanked by two narrow half-sized windows. All three openings have segmented arches, as do the doors and windows on the garden elevation (east). The second story has a round arched window with a fan light. The gable line is enhanced by an elaborate pressed metal raking cornice with consoles and modillions. The carriage house is unaltered and well maintained.
- #69 PHOTO #4 Holy Family Church was erected in 1862 at the southeast corner of Main and Pearl Streets. It is constructed of bricks and has simple stone details and a stone foundation. The roof is slate, as is the spire. This Victorian Gothic church exclusively uses the pointed gothic arch. The nave is divided into six bays by shallow buttresses and brick

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corbeling. Each bay has a large stained glass window. At the corners are diagonal buttresses which are used to support the tower. The tower is situated in the center of the facade. It is square in plan and projects out from the nave. The upper portion of the tower, below the spire, has a large lancet louvered window on each side of the tower. Above the window is the large clock face with Roman numerals. The four tower gables, which meet the spire, are topped by crockets. The spire has four lucarnes and is topped by a large gilded cross. The tower gables and other features of the church seem to be carved stone, but are actually pressed metal. The central entrance portal projects from the base of the tower. It has pressed metal coping. Above it is a niche with a statue of the Holy Family. Above the statue is a small rose window. A stone tablet above the niche bears this inscription: DOMINO NOSTRO JESU CHRISTO STAE MARIAE SEMPER VIRGIN et SANTO JOSEPHO AD 1861.

The church is joined to the monastery complex at the south side and to the school on the east side. The church is 150' x 80'. It was built by the parishoners. Dominic Siefert designed the roof truss system. Until 1979 the church had a very fine Victorian Gothic interior. Most of it has been destroyed. The church's founder, Father F.J. Rudolph, is buried in the crypt. The stained glass windows depict scenes from the Bible. They were made by Zettler of Munich and were installed in 1919. The bells in the tower strike every quarter hour and ring the Angelus at 6:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m.

#70 Holy Family School was completed in 1932. The architect was Werking & Son of Richmond, Indiana, and the contractor was William Gutzwiller of Batesville. This Jacobethan Revival building replaces the 1868 brick school that previously occupied the site.

The school's facade is tripartite and divided into seven bays. The central bay is occupied by a projecting entrance pavilion. The entrance portal has a stone Tudor arch. Above the door is a second story copper oriel. The tower is crenellated. The steel casement windows of the facade are divided by spandrels decorated with rondels. To the east of the school is a large paved play ground.

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- #71 Peter Benz House is a two story brick house with a "T" plan. The house was built circa 1890. The roof line has both the truncated hip form and the gable. The facade has three bays. All openings have stone lintels and sills except the small oculus window in the west wall. Across the facade is a columned verandah. Under the box gutter cornice is a corbel table.
- #72 George Holtel, Jr. House is a clapboard clad carpenter builder house circa 1910. This two story frame house has a cross gable roof, gable fretwork, transomed doors, and a box gutter cornice.
- #73 Phillip Dickman House was built circa 1865 by Dickman. This two-and-a-half story brick structure has an "L" plan. It was built as a store and residence. The Greek Revival-inspired shop facade is divided into three bays. The first floor has the shop entrance in the center, flanked by two large shop windows. The entrance is framed by side lights and a transom. A large stone lintel above the openings spans the three bays. The second story windows have stone sills and lintels, as do the two attic windows. The residence entrance is near the corner of the "L". It has a transom and stone lintel. An ornate Italianate porch shades the entrance. The house has raking cornices and a box gutter cornice. The foundation and water-table are stone. The interior ceilings are covered with pressed metal. The facade meets the sidewalk.
- #74 August Hackman, Jr. House was built circa 1910. This Colonial Revival, two-and-a-half story frame house has a concrete block foundation. The house is located at the southwest corner of Main and Washington Streets. Features of the house include a two story bay, hipped roof, two hipped roof dormers, an "L" shaped verandah, and a front door with sidelights. The house was covered with aluminum siding and the verandah columns were removed in the 1970's. The house has a front yard.
- #75 John C. Bigham Bungalow was constructed in the 1920's. This bungalow is located at the southeast corner of Main and Washington Streets. It has a low, sloping gable roof with a large central gabled dormer. A concrete block pierced verandah shades the north and west sides of this clapboard clad frame house.

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- #76 This Shot Gun House was constructed circa 1905. The frame, one-and-a-half story house is clad with clapboards. The front door has a transom. The house has a small back porch and a porch on the east side. With the exception of the removal of the side porch's turned posts, the house remains unaltered. The facade meets the sidewalk.
- #77 This Brick House has a stone foundation and the gable end faces the street. The facade is divided into three bays. The first story has segmented arched openings. The transomed entrance occupies the central bay. The second story has flat arched windows. The gable has a raking cornice and returns. It was built circa 1860. The facade meets the sidewalk.
- #78 Kellerman House is a very unusual house. It is a two story house. The second story is under the gambrel roof. It is the only house in the town with a gambrel roof. It is also another example of the shop/residence type that is common here. The gable end faces Main Street. The first floor is made of bricks and divided into three segmented arched bays. The central door has a transom and two narrow side lights. It is flanked by two large windows. On the east side of the house is a flat-roofed porch supported by brick piers. The first floor was built circa 1860. The facade meets the sidewalk.

The gambrel-roofed second story was added in 1902. A fall from the house resulted in the death of the tinsmith George Schmidt. Schmidt was responsible for the projecting cornice that separates the two stories and for the ornate window hoods. The hoods have a pediment and supporting consoles and are similar to others found in town. In the gabled end there is a pair of windows over the entrance. Four recessed dormers with projecting window hoods are on each side of the lower slopes.

The building served as the house and butcher shop of the Kellerman family. The brick sausage house stands behind the main house.

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- #79 This ranch-style, one story house was built in 1979. The house has a pseudo-half timber facade. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #80 Freese Cottage was built by William Freese in the 1930's. It is a story-and-a-half frame cottage covered with asbestos shingles. Non-contributing intrusion.

WATER STREET-NORTH SIDE

- #81 Fischer Blacksmith Shop was built by Clem Fischer around 1900. It is located on the northwest corner of Water and Sycamore Streets. This balloon frame structure continues to function as a blacksmith shop. John Fischer is its proprietor. It faces Water Street and has a gable roof, cupola, vertical siding, and front porch.
- #82 This Timber Frame, two story house has wattle and daub walls. The house now functions as a duplex. It has suffered from much alteration. The house is clad with aluminum siding. The facade has seven openings on the first floor and five openings on the second floor. A porch/balcony runs across the facade of both stories. The house was built circa 1840. Originally it stood on the north side of Water Street where the Monastery yard now is. It was moved in the 1890's. The facade meets the sidewalk.
- #83 Giesting House is a one story brick ranch house built in 1960. It stands on the site of Mueller's wooden-shoe factory. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #84 J.B. Moorman House is another wattle and daub house that is covered with clapboards. The house consists of one-and-a-half stories resting upon a raised foundation. A verandah stretches across two-thirds of the facade. The verandah is supported by three square posts. The south side of the gable roof is interrupted by a shed roof dormer. The timber framework is composed of 6" x 8" timbers. The panels framed by the timbers are 4' x 4'. The house was built circa 1840. The facade meets the sidewalk.
- #85 Monastery Workshop originally was a blacksmith shop. The building has been altered extensively. It is a one-and-a-half story brick structure with

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the gable end facing Water Street. The facade has two segmented arched windows with stone sills. A three-quarter sized window of the same type is in the gable. The off-center segmented arched door has been bricked up. The north side of the building has been extensively altered. The side walls each have two windows identical to those on the facade. All windows have two-over-two lights. The building rests upon a stone foundation. The building was built circa 1870.

#86 See page 38A

#87 Munchel House is a one story brick Ranch style house. It was built in the late 1950's. Non-contributing intrusion.

#88 Eberhard Waechter House was built in two portions. The Greek Revival portion was built in 1864 by Waechter. It has three bays with stone lintels and sills. The door lintel is painted, "Erected AD 1864". In the gable are two quarter-sized square windows. The most striking feature of the house is the ornate cantilevered balcony on the second story. Four square Doric columns and two pilasters support the roof of the balcony, which has an entablature complete with cornice, modillions, and dentils. The balustrade has a repeated elongated diamond pattern. The door that opens to the balcony is in the same bay as the entrance below. Both doors have transoms. A paint shadow on the wall reveals that originally the balcony was not cantilevered but was supported by a verandah on the first floor. The first story verandah was removed when the town poured the concrete sidewalk which abutts the building's front. The house has no front yard.

PHOTO#12

The spindel fretwork and decorative drops were probably added when the Queen Anne inspired portion was built circa 1900. Like the older portion, the Queen Anne also has two-and-a-half stories, stone sills and foundation, and brick walls. The bricks of both portions are identical. Its features include a two story bay, segmented arched windows, spindle fretwork side porch, a small Palladian window in the gable, and pressed metal cornices. The house remains unaltered and is the only house with a cantilevered balcony. It is situated at the northwest corner of Water and Washington Streets.

#89 This Brick House has two stories, segmented arched

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openings, stone foundation and window sills, and an "L" plan. The roof has a salt box shape and a gable end faces Water Street. Two of the openings have been bricked up. Where the two wings of the "L" meet, there is a recessed porch.

- #90 Bertus Lightner Cottage was built in 1948. It is made of brick in the Colonial Revival style. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #91 Kirschner Cottage was built in 1953. This one story frame building rests on a raised basement and is clad with aluminum siding. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #92 Schwegman Cottage was built in 1947 in the Colonial Revival style. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #93 Anthony Rhare House was built circa 1840. It is a stout, two story house constructed of coursed rubble stone. The facade is divided into five bays. All of the openings have flat wooden lintels. The center bay serves as the transomed entrance. A small gabled portico shades the front entrance. In the rear is a one story ell. Originally the house had a three story bay verandah supported by four square posts and a balustrade. The porch change was made in the 1970's. The plain frieze remains, but the box gutter cornice has been removed. Rhare was a stone mason.

WATER STREET-SOUTH SIDE

- #94 Fischer House is a two story frame house located at the southwest corner of Water and Sycamore Streets. Although the house was covered with aluminum siding in the 1970's, very little has changed. The house has an "L" plan, box gutter cornices, original shutters, a back porch, and a front entrance with a transom and sidelights. Behind the house is a summer kitchen. The house was built circa 1880. The back porch was added between 1899 and 1919.
- #95 Kamp Creamery-Blank Furniture Factory was built circa 1850/1860. It is situated at the southeast corner of Water and Sycamore Streets. The facade faces Water Street. It is now converted into apartments. The building is another example of the combination shop/residence. The building has an "L" plan. The gable end shop section is divided into three bays and is made of bricks.

In 1980 the large display windows with wood-panel aprons and transoms and a multi-lighted transom were removed. All the windows have flat heads. In the gable of the slope is a fan window.

The entire structure was covered with stucco in the early 1930's. The older residence portion is perpendicular to the shop. It has two stories and five bays and is constructed of stone. The central bay is the transomed entrance. The residence is two rooms deep. The shop accommodated a creamery originally and later a furniture factory and shop.

#96 Fehrman Liquor Store is a two story structure. In the late 1970's the frame second story was added and the rubble limestone facade was applied to the concrete block first floor. The first floor was built circa 1950. It continues the Oldenburg tradition of serving as both a shop and a residence. Non-contributing intrusion.

#97 Stuerwald Store Building was built circa 1860. This is another example of the shop/residence, but it differs greatly in form and style from the other examples of the genre in Oldenburg. Unlike the others, this structure has a very definite commercial appearance.

The first floor is used as a tavern and restaurant. The second floor has living quarters. Mr. T. Stuerwald operated a general store here and other commercial uses succeeded it. The facade is divided into five bays. The first floor has, from east to west, a flat head window, a transomed door, a large display window, a double door entrance, and a large aproned display window. The latter four openings have segmented arches. The large entrance has its transom and sidelights removed and the modern door is placed off-center. Between the first and second floors is a shallow, flat skirt-roof adorned with a course of fretwork. The second story has five segmented arched openings. The central opening is floor-length. Above the window heads is a scalloped frieze and cornice. The brackets were removed in the 1970's.

The roof is gabled with a very gentle slope. The gable ends have raised, one step parapets.

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On the east gable end are three stone linteled windows, and the west end has six segmented arched windows on the second floor. The structure is three rooms deep and rests upon a stone foundation. The facade meets the sidewalk.

- #98 Conrad Huerman House is across Water Street from the Moorman House (#84), and is similar in form and age. Built circa 1840, this one-and-a-half story house has a timber frame and brick nogging. It is clad with clapboards. The facade is divided into four bays; the two central ones being transomed doors. The second floor facade has four quarter-sized attic windows. Across the facade is a circa 1900 doric columned verandah. The roof is in the saltbox form with a lean-to added in the rear. The house has no front yard and has been altered minimally.
- #99 Bessler House is a one-and-a-half story frame house with a very steep gable. The house was built in the 1940's. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #100 Gaupel House was moved to its present location at the southeast corner of Water and Pearl Streets in the 1890's. Originally it stood on the northeast corner of the intersection. It was moved to accommodate the 1894 Monastery (#128). The house has an "L" plan and was constructed circa 1850. The house has a timber frame and originally, all of the walls had brick nogging. Only one wall has retained the nogging. The house rests on a stone foundation. The facade facing Water Street is divided into four bays. Across the facade is a circa 1890's verandah with cornice, columns, and balustrade. The house is covered with asbestos siding. The facade meets the sidewalk.
- #101 Mollaun House is similar in construction and style to Dickman House (#73). It is a shop/residence in an "L" plan. Unfortunatley, the shop facade and west side wall were altered in the 1960's. The original shop entrance, display windows, and second story windows have been removed and replaced by smaller openings. A second story entrance was added on the west side. The Greek Revival pediment returns, cornice, and quarter round attic windows remain. The residence portion of the building, built between 1892 and 1899, suffered the extensive alterations. The windows all have segmented arches. Intact is the

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Eastlake porch with fretwork and turned posts, box gutters, and raking cornice. A Chicago-style window has been added on the first floor. The Greek Revival shop was built circa 1860 and the residence was added in 1895. Anton Mollaun was a saddler and harness maker.

- #102 Bungalow of the 1920's occupies the site of an earlier two story stone building. The bungalow is a frame, one-and-a-half story structure with a hip roof, three hip roof dormers, paired windows and a verandah. The bungalow is unaltered. It has no front yard.
- #103 This Timber framed house with brick nogging was also moved from across Water Street in the 1890's. It now is covered with aluminum siding. The facade has four bays, a 1920's verandah, and a lean-to addition in the rear. It has no front yard.
- #104 Kuntz House is a brick, one story ranch style house. It was built circa 1970. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #105 Henry Kleinemeyer Cottage was built circa 1840. This one story cottage is constructed of coursed rubble stone. The facade is divided into four bays with stone sills and lintels. The door has a transom and the functioning window shutters are in place. The roof is in the salt box form. The rear lean-to is brick. A large added central gable dormer enlarges the attic space. The cottage is built up to the brick sidewalk. The cottage served also as the Kleinemeyer shoe shop.
- #106 John Gehring House was built in 1915. This two story frame house has an "L" plan, front verandah, box gutters, and door transoms.
- #107 PHOTO#8 Waechter's Cradle Shop was built in 1845 by Waechter, who built and lived in the house (#88) across Water Street. The shop is located on the southwest corner of Water and Washington Streets. It has a timber frame with wattle and daub walls. The facade is shaded by a cantilevered porch roof. The facade is divided into three bays. The transomed door is in the center. The building is in its original condition. It is clad with clapboards and rests on a stone foundation. The one-and-a-half stories were used by Waechter, who manufacture grain cradles and spinning wheels. The floor joists were salvaged from

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Oldenburg's first log cabin, built by William George, circa 1817.

- #108 Anton Hackman House is a one-and-a-half story, brick house located at the southeast corner of Water and Washington Streets. The facade is divided into four bays. The two central bays are doors. The upper story has quarter-sized attic windows. The house has a salt box roof with a frame lean-to. A metal awning porch has been added. There is no front yard.
- #109 This log house is the only log structure in Oldenburg. The two story building has a salt box roof and a front verandah. The house is covered with clapboards. It was constructed circa 1835.
- #110 Gehring's Ice House was built circa 1910 by Henry Gehring to store beer. Gehring cut ice from local ponds. The frame building has one story and a poured concrete foundation. It is used as a storage shed by Henry's son.
- #111 Les Gehring Cottage was built circa 1955. It is a frame one-and-a-half story building with aluminum siding. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #112 Dietz Cottage was built in the late 1940's. It has an "L" plan and is made of bricks. Non-contributing intrusion.

SYCAMORE STREET-EAST SIDE

- #113 August Werner Cottage is a one story frame building built in the late 1940's. It is near the northeast corner of Sycamore and Main Streets. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #114 Fassbinder Cottage, circa 1955, is a frame building in a ranch style. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #115 Cottage was constructed in the 1940's. It is south of the southeast corner of Sycamore and Vine Streets. Non-contributing intrusion.

ST. JOSEPH STREET

- #116 Art Bedel House is a brick ranch style built in the 1960's on the site of Enneking's wagon and black-smith shop. The house is located behind the Town

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Hall Park. Non-contributing intrusion.

- #117 Town Park House is north of the park on a short alley. It has a timber frame and brick nogging. It has been altered and added-to, but the distinctive second story, quarter-sized attic windows remain on the facade.

PEARL STREET-WEST SIDE

- #118 PHOTO#7 Huegel House was built in 1845. It is a two story stone house located at the northwest corner of Pearl and Water Streets. The house has an "L" plan and it faces Pearl Street. The facade is divided into five bays. The openings have smooth stone lintels and sills. Above the lintels are blind mitered arches. The door is in the center bay. Its lintel is inscribed with a cartouche framed by a wreath bearing the letters, "I.H.E.H.", and the date 1845. Flanking the cartouche are an anthropomorphic moon and blazing sun. The letters are the initials of Joseph Heugel and his wife Elizabeth. They were the original proprietors of the tavern. The facade has two front entrances with transoms. Behind the house is a stone wall and a brick summer kitchen. A brick sidewalk runs along the south side of the house. The building served as an inn/tavern for many years.
- #119 PHOTO#10 Town Hall is a two story brick Italianate structure. It is located in the Town Hall Park on Pearl Street. The gable end faces Pearl Street. The facade is divided into three bays by pilaster strips and a corbel table. The openings of the first floor have segmented arches. The second floor windows have round arches. The facade has two large double-door bays. Above the central second story window is a stone tablet with the inscription, "ERECTED BY THE EAGLE FIRE CO. 1878". Above the stone is a small oculus window. The side walls have four bays. The gable is topped by a wooden belltower with a pyramidal roof, a pinnacle, and a bracketed cornice. The eaves have retained their box gutter cornice. On the north side is a shed-roofed brick addition. The building has several altered doorways to meet the needs of the fire company and the Town Council.
- #120 Kellerman House is north of the Town Hall. It was built in the 1920's. The house is made of bricks, has two stories, a hip roof with three hip roofed

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dormers, and a two story verandah. The verandah is supported by brick piers. The entrance has sidelights and a transom. The house is unaltered and has no front yard.

- #121 Hohman Saloon was built circa 1850. This simple story-and-a-half brick building is enhanced by decorative pressed metal. The facade has five bays, three windows, and two doors. They all have pressed metal hoods. The central entrance has a metal swan-neck pediment over the hood, bearing the legend, "SALOON". Above each opening is a half-sized window on the upper story. The entablature has brackets, cornice, and dentils. The entablature is made of metal. The building is unaltered and houses a tavern and a barbershop. The facade meets the sidewalk.
- #122 Suhre House is a brick bungalow constructed in the 1920's. It has one-and-a-half stories, bracketed eaves, side bay, and a brick pierced verandah. It is unaltered and has no front yard.
- #123 Fette-Peine House was built circa 1860 by the Fette family. The two story house has a timber frame with brick nogging, and is covered with clapboards. The house is built in an "L" shape. The facade of the house is on the southwest corner of Pearl and Main Streets. The facade faces Pearl Street and is divided into five bays. The central bay is the entrance with sidelights. The entrance is shaded by a flat-roofed Eastlake porch, which was added in the 1890's. The windows have their original ornate shutters and the eaves have boxed gutter cornices. The porch is built up to the brick sidewalk and is separated by a cast iron fence. Behind the house is the summer kitchen. The Peine family added the second story to the kitchen. They also added the stained glass in the sidelights and other windows. The house and grounds are in their unaltered, circa 1880 condition. The Peines were painters and church decorators.
- #124 Hackman Store's Barn is located directly behind the store (#34). The gable end faces Pearl Street. The barn has a stone foundation, timber frame, and vertical wood siding. Built circa 1880.
- #125 Drees House was built circa 1870. This brick house has one-and-a-half stories and segmented arched

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openings. The facade is divided into four bays. The front door has a transom and a bracketed, gabled overdoor. The house rests on a full stone basement. The gable ends have paired quarter-sized windows. The boxed gutter cornices and returns have been removed. The front door opens onto the sidewalk.

- #126 Henry Herman House is a two story brick house located at the southwest corner of Pearl and Vine Streets. The main facade faces Pearl Street. The facade meets the brick sidewalk. The facade is divided into five segmented arched bays. The central bay is the transomed entrance. The house has a pressed metal entablature with cornice, frieze, brackets, and pediment returns. The south gable end has a pair of quarter-round attic windows.

On the north side of the house is a two story addition, circa 1900. The first story of the addition is brick, the second story is frame. The addition was used as an office by Doctor Voght. Behind the house is a summer kitchen.

- #127 Ranch House is located on Pearl Street, south of the parish cemetery. It has a frame construction and an integral garage. It was built circa 1955. Non-contributing intrusion.

PEARL STREET-EAST SIDE

- #128 Franciscan Monastery was constructed in 1894. It joins the parish church (#69) and was constructed on the site of a town park. This three-and-a-half story Victorian Romanesque brick structure rests upon a rock face ashlar foundation. The building is similar in construction and style to the Convent building (#38). The Pearl Street facade has three gabled projecting pavilions. The flanking end pavilions are two bays wide. The central entrance pavillion is three bays wide. The main body of the building has four bays between ~~the~~ the pavilions. The segmented arch is used for fenestration on the basement level and the first two stories. The third floor has flat headed windows. All of the window sills are stone. Stone is also used as the water-table, entrance steps, cornice frieze, and gable coping. The three pavil~~ion~~ gables each have a pair

of round arched windows.

The central bay on the first floor of the central pavilion has stone steps with a cast-iron balustrade. The doorway is round arched and is framed by gabled aedicula. The double doors and the tympanum are made of paneled wood. The gabled roof is covered with slate and has four bellcast, hipped roof dormers. The pressed metal cornice is adorned with modillions.

Behind the south pavilion extends the south wing. Extending south of the south pavilion is a six bay addition built in 1930. It was built to provide the monastery with a fire-proof library. The 1930 addition is two stories tall and also rests on the raised stone foundation. The addition has a flat roof with a parapet. The parapet has a central gable. A stone cornice and frieze separates the second story and the parapet. In 1936 the portion of the 1930 wing nearest to the old monastery was given a third floor. The entire building is in excellent condition and has not been altered. The 1894 building was erected by George Holtel and Co.

#129 Monastery Wing was added to the stone church circa 1870. This wing is made of brick and rests upon a raised stone basement. It is three bays wide with all of the openings having stone lintels. The wing has two-and-a-half stories. The roof is a shed type with a shallow pitch. The roof has a plain frieze and cornice. The wing projects from the south side of the bell tower.

#130 Stone Church was built in 1846-1848. It was the second parish church, the first having been log. The stone church was dedicated on April 14, 1850. The church is now a wing of the monastery (#128). The masons were Ferdinand and Franz Goebel and Martin Kloepke. The foundation walls are three feet, six inches thick. Only the corners, sills, and arch voussoirs are of dressed stone. The walls and tower are of rock face coursed ashlar. The timber roof frame is hand hewn.

The nave has five tall round arched windows. The chancel is one bay long. The square tower is east of the chancel. The tower rises several feet above the ridge of the gable roof. Near the top of the

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tower is a slender loop window. At the base of the tower is an ornate Italianate porch, added in the 1890's. The church was converted into a monastery in the 1860's when the present parish church (#69) was built. The nave was converted into two stories for living areas and study rooms. The west end of the Stone church is incorporated into the structure of the main monastery building (#128). The tower has had a pyramidal roof since the 1940's. Originally, the tower had a wooden Zwiebelturm, or onion dome.

#131 Monastery Garage is a small brick structure east of the stone church. It has been substantially altered with the insertion of three modern garage bays in the south wall. The two remaining original openings have segmented arches. The building was probably built circa 1900.

#132 Monastery Wall helps to separate the secular and religious worlds. It is much simpler than the convent wall (#46), as it does not have the rhythmic piers. It separates the monastery yard from the school yard on the north side. The southern stretch runs along Water Street. It was built in the 1890's.

WASHINGTON STREET-WEST SIDE

#133 Ranch House veneered with brick was built in 1978. Non-contributing intrusion.

#134 Kuntz Commercial/Residence Building is located at the northeast corner of Washington and Water Streets. The rear portion of the building is made of stone and dates to the 1840's. The two-and-a-half story brick portion was probably added in the 1860's. All of the openings have flat stone lintels. The building rests on a stone foundation and water-table. The building meets the sidewalk.

#135 Kellerman Addition was erected circa 1895. This one story commercial addition is situated on the north side of the Kuntz Building (#134). It has a large display window and a door with a transom. The building is adorned with decorative brickwork, pressed metal hoods, and an ornate entablature.

#136 Stenger House was built in 1950. This one story house is faced with limestone and brick. The roof is hipped. Non-contributing intrusion.

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- #137 This Cottage has a timber frame and brick nogging. It was probably built circa 1845. Although it is now covered with aluminum siding, the house has retained its original form. Of note are the boxed gutter and the salt box roof. The cottage was built on the lot of the original log church, built in 1837. The house served as a bakery at one time. The detached oven-house has been demolished. There is no front yard.
- #138 This cottage is very similar to its neighbor (#137). It also has a timber frame, brick nogging, one-and-a-half stories, salt box roof, no front yard, and aluminum siding. The facade is divided into four bays. The lean-to is added.
- #139 John Baumer House was built circa 1890. This story-and-a-half, frame, carpenter builder house has crossed gables. It has been covered with aluminum siding and has suffered alterations to its windows and doors. A brick pier supports the north side corner porch.
- #140 William Holtel Bungalow was built in the 1920's. This story-and-a-half frame structure has clapboards, hipped roof, three hipped roof dormers, and a brick piered verandah.
- #141 Ranch House was built in the 1950's. Non-contributing intrusion.

INDIANA STREET-WEST SIDE

- #142 Ranch Style House was built circa 1955. Non-contributing intrusion.
- #143 Bungalow is located at the southwest corner of Indiana and Vine Streets. This two-and-a-half story frame structure has many of the features attributed to the style. It has a large gable roof with a central gabled dormer and a front verandah.

INDIANA STREET-EAST SIDE

- #144 Convent Farm House is located at the northeast corner of Indiana and Vine Streets. This one-and-a-half story house has a "T" plan, segmented arched openings, box gutters, gabled dormers with pressed metal fronts, and side porches. It was built circa 1910 to house farm workers.

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- #145 Convent Timber Barn is located behind the house (#144). This structure has a timber frame, vertical board siding, and a raised seam roof. It was built circa 1880.
- #146 Roell Farm House was built circa 1865 by Balthasar Roell. Roell, a Bavarian, not only farmed, but operated a brewery. The brewery no longer stands. It was demolished circa 1908 when the Sisters of St. Francis purchased the farm. The house is located near northeast corner of Indiana and Vine Streets. The two story brick house has a five bay facade. The openings all have flat stone lintels, stone foundation, and stone water-table. The central bay is the entrance which has a transom and sidelights. In the gables are pairs of quarter-round windows. In the rear is a one story kitchen ell with a shallow sloping roof and a side porch. To the north side of the house is a brick summer kitchen.
- #147 Sisters' Brick Barn is a huge "L" plan barn. It was built soon after 1908. The barn consists of two levels. The ground floor is constructed of stone. The cows are sheltered and milked at this level. Above the ground floor the barn is brick. Both wings are divided into seven bays by brick pilaster strips and corbel tables. The steeply pitched gable roof has six gabled dormers. The brick portion of the barn is for hay and straw storage and machinery storage. In the stone ground level are located the cow pens and milking parlors. The smaller two story milk house is attached to the barn on the south end. The barn also has an older concrete tower silo and a circa 1970 tower solo. Originally the Sisters did the dairy work. The barn continues to function as a cattle barn, but the dairy operation is no longer continued.
- #148 Gehring Farm House is located on South Hill, directly south of Water Street. It overlooks the town. William Gehring built this house circa 1860. This brick house has two stories, box gutters, pediment returns, and an "L" plan. The facade has five bays. Across the facade is a verandah with a flat roof. It is supported by brick piers. The central bay is the entrance which has sidelights and a transom. All of the windows have flat stone lintels. What is extraordinary about the house is the clay tile roof.

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The tiles and brick were manufactured in the brickyard behind the house. It is the only house in Oldenburg with a tile roof, although all of the bricks used in town came from Gehring's brickyard. Directly behind the house is a brick summer kitchen. The house is unaltered. The Gehring family still lives there and farms the land.

#149
PHOTO #13 Gehring Farm Brick Corn Crib is a most unusual structure. It is east of the house. The brick walls of the crib have four brick latticed bays. The gables are wooden and the roof has the common raised seam type. It was built circa 1870.

#150 Gehring Farm Barn is located northeast of the house. It has a timber frame and is covered with vertical wood siding. It continues to function as a barn. The Gehring family win the Hoosier Homestead Award in 1976 because the farm has remained in their family for over one hundred years.

#151 Stone Bridge is located on Water Street, east of the intersection of Water and Washington Streets. The bridge has a perfect barrel vault under the street and low walls on both sides of the street. It is composed of rubble limestone. Circa 1850-1860.

#152
PHOTO #14 Brick Sidewalks were originally the rule rather than the exception for Oldenburg. The remaining stretches of brick sidewalks are the following:

1. North side of Vine St., before #13 and #14.
2. Southwest corner of Vine and Pearl Streets before #126.
3. North side of Main St. before #55 and #56.
4. Southwest corner of Main and Pearl Streets before #123.
5. North side of Water St. from #84 to Pearl St.
6. South side of Water St. before #105.

#153
PHOTO #15 Stone Paved Creek Bed and Retaining Wall is a rather curious structure. The reason for the retaining wall is obvious, but the reason for the paved creek bed is unknown. After the intersection of East Harvey Branch and Water Street, the creekstones have been laid vertically and logs have been positioned in the bed at regular intervals. More research is needed to determine the function of the creek pavement. It was probably paved circa 1850-1860.

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Open spaces are an important and common feature of the townscape. Even though most of the houses are built up to the sidewalks, the majority of the lots are large. Behind the houses are large yards and gardens. Many lots have enough room for sheds, summer kitchens, and even small barns. Oldenburg of the nineteenth century had many heads of livestock that inhabited the backyards and barns.

Open spaces are also present as planned areas. The Town Hall Park and the Town Park are both examples of this. They provide ample playground space. By far the most dramatic use of open space is the landscaped open space around the religious buildings. These spaces evoke the Romantic aesthetic of the past century. The church also owns the land north and east of the town. These open spaces play a role in the local tradition, Sites #1 and #2 are chapels in a wooded grove. They were built in the landscape as altars to be visited during the annual Corpus Christi procession. The procession route brings the faithful out into the serene woods and meadow. This use of landscape in the public ritual is rooted in the German tradition.

In summary, Oldenburg is an interrelated architectural unit. The intrusions are in the minority. The different structures share common characteristics. Most were built in the last half of the nineteenth century. The styles are very similar, most being vernacular interpretations of popular styles. The strongest bonds among the structures are the building materials. Many were constructed of locally made bricks and many are adorned with locally crafted pressed-metal details. Another unifying element is the streetscape itself. The streets are lined with large shade trees, and the majority of the buildings were constructed as part of the urban streetscape. They have no front yards, and are immediately accessible to the pedestrian. Another common characteristic is the generally high integrity of the structures. They were well built, and continue to be well maintained with the nineteenth century character intact.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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- # 86 The Knights of St. John Commandery building is a two and one-half story brick structure which faces Water Street with the gable end. This Greek-Revival inspired structure was built as a commercial building around 1860 and retains its commercial character. The first and second stories are divided into three bays. The center first story bay originally was the commercial entrance but is now a multi-paned window. This alteration was sympathetically done without drastically altering the facade. The three second story windows have segmented arches, as do the side and rear openings. The second story windows have two over two lights. The half story has two quarter-round gable windows. A stone lintel separates the first story from the second.

The building formerly served as Philip Dickman's home and casket factory in the 19th century. Dickman also had shops and a warehouse across the street but they have been demolished. Dickman's factory was one of the numerous small industries in the town. The building also housed Christopher Kessing's jewelry store.

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~~and he manufactured grain cradles and spinning jennies. Waechter later demolished the George cabin and reused the logs in the construction of his timber framed cradle shop at the southwest corner of Water and Washington Streets (#107).²~~

Much of Oldenburg's growth and progress in the mid-nineteenth century was the result of the foresight and organization of Father Franz Rudolph. He is considered the founding father of Oldenburg, "the village of spires". Father Rudolph was ordained a priest in Strasbourg, in 1839. Rudolph was from Alsace, a German-French province along the upper Rhine River. He arrived in America on November 21, 1842, and went directly to Bishop Hailandiere in Vincennes. At that time, Vincennes was the seat of the bishop for the diocese of Indiana. The Bishop sent Rudolph to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to minister to the French Catholics of that settlement.³

Father Rudolph was appointed the fourth pastor of Oldenburg in October, 1844. When he arrived, the town had a log church, St. Mary's, erected in 1837. This church stood on Washington Street. A building fund was started in November, 1844. On September 8, 1846, the corner stone of the second church was laid, and on April 14, 1850, the church was consecrated in honor of the Holy Family. This stone church (#130) was built by the men of the parish, among whom were three skilled stonemasons. The walls were constructed of limestones picked up from the nearby creekbed. Only the quoins and voussiors were dressed stone. Father Rudolph also helped with the construction of the church.⁴

Realizing the importance of a good Catholic education for the children of his parish, Fr. Rudolph sought professed Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis as teachers. He realized the importance of having German-speaking Sisters to teach religion and the mother tongue in Oldenburg. In 1850 Sister Theresa Hackelmeier left her convent in Vienna and arrived in Oldenburg in January, 1851. By autumn of that year she moved into the stone convent that Father Rudolph had constructed for her. By 1852, the convent academy for girls was established. Since the establishment of the convent and academy, many new buildings have been added to the sprawling complex. Most outstanding are the 1891 convent chapel (#37) and the main convent building (#38), built in 1901. Buildings were added throughout this century. The last structures were completed in 1969.

The present Holy Family Church (#69) was completed in

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December, 1862. It is a brick Gothic church made to seat a thousand. The old stone church was converted into the rectory and a school. Father Rudolph died in 1866 and was buried in a tomb under the sanctuary of the Holy Family Church. Upon his death, Holy Family Church was ministered by the Franciscan Fathers of St. John the Baptist Province in Cincinatti. These Franciscans came from Tyrol, Austria. The old stone church then became the monastery. In 1894 the large brick monastery building (#128) was erected south of the Holy Family Church, along Pearl Street. It later served as the order's theological seminary.

Oldenburg was incorporated in 1869. Since its founding it enjoyed stable and steady growth. Aside from being an important religious and educational center, the town boasted several industries, many skilled craftsmen, and numerous shops. The St. Joseph Woolen Mill (#19) on Vine Street was built by J.H. Sellmeyer. It employed thirty five to forty workers. This mill attracted tailors, who started shops in the town. The town also had a flour mill, a planing and saw mill (#8), and a tannery. Many German craftsmen located in the community to take advantage of the industry and the market. Oldenburg seems to have had more than its share of skilled blacksmiths, tinsmiths, furniture makers, harness makers, cradle makers, wagon makers, and wheelwrights, coopers, and shoemakers.

In particular interest is the Roell Brewery. It was started after the Civil War by Balthasar Roell, a Bavarian. The Roell Farm and brewery were on the site of the Sisters' farm. The brewery was demolished after 1908 when the Sisters purchased the farm and erected a large brick barn (#147). The brewery produced 30 to 40 kegs of beer during the summer.

Aside from Fr. Rudolph, the most important men in the history of Oldenburg were the men who physically shaped the town's appearance. The three most apparent were Beatus Gehring, Caspar Gaupel, and George Holtel. Gehring came to America from Baden, Germany, in 1852. He arrived in Oldenburg in 1858 via Cincinatti, Ohio, and Milhousen, in Decatur County, Indiana. He was trained as a brickmaker in Germany and established the Gehring brickyard and farm (#148-150) in 1858 when he arrived in Oldenburg. The Gehring farm continues to be owned and operated by the Gehring family, but brick production ceased in 1908. In the fifty years of its existence, the brickyard produced all of the bricks used in the construction of the many brick

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buildings and structures.

Caspar Gaupel was a master tinsmith whose handiwork adorns many of the buildings in town. Gaupel designed, crafted, and installed classical inspired cornices, oriels, balconies, and window hoods. The facade of his shop (#65) was made of pressed metal. This facade was destroyed in the early 1970's. Gaupel, a Prussian, also gave many of the buildings in town a raised seam metal roof. The roofs and the decorative work have survived very well and continue to enhance the townscape.

George Holtel was a builder and operated the planing and saw mill (#8). Holtel built several houses in town (#13 & #72). His greatest known projects in Oldenburg were the 1894 monastery building (#128) and the Town Hall (#119). Holtel's success as a carpenter/contractor follows a pattern repeated in other German communities. The frame houses that Holtel constructed were not the traditional timber frame, one-and-a-half story type built by the preceding generations, but were exclusively the balloon frame type in the popular American styles.

Two endearing institutions that have left their places in the townscape are the Eagle Fire Company and the Corpus Christi procession. The Eagle Fire Co. began on February 22, 1870. It was not only a fire brigade, but also a service organization. With its numerous balls, picnics, festivals, and parades, the company raised money to build the Town Hall in 1878. The hall accommodated the fire company, town council chambers, assembly hall, and jail. The annual Fireman's festival, held the weekend before Independence Day, is an important festival in the community.

PHOTOS
20-22

The Corpus Christi procession has been an annual display of community devotion since 1846. Corpus Christi is a feast day in the Roman Catholic Church to honor the Blessed Sacrament of the Mass. Since the thirteenth century the feast day has been observed by the Church. Corpus Christi is celebrated on the eighth Thursday after Easter. The procession in Oldenburg takes place on the Sunday following the feast. Traditionally the Saturday before the procession is spent preparing the four outdoor altars along the procession route. Two of the altars are housed in small permanent chapels north of the town (#1 & #2). The other two altars are temporary and are located in front of the cradle shop (#107) and in front of the Town Hall (#119). Although much of the pomp and splendor was eliminated in the late 1960's, the procession remains a community tradition which unites the burgers in their devotion. This

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procession is a legacy of the German ancestors who came from the Catholic provinces of the Reich where the feast is observed in the same manner. (Photos 20, 21, 22)

Oldenburg has changed very little since the turn of the century. Although the German language was abandoned following World War I and the inhabitants became more Americanized, the German character of the town remains. What the inhabitants have retained is a local patriotism and pride which has resulted in the preservation of Oldenburg.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Robert Wilken, A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY CHURCH AND PARISH. (Cincinnati: The Mountel Press Co., 1937, p. 15.
- 2 Florentine J. Hoelker, ADDRESS AT THE MEETING OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. October 16, 1962, unpublished
- 3 Wilken, p. 29.
4. Ibid., p. 35.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

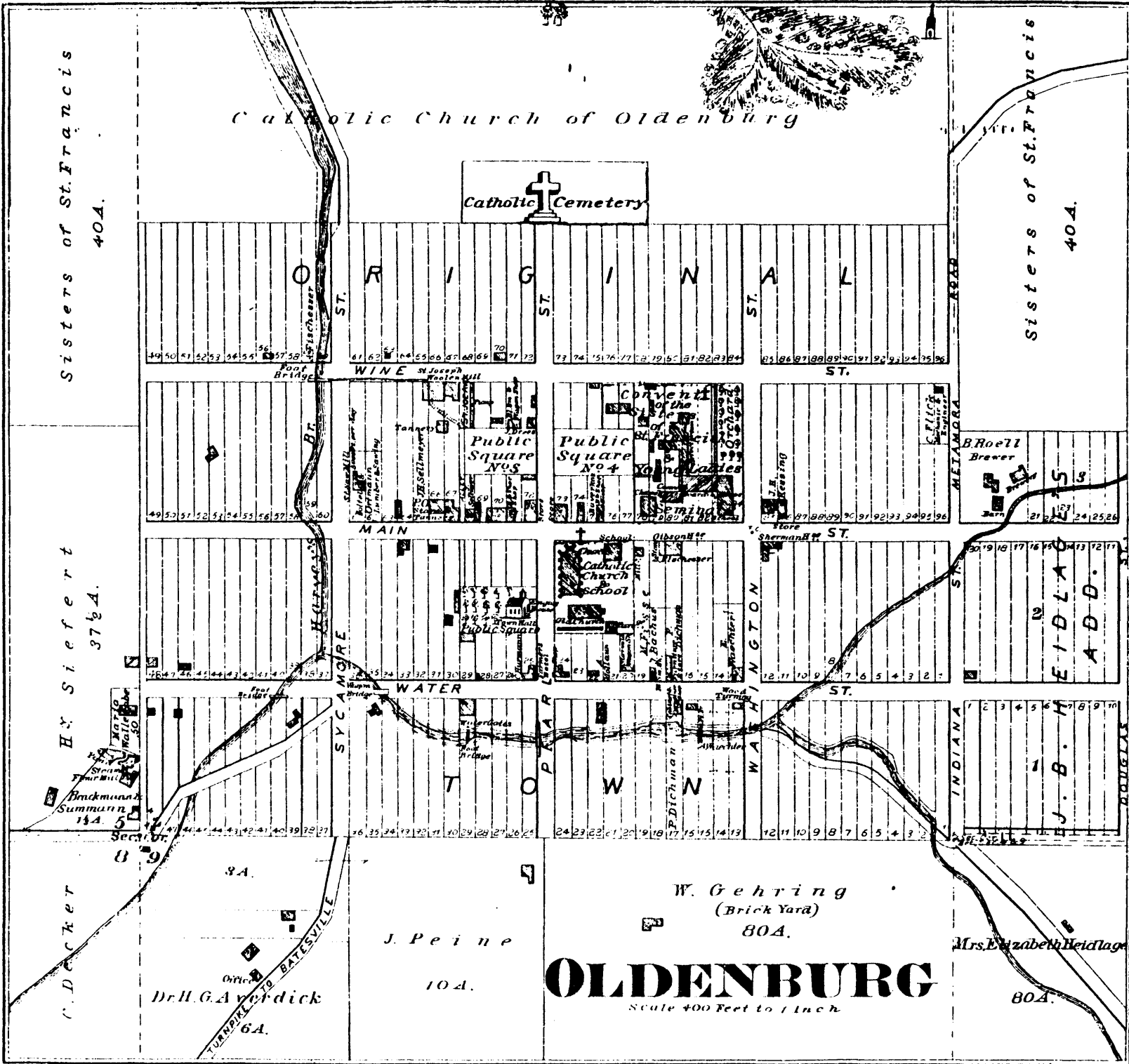
Oldenburg Historic

Continuation sheet District

Item number 10, VBD

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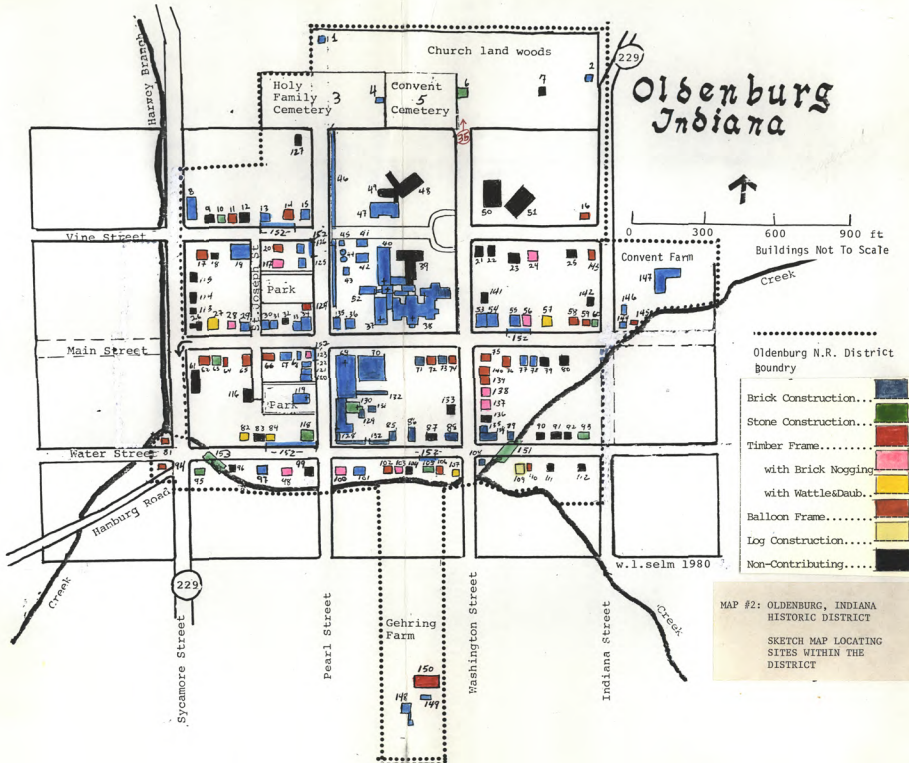
The Oldenburg Historic District is bounded by a line starting at a point on the west right-of-way of Indiana Street 25 feet south of the southwest corner of Vine and Indiana Streets; thence eastward from this point approximately 550 feet to the east side of lot #26; thence south for approximately 475 feet along the east side of lot #26 to the creek; thence westward along the north edge of the creek to its intersection with an extension of the west right-of-way of Indiana Street near the intersection of Main and Indiana Streets; thence southward down the west side of Indiana Street to a point approximately 200 feet south of Water Street; thence westward to an intersection with the creek; thence along the north edge of the creek, crossing Washington Street to the east line of the south part of lot #16; thence southward along the said line to a point approximately 800 feet south of lot #16's southern end. At this point the boundary proceeds westward approximately 150 feet to an extension of the west line of the south part of lot #19; thence northward along this line to the northern bank of the creek; thence along the creek bank westward to the east side of the south part of lot #32. At this point the boundary line proceeds due west approximately 300 feet to the east side of the south part of lot #37 (west side of Sycamore Street); thence northward approximately 50 feet; thence due west 100 feet to the west side of the south part of lot #37; thence northward crossing Water Street, to the south edge of the creek; thence north and east following the creek's east branch to its intersection with the east right-of-way of Sycamore Street; thence north along the east edge of Sycamore Street to approximately 250 feet north of Vine Street; thence due east approximately 375 feet to the west side of lot #68; thence northward along the lot line approximately 500 feet; thence due east approximately 250 feet at which point the boundary turns northward approximately 350 feet to a fence row. The boundary follows the fence row due east approximately 1325 feet to a point aligned with the west line of Indiana Street. From this point, the boundary line proceeds southward approximately 1150 feet along the west line of Indiana Street to the point of beginning.



MAP #3: Map of Oldenburg
FROM ATLAS OF
FRANKLIN CO., INDIANA
1882

FRANKLIN CO., INDIANA
1882

Oldenburg Indiana

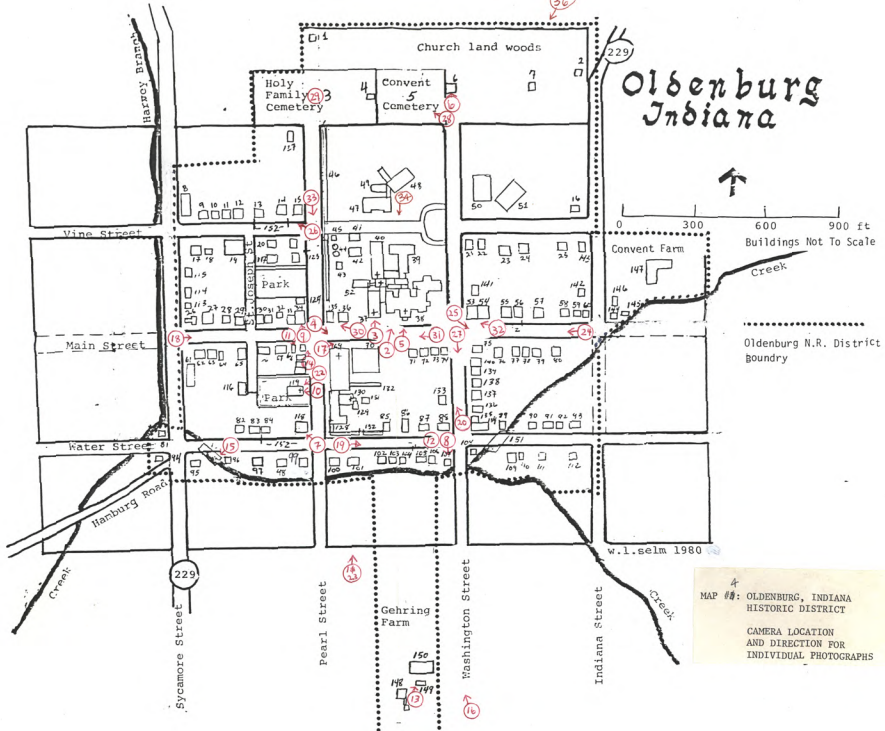


Oldenburg Indiana



0 300 600 900 ft

Buildings Not To Scale



MAP #8: OLDENBURG, INDIANA
HISTORIC DISTRICT

CAMERA LOCATION
AND DIRECTION FOR
INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS